



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

Il Est Né

Betty B. Garee
Resound Ringers
Megan Goldstein, Handbell Director

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

We dream God’s dream of a world at peace—
where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety; where the poor and powerless find justice.

We remember God’s promise of a Prince of Peace—
Filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.

Come among us, Lord Jesus, guide us in your way of peace.
Open our lives to the peace which you bring. Fill us with awe, inspire us with your grace, free us from fear, that we might be living reflections of your glory.

+ OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus UMH 196

+ WELCOME AND SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Light the Advent Candle TFWS 2090

Light the Advent candle, three:
Think of heavenly harmony;
angels singing “Peace on earth”
at the blessed Savior’s birth.

Candle, candle, burning bright,
shining in the cold winter night
candle, candle burning bright
fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Children are invited to come forward or remain seated.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Newly Added: Lisa Jaffe

For Healing: Joyce Breslin, Patricia Bruce, Erika Carillo, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Trygve Gangnes, Jr., Juliette De Guzman, Joyce Dorn, Charlotte Dyson, John Evans, Zina Figilis, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Friends and family of Muriel Henderson, Sallie Higginbotham, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Dennis Ketterling, Greg Klimuck, Julie and Henry Lee and their family, Sam El Masri, Jocelyn Medina, Kendra Millsap, Millsap/Tamkin family, Ken Morrow, 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, Mona Woodard, Richard Zeiss.

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

GATHERING OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

CENTERING SONG

Hope of the World

UMH 178

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
still let thy spirit unto us be given,
to heal earth's wounds and end all bitter 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

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:57- 80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For indeed the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his child David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who
hate us.
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness
until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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

ANTHEM *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Wilbur Chenoweth

SERMON *The Dawn Breaking From on High* Pastor Amy Aitken

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

+PRESENTATION MUSIC *What Child Is This* UMH 219

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king to own him;
the King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, in the midst of a weary world, you call us to be people who
bear witness to your hope, joy, peace and love. May these gifts strengthen
the ministries of this church that together, we may offer the light of Christ
to all your people. Amen.

GOING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

+CLOSING HYMN *Blessed Be the God of Israel* UMH 209

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Prince of Peace Emma Louise Ashford (1850-1930)

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.



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.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

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

TODAY

Pastor Amy and Mark's Christmas Open House is Dec. 17 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.: Come share in Christmas cookies and cheer at the pastor's house.

Casserole Fundraiser - Need a Quick Dinner this Week? Come to coffee hour today and buy a casserole to ease the strain of getting dinner on the table this week. Proceeds support the summer musical. There will be a few baked goods too for those who still need a sweet treat.

COMING UP

United Women in Faith (UWF) Morning Group - Dec. 18 at 12 p.m.: The UWF will have their holiday potluck in the church lounge. Please contact Barbara Gorton (h_bgorton456@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Longest Night Service - Dec. 20 at 7:00 p.m.: The holidays season can be difficult for those who are missing loved ones. Join us for "The Longest Night", a service of remembrance, comfort, and hope that takes place in our chapel. All are welcome.

Christmas Services

We will have regular morning service for Advent on Dec. 24 at 10:00 a.m. Afterwards, we will have two Christmas Services:

5 p.m.: Christmas Eve Family Service - A special Christmas Eve worship service for children and families.

10 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service - This moving candlelight service includes magnificent music offered by the Chancel Choir and orchestra, a brief meditation, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

2024

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.

The Bible Year breaks up the Bible into shorter, daily readings with a concise explanation of key themes and a devotional to help you grow closer to God. You may choose to just do the readings on your own, or join a small group (in-person and online) to discuss and delve deeper into the Bible stories. Learn more and register at the QR below.



Managing Anger begins Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. Anger has many different faces: sarcasm, irritability, frustration, intimidation, shouting, door-slammings.

In this 4-session group, we uncover the purpose for anger, identify learned patterns of thinking and acting that influence our anger, and look at positive ways to express our emotions.

For more info, or the Zoom link, contact connect@fumcpasadena.org

TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 2:00 p.m.: Pastor Amy and Mark's Christmas Open House (off-site)

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:
Randy Godshall

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

Finance Manager:
Tim Sun

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

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