

# SENTINEL

## NEWSLETTER



As we enter the summer season, we have many opportunities to live our faith, filled with the Holy Spirit of Pentecost.

Our Youth Service Project (YSP) team is preparing for their annual mission trip. This year they will travel to Appalachia in northeast Tennessee to repair homes for families and seniors. Please support their efforts by attending the YSP Sizzle and Service BBQ on the courtyard following worship on June 14. Your gifts will make a big difference in the lives of these youth and those whom they will serve.

June also marks the annual gathering of the California-Pacific Conference on June 17-20 in La Quinta, CA. Clergy and laity representing all of our United Methodist congregations in Southern California and Hawaii will meet together, including your clergy and six laypersons representing our church. The theme this year is "Astonish" as we worship together, vote for our delegates to the 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and share the good news of our ministries.

We also celebrate all graduates this month. On June 28 in worship, our Methodist Foundation and United Women in Faith will award scholarships to our youth and young adults in support of their higher education. Join us as we learn, grow and serve together in the Spirit!

Rev. Greg Batson  
*Senior Minister*



### 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 per family. Special discount to FUMC Preschool families: \$50 per family.**

Tickets available on the website:

[www.santamonicaumc.org/ysp](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/ysp)

**Sunday, June 14, after worship in the Courtyard**



### 42nd ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

With the theme "Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Astonish!" the 42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference will be held **June 17-20, at the La Quinta Resort and Club in La Quinta, CA.** Participants from First UMC this year include Rev. Greg Batson, Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Tricia Guerrero, Dick Crawford, Mary Crawford, Todd Erlandson, Jack Fry, Adam Guerrero, and Karen Ing. Visit the Cal-Pac website for updates: [www.calpacumc.org/about/ac2026/](http://www.calpacumc.org/about/ac2026/)

# JUNE *at a glance*

- Fri June 5** Walk the Labyrinth / Chapel open
- Sun June 7** Holy Communion  
Preschool Spring Fair  
Intergenerational Service Team meeting
- Mon June 8** Intergenerational Service Team meeting via Zoom
- Wed June 10 - 13** Prayer Quilt Retreat
- Sat June 13** Berneice Southcott memorial
- Sun June 14** Youth Service Project Commissioning  
Sizzle and Service Bash in the Courtyard
- Wed June 17** Cal-Pac Annual Conference begins
- Sat June 20** Youth Service Project trip begins  
The People Concern volunteer day  
Prayer Quilt Workparty
- Sun June 21** Father's Day, Ron Theile preaching  
Free Blood Pressure Screenings
- Wed June 24** Westside Food Bank volunteer day
- Fri June 26** Preschool Spring Concert
- Sun June 28** Scholarship Sunday  
REFLECT worship

## WALK THE LABYRINTH

Labyrinth walking is a spiritual practice that involves following a single, winding path to the center and back out again. Unlike a maze, there are no dead ends, just a purposeful path used for centering, contemplation, and prayer. 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. Children and families welcome! The Chapel is also open for prayer during this time.

**Friday, June 5, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Simkins Hall & Chapel Open**



Samples of "Mindful Labyrinths" from *Thinking Zing*.  
Limited printouts available during Labyrinth hours.

## 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.

**Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Courtyard**



## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY SEWING RETREAT

The Prayer Quilt Ministry is having a quilt sewing retreat at church. People in our congregation who sew are welcome to come and join us. Come for a day, part of a day or all 4 days. Bring your own project to work on or we will help you get started on a prayer quilt or square. Bring your machine, if possible, and your own sewing supplies. We have limited machines available. RSVP to Sue Payne:

[sue.f.payne@gmail.com](mailto:sue.f.payne@gmail.com) by **Monday, June 8.**

**Wednesday, June 10 – Saturday, June 13:**

**9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on weekdays; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Room 300**



## YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT COMMISSIONING

The Youth Service Project team will be commissioned (blessed) during worship, followed by a picnic fundraiser, the Sizzle and Service Bash, (see page 1) in the Courtyard.

**Sunday, June 14, during and after worship**

## THE PEOPLE CONCERN VOLUNTEER DAY

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 to volunteer:

[k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)

**Saturday, June 20, begins at 8 a.m.**



## WESTSIDE FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER DAY

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. **Extra volunteers are needed for the summer months!** Contact Rev. Keri to volunteer:

[k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org)

**Wednesday, June 24, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**1914 14th Street, Santa Monica**



## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Let's celebrate our high school and college graduates! Congratulations! We are so proud of each of you.



