

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

5th Sunday of Easter • Holy Communion • May 3, 2026

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Rhosymedre (R. Vaughan Williams)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #60 United Methodist Hymnal — I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Terri Pearson, Lay Lector

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.

We need not fear.

In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"God is our refuge and our strength! Amen."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Terri Pearson

Please greet those worshipping near you.

*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jamie Jones, Family Ministries Coordinator

#2233 The Faith We Sing – Where Children Belong

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping 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

Tricia Guerrero

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

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

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 14:1-14

Ben Ing, Lay Lector

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

HOMILY "The Way"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Ben Ing

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/Ty Woodward, conductor

Down to the River to Pray (arr. Philip Lawson)

As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good old way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way. Oh, sisters, let's go down, come on down, down to the river to pray. Oh brothers, let's go down, come on down, down to the river to pray. Oh fathers, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray. Oh mothers, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray. Oh Sinners, let's go down, come on down to the river to pray. As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good old way and who shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show me the way.

*RESPONSE #94 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ben Ing

Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In Christ's name. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Batson

We will use the Musical Setting beginning on page 2257 in The Faith We Sing hymnal. Gluten-free vegan wafers are available. The Ushers will guide you in coming forward to receive the communion elements. You will be invited to take a piece of bread or gluten-free wafer, dip into the cup, and receive. Online worshippers are encouraged to prepare a piece of bread/cracker and juice to receive at home.

#164 UMH – Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

#618 UMH – Let Us Break Bread Together

#628 UMH – Eat This Bread

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Olsen Paget

Thank you, God, for uniting us with Jesus in this holy mystery. We are no longer our own, but yours. So send us, and put us to leading and serving in your mission wherever we go. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #188 UMH – Christ Is the World's Light

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Rondeau from Sinfonies de Fanfares (Jean Joseph Mouret)

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.

—**Communion Server Ministry:** After today's service, members of the Communion Server Ministry will be taking the communion elements to those who were unable to worship with us.

—**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 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.

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



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Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
West District Superintendent
Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi

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Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
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Organist
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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. 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. *For those who can't attend Sunday night, you may observe the Concert rehearsal Saturday morning (May 16) at 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at no charge. Families with babies/small children may listen from the Narthex.

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



Relay for Life

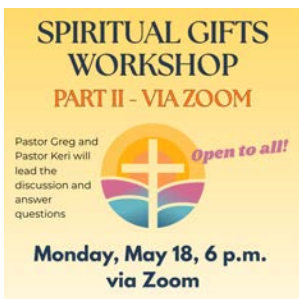
The Health Ministry Council is excited to announce First UMC is once again supporting the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life at Drake Stadium at UCLA. Relay for Life strives to bring communities together to remember loved ones lost, honor survivors of all cancers, and raise money to help 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



Spiritual Gifts – Part II

This workshop is designed to explore your personal Spiritual Gifts and how you might engage them more fully! Before attending this Zoom discussion please complete this Spiritual Gifts Inventory: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>. All are invited! We hope those who attended the Spiritual Gifts workshop in March, and those who were unable to attend, will join us for this opportunity to learn how to develop and use your Spiritual Gifts in your daily life, within the church and out in the world. Pastor Greg and Pastor Keri will lead the discussion and answer questions.

Zoom link on the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/spiritual-gifts

Monday, May 18, 6 p.m. via Zoom

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

• May Online Mid-Week Recital

First UMC is pleased to present the 2026 May Online Mid-Week Recital featuring **Esther Yune, Susan Kim-Pedroza**, 4-hand piano. Known for her unique tone color and interpretations, Dr. Esther Yune has been featured in concerts across the U.S. and internationally. Susan Kim-Pedroza has performed at numerous venues, including Zipper Hall at the Colburn School of Music, the Muckenthaler Cultural Arts Center in Fullerton, and more. For bios and view past recitals, visit the website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/mid-week-recital-series

ONLINE: Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc) • YouTube

Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSantaMonicaUMC) • Website:

www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream • The First UMC

App: (App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

Wednesday, May 13, at 12:10 p.m., online

• 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, a reflection on a classic work of art, 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

ANNOUNCEMENT

• 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)

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

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, Youth and Family Collaborative (CYFC) Fundraiser

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, and the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative (CYFC) one of First UMC's mission partners, is inviting you to walk with them! Join them for the CYFC Foster Care Awareness 5K Wellness Walk & Resource Fair—a community walk to raise awareness for foster youth in Los Angeles and generate direct support for their needs.

Saturday, May 16, 8 a.m.

Check-in: Dorsey High School, 3537 Farmdale Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90016

Registration is free, and every dollar donated goes directly to supporting foster youth in our community.

Register to walk on the website:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/outreach-missions>

If you can't attend the walk, you may donate directly to CYFC here: <https://www.cyfcla.com/support>

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

We have **ten available spots open** for the 26/27 school year. Accepting deposits now, don't miss out!:

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; May 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: Friday, June 5, 1 - 3 p.m.** 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. Members of the Prayer Chain treat all requests as confidential. You may send a prayer request to the church at any time. Our Prayer Chain will be notified of your request. Fill out the form online:

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 the Courtyard

Theme: Fill a Bucket

• Blood Pressure Screenings

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

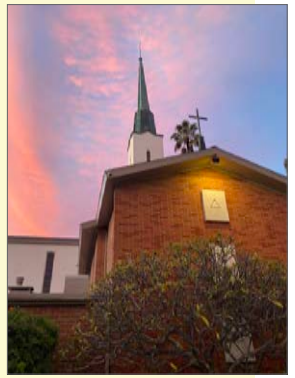
Next meeting: **Sunday, May 31, after worship** in the Alcove.

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.



70th Anniversary of Women's Ordination

From the Cal-Pac Conference: This year holds special significance for us as United Methodists as we mark the 70th anniversary of ordination for women in our tradition. "Women have always played a vital role in proclaiming the gospel and pursuing justice within the Wesleyan tradition. Long before ordination was formally granted, women preached, served as class leaders, missionaries, and carried the work of ministry in their communities," said the Rev. Kelli Hitchman-Craig, GCSRW's director of leadership development and community engagement. "This anniversary honors both the past 70 years of ordained ministry and the women who paved the way, including early leaders such as Sarah Mallett, Sojourner Truth, Helenor Davisson, Anna Howard Shaw, Grace Bragg, and many others whose courage shaped the church we know today."

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of Women's Ordination, may we be guided by gratitude for the past, boldness for the present, and hope for a future where all God's children are affirmed in their call to serve.



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



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@santamonicaumc