
First AME Church of Los Angeles
Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler
Pastor
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Happy Thanksgiving

First African Methodist Episcopal Church

"First to Serve" since 1872

November 26, 2026
10 a.m.

Gathering in Gratitude — Rev. Dr. Thema Bryant

Invocation — Rev. Dr. Charolyn J. Jones

Scripture Reading — Rev. Judi Wortham

Psalm 95: 1 - 6 (NIV)

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

3 For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.4 In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

Voices of Thanksgiving — Rev. Judi Wortham

Thanksgiving Message — Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler

Closing Prayer of Thanks — Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler

TODAY

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School for ages; pre-K thru 12 at 9 a.m. are in person on the Plaza Level on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. Adults meet on both Zoom and in person at the Biddy Mason Wellness Center located at 2249 S. Hobart Bl. at 7:45 a.m.

Meeting ID:678 244 0722 Passcode: 2270

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAME'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DRIVE:

sponsored by the Commission on Missions and Welfare along with the Sarah Allen Women's Missionary Society, are preparing for the 2026 Christmas Give-Away scheduled for December 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.. They will begin collecting cold weather clothing for infants - adults Sunday, November 1. They are requesting new unopened toys and gift cards. They are asking that donations be delivered by December 11..

FAME'S ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE:

The annual sock drive is a campaign to collect new, unworn socks for people experiencing homelessness, school-age children in need, or local shelter residents. Socks are said to be the most requested and least frequently donated items of clothing. They help prevent infection, reduce injury, and provide much needed comfort for individuals who spend long hours on their feet. Drop your donation in the collection box located near the church office or lobby.

SAWMS MONTHLY FOOD GIVE-AWAY

The monthly food giveaway sponsored by the Women's Missionary Society is scheduled for December 19, 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Male volunteers are needed. Call 323-735-1251 to find out how you can help.

FAME HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: FAME CAMPUS WILL BE CLOSED

Thanksgiving Day: Virtual Service only,
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Years Eve
New Year's Day

FAME ANNUAL ANGEL TREE DRIVE:

This year we are asking fo gift cards of $25 or more for our foster youth. Please drop off your gift cards at the Angel Tree table in the curch lobby or in the church office by DECEMBER 13.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE INSTITUTE ADULT BIBLE STUDY WITH DR. TYLER:

will reconvene on Wednesday, December 2. at noon and 7 p.m. on the FAME Plaza Level and on Zoom.

FREE LEGAL CLINIC:

Provides free, expert legal advice to low income residents. The doors open at: 10 a.m. -1 p.m.. The Legal Clinic is located at 2249 S. Hobart Blvd. No appointment necessary.

Next session: December 6

ORDER MY STEPS WALKING MINISTRY:

Sista's-N-Motion Walking Ministry will be held on Saturday, December 12, 7 a.m., Reuben Ingold Park located at 4400 Mt. Vernon Dr. in Los Angeles.

SLACDEC WELLNESS GARDEN:

Join us every Saturday from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., 2249 S. Hobart Blvd., for a lesson in gardening from master gardeners. Please bring your own gardening tools. Vegetable seedlings will be provided.

SONS OF ALLEN BIBLE STUDY:

Rev. Alfonzo Washington is inviting all men to the Sons of Allen Bible Study held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom where they are studying the book of Ezekiel. Women are also welcome.

Meeting ID: 284 179 1968 Password: 2F3wfM

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY:

Join the Young Adult Bible Study held every Wednesday from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 891 595 275 Password: 058410

FAME RADIO MINISTRY:

Listen to us on KJLH, 102.3 FM, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Previously aired radio broadcasts are available at www.famechurchla.org. The morning broadcast is sponsored by Bernard & Shirley Kinsey and The Kinsey Collection.

ALTAR FLOWERS:

You can sponsor alter flowers in memory of a loved one, to celebrate an anniversary or a birthday. Call the church office for available dates and information at 323-735-1251.

JOIN THE LAY ORGANIZATION

This is where you have an opportunity to create a love and true appreciation for the history and principles of African Methodism and educate the Laity in the total workings of the church. Call the church office for more information.

CHURCH HISTORY



First AME Church of Los Angeles

Blacks began holding religious services in Los Angeles around the early 1850's in the home of Robert and Winnie Owens, one of Los Angeles' earliest black families. In 1872 , First A.M.E. was officially organized in the home of Biddy Mason on Spring Street with twelve members. The group soon purchased a lot and erected our first edifice on 4th and Charity (Grand) streets with Rev. J.E. Hamilton serving as the first minister. Biddy Mason has been credited with donating $500 towards the building of the first church as well as sending for the minister.

The first two decades were troublesome for the church. Due to financial hardships it was difficult to maintain the church building, property and ministerial staff. Consequently, the building on 4th & Charity was sold in 1882. From 1883 to 1886 F.A.M.E. conducted services in homes and rented spaces until a new site was purchased at 31 San Pedro St. in 1887. Through it all, the small congregation held on to "God's unchanging hand." As blacks migrated to Los Angeles, the church grew.

In 1890 F.A.M.E. purchased another site at 312 Azusa Street. By 1893 F.A.M.E.'s membership had grown to over 125 members. For 13 years F.A.M.E. was the only black church in Los Angeles where it played a major role in the black community. It housed the first black school, fought segregation, and many other organizations originated in FAME church such as the Sojourner Truth and the Forum.

"First to Serve" *Since 1872*

Stevens A.M.E. Church was the official name of the church in 1888. Rev. Jarrett Edwards led the congregation with a vision to build another church edifice at 8th & Towne. In 1904 dedication of Stevens A.M.E. Church took place. It was then a window was dedicated to Biddy Mason who died in 1891.

The church was always referred to as "First Church" and was officially named First A.M.E. Church in 1920. In 1937 Rev. Mansfield Collins is credited with renovating the entire church.

In 1950 Rev. Alvia A. Shaw led the purchase of a church parsonage at 1809 Wellington Road. He was known for the slogan "The Path to Tomorrow Leads Through Yesterday." In 1959 Rev. H. Hartford Brookins held a thirteen year tenure as pastor. After the Watts Riot, Rev Brookins met with John Factor who donated to the building fund and a new church was put on the drawing board.

Rev. Brookins moved members from 8th & Towne to 2270 S. Harvard in 1969. Rev. Fred Stephens led the congregation in 1972 when Rev. Brookins was elected Bishop. The 8th & Towne old church site was declared a historical site #71 by the city of Los Angeles. In 1977 Rev. Cecil L. Murray was appointed pastor. He served 27 years demonstrating strong leadership skills and our membership grew from 300 to 17,000. F.A.M.E. is always addressing Christian mission beyond the walls of the church and into the community. Our motto: First To Serve symbolizes the concept that our church is known for universally. In 2004 Rev. John Hunter served First AME as pastor for 8 years. In 2012 Rev. J Edgar Boyd was assigned as pastor. He was a strong leader who has demonstrated leadership skills Church-wide. He has also been an active leader throughout the comunnity as well.

Rev. Robert R. Shaw, II was assigned as Pastor in October 2023.

Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler was assinged September 2025. We know that great things are in store for our church and our community.