



500 East Colorado Boulevard
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SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 9:30 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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past Fred Bock (1939-1998)

+ INVITATION TO WORSHIP

From east and west, north and south, we gather in God’s name,
to pray, to worship, to sing, to celebrate the Lord’s Supper.
We give thanks that we are part of a large, diverse faith family.
We are old. We are young. We come from tribes of all kinds.
We give thanks that God’s family is one of many colors.
From black to white to every shade in between, we are children of God.
We give thanks that the narrative we proclaim belongs to everyone.
We stand with our friends and family around the world, reclaiming the name of Jesus.

We give thanks for Jesus’ resurrection, a truth that tells us that God’s love wins.

We give thanks and praise to the Triune God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

Come, let us worship God and gather at God’s wide and wonderful table.

+ 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 *This Little Light of Mine* UMH 585

Children are invited to come forward or remain seated.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG *Be Thou My Vision* UMH 451

Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Moment for Silent Meditation

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly Added: Amy Jaffe, Greg Klimuck

For Healing: Joyce Breslin, Lisa Brown, Viola Cleo Bradshaw, Patricia Bruce, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Juliette De Guzman, Joyce Dorn, John Evans, Zina Figilis, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Muriel Henderson, Sallie Higginbotham, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Helen Kinel, Veronica Kung, David Madrid, Charif Masri, Jocelyn Medina, Aidan Millsap, Gail Nance, Carol Nunemaker, Katherine Olivas, Leslie Parham, Tommy Parham, Paula Anderson Peacock, Gerry Poulin, Crystal Powers, Jim Prior, Donna Shook, Frances Smith, Jeffrey Stephens, Tim Sun, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Nadine Wittry and family, Sonia Wittry, 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 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 plate near the back of the chapel. 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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 12:1-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

The Word of God, for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Reclaim, Revive, Renew: Faith Pastor Amy Aitken
Working Through Love

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

OFFERTORY

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Mark A. Miller

+PRESENTATION MUSIC

Many Gifts One Spirit UMH 114

Many gifts, one Spirit,
one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing,
from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Lord, one Word
known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver and the Gifts,
praise, praise, praise!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With joy and gratitude we come before you, Lord, bearing the gifts you have given us. Our hearts are full, our hands are lifted up, and we bring you all we have and all we are. May this offering be a blessing overflowing with love into your world. May we be a blessing, overflowing with love into your world. 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. At this Table, as we celebrate Christ's presence and give thanks for our identity and our unity in Christ.

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**

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

BLESSING OF A PRAYER QUILT

Today we tie prayers of strength and healing into a quilt for Woody Hain and a quilt for Amy Jaffe.

+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Ode to Joy"

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.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

TODAY



COMING UP

New Spirit Seekers Class
September 17 from 8:45 to 9:50 a.m. in the Church Lounge - This small adult study group covers an array of theological topics through reading and lively discussion. The Class meets on Sunday mornings in the Church Lounge—an excellent prelude to worship. The first texts to be covered this season are articles by David Brooks and Richard Rohr's latest book, *Silent Compassion: Finding God in Contemplation*.

Family Promise - We will have our final Family Promise hosting of the year the week of 9/17 – 9/23. There are still some volunteer slots available. Sign up at Fellowship Hall Sundays. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Beth Gerber at beth@lighttext.com.

Join the Chancel Choir - Interested in singing in the choir? We'd love for you to join us! Choir rehearsals are 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays and all are welcome! Email Scott at scottl@fumcpasadena.org for more information.

UWF Evening Circle - September 15, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.: Join us for this gathering of fun and fellowship at the home of Sarah Brunkow (please email Sarah or [Jami Carrera](mailto:Jami) for the address) Please bring appetizers, nibbles, or side dishes to share.

UWF Morning Group - September 18, 1:00 p.m.: All are invited to come to the first United Women in Faith (UWF) fall meeting on September 18, at 1:00 p.m., in the church lounge. We are delighted to have Dori Fotsch, our new Minister Coordinator, who will share her faith journey with us, including her experience as a GBGM volunteer in missions. Want to know more about Dori's life and what GBGM stands for? Join us! Dessert will be served.

New Disciple Bible Study Course - This Fall, Pastor Amy will be leading *Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*.

This small group Bible study is a completely virtual, app-based version of the internationally-known, transformative DISCIPLE Bible Study. There are 24 sessions covering Genesis to Revelation (12 covering the Old Testament and 12 covering the New Testament).

Important dates:

- Day 1 of daily study will be September 14.
- Our 90 minute weekly meeting will take place on Wednesday evenings starting a 7:00 pm and ending at 8:30 pm.

Pastor Amy can have up to 15 people join her study group. Priority will be given to those who have never taken Disciple Bible Study before.

To learn more about the study and the app, visit BeADiscipleApp.com and be sure to watch both videos.

See this week's News@First email for more details on how to join the group.

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Chapel)
- 11:00: Rally Day Ministry Fair and Coffee Hour (Colorado Patio)
- 4:30 p.m.: Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:30: Youth Group (Youth Lounge and Fellowship Hall)

FIRST UMC STAFF AND LAY LEADERSHIP

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 Manager:

Aisha Williams

Finance Manager:

Tim Sun

Communications Director:

Ashley Slade

Lay Leader:

Kevin Lussier

Intentional Faith Development Lay Leader:

Mikala Rahn

Extravagant Generosity Ministry Lay Leader:

J.P. Harris

Risk-Taking Mission Ministry Lay Leader:

Rosalie Niemann

Passionate Worship Lay Leader:

Paul Audley

Director of Media Ministries

Dave Lohr

Today's Worship Leader:

Claire Martin