



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

*Prelude Adagio from Symphony V
Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
Angela E. Whitaker, organ*

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

God whispers to each of us:
you are my beloved,
created in love for love.
**My spirit answers,
Here I am, Lord.
Speak to me anew.**

God breathes on us the Holy Spirit,
knitting many members into one body,
the body of Christ.
**Together we answer,
Here we are Lord.
Come, Holy Spirit.**

God has yet more vision for the people.
Who will work for God to extend God's kingdom
into our hurting world?
**Here we are Lord.
Empower us for your work.**

Then let us gather, old and young, small and great,
to dream God's dreams,
receive God's power,
and do God's deeds.
**Here we are Lord.
Shine the light of your love on us.
Kindle your Spirit within us.
Work your redeeming will in us,
that all the world may be one
through the power of your love. 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

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly Added: Willa Dalrymple, Kendall In, Heidi Neuroth, Katherine Schiegel

For Healing: Joyce Breslin, Patricia Bruce, Erika Carillo, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Trygve Gangnes, Jr., Juliette De Guzman, Joyce Dorn, Charlotte Dyson, John Evans, Cameron Fernandez, Zina Figilis, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Friends and family of Muriel Henderson, Sallie Higginbotham, Lisa Jaffe, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Greg Klimuck, Julie-Ann Kosakowski, Family of Randy Leach, Julie and Henry Lee and their family, Sam El Masri, Jocelyn Medina, 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.

REFERENCES

The invitation to worship was adapted from a liturgy written by David Inglis.

The Prayer of Dedication was written by Rev. Nathan Williams.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

This Little Light of Mine

UMH 585

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Children are invited to come forward or remain seated.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

Lead Me Lord

UMH 473

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

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

Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

ANTHEM *The Waters of Life* James Biery

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

SERMON *Eyes Wide Shut* Rev. Melissa MacKinnon

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 her below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, we give thanks for the surpassing gift of your Beloved, the Christ. As we welcome him again into our lives, we commit ourselves to the work of his kingdom. Receive the gifts we offer as signs of our commitment to live according to Jesus' good news. Thanks be to God! Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE *Postlude What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Converse)*
Charles C. Converse (1832-1918)
Setting by Charles W. Ore
Angela E. Whitaker, organ

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.



REV. MELISSA MACKINNON

Rev. Melissa MacKinnon is currently serving as Dean of the Cabinet and North District Superintendent.

She served as the District Superintendent of the East District prior to her appointment to the North District in 2021.

In 1999, Rev. MacKinnon began her ministry serving Elon First United Methodist Church in North Carolina and then transferred to The California-Pacific Conference in 2002 as the Associate Pastor of Church of the Good Shepherd in Arcadia, California.

In 2010, she was appointed as Senior Pastor at Santa Clarita UMC until she was appointed to the Superintendency in 2018.

BECOME A MEMBER ON JAN. 28

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

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

Charge Conference Today - Please join us for a **Friends and Family Lunch** after worship in Fellowship Hall. After lunch (11:45 a.m.), we will have our annual Charge Conference for members to vote on the church budget, church leadership, and other matters.

Winter Camp Sandwich Fundraiser - To help defray the cost of camp and support Camp Sky Meadows, the Sunday School's traditional cupcake sale will include a sandwich sale on **Sunday, Feb. 11**—perfect for Super Bowl munching! There will also be baked goods and Valentine treats. **We will have pre-orders for sandwiches starting Jan. 14 (today).** While you are ordering your sandwiches, look for the camp sign-up and take your kids to camp over the Presidents' Day weekend for a wonderful time in our local mountains.

Save the Date: Winter Retreat Camp is Feb 17-19! -Registration forms will be available this Sunday (Jan. 14) at the welcome desk in Fellowship Hall. Forms are due Feb. 11.

Managing Anger begins Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. We all deal with frustration, annoyance and aggravation. See how we might manage our responses differently, planting seeds of peace and reaping a harvest of righteousness as part of our life's mission. Questions or sign up at connect@fumcpasadena.org.

United Women in Faith Evening Circle, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. - Our next meeting will be at Diane Harris's home, where we will make Valentine cards. For more information and the address, contact Jami Carrera jamicarrera@yahoo.com

Third@First, Jan. 20 at 4:00 p.m. - The Belrose Duo (David Garrett, cello and Junko Ueno Garrett, piano) will present an exciting concert of Czech composers full of Bohemian flair!

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. To learn more and register at the QR below.



Pizza with the Pastor, Jan. 21 at 11:15 a.m. in Church Library - Enjoy some pizza and conversation with our pastor after worship. All are welcome!

United Women in Faith Morning Group Jan. 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge - Pastor Amy will be sharing the stories behind her stoles. All are welcome.

Family Promise Week, Jan. 21 through 27 - As part of the Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley (FPSGV) shelter network, we will be hosting Family Promise guests the week of Jan. 21. Volunteers are needed as dinner hosts, evening hosts and overnight hosts. This is an amazing opportunity to offer community support to families challenged with homelessness. To sign up, visit the link in Wednesday's News@First email.

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 a.m.: Coffee Hour / Friends and Family Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:45 a.m.: Charge Conference (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 p.m. Youth / Parent Orientation (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:
Kevin Wang

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Mina Nau-Mahe

Director of Music Ministries:
Scott Lehmkühl

Guest Organist:
Angela E. Whitaker

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 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
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