



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

E-mail: firstumccp@gmail.com

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

Pastor: eshinpaull@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

June 2023

Heart to Heart

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers, grandfathers, and all father-figures around us! Let us pray for all the father figures in this world.

Blessing for fathers:

Loving God, we give you thanks for the many gifts you have given us; the gift of life, the gift of those who love us, and especially, today, we thank you for the gift of our fathers.

We ask your blessing upon our fathers who gave us rules to live by, standards to uphold, joys to cherish, faith to live by, hopes worth dreaming of and who blessed our lives with their unselfish and unconditional love.

We ask your blessing upon our fathers who are unable to be with us today. May they know how much we love and care for them.

We ask your blessing upon adoptive fathers, that they may always know their special role of being a true father, a revelation of God's love for their children.

We ask your blessing upon fathers who have lost children through miscarriage, stillbirth, crib death, sickness, accident and tragedy, that they may have your continuing strength and courage.

We ask your blessing upon those who want to be fathers or have another child, that they may practice patience and feel your love as they wait and hope.

We remember our fathers who have died and for the unique way they revealed for us your love. We ask that you keep them in your care until the time comes for us to join them in your Kingdom.

And we ask your blessing upon the fathers in our congregation. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Give them the strength to live the faithful and loving lives you call them to live. Protect and guide them. Keep them in your care and grant that their children may always honor them with a spirit of profound respect.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Anonymous.



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operator

Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux

MacKinnon



June Calendar

June Birthdays

- 1 Sam Arnold
Karen Grengs
- 3 Betty Phillippi
- 11 Ron Alderman
- 14 Charles Niss
- 19 Robert Lamb
- 23 Guy Maturo
- 24 Jim Ervin
- 26 Nicole Woods
- 29 Toby Lane
Tammy Palmerlee

Anniversaries

- 2 Finley, Wendy & Brian
- 5 Simmons, Grant & Trish
- 9 Roberson, Noel & Nanette
- 12 Flores, Christopher
Abanto & Lea Santos
- 21 O'Connor, Tim & Lora
- 25 Roe, Tom & Glynene
- 29 Ervin, Jenny & Jim

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



If you would like to provide altar flowers on a given Sunday, in honor or memory of someone, please contact Sydney in the church office, 818-340-2950 or Mary Mackay, 818-731-5872.

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus, Hall 1:45 pm
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Friday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

Other Activities

Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference "Ending Physical & Spiritual Hunger: Nourish!"

The 39th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference will be held in person, June 14-17, 2023, at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles. All plenary and business sessions will be live-streamed.

Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am

Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

Sunday 11 Baptism

Are you interested in joining the family of God?

Please contact the church office or let Pastor Elaine know if you want to join the family of First UMC of Canoga Park!"

Wed.-Fri 13-15 SFVYC Summer Jam, 9:00 am - noon

Saturday 17 Rock Chippers, Lounge, 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Wed.-Fri 20-22 SFVYC Summer Jam, 9:00 am - noon

Coming in July

Saturday 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am

Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

Pastor Elaine is on vacation until June 1.

Please contact the church office for emergency, or contact Roger Johnson, our Interim Lay leader.



UWF 2023 Directory

Please advise Shirley Thomson either by phone or e-mail at sthomson1@socal.rr.com. of any changes in telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. as I hope to work on the new UWF 2023 Directory soon.

CAL-PAC UWF has presented their Vice- President, Jackie Campbell, to take over the position of the presidency due to the untimely passing of the President, Eutha Hankinson.

Program Resources Coordinator reports the following: There were a total of 84 adult participants in the reading program. There were 4 Children/Youth participants. The 2022 Reading Program banner went to the North District of which we are a member. The Reading Trophy for Children/Youth was won by the South District.

God's Pharmacy

Shari Worrell presented an interesting program to Faith, Hope and Love Circle last month. Shirley thought it would be interesting to include the information in the *Courier*, but it won't fit into this space. You can find multiple sites on your computer by searching on *God's Pharmacy*.

Perhaps the most appealing layout is on Pinterest, but the ideas are from Maria Treben's book, *Health through God's Pharmacy: Advice and Proven Cures with Medicinal Herbs*.

Treben was an Austrian herbalist who lived in the last century, from 1907-1991. Some of her biographers associate her with the illustrious 12th century Hildegard von Bingen, a very lofty association indeed.

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

Thursday, June 22
12:00 noon, Room 10

The book
Who Killed Jane Stanford
by Richard White
will be reviewed by
Mary Mackay

Sarah Circle

Thursday, June 8
9:30 am
Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, June 21
6:30 pm
Dinner out TBA



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.



