

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

World Communion Sunday • October 4, 2026

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, Deacon Associate

PRELUDE Adagio molto *Sonata No. 3* (Alexandre Guilmant)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #2236 The Faith We Sing — Gather Us In

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily Payne, Lay Lector

The law of Love is perfect, reviving the soul;

The testimony of Love is sure; making wise the simple.

The precepts of Love are right, rejoicing the heart.

The authority of Love is pure, enlightening the eyes;

The spirit of Love is glorious, enduring forever.

The rites of Love are true, awakening compassion.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down. Amen."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Emily Payne

Please greet those worshipping near you.

*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ann Wilson

#2233 TFWs — 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

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

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

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 Philippians 2:1-13

Howard Wollitz, Lay Lector

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

HOMILY "The Mind of Christ"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Howard Wollitz

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

No Other Plea (arr. Ovid Young)

My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed. I trust the ever living one His wounds for me shall plead. Refrain: I need no other argument, I need no other plea. It is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me. Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt. A sinful soul I come to him, He'll never cast me out. *(Refrain)* My heart is leaning on the word, the written word of God. Salvation by my Savior's name, salvation thru his blood. *(Refrain)*

*RESPONSE #94 United Methodist Hymnal — The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Howard Wollitz

Humble Savior, you meet us at the start of every day and invite us to take on the mind of Christ. As we bring these gifts, set aside in us the need to win, to hoard, to be first. Shape us instead for love, for shared work, for joy in serving side by side. Use what we offer to build a community where sacrifice is natural, mercy is instinctive, and hope rises in every heart. Keep forming us, not by force but by grace, until our living begins to look like Jesus. We place our offerings—and ourselves—in your hands. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Batson

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

#620 UMH — One Bread, One Body

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Tricia Guerrero

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 #630 UMH — Become to Us the Living Bread

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

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 11, November 15/22/29.

—**Communion Server Ministry:** After today's service, members of the Communion Server Ministry will be taking the communion elements to those who were unable to worship with us.

—**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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Tonight - 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.

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

United Women in Faith Autumn Tea - RSVP Now!

United Women in Faith is excited to host the Autumn Tea! Come for fellowship, learn about the mission and ministries of our unit of United Women in Faith, and to enjoy a scrumptious array of finger sandwiches, scones, and teas. We will honor special guest **Rev. Keri Paget Olsen**, our Deacon Associate, as we lift up 70 years of women's full ordination and clergy rights and the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Order of Deacons. **\$15 suggested donation. RSVP by Wednesday, October 14:** on the website: <https://santamonicaumc.org/uwf>

Saturday, October 24, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Simkins Hall



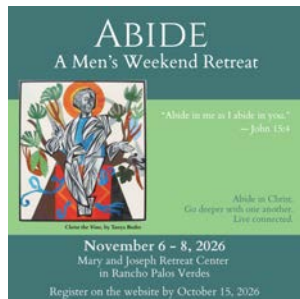
Abide: A Men's Weekend Retreat *"Abide in me as I abide in you."* — John 15:4

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. At the same time, we hope to create space for participants to begin building relationships marked by trust, encouragement, and prayer with one another. Abide in Christ. *Led by Rev. Greg Batson, Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, and Todd Erlandson. Held at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes.*

Register on the website by October 15:

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

Friday, November 6 – Sunday, November 8, 2026



October Messy Church

Come as you are and discover God's love in a relaxed, welcoming, and creative way! Messy Church is an all-ages worship experience designed with today's busy families, and people of every age and stage of life, in mind. Once a month, we gather to connect, create, explore faith, share snacks, and experience God's love together. Whether you're single or partnered, young or young-at-heart, full of joy or navigating a difficult season, curious or full of questions and doubts, you belong here. Come for the whole experience or drop in when you can.

Saturday, October 10, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the Preschool Playground

UPCOMING EVENTS

• October In-Person Recital

First UMC is excited to present the October Saturday **IN-PERSON** Recital featuring **Gold Line Saxophone Quartet**. Los Angeles-based Gold Line Quartet is a saxophone group merging the sounds of 19th century classical music with contemporary artists and pop/movie music from the 90s to today. Experience live music in the Sanctuary where the acoustics are incredible!

To read full bios, 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 may watch the livestream during the performance or anytime afterward:

• Facebook: [@santamonicaumc](https://www.facebook.com/santamonicaumc)

• YouTube Channel: [@SantaMonicaUMC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSantaMonicaUMC)

• Website: www.santamonicaumc.org/livestream

• The First UMC App: (App Store, search FirstUMC_SM)

Saturday, October 17, 1 p.m. Doors open at 12:45 p.m. in the First UMC Sanctuary. Free admission.

• REFLECT Worship

Join Pastor Greg's monthly worship service "Reflect." All are welcome to this 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, October 18, 5 p.m. worship/6 p.m. meal

• Sign up now! Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk

Join Westside Food Bank's 36th Annual 5K Hunger Walk at Ocean View Park. We are walking to help those facing hunger in LA County. This free event is family-friendly and a great way to raise awareness and show your support. All walkers will receive a T-shirt and a swag bag for participating. Let's come together to make a difference in our community!

Sign up for the First UMC Church and Preschool Team:

<https://santamonicaumc.org/hunger-walk/>

Sunday, November 1, Check-in and Expo begin at 12 p.m. Ocean View Park (2701 Barnard Way, SM)

MISSION AND SERVICE

TWO ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• The People Concern

Every 3rd Tuesday

Tuesday, October 20, work starts at 9 a.m.

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. **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, October 28, 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. **Meets Sundays at 6 p.m. in 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!

Friday, November 6, 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. 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: **Sunday, October 11**, 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.



Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels on October 31

What are you doing for Halloween this year? Accompanying the kids as they trick-or-treat? Attending a costume party? Let me offer a spiritual opportunity earlier in the day before the night time festivities. The origin of Halloween is All Hallows Eve, the vigil held in preparation for All Saints Day on November 1, when the church remembers all who have died. What better day than to see one of the finest artistic representations of the communion of saints right here in our backyard?

Join us for a visit and tour of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, October 31 at 10 a.m. The Cathedral was designed by the Spanish architect, Jose Rafael Moneo, in 2022. Its geometric angles and earth-toned colors represent both the adobe roots and diversity of the community. Inside are the magnificent tapestries created by John Nava. Twenty-five of them line the north and south walls of the nave, representing 135 saints. And the tapestry above the baptistry depicting Jesus' baptism is awe-inspiring. So come and join us as we see what Halloween is really all about! Led by Rev. Greg Batson.

Saturday, October 31, meet at Cathedral at 10 a.m. Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

555 West Temple Street (between Grand and Hill Streets in downtown Los Angeles.)

The entrance to the parking structure is located off both Temple and Hill Street. Parking is free for 3 hours. **RSVP to Sarah Rold by**

Thursday, October 15: s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org.

Let us know if you would like to carpool - this group will gather at church at 9 a.m.



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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