



500 East Colorado Boulevard
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MAY 7, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome to Worship. We are so glad that you are joining us today. We invite you to open your spirit to this time of worship, song, prayer, inspiration and challenge.

In consideration of others, please silence electronic devices.

“+” indicates to stand in body or spirit as you choose.

STATEMENT OF INCLUSION



All people are welcome at First United Methodist Church. We are proudly part of the Reconciling Ministries Network and welcome all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, and education, socio-economic or marital status.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!

Nursery Care

(Infant–4 years old)

Nursery care is available every Sunday from 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Children's Sunday School and Music

(PreK–6th Grade)

Children age 3 yrs. through 6th grade are invited to Sunday School after the Children's Sermon in Worship, followed by Children's Music for children 4 and up. (3 year olds will go to the nursery following Sunday School.) Child Pick Up (for ages 4+) is in Room 202 at 12:00 p.m.

Questions? Early Pick Up? See the Children's Ministry Superintendent in the Children's Ministry Office.

INDIGENOUS LAND

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, acknowledge that the land upon which we worship was the ancestral homeland of the Tongva People for thousands of years. Approximately two thousand Tongva people still live in the Los Angeles area. We honor their connection to this region and give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, worship and learn on this sacred land.

TOLLING THE BELLS

As the bell tolls, we invite you to simply pause as we center our hearts, our spirits, and our bodies in God's presence.

PRELUDE

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Phil Lehenbauer (b.1960)

+ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 31

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.

Though the way may be difficult, God is always with us.

We need not fear.

In the Lord we will take our refuge, for God is our strength.

Come to the Lord who will surround you with God's own righteousness.

Lord, open our hearts and our spirits so that we may faithfully follow you.

AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all creation,
become for us once again
the solid foundation upon which we build
our daily lives.

We gather before you,
this first day of the week,
to align our lives to the strong teaching
and life of Jesus Christ, our Cornerstone.

Receive our praise and thanksgiving
as expressions of faith and love.

We come to you, O Lord,
as people who desire to learn
and serve like Christ.

We are ready to receive your blessing
and direction today. Amen.

+ OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

UMH 529

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you, **and also with you.**

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

IN OUR PRAYERS...

As a community of faith, let us hold these persons in our prayers:

Newly Added: Jon Baptiste, Albert Davis, Jacobson family, Cory Skook, Taylor family

For Healing: Patricia Bruce, Lorraine Chavez, Phil Chavez and Family, Mary Davis, Joyce Dorn, John Evans, Zina Figilis, Juliette De Guzman, Charif Masri, Ivonne Munguia, Gail Nance, Ann and Neal Dougherty, Brett Hain, Sofia and Woody Hain, Rob Hayes, Sallie Higginbotham, Norman Jensen, Janice Jones, Stephen Kastner, David Kinel, Tom Kosakowski, Jocelyn Medina, Kaz Mousavi, Johnathan Nieto, Carol Nunemaker, Kirsten Oh and Family, Tommy Parham, Crystal Powers, Jim Prior, Celina Romero, Wayne Schenck, Ha-yeong Shin, Donna Shook, Jill Shook, Len Tamkin, Phyllis Underwood and family, Wendy Stiver, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Sonya Wittry, Richard Zeiss

Prayer requests may be shared via connect@fumcpasadena.org and we will gladly add them.

LET'S CONNECT!

Connect cards are located in each pew. Please use a Connect Card to provide or update your contact information, for information on church programs, make a prayer request or communicate a message to our pastors. Place completed cards in the offering boxes near the back and parking lot doors to the sanctuary. If you are part of the Connected (Online) Campus, send an email to connect@fumcpasadena.org.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Jesus Loves Me (UMH 191)

Children are invited to come forward or remain seated.
Sunday School begins after the Time for Young Christians.
As the children gather, we sing together.

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

Holy Ground (TFWS 2272)

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

Moment for Silent Meditation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"
and

"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of God, for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

SERMON Milk, Stones, Houses and Priests Pastor Amy Aitken

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

OFFERTORY Upon this Rock John Ness Beck

+PRESENTATION MUSIC Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the Source of all of gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Redeeming God, the gifts we bring to you this day, we dedicate to the work of kingdom building. Even more, we offer ourselves as material for this work. Imperfect as we are, we know with Christ as the cornerstone, you can build your vision of mercy, justice, peace, and compassion here in our midst. In Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the United Methodist Church, all who love God and are striving to love their neighbor are invited to share in this holy meal. Our communion elements are gluten and alcohol-free so that all may share in this sacrament together. Whether we are in this sanctuary together or apart from one another, we recognize that God's love knows no bounds. At this Table, as we celebrate Christ's presence and give thanks for our identity and our unity in Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Congregational responses can be found on p. 2257 of the hymnal.