From the Mailbox

Dear First United Methodist Church,

I was able to join the live stream and thought it was a beautiful Easter service, especially “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” which is one of my favorite Easter Hymns. I also appreciated the prayer for us [scholarship recipients] by Rev. Elaine Shin-Paull.

Laura Longman lived a powerful life and I feel honored to be mentioned in a memorial of her. I hope I can learn from her attitude: “She learned to deal with the reality of dying and got on with the business of living”.

Thank you again,
Brice Douglas

To: First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park,

What a beautiful ceremony! Thank you for inviting us to join virtually and for the sweet prayer for us [Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Recipients]. It was touching. I will definitely keep in touch.

Kierston Douglas



The Chosen

Roger Johnson continues to lead the video/study series of classes with the final four Episodes of season 1. This video series adds background to the personalities and character of some of the people he chose to follow Him. Meetings will be in the Library after church services (11:30am) on the following Sundays:

May 21, Sunday, “Invitations”

May 28, Sunday, “I Am He”

June 4, Sunday, “A Message”

June 11, Sunday. “The Shepherd”

If you are curious about this series, come and see. We hope to see you there!

Nursery Attendant Needed

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park
22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
www.umccp.org.....818.340.2950

Position

Responsible for the care of infants and toddlers during Sunday worship and fellowship time.

Duties

- * Opens and prepares the room no later than 9:45 am on Sunday mornings.
- * Welcomes children and their parents or grandparents.
- * Uses curriculum when appropriate.
- * Engages the children in creative play, stories, and songs, providing a happy Sunday experience.
- * Monitors nursery equipment and supplies.
- * Cleans nursery and locks up before leaving each Sunday.
- * Other duties as needed.

Qualifications

- * Christian familiar with children’s Bible stories and songs.
- * A warm, loving adult able to provide all aspects of child care, including changing diapers and giving bottles.
- * Enjoys being with children.
- * Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- * Able to handle emergency situations.
- * A flexible, dependable and cheerful team player.
- * Experience caring for infants and small children; references required.

Please contact the church office ... 818-340-2950.

Hope of the Valley

Hope of the Valley was on the evening news on May 15. It opened its doors and received its first residents. This is the facility which we highlighted in the May Courier.



Each room has two bunk beds with the normal set-up for one adult and 2-3 kids. In addition, there is a desk and a TV.



Preschool Recognition

June 11, Sunday Service

After 51 years of serving the San Fernando Valley community through a weekday preschool program, it is coming to an end.

With the current market factors, including the changing in neighborhood demographic, changes in LAUSD policies and the disruption from the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to drastic decline in enrollment, we have determined that it is no longer fiscally sustainable to continue to operate the school.

Even though we are discontinuing the preschool ministry, we know that when one door is closed, God opens another door. With that trust in the Lord, we move forward with hope and anticipation on what God has in stored for us.

We want to thank Director Wendy Finley, and teacher Mary Tuszynski for their years of dedication and work with the children. We would like to show our appreciation to Wendy and her husband, Brian for all of their work. We are inviting them to our June 11th Sunday worship service to thank and say our last goodbyes.

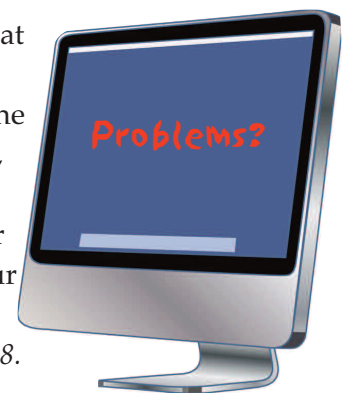
I hope you can show up and tap their shoulders for dedicated service unto the Lord. Let's come together as God's church and celebrate 51 years of the Preschool's legacy.

Pastor Elaine

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 used to work and has gladly looked at several 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. Joe Dedinas was the last member that had great success improving his ability to connect with others. If you or your computer need help please give me a call and I'll schedule you in!

George Grengs, george.grengs@outlook.com or 818.632.7538.



Bishop Escobedo-Frank's Response on the Border: Would You Harbor Me?

An old gospel song, sung by Sweet Honey in the Rock, echoes through my brain, my body, and tonight, through my soul. The haunting lyrical sound moans:

Would you harbor a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew?
A heretic, convict, or spy?
Would you harbor a runaway woman or child?
A poet, a prophet, a king?
Would you harbor an exile or a refugee?
A person living with AIDS?
Would you harbor a Tubman, a Garret, a Truth,
A fugitive or a slave?
Would you harbor a Haitian, Korean, or Czech?
A lesbian or a gay?

