

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

10th Sunday after Pentecost • Holy Communion • August 2, 2026

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Ron Theile, Certified Lay Servant

PRELUDE Prayer *from* Suite Gothique (Léon Boëllmann)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #384 United Methodist Hymnal — Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Terri Pearson, Lay Lector

Led by God's Spirit,

We worship as children of God.

All creation waits with eager longing for God's reconciliation of the world.

As we wait, we groan inwardly and we groan together as siblings in Christ.

And as we wait, we hope for what we do not see.

As we wait and hope, let us worship together!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim. With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name."

*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 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 in the Preschool playground.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Ron Theile

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

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 LESSON Romans 8:12-25 (CEB)

Terri Pearson

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

HOMILY "Waiting..."

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Terri Pearson

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. Jim Smith, Music Director

O Jesus, I Have Promised (Gilbert Martin)

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; remain forever near me, my master and my friend. I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide. Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near. I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear. My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin. Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will. Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; now speak and make me listen, O guardian of my soul. O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you that where you are in glory your servant shall be to. And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend. Amen.

*RESPONSE #94 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ron Theile

Compassionate Creator, in these gifts we offer more than resources; we offer our hope. Let these gifts, given in trust, be signs of our partnership in the renewal of all creation. Awaken in us a holy longing, as deep as the groaning of the earth itself, for justice, healing, and new life. May our giving participate in your redemption, until the world rejoices in freedom and glory as your children. We offer this with joy, in the name of Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Olsen Paget

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.

#618 UMH – Let Us Break Bread Together

#630 UMH – Become to Us the Living Bread

#634 UMH – Now Let Us from This Table Rise

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Olsen Paget

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #2046 TFWS – Womb of Life

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Olsen Paget

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Psalm 19 (Bennedetto Marcello)

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 Preschool playground.

—**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 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 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.

—**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.

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
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Pastoral Associate
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Anne Premer
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Jamie Jones
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MUSIC STAFF

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Dr. James Smith
Organist
Ty Woodward

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PRESCHOOL STAFF

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





YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT | PHOTO EXHIBITION
THROUGH AUGUST IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM



Youth Service Project Photo Exhibit & Report Back Luncheon

Throughout August, visit the Fireside Room to view photographs taken by members of the Youth Service Project team during their summer trip with the Appalachia Service Project to Johnson County, Tennessee. These photos offer a glimpse of the team's experiences as they prepare to share more stories at the Report Back Luncheon on Sunday, August 30. We are so grateful to our amazing church family for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout the journey.

Exhibit opens today, August 2, in the Fireside Room, and will remain up until the YSP Report Back/Luncheon on Sunday, August 30, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

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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, August 7, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Simkins Hall & Chapel

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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. Library

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

• REFLECT Worship

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, August 23, 5 p.m. worship in Simkins Hall, followed by 6 p.m. meal

• 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. The Westside Food Bank continues to look for volunteers to assist with food sorting and packing, mobile pantry distributions, and warehouse support all summer long. Visit the website to volunteer based on your schedule: www.wsfb.org/take-action/volunteer-opportunities/. Questions or to volunteer, contact Rev. Keri: k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org.

• Back to School Blessings

Come to worship on Sunday, August 30, for Back to School Blessings, where we celebrate the beginning of the school year and ask for God's blessings upon students of all ages, teachers and educators, and the families who support them. Backpack tags will be available to take home. If you would like a blessing tag(s) but can't make it to church, call the church office (310-393-8258) and we are happy to put them in the mail for you.

Sunday, August 30, during 10 a.m. worship

• Save the Date: In Person Recitals beginning in September!



First UMC is excited to announce the start of a new season of our monthly Recital Series! **Recitals will be held in person and livestreamed on select Saturdays at 1 p.m.** Mark your calendar for the first recital of the fall season on **Saturday, September 26, at 1 p.m.** *Performers and more information will be announced soon.*

MISSION AND SERVICE

TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• The People Concern

Schedule is changing - New work day coming soon!

Linda Diane Anderson and Janet Searfoss run a volunteer group at The People Concern, making sandwiches and assembling sack lunches. Volunteers meet at the church to carpool.

• Westside Food Bank

Every 4th Wednesday

Wednesday, August 26, 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 Ave Park.

To volunteer, email Pastor 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 15.**

• 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

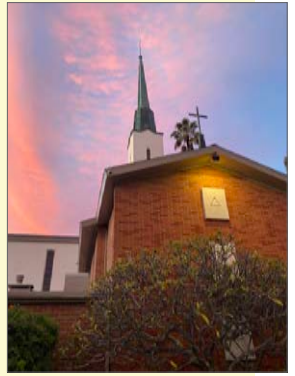
The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship. Next meeting: **Sunday, August 16, Alcove.**

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.



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.

Sign up for the Friday email!

We have lots of ways to keep you updated on the latest First UMC news and events. One way is the Friday Community Email, loaded with info on what's happening for the week ahead. If you're not signed up to receive this email, click on the bright yellow SUBSCRIBE HERE button located on the main page of our website to get on the list:

www.santamonicaumc.org

If you think you're signed up, but noticed that you haven't received the email for a few weeks, call the church office (310-393-8258), and we can make sure you're still on the list.

Sunday 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

Available Sundays: August 9/16/23/30



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

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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