



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

E-mail: firstumccp@gmail.com

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

December 2023

Heart to Heart

As November's crisp Autumn leaves fall,
December ushers in a month filled with joyful festivities.

It's that magical time of the year
when we gather with loved ones, give gifts,
and reflect on the past
while looking forward to new beginnings.

May this holiday season fill your hearts with happiness,
bring smiles to your faces,
and ignite the spirit of cheer within you.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

Warmest wishes,
Pastor Elaine



Gathered for the Monthly Social on November 20,
when making Advent Wreaths was the activity de jour,
these crafty folks went home with handsome wreaths to decorate
their dining room tables.



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Irma Hart

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operator

Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux
MacKinnon



December Birthdays

- 1 Shirley FitzGeorge
- 7 Dawn Hromadka
Brandon Seeger
- 10 Verda Longan
Marianne Menter
- 11 Christopher Guerrero
- 12 Sal Zelaya
- 13 George Miller
- 18 Lori Dimmick
- 20 Marilu Mampell
- 21 Albert Magnaye
- 22 Ander Rylan Cates
- 23 Chris Fernando
- 30 Pat Connolly

Anniversaries

- 5 Will & Erin Landrum
- 6 Robert & Laverna Baker

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



December

- 3 Open
- 10 Diane Rosales *in memory of Frank*
- 17 Lori Dimmick *in honor of her birthday*
- 24 Open
- 31 Open

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.

The Church Office will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day

December Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am
The Chosen Bible Study, Library, 11:30 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday San Fernando Valley Master Chorale, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 7:00 pm
Virtual prayer meetings: Mondays at 7:30 pm on Zoom.
Contact the Church Office for the Zoom link.
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-10:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group (Learning to Live), Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Wesley Bible Study, Library, 11:00 am
Narcotics Anonymous (Recovery Zone), Parlor 7:00 pm
Men's AA Step Guide, Room #10, 7:00 pm
- Friday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
SiliconAndhra, Room# 10 & Library, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Saturday SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 -12:30
Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

Other Activities

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
Hanging of the Greens, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
Deck the Sanctuary for Christmas!
Please come and spend a couple of hours decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent season.
We need all hands on-deck!
Thanks for helping the church get ready for the Christmas season.
- Sunday 24 **Christmas Sunday Service, 10:00 am, Sanctuary**
PECC, Fellowship Hall, 9:00 am - 3:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service, 5:00 pm, Sanctuary
Holiday Marathon Meeting, Fellowship Hall, 5:00 pm
(story page 3)
- Monday 25 Hindi Urdu Congregation, Sanctuary, 1:00 pm
Second day of Holiday Marathon, Hall & Lounge, 5:00 pm

Coming in January

- Saturday 6 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way



United
Women
in Faith



Future Meetings – UWF Mission Team:

Thursday, January 5, 2024 at 10:00 am via Zoom

UWF CAL-PAC Conference Annual Celebration

was held in person on October 21. Our UWF unit submitted the names of Tim and Lora O'Connor for the Candle of Commitment. They were honored at the Annual Celebration. The Candle burned for 1 minute per honoree to honor the Mission-Minded Men and Women in our Life.



UWF PLEDGE REMINDER

If you haven't sent your 2023 pledge, please mail it by December 11, 2023 to Chandra Seeger, 6625 Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377.

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends
Lunch out in December.
Location & Date TBA.
Books will be selected in January.

Sarah Circle
Thursday, December 14,
9:30 am
Breakfast at Weiler's Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love
Wednesday, December 20
at 6:30 pm
Dinner out.
Location TBA



From the Mailbox

Jonathan and Abbey Arnold have settled into their new home at 317 30th St. #107 D, Springfield, OR 97478

Dawn Hromadka has relocated to Truewood Fig Garden, 6035 N. Marks Ave. #212, Fresno, CA 93711

Holiday Marathon Meeting

Our "Sharing from the Heart" NA group will be holding a Holiday Marathon Meeting in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at 5:00 pm, Sunday December 24, with hourly evening support meetings and culminating on Christmas Day with a Potluck meal and speaker.

Our thanks to Josh Messian and his committee for hosting the outreach program this year.

Christmas Poinsettias!

Thank you for ordering poinsettias. You can take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve candlelight service.



Remember to bring food for the West Valley Food Pantry on Communion Sundays

Welcome our newest families

Andre Anderson
was baptized
on October 15th.



Welcome our new Members

Pastor Elaine received new members on Sunday, November 19.

Seen above are Noah and Angela Anderson, Robin Anderson, Suzie Fisher and Suzanna Jones.



As a special
Welcome to the Congregation gift,
they were each given a church
mug filled with goodies.



Financial Update

Denise Lenore and the Administrative Committee have begun work on the 2024 Budget. We'll update everyone with the highlights next month.

Stewardship – A Grateful Heart

We received 25 Estimate of Giving Cards equaling \$70,384 on Gratitude Sunday! Keep them coming! That's one of the best first week totals we have seen in a few years. A very generous congregation. Many Thanks!!! The program is open until the end of December.

Facilities Update

The number of emergencies has slowed over the last few months – we are thankful. There continues to be a list of small clean up items that we are continuing to work on as we move into the Advent season.

The request for a credit from the LADWP, regarding the two major water leaks we had this summer, has been re-submitted. We have an appointment to meet with them, on campus, in late November.

We were glad to see some rain in mid-November. It gives our landscaping a chance to enjoy a good watering and at the same time saves on our own water bill.

We had the solar array checked out in early November. We suspected one of the inverters was not working which seemed to be the case. With a simple reset it was up and running again. If anyone has an interest in overseeing the solar array, please contact the church office. We need someone to monitor what electricity is produced and oversee any regular maintenance or cleaning that is required. Not a lot of time required – just an interest in making sure we continue to make the most out of our solar system!

