



September 2025

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: eshinpauill@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Heart to Heart

September is a reset.

New rhythms. Fresh grace. Cool breeze.

*When the leaves begin to fall,
the earth remembers how to let go.
It does not fight the coming chill.
It leans into the hush of slowing down.*

*The gold and red are not a farewell —
they are a quiet kind of glory.
Not loud like summer,
but full of meaning just the same.*

*So we gather what remains.
We bless what was.
We trust what comes.*

*And in the cooling air,
we breathe a prayer:
Lord, make me ready for the turning.
Let my life fall gently into yours.*

By anonymous

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6–7 (NIV)

Rev. Elaine Shin-Pauill



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Pauill

Music Director/ Accompanist

Paul Cady

Administrative Assistant

Ebelyn Gaytan

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

September Birthdays

- 1 Preston Simpkin
- 2 Donald Heim
- 10 Rebecca Roe
- 13 Jimmy Kaburu
- 14 Robin Anderson
- 17 Flo Lamb
- Matthew Peneyra
- Sydney Thiroux
- 18 Dominic Bautista
- Marion Henry-Karponsov
- 29 Ginger Huston
- 30 George Grengs

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



September Flower Calendar

- 7 Irma Santos
 - 14 Nancy & Roger Johnson
 - 21 Michael & Michiko Mosbe
 - 28 George & Karen Grengs
- in honor of George's birthday*

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.

September Calendar

Weekly Activities

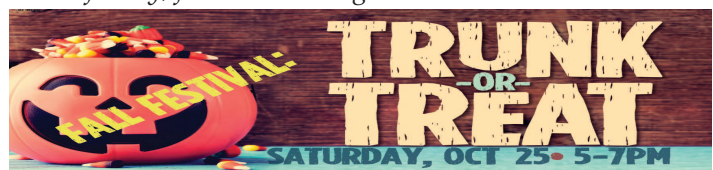
- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Fellowship Hall, 9:00 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 4:00 pm
- Monday Virtual prayer meetings: at 7:30 pm on Zoom
Meeting ID: 898 8990 4696 Passcode: 875564
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89889904696?pwd=emhFc01lY3NTNzVkRjJEWctmZndiUT09>
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-10:00 pm
Men's AA Step Guide, Room #10, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group (Learning to Live), Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday *Practicing the Way* Book Study, Library, 11 am, starting Sept. 11
Narcotics Anonymous (Recovery Zone), Parlor 7:00 pm
Men's AA Step Guide, Room #10, 7:00 pm
- Friday Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

Other Activities

- Monday 1 Labor Day, Office Closed
- Saturday 6 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank's Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- Sunday 7 National Grandparents Day
- Tuesday 9 Administrative Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Monday 15 First Day of Hispanic Heritage
- Saturday 20 Rockchippers, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm
- Sunday 21 **Back to Church Sunday/Back to School Sunday**
Presentation of Bibles to our children
- Sunday 21 **The Stronghold of the Chosen**
A nine-week Interactive Bible Study begins, in the Library following fellowship time.
See description on page 7.
- Monday 22 First day of Autumn

Coming in October

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank's Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- Sunday 5 World Communion Sunday
- Saturday 25 Trunk or Treat, 5 pm - 6 pm, FUMCCP parking lot
Invite family, friends and neighbors! All are welcome!





UWF Mission Team

Tentatively set for September 3, 2025 via Zoom

Future Meetings:

North District UWF Annual Celebration & Recognition of our Quiet Disciples

will be held September 20 at Camarillo UMC,
291 Anacapa Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

Cal-Pac UWF Conference

Annual Celebration will be held October 18 at North Hollywood UMC.

UWF 2025 Directory

is going to be reprinted due to a number of errors and will be distributed in the next few weeks.

Pledge To Mission:

United Women in Faith support programs in the United States and around the world that improve life for women, children and youth and their communities. Ninety organizations across the United States are assisted by United Women in Faith through grants, technical support, and member involvement. They also support and empower local women in 39 countries around the globe to be leaders in the church, community and world. Academic scholarships and support of Regional Missionaries are also provided. Our Canoga Park unit makes a yearly Pledge to Mission.

Shirley Thomson



*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Wednesday,
September 17 at 1:00 pm
in Room 10.
The book to be reviewed
is *God of the Woods* by
Liz Moore

Sarah Circle

Thursday,
September 11 at 9:15 am
for breakfast at Nico's
Restaurant

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday,
September 10 at 1:00 pm
in the Church Library



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

Administrative Committee Reports

Financial Update

As noted in the August Courier, we had a fraudulent \$8000 check go through our bank account. Since we identified it quickly, it was reimbursed by Bank of America. We have opened a new account and are in the process of changing our signers so that the compromised signature can't be used again. In addition, we've changed to a more secure type of check that is harder to manipulate. We'll keep our fingers crossed that this is the end of it! Many thanks to Margaret Cates for her work with the bank and others to improve the security of our bank account.

Facility Update

We still have a few major projects that won't be addressed until later this year. They are spot painting of an assortment of areas on the inside and outside of the buildings and treating the termites behind the monitors in the sanctuary. We have continued to have problems with our electrical sockets near the entrance of the

Fellowship Hall attracting homeless who use them to charge their phones. It's becoming a larger problem, and the Pre-School has lost some new student signups because of the problem. Recently, Louis Parrinello has put metal locking boxes around the receptacles. If these are broken, we'll have an electrician disconnect the outside receptacles completely.

