

SENTINEL

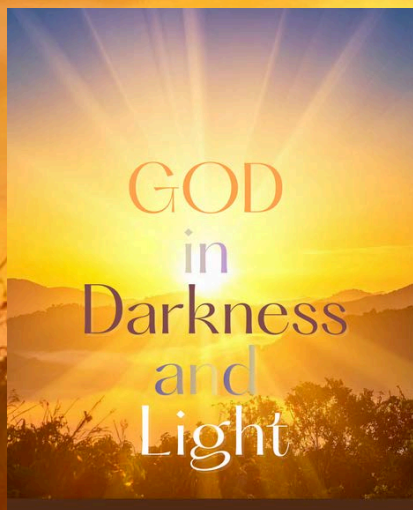
NEWSLETTER

Over the past forty days of Lent, we have searched for God in the darkness, both within ourselves and in the world. Now we reach the culmination of this journey, and we witness the inbreaking of God's light as we observe Holy Week.

On April 2, we will gather in the chapel at 6:30 p.m. for Maundy Thursday as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. This service will include a foot washing and Holy Communion, reminders of how Jesus served others. On April 3, our church will host an ecumenical Good Friday service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Joined by our friends from St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, we will tell the story of Jesus' suffering and death through scripture and song. Then we gather for the holiest day of the Christian year—Easter Sunday—as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and new life. We will gather in Palisades Park overlooking the Pacific with a Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and then our 10 a.m. celebration in the sanctuary with choir and brass.

We are invited to be witnesses of God's light in the world through service this month as well. In this edition, there are multiple opportunities to serve our neighbors through the People Concern, Westside Food Bank, Homeboy Industries, and Upward Bound House. Let's put our worship and prayer into action as we proclaim the good news: Christ is risen; he is risen indeed!

Rev. Greg Batson
Senior Minister



HOLY WEEK 2026

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

The First UMC Chapel will be open for prayer.

1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Chapel

Good Friday, APRIL 3: Walk the First UMC Labyrinth

The Labyrinth laid in the Simkins Hall floor of First UMC is a replica of the Chartres Labyrinth laid in the cathedral around 1220 CE. Walking the Labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice, a way to quiet our minds and open our spirits to the presence of the Holy. Every step a prayer.

1 p.m. – 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall

- Join **Ross Chitwood of Community UMC** for a special musical performance of Taizé music during Labyrinth hours, from **6 - 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall**

Good Friday, APRIL 3: Good Friday Ecumenical Service at First UMC Santa Monica

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.
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

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, & fresh flowers for the cross.

APRIL 5: Easter Celebration Worship

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship

First UMC Sanctuary
Family Service, Choir, Organ, Brass Quintet, Easter Flowers, and Alleluias! (*nursery care provided for infants and toddlers in the Fireside Room*)

www.santamonicaumc.org/lent

APRIL *at a glance*



HOLY WEEK continues

- Thur April 2** Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 p.m.
Fri April 3 Good Friday Walk the Labyrinth, 1-7 p.m.
Chapel open for prayers, 1-3 p.m.
Ecumenical Service service, First UMC, 7 p.m.
- Sun April 5** **Easter Sunday**
Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. Palisades Park
10 a.m. worship Sanctuary
- Mon April 6** Church office closed
Tues April 7 Methodist Foundation and Investment
Committee meeting
- Wed April 8** April Mid-Week Recital
Fri April 10 Methodist Foundation Scholarship
applications open
- Sun Apr 12** Moment for Mission: UBH Home Run for Kids
Intergenerational Service Trip meeting
Free Blood Pressure screenings
- Fri Apr 17-19** Spirit Sisters weekend retreat (*offsite*)
Sat April 18 The People Concern volunteer day
Prayer Quilt Workparty
- Sun Apr 19** Reception of New Members
Reflect Worship
- Wed Apr 22** Westside Food Bank volunteer day
Sat Apr 25 Messy Church
Sun April 26 Usher Appreciation Sunday
Home Run for Kids (*offsite*)
United Women in Faith Book Study
- Wed Apr 29** Homeboy Industries Tour

