



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

Preschool 818.340.6639

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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

January 2023

Heart to Heart

“Behold, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people.”

Isa. 43:19-21

Welcome the New....Embrace the New....Work with the New.

God has been doing ‘new things’ since the Creation. While this passage points to the first coming of Jesus Christ, we wait upon the next “new thing” which will be his return. All around us is the evidence of the objective reality that God is working. He promises that the Holy Spirit is the difference-maker who enables us to walk by faith in obedience to Christ.

I’ve been asking what is God’s vision for our church. This Isaiah passage kept on coming to me. “Behold, I am doing a NEW thing!

Now, I invite you to question with me what is this new thing that God wants to do here at First UMC of Canoga Park. Some of us do not like change. We are creatures that like ‘security’ and ‘comfort.’ I get it. In our fast paced changing world, one place we want to stay the same is the church.

Ever since I became a seminarian in 1994, I moved almost every two years grabbing a cheaper but a safer place to live in. Now if it were up to me, I would like to live in the same place as long as I possibly can. It takes effort to learn the roads, find grocery markets, gas stations, schools, a groomer, hair stylist, dry cleaner, gym, etc. However, there is a beauty in receiving a new day, a new year, experiencing a new thing, encountering new ways, meeting new neighbors, and making new friends.

It’s merrier. It’s different and fun. It’s exhilarating to see new ways. It’s nice to get to know new people. Changes and new things can be good.

So, let’s welcome a new year! Let’s welcome a new wave of change.

Let’s open our hearts and minds to the movement of the Holy Spirit for new things to happen. I hope we can be a welcoming community and embrace the new that God envisions in us.

Let’s welcome the happy new year 2023!

Pastor Elaine, Your shepherd



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paul

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux

MacKinnon



- 10 Beverly Ewing
- 14 Mary McKibben
- 21 Lora O'Connor
- 22 Will Landrum
- 25 Mervin Hewitt
Janet Lauredo
- 26 Brian Finley
Willard Imai
- 30 JoAnne McColloch
- 31 Mary Mackay

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



January Flower Calendar

- 1 Open
- 8 Open
- 15 Open
- 22 Open
- 29 Open

January Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus, Hall 1:45 pm
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 3:00 pm
- Monday Harmonettes, Fellowship Hall Lounge, 10:30 - 12:30 pm
Cub Pack 474, Boy Scout Room, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Friday Silicon Andhra, Rm.10 and Library, 5:30-7:30 pm
Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

Other Activities

- Saturday 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

Coming in February

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way



Live Streaming Available

Live streaming of Sunday morning worship services are continuing. There are two different ways that you can access live streaming.

Visit <https://www.umccp.org/videos/> and the livestream will be at the top of the page. The livestream will begin a few minutes before the service starts on Sunday at 10 am.

Subscribe to Grant Simmons' YouTube channel at <https://youtube.com/user/Spetet> and click on the bell icon to be notified when livestreams begin.

Nursery Attendant

The church is still looking for a nursery attendant to take care of toddlers and young children during church services. Contact the church office if you might know someone who would be the perfect match for the job. A description of the job can be e-mailed to any possible candidates.



Next UWF Mission Team meeting

Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 10:00 am via Zoom

We Are All Part of God’s Story

All United Women in Faith members are encouraged to attend the Recognition Event where we will have recognition of 5-Star Units, 60/40 Units, Mission Today and the Reading Program.

Local Recognition Event will be Saturday, January 21, 2023, at 1:30 pm.

Look for Canoga Park’s accomplishments in the next Courier.

North District UWF Officer Training

Local Leadership Officer Training is for the Local Organization Officers, Circle Leaders and those interested in UWF at the local level. All Officers, as well as those interested in finding out more about leadership development can attend the Officer Training. Let’s join online and meet North District sisters!

Visit calpacumc.org/uwfaith to register.

Trainings are on Jan. 14, 17, 18, 19, and 23.

See website for training titles and times.

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends
 Thursday, January 26
 1:00 pm
 Church Parlor

Sarah Circle
 Thursday, January 12
 9:30 am
 Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
 22323 Sherman Way,
 near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love
 Wednesday, January 18
 6:30 pm
 Church Library

On This Day....

