



March 2026

The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

E-mail: crossandflame@att.net

Website: <http://www.umccp.org>

Pastor: eshinpau@gmail.com

Welcome to First Church where everyone is either our friend or family.

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Heart to Heart

A Month to Draw Closer to God

We are in the season of Lent, and I want to encourage each of you to use this month of March to be intentional about your walk with God.

Lent is more than a tradition — it's an invitation. An invitation to slow down, to turn our hearts toward the Lord, and to make room for Him in the places where life has gotten loud and crowded.

So here's my challenge to you this month: pick up a practice that draws you closer to God.

Maybe that looks like setting aside time every day for prayer — real, unhurried, honest prayer. Maybe it's turning off the noise and sitting in worship, not just on Sundays but in your own home, in your own quiet moments. Maybe it's meditating on who God is and letting His truth settle deep into your spirit.

Some of you may feel led to fast — giving something up to create space for God to fill. Others may feel led to add something in. Read your Bible every single day this month. Pick a book of the Bible and go cover to cover. Or step outside your routine and volunteer at the church or a community center once a week. Pour into someone else and watch how God pours back into you.

The point isn't perfection. The point is presence — being present with God and letting Him be present with you.

This is your month. This is your moment. Don't let it pass you by.

Let's keep growing together.

All are welcome. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us.

Rev. Elaine Shin-Paull

"When our differences are not accepted as our uniqueness and beauty, it causes divisions.

But when we value our differences, we can celebrate all life and cherish it like jewels."



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

Music Director/ Accompanist

Nathan Stephens

Administrative Assistant

Jyl Lawrence

Sunday School Childcare

Veronica Cabrera

Denise Lenore

Teen Ministry

Dante Wilson

Lay Leader

Roger Johnson

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operators

Bernie Godwin

Preston Simpkin

Michael Mosbe



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

North District Superintendent

Rev. Garth Gilliam

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays

- 2 Ainsley Cates
- 10 Steve Robertson
- 23 Evelyn Heim
Anita Parrinello
- 31 Byron McKibben

March Anniversaries

- 2 George & Karen Grengs
- 20 Bernie & Cate Godwin
- 29 Roger & Nancy Johnson

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please let us know.



March Altar Flowers

- 1 - Open
- 8 - Michiko & Michael Mosbe
- 15 - Open
- 22 - Parrinello Family *in honor of Anita's Birthday*
- 29 - Roger & Nancy Johnson *in honor of their 46th Anniversary*

If you would like to provide altar flowers on a given Sunday, in honor or memory of someone, please contact Mary Mackay, 818-731-5872.

March Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Hindi Urdu UMMC, Sanctuary, 4:00 pm
- Monday Virtual Prayer Meeting (Zoom Link: ID: 898 8990 4696
Passcode: 875564) 7:30 pm
- Tuesday Men's AA Tuesday Night Book Study, Room #10, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group (Learning to Live), Parlor, 7:00-9:00 pm
- Thursday Wesleyan Bible Study, Library, 11:00 am
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous (Sharing From The Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am
- Sunday Jewish Holiday Study - Library & Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82340548276?pwd=fhtKbhmOCJigasfP6cgU3i9EKLOkAP.1>

Other Activities

- Every day Blessing Bag Donation collection.
Box is in the office for donations.
- Monday 2 Outreach Committee Meeting, 10:00 am-11:00 am
- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank's Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- Sunday 8 Daylight Savings Time starts
- Tuesday 10 Administrative Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Sunday 29 Palm Sunday,
Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship awards will be announced
Congregation assembles the Blessing Bags after worship

Coming In April

- Friday 3 Good Friday service, 5:00 pm
- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank's Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park



Staff who prayed for and marked with ashes 31 people who drove by in remembrance of Ash Wednesday, 23 members of our church and 8 others



Mission Team Meeting

March Meeting date will be March 4 at 10:00 am by Zoom

Day of Giving

March 23, 2026 is an opportunity to gather together as one sisterhood in faith to thank God for the continued grace shown to United Women in Faith, by giving to ensure the future of our vital mission work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. The theme for this Day of Giving is "Grace in Abundance".

A Call to Prayer and Self Denial

The 2026 Call to Prayer and Self Denial offering will help ensure that the National Mission Institutions one of which is AK Child & Family can continue offering safety, healing, and God's good news to children and youth who need it most. Contributions for Prayer and Self Denial can be made payable to UMW dba United Women in Faith and sent to Chandra Seeger, 6625 E. Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377 and designate it Prayer and Self Denial.

UW Faith Assembly

Assembly is being held May 15-17, 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Focus will be on the theme "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!"

From God's Promises for You by Max Lucado

People make plans in their minds, but only the Lord can make them come true. Depend on the LORD in whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

Shirley Thomson



Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends
 Wednesday, March 18 at 1:00 pm in Room 10.
 Book to be reviewed is entitled
How LaGuardia Became America's Mayor
 by Terry Godway.
 Sandy Bell will lead the discussion.

