



June 2024

The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

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Pastor: eshinpaul@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Heart to Heart

I had the opportunity to explore the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Walking among the mist-wrapped trees and hearing the vibrant calls of the resplendent quetzal birds was truly a spiritual experience. Every step through this lush, verdant forest felt like a step deeper into a divine masterpiece, perfectly orchestrated with an array of flora and fauna that seemed to thrive in the moist air.

One particularly memorable moment was when I came across a small clearing where sunlight filtered through the canopy, illuminating the vibrant colors of countless orchids and ferns—an enchanting sight that felt like a hidden sanctuary. It was a poignant reminder of the intricate beauty of life and the endless creativity of the divine.



This journey not only reconnected me with nature but also deepened my appreciation for the incredible diversity of our planet. It was a vivid demonstration of the beauty that exists when different elements coexist harmoniously under the careful hand of creation.

I am truly grateful for God who is our Creator.

Pastor Elaine

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

Paul Cady

Administrative Assistant

Ebelyn Gaytan

Sunday School Childcare

Kaley Mosquera

Veronica Cabrera

Lay Leader

Roger Johnson

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 Samuel Arnold
- Karen Grengs
- 3 Betty Phillippi
- 11 Ron Alderman
- 14 Charles Niss
- 19 Robert Lamb
- 23 Guy Maturo
- 20 Sharay Abernathy
- 24 Jim Ervin
- 29 Toby Lane
- Tammy Palmerlee
- Elaine Villanueva

Anniversaries

- 2 Brian & Wendy Finley
- 5 Grant & Trish Simmons
- 12 Christopher Abanto & Lea Flores
- 21 Tim & Lora O'Connor
- 25 Noah & Angela Anderson
- Tom & Glynene Roe
- 29 Jim & Jenny Ervin

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



June Flowers

- 2 Open
- 9 Michael & Michiko Mosbe
- 16 Open
- 23 Tom & Glynene Roe
- In honor of their 58th Wedding Anniversary*
- 30 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.

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Church service, 10:00, Sanctuary
Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 3:00 pm
- Monday Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 7:00 pm
Virtual prayer meetings: Mondays at 7:30 pm on Zoom.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?pwd=QURDc0FVUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhJVzVYUT09)
pwd=QURDc0FVUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhJVzVYUT09
Meeting ID: 89889904696.....Passcode: 875564
- 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 Wesleyan Bible Study at 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, 6:00-10:00 pm
- Saturday SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 -12:30
Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

Other Activities

- Saturday 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 am -12:30 pm
 - Tuesday 4 Boy Scouts' Parent Committee Meeting, 7-9 pm
 - Tuesday 11 Administrative Committee Meeting, Library, 6:30 pm
Boy Scouts Patrol Leader Meeting, 7-9 pm
 - June 12-15 Annual Conference in Burbnk
 - Friday 14 Flag Day
 - Saturday 15 Rock Chippers, Lounge, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
 - Sunday 16 Fathers' Day
 - Wednesday 19 Juneteenth
 - Wednesday 26 Assistance League, Hall, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm
- A private burial service for Sal Zalaya is scheduled for Friday, May 31st, at 2 pm at Oakwood Cemetery.

Sunday 30 Potluck luncheon after church, see page 5

Coming in July

- Tuesday 4 Independence Day — **Office closed**
- Saturday 6 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park



Faith Talk

Recently I attended a podcast relating to Earth Day. Items discussed were:.

Cleanse Your Heart to Become Spiritually Healthy: The Bible encourages us to draw close to God and allow our hearts and bodies to be cleansed. This is the first step in our spring cleaning project. We can't clean ourselves. Instead, we must draw near to God and ask Him to do the cleansing
Psalm 51:10: Create in me a lean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Hebrews 10:22: Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Deep Clean Your Mouth Inside and Out: Spiritual cleansing requires deep cleaning. It is housekeeping that goes beyond what others see and hear. It's a cleansing from within, inside and out. As our heart gets clean, your language should follow. This is not just talking about bad language, but also negative talk and pessimistic thoughts that contradict the Word of God and faith. This includes the challenge to stop complaining.

Luke 6:45: The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart, his mouth speaks.

Philippians 2:14: Do everything without complaining or arguing.