- Let me choose Courage not comfort
- Let me choose Peace not strife or conflict.
- Let me choose Grace not anger or resentment
- Let me choose Gratitude not jealousy.
- Let me choose Mindful Peace not anxiety over yesterday or tomorrow.
- Let me choose Compassion not indifference toward others.
- Let me choose Respect not indignity, for those who are different than me.
- Let me choose Change not complacency or possessiveness.
- Let me choose Purpose not my selfish interests or whims.
- Let me choose Love not hate or separation.
- Let me choose hope in You, God and not the passing things and values of this world.

Jeffrey C. Tucker: author, blogger, spiritual care professional, and life coach.



Preschool News

We had a small Christmas program in our classroom where the kids sang the songs they had been working on since Halloween!

As you are reading this, we are enjoying our winter break! Our first day back to school will be Monday, January 9th, ready and refreshed for a new year!

We will observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 16th.

Happy 2023!!

Wendy Finley



Edwin's Computer Ministry

If you're having problems with your computer and would like someone to look at it (for free) please contact me. Edwin works in the IT department at Valterra Products, where I work, and has gladly looked at a number of computers for the church and church members. It's done remotely (he doesn't come to your house, he just connects onto your computer through the internet to work on it) on the third Saturday of each month between 9-11am. If you or your computer needs help, please contact me and I'll schedule you in!



George Grengs, george@valterra.com or 818.632.7538.

Financial Update:

2023 budget vs. 2022 budget

- * Faith commitment: \$115,000 up 5.5%
- * Building Use income: \$144,000 up 31%
- * Total Expenses about even at 284,000
- * Deficit to pay all apportionments down to \$16,500 from \$52,500 in 2022

Facilities Update

Sanctuary/Office buildings

Our roofer, Gaston Fontes, was out in late November to do some additional patches around the A/C unit above the Women's bathroom. They think they have fixed the problems. This will allow for us to complete the painting for the restroom in early 2023. Two of the urinals on the property were not flushing correctly and were repaired in mid-December.

Solar

In late November, the timer for the lights under the solar panels stopped working and we had it replaced.

George Grengs



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers on a given Sunday, there are several options

First: Sign up on the Flower Calendar for the date you would like or call the church office.

Second: Bring flowers from your garden, or a flower arrangement or flowering plant & bring it on the Sunday requested.

Third: Send a check for \$65, marked "Altar flowers for the date requested." Flowers will be ordered from a local florist.

Questions? Contact Sydney in the church office 818-340-2950 or Mary Mackay 818-731-5872.



Hanging of the Greens

Diane Rosales and Judith Austin from the Family Life Committee send thanks to all who showed up to decorate the church. They had a sizable group who all helped to put up the decorations and see that everything could be magically lit for services.

New Bishop

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank is assigned to California-Pacific Conference and her appointment begins January 1, 2023. Escobedo-Frank's family has a rich history in the Methodist tradition, with her mother's grandfather serving as a circuit rider in the early church in Oklahoma and Kansas. Her grandmother crossed the Rio Grande while in labor with her father to find religious freedom.

She was raised along the border in Nogales, both on the U.S. and Mexican sides. She believes The United Methodist Church, especially in the Western Jurisdiction, is poised to be an example of what it means to be the church right now in the world – through relationships, community engagement and what she described as John Wesley's "perfecting love" by including those who live on the margins of society and don't have a seat at the table. "I think growing in love is what can change us," she said. She comes from the Desert Southwest Conference and serves Paradise Valley UMC in Phoenix until being welcomed here on January 1.



Farewell Letter to the Churches, Laity, & Clergy of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference

It is with deep gratitude and thanksgiving that I write this final letter to our beloved California-Pacific Annual Conference. As I move to the retired status as a United Methodist Bishop, I have been reflecting on what the annual conference has meant to me both personally and professionally.



Sojourning back to Cal-Pac in 1985, serving two great churches here, and then joining the Cabinet for eight full years before being elected to the Episcopacy out of this annual conference all deeply humbles me. Our California-Pacific Annual Conference welcomed me, trained me, and gave me opportunity after opportunity to grow and mature in my ministry.

