

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# W O R S H I P

Epiphany • Holy Communion • Family Sunday • January 1, 2017



When they had heard the king, they set out;  
and there, ahead of them, went the star that  
they had seen at its rising, until it stopped  
over the place where the child was.  
-Matthew 2:9

## WE GATHER

WELCOME

Rev. Keri Olsen

PRELUDE Greensleeves (arr. Richard Purvis)

Ty Woodward, Organ

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #254 United Methodist Hymnal – We Three Kings

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Bumiller, Lay Lector

God, who created you, says: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

**For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your savior.**

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you.”

**Let all the nations gather together, and let all the people assemble. May the Lord bless the people with peace.**

\*CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“Unto us a boy is born. King of all creation. Came he to a world forlorn, the Lord of ev’ry nation.”

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Please greet those worshipping near you.*

As a courtesy to others, please silence all cell phones/sound-making devices. \*Asterisks indicate standing if you are able.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Ann Wagner

#2233 The Faith We Sing – Where Children Belong

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song: This is where children belong.**

*As the congregation sings, all children are invited to come forward.*

I Am a Child of God

**I am a child of God; You are God's child, it's true. Children of God are called to love one another, as Jesus taught to do.**

*As the congregation sings, the children may return to their seats for Family Sunday.*

## OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. Robert English

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship, for worship, and for service.

**Thanks be to God!**

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## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

THE LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6 (Pew Bible page 690, O.T.)

Bill Bumiller

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12 (Pew Bible page 2, N.T.)

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

HOMILY "Making Promises We Want to Keep"

Rev. Patricia Farris

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## WE RESPOND

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

*Your generous gifts support the ministries and outreach of the church. You may place gifts of cash or checks made out to "First UMC" in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also place your Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card in the offering plate. Give online at any time at [www.santamonicaumc.org](http://www.santamonicaumc.org) or by using the QR code in the insert. Credit cards are now accepted at the Sunday Hospitality Table during Coffee Fellowship. Thank you. May God grow in us generous and joyful hearts.*

### THE OFFERTORY

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

I Ponder (Craig Courtney)

The heavens are silent, the wise men have gone, the flurries of angels have finished their song. The shepherds have long since returned to their sheep, the stable is empty, the star fast asleep. I ponder the wonders I carry inside: a star bright as diamonds, an ebony sky, the shepherd who cradles a little white lamb, the wise man who offers the gold in his hand. That Bethlehem evening is far, far away from the world where I live, the world of today. I pause and I ponder, a miracle starts, the Savior is born once again in my heart. I ponder the wonders I carry inside: the thunder of wings from the angels on high, the sight of the manger, the scent of the hay, the Child smiling up at the creatures He made.

\*RESPONSE #94 UMH – The Doxology

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. English

**God of love, receive our gifts. Receive our lives made new by your blessing.  
Be with us all through this new year and help us keep the promises we make.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We will use the Musical Setting beginning on page 2257 in The Faith We Sing hymnal. Gluten-free vegan wafers are available from the servers upon request. The Ushers will guide you in coming forward to receive the communion elements. You may pause at the kneeler to pray or be in silent prayer at your seat.*

#245 UMH – The First Noel

#242 UMH – Love Came Down at Christmas

#237 UMH – Sing We Now of Christmas

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## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Olsen

**May we follow the star and seek the light of Christ. May God bless our lives and the promises we make. May God's love shine through us. Amen.**

\*HYMN #585 UMH – This Little Light of Mine

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE Fugue and Toccata on O Come, All Ye Faithful (Marcel Dupré)

Ty Woodward

*Worship concludes with the Postlude music which prepares us to transition from worship to life in the world.  
You are invited to remain seated until the Postlude concludes, or to exit quietly.*

—There is no Sunday School or Nursery Care today. Activity bags are available for the kids—see an usher for assistance. Parents with young children are also welcome to worship in the Kids Zone in the Narthex where there is comfortable seating, floor space and a few toys and the worship service can be heard through our sound system. A changing station is provided in the restroom located in the hallway just West of the Fireside Room.

—Tricia Lindley is on vacation today.

—As we gather for worship this morning, please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—After today's service, members of the Communion Server Ministry will be taking the communion elements to those who were unable to worship with us.

—First UMC takes the care and safety of children seriously. We are a Safe Sanctuary congregation.

—Flowers at the Reredos: To my parents, Jean Verstegen and James Hal Bogle, from Janet Bogle.

—To request prayers, you may fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card found in the pews, and drop it in the offering plate during worship.

—If there are Prayer Quilts on the north wall of the sanctuary, you are invited to pray over and tie knots on the quilts.

—Stop by the Hospitality Table in Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center during Coffee Fellowship today for information, or to ask whatever might be on your mind! We're here to serve you.

—If you have not already done so, please fill out a 2017 giving card (which can be found in the pew racks) and place it in the offering plate during worship or deliver to the church office.

—Stop by the Fireside Room to enjoy the photography exhibit by Allan Walker. These photos were all used as program covers for Westside Ballet of Santa Monica's annual *Nutcracker* productions.

—Next Sunday: Join us for the annual service of Baptismal Renewal at 10 a.m.; Installation of 2017 Lay Leaders; Rev. Patricia Farris will preach.

—Each time we worship, we collect food for the Westside Food Bank. In January bring nutritional bars: protein, granola, energy or breakfast bars.