### High School 2026 Graduates

- **Ethan Crawford** is graduating from Santa Monica High School. He plans to attend UCLA for Music Education.
- **Bryce William Eddy** is graduating from Damien High School. He plans to attend UC San Diego with a dual major in Applied Mathematics and Economics.
- **Olivia Ohr** is graduating from Marlborough High School. She plans to attend Harvard University to study Government.
- **Cady Senior** is graduating from Santa Monica High School. She plans to attend San Diego State University to study early childhood education.
- **Julia Strauss** is graduating from Santa Monica High School. She plans to attend University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the Marine Biology program.

### College 2026 Graduates

- **Brooklyn Bisson** graduated from University of Indiana School of Public Health, with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science (Kinesiology). She plans on taking a gap year at home before applying to graduate school.
- **John Buxton** graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor's of Science in Economics. He plans on moving back to L.A. to work for a startup company.
- **Emma Crawford** graduated from UCLA, with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Bachelor's of Music in Oboe Performance. She plans to become a music teacher in the Los Angeles school system.
- **Annika Dodd** graduated from UC Davis with Bachelor's degrees in English and Communication. Her future plans include working for a year before applying to graduate school for Library Science.
- **Kim Hansen** graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. She is headed to Rice University to pursue her master's degree in Bioengineering through the Global Medical Innovations Program.
- **Ethan Kelley** graduated from Chapman University with a Bachelor's degree in Strategic and Corporate Communication. He plans to travel this summer and pursue a career in business/music marketing.
- **Rylie McLaren** graduated from Bowdoin College with Bachelor's degrees in Government & Legal Studies and Spanish, with a minor in Afrikana Studies. She plans to attend University of St. Andrew's for a Masters Degree in Peacebuilding and Mediation.
- **Kylie Rold** graduated from Lewis & Clark College with a Bachelor's degree in economics. She is training to be a financial planner at Fidelity Investments.
- **Gwen Warren** graduated from UC San Diego with a Bachelor's degree in Educational Sciences. She plans to attend graduate school to get her Teaching Certificate.

## SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY

As the school year draws to a close, the young scholars of First UMC are excited about their next educational step. Make sure to attend the 10 a.m. worship service to honor and recognize those being awarded with a Methodist Foundation Scholarship and/or a United Women in Faith Scholarship.



**Sunday, June 28, during 10 a.m. worship**

*\*See article by Mira Pak: "Methodist Foundation Seeking Financial Student Scholarship Support," on page 5*

## REFLECT WORSHIP

Pastor Greg's worship service "Reflect" continues in May. All are welcome for this is 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 community meal.

**Sunday, June 28, 5 p.m. worship in Simkins Hall, followed by 6 p.m. meal**



## FLOWERS

Do you have a loved one you would like to dedicate flowers to on a given week? The church office can assist with the dedication and the cost is \$80. Order at the Sunday Welcome Table, or online: [www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund)  
**Available Sundays: June 7/21/28**

## Graduate School Graduate 2026

- **Alejandro Quintana** graduated from Yale University with a PhD in Classics and History. Doctoral Thesis: *"Mobility Makes History: Human Migration in Greco-Roman Egypt."*

Alejandro is a sixth-year PhD candidate in the combined program in Classics and History. His research encompasses the socio-cultural history of Greco-Roman Egypt, with an emphasis on migration and rural society. He is currently writing a dissertation titled "Mobility Makes History: Human Migration in Greco-Roman Egypt" that highlights the importance of human movement in shaping, transforming, and sustaining ancient societies.

Alejandro takes part in the Egyptian-American excavations at Hermopolis Magna (el-Ashmunein) and is working on an article that revises how textual evidence is used to interpret the archeology of the site. As papyrology is central to his work as a historian, he is editing an archive of administrative documents from Roman Tebtynis that offers a micro-historical perspective into the interaction between state and local actors and is preparing editions of several texts recently excavated from the necropolis of Philadelphia.

Looking forward to



## MESSY CHURCH GOES WILD

**When: Saturday, July 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Where: Ferndell Trail near Griffith Park**

Let's get out in the L.A. wilderness to discover the awe and wonder in the world around us! Meet up at the park for some playground fun, encounter God in a nature walk, and enjoy some yummy snacks and time together in community!

- Ferndell Nature Trail is in Griffith Park at 2333 Fern Dell Dr, Hollywood, CA.
- Meet at the playground across from the Trails Cafe.
- Parking is free, they do have bathrooms, and there is no entrance fee to hike.
- It's pretty shady thanks to many ferns and trees, with a stream, ponds, and bridges.
- There are multiple hiking options friendly for all ages!

We can't wait to see you there!



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Save the date for the annual UWF Christmas in July! The merchandise is donated and United Women in Faith volunteers supply the workforce, so 100% of the proceeds will benefit mission projects.

