



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

On Our Way, Rejoicing Lani Smith (1934-2015)

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

For the beauty of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child.
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise,
This, our hymn of grateful praise.
God of all love, we come to you, today,
to offer you our thanks and praise.

+ OPENING HYMN

I Come With Joy UMH 617

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Halle, Halle, Halleluja TFWS 2026

*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.*

Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halle, Halle, Halleluja!
Halleluja! Halleluja!

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

Spirit of the Living God UMH 393

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.
Moment for Silent Meditation

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly Added: Family of Gary Publiki

For Healing: Victoria Audley, Ronan Bessler, Lynette Black, Joyce Breslin, Ann Burke, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Joyce Dorn, Neal Dougherty, Charlotte Dyson, John Evans, Cameron Fernandez, Cosette Fester, Linda Gerkin, Tom Griffith, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Cindy Heckman, Lisa Jaffe, Ami Jenkins, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Julie-Ann Kosakowski, Rachel Lang, Ann Larson and Family, Meredith Lyon, Stone Ma, Allison Masquez, Carol Nunemaker, Katherine Olivas, Mardy Olivas, Eric Olsen, Donald Palmer and Family, Leslie Parham, Tommy Parham, Jonathan Poutney, Mikala Rahn, Ben Ridgway, Donna Shook, Priscilla Shurney, Frances Smith, Jeffrey Stephens, Tim Sun, David T., Stan and Barbara von Mayrhauser, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Leilani Williams, Nadine Wittry and family, Sonia Wittry, Jacques 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 box near the back of the sanctuary. If you are part of the Connected (Online) Campus, send an email to connect@fumcpasadena.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

GOSPEL READING

John 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

ANTHEM

God Has Work for Us to Do

Mark A. Miller

SERMON

Abiding Love

Pastor Amy Aitken

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

+PRESENTATION MUSIC *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

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 up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Pour your Spirit upon these gifts, O God.
Send them into the world
as a sign and song of your joyous work of love.
Use them to call and welcome into your house of love
all who are your friends
and our beloved siblings in Christ. 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Hope,
you call us to be practitioners of prophetic imagination,
people who aren't afraid to dream about a better future,
and to take concrete steps to bring it to fruition.
But, too often, we settle for far less than you intend:
for what is easy, for what is convenient,
for what is better for a few, instead of what best serves all people.
Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of moral imagination.
Help us dream of your promised day,
when we shall beat our weapons into gardening tools,
unlearn the ways of war,
and plant seeds of peace in places ridden with violence.
In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

What Gift Can We Bring

UMH 87

BLESSING OF A PRAYER QUILT

Today we tie blessings of strength into a prayer quilt for Eric Olsen, friend of Aisha Figilis-Williams, who is coping with a brain tumor.

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

They'll Know We Are Christians Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

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.



TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:15 a.m. - Children's Sunday School (Education Wing)
- 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:00 a.m. - Children's Music Classes (Education Wing)
- 11:15 a.m. - Friends and Family Lunch
- 11:15 a.m. - Confirmation Class (Youth Lounge Room 207)
- 12:00 p.m. - Youth Handbells Rehearsal (Handbell Room)
- 12:45 p.m. - Resound Ringers Rehearsal (Handbell Room)
- 1:00 p.m. - Charge Conference (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:30 p.m. - Youth Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group Dinner and Program (Youth Lounge)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

TODAY

Friends and Family Lunch - We will have a friends and family lunch at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Charge Conference - We will be having a Charge Conference on May 5 at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Members will vote on the merger with St. James as well as a proposal from the Board of Trustees.

COMING UP

Ending Well Process Groups -

The free Ending Well Zoom Workshop will help you make sense of all the to-dos of organizing your affairs, creating ease for yourself and you loved-ones. To learn more scan the QR code below. Or to register, contact connect@fumcpasadena.org.



Less Worry, More Hope Process Group - Every Wednesday in May, 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom -

The Less Worry, More Hope process group is for those who want to explore new ways to think about what causes anxiety and how to respond to feelings of worry. Learn more here.

To register, contact connect@fumcpasadena.org.

Summer Musical Auditions are May 11 at 10:00 a.m. -

We are pleased to announce that this year's summer's musical will be Honk!—a tale of acceptance and love based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, "The Ugly Ducking". We're excited to share this much loved story with the FUMC and great Pasadena community. All ages are encouraged to participate!

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles with Third@First at May 18 at 4:00 p.m. -

We are proud to be hosting the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles for this special concert. For over 40 years, the Chorus has built an international reputation for musical excellence while remaining deeply rooted in service to the Los Angeles community. As a leader among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) and performing arts organizations, The Gay Men's Chorus exposes new communities to the message of equality.

Turn-A-Page Book Group will meet May 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge to discuss this *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom -

This story, inspired by true events, follows an innocent 11 year old Greek Jewish boy named Nico, who is tricked by Nazis into lying to his fellow Jews about the final destination of the trains they are forced to board. Even if you haven't read the book please feel free to join the discussion.

Movie Night, May 26 at 5:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge - We will be watching "In the Heights". Taking place over three days in a New York neighborhood, this PG-13 movie, scored by Lin Manuel Miranda of "Hamilton" fame, examines the delights and stresses of an immigrant community. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. followed by the film at 5:50 p.m. Contact Priscilla Baca (priscillabaca1@gmail.com) to reserve a dinner plate.

Pasadena Methodist Foundation scholarships for the school year 2024-2025 are available now. -

This year the Foundation is able to accept both full- and part-time students. **The deadline for submission is June 1, 2024.** Please find both new and renewal applications on the [Foundation's website](#), or you may pick up your new or renewal application in the church office.

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:
Grace Danziger

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

Interim Business Manager:
Jami Carrera

Communications Director:
Ashley Slade

Leadership Council Chairperson:
Kevin Lussier

Lay Leader for Finance & Generosity:
Mikala Rahn

Lay Leaders for Missions:
Pam Marx & Rosalie Niemann

Chair of Trustees:
Paul Audley

FLOWERS

Altar Flowers are donated this morning by Charlotte Dyson and Family to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jacinto.

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

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