*Resident Bishop*

**Bishop Grant J. Hagiya**

*West District Superintendent*

**Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa**

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**Javier Espinosa**

God is real. God is love. ■ Every person matters. You matter. ■ Together we can change the world.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA**

1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica, CA 90403 www.santamonicaumc.org · 310-393-8258

January 1, 2016

Music Director Dr. Jim Smith presents free concerts every 2nd Wednesday of the month, from January through May, 12:10 to 12:40 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Take a break from your day and spend your lunch hour listening to beautiful music! All are welcome to the recital and to the reception in the Fireside Room following the recital.

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### **January 11** - Sean O'Neal, *organ*

Sean is the Director of Music and Organist for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Covina, California, and is the owner of the Long Beach based firm O'Neal Pipe Organ Service. He started his keyboard studies at age 10 and has won several American Guild of Organists first-place regional competitions. He performs regularly throughout the Southern California area.

### **February 8** - Junko Ueno Garret, *piano*

Junko is on the piano faculty at Occidental College. Born in Japan, she has captivated audiences around the world with her colorful tone, poetry, expressiveness, dynamic technique and wide range of repertoire. She frequently performs for the Japanese Government's Culture program and has received "The Japanese Consul General's Award" for her contributions to international relations and understanding between countries.

### **March 8** - Taro Wayama, *guitar* / David Lee Ruest, *violin*

Taro is a Japanese born guitarist/composer, and a winner of numerous competitions, including the Thailand International Guitar Competition. As a composer he received "Best Original Score" at the Los Angeles Movie Awards for an independent film, "Anne Jennings." He holds the Masters and Bachelor of Music degrees from USC. David received his Master of Music degree from UCLA and his Bachelor of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory of Music. In addition to playing violin professionally in numerous orchestras throughout the United States, he is an active private violin teacher.

### **April 12** - Trio Accento

Trio Accento is an exciting new piano trio whose performances have been exuberantly welcomed by audiences and presenters wherever they appear. Violinist Limor Toren-Immerman, cellist Maksim Velichkin and pianist Nora Chiang Wrobel have a collective history of decades of solo, chamber music and orchestral performances in some of the country's top venues and with renowned groups and orchestras. Together they create a dynamic voice full of tenderness, passion and color.

### **May 10** - Jaebon Hwang, *organ*

Award-winning composer and organist, Jaebon Hwang is organist at Westwood United Methodist Church where she presides over one of the largest organs in the region. Awarded the Fellow of American Guild of Organists, the organization's highest level of certification, she is active as a recitalist and as a collaborative artist.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**5 p.m. **simple church***Theme: on renewing covenants or finding accountability for our spiritual life***MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK****Today** - Epiphany • Holy Communion**Friday, January 6** - UMYF depart for their winter retreat**Sunday, January 8** - Baptism • Baptismal Renewal • Installation of 2017 Lay Leaders • UMYF return**CHILDREN & YOUTH****Children: Today is Family Sunday**

Children will stay in worship today.

**No United Methodist Youth Fellowship today****Save the Date: Youth/Scout Sunday**

Come enjoy the annual Youth/Scout Sunday service. The youth of First UMC have the opportunity to lead the Sunday service, from reading scripture to preaching the sermons that they have written. This day also celebrates the Scouting Ministries (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies) and their long-standing traditions of service to the community while transforming the lives of the youths.

**Sunday January 29: Worship 10 a.m. Sanctuary, Pancake Breakfast 7 a.m. - 1 p.m., Simkins Hall**

*The youth program at First UMC is a safe, Christ centered environment where youth can gain tools to help them explore and grow in their faith.*

*Activities are designed to nurture relationships and build a strong, loving community. This is a place of acceptance, outreach and spirituality.*

**FELLOWSHIP /COMMUNITY****Ending 2016 in Good Health**

We look forward to everyone closing out their 2016 pledges. There's \$21k to go! Stop by the office, mail or make payment online via our church website. We will be accepting 2016 payments through the first week of January. Thank you for your support!

**DISCIPLE: Whole Hearted 2017**

It's not too late to fill out & turn in your giving card for 2017. The church budget for 2017 depends on the pledges we receive. The giving card can be found in the pew racks, in the church office, and online.

**Santa Monica Nativity Scenes**

Through January 6, the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes telling the life of Jesus Christ are on display at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church at Ocean Park Blvd. and 14th Street.

**Baptismal Renewal**

We will have a special time of reflection on baptism and have the opportunity to remember our own baptism experience during worship. Sunday January 8, 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Prayer Breakfast**

Prayer, readings and song coordinated by the Westside Interfaith Council kicks off the 32nd Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations. The theme this year is "Stand Against Injustice." Friday January 13, 7:30 - 9 a.m. Simkins Hall in The Shelby Center.

**Save the Date: January Book Study/Potluck**

The first in the 2017 *Loving God with Our Minds Book Study* is *Not in God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Sunday January 15, 11:30 a.m. Fireside Room.

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES****Upward Bound House - Home Run for Kids 2017**

Register now for the 5k/10k Walk/Run on February 12: [www.homerunforkids.com](http://www.homerunforkids.com).

**Pennies for Haiti**

Start saving your pennies now for the Haiti Work Team's 2017 fundraiser, coming mid-February.

For our full calendar of this month's events, including weekly group meetings, pick up a copy of the Sentinel located in the Narthex, or go to our website: [www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar](http://www.santamonicaumc.org/calendar).