

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Service of Lessons and Anthems • March 22, 2026

WE GATHER

This service of Lessons and Anthems is an annual tradition. Through the Word and music, this service prepares us to enter into the events of Holy Week in deep prayer and reflection. May the Spirit of God quiet and open your heart, mind and soul, as together we consider God's great gift of Christ Jesus.

WELCOME

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

* SILENT PROCESSIONAL

Please stand as the choir and clergy process.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Bumiller, Lay Lector

Brother Christ, help us to follow you deep into the waters of baptism, to break the chain of past wrongs, to become fit to face your coming age.

Jesus, our Brother, help us to follow you.

Help us to follow you on the road to Jerusalem, to set our faces firmly against friendly suggestions to live a safe, expedient life, to embrace boldly the way of self-offering.

Jesus, our Brother, help us to follow you.

Help us to follow you even to the cross, to see our hope in your self-spending love and mercy, to die to all within us not born of your love.

Jesus, our Brother, help us to follow you.

* HYMN #286 United Methodist Hymnal — O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verses 1-3)

CORPORATE PRAYER

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

Almighty God, through love you have made us, and for love you call us to repentance. Grant that we who need to mend our sinful ways may find strength in your compassion and forgiveness. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; give us your Holy Spirit that we may serve you with willing hearts, bearing witness to your abundant mercy in all the world; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE
MOMENT FOR MISSION

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate
Gillian Mager, Program Coordinator at
Cal-Pac's Lazy W Ranch

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Glenda Martinez, Lay Lector

Your continued financial support of the church is now more important than ever. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also mail your gift to the church or drop it into the mail slot of our offices any day of the week. Or, you may also give online at www.santamonicaumc.org/give, or mail checks through your online banking programs. You may continue to earmark gifts for our various mission projects. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts. Thank you.

THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

God So Loved the World (Carl J. Nygard, Jr.)

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. God so loved the world that everyone who would believe, in His only Son shall have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world, to condemn the world. But God so loved the world that through His Son the world might be saved.

*RESPONSE #95 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Char Smith, Lay Lector

O God, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, open the promise of healing for us and for your whole creation. Fill us with the bounteous gifts of your love, that we may share in the joys of your kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Agony of Gethsemane

HYMN #292 UMH – What Wondrous Love Is This (verses 1&2)

FIRST LESSON Mark 14:32-42

Glenda Martinez

ANTHEM

from The Crucifixion (John Stainer)

And they came to a place named Gethsemane; And Jesus saith to his disciples, "Sit ye here, while I shall pray." Could ye not watch with me one brief hour? Could ye not pity my sorest need? Ah! if ye sleep while the tempests lower Surely, my friends, I am lone indeed. Jesu, Lord Jesu, bowed in bitter anguish And bearing all the evil we have done, Oh teach us how to love thee for thy love; Help us to pray, and watch, and mourn with thee. Could ye not watch with me one brief hour? Did ye not say upon Kedron's slope, Ye would not fall into the tempter's power? Did ye not murmur great words of hope?

The Betrayal & Arrest

SECOND LESSON Mark 14:43-50

Char Smith

CHORALE – Ah, Holy Jesus (Johann Crüger)

Ah, Holy Jesus, How hast thou offended, That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted! Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered; For our atonement, while we nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.

The Trial Before Religious Authorities

THIRD LESSON Mark 14:53-65

Michael Lamb, Lay Lector

ANTHEM — *from* The Crucifixion (John Stainer)

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, That whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world: But that the world through Him might be saved.

The Denial of Peter

FOURTH LESSON Mark 14:70-72

Tricia Guerrero

CHORALE — *from* The St. John Passion (J. S. Bach)

Peter, while his conscience slept, Thrice denied his Savior. When he woke, he bitter wept At his base behavior. Jesus, let not me forget; True devotion teach me; When on evil I am set, Through my conscience reach me.

The Trial Before Pontius Pilate & The Journey to Calvary

FIFTH LESSON Mark 15:1-15

Bill Bumiller

ANTHEM — Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs (G.F. Handel)

Surely He hath borne our griev's, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him.

The Cross

SIXTH LESSON Mark 15:16-21

Rev. Olsen Paget

ANTHEM — Sanctus from Requiem (Maurice Duruflé)

Holy, holy holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

SEVENTH LESSON Mark 15:21-39

Rev. Batson

ANTHEM — Thy Will Be Done (Craig Courtney)

Our cup was filled with darkness. Our cup was filled with death. Christ took the cup and drank it, and gave us life, and gave us hope, gave us Himself. My Father, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will, O Lord, yet not my will, O Lord, but thine be done. In blackest night we hear Him in dark Gethsemane. Pleading with the Father, for one more way, for one more hope, for one more day. My Father let this cup pass from me. Yet not my will, O Lord, yet not my will, O Lord but Thine be done. Then they took our savior, and led Him to a tree; and there they broke His body, poured out His life, put Him to death to rise again! My Father, let this cup pass from me. Yet not my will, O Lord, yet not my will, O Lord. Thy will be done.

* BENECTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE — O Lord, Thy Little Angel Send *from* The St. John Passion (J. S. Bach)

O Lord, Thy little angel send When'er my mortal life shall end, To bear my soul to Heaven! My body in its chamber sleep, All torment do thou distant keep, Till Thy last call be given! And then from death awaken me, That these poor eyes their Lord may see, See, Son of God, Thy glorious face, My savior and my fount of grace! Lord Jesus Christ, O hear Thou me, Thee will I praise eternally.

POSTLUDE Cortège and Litany (Marcel Dupré)

Ty Woodward, organ

In keeping with the spirit of today's service, please refrain from clapping after the Postlude.

—**Welcome New Visitors!** We're happy you're here. 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, or scan this QR code for the online form.



—**Children and Families on Sundays:** Children meet in the Sanctuary, following the Children's Message children (6 months through 7th grade) will be led to Sunday School in the Education Building on the 2nd floor.

—**Safe Sanctuaries®:** First UMC takes the safety of the children and youth very seriously. We follow Safe Sanctuaries® practices, which is our commitment to the physical safety and spiritual growth of all of our children, youth, and adults.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund. During Lent, flowers will only be available in the Narthex.

—**Give:** Your gifts help us grow our ministries today and into the future. Thank you for considering giving to the General Church Fund to support everything we do. You may give today during service, or other ways; by mailing payment, dropping by the business office, or securely through the online giving portal located on the website front page. Questions about financial gifts, or gifts of time? Give us a call anytime at the church office.

—**Prayer Quilts:** If there is a Prayer Quilt in worship, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilt on the north wall of the Sanctuary, or call or email Sarah in the church office to request a tie be made on the quilt for you: Sarah Rold (310.393.8258), or s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org. To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry.

—**Prayer Requests:** The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests, and treat all requests as confidential. Request a prayer at any time: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests.

—**Westside Food Bank:** We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. Bins are located outside the Sanctuary and at the Welcome table on Sunday mornings. Food needed: Baby foods and formula; Canned beans; Canned meats, fish, soups & stews; Canned pasta sauce, tomatoes; Canned fruits, vegetables; Cereal (hot and cold); Cooking oil; Flour and baking mixes; Fruit juices and shelf stable milk; Peanut butter and other nut butters; Protein, energy, or granola bars.

—**Sunday Social Gathering:** After worship today, come say "Hello" for Coffee Hour in Simkins Hall or the Courtyard. Stop by the Sunday Welcome Table if you have any questions.

—We welcome **Community UMC of Pacific Palisades** each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the chapel with generous hospitality.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street • Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org 310-393-8258



Resident Bishop
Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

West District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

MINISTRY

Senior Minister
Rev. Greg Batson
g.batson@santamonicaumc.org
Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
Rev. Keri Olsen Paget
k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

Pastoral Associate
Tricia Guerrero
t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Congregation Care Associate
Anne Premer
a.premer@santamonicaumc.org
Family Ministries Coordinator
Jamie Jones
j.jones@santamonicaumc.org

MUSIC STAFF

Music Director
Dr. James Smith

Organist
Ty Woodward

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Business Administrator
Christina Eddy
c.eddy@santamonicaumc.org

Communications Director
Tina Gage
t.gage@santamonicaumc.org

Office Manager
Sarah Rold
s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Membership and Facilities Coordinator
David Penson
d.penson@santamonicaumc.org
Program and Outreach Coordinator
Brandon Searfoss
b.searfoss@santamonicaumc.org

Head Custodian
Javier Espinoza

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Preschool Co-Director
Dane Rold
d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org

Preschool Co-Director
Johanna Cortez
j.holman@santamonicaumc.org

Preschool Director Emerita
Dee Menzies
d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org

CAL-PAC SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

This summer, campers are invited to explore what it means to Turn the World Around through stories of faith, justice, environmentalism, and joy. Dive into classic camp fun like swimming, crafts, hikes, and songs, while discovering how small acts of kindness and courage can make a big difference.

Come ready for adventure, community, and a week that will change the way you see the world, and hopefully your place in it.