*\*Please help by bringing your "gently used" Christmas treasures and costume jewelry (intact or broken), to the Church office or to the UWF workroom between July 5-July 12. To donate Christmas items, baked goods, or to volunteer to help with the sale, contact Karen at [uwfsantamonica@gmail.com](mailto:uwfsantamonica@gmail.com).*

**Sunday, July 19, after worship in the Alcove**

## OTHER JULY EVENTS:

**Sunday, July 26:** August Sierra Service Project Team Commissioning and Fundraiser

**Monday-Friday, July 27-31:** Messy Camp

## FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FREE MARKET

First UMC is pleased to present the fourth annual Community Free Market—a one day event where all are welcome to come by and pick up FREE new or gently used kitchen /household items! Now's the perfect time to declutter and donate your gently used goods to the Market.

- We're gladly accepting: kitchenware, housewares, small appliances, holiday decorations, toys and books. We will NOT be accepting furniture, clothing of any kind, electronics, large appliances, or items that aren't **gently used or new**. Contact Janet Guyette: 310-663-9861 or [janetguyette@gmail.com](mailto:janetguyette@gmail.com), with questions.
- Drop-off day (**ONE DAY ONLY!**): Sunday, August 9, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Fourth Annual Community Free Market: Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Courtyard**



## ART IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

Below are a few selected pieces that will be featured in the Fireside Room during June and July. The artwork draws inspiration from imagery found in the book of Genesis, which will also serve as the focus of our worship sermon series during those months. *Artwork courtesy of A Sanctified Art.*





## MEMORIAL

- A memorial for First UMC member **Berneice Bossi Southcott** will be held Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m., in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception.

## WEDDING

- First UMC member **Vern Busse** and Connie Osterholt were married on May 1, 2026.

## THANK YOU FROM UPWARD BOUND HOUSE

Dear Tricia and the FUMC Team,

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for helping make this year's **Home Run for Kids** such a meaningful and memorable success.

To our incredible partners at FUMC—your unwavering support and dedication to uplifting families and communities continue to inspire us. We truly marvel at your leadership, your deep commitment to service, and the culture of giving you so intentionally foster within your school community. You set a powerful example for what it means to show up with purpose and heart.

Thank you for showing up in such a big way—bringing your energy and your spirit of compassion to this special day. Your involvement not only made the event vibrant and joyful, but it also directly supports our mission to ensure every child has a safe place to call home.

We are so grateful to be in community with you. You are truly remarkable—thank you!

**-Emily Bachar, Development Coordinator at UBH**

## PRIDE WORSHIP SERVICE

St. Augustine by the Sea Episcopal Church in Santa Monica invites you to join local congregations to celebrate God's love for all in this special PRIDE worship service! Come rejoice in God's wonderfully wild and extravagant embrace – unconditional love that breaks through all barriers to fill every heart. All are welcome, whether you identify as queer or ally, whether you are God-loving or God-curious, come as you are! All the congregations in this service are intentional about being fully queer-inclusive and affirming of all gender identities, gender expressions, biological sex and sexual orientations, including welcoming queer/LGBTQIA+ clergy and leadership, and performing marriages of any two people!

Livestream: [www.youtube.com/c/StAugustinebytheSea](http://www.youtube.com/c/StAugustinebytheSea)

**Friday, June 5, 7:30 p.m. St. Augustine by-the-Sea**  
1227 4th Street, Santa Monica (between Wilshire & Arizona)



## METHODIST FOUNDATION SM SEEKING FINANCIAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

by Mira Pak, Scholarship Committee Chair

Scholarship support has never been more important. Students face rising tuition costs, increased housing expenses, higher textbook prices, and everyday financial pressures that make earning a college degree more difficult than ever before. For many students, the dream of higher education depends not only on their own hard work and determination, but also on the generosity of donors who believe in their potential.

Over the past decade, the cost of attending college has steadily climbed. Ten years ago, for a California resident, attending a UC cost about \$34,056 (tuition fees, on-campus housing, and books/supplies) per year. In 2026, a student pays about \$45,353 a year, an increase of more than \$1,000 per year. If the time to complete a degree is four years (and that's considered quick these days), an undergraduate degree can cost \$181,412. That's actually considered a good deal. Private schools are more expensive; USC runs about \$99,218 per year (for tuition and on-campus housing), which brings the four-year degree to a total of \$396,872. While the scholarship awarded to each student depends on market factors and student application criteria, our annual scholarship awards, on average, range from \$500 - \$5,000.