User Groups

In our effort to increase the income from our facilities we continue to look for additional user groups for both the Education Buildings & Fellowship Hall. Nothing new to report this month but we are optimistic that our efforts will pay off in 2024!
George Grengs



Advent Project

Hope the Mission Family Shelter
The Woodlands on Ventura Blvd.

Between December 3 and 17, we will be collecting money and gift cards as our Advent Project.

Hope the Mission's family shelter, opened in May, 2023 with 100 units, housing up to 400 people. Each room comes with four bunk beds, a microwave, mini-fridge and bathroom. Residents are provided three meals per day as well as mental health services if needed. Currently there are 275 children in residence, most of whom are in school.

You may purchase as many gift cards as you choose, but we ask that each gift card does not exceed \$25. These will be distributed to the families living at Hope the Mission so they can purchase Christmas gifts, clothes, shoes, etc. for their children.

Suggested gift cards (no fast-food gift cards)

Target	Wal-Mart
Dollar Tree	99 Cent Store
Ralph's	Gas cards
Burlington Coat Factory	

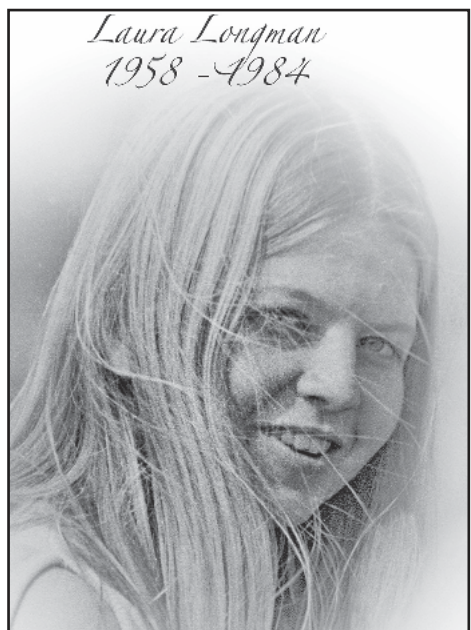
Please drop off the gift cards or checks, payable to the church (in the Memo line, please note Advent Project) in the church office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the church office.

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

Deuteronomy 15:11

Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship

2024 Applications Available Sunday December Third



The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee begins its 40th season by announcing the availability of applications for scholarship grants to students who will be a junior or senior in college in the

Fall of 2024. At least one \$1000 scholarship grant will be given on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. Applications are available beginning Sunday, December 3, 2023 from the First United Methodist Church office. Completed applications must be returned to the church office by Thursday, February 15, 2024 to be considered.

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship is given in loving memory of Laura Lynn Longman (1958 – 1984) who grew up in First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park. Laura was a vital member of our youth group, served as liturgist, sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and was well known by most members of the church. As a young adult she contracted heart disease and eventually underwent an experimental heart transplant. She was the 176th successful heart-transplant patient at Stanford University Medical Center. She returned to the life she loved as a college junior majoring in Biochemistry at San Francisco State University. It was there, in her classroom that Laura died at the age of 25.

Laura's family and friends in the First United Methodist Church founded the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship as a living memorial to celebrate her life and her love of learning. Laura died before she could finish her college education. This scholarship is designed to help other students finish their undergraduate studies. The first scholarship grants were given on Easter Sunday, 1985. In the 39 years since then, 133 Scholarship grants have been awarded to 106 individual students.

To the student who will be a junior or senior in the Fall of 2024 and who has a grade point average of 2.75 of 4.0 or better, we invite you to consider applying for this scholarship. You will give our congregation the opportunity to help you in your college endeavor. It will give you the opportunity to receive a grant of at least \$ 1,000 toward your scholastic expenses. Recent grants have been more generous. Request an application form from the First United Methodist Church office by calling (818) 340-2950. Complete the application and return it to the church office not later than Thursday, February 15, 2024 for consideration.

For people who would like to support the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship, contributions may be made in memory of Laura Longman, or in memory or honor of your family member or friend. Please make your check payable to the First United Methodist Church with a memo designating the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship fund. If appropriate, attach a note that this contribution is in memory or honor of [your special person]. Your donation may be tax deductible. One hundred percent of your donation will be invested in scholarship benefits for students. We thank you in advance for your participation.

Thanksgiving Pot Luck Luncheon

Diane Rosales organized a very successful Pot Luck Thanksgiving Meal on behalf of the Family Life Committee after church on November 12. Seen here are some of the many tempting dishes which were served, and the diners sharing the meal and fellowship.



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Toby Lane
Dave Burdsall
Mike Cates
Jennifer Ervin
Marlene Wilkinson
Shirley Thomson
Dean Lottman
*on the death of Carolyn
Walter Partenheimer*

*Send prayer requests to
Anita Parrinello
luo2bjedi@gmail.com)
and CC Pastor Elaine
(eshinpauill@gmail.com)*

Prayer Group

The group meets every Monday from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm via Zoom. Drop in anytime you can and join us. See link on page 2.

*“And my God shall supply
all your needs according to
His riches in glory by Christ
Jesus.”
Phil. 4:19*





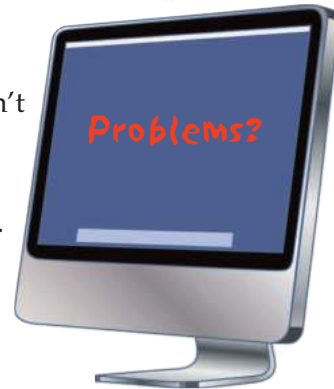
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Return Service Requested

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.