APRIL ONLINE MID-WEEK RECITAL

First UMC is pleased to present the 2026 April Online Mid-Week Recital featuring a classical chamber ensemble **Trio Pacifico: Chloe Descher, Flute; Hugo Nogueira, Guitar; Maura Phelps, Cello**. Chloe Descher is a flutist and educator based in Los Angeles, CA. She is currently a fellow with the Civic Orchestra of Los Angeles. Dr. Hugo Nogueira performed in Panamá, Portugal, Brazil, England, USA and Norway. He graduated with a Doctor of Musical Arts in 2017. Maura Phelps is a cellist based in Long Beach, CA. She completed her Bachelor of Music in instrumental performance at Western Michigan University and in 2022 completed a Masters in Music at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at CSULB. To read full bios and view past recitals, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

How to watch the Livestream:

- Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)
 - YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
 - Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
 - The First UMC App: (*search FirstUMC_SM*)
- View past recitals on above platforms.

Wednesday, April 8, at 12:10 p.m., online



METHODIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Methodist Foundation of Santa Monica, founded in 1967, exists to provide aid to religious, educational and charitable causes. The Foundation is administered by a volunteer Board of Trustees with First UMC member John Youngman currently serving as president. First UMC has a long tradition of honoring the academic achievements of students in our church and community who pursue post-secondary education. Every year the 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! Applications will open **Friday, April 10**, for our First UMC students pursuing their educational goals – deadline for the application is **Monday, May 11, 9 p.m.** Link on the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/methodistfoundation

Save the Date for Scholarship Sunday: June 26, 2026

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.

Retreat Dates: April 17 – April 19, 2026

THE PEOPLE CONCERN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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. The shift is 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier. Volunteers meet at the church to carpool. Contact Rev. Keri Olsen Paget to volunteer: k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

Next Volunteer Day: Saturday, April 18, 8 a.m.



WESTSIDE FOOD BANK

Westside Food Bank offers a volunteer opportunity every 4th Wednesday of the month. Volunteers will pack cases of food for distribution at the Mobile Pantry at Virginia Avenue Park. Contact Rev. Keri Olsen Paget to volunteer:

k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

Wednesday, April 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

1914 14th Street, Santa Monica

REFLECT WORSHIP

Pastor Greg's worship service "Reflect" continues in April. This is an additional opportunity to come together for worship and sharing in an informal setting. We gather in Simkins Hall at 5 p.m. The service includes a time of prayer and sharing, scripture and reflection, and concludes 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!

Sunday, April 19, 5 p.m. worship in Simkins Hall, followed by 6 p.m. meal

APRIL MESSY CHURCH

At Messy Church, today's busy families of all shapes and sizes are invited into a welcoming space to experience faith. Messy Church meets once a month. Everyone is welcomed as they are. Whether you are single or partnered, young or old, tidy or messy, have questions or doubts, are filled with joy or struggling with life, you will be welcomed at Messy Church.

Together we will explore the theme "Love the World" through crafts and activities, games and songs, story and fun. Come for the whole time or just drop by as you're able.

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Simkins Hall



HOME RUN FOR KIDS

Our 13th Annual Home Run for Kids is more than just a 5K run—it's a celebration of community, hope, and the power of collective action. Join families, schools, corporate teams, and neighbors who believe that every family and child deserves the stability of housing, dignity, and the chance to thrive. Together, we're disrupting intergenerational homelessness while creating unforgettable moments—where kids run beside parents, strangers become teammates, and community members celebrate families working toward brighter futures. 100% of the funds raised go towards our mission to end family homelessness.

Join the First UMC Church and Preschool Team!

<https://santamonicaumc.org/home-run-for-kids/>

Sunday, April 26, 8 a.m.

11620 San Vicente Blvd

***Meet at 8:15 a.m. at the white First UMC tent for Communion before the race starts!**

Free parking available in parking lot. Arrive early for best parking.



Communion at the First UMC tent in 2024



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH BOOK STUDY

The United Women in Faith are excited to host a book study featuring the book, **The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times**, by Dr. Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson. Looking at the headlines – the worsening climate crisis, a global pandemic, loss of biodiversity, political upheaval – it can be hard to feel optimistic. And yet hope has never been more desperately needed. In this New York Times, best seller, Jane Goodall, the world's most famous naturalist, and Douglas Abrams, the internationally best selling co-author of *The Book of Joy*, explore one of the most sought after and least understood elements of human nature: hope. The book is at the library in book, e-book and audiobook formats.

