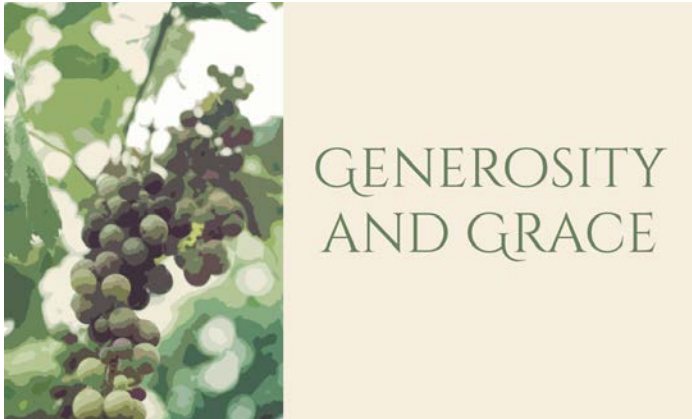


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Reception of New Members • September 20, 2026

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

PRELUDE Andante religioso *from* Sonata No. 4 (Felix Mendelssohn) Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #145 United Methodist Hymnal — Morning Has Broken

*CALL TO WORSHIP Whitney Hagan, Lay Lector
(*from Psalm 105*)

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon God's name, and make God's deeds known to all people!

Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord and tell of all his wonderful works.

Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord!

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek God's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done, the miracles and justice declared.

Praise the Lord!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Let the people sing praise unto the Lord. Alleluia! Let all the people sing praise to the Lord, now worship the Lord, give thanks and sing, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Whitney Hagan

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 on the second floor of the Education Building.

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!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

Jerry Coker, Bianca Coker, Ashok Kanagasundram

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries?

I will.

As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness?

I will.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

HYMN #420 UMH — Breathe on Me, Breath of God

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

Whitney Hagan

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

SERMON "Generosity and Grace"

Rev. Batson

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Whitney Hagan

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

Wrestling Jacob (John Wesley, arr. Roy Ringwald)

Come, O Thou traveller unknown, Whom still I hold, but cannot see! My company before is gone, And I am left alone with Thee: With Thee all night I mean to stay, And wrestle till the break of day. I need not tell Thee who I am; My sin and misery declare; Thyself hast call'd me by my name, Look on Thy hands and read it there: But who, I ask Thee, who art Thou? Tell me Thy name, and tell me now. Yield to me now; for I am weak; But confident in self despair: Speak to my heart in blessings speak: Be conquered by my instant prayer: Speak, or Thou never hence shall move, And tell me if Thy name is Love. 'Tis Love! 'Tis Love! Thou diedst for me! I hear the whisper in my heart! The morning breaks, the shadows flee, Pure universal Love Thou art; To me, to all Thy mercies move: Thy nature and Thy Name is Love.

*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

Tricia Guerrero

Steadfast God, for us to live is Christ. In every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your kin-dom. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, strengthen your church, and bear witness that love is stronger than fear. Shape our common life to be worthy of the gospel, until our unity itself proclaims your grace. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #581 UMH – Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Minuet from Suite Gothique (Léon Boëllmann)

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 on the second floor of the Education Bldg.

—**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.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund. Available Sundays: October 4/11/18.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** "Thank you to our FUMC team, Wilson's Walkers, and to our FUMC family for supporting us in the Homeboy 5K yesterday for Homeboy Industries." From Ann and David Wilson.

—**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
Rev. Keri Olsen Paget
k.olsenpaget@santamonicaumc.org
Pastoral Associate
Tricia Guerrero
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Congregation Care Associate
Anne Premer
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Family Ministries Coordinator
Jamie Jones
j.jones@santamonicaumc.org

MUSIC STAFF

Music Director
Dr. James Smith
Organist
Ty Woodward

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Communications Director
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Office Manager
Sarah Rold
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Membership and Facilities Coordinator
David Penson
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Program and Outreach Coordinator
Brandon Searfoss
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Head Custodian
Javier Espinoza

PRESCHOOL STAFF

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Preschool Co-Director
Taylor Spearman
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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



Prayer for Peace Weekend

Join First UMC for a weekend focused on peace, and guided by
"The Prayer for Peace" by St. Francis of Assisi.



Walk the Labyrinth: Praying for Peace and Justice

Labyrinth walking is a spiritual practice that involves following a single, winding path to the center and back out again - a purposeful path used for centering, contemplation, and prayer. In October, additional hours will be added from 5 - 7 p.m. to focus on praying for peace and justice.

Friday, October 2, 1- 3 p.m., and 5 - 7 p.m. in Simkins Hall

Blessing of the Animals and Art Exhibit

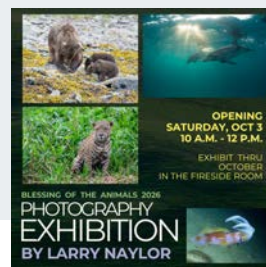
We look forward to our 19th Annual Blessing of the Animals! Bring your pets of all kinds to the Courtyard for an informal pet blessing by one of the pastors, and community fellowship time!

