

Kindness &
Respect &
Love &
Humility &
Compassion



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

Meditation on "Praise to the Lord"

Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

The act of simply coming together is “revolutionary,” which in its earliest form meant “finding a course around a central point.” We gather around the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our “kindness revolution.”

Let us pray:

**God of Mercy,
we ask you to come close,
for we are a divided people,
and we are not sure of our footing in this moment.
Steady us, and invite us
to “do unto others” in ways that build up
your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds,
and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. Amen.**

+ OPENING HYMN

Gather Us In

TFWS 2236

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

TFWS 2193

*Children are invited to come forward or remain seated.
As the children gather, we sing together.*

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly Added: Felina Brown, Jessica O'Rourke, Family of Sean Pin Ho

For Healing: Ruby Alcantara, Ronan Bessler, Sharon Ann Brown, Carol Browne, Joey Cooper, Fred Copeland, Nicholas Cukurs, Willa Dalrymple, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Arlene Duncan, Melissa Giles, Suanne and Eric Dewey-Hoffman, Family of Ann Dougherty, Family of Eric and Darla Dyson, John Evans, Cameron Fernandez, Cosette Fester, Chris Gillmon, Tom Griffith, Nathan Hahn, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Efren Hernandez, Family of Larry Jaffe, Lisa Jaffe, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Laurie Strathdee King, Julie-Ann Kosakowski, Rachel Lang, Mary Lamborn, Meredith Lyon, Carol Nunemaker, Katherine Olivas, Leslie Parham, Tommy Parham, Jonathan Poutney, Sarah Rudchenko, Irv Seidman and family, Kathleen Sesplaukis, Hazel Slaughter, Frances Smith, Tim Snider, Jim and Amy Sommerville, Jeffrey Stephens, Marge Strand, Tim Sun, Keno Sy and family, David T., Karen Thompson, Carolyn Tokunaga and family, Crystal Ward and family, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Nadine Wittry and family, Sonia Wittry

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 chapel. 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 chapel. If you are part of the Connected (Online) Campus, send an email to connect@fumcpasadena.org.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

Live in Charity

TFWS 2179

Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity; God will dwell with you.

Live in charity and steadfast love,
live in charity; God will dwell with you.

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 6:27-35

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

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

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

SERMON

Do Unto Others: Campaign for Kindness

Rev. Amy Aitken

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

+PRESENTATION MUSIC *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, whose grace and goodness knows no end,
we offer up these gifts that you have entrusted to us;
we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;
we offer up ourselves in service and praise.
May our lives always bear witness to your compassion and love.
Receive these gifts by your grace.
Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN

They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love TFWS 2223

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals Sigfried Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

PLEASE JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER WORSHIP FOR TACOS!

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.



DO UNTO OTHERS: A CAMPAIGN FOR KINDNESS

Our world seems to be consumed with division. The Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the "other side" politically and ideologically. The "Do Unto Others" worship series will cover ways we can come together to cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world.



REFERENCE

The prayer of dedication was written by Joanna Harader, and posted on the Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

TODAY

Homecoming & Tacos Today! - Join us to celebrate the fall, the Do Unto Others sermon series, the start of our new Sunday School theme, and more. We will also have tacos in the cloister.

COMING UP

Bible Year: New Testament Begins

- Our Bible Year students have just finished the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures. If you would like to hop in and join us in reading through the New Testament, we'd love to have you join us! Classes meet during the following:

- Spirit Seeker's Bible Year Class is at 8:45 a.m. in the Church Lounge on Sundays.
- The Wednesday afternoon class, led by Pastor Connie, meets at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom (email connect@fumcpasadena.org for the link).
- Our Wednesday evening class, led by Pastor Amy, meets at 7:00 pm. in the Church Lounge.

If you would like to join any of the classes, please email Pastor Amy (pastoramy@fumcpasadena.org) and she will send you the reading program...or just show up at the class.

Ministry Fair Fiesta, September 15

- We will be having our annual ministry fair on September 15 after worship on our Colorado Patio. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about the church, learn about our ministries, become a volunteer, and deepen our relationship with each other through fellowship.

Pasadena Art Walk weekend is September 21 - 22 - On both days, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., our youth will present a Trash to Treasures Art Project at their Green Street table. The youth will guide a make and take activity for visitors that explores our inner creativity. They will make new use of discarded items to create sculptures. Reusing and repurposing items is one way to care for our Earth. Stop by and get creative!

Please note that Green Street will be closed to car traffic on both days. Visitors to the church will need to enter/exit the parking lot via the Planetary Society lot on Los Robles.

Understanding White Christian Nationalism: A Christian Perspective, September 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge

We will be hosting Rev. Dr. John Fanestil to speak about his book American Heresy and discuss the issue of White Christian Nationalism. This is an important topic to address as so many communities are struggling with ideological divisions along race, gender, class, race, and political affiliation.

Movie Night is September 29 at 5:00 p.m. - We will be watching "The Whale" (rated R for language, some drug use and sexual content) starring Oscar winner Brendan Fraser as one seeking to reconcile with his daughter while suffering from his reclusive propensities. Supper will be available. To reserve a plate, please RSVP with Priscilla Baca (priscillabaca1@gmail.com).

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour / Homecoming and Tacos (Fellowship Hall)
- 4:30 p.m. - Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:30 p.m. - Youth Group (Youth Room)

SERVING IN MINISTRY

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

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mina Nau-Mahe

Liturgist:
Stone Ma

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

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