



# Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2025

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PRELUDE Wachet Auf! “*Sleepers Wake!*” (J. S. Bach) Ty Woodward, Organ

WELCOME Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

RESPONSIVE READING Sonia Hovey and Stella Hovey

Do not be afraid; for see — I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

**To you is born this day in the city of David a savior who is Christ the Lord.**

Glory to God in the Highest.

**And peace to all who find rest in Him.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Sonia Hovey and Stella Hovey

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

CHRISTMAS CAROL

#245 United Methodist Hymnal — The First Noel (verses 1-2)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Will, Christine, Julian and Lauren Sweat

This is the moment we have been waiting for:

**To welcome and celebrate the newborn Christ.**

On that night so long ago, Christ was cherished by those who welcomed him into the world.

**On this night, may we cherish each other as we welcome Christ into our lives.**

As we light the Christ candle, may we be filled with God’s hope, peace, joy, and love so that we can proclaim to all, “You are loved! You are cherished! Christ is with you!”

CHRISTMAS CAROL

*As the four Advent candles and the Christ candle are lit, the congregation is invited to sing.*

#229 UMH — Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (verses 1-2)

RECEIVING OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

*Your financial support of First UMC makes possible our ministries and mission. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to “First UMC” in the offering plates as they are passed. You may give by clicking on the QR code on the back of this Order of Worship, or online at [www.santamonicaumc.org/give](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/give). May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.*

OFFERTORY Angels We Have Heard on High (arr. Richard Elliott) Ty Woodward

*All children are welcome to worship. There is also an area labeled “Prayer Ground” in the lobby of the sanctuary just inside the front doors that is open to all parents with small children if needed during worship. You may sit or play with your children, and still hear the service from this area. A changing station and nursing area is provided in the Family Room in the hallway across from the restroom. Please see one of the ushers if you need assistance.*

# A Christmas Story

## INTRODUCTION TO THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Witney Seibold

#217 UMH – Away in a Manger (verse 1: *see insert for hymns*)

## THE STORY FROM LUKE

Ada Sarley

#217 UMH – Away in a Manger (verses 2-3)

*As we sing, the Holy Family will make their way toward the steps at the front of the Church.*

## ENTRANCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## THE STORY FROM LUKE

Dominic and Cavan Rold

#238 UMH – Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1-2)

*As we sing, all angels are invited to come and sit on the steps at the front of the Church.*

## ENTRANCE OF THE ANGELS

#238 UMH – Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 3-4)

*As we sing, all angels may return to their seats.*

## THE STORY FROM LUKE

Luke Sarley

#251 UMH – Go, Tell It on the Mountain (verse 1-2)

*As we sing, all shepherds and sheep are invited to come and sit on the steps at the front of the Church.*

## ENTRANCE OF THE SHEPHERDS & SHEEP

#251 UMH – Go, Tell It on the Mountain (verse 3)

*As we sing, all shepherds and sheep may return to their seats.*

## THE STORY FROM MATTHEW

Henry Seibold

#254 UMH – We Three Kings (verse 1)

*As we sing, all Magi are invited to come and sit on the steps at the front of the Church.*

## ENTRANCE OF THE MAGI

#254 UMH – We Three Kings (verse 5)

*As we sing, all Magi may return to their seats.*

## THE ENTRANCE OF YOU & ME

Witney Seibold

\*CLOSING HYMN: #239 UMH – Silent Night, Holy Night

*As we sing, all are invited to come forward and visit the Holy Family.*

Go forth this Christmas Eve in God's love and peace!

**Please return your costumes to the table in front of the church entrance as you leave.**

Pastoral Associate - Tricia Guerrero  
Family Ministries Coordinator - Jamie Jones  
Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation - Rev. Keri Olsen Paget  
Senior Minister - Rev. Greg Batson  
First UMC Preschool Co-Directors - Johanna Cortez and Dane Rold  
Director of Music Ministry - Jim Smith  
Organist - Ty Woodward  
Song Leader - Janet Searfoss  
A/V Engineers - Brandon Searfoss, Bob Hedges  
Head Usher - Jocelyn Hicks-Garner  
Worship Coordinator - Sarah Rold

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### Welcome!

We count it a privilege and a blessing to worship with you on this joyous Christmas Eve. If you come as a guest, we hope you will leave as a friend. You may fill out a Let's Connect Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or sign in online: [www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/im-new), or scan this QR code for the online form.



For information on the ministries and events of First UMC Santa Monica, visit the website: [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) or download the App: (go to the App Store, search FirstUMC\_SM)

### Prayer Requests

Request a prayer at any time. The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. Fill out a Let's Connect Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate, or fill out your prayer request online on our website.

Go to: [www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests).

### Giving

Your gifts help us grow our ministries today and into the future. You may give today during worship, or other ways; by mailing payment or securely through the online giving portal located on the website front page. It's not too late to turn in your 2026 pledge - mail in your pledge card or pledge online at: [www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/stewardship). Thank you!



### ~ Christmas Prayer ~

May God's light shine brightly in your hearts, experiencing a renewed sense of God's love and healing presence in your life. For the light shining in the darkness, shining persistently and magnificently, heralds the dawn of a new day. In the Christ Child is born the fullness of life, joy, and peace for all. Amen.



# Carols and Hymns

## The First Noel

Verse 1: The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields  
as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping  
their sheep, on a cold winter's night that  
was so deep.

*Refrain:*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

Verse 2: They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
(*Refrain*).

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Verse 1: Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Verse 2: Flocks were sleeping, shepherds  
keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.