I remember being asked to serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry very shortly after returning and then being awed by being asked to serve as the Candidacy Registrar with no experience. I must have made many mistakes in that role because I had no idea what I was doing! Yet the Board of Ordained Ministry continued to hone my leadership, and one of the biggest honors was being asked to Chair the Board for eight years. I think I served our Board of Ordained Ministry, including as the Cabinet Representative for over twenty years! Talk about putting up with my limited leadership!

It was our annual conference that elected and sent me to four General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and a highlight of my career was leading the delegation. However, without a doubt, the greatest gift was being an Episcopal Candidate from Cal-Pac twice, and really it was our Jurisdictional delegation that enabled me to be elected in 2008.

Our Cal-Pac delegation supported me unconditionally and personally convinced other delegations to support me. Words are so inadequate for how humbling and grateful I am for this love and support. I think of each one of you delegation members that year, and my heart is filled with thankfulness.

Needless to say, I never imagined that I would be able to return as an active Bishop to Cal-Pac, as returning to one's home conference is rare in Episcopal assignments. Yet, I was given the unconditional gift of serving for six years in our annual conference. It remains one of the greatest honors that I have experienced! This all adds up to the debt of gratitude I owe the California-Pacific Annual Conference. You have trained, mentored, supported, and cared for me throughout my entire professional career. I can never repay you for all that you have given to me. All that is left is for me to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I also know that I leave you with an exceptional new Episcopal leader, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, assigned to the annual conference. We are lucky to get Bishop Escobedo-Frank assigned to us, but I'm sure she will come to realize how lucky she is to be coming to such a strong and committed annual conference.

As I retire from the Episcopacy but not the ministry, my heart could not be more full of joy and gratitude.

May you continue to be the Hope,

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya,

Street Work on Sherman Way

The City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Services will begin roadway improvements in the month of January on Sherman Way, from Shoup Avenue to Fallbrook Avenue. In the first phase of the project, they will remove the old asphalt surface, and in the final phase they will resurface the street. Temporary “No Parking” signs will be posted on the street at least 24 hours before the actual work begins.

The first phase of the project is scheduled for Monday, January 9 through Wednesday, January 11 between the hours of 6:30 am and 4 pm. The final phase is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18 through Thursday, January 19, also between the hours of 6:30 am and 4 pm. Please note that these times are subject to change if extenuating circumstances arise. The church office will be in communication with the supervisors of this project to ensure that those who need access to the parking lot during these times will be able to drive through.

Vehicles will still have access during the resurfacing project, although we are encouraged to limit our driving in that area to avoid possible damage to our vehicles. The only time that access will be restricted within the area is when the street is coated with liquid asphalt prior to the resurfacing of the street.

Sunday Fellowship Time

Each Sunday following worship, refreshments are provided to enjoy a time of fellowship. Here is the monthly schedule of workers providing the refreshments and assisting in clean up.

1st Sunday Sharon Mountford
2nd Sunday Nancy Johnson & Bev Ewing
3rd Sunday Toby Lane & JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
4th Sunday Glynene Roe & Chandra Seeger
5th Sunday Shirley FitzGeorge & Mary Mackay

Our thanks to Tim O’Connor, Ken Dimmick and George Grengs for taking out the trash each Sunday.

If you would like to help in providing refreshments on a given Sunday, let the team for that week know. (This schedule is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen).

A “Donation Jar” is also being provided for your donations to help with the cost of supplies. We are an “Equal Opportunity Kitchen” – everyone is welcome to be a part!

Mary Mackay, Coordinator



Weldon German
Surgery

Roger Johnson
Covid

Dave Perry

Brenda Jones

Shirley Thomson

Laurie Berger

Kelly

Tim and Lora’s daughter

Rosalind

Shirley’s daughter-in-law

Steve Robertson

Bonnie Doshier

Chuck Mabry

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





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West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Return Service Requested



*Remember to bring food for the
West Valley Food Pantry
on Communion Sundays,
the first Sunday of every month.*

*Collection boxes at other times are
located in the hallway outside
the kitchen.*

You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the church.

Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Select Canoga Park First United Methodist Church
as your charity.

Remember to start at **smile.amazon.com**
to support the church.