Sunday, April 26, after worship in the Fireside Room

HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES TOUR AND BREAKFAST AT HOMEGIRL CAFE

Homeboy Industries, one of First UMC's mission partners, is the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. For over 30 years, they have stood as a beacon of hope in Los Angeles, providing training and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated people so they can redirect their lives and become contributing members of our community.



Each month an average of 1,000 people tour the Homeboy Industries headquarters in downtown Los Angeles. We are excited to announce we have a tour reserved for Wednesday, April 29 at 11 a.m. The 30-minute tour is a unique trainee-led experience that includes a shared story from your tour guide.

Here's the schedule of events:

8:45 a.m. - Morning Reflection with Father Greg Boyle

9:30 a.m. - Breakfast at Homegirl Care

11:00 a.m. - Homeboy Tour (30 minutes)

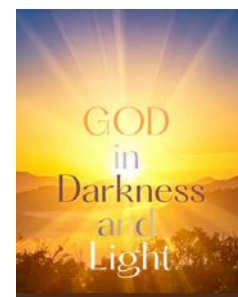
If you would like to attend any or all of the opportunities at Homeboy, please RSVP with Rev. Keri Olsen Paget (k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org), by Wednesday, April 22. There is an option to carpool from the church, drive yourself (parking is limited in the area), or take the Metro and get off at the Chinatown Goldline Station.

Wednesday, April 29, Homeboy Industries

EASTER OFFERING

Thank you to all who consider giving a special gift to our Easter Offering 2026. We are in this journey together. With special financial gifts we are able to expand the scope of our sight and the reach of our ministry and mission deep and far and wide. To donate online, visit:

www.santamonicaumc.org/give, select "Easter Offering" in the dropdown menu.



ANNOUNCING FAMILY CAMP!

First UMC invites you to experience Family Camp. **Everyone is part of the Church Family.** All ages are welcome! The chance to unplug from everyday life and explore the great outdoors, and connect with self and community in a beautiful natural setting.

When: Friday, May 22 through Sunday, May 24

- Check-in as early as 3 p.m. on Friday (or come after school/work)
- Depart at Noon on Sunday

Where: Camp E.L.K. (YMCA of Orange County)

Cost: \$180/person (2 and under are free), includes all meals (dietary restrictions can be accommodated)

Register Online by Monday, May 11:

www.santamonicaumc.org/family-camp or scan the code

Details

Camp E.L.K. offers a welcome, intimate setting, closely located to the community of Wrightwood. Just a few minutes away from the San Gabriel Mountains, Jackson Lake, the Pacific Crest Trail and the Devil's Punch Bowl. The weekend will include a range of activity options: a rock wall, archery, swimming, arts & crafts, meditation and prayer, outdoor and indoor games, nature hikes, and campfire fun with songs, skits and s'mores!

FIRST UMC SANTA MONICA PRESENTS:
FAMILY CAMP
ALL AGES!

DATE: Friday, May 22 - Sunday, May 24

COST: \$180 /PER PERSON 3 AND UP

REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE:
www.santamonicaumc.org/family-camp

YMCA CAMP ELK Orange County

CAMP

The poster features a blue banner with the YMCA logo, a calendar icon, a cost tag, and three circular images showing a camp building, a tree, and a person archery.



Scan code to register

Looking forward to **May**

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY CELEBRATIONS FOR ALL GENERATIONS!

First UMC Santa Monica, with The Labyrinth Society, will celebrate World Labyrinth Day with opportunities for people of all ages to engage the Labyrinth in Simkins Hall. During our "Family Friendly" hours children and their families can learn about the Labyrinth and engage with it freely through dance, coloring, stories and prayer. From 1:00–3:00 p.m., we will host our customary quiet hours for walking and praying. Resources to draw your own labyrinth will also be available.

Every year, World Labyrinth Day is celebrated by thousands of people around the globe. We join this community in a moving meditation for world peace and to celebrate the labyrinth experience. Come join us!

Labyrinth Schedule for Friday, May 1:

8:30–9:30 a.m. Family Friendly Time: The Labyrinth is open for children and families to explore, learn, and walk.

1-3 p.m. The Labyrinth is open for quiet and prayerful walking.

3-4 p.m. Family Friendly Time: The Labyrinth is open with "dancing scarves" and free movement encouraged.



