

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP

Blessing Our Crucifers and Acolytes • Children's Church • September 17, 2017



Going Deeper • Faith for Such a Time as This

...each of us will be accountable to God.
— Romans 14:12b

WE GATHER

WELCOME

Rev. Robert English

PRELUDE

Ty Woodward, Organ

Andante Sostenuto from Symphonie Gothique (C. M. Widor)

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #139 United Methodist Hymnal — Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Kendra Gorlitsky, Lay Lector

Give praise to God!

Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves...

It is God who forgives...

It is God who delivers...

Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

* CHORAL ACT OF PRAISE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration, in glad adoration!”

* 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.*

BLESSING OUR CRUCIFERS AND ACOLYTES *(see insert)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tricia Lindley

#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 go to Children's Church in the Chapel.

OUR MISSION & COMMON LIFE

Rev. English

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

Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

The Chancel Choir/Dr. James Smith, Music Director

Pilgrims' Hymn - *from the opera The Three Hermits* (Stephen Paulus)

Even before we call on Your name to ask You, O God, when we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer; Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Even with the darkness sealing us in, we breathe Your name, and through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in You; endless Your grace, O endless Your grace, beyond all mortal dream. Both now and for ever, and unto ages and ages. Amen.

THE LESSON Romans 14:1-12 (Pew Bible page 163, N.T.)

Kendra Gorlitsky

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "We (All) Belong to God"

Rev. Patricia Farris

WE RESPOND

INVITATION TO PRAYER #356 UMH – When We Are Living

LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Rev. English

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER

BLESSING OUR CRUCIFERS AND ACOLYTES

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Youth respond in *italics*. Congregation responds with words printed in **bold type**.

CRUCIFERS AND ACOLYTES

**GEORGE ADAMSON, SYDNEY ADAMSON, ANDREW BUXTON, JOHN BUXTON, WILL BUXTON,
EMMA CRAWFORD, MEGAN CRAWFORD, ANNIKA DODD, LINCOLN HUGHES, DARA I'ANSON,
OWEN ING, ETHAN KELLEY, JACK KELLEY, AIDAN KENEFICK, CONNER KENEFICK,
NATALIA QUINTANA, MIKEY STRAUSS, GWEN WARREN, TRISTAN WARREN, CASSY WILLIAMS,
EMMA WOLLITZ**

CONGREGATION

**Gracious God, the source of light and love: in a world of change and uncertainty,
you call from among us crucifers and acolytes to lead your people in following the
cross of Christ and to light their way.**

CRUCIFERS AND ACOLYTES

*Grant to us, your acolytes and crucifers, reverent hearts, steady hands, and the will to
persevere in service at your altar and at prayer. Bless and guide us by your wisdom and
help us to spread your good news throughout the world.*

CONGREGATION

**Bless these youth who commit themselves to your service. May their ministry be
fruitful and our worship pleasing in your sight.**

ALL

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. Amen.**

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

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. 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

Good News Celebration! (Dale Wood)

Share the Good News Celebration! Sing His praises joyfully. Share with ev'ry tribe and nation, Christ has come and sets us free. Sing and praise Him! Sing and praise Him! Worthy of our praise is He. Alleluia, alleluia! Sing and praise Him joyfully! Witness now with expectation, share the gospel far and near; tell of Christ and His salvation, spread the news that all may hear. Share the Good News Celebration! Share the news of God's design; let us sing with jubilation. We are branches, He's the vine. Alleluia, O sing and praise Him! Sing and praise Him joyfully!

*RESPONSE #94 UMH – The Doxology

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. English

O God, we thank you for these gifts. Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #378 UMH – Amazing Grace

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE March of the Priests (Felix Mendelssohn)

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.

—Nursery Care is available at 9 a.m. in Room 204 in the Education Building. Parents with young children are welcome to worship in the sanctuary or in the Kids Zone in the narthex.

—A changing table is provided in the restroom located in the hallway west of the Fireside Room.

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

—Please see an usher if you need information or assistance.

—Flowers: Given to the glory of God, from donations to the First UMC Flower Fund. Please consider a gift to the Flower Fund, which will be used for Sundays such as today when flowers have not been ordered.

—To request prayers, fill in a Let's Connect/Let Us Pray card and place 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.

—In the Fireside Room: view the photographs of First UMC member Emily Payne.

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

—Next Sunday: Rev. Robert English will preach.

—We collect food weekly for the Westside Food Bank. In September, please bring macaroni & cheese, and other packaged dinners.

