

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Baptism • October 11, 2026

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral Associate

PRELUDE Amazing Grace (arr. Dale Wood)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #161 United Methodist Hymnal — Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ben Ing, Lay Lector

(by Dr. Lisa Hancock)

Beloved, God's never-ending love spills out all around us, drawing us together in beloved community with God, neighbor, and all creation.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's always-present grace surrounds us, enlivening us to love ourselves and our neighbors just as Christ loves us.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

God's persistent peace sweeps through us, guarding our hearts and empowering us to live as agents of God's mercy and justice wherever we go.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

May our rejoicing overflow into our families, neighborhoods, and the whole earth that through our living, working, resting, and playing, God may be glorified.

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again we say, rejoice!"

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Ben Ing

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.

BAPTISM Peyton Lou Holman (*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 on the second floor of the Education Building.

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 #521 UMH — I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

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 Philippians 4:4-9

Ben Ing

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

SERMON "Joy"

Rev. Greg Batson, Senior Minister



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM



Sunday, October 11, 2026

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Tricia Guerrero, Pastoral 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 **PEYTON LOU HOLMAN** 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 she may be guided
to accept God's grace for herself,
to profess her 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 she may grow in her trust of God,
and be found faithful in her service to others.
We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple
who walks in the way that leads to life.**

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

Rev. Batson

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

Ben Ing

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'a That Good News (arr William L. Dawson)

I got a crown up in-a the Kingdom, ain'a that good news! *Refrain:* I'm a goin' to lay down this worl', goin'a shoulder up-uh my cross, goin'a take it home-a to my Jesus, ain'a that good news. I got a robe up in-a the Kingdom, ain'a that good news! *(Refrain)* I got a Savior in-a the Kingdom, ain'a that good news. *(Refrain)* A-ain'a that good news, My Lawd! A-ain'a that good news!

*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

Ben Ing

Steadfast Joy, when “always” feels larger than our capacity, you remain near. In gratitude, we bring these gifts, signs of love learned from you. Quiet our anxious hearts and turn our attention toward what is true, honorable, and worthy of praise. Shape us into a people whose generosity is gentleness made visible, whose offerings declare we are on the side of our neighbors. Receive what we place in your hands and let it become courage, welcome, and hope. Guard us with your peace as we press on in Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #715 UMH – Rejoice, the Lord Is King

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Batson

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in D (David N. Johnson)

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.

—**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.

—**Flowers:** To order flowers to remember or honor a loved one for Sunday Worship service, go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/flower-fund. Available Sundays: November 15/22/29.

—**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
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Congregation Care Associate
Anne Premer
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Family Ministries Coordinator
Jamie Jones
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MUSIC STAFF

Music Director
Dr. James Smith
Organist
Ty Woodward

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PRESCHOOL STAFF

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Preschool Co-Director
Taylor Spearman
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Preschool Director Emerita
Dee Menzies
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
1008 Eleventh Street • Santa Monica, CA 90403
www.santamonicaumc.org 310-393-8258



SUNDAY INSERT
OCTOBER 11, 2026

MISSION AND COMMON LIFE

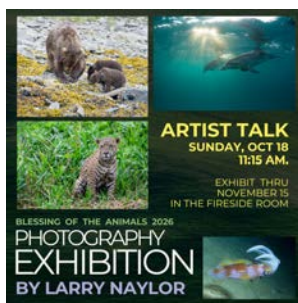
www.santamonicaumc.org



October In-Person and Online 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. They have degrees in saxophone performance from UCLA to Jacques Thibaud Conservatory in Bordeaux, France. For Livestream options, musician bios, and view past recitals, visit the website: www.santamonicaumc.org/recital-series. *Free admission.*

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



Artist Talk with Larry Naylor

First UMC is excited to welcome First UMC member Larry Naylor as our featured artist for this year's Blessing of the Animals art exhibit. We will host an artist talk with Larry after worship on Sunday, October 18, in the Fireside Room. Larry has traveled far and wide to photograph wildlife, including brown bears in Alaska's Katmai Peninsula, birds in Costa Rica, and jaguars in Brazil's Pantanal. You won't want to miss Larry's stories about his travels and the wildlife he has encountered!

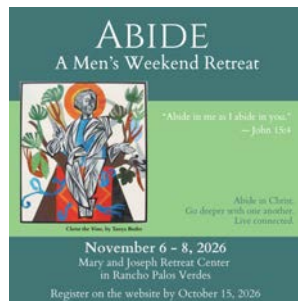
Sunday, October 18, 11:15 a.m. after worship in the Fireside Room



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. *Led by Rev. Greg Batson, Rev. Keri Olsen Paget, and Todd Erlandson. Held at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, Rancho Palos Verdes.*

Now is the time to sign up! Register on the website by October 15:

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

Friday, November 6 – Sunday, November 8, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

• Spirit Sisters Retreat

All women are welcome to join Rev. Dorothy Bimber Worley for a Fall retreat on **Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**, at Pastor Dorothy's home. For more info and to RSVP, email Pastor Dorothy at rworley777@verizon.net.

• 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

• Annual Legacy Circle Recognition

Join us as we celebrate First UMC and its members for being a part of our future. The Legacy Circle was started in 2013 to provide church members meaningful and effective ways of funding future growth of the mission and ministries by raising awareness to the possibility of including First UMC and the Foundation in your estate planning. After worship, come to Simkins Hall for our annual recognition program. Special speakers to include David Guyette, Ron Theile, and Rev. Greg Batson. The program will be followed by a special mini-tour of the Sanctuary stained-glass windows led by Ron Theile.
Sunday, October 25, after worship in Simkins Hall

• 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. **Sundays at 6 p.m. in the 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!

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 14, 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, 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, November 14, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Preschool Playyard**

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! 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 baptism 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**

Monday, October 26: s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org.

Let us know if you would like to carpool - group will leave 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



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA

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@santamonicaumc