Sun May 3 UWF Senior High Luncheon

Sat May 16 Relay for Life

Sign up now for the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life at Drake Stadium at UCLA. Support the First UMC Wesley Walkers: <https://santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry>

Sun May 17 First UMC Spring Concert

Save the date for our Annual Spring Concert! This year features "Requiem" by Maurice Duruflé, and "St. Saëns Organ Symphony #3." Followed by a reception in Simkins Hall.

Sunday, May 17, 4 - 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sat May 30 Messy Church

The May theme is "Fill a Bucket."

Sunday, May 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA
SPRING CONCERT
Maurice Duruflé "Requiem"
St. Saëns Organ Symphony #3
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026
4 P.M.
IN THE FIRST UMC SANCTUARY
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

The poster features a background image of sunlight streaming through a forest.



Community News

MEMORIALS

- A memorial First UMC member **Janet Rawuka** will be held Thursday, May 7, in the Chapel.

THANK YOU!

The Health Ministry Council is grateful for the efforts of the FUMC staff and members, HMC members, the American Red Cross staff and most of all, our generous donors for working together in the planning, and implementation of an amazing Red Cross Blood Drive held on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

We broke our record again with 51 units collected, saving up to 153 lives, and have been honored to receive a place as a Premier Blood Partner by the American Red Cross. A heartfelt shoutout to everyone who helped make it happen—you truly made a difference!

Save the Date for the next Red Cross Blood Drive: Sunday, September 20, in Simkins Hall



GRACE IN ACTION: HEALTH AND HOME IN SOBIER AND YVON

BY TODD ERLANDSON, HAITI MISSION TEAM LEADER

This past fall, First UMC Santa Monica began supporting mobile medical clinics in Sobier and Yvon, Haiti—building on years of relationship through our Pennies for Peanuts initiative. We're grateful to share that this work is already taking root in meaningful ways.

Through our partnership with the Haiti Partnership and local leaders, including Evangelist Wesnet Dieujuste and the Haitian-led organization OPB2M, clinics are now being held regularly in the community health center our church helped build. In addition, a new daily clinic—called Grace Clinic—is now operating Monday through Friday in Yvon, providing consistent access to care in a region where medical services are often limited. Our current support is helping fund upcoming quarterly clinics, covering medical staff, supplies, and essential medications as they are being organized now.

At the same time, we're encouraged to see related efforts continuing alongside the clinics. Through the same network of partnerships, modest homes are being constructed for families in need—simple, durable structures that offer safety and stability. These projects, like the clinics, are locally led and supported through a combination of Haitian initiative and partnership with churches like ours.

Even amid ongoing challenges in Haiti—including difficult travel conditions and broader instability—our partners continue this work with courage, faith, and deep commitment to their communities. The images included here offer a glimpse: a nurse at work, medicines being organized, homes under construction, and families beginning to benefit from these efforts.

Thank you for your continued generosity and prayers. We are honored to walk alongside our friends in Sobier and Yvon, supporting both health and home as this mission continues to grow.

With gratitude,
Todd Erlandson
Haiti Mission Team Leader



SPRING BEREAVEMENT GROUP AT ST. MONICA

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? You don't have to do it alone. St. Monica Catholic Church sponsors a 10 week peer support group that is co-facilitated by at least two bereavement ministers, who have also lost loved ones, and have received training to effectively and sensitively facilitate the group. **Zoom Orientation on April 9.**

For more info and to register:

<https://stmonica.net/ministries/pastoral-care/bereavement>

COMMUNITY PHOTOS



Spiritual Gifts Workshop with Bill Buxton

Open Space members met in March at Playa Vista Farmer's Market



The 25th Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon, benefiting Upward Bound House's Family Place.

March Messy Church

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA PRESCHOOL PRESCHOOL CORNER



Recent Preschool events: the Lion Dance, celebrating Lunar New Year; Grandparents and Special Friends Day





WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

We worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, and we Livestream the service on the platforms listed below.

WORSHIP ONLINE

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

- **Website:** www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream
After 10 a.m. livestream airs, go to:
www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc
- **YouTube Channel:** [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC)
- **The First UMC App:** Go the App Store, search *FirstUMC_SM*

Let us know if you need assistance in joining online.