—Habitat for Humanity: We are still accepting volunteers for the build days of Patience House. Stop by the Hospitality Table for more information.

—To help provide immediate relief to the victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma, First UMC is collecting kit materials/donations for the UMCOR Hygiene Kit. Stop by the Hospitality Table for info, or go to: www.santamonicaumc.org/umcor.

Resident Bishop

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

West District Superintendent

Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa

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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

September 17, 2017

by Tricia Lindley, Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Children's Church



On the 3rd Sunday of the month, Children's Church is held in the Chapel and Room 203. Children's Church is a space for children to learn about God and God's loving activity in the world through music and movement, fun and laughter with the leadership of Janet Searfoss. We gather in worship and after the Children's Message, the children are guided to the Chapel as we create a worship space geared for them. *Parents pick your children up in Room 203.*

Acolyte and Crucifer Ministry

One important way that our youth participate in worship is through the Acolyte and Crucifer Ministry. Each and every week of the entire year, three of our youth (grades 6-12) show up to be co-leaders in worship. The ministry of Acolyte is very old, going back to at least the third century CE. These early acolytes had functions very similar to those of the modern day- they were to assist the clergy and help lead worship for the community. Like today, these early acolytes gave strong witness to their Christian faith and were dedicated to their worship community.

When the Acolytes and Crucifer light the candles and carry the cross and Bible into worship, they carry our Christian symbols which represent Christ's presence with us during worship and that which guides us out into the world at the end of worship. Today we recognize their faithful dedication and service and give blessing to our youth who will serve as Acolytes and Crucifer during the coming year.



WORSHIP & PRAYER

Sunday 10 a.m. **Sanctuary Worship**
 Sunday 5 p.m. **simple church**
Tonight's theme: on the freedom that comes when we stop keeping score

MEETINGS / EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today - Blessing Our Crucifers & Acolytes
 11 a.m. Free Blood Pressure Screenings, SH
 11:30 a.m. Book Study/Potluck, FR
 2:30 p.m. Walk the Labyrinth, SH
 5 p.m. simple church Celebrates 1-Year Anniversary, Chapel/SH
Wednesday, September 20
 9 a.m. UMW Workparty/Lunch, Workroom
Saturday, September 23
 10 a.m. DanceFit, SH
Sunday, September 24 - 4th Grade Bibles
 11 a.m. First UMC Church and Preschool Fall Kick-Off, Courtyard

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Children: Sunday School this Week
 Children's Church resumes.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship:
 Acolyte/Crucifer training after worship in the sanctuary today
UMYF Tonight in Youth Lounge:
 6-6:30 p.m. Youth Choir
 6:30-8:30 p.m. UMYF Opening Program & Introductions

The youth ministry at First UMC is a safe, Christ centered environment where youth 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

Loving God With Our Minds Book Study - Today
 After worship today, author Amir Hussain will lead the discussion on his book *Muslims and the Making of America*. Written in a conversational tone, the book will enable us to contribute in an informed way to the current debate about Muslims in our country. Dr. Hussain will have copies of his book for signing. Today, 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

simple church Celebrates 1-Year Anniversary Tonight
 Stay for a simple church dinner after tonight's 5 p.m. worship to celebrate our 1-year anniversary! In the Chapel and Simkins Hall.

DanceFit - New Class!
 Dance your way to fitness with First UMC member Whitney Hagan, licensed Zumba instructor. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, and bring a towel. Sponsored by the Health Ministry Council, the class begins this Saturday, September 23, 10 - 11 a.m. Simkins Hall. No charge.

Growing a Faith That Matters - New Adult Class
 Rev. Larry Young leads a new adult class that will meet October 1, 8 & 15 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Room 203. Personal faith has the potential to anchor our lives—to help us cope with challenging situations and also give meaning and purpose to our everyday lives. But a faith that matters requires continual growth on our part. This class explores a number of ways we can open ourselves to growth that allows God's grace to shape us. Sign up now at the Hospitality Table or call the church office: 310-393-8258. *(No text and no fee.)*

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

UMCOR/First UMC: Collecting Hygiene Kits
 To help provide immediate relief to the victims of recent hurricanes, First UMC is collecting kit materials/donations for a non-perishable Hygiene Kit. \$12 covers the cost of one complete kit. To see the list of kit contents, pick up an information sheet in the Narthex or at the Sunday Hospitality Table. Donations towards the kit may be made to First UMC, memo line *UMCOR Hygeine Kit*. Hygiene Kit list online: www.santamonicaumc.org/umcor.

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.