

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Baptism • Moment for Mission • August 16, 2026

WE GATHER



Faith for All

WELCOME

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

PRELUDE Prelude in G (Felix Mendelssohn)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #529 United Methodist Hymnal — How Firm a Foundation

*CALL TO WORSHIP

David Mayhan, Lay Lector

(From Psalm 133)

We have gathered from our different places to worship here.

How good it is to worship together in unity!

We come from our different occupations, our diverse activities.

How good it is to worship together in unity!

We come as unique individuals, bound together in the love of Christ.

How good it is to worship together in unity!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness, and come before Him with a song!”

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

David Mayhan

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.

BAPTISM Oliver Weldon Smith (*see insert*)

HYMN #611 UMH — Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (vs. 1,2)

As the congregation sings, the children may go to Sunday School in the Preschool Play yard.

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!

MOMENT FOR MISSION Homeboy Industries 5k

Ann and David Wilson

HYMN #357 UMH — Just as I Am, Without One Plea

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 Romans 10:5-15

David Mayhan

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

SERMON "Faith For All"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



Sunday, August 16, 2026

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

Brothers and sisters in Christ:
Through the Sacrament of Baptism
we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.
All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE

I present **OLIVER WELDON SMITH** for Baptism.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?
I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?
I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?
I do.

Will you nurture this child
in Christ's holy Church, that by your
teaching and example he may be guided
to accept God's grace for himself,
to profess his faith openly,
and to lead a Christian life?
I will.

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church,
reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?
We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life
and include this child now before you in your care?
**With God's help we will proclaim the good news
and live according to the example of Christ.
We will surround this child
with a community of love and forgiveness,
that he may grow in his trust of God,
and be found faithful in his service to others.
We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

Rev. Batson

OLIVER WELDON, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN #611 United Methodist Hymnal — Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (vs. 1,2)
Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this water God
has sealed you unto love and grace divine. Child of love, our love's expression, love's
creation, loved indeed! Fresh from God we fresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Shannon Sturges, Lay Lector

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

○ Be Joyful in the Lord (John Rutter)

○ be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ○ go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting: and his truth endureth from generation to generation. ○ be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Glory be to the Father; glory be to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end, Amen!

*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

Shannon Sturges

Faithful God, we lift our voices and our gifts in grateful memory of your saving work. You call us to sing of your goodness and to remember your wonders, even when the way forward is hidden from view. Make us instruments of your purpose—seeds of justice, salt of compassion, and signs of your steadfast love. Receive what we bring as praise made tangible, and send us out as a people who remember, who trust, and who sing of your deliverance in every season. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #548 UMH – In Christ There Is No East or West

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God (J. S. Bach/arr. Virgil Fox)

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.

—**Baptism:** If you would like to learn more about baptism or inquire about baptism for your children, please see one of our pastors.

—**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 23/30, September 6/13/20/27.

—**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.

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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"Homeboy Industries has chosen to stand with the 'demonized' so that the demonizing will stop; we stand with the 'disposable' so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away."

- Fr. Greg Boyle, Founder, Homeboy Industries

Homeboy Industries is the largest gang rehabilitation and reentry program in the world. For over 30 years, we have stood as a beacon of hope in Los Angeles to provide training and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated people, allowing them to redirect their lives and become contributing members of our community.

Each year, thousands of people walk through our doors seeking to transform their lives. Whether through joining our 18-month employment and reentry program or seeking services, our clients are embraced by a community of kinship. Homeboy Industries offers a variety of free wraparound services such as tattoo removal, mental health support or substance abuse resources to facilitate healing and growth, serving over 8,000 members of the immediate Los Angeles community annually.

HISTORY

Homeboy Industries' founder, Gregory Boyle became pastor of Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights, then the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles. The parish serves an area that included Aliso Village and Pico Gardens, the largest public housing projects west of the Mississippi at

the time as well as the highest concentration of gang violence in Los Angeles. Fr. Greg recognized gang violence as "the language of the despondent and traumatized."

Fr. Greg started Homeboy Industries in 1988 as a way of improving the lives of former gang members in East Los Angeles has evolved into the largest gang intervention, rehab and reentry program in the world. At the time, law enforcement tactics of suppression and criminal justice policies of mass incarceration were the prevailing means to deal with gang violence. But where others only saw criminals, Father Greg saw people in need of healing.

We work with those who have been left behind without hope. Their healing and reentry are often not achieved in a straight line—it can take years, with detours along the way. But our impact is evident in each life transformed, and as those lives impact their families and communities, we're creating a positive ripple effect not only around the city of Los Angeles, but in communities around the world.



**JOIN US
FOR THE HOMEBOY 5K**
September 19, 2026
8:30 a.m. – Race Start



**Join First UMC
team the
Wilson Walkers!**

17th Annual Homeboy 5K Run/Walk

Join Homeboy Industries and 5,000+ runners, walkers, volunteers, and families for our 17th Annual Homeboy 5K Run/Walk through historic Downtown Los Angeles! We'll begin the morning filled with energetic vibes, joy and laughter outside our Chinatown headquarters and end with a street celebration featuring artists, partners and vendors from across the city. **Join Team First UMC: The Wilson Walkers!** See David and Ann Wilson in the Alcove today after worship to register, or visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/homeboy5k

Saturday, September 19, Race starts at 8:30 a.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Today!** Free Blood Pressure Screenings

The Health Ministry Council hosts Blood Pressure screenings one Sunday of the month in the Alcove. We are grateful to this ministry for their continued care of the congregation!

Today after worship, in the Alcove

• **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

• **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.

YSP Report Back/Luncheon:

Sunday, August 30, 11 a.m. in Simkins Hall

• **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. featuring Dr. James Lent, piano.**



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!

• **Vigil for Just Peace**

You're invited to a Vigil for Just Peace, hosted by the West LA UMC and the 580 Cafe, in partnership with the Westside Mission Area United Methodist Churches. Gather in prayer, lament and community for all those currently experiencing the devastations of war.

Sunday, August 30, at 1 p.m.

Hosted by: West LA UMC & the 580 Cafe, 1913 Purdue Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90025



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

First Day of School: Tuesday, September 8

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, returning Sunday, September 13, 6 p.m. Youth Lounge.**

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, September 4, 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 19, 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, September 19**

• 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 will resume September 10.** 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: **TODAY**, 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.



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 23/30, September 6/13/20/27



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



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

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