Sarah Circle
 Thursday,
 March 12 at 9:15 am for
breakfast at Nico's Restaurant

Faith, Hope & Love
 Wednesday,
 March 11 at 1:00 pm
 Church Library



Welcome New Members

On Laity Sunday, February 8, 2026 eight new members were welcomed into the body of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park by Pastor Elaine Shin-Paull, Roger Johnson, Lay Leader and the entire congregation during the Worship Service.

Francisco Hernandez

Grew up in the Valley, graduated from North Hollywood High School and earned a BA degree in Theater Arts at CSUN where he enjoyed several good acting opportunities. He has worked at Universal Studios Hollywood and Anthem Blue Cross but is currently at Optum as a medical scheduling supervisor.

Dante Wilson

Dante first attended FUMCCP as a 5 year old with his grandmother, Mervyn Hewett. He served as an acolyte and later served at the annual Christmas tea. But as a teenager he stopped attending church and wandered from the faith. At age 18 he had a 'radical conversion', renewed his faith, even went to Bible College. He reconnected with this church when he preached at his grandmother's funeral here and has been helping with the Sunday School program since. He is expressing his Faith as an Associate member.

Nancy and Mike Easterly

Met each other in Methodist Youth Fellowship when in their teens in Phoenix, AZ. They both graduated from Arizona State University. They have two married children with four grandchildren. Mike is retired from IBM where he was a systems engineer. While in Texas, Nancy became a first-grade teacher but in California she is a full-time volunteer.

Lynda Gibson

Moved to Woodland Hills some 21 years ago and has been searching for a church home ever since. She is a freelance paralegal working with local attorneys and their clients on corporate and commercial real estate transactions. She is also an actor and member of SAGAFTRA.

Jodi Guerrero

Jodi grew up in Santa Clarita where she now teaches high school English. She loves to travel abroad and has taken students to Europe several times. She reads mysteries, watches movies and is an avid Disneyland fan. Jodi has visited us often and has always felt welcome and at home. She is welcome addition to our song leaders.

Kimo Guerrero

is a real Hawaiian having lived in both Oahu and the big island. He lived very close to an active volcano and while there became a world class swimmer. He came to California to attend college and never left. He currently works as a salesman of emergency supplies. After a long absence, Kimo is happy to return to the United Methodist Church where he can worship with family and friends. He feels very welcome here

David A Dreyfuss

Comes to us from the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. His professional talents lie in the electrical field and he is currently in sales with Onesource in Fullerton, CA. He enjoys gardening and walking. He came to us helping his mother, Dana Dreyfuss get to and from church and decided he liked us and our ministry.

We welcome these new members into our fellowship with our faith, hope and our love.

UWF Special Mission Recognition Denise Lenore, January, 25, 2026



United Women In Faith (aka United Methodist Women) have been presenting a Special Mission Recognition Award since 1973. Over 86 awards have been presented to date to deserving persons both men & women for their service to United Women in Faith, the Church, as well as in other areas.

Today, we are recognizing a person born in South Carolina, Denise Lenore. She received her education at Winthrop University in Rock Hill a four-year top-ranked, mid-sized public regional university. There she received her B/A in History, Political Science and Secondary Education. She was active as the Yearbook Editor and a member of the Phi Beta Epsilon Sorority.

Denise spent several years at Regis University, a Jesuit University in Denver, Colorado earning her MBSH in Business Administration and Management graduating with honors.

Since 2004 she has been the Senior Pastor at the 1st Evangelical Church of Christ in Los Angeles. She attended Fuller Seminary from 2011-2016 where she became an Ordained Minister. For three years she was the children's minister at La Canada United Methodist Church.

In addition to her pastoral duties over the years she spent 35 years at Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles serving as manager of the Center for Medical Education, as well as a national faculty member for the residency program, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. She also served as a state faculty member for physician education at the CA Medical Association's Institute for Medical Quality.

Denise's last 7 years at Kaiser Permanente, she managed the training team that rolled out the electronic medical records software training physicians, nurses, and staff of Southern California. Denise assisted Departments in developing physician schedules, created schedules within the system, managed training schedules within the system.

Denise joined 1st UMC of Canoga Park in 2023. She currently serves as a Sunday school teacher for our youngest children, a counter and researches problems within the finance area. Periodically she will step in and give a spiritual inspiring message on Sunday.

Some of her happiest moments are when she travels back to South Carolina to visit her brothers. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her roommates, Suzie and Kathy and her dog.

Outreach Committee

Lenten Project

Blessing Bags for the Unhoused
Between March 1st - March 22nd First United
Methodist Church of Canoga Park will be
collecting items for Blessing Bags. Below is a list of
needed items for the Blessing Bags.

Needed

- 150 pair of Crew Socks (all sizes)
- 150 Protein/Energy Bars
- 150 Small Snacks (individual packs)
- 150 Bottles of Water (8 oz or 16 oz size)
- 150 Toothbrush Head Covers
- 150 Combs
- 20 Lip Balm
- 150 1st Aid Kits (found at Dollar Tree)
- 150 Emery Boards
- 150 Q-Tips (packets of 10 in snack bags)
- 150 Gallon Size Ziploc Bags
- TRAVEL Size Items Needed
- 50 Facial Tissues
- 54 Deodorant
- 136 Skin/Hand Lotion

Please bring your donations to church on Sunday,
to the church office or order online and mail to
Shari Worrell's home by Sunday, March 22nd. You
can also make monetary donations for the needed
items and the Outreach/Mission team will
purchase the items for you. Please put Blessing
Bags on the memo line. The whole congregation
will be invited to assemble the Blessing Bags after
Worship on Palm Sunday, 29th.

