

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WORSHIP

Laity Sunday • October 18, 2026

WE GATHER



WELCOME

Andrew Buxton

PRELUDE I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ (J. S. Bach)

Ty Woodward, organ

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #577 United Methodist Hymnal — God of Grace and God of Glory

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dominic and Cavan Rold

The Lord is doing a new thing.

Lord, open our eyes to perceive it.

The Lord goes before us, leveling mountains, lifting valleys, and making plains from rough places, revealing God's glory.

We sing to the Lord and tell of His salvation day to day.

The Lord calls us by name.

We declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

"Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving Thee whom we adore. Amen and Amen."

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dominic and Cavan Rold

Please greet those worshipping near you.

**Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Evie Savage and Morgan Watts

#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

Emily Payne

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

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Leaves the 99 (Lily Jewel Koen)

Lily Jewel Koen, vocals and piano

Like a sunflower turns its face to the sun I turn my eyes to meet Yours, On the ground and coming undone,
Pain nothing in this world could cure. I found Jesus in my valley, in the darkest depths. He sat with me
and listened as I cried. Put His hand on my shoulder, said "let Me give you rest." And then and there
He gave me new life. CHORUS: Have you not known? Haven't you heard? He leaves the 99 With
everlasting love, He'll search To meet you with arms open wide. Yeah, my Jesus. He leaves the 99, He
leaves the 99. Jesus said "look at the lilies & how they grow. Truly, I tell you, my daughter, Not a single
one compares to how you are clothed In the loving care of the Father. He knit you in the womb, each
hair is numbered. You've always been loved and seen, He's heard every cry, knows the weight you've
been under And weeps with His lost sheep. Yeah he weeps with His lost sheep."

[REPEAT CHORUS]

Yeah I called out to my Jesus And there He was. I've been filled with the Spirit Washed in His blood.

Yeah I called out to my Jesus And there He was. I've been filled with the Spirit Washed in His blood (x3)

FINAL CHORUS: Have you not known? Haven't you seen? He leaves the 99 With everlasting love, He'll
seek To meet you with arms open wide Yeah, my Jesus, He leaves the 99.

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

Rose Kujawa

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Esther 4:10-17

Hailey Wollitz

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

SERMON "For Such a Time as This"

Bill Buxton

WE RESPOND

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Booker Pearson

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

Hasten Thy Kingdom (Joseph Roff)

O God, Who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send Thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are far off and to them that are nigh; grant that all men ev'rywhere may seek after Thee and find Thee. Bring the nations into Thy fold. Pour out Thy Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten Thy kingdom, through the same Thy Son Jesus, Christ, our Lord. 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

Booker Pearson

Gracious God, you choose ordinary people and weave them into a community that shines with your love. We thank you for the gift of belonging—for the call to live our faith in ways that ripple outward into the lives of others. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our willingness to be witnesses to your grace. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, welcome the searching, and strengthen your church as a living example of hope. May our shared life together always point to Christ, whose love calls and sends us. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #2172 TFWs – We Are Called

*BENEDICTION

Bill Buxton

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Fugue in G Minor *the "Little"* (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: November 15/22/29.

—**This Sunday's Flowers:** *Reredos:* "In loving memory of Mary Lois Roney." From her sons, Lawrence and Peter Roney.
Narthex: "Remembering Dennis Payne and Dee Payne with love on their October birthdays." From Sue, Char, Darrell, and all the family.

—**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
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MUSIC STAFF

Music Director
Dr. James Smith

Organist
Ty Woodward

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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PRESCHOOL STAFF

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



Join us for our annual Legacy Circle Recognition event after church next **Sunday, October 25, 2026**. We want to thank all members, share some pie, and witness what cultivating generous lasting contributions have done for our church community. Special speakers to include David Guyette, Ron Theile, and Rev. Greg Batson. This program will be followed by a special mini tour of our stained-glass windows led by Ron Theile in the Sanctuary.



What is the Legacy Circle?

The Legacy Circle was started in 2013 to provide First United Methodist Church members meaningful and effective ways of funding future growth of the mission and ministries of First UMC through the Church and the Methodist Foundation. Now, as we continue past our 13th anniversary, we rejoice to expand awareness of and participation in the Legacy Circle with fifty seven members.

Purpose

The purpose of the Legacy Circle is to raise awareness to the possibilities to include the Church and Foundation in estate plans. Instill a culture of leaving a lasting legacy to ensure that the message of Christ continues in our community in perpetuity through the ministries of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica. Your gift can provide long-term financial security and sustainable funding through post-lifetime gifts contributions. To date, generous and faithful legacy gifts have supported church beautification and the maintenance of our beautiful facilities, preschool, scholarships, health ministry, children's spiritual education and programs, spiritual formation, youth ministry, music, worship, missions, and general ministries of the church.

Ways to support the Church

- Give to the **Church** through estate planning - **One hundred percent** of your gift will be used for long term church related support.
- The **Foundation** is set up to preserve principal in perpetuity and create a permanent endowment benefiting the following charitable activities: Named funds and discretionary funds.
- The **California Pacific United Methodist Foundation** is a method of giving for complex customized endowment and annuity programs, benefitting the Church and/or Foundation through a beneficiary designation.

Why?

Your gift can provide long-term financial security and sustainable funding through post-lifetime gifts contributions ensuring that Santa Monica First UMC will continue to "Be the Hope" for the next 150 years!

Contact the church office with any questions about becoming a part of the Legacy Circle: info@santamonicaumc.org.

"To see Christ with the heart is to know that in the long run his kind of life is the only life worth living. To see him with the heart is not only to believe in him but little by little to become bearers to each other of his healing life until we become finally healed and whole and alive within ourselves. To see Christ with the heart is to take heart, to grow true hearts, brave hearts..." – Frederick Buechner

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **After Worship - 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 today 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!

Today, 11:15 a.m. after worship in the Fireside Room

• **Tonight - 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.

Today, 5 p.m. worship/6 p.m. meal

• **White Ribbon Memorial**

As we approach All Saints Day, First UMC will honor those who have died with the White Ribbon Memorial. Beginning **today, and on the Sundays of October 25, and November 1**, look for a table set up by the north wall of the sanctuary near the prayer quilts. There, before or after service, you may write the names of loved ones on a white ribbon (as many as you like or one name per ribbon), say a prayer, and tie it to the string or place it in the bowl on the table. Ribbons hung last year will be rehung this year. You may also come to the Welcome Table or the church office to write a name on a ribbon. For our All Saints Day service on November 1, all ribbons will be tied to the string and hung in the sanctuary for the worship service. If you can't make it to worship, email Sarah s.rolld@santamonicaumc.org, to have a ribbon signed for you by Wednesday, October 28.

All Saints Sunday: November 1, 10 a.m. worship

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.

• **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. 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)

• **Save the Date: Church Charge Conference**

Join First UMC for the annual Church Charge Conference! We will engage in a joyful and worshipful celebration of this year's accomplishments, both in person in Simkins Hall, and via Zoom so online viewers can be a part of the conference. This year's theme is "Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Astonish!" We are excited to welcome back West District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi.

Sunday, November 15, after worship, in Simkins Hall

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 21, 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, November 21**

• 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 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, November 8**, 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**

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



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