

La Mesa, San Diego, First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church, Palm Avenue, 91941 CA La Mesa, San Diego, United States of America



Builder	L. W. Blackinton & Associates
Year	ca. 1989
Period/Style	Modern
Stops	107
Keyboards	4+P
Keyaction	tracker/mechanical
Tuning	Equal at 440 Hz
Sampleset	<u>evensongmusic</u>

Description

The rich history of the pipe organ at First Church in downtown San Diego spans over a century, marked by several relocations and extensive renovations to accommodate the church's evolving needs. Originally, the church housed a two-manual Hook and Hastings organ, dedicated in 1888 within a three-story brick building at the corner of 4th and Broadway. This organ was later enlarged by Murray Harris and reinstalled in the new church auditorium at 9th and C streets in 1907, designed by architect Irving Gill. In 1929, a new three-manual, 27-rank Pilcher organ with 1,877 pipes was dedicated but was subsequently put into storage when the church moved to Mission Valley in 1964. A smaller organ by Dowling and Blackinton was installed in 1967, and in 1971, the Pilcher organ was refurbished, expanded, and finally placed in the church's rear gallery.

Over the following decades, the church continued to enhance its musical capabilities under the guidance of Daniel Burton, organist and composer in residence from 1975 to 1985. His efforts culminated in a major expansion project led by L. W. Blackinton & Associates, starting in 1986. This project significantly transformed the organ, adding a four-manual console, slider chests, and 54 new ranks, resulting in a grand instrument with 107 ranks and 6,042 pipes, dedicated in January 1989. Further expansions were made, including the addition of an 8' Festival Trumpet in 2010 and a reconfiguration of the Chancel Positiv in 2021, which added expressive resources for choral accompaniment. Today, the organ boasts 110 ranks and stands as the largest in San Diego County, a testament to the church's commitment to supporting exceptional musical experiences.

Stoplist/Disposition

Great	Positif	Swell	Choir	Pedal
Gamba 16'	Geigen Principal 8'	Lieblich Gedeckt 16'	Concert Flute 8'	Contra Principal 32'
Principal 8' (Gallery)	Quint Flute 8'	Gedeckt 16'	Flute Celeste 8'	Grand Bourdon 32'
Principal 8' (Chancel)	Dulciana 8'	Geigen Principal 8'	Erzaehler 8'	Principal 16' (Gallery)
Rohr Flute 8'	Gedeckt 8'	Salicional 8'	Erzaehler Celeste 8'	Principal 16' (Chancel)
Bourdon 8'	Geigen Otave 4'	Voix Celeste 8'	Aeoline 8'	Bourdon 16' (Gallery)
Dolce 8'	Spindle Flute 4'	Gedeckt 8'	Flute d'Amour 4'	Bourdon 16' (Chancel)
Octave 4' (Gallery)	Spire Flute 4'	Gemshorn 8'	Nasard 2 2/3'	Violone 16'
Octave 4' (Chancel)	Principal 2' (Gallery)	Gemshorn Celeste 8'	Flute 2'	Gamba 16'
Fifteenth 2' (Gallery)	Principal 2' (Chancel)	Spitz Principal 4'	Tierce 1 3/5'	Lieblich Gedackt 16'
Fifteenth 2' (Chancel)	Quinte 1 1/3'	Harmonic Flute 4'	Clarinet 8'	Gedeckt 16'
Cornet V	Octave 1'	Wood Flute 4'	Vox Humana 8'	Quint 10 2/3'
Mixture IV (Gallery)	Cymbel III (Gallery)	Nazard 2 2/3' (Gallery)	Celesta 4'	Octave 8' (Gallery)
Mixture IV (Chancel)	Zimbel III (Chancel)	Nazard 2 2/3' (Chancel)	Herald Trumpet 8' (Great)	Octave 8' (Chancel)
Scharff IV-VII	Rohr Schalmel 8'	Flute 2' (Gallery)	Festival Trumpet 8'	Bourdon 8'
Bombarde 16'	Cromorne 8'	Flute 2' (Chancel)		Gedeckt 8' (Gallery)
Trompette 8'		Mixture III		Gedeckt 8' (Chancel)
Clarion 4'		Fourniture IV		Quint Bass 5 1/3'
Herald Trumpet 8'		Bassoon 16' (Gallery)		Choralbass 4' (Gallery)
Chimes		Bassoon 16' (Chancel)		Choral Bass 4' (Chancel)
Cymbelstern		Trompette 8' (Gallery)		Flute 4'
Tower Bells		Trumpet 8' (Chancel)		Nazard 2 2/3'
		Oboe 8'		Twenty Second 2' (Gallery)
		Fagotto 8'		Twenty Second 2' (Chancel)
		Clarion 4' (Gallery)		Mixture IV
		Clarion 4' (Chancel)		Contra Posaune 32'
				Posaune 16'
				Basson 16'
				Trumpet 8'
				Clarion 4'
				Fagotto 16'
				Fagotto 8'
				Fagotto 4'

Additional: Tremulant Swell, Swell to Swell 16 - U/O - 4, Cymbelstern, Tremulant Choir, Choir to Choir 16 - U/O - 4, Great to Pedal, Swell to Pedal, Choir to Pedal, Positif to Pedal, Swell to Great 16', Swell to Great 8', Swell to Great 4', Choir to Great 16', Choir to Great 8', Choir to Great 4', Positif to Great 8', Choir to Swell 16', Choir to Swell 8', Choir to Swell 4', Choir to Positif 8', Swell to Positif 8', Great to Positif 8', Crescendo Pedal, Great to Pedal reversible

Sources

<http://www.evensongmusic.net/?product=1989-iv-110-blackington>