After a repeat of the lyric above, the song ends with the reciprocate phrase:

Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?
Would you harbor me?
Would I harbor you?

That's the question that is repeating in my soul tonight as I hear from the people who are on our southern border attempting to help people stay alive and even, hope of all hopes, feel welcomed after their long and dangerous journey.

These who are "boots on the ground," who live in the areas that are making the news, who see the real events in real time...they are telling me about the desert town called Jacumba Hot Springs, where a growing peaceful crowd is moving between two borders: the wall on the Mexico side and the wall on the US side. There they wait in the hot desert days and cold desert nights, and there they move on to the places where the volunteers are providing food and water. The United Methodists have a church there, Jacumba UMC, near the gas station that has become a staging area for the town. The townspeople are doing their best to help provide food, water, and shelter.

There is a quiet, determined move to provide aid for the people who have arrived in their town.

The shelters are not full. The churches in nearby cities are waiting with temporary housing and with food and water. The travelers include children, and babies, and pregnant women, and teens traveling alone. And they, the people who are able to make a difference, are doing what they can to change a little part of the world. They are providing harbor spaces for our traveling friends.

And so, as I go to bed this evening before Mother's Day, I hear the words rumble in my every cell:

Will you harbor me?
Will I harbor you?
Will you harbor me?
Will I harbor you?

Dear God, as I lay down to rest this night, may You create a miracle of justice, mercy, and shelter. And even more, may You help us to welcome our hurting and tired neighbors. And even more, would You help us create a politic of love and policies of compassion? We are tired, weary, and worn out from the callous and inhumane behaviors of our world. Save us, O Merciful God of Love!
Amen and amen and amen.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
California-Pacific Conference
The United Methodist Church

A Little Background

Our Bishop, the Reverend Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank, has been on the leading edge of church vitalization and transformation. She has served the church and community in progressive roles and responsibilities including working with people on the street, founding a church Farmer's Market, working with immigrant populations, the opening of The Inn, and gathering a community rich in diversity.

Financial Update

The Administrative Committee had a chance to review the first quarter financial statements during the May meeting. Now that we have better statements, we have begun making adjustments that have been needed since Covid. We started with minor adjustments on some of the old Designated Fund accounts on the Balance Sheet that are no longer active and there will be more adjustments next month. After a closer look at the Profit and Loss statement it looks like we ran about \$4000 over budget for the quarter. Not an overwhelming number but we will need to tighten up our spending and reduce our expenses to keep this deficit from growing throughout the year. At this point, the Administrative Committee is glad we're on track to have a better understanding of where we stand and what needs to be done to get the church back on a sound financial footing.

Facilities Update

Landscaping: The gardeners finished cleaning both the Fellowship Hall and Education Building roofs. There are always small items being fixed and new projects being identified – a busted sprinkler pipe that had been run over – extending roof drains that now have a thick layer of tree chips and are completely covered – more tree trimming for later in the year. Always plenty to do!!



The property is looking good. We've had many good comments on the flowers that were planted near the front entrance and in the Memorial Garden before Easter. The Rose Garden is amazing! Praise God – we have a beautiful campus!

Maintenance

We have identified a gas leak, thanks to Paul Cady who brought it to our attention. The leak is under the cement walkway between the cell tower and the Women's restroom. After the gas company was called out, we had to shut off all gas to the Sanctuary and Education buildings. Luckily, the weather is warming up since we're going to have to do without gas for awhile as we determine how best to proceed. The fix will entail either a re-pipe (probably over the roof) or maybe a conversion to all electric. This leak partly explains the high gas bills in the first quarter when we went \$2000 over budget which was a combination of cold weather, super high gas rates, and a gas leak.



Tom and Glynene Roe

Brenda Jones and family

Mary Beth Godwin's
in-laws' daughter

Susan Fisher's sisters Ann
and Jane

Doris Hood's friend
Jonathan Wolfe

Anita Parrinello's brother,
David for
hip replacement surgery

Mark Nogy

Jennifer Alderman

Pastor Elaine and
Gideon Paull

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





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22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Return Service Requested

In Memoriam

Michael Elwood Hawley

8 March 1944 – 21 March 2023

whose ashes were interred in the Rose Garden
on Sunday, April 23.

Leon Charles Summer

31 July 1948 – 1 April 2023

whose life was celebrated by a large gathering at
our church on May 6.

Pastor Elaine conducted two memorial services recently,

one for Michael Hawley,
formerly a very active member of our church,

and one for Lee Summer,
husband of Nancy Summer.