Mission U

2024 Mission U is being held at Cal State Long Beach July 12-14. Theresa Ellis and Barbara Miller are Co-Deans. CSULB campus is beautiful and has state-of-the-art classrooms and meeting spaces.

They offer a wide-ranging menu in the dining hall and the dorm buildings have lots of common areas. Registration opened May 12 and closes June 12. The studies are *The Kin-dom Is Among you*, and *Drawing Closer to God and One Another*. Partial Scholarships of \$150.00 are available if you wish to attend.



Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

Wednesday, June 19
 at 1:00 pm in Room 10.
 The book to be reviewed is entitled *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhorn
 Reviewer Toby Lane

Sarah Circle

Thursday, June 13,
 9:15 am
 Breakfast at Nico's
 Restaurant
 7166 Shoup Ave.,
 West Hills

Faith, Hope & Love

No meeting in June or July



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

Congratulations to LVN Lea del Rosario Flores!

Lea, a Laura Longman Scholarship recipient last year, has completed her final exams, at California Career College, and was Valedictorian of her graduating class. She will now focus on taking the State Board Nursing Exam to obtain her RN Degree. Our best wishes to and continued prayers for Lea, as she studies for this exam.

Lea and the family provided a sumptuous display of food for the congregation following worship.



*Seen above are Lea Flores, her mother Irma Santos
and Chris Flores*

General Conference

General Conference is the top lawmaking assembly of The United Methodist Church and the only entity that speaks for the denomination. It convenes every four years, with delegates from the denomination's regions around the world.

The delayed 2020 General Conference took place in May of 2024 at Charlotte NC. There were three major actions (and more) that were approved at the GC 2024:

1. Worldwide Regionalization Petitions Approved with 78% (2/3) of the vote. The worldwide United Methodist Church has been restructured by the U.S. and each central conference — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Regionalization would enable the church to be contextual in ministry while remaining connected around the mission of the church and the essentials of the faith.
2. Removal of Restrictive Language Related to LGBTQI+ People in the Book of Discipline. Any discriminatory language and bans related to ministry by, with and for “self-avowed practicing” gay and lesbian people will be removed.
3. Adoption of Revised Social Principles: The Social Principles, contained in both the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions, are statements that reflect official United Methodist teachings on a wide range of topics. They are not church law but are intended to inform United Methodist witnesses on issues of the day with a biblical foundation. The 2012 General Conference approved revising the Social Principles, setting in motion a process that involved input from people around the world, coordinated by the General Board of Church and Society. In addition to the language changes regarding human sexuality and inclusiveness, the Social Principles address the importance of advocating for human dignity and combating racism and other threats, caring for creation and the environment, standing against social ills, and supporting healthy community in all its forms, including economic, social and political.

The Potluck Luncheon is Returning!

Thanks to our Family Life Ministry team, we are excited to reintroduce the Potluck Luncheon, to be held every fifth Sunday. Mark your calendars for our first gathering on June 30th. We look forward to everyone's participation and cooperation. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Diane Rosales or Nancy Johnson.



Devon Cates and son Ander, filling the Memorial Garden fountain after Devon cleaned it.

Financial Update

Our first quarter financial statement is showing the negative cash flow that we expected as some rents have been delayed while the Education Building and Upstairs Fellowship Hall continue to be upgraded. In addition, we have spent about \$20,000 from the Capital Fund on eliminating all trip and fall issues on the asphalt/cement areas, repairing the water leak near the office, replaced a 30' portion of the asphalt shingle roof on the Fellowship Hall, and the carpet/paint upgrade to one stairwell in the Fellowship Hall. We expect to continue to run in the red until mid-year. To help strengthen our cash position we have decided to transfer about \$8,000 in investment income from the Endowment Fund. Blessings to our Endowment Fund!!!

Facilities Update

We have about five of the large light bulbs in the Fellowship Hall Gym that are out. In the past, this required driving a cherry picker into the gym to do the replacements, so it will cost some money. Our hope is to convert both the bulbs and ballasts to LEDs to save money going forward. We will also be quoting overhead fans which will be a project for 2025.

We will continue our attempts to eradicate the remaining gopher on the property!!

User Groups

Fit Families Fit Kids completed the painting and carpeting upstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Sadly, we had to cancel the last open house which was scheduled for the 4/28. We will try again on Sunday, June 9, so everyone can see the fresh new look!