ONGOING MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY / SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE FALL

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. 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

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

Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY

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. Meetings are on Sundays from 6 - 8 p.m. 3rd Floor Edu. Bldg. in the Youth Lounge. Contact Tricia with questions:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

April Meetings: April 12/19/26

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study is a weekly Zoom meeting where men of all ages and generations gather to ground themselves in the Holy Scripture. As men try to navigate the stresses and complexities of this modern world and daily life, Men's Bible Study is a place for community, prayer and fellowship through the sharing of God's Holy word. For more information and to join, call the church office: 310-393-8258.

Tuesdays: 7 a.m. via Zoom

PRAYER REQUESTS

The First UMC Prayer Group is a network of persons who provide regular, dependable, and confidential prayer support. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time, and our Prayer Group will be notified of your request. Call the church office, or visit:

www.santamonicaumc.org/prayer-requests/

LISTENING HEARTS WOMEN'S GROUP

Listening Hearts is a group for women of all ages, grounded in the practices of sacred listening, prayer and reflection. We gather both in person and online. All are welcome to join!

Contact Tricia Guerrero to learn more:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

Meeting dates:

Wednesday, April 1 & 15, Coffee & Connect, 10 a.m. Literati Cafe (12081 Wilshire Blvd)

Wednesday, April 8, 10 a.m. via Zoom



THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Sing in the Chancel Choir! **Thursday evening rehearsals are 7:40 - 9 p.m.** Contact Jim Smith if you are interested:

djes@roadrunner.com

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

The Health Ministry Council hosts Blood Pressure screenings one Sunday of the month in the Fireside Room. We are grateful to this ministry for their continued care of the congregation! Next Screening:

Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m. in the Alcove



REQUEST A PRAYER QUILT

Led by Sue Payne and Maile Marquand, the Prayer Quilt Ministry offers Prayer Quilts to those in need. To request a quilt:

1. Talk to the intended recipient. Ask if the person is willing to be prayed for and to receive a quilt. Ask what specific prayers are wished for. There is no charge for the quilt – it is a gift of love.
2. Contact Maile Marquand and Sue Payne at: prayerquilts@santamonicaumc.org. **(Prayer quilts may only be requested and sponsored by members of the First UMC congregation.)**
3. Select the quilt, if some are already made, or suggest colors if one is to be selected for you. First UMC will display the quilt in the Friday Community Email, and during Sunday 10 a.m. worship, where you may tie a prayer knot during in-person worship, or view the quilt on the Livestream.

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 18, Room 300

Contact info@santamonicaumc.org if you would like to volunteer.

www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA MONICA



Scan to visit
the website



@santamonicaumc
www.santamonicaumc.org

1008 11th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
310-393-8258



FIRST UMC OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., and by appointment. (Office closed on Fridays.)

Pastoral Care : 310-393-8258, enter ext. 1



CONGREGATION CARE

Feel free to leave a phone message anytime (310-393-8258) or email message for any of the church staff. The Pastoral Care line **(310-393-8258 and enter extension 1)**, is always available for people to leave a message requesting care.



Pastoral Care Resources: Explore the resources on our website to see how we can support you and your loved ones through every season of life. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact: Anne Premer a.premer@santamonicaumc.org or (310)393-8258 ext 103. www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND FIRST UMC!

Welcome to the seventh installment of our monthly Staff Spotlight series! Each month, we lift up members of our dedicated team—sharing how they help bring the missions and ministries of First UMC to life throughout the week, and offering a glimpse into who they are beyond the office.



Johanna Cortez: Co-Preschool Director

Ms. Johanna was born and raised in Santa Monica, CA. After teaching in the classroom for 9 years, she is now Co-Director. This is a very exciting role for her and she loves creating a wonderful community with the children, parents, and teachers. Ms. Johanna attended First UMC Preschool as a child, as well as her mom, so this place is extra special to her.



Dane Rold: Co-Preschool Director

Dane was born and raised in Montana and moved to the Los Angeles area in 2008. He has taught swim lessons, cooking classes and directed dozens of children's theatre shows before starting in administration as Assistant to the Director at the preschool in Spring of 2014. Dane lives with his wife Sarah, and has three young children. He loves spending time with family, reading, playing board games and going to the tide pools. He is passionate about continued education for teachers and is currently enrolled at CSUN for further Childhood Development education. Dane is inspired by the strong, lasting connections that form within the First UMC Preschool community, where families remain close long after their child's preschool journey.