

Kindness &
Respect &
Love &
Humility &
Compassion



SEPTEMBER 15, 2024
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Trumpet Voluntary Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)

+ 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 “compassion revolution.”

Let us pray:

Reconciling God,

we ask you to help us open to compassion,

for we are a part of a divided world, with conflicts waging around and even within us in this moment.

Empower us, and invite us

to “do unto ourselves and others” in ways that build-up your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray for healing,

for ourselves and others.

We pray for belonging,

for ourselves and others.

We pray for the spiritual capacity for compassion,

for ourselves and others.

We pray for the ability to reach out beyond walls,

for ourselves and others.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit That Transforms. **Amen.**

+ OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

UMH 384

+ 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: Family of Jessica O'Rourke

For Healing: Ruby Alcantara, Ronan Bessler, Felina Brown, Sharon Ann Brown, Carol Browne, Joey Cooper, Willa Dalrymple, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Arlene Duncan, Melissa Giles, Family of Ann Dougherty, Family of Eric and Darla Dyson, John Evans, Chris Gillmon, Tom Griffith, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Lisa Jaffe, Katherine Olivas, Leslie Parham, Tommy Parham, Frances Smith, Tim Snider, Tim Sun, 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.

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.

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

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 11:6-9

"The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

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

ANTHEM *Still, Small Voice* Karen Marrolli

SERMON *Do Unto Others: The Polarization Within* 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 *For the Healing of the Nations* UMH 428

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER QUILT

Today we tie prayers into quilts of comfort for Olivia and Isabella O'Rourke.

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE *Fanfare of Festive Colors* Aaron Shows (b. 1989)

**PLEASE JOIN US ON THE COLORADO PATIO FOR OUR MINISTRY FAIR
AND COFFEE HOUR**

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.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Eric and Darla Dyson celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

TODAY

Ministry Fair Fiesta - We will be having our annual ministry fair on September 15 after worship on our Colorado Patio.

Turn-A-Page Book Group, 11:30 in the Church Lounge - We will be discussing *Gloryland* by Shelton Johnson.

COMING UP

Bible Year: New Testament Begins - Our Bible year groups are now reading the New Testament. If you'd like to join in, you can join any of the groups below or follow along on your own. Please email pastor Amy (pastoramy@fumcpasadena.org) for the reading schedule.

- 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.

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.

Friends in Deed Outdoor Movie Night & Fundraiser Saturday, September 28 at 5:30 p.m. - Experience an unforgettable night under the stars at Friends In Deed's outdoor movie night fundraiser at Farnsworth Park Amphitheatre (568 Mount Curve Avenue E, Altadena, CA 91001). They will be screening *The Public* directed by Emilio Estevez.

Admission is free and open to the public, but we encourage everyone to donate what they might typically spend on a movie night out. **Friends in Deed will also be celebrating their 2004 honorees, which includes FUMC!**

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, 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 / Ministry Fair (Colorado Patio)
- 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:
Randy Godshall

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 Rahm

Lay Leaders for Missions:
Pam Marx & Rosalie Niemann

Chair of Trustees:
Paul Audley

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

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