User Group Update

We are sad to report that the San Fernando Youth Chorus has decided to leave our campus. They have been with us for many years, and we wish them all the best in their new practice facility! The Boy Scout troop was disbanded earlier this year, and we hope to have Youth Room 2 (previously the Puppet Room) clean for future use by the end of summer. The Assessor's office sent out an auditor to work with Charisma Pre-School about the amount of property taxes they will be liable for. We're glad to report the amount will be less than previously determined.

George Grengs

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.

He doesn't come to your house, he just connects to your computer through the internet 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*

Stained Glass Windows

The second window on the left side of the sanctuary is Incarnation. Dedicated in Memory of Mae Smith, Inella Strong and Ivy Bailey on August 15, 1993.



This window shows the manger in which the Christ child was laid after His birth in the stable of Bethlehem. The star above represents the Star of Bethlehem and the four points stand for the cardinal points of the compass and the order of creation. The Incarnation is the Good News that God in Christ was born in our midst, so that we might know the love and peace of God.

Shari Kelley Worrell



Time to Renew

If you are already in the Ralphs Community Rewards Program, please renew after September 1, 2025, so that our church can continue to earn rewards.

Not signed up yet? It's free and easy – just visit Ralphs.com, go to "Community Rewards," and select First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park (or enter our organization number). Every purchase you make helps support our ministry at no extra cost to you.

Organization Name:
First United Methodist Church - Canoga Park
Number: CB815

Welcome Back To School

Each student received a bag filled with a pencil-holder bag filled with 2 pencils, pencil sharpener, pen, glue stick, fruit scented eraser, highlighter, bracelet with a phrase about God, a popcorn holder, bag of popcorn, bag of chips and candy.



Shelters

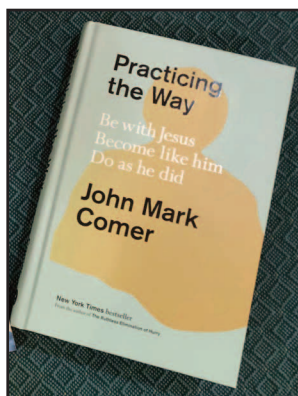
100 envelopes of laundry supplies were donated to the shelters. Each envelope contained 2 loads of laundry products: detergent sheets and dryer softener sheets.

If you have any questions about our Mission projects, please contact Shari Worrell, at sharikworrell@gmail.com or 310-902-0179.

*Shari Kelley Worrell,
Outreach/Mission Chairperson*

Wesleyan Bible Study

Our Wesleyan Bible Study returns on September 11 with John Mark Comer's *Practicing the Way*. If you are new to Bible study, you are welcome. If you have difficulty finding the book, let the church office know. We will order it for you through Amazon. Bring a Bible. Bring a friend. Come ready to learn and pray, Thursdays at 11:00 am



Simple Plan for September

Try one step. Or try all three.

One minute with God

Sit in quiet for sixty seconds each morning. Breathe. Say, "Lord Jesus, I give this day to you."

Five minutes in the Word

Read a short section of Colossians each day. Ask, "What is God saying to me?" Then live it.

One table a week

Share a meal or coffee with someone you do not know well. Listen first. Ask how you can pray for them.

One seed. One step. One prayer.

God will do more than we can ask or imagine.

Pastor Elaine

Monday Night Virtual Prayer Group



Monday Night Prayer Group Photo

We meet on Mondays to lift our joys and concerns of our congregation in prayers. Here is a glimpse of what we look like in action!

****MaryBeth Godwin is missing from this photo.**

The Stronghold of the Chosen

An Interactive Bible Study

Begins September 21

The Chosen is a multi-season video drama, Bible interpretive discussion series. Classes will be conducted for nine Sundays beginning on September 21 in the Library following the fellowship time. Please register using the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the parlor, talking with Roger Johnson or with the church office.

The Chosen, Season 5 invites you into the tumultuous final days of Jesus' earthly ministry – what's become known as Holy Week. Beginning with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem astride a donkey's colt, the story covers a side of Jesus we haven't seen before beginning with His righteous rage at the moneychangers and the Sanhedrin in the temple.

This season's study is for people who want to find a safe place in Jesus. The Stronghold of the Chosen video drama helps us see Jesus, through the eyes of His followers, as the stronghold we want and need in our lives.

What is a stronghold? Well, a stronghold is a place. It's a place of safety, fortified to protect inhabitants against attack. It's a place where people (like us) can feel secure, surrounded by high, sturdy walls. It's a place to be restored and rest. It's a place to plan the way forward.

In The Stronghold of the Chosen study, we'll learn that Jesus is our safe place, along with all the reasons we should run to and remain in Him when hard times come and also when it is time to celebrate.

Join us as we see the events of the Holy Week through the eyes of His followers and understand more deeply how people responded to Him then and how we can respond to Him now.

Roger Johnson



JOIN US
SEPTEMBER 21
 Back to church.
 Back to school.
 Back to What Matters.

Back to Church / Back to School Sunday

We will celebrate Back to Church / Back to School on Sunday, September 21

We will bless and present Bibles to kids in 3rd grade and up.

Parents, please let the office know your child's name and grade.

Invite a classmate or neighbor.

Let's fill the room with welcome and joy.



*People lifted on the
 prayer chain:*

Flora Parrinello

Howard Gettelfinger

Tammy Cates Palmerlee

Milo Anderson

Milo's stepson, Marcus

Denise Lenore

Joe Dedinas

Carol Rogers

Ray Aivazian

Mary Beth Godwin

Jennifer Alderman

Shari Worrell

Silvia Anghel

Joan Bogaty

Wayne Arendt

Sharon Mountford

Margaret Cates

Mary Mackay

Irma Santos

Ardeen Wolfe

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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Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Canoga Park, CA

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