2026 Camp Dates:

Cedar Glen Elementary: June 22-26 (*grades 1-6*)

Cedar Glen Jr./Sr. High: June 27-July 3

Camp Wrightwood Elementary: July 5-9

Camp Wrightwood Jr./Sr. High: July 12-18

Lazy W Ranch Elementary: July 12-16 (*grades 2-6*)

Lazy W Ranch Jr./Sr. High: July 19-25

Pricing:

Elementary Camp: \$395

Jr & Sr High Camp: \$525

Camperships are available and can be requested during registration.

Register through these websites:

Camp Wrightwood:

<https://www.campwrightwood.org/summercamp2026>

Camp Cedar Glen:

<https://www.campcedarglen.org/summer-camp-1>

Camp Lazy W:

<https://www.lazywrench.org/s-projects-side-by-side>

CALPAC SUMMER CAMPS 2026

Cedar Glen | Lazy W | Camp Wrightwood

Elementary Camp: \$395

Jr & Sr High Camp: \$525

Register by March 1st for
an early bird discount!

Registration
Opens January
5th, 2026



Questions about the Cal-Pac camps?

Stay after worship today for a Q&A session with Cal-Pac Camp's **Gillian Mager**, Program Coordinator at Lazy W Ranch.

**11 a.m., during coffee hour in
Simkins Hall**



UPCOMING EVENTS

• REFLECT Worship - **Tonight!**

Pastor Greg is offering an alternative worship service called "Reflect." This is an additional opportunity to come together for worship and sharing in an informal setting. We will gather in Simkins Hall at 5 p.m. The service will include a time of prayer and sharing, scripture and reflection, and conclude with Holy Communion. At 6 p.m., you are invited to stay and share in a meal in conjunction with our youth as they gather for their weekly program. This is open to all, and we invite you to join us for this opportunity during Lent.

Tonight, 5 p.m. worship in Simkins Hall, followed by 6 p.m. meal

• Spirit Sisters Retreat

All women are invited to join the Spirit Sisters for their 24th Annual Retreat, taking place at the Poverello of Assisi Retreat House in San Fernando, near the San Fernando Mission. The theme for the weekend is, "A Light for Others, Shine Jesus Shine" Led by Rev. Dorothy Bimber Worley, who says, "We will become stronger in our love of God, our neighbors, and loving care of ourselves. As Daughters of God and Sisters in Jesus Christ, we are filled with the Holy Spirit. We will go forth shining the Light of Jesus wherever we go!" To register, call Pastor Dorothy: (626)826-8301, or see her at her table in the Alcove after worship.

Retreat Dates: Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19

• Methodist Foundation Scholarships

The Methodist Foundation of Santa Monica, founded in 1967, exists to provide aid to religious, educational and charitable causes. Every year the First UMC Loans & Scholarships committee acknowledges outstanding scholars, including graduating high school seniors, continuing undergraduates, and graduate students, for their scholastic excellence, commitment to community, and dedication to our church. Calling all First UMC Students! **Save the date:** applications open **Friday, April 10**, for our First UMC students pursuing their educational goals. Deadline to apply is Monday, May 11, 9 p.m. Link on the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation

Save the Date for Scholarship Sunday: **June 26.**

HOLY WEEK 2026

Sunday, MARCH 29: Palm Sunday

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship

The day we celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, with the waving of palms and loud Hosannas!

Sunday, MARCH 29: Palm Sunday Celebration

After worship in the Courtyard

Brunch/Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt. Fun for all ages!

Thursday, APRIL 2: Maundy Thursday Service

6:30 p.m. First UMC Chapel

Command to Love One Another: Remembering Jesus' Last Supper and Washing the Disciples Feet

Good Friday, APRIL 3:

• Chapel Prayer Vigil

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Chapel

The First UMC Chapel will be open for prayer.

• Good Friday Walk the Labyrinth

1 p.m. – 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall

*Join **Ross Chitwood of Community UMC** for a special musical performance of Taizé music from **6 p.m. - 7 p.m.** in Simkins Hall on Good Friday.

• Good Friday Ecumenical Service at First UMC

7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join Rev. Greg Batson, the First UMC Choir, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church for an ecumenical Good Friday service in the First UMC Sanctuary.

Easter Worship Services

SUNDAY, APRIL 5: Easter Sunrise Service

6:30 a.m. Palisades Park

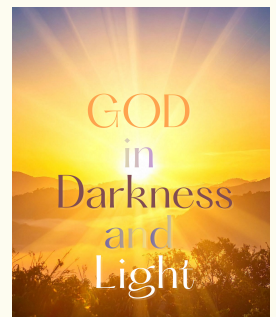
Palisades Park (Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave.) Family-friendly worship, Holy Communion, hot coffee & fellowship. Bring blankets, chairs, and fresh flowers for the cross.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5: Easter Celebration Worship

10 a.m. Sanctuary, Livestream

Family Service, Choir, Organ, Easter Flowers, and Alleluias!

