

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WORSHIP

7th Sunday of Easter • May 17, 2026

WE GATHER



- Fabian Debora

WELCOME Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE *Adagio from Sonata No. 1 (Felix Mendelssohn)*
Ty Woodward, organ

*OPENING HYMN #312 United Methodist Hymnal –
Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

*CALL TO WORSHIP Dominic Rold, Lay Lector

We remember the blessings God gives us—the blessings of Resurrection, salvation, and new life in Christ.

We come to praise God for the blessings of Easter!

We recall the blessings of creation—of clean air and water, of food and shelter, of beauty and awe.

We come to praise God for the blessings of creation!

We share in the blessings of community—of family and friends, of church and home, of help that is given and received.

We come to praise God for the blessings of community!

We gather today to remember when Jesus was carried up into heaven while blessing his disciples, marking not the end but the next chapter of God's salvific work among us.

We come to bless God with our praise as God continues to bless us with all we need to live as God's Resurrection people. Alleluia! Amen.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please greet those worshipping near you.

Dominic Rold

*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 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

Tricia Guerrero

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

Thanks be to God!

HYMN #2009 TFWS — O God Beyond All Praising

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

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 Luke 24:44-53

Dane Rold, Lay Lector

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

SERMON "Worthy of Blessings and Joy"

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Dane Rold

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/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Kyrie *from* Requiem (Maurice Duruflé)

Kyrie eleison Lord have mercy on us

Christe eleison Christ have mercy on us

Kyrie eleison Lord have mercy on us

*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

Dane Rold

Most High God, we are witnesses to the life of Jesus Christ. Let our lives and these offerings proclaim Christ's life. Wrap us in your power and presence so that we may bless you always, be witnesses to the grace of forgiveness, and sing songs of joy with all the peoples of earth. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #664 UMH – Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Olsen Paget

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Trumpet Voluntary in E-flat (David N. Johnson)

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 24/31, June 7/21/28

—**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

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Deacon Associate for Spiritual Formation
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TONIGHT! 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.

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

TOMORROW! 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



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

• May 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. This month, we will explore loving God and loving others using a book about kindness by Carol McCloud called: *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* Join us for the book reading, crafts and activities, games, songs, and fun for the whole family! Come for the whole time or just drop by as you're able.
Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Simkins Hall

• Walk the Labyrinth / Chapel Open for Prayers

The Labyrinth is open on the first Friday of every month, 1–3 p.m. in Simkins Hall. If you've never walked the Labyrinth before, there are printed instructions to help with your walking meditation, or see a labyrinth host for guidance. Children and families welcome! For those unable to walk, we have finger labyrinths available. The Chapel is also open for prayers during this time.
Friday, June 5, 1 - 3 p.m. in Simkins Hall and Chapel

• Preschool Spring Fair

Save the date and stay after worship for our Annual Preschool Spring Fair. Fun for all ages! There will be bounce houses, bubble mania, tacos, a bake sale, and spring crafts for everyone! New this year is The Cut Truck, a mobile, three-chair hair salon! From The Cut Truck:

"At the Spring Fair, we'll be offering quick, style-forward services including trims, braids, and a little extra fun with hair tinsel and jewelry—perfect for kids (and parents) looking to add some sparkle to their day."

Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. First UMC campus



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: Tomorrow, **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

Every 3rd Saturday

Linda Diane Anderson and Janet Searfoss run a volunteer group at The People Concern, making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches. 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., but often ends earlier.

Saturday, June 20, 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

• YSP Sizzle and Service Bash

Fire up your summer spirit and join us for the Sizzle & Service Bash! The **Youth Service Project Team** is taking over the Church Courtyard for a classic BBQ—think sizzling burgers and hot dogs (+veggie options), all the fixin's, and some homemade desserts to top it off. Enjoy summer yard games with your friends while the kids jump for joy in the bounce house. **Every ticket supports our youth group's summer service trip to Johnson County, TN**, where we will repair homes in Central Appalachia, helping to make them warmer, safer, and drier for families and elderly residents in need. Tickets: \$30 for adults / \$15 for kids / \$75 for a family. Special discount to FUMC Preschool families - \$50/family. Tickets available on the website: <https://santamonicaumc.org/ysp>
Sunday, June 14, after worship in the Courtyard

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

Meetings: Tonight, May 17, & May 31 (*last meeting before Summer*)

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 20, 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, June 20**

• The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir provides music every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service. Sing in the 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.



This Week's Featured Artwork

This week's featured artwork comes from **Fabian Debora**, accomplished and multi-faceted artist, educator, and community advocate, deeply influenced by his Chicano heritage and his dedication to social causes. Born in El Paso, Texas, he embarked on his artistic journey in 1995 with the East Los Angeles Streetscapers, where he honed his craft under the mentorship of notable Chicano muralists. His creative range spans graffiti, murals, and fine art painting, and he has showcased his work in various solo and group exhibitions across the U.S. and Latin America. His career also highlights his commitment to service and mentorship. For over ten years, Fabian worked at **Homeboy Industries**, one of First UMC's mission partners, a program that provides services to former gang members, where he counseled individuals and oversaw substance abuse services. Through his involvement with the Homeboy Art Academy, which he founded, Fabian continues to support marginalized communities, offering both artistic and personal development opportunities. To learn more about Fabian, and view his artwork, visit his website: www.fabiandebora.com



Calm over Chaos
Fabian Debora, 2011

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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