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

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation UMH 546

BLESSING OF THE QUILT *We tie prayers of healing into a quilt for Zina Figilis,
sister of Aisha Figilis-Williams.*

+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Introduction and March" from *The Britain Suite* William Walton (1902-1983)

OFFERING TO GOD OUR HEARTS, OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

Giving supports all of the ministries of the church, making it possible for us to offer ministries of hope, hospitality, service and compassion in Pasadena, and around the world.

If you'd like to partner with us and make a financial gift today, you may use your phone to scan the QR code below.



However you choose to share your gifts, we thank you for being here and sharing in the ministries of First United Methodist Church.

MUSIC

While we'd like to provide texts and translations for choir anthems, regrettably, we do not always have space to print them. We are so grateful for the beautiful music offered by our choir and musicians. With or without text, we invite you to allow the music to be a source of God's grace, joy and peace in this time of worship.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

For more information, email us at connect@fumcpasadena.org

TODAY

Friends and Family Lunch - Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m. We will be gathering for these lunches on the first Sunday of each month. Join us!

Earth Day Follow-up Sunday Conversation - Join us after worship to discuss Earth Day Sunday, issues of sustainability and stewardship. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Room 205.

COMING UP

Please join the **Turn-A-Page Book Group** on May 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge to discuss this month's choice: *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom.

Mother's Day Flower Arrangement Sale to Benefit Friends In Deed - Come by coffee hour on Mother's Day, May 14, to buy a floral arrangement for a loved one. All proceeds will go to benefit services for unhoused neighbors provided by Friends Deed. We'll have small, medium and large arrangements of your choosing. Buy one and bring a smile to a special family member or friend's face.

UWF Evening Circle at Pastor Jen's Home - All women of the church are invited to Pastor Jen's backyard on Friday, May 19 from 6 - 8 p.m. for tacos, margaritas (including a mocktail version) and fellowship. This event is an offering of the United Women of Faith Evening Circle, which meets at various locations on the third Friday of each month. Please contact Jami Carrera (jamicarrera@yahoo.com) for more information.

Summer Musical - This summer, the 51st FUMC Summer Musical production will be *42nd Street*. Casting and rehearsals will begin soon. Auditions are Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m.

Messenger Magazine - We want to share your FUMC story in the Messenger! How and when did you decide to come to FUMC? What is important to you about this community? Share your thoughts and stories with us. Email Ashley (ashleys@fumcpasadena.org) by May 8.

Pasadena Methodist Foundation Scholarships 2023 - A reminder to all new applicants and renewal recipients of academic scholarships from the Pasadena Methodist Foundation, you must apply for your scholarship request annually. The deadline this year is **June 01, 2023**. You can pick up an application in the church office or download it at pasadenamethodistfoundation.org.

No Vacation Bible School this Summer - We are taking a little vacation from Vacation Bible School this summer. Due to staff transitions and a lack of available lay leadership, we will not be able to have VBS this summer. If this is a program you love, be thinking about how you might be able to support the program next year!

A memorial service will be held for Howard Underwood on May 20 at 10:00 a.m. in our church sanctuary with a reception to follow. The Underwood family requests donations be made to First UMC in honor of Howard's 71 years of friendship and faithful service at the church. We hope you will join us in celebration of his life.

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:15: Friends & Family Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:15: Youth Group Sunday School (rm 207)
- 11:30: Earth Day Conversation (rm 205)
- 12:00 p.m.: Youth Bell Choir (rm 204)
- 12:45: Adult Bell Choir (rm 204)
- 4:30: Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:30: Youth Group & Dinner

FIRST UMC STAFF AND LAY LEADERSHIP

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

Director of Intentional Faith Development:

Rev. Jennifer Chapman

Minister of Hospitality & Congregational Care:

Rev. Connie Tamkin

Director of Music Ministries:

Scott Lehmkuhl

Organist:

Aaron Shows

Lay Leader:

Kevin Lussier

Intentional Faith Development Lay Leader:

Mikala Rahn

Extravagant Generosity Ministry Lay Leader:

J.P. Harris

Risk-Taking Mission Ministry Lay Leader:

Rosalie Niemann

Passionate Worship Lay Leader:

Paul Audley

Director of Media Ministries

Dave Lohr

Today's Worship Leader:

Karen Zankovich