Because of the cost, many students balance academics with part-time or even full-time jobs. Others face the possibility of delaying graduation or abandoning their educational goals altogether. Scholarship donors play a critical role in changing these stories. A scholarship is more than financial assistance. It is an investment in opportunity, achievement, and future leadership. It allows students to focus more fully on their studies, participate in internships and campus activities, and graduate with less debt. Just as importantly, scholarships send a powerful message of encouragement: Someone believes in you and wants you to succeed.

What was once considered an American rite of passage, dropping off your kid at college and crying all the way home (the parent, not the child), may soon become a luxury. Donors who invest in scholarships open doors that might otherwise remain closed.

Every contribution, regardless of size, can make a meaningful difference in a student's life. While some folks might be able to endow a new scholarship (which would be great!), even donations of \$25 - \$100 to one of our existing 22 scholarships can ultimately provide not only financial relief but also hope, confidence, and motivation to persevere. Donor generosity transforms lives, creates opportunities, and empowers students to achieve goals that might otherwise seem out of reach.

**How to donate to the Methodist Foundation Scholarship fund:** Checks may be placed in the offering plate made out to Methodist Foundation of SM.





# Community Photos



On April 29, a group from First UMC visited Homeboy Industries, one of First UMC missions partners, and had lunch at Homegirl Cafe. The morning included a reflection with Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, and a visit to the art department, led by Fabian Debora, artist and founder of Homeboy Art Academy.



World Labyrinth Day was celebrated on May 1 with extended hours for walking and Family Friendly time. Thanks to our Labyrinth docents for hosting!



## PRESCHOOL CORNER



The Spring Concert was held on May 17. Many thanks to Dr. Jim Smith, Ty Woodward, the choir and LA Concert Orchestra for another beautiful performance! To view the recording, visit: [www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC](http://www.youtube.com/@SantaMonicaUMC)

Celebrating Mother's Day at the Preschool

# 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.

## COMMUNION SUNDAYS

**Tania Batson** will be baking the bread for Communion Sunday. Thank you for your service!

## WORSHIP ONLINE

Sundays 10 a.m. Worship Online LIVESTREAM on:

- **Website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream)  
After 10 a.m. livestream airs, go to:  
[www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/sunday-service-archive)
- **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc](http://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

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](mailto:j.jones@santamonicaumc.org)) for more info.

**Website:** [www.santamonicaumc.org/childrens-ministry](http://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. **The Youth Group is on the YSP trip and Summer break**, but you may still contact Tricia with questions: [t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

## 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/](http://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](mailto:t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org)

*Meeting dates:*

**Wednesday, June 3, 11 a.m.** Meeting at **Home State Restaurant,\*** 720 Wilshire Blvd Suite 101 \*(New time and place)

**Wednesday, June 10, 10 a.m.** via Zoom

**Wednesday, June 17, 10 a.m.** at Literati Cafe, 12081 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles

## THE CHANCEL CHOIR

Sing in the Chancel Choir! **Thursday evening rehearsals are 7:40 - 9 p.m.** The last choir practice before summer break is Thursday, June 11. Contact Jim Smith if you are interested:

[djes@roadrunner.com](mailto: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, June 21, 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](mailto: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, June 20, Room 300**

Contact [info@santamonicaumc.org](mailto:info@santamonicaumc.org) if you would like to volunteer.

[www.santamonicaumc.org/prayerquiltministry](http://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](mailto:a.premer@santamonicaumc.org) or (310)393-8258 ext 103. [www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/health-ministry)

## MEET THE TEAM BEHIND FIRST UMC!



Welcome to the ninth 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.

### **Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate**

Tricia serves as the Pastoral Associate, overseeing Family Ministries and intergenerational programs like Messy Church (an all-age worship experience) and summer service trips. She also facilitates small groups like Open Space Young Adults and Listening Hearts for Women, contributes to the church's mission and communication efforts, and provides worship leadership on Sunday mornings. Tricia is passionate about building beloved community and connecting faith to daily life through worship and service, a calling rooted in her lifelong journey as a United Methodist. She has been with First UMC Santa Monica since her Field Education while attending Claremont School of Theology. In 2016 Tricia received her Master of Divinity degree and came on full time to work with children and youth ministries. Beyond First UMC, Tricia serves on the Sierra Service Project Board of Directors. In her personal life, Tricia and her husband, Adam, have a daughter, Ruby, who will turn 4 at the end of June. They enjoy getting outdoors for walks, playing at local parks, and exploring local ice cream shops.

Tricia is excited to share that she was recently approved as a Certified Candidate. She is now pursuing ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church and began the application process for Provisional Membership in May. She continues to appreciate the congregation's prayers and support as she journeys through this process over the next year.