Charisma Pre-School who leased the Education Buildings is continuing with building upgrades. They have completed the new HVAC system and removed the old gas heaters and wall AC units. The copper re-pipe is complete, and they have begun painting, fixture replacements and will end with new flooring. They have also notified us that the Yellow House will be used for toddlers and this building will now be included in the full upgrade program. Yet to be started is the synthetic grass in the back and a new sump pump to remove all the water that pools during the rainy season. They have decided to use Room 1 for infants, so we expect to move our Sunday School program to rooms 4 & 5.

We continue to work on a real estate listing agreement as we look for additional Fellowship Hall user groups.

California-Pacific Annual Conference

will be held June 12-15, 2024 in Burbank.

Pastor Elaine, Roger Johnson & Nancy, and George & Karen Grengs plan to attend.

Report from the Shin-Paull Recent Vacation

Two more photos from Pastor Elaine's visit to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve in Costa Rica.



Remembering Sal Zelaya



Sal Zelaya was born and raised in Nicaragua and came to the United States on a basketball scholarship. He met and married Irene in Milwaukee, where he worked as an accountant for CBS and where they had a son and a daughter, Roger and Daina. After moving to Los Angeles, he continued his profession in the aerospace industry.

He always supported Irene in both her professional and subsequent volunteer activities, first at St. Paul's and subsequently, here at Canoga Park First Methodist. Throughout their married life they traveled to many parts of the world and presented slide shows on the destinations they had visited. Sal was an excellent photographer.

During his career and after retirement, he was an avid golfer and enjoyed doing projects around the house. He and Irene were also involved in social activities with his former colleagues in the aerospace industry and family activities with their son and daughter and continued supporting her efforts in supporting sacred dance at Canoga Park and other Methodist churches.

A private burial service for Sal Zelaya will be held on Friday, May 31st, at 2:00 pm at Oakwood Cemetery.

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.



Remembering Amanda Lucas



Herb and Amanda Lucas met in Buenos Aires and were married in England in 1961. In August 1963 while working for the British government, Herb was transferred to an assignment in Hong Kong. The Lucases joined the first Methodist Church in Hong Kong, which became a tremendous part of their life and most of their social activities involved church members. After three years in Hong Kong, they returned to England, where a daughter was born in 1968. Herb's next assignment was in Nairobi, Kenya, where son Richard was born in 1969.

The rest of this eulogy was largely written by Richard and read at Amanda's memorial service on April 28.

Herb left a life of travel and public service, returning to school to become a computer programmer. In 1976 the family immigrated to the United States and settled in North Hollywood.

Amanda worked long days as a teacher's aide in a private school. Her path to being hired by the LAUSD was challenging as she was required to pass typing and language tests to qualify as a bi-lingual employee. She was hired and worked for LAUSD into her mid-70's. After work, she could be found cooking, baking, or cleaning the house.

Amanda took great pleasure in growing tomatoes, lettuce, squash, oranges, apricots, and lemons. Her front yard was reserved for flowers. Tulips were her favorite, followed by roses. She enriched her soil by composting all of the kitchen peelings which were gathered into a stainless bowl on the countertop.

Most importantly, my mother had a tremendous love for Jesus Christ. She was immensely proud after my father earned his Doctor of Ministry in 1999 and worked as an associate pastor at the North Hollywood and Canoga Park United Methodist Churches. Mom always held dad's ability in this role in the highest regard and was so pleased when he had the privilege of overseeing the baptism of his grandchildren Madison and Adam.

Mom was no stranger to adversity throughout her life, yet she held steadfast in her faith and this allowed her to navigate the challenging times in her life. She valued education and guided our success by encouraging all family members to continuously pursue higher education goals. As a wife and mother, she was selfless in every regard, placing her family well ahead of herself.

When I think of Mom's love for Jesus, I am reminded of John 5:24,

I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Shari Kelley Worrell

Denise Lenore

Margaret Cates' sister
Elise

Wendy Finley

Milo Anderson

Lea Del Rosario

Mary Beth Godwin

Jennifer Ervin

Kathy Borisoff

Kathy Carey

Robin Anderson's friend
Celina

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

