

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

8th Sunday after Pentecost • July 19, 2026

WE GATHER



Tangled Blessing
By Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Genesis 32:22-31
Jacob Wrestles at Peniel
©A Sanctified Art

WELCOME

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

PRELUDE Vocalise (Sergei Rachmaninov)

Anna Kostyuchek, violin

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #185 United Methodist Hymnal — When Morning Gilds the Skies

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jean Stapleton, Lay Lector

We gather here in anticipation, seeking an encounter with our God.

God comes among us when we least expect it.

God invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,

and God richly blesses us, and calls us each by name.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“For I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.”

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Jean Stapleton

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 Preschool playground.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Olsen Paget

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

Thanks be to God!

HYMN #386 UMH — Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Olsen Paget

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 LESSON Genesis 32:22-31

Michael Lamb, Lay Leadership Team

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

SERMON "Our Spiritual Family: Wrestling"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Michael Lamb

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

It Is Well with My Soul (Philip Bliss, setting: Craig Courtney)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well with my soul. My sin, O the joy of this glorious thought, My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, O my soul. It is well with my soul. And, Lord, hast the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, "Even so" it is well with my soul! It is well with my soul.

*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

Jean Stapleton

Attentive God, you see us as we are and meet us in the movement of our days. As we bring these gifts, shape our lives to reflect your righteousness—faithful in love, honest in action, steady in compassion. Open our eyes to behold your face in the neighbors we serve and the work we share. Let our giving become praise in motion, a testimony that we seek your presence not only in stillness, but in faithful steps forward. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust and our desire to live in right relationship with you and with one another, until we are satisfied in the likeness of your grace. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #438 UMH – Forth in Thy Name, O Lord

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in D minor (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*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.

—**The Chancel Choir:** During the summer months the Chancel Choir is singing some of their favorite anthems from the prior year. We hope they are your favorites also.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund. Available Sundays: August 2/9/16/23/30.

—**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 Squares:** The Sierra Service Project team departs August 1. Please pray over and tie a knot in the prayer squares along the north wall; each member of the team will take a prayer square with them.

—**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. To see list of preferred items, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/hunger-walk.

—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





Today! United Women in Faith Christmas in July

Stay after worship today for the annual UWFaith 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**. Look for handmade treasures, baked goods, and gently used Christmas items.

Today after worship in the Alcove

Sierra Service Project Carnival & Fundraiser

Our SSP team is gearing up for an intergenerational service trip to the Teec Nos Pos Chapter of the Navajo Nation this August, and we invite our church family and friends to be a part of the journey. Please join us on Sunday, July 26 for a special day of support and community. This year, we are hosting a "Service Trip Carnival" to give you a firsthand look at the work our team will be doing. **The team is curating a silent auction with some great stuff you won't want to miss, which will be open next Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Alcove.** Stop by our **interactive booths** to try your hand at skills like hammering nails or setting up campsite gear, and learn more about the Navajo Nation and the impactful home repair projects we'll be undertaking. We look forward to seeing you there for a delicious lunch and an opportunity to support this vital ministry!

Next Sunday, July 26, 10 a.m. Commissioning in worship, followed by 11:15 a.m. Fundraiser/Luncheon in Simkins Hall



Westside Food Bank - Volunteers Needed!

In addition to our monthly volunteer days, WFB offers more opportunities to help during the summer. While school is out and expenses rise many children and seniors throughout our communities face an increased need for food support. Because of that, your volunteer support is more important than ever. Thus, the Westside Food Bank is looking for volunteers to assist with food sorting and packing, mobile pantry distributions, and warehouse support all summer long! Go to the website to sign up for volunteer opportunities based on your schedule:

www.wsfb.org/take-action/volunteer-opportunities/.

Let us all help care for our neighbors in need. If you have any questions or to volunteer, contact Rev. Keri: k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Tonight REFLECT Worship**

Come to our monthly worship service "Reflect." All are welcome to this 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. Tricia Guerrero preaching.

Tonight, 5 p.m. worship in Simkins Hall, followed by 6 p.m. meal

• **Messy Camp 2026: Growing in God's Garden!**

First UMC offers an unforgettable week of adventure at Messy Camp, where kids will explore the beauty and wonder of God's Garden, led by Jamie Jones and a team of volunteers. Each day, campers will dig into hands-on science experiments, exciting games, Bible story adventures, creative crafts, catchy songs, and a hands-on mission project. Through fun, fellowship, and messy activities, kids will discover how our hearts grow when we practice caring for one another and trusting God. *Registration is full.*

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

• **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 janetlguyette@gmail.com, with questions.

Donation drop-off day: (ONE DAY ONLY!)

Sunday, August 9, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Event day: Saturday, August 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
in the Courtyard**

MISSION AND SERVICE

TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• **The People Concern**

Every 3rd Saturday

Saturday, August 15, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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.

• **Westside Food Bank**

Every 4th Wednesday

Wednesday, July 22, 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.

• **Westside Food Bank Food Donations**

First UMC collects 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. Thank you!

• **Social Justice and the UMC**

The United Methodist Church website offers information on a range of social justice topics. From the website, "We believe our call isn't simply to go to church. We believe our call is to be church. By being the church, we can provide community and support for the hurting, hopeless and marginalized. What are you passionate about? Caring for refugees? Fighting systems of poverty? Establishing better relationships between one group and another? Explore the website for ideas in becoming a part of movements that seek to overcome the systems that leave us feeling like we live in a broken world." Visit: <https://www.umc.org/en/rethink-church/topics/changing-the-world>

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 still have **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. **They are now on Summer break**, but you may still contact Tricia with questions:

t.guerrero@santamonicaumc.org

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, August 7, 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, August 5, 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, August 13.**

• 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 now on summer break.** Contact Jim Smith if you are interested in joining: djes@roadrunner.com

• Messy Church

An all age worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. Meets in the Fall on the second Saturdays. Next meeting: **Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Simkins Hall/Courtyard**
Details: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch

• Blood Pressure Screenings

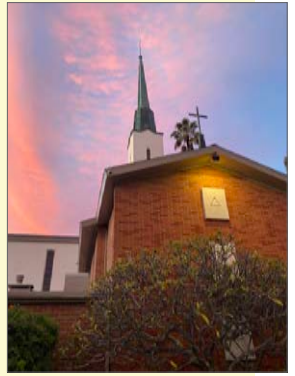
The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship. Next meeting: **Sunday, August 16, Alcove.**

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

Tangled Blessing

By Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Genesis 32: 22-31

Jacob Wrestles at Peniel

©A Sanctified Art

Excerpt from artist statement

"Jacob's trickery, deceit, and guilt wrestle with him until dawn. He will not let go of these things until he is blessed. For Jacob, this experience is an intimate, face-to-face moment with God." Read the artist's full description in the Fireside Room exhibit—**today is the final day of the display.**

Artwork courtesy of A Sanctified Art.

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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1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310-393-8258

www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org



@santamonicaumc