Featuring:

- Walk-Up blessings in the First UMC Courtyard
- Kids can bring stuffed lovies to be blessed. Crafts for kids and reading time.
- New this year! View beautiful animal photography by **Larry Naylor**, with an artist talk scheduled for Sunday, October 18, after worship.

Don't miss this annual tradition celebrating beloved creatures!

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Courtyard and Fireside Room



Vigil for Just Peace at First UMC

You're invited to a Prayer Vigil for Just Peace, hosted here at FUMC Santa Monica in partnership with the Westside Mission Area United Methodist Churches. We will gather in prayer, lament and community so that we may be instruments of God's peace in our world. Vigil is followed by a reception in the Fireside Room.

Sunday, October 4, 4 p.m. in the Chapel, reception in the Fireside Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

• September Saturday 1 p.m. Recital: In-person and Livestreamed

First UMC is excited to present the first of the 2026 Saturday **IN-PERSON** Recitals featuring **Dr. James Lent, piano**. Since completing a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Yale University, Dr. Lent has been based in Los Angeles, CA. James is currently on the faculty of UCLA as the head of collaborative piano and vocal coach for the music department. To read full bio, see the upcoming 2026-27 recital schedule, and view past recitals, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/recital-series. If you can't join us in person, you can also watch the recital via livestream during the performance or anytime afterward: • Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc) • YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/SantaMonicaUMC) • Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

Saturday, September 26, 1 p.m. Doors open at 12:45 p.m., in the Sanctuary. *Free admission.*

• ACT presents "The Cottages: Scenes from Lives Interrupted"

In observance of World Alzheimer's Awareness Day, All Community Theater (ACT) presents the world premiere of *The Cottages: Scenes from Lives Interrupted*. Written by Stephen Hawk, the poetic play deals with many forms of memory issues, not only Alzheimer's. It is a true look at life in a memory care home where the residents are treated with compassion and understanding, and the rich stories and humanity that emerge as a result. The free performance will be followed by refreshments and a discussion between the audience, the cast, and representative Monica Moore, M.S.G., from the Alzheimer's Association.

Sunday, September 27, 1 p.m. Simkins Hall

• REFLECT Worship

All are welcome to REFLECT, an additional opportunity to come together for worship and sharing in an informal setting. 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, September 27, 5 p.m. worship in the *Chapel, (*note space change this month) 6 p.m. meal in the Fireside Rm**

MISSION AND SERVICE

TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• The People Concern

Every 3rd Tuesday

Linda Diane Anderson coordinates volunteers who make sandwiches and assemble sack lunches at The People Concern's Access Center on the third Tuesday of each month. **Work starts at 9 a.m. Volunteers meet at 8:45 a.m. on P2 of the church parking lot to carpool.** Email Linda Diane: landolinda@ca.rr.com to participate.

• Westside Food Bank

Every 4th Wednesday

Wednesday, Sept 23, 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 on the second floor of the Education Bldg. 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.

• First UMC Preschool

The First UMC Preschool is a place where each child learns naturally through play and exploration in a stimulating environment that promotes physical, mental, emotional, social, creative and spiritual growth. To learn more, visit the website: 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. **Sundays, 6 - 8 p.m. Room 208.**

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, October 2, 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, October 7, 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, October 17**

• 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 from 7:40 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Choir Room.** 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, October 10, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the Preschool Play yard**

Details: www.santamonicaumc.org/messychurch

• Blood Pressure Screenings

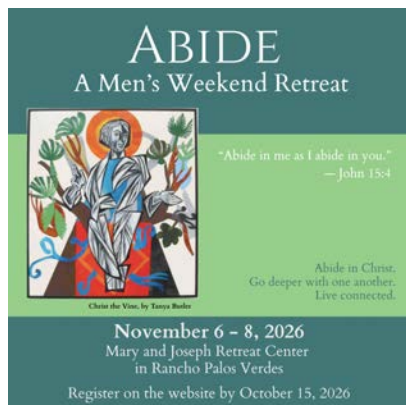
The Health Ministry Council provides free Blood Pressure Screenings once a month after worship. Next meeting: **TODAY! September 20**, in the Alcove.

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.



Abide: A Men's Weekend Retreat

"Abide in me as I abide in you." —John 15:4

Abide is a weekend retreat designed to help men reconnect with God, themselves, and one another. Together, we'll explore what it means to abide in Christ in the ordinary rhythms of everyday life. Through worship, prayer, reflection, honest conversation, and spiritual practices, participants will explore ways to deepen their relationship with God. Just as importantly, Abide is an invitation into deeper kinship. We hope to create space for participants to begin building relationships marked by trust, encouragement, and prayer with one another. Because following Jesus was never meant to be a solitary journey. Abide in Christ.

Register on the website by October 15:

www.santamonicaumc.org/abide-a-mens-weekend-retreat

Friday, November 6 – Sunday, November 8, 2026

Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes

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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@santamonicaumc

