

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Easter • Usher Appreciation • April 26, 2026

WE GATHER



The Shepherd's Voice

WELCOME

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

PRELUDE Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us (arr. Dale Wood)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #311 United Methodist Hymnal – Now the Green Blade Riseth

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dorothy Nichols, Lay Lector

Jesus the Good Shepherd calls our names to come and follow him.

His voice, speaking our names, draws us to him.

We follow without fear, for the shepherd cares for us.

Our hearts rejoice and we can place our trust in the Good Shepherd.

Come, let us enter the gate with thanksgiving!

Let us go forth confidently with songs of praise!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King! Alleluia.”

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dorothy Nichols

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Cady Senior, Sunday School Teacher

#2233 The Faith We Sing — Where Children Belong

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.

Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.

As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.

I Am a Child of God

I am a child of God; You are God's child, it's true. Children of God are called to love one another, as Jesus taught to do.

Following the Children's Message children (6 months through 7th grade) will be led to Sunday School on the 2nd floor of the Education Building.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Ron Theile, Lay Lector

We give thanks for God's Creating Spirit that continues to give us life and lead us forward!

Thanks be to God!

USHER APPRECIATION

Rev. Batson

HYMN #2058 TFWS — Shepherd Me, O God

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Ron Theile

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL John 10:1-10

Ron Theile

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "The Shepherd's Voice"

Rev. Batson

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Dorothy Nichols

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.

OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir

Shepherd Me, Lord (Gershon Kingley)

Lord, watch over me. Shepherd Me, Lord. Lord, let me lie down. Shepherd Me, Lord. Lord, let me be free. Shepherd Me, Lord. Lord, make me a crown. Shepherd Me, Lord. And when I walk in darkness and fear, Lend me your staff, Shepherd oh, Lord. Let me know You are here. Lord set me a table. Shepherd Me, Lord. Lord, sweeten my day. Shepherd Me, Lord. Lord as long as I am able, Shepherd Me, Lord. Lord, show me the way. Shepherd Me, Lord.

*RESPONSE #94 UMH – The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dorothy Nichols

Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow—although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #381 UMH – Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God (Siegfried Karg-Elert)

Ty Woodward

Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world. You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.

—**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. Available Sundays: May 3/10/17/24/31.

—**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.

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

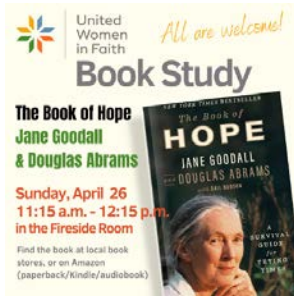
Head Custodian
Javier Espinoza

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

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





United Women in Faith
All are welcome!

Book Study

The Book of Hope
Jane Goodall
& Douglas Abrams

Sunday, April 26
11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
in the Fireside Room

Find the book at local book stores, or on Amazon (paperback/Kindle/audiobook)

Today! 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. 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. Join us even if you haven't read the book!

Today after worship in the Fireside Room



Homeboy Industries Tour & Breakfast at Homegirl Cafe

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8:45 A.M. - MORNING REFLECTION WITH FATHER GREG BOYLE

9:30 A.M. - BREAKFAST AT HOMEGIRL CAFE

11:00 A.M. - HOMEBOY TOUR (30 MINUTES)

RSVP Keri Olsen Paget
k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

Homeboy Industries Tour & 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. 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.

Schedule of events:

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

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

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

To attend any or all of the opportunities at Homeboy, please RSVP with Rev. Keri Olsen Paget **TODAY** (k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)

Wednesday, April 29, Homeboy Industries



WORLD LABYRINTH DAY
AT THE FIRST UMC LABYRINTH

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.

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 - 3 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.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• 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. **Applications are now open** 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 28**

• Relay for Life

The Health Ministry Council is excited to announce First UMC is once again supporting the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life at Drake Stadium at UCLA. Relay for Life strives to bring communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help the American Cancer Society make a global impact on cancer. You may walk at any time for any length during the 12 hour event.

Saturday, May 16, 12 p.m. noon to 12 a.m. midnight

UCLA Drake Track and Field Stadium

340 Charles E. Young Dr. W, Los Angeles, 90024

Register or donate to the First UMC Wesley Walkers:

www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry

• 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.

Friday, May 22 through Sunday, May 24

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

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

For more details, and to register online by

Monday, May 11, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/family-camp

UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

• REFLECT Worship

Pastor Greg offers an alternative worship service called "Reflect." 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.

Sunday, May 31, 5 p.m. worship in Simkins Hall, followed by 6 p.m. meal

• Calling All Graduates!

First UMC wants to recognize all its graduates. Let us know where you're graduating from, your major, and what your future plans are. Deadline: **Monday, May 18**. Contact Sarah Rold in the church office: (310-393-8258 x 106 or s.rold@santamonicaumc.org)

• Messy Camp - Join the waitlist

Coming this summer! Grades TK – 5th grade. The cost is \$150 for the first child and \$125 / additional sibling. Registration is full, but you may still join the waitlist:

www.santamonicaumc.org/messy-camp

Monday, July 27 – Friday, July 31, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
First UMC Campus

MISSION AND SERVICE

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.

Saturday, May 16, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

• Westside Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

Every 4th Wednesday

Wed May 27, 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 Keri:

k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org

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

Next meetings: Tonight and May 3/17/31

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!

Next opportunity: **May 1, World Labyrinth Day**

Celebrations for all Generations!

8:30–9:30 a.m. Family Friendly Time

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

3-4 p.m. Family Friendly Time

Visit the website for full schedule:

www.santamonicaumc.org/labyrinth

• 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.

Wednesday, May 6, 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, May 16**

• 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, May 30

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

Theme: Fill a Bucket

• Blood Pressure Screenings

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

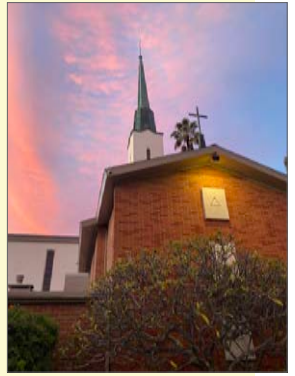
Next meeting: **Sunday, May 31, after worship** in the Alcove.

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.



First UMC Annual Spring Concert

Don't miss our Annual Spring Concert! This year's program features two major musical works of the 20th century: *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé and *Organ Symphony No. 3* by Camille Saint-Saëns. The combined musicians of a 60 voice chorus, pipe organ and the Los Angeles Concert Orchestra under the direction of Dr. James Smith will musically fill the church for a truly memorable experience. The *Requiem*, completed in 1947 is a magnificent blend of ancient Gregorian chants with rich French impressionistic harmonies—one of the most moving and respected works in sacred choral music. The famous *Organ Symphony No. 3*, considered to be a landmark of French Romantic music,

featuring thunderous chords from our church's large pipe organ in concert with a full orchestra and 4 hand piano! First UMC organist, Ty Woodward will be featured. You definitely will want to experience this incredible musical event. Following the concert, please join us for a reception in Simkins Hall as we thank the musicians and gather in celebration and community. Freewill offering taken.

Sunday, May 17, 4 - 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary / Reception in Simkins Hall

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



@santamonicaumc