(nursery care provided for infants and toddlers in the Fireside Room)



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

• Children's Ministry

Families are invited to worship in the Sanctuary. Parents with infants are welcome to worship in the Sanctuary, in the Family Zone in the Narthex, or in the nursery.

www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry

We have 3 groups for **Sunday School** following the children's message in worship:

- Nursery Care for 6 months through toddler
- Younger Elementary for Kinder-3rd graders
- New Sunday School group for 4th-7th graders

Please contact Jamie (j.jones@santamonicaumc.org) for more info.

• Preschool Enrollment - Open Now

Schedule a tour today with Preschool Co-Directors Dane or Johanna at 310-395-7292, or visit our webpage for more information: www.santamonicaumc.org/preschool

YOUTH

• United Methodist Youth Fellowship Group

The Youth Ministry at First UMC is a community of youth and adult volunteers who gather weekly to explore and grow in faith together. **Sundays, 6-8 p.m. in Youth Lounge**
www.santamonicaumc.org/youth-ministry

PRAYER

• Walk the Labyrinth/Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth and Chapel are open on the first Friday of the month, from 1 - 3 p.m. Families welcome!

**April 3: Good Friday Special Walking Hours:
1 p.m. – 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall**

– Join Ross Chitwood of Community UMC for a special musical performance of Taizé music from **6 – 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall** on Good Friday.

• Prayer Requests

The Prayer Chain is a network of persons who pray in response to prayer requests. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time.

www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/

ONGOING MINISTRIES AT FIRST UMC

If you'd like more information for ministry opportunities, you may contact the church office (310) 393-8258, or visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org

• Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7 a.m. via Zoom - Men's Bible Study is a weekly online meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture. www.santamonicaumc.org/biblestudy

• Listening Hearts Women's Group

Listening Hearts is a spiritual community of women, led by Pastoral Associate Tricia Guerrero. Contact Tricia for upcoming meetings:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, April 1, 10 a.m.** at Literati Cafe

• Prayer Quilt Ministry

To request a Prayer Quilt for someone in need, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry
(*Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.)

Meets the 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9:30 a.m. in Room 300. Next meeting: **Saturday, April 18**

• The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. Sing in the Chancel Choir! **Thursday evening rehearsals are from 7:40 p.m. - 9 p.m.** Contact Jim Smith if you are interested in joining: djes@roadrunner.com

• Messy Church

Messy Church is a monthly all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 25

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Simkins Hall

Theme: Love the World

• Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship.

Next meeting: **April 12, after worship** in the Alcove.

Welcome!

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica! We are followers of the way of Jesus Christ: loving God, loving neighbors and offering compassion to a world in need. Rooted in the Methodist tradition of personal transformation and social justice, our community is committed to sharing God's love, grace and hope and to the flourishing of all God's creation. For over 150 years we have been an active presence in the Westside community and around the world.

We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We welcome you to be a part of our community and worship with us, no matter your age, race, nationality, citizenship, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, ability, faith story, or economic situation.

Come and participate in beloved community - a place to belong, whoever you are, just as you are.



TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• The People Concern

Linda Diane Anderson and Janet Searfoss run a volunteer group on the third Saturday of the month at The People Concern, making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier. **April 17, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

• Westside Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

Every 4th Wednesday March date: **March 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**
1914 14th Street, Santa Monica. Volunteers will pack cases of food for distribution at the Mobile Pantry at Virginia Avenue Park.

To volunteer for either service date, email Tricia:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Order Easter Flowers

Now is the time to dedicate Easter Flowers in honor of a loved one for a small donation. Dedications will be listed in the OOW for the April 5 Easter service. Order flowers online: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund, or at the Sunday Welcome Table. \$15 per plant.

Deadline to order: Tuesday, March 31



Stay Connected

To join in fellowship and ministry online, here's how to connect online. (QR code to website)



First UMC website: www.santamonicaumc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/

Instagram: @santamonicaumc

YouTube: @SantaMonicaUMC

The First UMC App: Go to the App Store, search FirstUMC_SM.

Giving Matters

There are many ways to contribute to the mission and ministry of First UMC. You may give online via the QR code on the right (Point your phone camera at the QR code and click on yellow link), via mail, or onsite through the church office mail slot. To learn more about ways to give, visit: www.santamonicaumc.org/give



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258

www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org

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