## Away in a Manger

Verse 1: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 2: The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3: Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## Angels We Have Heard on High

Verse 1: Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*  
*Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

Verse 2: Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? (*Refrain*)

Verse 3: Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (*Refrain*)

Verse 4: See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. (*Refrain*)

## Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Verse 1: Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born.

Verse 2: While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shown a holy light.

Verse 3: Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born.

## We Three Kings

Verse 1: We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light, star  
with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still  
proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Verse 5: Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and  
skies. (*Refrain*)

## Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin  
mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,  
wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!



# Family Ministry at First UMC

## Welcome, Families!

We are a dedicated community that values faith exploration and growth for families. Our Family Ministry aims to provide a welcoming and safe environment where children—from birth through high school—and their families can engage in meaningful opportunities that nurture and support spiritual development for all.



## Sunday School

### Join Us for Sunday School at First UMC!

We offer three engaging Sunday School classes for children of all ages:

- Nursery Care: For infants and toddlers, ages 6 months to 3 years.
- Young Elementary: For children ages 4 years to 3rd grade.
- Older Elementary/Middle School: For children in 4th to 7th grade.

Children begin in the Sanctuary for worship and participate in the Children's Message. Afterward, they are escorted to their Sunday School classes for a lesson. Pick-up is located on the second floor of the Education Building. Parents with infants are welcome to stay in the Sanctuary or enjoy the Family Zone in the Narthex.

Contact Jamie ([j.jones@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)) for more info.

**Website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry)



## Kids Night Out

### Kids Night Out will be back in January 2026!

While parents enjoy a well-deserved night out, children are provided a safe and fun evening of games, activities and crafts, pizza dinner, and a movie with our trained childcare team. \$40/child + \$20 for each additional sibling, 2 years – 5th grade. Sign up for the Children and Family Ministries email to receive registration info:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry> (click subscribe)

**Friday, January 23, 4 – 8 p.m. in the Education Building**



## Messy Church

Messy Church is an all-age, fun, and engaging worship experience that invites families of all shapes and sizes to explore God's love in an accessible way. Whether you're single or partnered, young or old, tidy or messy, you're always welcome at Messy Church!

Each month, we gather for:

- **Activities:** Crafts, games, and hands-on fun that bring the month's biblical story to life.
- **Faith:** A short, interactive worship celebration with Bible stories, music, and prayer.
- **Food:** We wrap up with a meal, sharing stories and building connections with new and old friends.

**We meet once a month, Saturdays from 4 – 6 p.m.**

- **February 21** – Choosing to Be Kind with our Words
- **March 21** – The Zoo Is Not for You
- **April 25** – Love the World
- **May 30** – Fill a Bucket



## Children's Sabbath

On Sunday, February 1st, the children of First UMC ages 3 yrs through 5th grade will lead our church family in worship. We will also present 4th graders with a Bible. All children in our church, preschool and community are invited to participate in Children's Sabbath or receive a Bible. Contact Tricia: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org), if you know a 4th grader who would like a Bible.

**Sunday, February 1, during worship**



## Youth Sunday

On Sunday, February 8th, the youth of First UMC in 6th through 12th grades will lead our church family in worship. We will hear sermons from our current seniors as they share more about their faith journey and the impact this church has had on their growing years.

**Sunday, February 8, during worship**





## Youth Service Project

Each summer, a team of youth and adult volunteers from First UMC Santa Monica take time out of their summer vacations to go on a week-long mission trip. During the trip, youth learn about themselves and build relationships with people from all over the U.S. They learn teamwork and how to use power tools, and they are given the opportunity to help people to gain a safe, warm, and dry home to live in through their work. This service leadership opportunity helps youth to grow in their faith through serving others. We collaborate with reputable youth-centered service organizations, and while the location of the trips varies each year, the mission remains the same: Be in community and of service to those in need.

### Youth Service Trip: Appalachia Service Project - June 20-28, 2026

Learn more on the YSP page: <https://santamonicaumc.org/ysp/>

For more information, contact Tricia Guerrero at [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org).



## Youth Group

The Youth Group is open to all 6th -12th graders in the community. They gather on Sunday evenings for dinner, games and a program or topic for discussion and reflection. Youth Group meets weekly on Sundays from 6 - 8 p.m.

We hope to create a space where youth experience unconditional love and can ask challenging questions about faith and life. We emphasize three core values:

- **Authenticity:** A safe space to share questions and struggles without fear or shame.
- **Hospitality:** An inclusive community that celebrates each youth's uniqueness.
- **Community:** Building strong relationships within the youth group and the broader church.

Email Tricia Guerrero at [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org) to get connected!



# Messy Camp

## Messy Camp 2026: Growing in God's Garden!

Coming this summer! Join us for an unforgettable week of adventure at Messy Camp, where kids will explore the beauty and wonder of God's Garden. Each day, campers will dig into hands-on science experiments, exciting games, Bible story adventures, creative crafts, catchy songs, and a hands-on mission project. As we explore God's Garden together, we'll learn how to grow love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—in ourselves, just like seeds that flourish with care and light. Through fun, fellowship, and messy activities, kids will discover how our hearts grow when we practice caring for one another and trusting God.

Come get messy, make memories, and watch your faith bloom! Ages TK - 5th grade. The cost is \$150 for the first child and \$125 for each additional sibling. Registration opens March 20.

[www.santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp)

**Monday, July 27 - Friday, July 31, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**First UMC Campus**



Family Ministry is active year-round at First UMC!

