

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

13th Sunday after Pentecost • August 23, 2026

WE GATHER



Spiritual Gifts

WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Bassoon Concerto in Bb Major, RV 504. Larghetto (Antonio Vivaldi)

Ryan Crawford, bassoon

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #555 United Methodist Hymnal — Forward Through the Ages

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Char Smith, Lay Lector

You have called us to this place, O Lord.

Each one of us is unique, with differing gifts and talents.

Yet each talent represented here is valuable in God's realm.

Lord, help us find ways in which to use our talents for healing and hope.

Come, let us praise the Lord who has called us here.

Let us open our hearts and spirits to God's word for us.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Open now these gates of beauty, open now these doors of love; may the love of Christ, our Savior, come and dwell here from above. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Char Smith

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 worshiping 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

Tricia Guerrero

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

Thanks be to God!

HYMN #400 UMH — Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Romans 12:1-8

Char Smith

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

SERMON "Spiritual Gifts"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Char Smith

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

Ain't Got Time to Die (Hall Johnson)

Nolan Frank, soloist

Lord, I keep so busy praisin' my Jesus, ain' got time to die. 'Cause when I'm healin' de sick, I'm praisin' my Jesus, ain' got time to die. (Refrain) 'Cause it takes all o' ma time to praise my Jesus, all o' ma time to praise my Lord. If I don' praise Him de rocks gonter cry out, "Glory an' honor! Glory an' honor!" Ain' got time to die. Lord, I keep so busy workin' fer de Kingdom, ain' got time to die. 'Cause when I'm feedin' de po', I'm workin' fer de Kingdom, ain' got time to die. (Refrain) Lord, I keep so busy servin' my Master, ain' got time to die. (Refrain) Now won't you git out o' ma way lemme praise my Jesus? Out o' my way! Lemme praise my Lord. If I don' praise Him de rocks gonter cry out, "Glory an' honor, glory an' honor!" Ain' got time to die!

*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

Char Smith

Faithful God, you reveal true power not through fear or force, but through love that gives life and builds community. You call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #399 UMH – Take My Life, and Let It Be

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in B-flat (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 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 30, September 6/13/20/27.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "Honoring and celebrating the 91st Birthday of Esther S. Mayhan Rosenthal, Mother of David & Deborah Mayhan. We all love our Esther. God Bless Esther!" From Cindy McQuade and David Mayhan.

—**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.



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

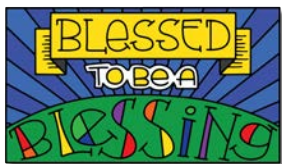
Preschool Co-Director
Dane Rold
d.rolld@santamonicaumc.org
Preschool Co-Director
Taylor Spearman
t.spearman@santamonicaumc.org
Preschool Director Emerita
Dee Menzies
d.menzies@santamonicaumc.org



Tonight: REFLECT Worship

All are welcome for 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.

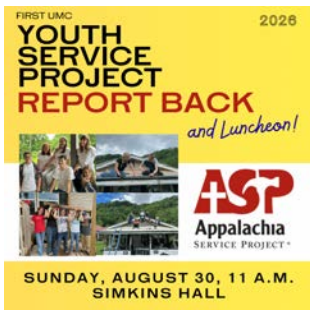
Sunday, August 23, 5 p.m. worship in Simkins Hall, followed by 6 p.m. meal



Next Sunday: Back to School Blessings

Next Sunday during worship we highlight 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. Don't miss this special Sunday!

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



Next Sunday: Youth Service Project Report Back Luncheon

We are excited to hear from the YSP team about their Summer trip with the Appalachia Service Project to Johnson County, Tennessee. They worked on homes for people with limited financial resources in the Appalachian Mountains area. We're so grateful to our amazing church family for your prayers, encouragement, and support throughout the journey. Come to the report back next Sunday after worship! The team can't wait to share more about all they did.

Sunday, August 30, after worship in Simkins Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

• The 90+ Birthday Club

During coffee hour today, we acknowledge our cherished member **John Roebuck**, who is celebrating his 97th birthday this month. We look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate John!

Today after worship in Simkins Hall

• 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

• United Women in Faith Ice Cream Social

The UWFaith are hosting an Ice Cream social after worship on Sunday, September 6. Stay after church to enjoy fellowship and an end-of-summer treat!

Sunday, September 6, after worship in the Courtyard

• Messy Church is back for the Fall!

Messy Church resumes in the fall with an all age monthly worship experience that explores God's love in an accessible way. At Messy Church, today's busy families of all shapes and sizes are invited into a welcoming space to experience faith. Everyone is welcomed as they are. Whether you are single or partnered, young or old, tidy or messy, have questions or doubts, are filled with joy or struggling with life, you will be welcomed at Messy Church. *Theme: The Gift to Create*

Saturday, September 12, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Simkins Hall

• Sierra Service Project Report Back and Luncheon

Save the date for the SSP Intergenerational Team Report Back! The team worked the Teec Nos Pos Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Arizona. Come to the report back on Sunday, September 13, to hear about the team's experiences.

Sunday, September 13, after worship in Simkins Hall

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**, 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 26, 10 a.m. via Zoom

• 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

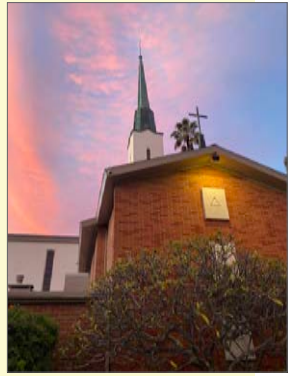
The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship. Next meeting: **Sunday, September 20**, in the Alcove.

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 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

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

www.santamonicaumc.org • info@santamonicaumc.org



@santamonicaumc

