



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

Hymn of Promise

Roberta Rowland Raybold

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Creating God, the rising sun proclaims your goodness.

The flowing river speaks of your grace.

The fruit of the earth feeds us with your love.

We worship you with humble gratitude.

Bless us that we may live in harmony with all living beings, as members of the Body of Christ, one in your Holy Spirit, to your glory and delight.

+ OPENING PRAYER

Creating God, you spun the stars out of the Word, you molded planets with your hands, you brought forth green living things with your breath and birthed every creature with love. The winds praise you, the mountains stand in awe, and the birds sing hymns of gratitude. We share the thanks of the waving grasses, the joy of the leaping dolphins, and the reverence of the seas. We belong to your Creation; may we honor your work, live peaceably with all living things, and work for the healing of the wounds of the earth. Amen.

+ OPENING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

UMH 92

+ 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!

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

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, Tom Griffith, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Cindy Heckman, Lisa Jaffe, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Almeda Kerwin, Julie-Ann Kosakowski, Rachel Lang, Ann Larson and Family, Meredith Lyon, Stone Ma, Allison Masguez, Carol Nunemaker, Katherine Olivas, Mardy Olivas, Donald Palmer and Family, Leslie Parham, Tommy Parham, Jonathan Poutney, Mikala Rahn, Ben Ridgway, Donna Shook, Olivia Schott and family, 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.

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.
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 104: 1, 10-30

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills,
giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle
and plants for people to cultivate,

to bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine

and bread to strengthen the human heart.

The trees of the field are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.

People go out to their work
and to their labor until the evening.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
 In wisdom you have made them all;
 the earth is full of your creatures.
 There is the sea, great and wide;
 creeping things innumerable are there,
 living things both small and great.
 There go the ships
 and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
 These all look to you
 to give them their food in due season;
 when you give to them, they gather it up;
 when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
 when you take away their breath, they die
 and return to their dust.
 When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
 and you renew the face of the ground.

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

ANTHEM *Earth Blessing* J. David Moore
 Eric Werner, solo

SERMON For the Beauty of the Earth Pastor Amy Aitken

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator God, we confess we have not honored your Creation;
 we have not loved it as you have loved us.
 We have thought ourselves separate, not part of your Creation.
 Forgive our ignorance and arrogance,
 our greed and destructiveness.
 Bring us again into the oneness of your Creation;
 forgive us, heal our fears and transform our desires,
 and shepherd us to be good stewards
 of the gift of life.
 Amen.**

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!

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful* UMH 147

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE *Now is Christ Risen from the Dead.* Aloys Ottwenwalder (1869-1946)

**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

- 10:00 a.m. - Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 a.m. - Children's Sunday School (Education Wing)
- 11:00 a.m. - Earth Day Celebration / Blessing of the Animals and Coffee Hour (Colorado Patio)
- 11:00 a.m. - Children's Music Classes (Education Wing)
- 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. - Crop Walk (off-site)

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

TODAY

We will be celebrating Earth Day on April 21 after worship on our Colorado Patio. We are encouraging everyone to drop by and learn about how we can adopt new habits to help our planet. We will also have a **Blessing of the Animals**.

Turn-A-Page Honors Earth Day on April 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Church Lounge - For Earth Day Turn-A-Page will be discussing climate change books. **All are welcome for the discussion, even if you haven't read a climate change book.**

Crop Walk - April 21 at 1:00 p.m. starting at St. Elizabeth School - FUMC Pasadena is committed to ending hunger in our community and around the world. CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide walk that addresses hunger both locally and globally.

Join the FUMC walking team (or make a donation) for the three mile trek starting south on Lake/Woodbury to Washington (we'll visit Friends in Deed on the walk). Visit the QR code to join:



You're welcome to bring your pet and it's easy to return to the starting point if you get tired.

Our goal is to raise \$500 to help those facing hunger in our community.

COMING UP

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.

Movie Night is Sunday, April 28 - Our next movie night will feature Rod Steiger in "The Pawnbroker". A Jewish pawnbroker, victim of Nazi persecution, loses all faith in his fellow man until he realizes too late the tragedy of his actions. Supper will be served at 5:00 p.m. in the Church Lounge with the movie set to start at 5:30 with discussion to follow. Contact Priscilla Baca (priscillabaca1@gmail.com) to reserve a place at the supper table.

Ending Well Process Groups - One of the most important things you do in your senior years may be to store and organize important documents and information for your loved ones. 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 - Nobody is immune from worry and anxiety but there are healthy ways we can adjust and respond to anxious situations. 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.

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:
Adan Peña

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

JOIN FUMC'S TABLE AT THE MAYOR'S INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST (MAY 2)

FUMC hopes to sponsor a table at the upcoming prayer breakfast hosted by Friends In Deed and led by Mayor Gordo. The breakfast is from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Pasadena Convention Center. Each ticket will be \$60 to help defray the cost of an FUMC table sponsorship. Please contact Pam Marx (pamelamarx@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your spot today.

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

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