Questions? Contact Shari Worrell at
sharikworrell@gmail.com, 310-902-0179 or on
Sunday.

The Outreach/Mission Committee members are:
Valerie Aivasian, Carol Berns, Mike Easterly, Nancy
Easterly, Nancy Summer, Valerie Woods and Shari
Worrell. They welcome you to join them.

*"You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the
needy and to the poor, in your land."*

Deuteronomy 15:11

Rummage Sale

We are excited to announce an upcoming Church
Rummage Sale, and we would love for you to be
part of it!

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

This rummage sale is open to anyone in the
congregation who would like to:

Donate gently used items

Help organize and sort donations

Label items with prices

Assist with setup on the day of the sale

Help with teardown once the sale concludes

Whether you can offer time, items, or both, every
contribution makes a difference and helps support
this wonderful church fundraiser. All proceeds to
benefit Outreach/Mission projects.

Further details – including donation drop-off times
and volunteer coordination – will be shared in
April's edition of The Courier.

Thank you in advance for stepping up and
volunteering your time, energy, and generosity.

May our loving Lord bless you ten-fold for your
participation and joyful spirit.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Carol Berns, Rummage Sale Coordinator

818-427-4187



**FOOD
PANTRY**

*Remember
to bring
food for
the West
Valley*

*Food Pantry
on Communion Sundays.*

Reports from the Administrative Committee

Financial Update

We approved the 2026 Budget at the 2/10/2026 Administrative Committee meeting. It's the strongest budget in over 10 years! A few highlights from our 2025 Year End Statement: The larger designated fund account accounts from the Balance Sheet 1) Memorials \$8,838 2) Education \$12,711 3) Worship \$6000 4) Good Samaritan \$3747 5) Capital Fund \$25,659 6) Endowment Fund \$80,000. P&L income numbers 1) Total giving \$119,544 2) Rental Income \$239,616 3) Investment income, Realized and Unrealized – about \$12,000. P&L Expenses 1) Employee and Ministerial Expenses about \$164,000 2) Facility Expenses \$155,758 3) Conference apportionments \$20,364. Net 2025 income = (-17,421) funded by a drawdown of designated Funds.

Facility Update

Ants, Ants, Ants.....we treated them again behind the Fellowship Hall. The last wood sprinkler valve box (which are susceptible to subterranean termites) was replaced with a plastic box. Wood chips were spread about the campus and the grass area near the sanctuary buildings were filled with dirt and seeded in efforts to eliminate elevation changes that people can trip on.

User Group Update

On Saturday morning 2/14/2026, about 15 volunteers came to prepare the Fellowship Hall for the Chaminade Preparatory (wrestling team) who will take over the first floor of the Fellowship Hall as of 2/15/2026. Much was accomplished. All tables and chairs were moved to new locations or stored under the stage or in the back shower areas. Some of the heaviest tables were taken outside to be given away or disposed of. Lightweight tables and padded chairs were brought

over to the sanctuary for our use on Sunday's. Additional cleaning was done in Room 8 of the education building which we would like to rent out. Many additional projects were tackled. It was heartwarming to see the support given by our church family!!

*Children's Moment
with Dante Wilson
in church on February 15*



*People lifted on the
prayer chain:*

Tammy Cates Palmerlee

Ken and Lori Dimmick

Kathy Borisoff

Dana Dreyfuss

Don and Evelyn Heim

Laurie Berger

Novelette Currie

Gary Johnson

Hank Suzukawa

Irma Santos and family

Brenda Jones

Shari Kelley Worrell

Joann Butler

Tom and Glynene Roe

Our Church

*Send prayer requests to
Anita Parrinello
luv2bjedi@gmail.com
and CC Pastor Elaine
(eshinpauill@gmail.com)*





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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All Church Luncheon Sunday, March 22nd

Join us for our All Church Luncheon on Sunday, March 22nd immediately following worship service. Good food, good fellowship — everyone is welcome!

Please note: the luncheon has been moved up one week from its usual fifth Sunday date. On Palm Sunday, March 29th, we will be packing Lenten Blessing Bags for our unhoused neighbors after worship service. All are welcome to participate in this meaningful act of service as we enter Holy Week.

Come for the fellowship on the 22nd. Come back to serve on the 29th. Invite a friend — there's always room at the table!

Good Friday Service, Friday, April 3rd At 5:00 pm

Join us as we gather on Good Friday, April 3rd at 5:00 PM for a solemn time of reflection and worship as we remember the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the cross.

This is a sacred moment in our faith journey — a time to pause, to remember the price that was paid, and to prepare our hearts for the joy of Resurrection Sunday. Come as you are and draw near to the cross.