



500 East Colorado Boulevard
Pasadena, California 91101
(626) 796-0157

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 9:00 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.

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

Aaron Shows (b.1989)

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

Our souls magnify the Lord;

With our mouths we proclaim God’s faithfulness to all generations

Our spirits rejoice in God our saviour.

We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

His mercy is to those who fear him

from generation to generation.

Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

You are our God and the Rock of our salvation.

+ OPENING HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

UMH 242

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Light the Advent Candle

TFWS 2090

Light the Advent candle, four:

Think of joy forevermore;

Christ child in a stable born,

gift of love that Christmas morn.

Candle, candle, burning bright,

shining in the cold winter night

candle, candle burning bright

fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Children are invited to come forward or remain seated.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly Added: Hans Neuroth

For Healing: Joyce Breslin, Patricia Bruce, Erika Carillo, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Trygve Gangnes, Jr., Juliette De Guzman, Joyce Dorn, Charlotte Dyson, John Evans, Zina Figilis, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Friends and family of Muriel Henderson, Sallie Higginbotham, Lisa Jaffe, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Greg Klimuck, Family of Randy Leach, Julie and Henry Lee and their family, Sam El Masri, Jocelyn Medina, Ken Morrow, Gail Nance, Carol Nunemaker, Katherine Olivas, Leslie Parham, Tommy Parham, Donna Shook, Priscilla Shurney, Frances Smith, Jeffrey Stephens, Tim Sun, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Leilani Williams, Nadine Wittry and family, Sonia Wittry, Mona Woodard, Richard Zeiss.

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

LET'S CONNECT!

Connect cards are located at the back of the sanctuary. 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 plate near the back of the sanctuary. If you are part of the Connected (Online) Campus, send an email to connect@fumcpasadena.org.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

Hope of the World

UMH 178

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy spirit unto us be given,
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter strife.

Moment for Silent Meditation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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.**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Song We Sing

Pastor Amy Aitken

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

OFFERING

Holy is Your Name

arr. David Haas
Joslyn Sarshad
Scott Lehmkuhl

+PRESENTATION MUSIC

What Child Is This

UMH 219

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;
the King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, in the midst of a weary world, you call us to be people who bear witness to your hope, joy, peace and love. May these gifts strengthen the ministries of this church that together, we may offer the light of Christ to all your people. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN

People, Look East

UMH 202

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Creator of the Stars of Night

Aaron Shows (b.1989)

**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.



REFERENCES

The Call to Worship was written by R. Victor Klassen and inspired by Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; and Luke 1:47-55.

POINSETTIAS



Flowers are provided by a donation in memory of Esther and Harvey Hyde and Family.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

TODAY

Christmas Services

Today we will have two Christmas Eve services. We hope you join us!

5 p.m.: Christmas Eve Family Service - A special Christmas Eve worship service for children and families.

10 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service - This moving candlelight service includes magnificent music offered by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, a brief meditation, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

2024

Join the Bible Year 2024 - Have you wanted to know more about the Bible but weren't sure how, or where, to begin? Good News! In 2024, we are inviting the whole congregation (yes, you!) to lean into your faith, and join in a year-long walk through the entire Bible.

The Bible Year breaks up the Bible into shorter, daily readings with a concise explanation of key themes and a devotional to help you grow closer to God. You may choose to just do the readings on your own, or join a small group (in-person and online) to discuss and delve deeper into the Bible stories. Learn more and register at the QR below.



Managing Anger begins Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. Anger has many different faces: sarcasm, irritability, frustration, intimidation, shouting, door-slamming.

In this 4-session group, we uncover the purpose for anger, identify learned patterns of thinking and acting that influence our anger, and look at positive ways to express our emotions.

For more info, or the Zoom link, contact connect@fumcpasadena.org

Interested in Membership? Joining the church is an important step in claiming the Christian faith for yourself. When you join the church, you make a commitment to your own spiritual journey, nurtured through worship and the love of a faithful Christian community.

We would love for you to be a part of our community as a member here at First UMC. To learn more about membership, email connect@fumcpasadena.org

The Bad Weather Shelter Volunteer opportunity - Friends In Deed will be hosting their Bad Weather Shelter program at Trinity Lutheran Church this year. First UMC will support the shelter by providing a team on Tuesday nights to help set up cots and serve food and drinks when the shelter is activated because of low temperatures or bad weather.

If you want to volunteer, please contact Mikala at mikala@learningworkscharter.com. Generally, the obligation will be from 6 p.m. through 8 p.m. on Tuesdays when our team is called.

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)

SERVING IN MINISTRY

The entire congregation shares in offering the ministries of this church. Some of the people who help lead our ministries include:

Today's Worship Liturgist:
Marvine Stamatakis

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mina Nau-Mahe

Director of Music Ministries:
Scott Lehmkuhl

Organist:
Aaron Shows

Ministry Coordinator:
Dori Fotsch

Facilities & Office Manager:
Aisha Williams

Finance Manager:
Tim Sun

Communications Director:
Ashley Slade

Leadership Council Chairperson:
Kevin Lussier

Lay Leader for Faith Development
Mikala Rahn

Lay Leader for Finance & Generosity:
J.P. Harris

Lay Leaders for Missions:
Pam Marx & Rosalie Niemann

Chair of Trustees:
Paul Audley

TO SIGN UP FOR NEWS@FIRST VISIT
FUMCPASADENA.ORG/NEWS