



500 East Colorado Boulevard
Pasadena, California 91101
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www.fumcpasadena.org

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 11:30 a.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.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome to Worship. We are so glad that you are joining us today. We worship God in ways that are both ancient and modern, steeped in church tradition and open to God's ongoing call in our lives. 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.

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

As the bell tolls, we invite you to simply pause as we center our hearts, our spirits, and our bodies in God's presence.

PRELUDE

People, Look East

Aaron Shows (b.1989)

+ GATHERING IN WORSHIP

Adán, Marian, Grant and Tyler Peña

In the season of Advent, we begin worship gathering around this wreath of candles, symbolizing the four weeks of Advent, and the hope, peace, love and joy that Christ brings to our weary world.

Today we light the candle of joy, along with the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle of love.

On this last Sunday in Advent, we throw open our hearts to the gift of God's joy. In our faith tradition, we know joy is more than momentary happiness, but comes from the deep truth of our being. Our faith grounds us in knowledge that God's presense of peace, hope and love dwell within us, and from that deep knowing comes deep joy.

This candle reminds us that God's joy cannot be extinguished within us because God's love will never let us go. Despite the sadness and sorrows we experience, we light a candle of joy acknowledging God's presence within us, and in God's world.

Prayer: Holy God, we thank you for this gift of abiding joy that is found in Christ Jesus. As we prepare our hearts to receive this gift, may we too be a sign of your hope, peace, love and joy in the world. Amen.

+ OPENING HYMN

People Look East

UMH 202

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly added: Magdalena Lovejoy, Maya Bradshaw, Pauline Lowe, and Nicoletta Rogers, Family of Serafin Alvarez and Sarah Brunkow, Hazel Emily Der, Rob Hayes, Tim Sun

For Healing: Mark Audley, Christina Bittar, Nancy Brubaker and Eric Brubaker, Patricia Bruce, Ann Burke, Thelma Calantas, April Charczenko, Mary Davis, Pauline Dominguez, Joyce Dorn, Ann and Neal Dougherty, Peggy Gott, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Sallie Higginbotham, James Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Sharon Garrison Morrow, Carol Nunemaker, Rev. Pyong Oh, Paula Anderson Peacock, Carlos Peraza, Stephanie Peraza, Celina Romero, Shane Ross, Donna Shook, Doug Shook, Lauren Sloboda, Wendy Stiver, Phyllis and Howard Underwood, Darnica Watson, Deb and Gary Webster, Jan Wentz, Sonya Wittry, Brian Worth, Richard Zeiss, Rosy Zide.

Prayer requests may be shared via connect@fumcpasadena.org and we will gladly add them.

LET'S CONNECT!

Connect cards are located in each pew. 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 boxes near the back and parking lot doors to the sanctuary. If you are part of the Connected (Online) Campus, send an email to connect@fumcpasadena.org.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

He Came Down

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.

He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore.

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come, Desire of nations bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life;
deliver us from earthly strife.

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

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

SERMON

Emmanuel: God with Us

Pastor Amy Aitken

OFFERTORY

The Yearning

Craig Courtney

+PRESENTATION MUSIC

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

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 uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Joy, we offer these gifts as a sign of our gratitude as we share your hope, peace, love and joy in the world. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

UMH 246

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Harald Rohlig (1926-2014)

OFFERING TO GOD OUR HEARTS, OUR LIVES AND OUR GIFTS

An offering is an act of gratitude and faithfulness in response to God's love and grace in our lives. 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 to access the church's online giving website. Offering baskets are available by the exits to receive checks and currency.



POINSETTIAS

Generously donated:

by Ann and Steph Burke in memory of Cathy Burke, John and Catherine Wegener

by Aisha Figilis Williams in memory of Mary Figilis and in honor of the FUMC Office Staff

by Rosalie Niemann in memory of Fred Niemann and in honor of the Niemann Family.

By Ed and Carole Lynne Keller in memory of their parents.



Flowers are provided by a donation in memory of Esther and Harvey Hyde and Family.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Longest Night Service on Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.: The Longest Night service of worship is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. Service will be in person and online on our YouTube channel.

Christmas Eve Family Service at 5 p.m. This is an interactive family-friendly service with carol-singing and candlelight. We invite all to enjoy hot chocolate and special treats in our courtyard after the service.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 p.m. This moving service includes magnificent music offered by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, a brief meditation, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Cozy Christmas Day Service at 10 a.m. (Virtual): We invite you to join us for worship from home on our YouTube channel. Get cozy in your pajamas and tune in for worship, special messages from the congregation and friends, and good cheer.

Want to be part of the Christmas Day Virtual Service? Send a Christmas video or photo greeting from your home or other festive location to Ashley: ashleys@fumcpasadena.org

Christmas Morning Gathering at 10 a.m. (In-person): We will have a gathering for a festive time of worship, fellowship and Christmas morning treats. If you would like to bring your favorite Christmas morning coffee cake, or food items to share, please contact Mikala Rahn. Christmas pajama/sweaters and comfy, casual attire strongly encouraged!

United Women in Faith Christmas Potluck Luncheon: Women of all ages are invited to our annual Christmas potluck party on Dec. 19, at 12 p.m. in the Church lounge. There will be plenty of food, so you are welcome to come as our guest as we share our faith, food, fellowship, and singing of Christmas carols. Bring a friend!

Save the Date - Food Pantry Christmas Party: We are hosting a Christmas party for our food pantry clients on Tuesday, Dec. 27 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Please consider participating in this opportunity to bless our neighbors in need by volunteering or donating items. Look for the sign up in Fellowship Hall or call or email the church office, office@fumcpasadena.org, to see how you can help.

Stewardship Season: We are so thankful for all the pledges we have received in support the church's ministry in 2023. If you haven't completed your Estimate of Giving card for 2023 (Pledge card), they can be found on the welcome tables and returned in the offering baskets. Pledge cards can also be completed on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of FUMC.

Mindful Mondays: An all levels easy flow yoga class taught by Darby Orr is taking place on Mondays at 12:00 p.m. in Great Hall. The class runs weekly through Dec. 19 then will resume on Dec. 27. Suggested donation is \$15 (FUMC and FCC members and friends may attend for \$5. Cash and epayments accepted.)

Regathering, Refocusing and Moving Forward in Ministry. Join us on Saturday, January 7 from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. as we share in a time of discernment, visioning and planning for the ministries of this church. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available upon request.

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 8: 45 a.m.: Spirit Seekers: (Church Lounge)
- 10: 00: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00: Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:15: Confirmation Class (Library)
- 11:15: Youth Sunday School (rm 207)

FIRST UMC STAFF AND LAY LEADERSHIP

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

Director of Intentional Faith Development:
Rev. Jennifer Chapman

Minister of Hospitality & Congregational Care:
Rev. Connie Tamkin

Director of Music Ministries:
Scott Lehmkuhl

Organist:
Aaron Shows

Intentional Faith Development Lay Leader:
Mikala Rahn

Extravagant Generosity Ministry Lay Leader:
J.P. Harris

Risk-Taking Mission Ministry Lay Leader:
Beth Gerber

Passionate Worship Lay Leader:
Paul Audley

Director of Media Ministries
Dave Lohr

Today's Worship Leader:
Beverly DeVoy