

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

# 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.

#### 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.

PRELUDE Jesus, My Great High Priest (Bevan) John Goss (1800-1880)

Setting by Healey Willan

Préambule, Op. 31, No. 1

Louis Vierne (1870-1937) Angela E. Whitaker, organ

#### + CALL TO WORSHIP

Today we welcome the magi into our Christmas story.

A story of wonder and light, of angels, shepherds, virgin births.

In the midst of darkness, they chose to follow the light.

Their story gives us hope that God still sends light for us to follow.

We come today knowing we too are on a journey.

May we be faithful followers of the light of God so that we too can be bearers of hope and justice for a dark and lonely world.

#### + OPENING PRAYER

God of love, from generation to generation, across nations, cultures and beliefs, we see evidence of you. Let your light continue to shine in our hearts and help us to make a reality Your desire for a world filled with justice and peace. That, just as the Three Wise Men of the East recognized the call and invitation made by Your Star, also we must be willing to listen for your voice, follow you and give you the best of our lives. May that light ever shine, and may it lead us always to You. And may we shine in the radiance of your glory. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

+ **OPENING HYMN** We Three Kings UMH 254

#### + 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

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

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:** Paul In, Julie-Ann Kosakowski

For Healing: Joyce Breslin, Patricia Bruce, Erika Carillo, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Trygve Gangnes, Jr., Juliette De Guzman, Joyce Dorn, Charlotte Dyson, John Evans, Cameron Fernandez, Zina Figilis, Brett Hain, Sofia Hain, Friends and family of Muriel Henderson, Sallie Higginbotham, Lisa Jaffe, Norman Jensen, Stephen Kastner, Greg Klimuck, Family of Randy Leach, Julie and Henry Lee and their family, Sam El Masri, Jocelyn Medina, Ken Morrow, Gail Nance, Hans Neuroth, 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, Nadine Wittry and family, Sonia Wittry, Mona 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 plate 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 Lead Me Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety. **UMH 473** 

Isaiah 60:1-6

Moment for Silent Meditation

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth

and thick darkness the peoples,

but the Lord will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

ANTHEM Walk in the Light arr. Andre Thomas

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**SERMON** 

Rise and Shine

Pastor Amy Aitken

#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AMONG US

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

+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

God of Light. We take these gifts and present them with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but long to do more. Help us to be like the magi and carefully plan the gifts we bring you. May we not be satisfied with what is enough, but instead be inspired to do more. May these gifts be used so others may know the hope that is found in you. In His name, we pray. 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**UMH 15** 

# 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.



## BECOME A MEMBER ON JAN. 28

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

# GUEST ORGANIST: ANGELA E. WHITAKER

Angela has been an organist in Southern California since the mid-1960's. Her longest associations have been at Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene (now known as PazNaz) as organist for approximately 20 years. She was Organist/Choir Director at Grandview Presbyterian Church in Glendale for approximately 18 years. She has served several other churches for two to 5-year periods during this time. Since 2012, She has been primarily a substitute organist at a number of churches, most notably Burbank First United Methodist, Whittier FUMC, Glendora FUMC, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and others.

#### 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 We are Singing TFWS 2235a

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER OUILT

Today we tie prayers of strength and peace for Paul In, father of Kendall In.

+BENEDICTION

**+POSTLUDE** From Earth to Glory

Carolyn Hamlin, 2015 (ASCAP) Angela E. Whitaker, organ

# **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES @ FIRST UMC**

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

Today - Meeting about St. James We will have a meeting in the church lounge after worship to discuss the possible merger of St. James with our congregation

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 yearlong walk through the entire Bible. To learn more and register at the QR below.



Charge Conference on Jan. 14 - Please join us for a Friends and Family Lunch after worship in Fellowship Hall. After lunch (11:45 a.m.), we will have our annual Charge Conference for members to vote on the church budget, church leadership, and other matters.

#### Managing Anger begins Wednesday, January 17 from 7:00

- 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. In this 4session 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 <a href="mailto:connect@fumcpasadena.org">connect@fumcpasadena.org</a>

#### TODAY AT FIRST UMC

- 10:00 a.m.: Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:15 a.m.: Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
- 11:30 a.m.: St. James Meeting (Church Lounge)

#### 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:**

Becca Suh-Hee

#### **Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Amy Aitken

#### **Associate Pastor:**

Rev. Mina Nau-Mahe

#### **Director of Music Ministries:**

Scott Lehmkuhl

#### **Guest Organist:**

Angela E. Whitaker

#### **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 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

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