



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

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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

March 2024

Heart to Heart

As Easter approaches, I find myself reminiscing about a couple who left an indelible mark on our community. Their story isn't just a tale of generosity; it's a testament to the power of compassion and the ripple effect it can have. It all started with a knock on their door one evening, as they were struggling to put food on the table for their young family.

Standing on their doorstep was their pastor. The pastor handed them an envelope containing much-needed cash, a gift from a fellow parishioner who knew first-hand the challenges of making ends meet.

That single act of kindness changed everything for them. It wasn't just the money; it was the hope it represented, the reminder that they weren't alone in their struggles. Inspired by this unexpected blessing, they made a promise to pay it forward as soon as they were able.

And pay it forward they did. Year after year, they made it their mission to find another young family in need and offer them a helping hand, just as they had been helped. It became their tradition, their way of giving back to a world that had once shown them such kindness.

I was privileged to assist them with their tradition, knocking on the doors of many young families until the couple passed away in the year 2018. And as Easter approaches once again, I can't help but think of them and the countless lives they touched with their kindness.

Their story reminds me that Easter isn't just about chocolate bunnies and colorful eggs; it's about love, redemption, and the power of a single act of kindness to change the world. As we gather with loved ones to celebrate this sacred season, let us honor their memory by extending a helping hand to those in need, just as they did so many years ago.

May their legacy inspire us all to be a little kinder, a little more compassionate, and a little more like the true meaning of Easter. Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter.

Pastor Elaine



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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays

- 2 Ainsley Cates
- 10 Robert Baker
Logan Maturo-Johnson
Steve Robertson
Amy Seeger
- 19 Erick Rodriguez
- 23 Evelyn Heim
Anita Parrinello
- 25 Clifford Abernathy
- 30 Kyle Finley
- 31 Byron McKibben

Anniversaries

- 2 Grengs, George & Karen
- 20 Godwin, Bernie & Cate
- 29 Johnson, Roger & Nancy

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



March Flowers

- 3 open
 - 10 open
 - 17 open
 - 24 open
 - 31 Roger & Nancy Johnson
in honor of their anniversary
- 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.*



March Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am
The Chosen Bible Study, Church 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.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?pwd=QURDc0FVUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhJVzVYUT09MeetingID:85466860517.....Passcode:229523>
- 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
Bring a Bible and a pen! We meet in the church library.
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

- Friday 1 First Day of Women's History Month
- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
Young Ambassadors, Hall 12:30 - 5:30 pm
- Monday 4 Scout's rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7-8 pm
- Tuesday 5 SFV Master Chorale, 6-8pm
Boy Scouts' Parent Committee Meeting, 7-9 pm
- Sunday 10 Daylights Savings Time starts
Scouting Ministry Sunday Worship, 10-11 am
- Tuesday 12 Administrative Committee Meeting, Library, 6:30 pm
- Saturday 16 Rock Chippers, Lounge, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
- Sunday 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Monday 18 Coffee with the Pastor, 11 am, *see page 4*
- Saturday 23 Young Ambassadors, Hall 12:30 - 5:30 pm
- Sunday 24 Palm Sunday,
Assemble Blessing Bags after Worship Service
- Friday 29 Good Friday Service, 6:30 pm
- Sunday 31 Easter Sunday

Coming in April

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



UWF Mission Team Meeting ... to be announced

UWF 2024 Directory

A 2024 UWF Directory is in the process of being updated. If there are changes in members' addresses, telephone numbers, etc., as well as our page on Friends To Be Remembered, please advise Shirley Thomson. Home phone 818-348-0414 or cell phone 818-456-3470 or e-mail sthompson1@socal.rr.com.

Five Star Recognition

Our UWF/UMW unit has met the Five requirements for a Five Star Recognition, as it has for many years. They are: Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory.

UWF Pledges

United Women in Faith members' pledges and special offerings make missions happen! The national organization comprised of Districts and individual units supports both national and international projects and partners. Your Mission Team strives to make sure that our unit supports these worthwhile missions, as well as local projects. We would like to remind all of our members that the collection of annual pledges and special offerings are our only sources of funds which enable us to meet our goals.

Our 2024 budget totals \$3,050. Special offerings are World Thank Offering (\$100 has been budgeted for this) and Prayer and Self Denial (unbudgeted). Please consider making your discretionary pledge and special offerings for 2024 today. The dba for the organization has not changed, so checks should still be made payable to UMW and either mailed to Chandra Seeger (6625 E Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377) or given to her at church. Thank you and take care.

Special Mission Recognition

Please see the article on page 4 about this year's winner.

Order Easter Lilies

The church office will be taking orders for Easter lilies from March 3 to 17th, for \$14 per lily.



Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

Note change of day
Wednesday, March 20
at 1:00 pm in Room 10.
The book to be reviewed is entitled *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett.

Sarah Circle

Note change of time
Thursday, March 14,
9:15 am
Breakfast at Weiler's Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, March 20
6:30 pm
In the library
Program by
Lora O'Connor



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

United Women in Faith Special Mission Recognition

Awarded to Chandra Seeger on January 28, 2024

United Women in Faith (aka United Methodist Women) have been presenting a Special Mission Recognition award since 1973. Over 81 awards have been presented to date to deserving people, both men & women, for their service to United Women in Faith, the church, as well as in other areas



Our recipient, Chandra Seeger, was born in a city located in the heart of central Illinois, Bloomington, which apparently is one of the best places to live in the state. However, she grew up in a town nearby, Normal, known for its rich corn (maize) and soybean production. Chandra went to University High School there and was on the honor roll the entire 4 years in the high school.

She has a sister, Sherry, with whom she is very close as well as a good friend. Chandra always wanted a brother, so her sister got married and as a result she ended up with a brother-in-law. She is a loving aunt to her nephew and 2 nieces.

In 1968 Chandra's family moved to California due to the fact her sister, Sherry, who was a TWA stewardess, was transferred to California.

Chandra attended college and graduated from CSUN in Northridge, California with honors. She decided to become an accountant and passed her CPA the first time she tried it.

She loves taking cruises with her family (which they do throughout the year), taking walks, reading and playing games and puzzles on her iPad. She loves having dinner with her family regularly. Chandra is a kind, caring, thoughtful, and extremely charitable individual.

Chandra has been a faithful member of 1st UMC Church of Canoga Park since 2001 and has always been willing to assist with any accounting needs in which the church requires her expertise. Also, she helps with providing food for the Fellowship Time.

Chandra has been a member of the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee for many years as well as serving on Finance, Memorial, and Lay Leadership committees.

She became a member of United Methodist Women, now known as United Women in Faith in 2003 and joined the Faith, Hope and Love Circle several years later. In addition, she has served the Mission Team as its treasurer for 9 years for which we are very grateful

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2024 UWF Special Mission Recognition Award to Chandra Seeger.

Coffee with the Pastor



We regret to inform you that the Monday Monthly Social will be discontinued.

Your feedback has been heard loud and clear.

However, in its place, Pastor Elaine will be hosting "Coffee with the Pastor" on one Monday morning every month.

She warmly invites you to spend some quality time with her. Please reach out to the church office to reserve your spot.

Financial Update

We continue to work on increasing our building use income by focusing on long-term exclusive leases that call for improvements in the property. Our first success was leasing the Education Building to Charisma Pre-school last December. Rents will be delayed until later in the year because of licensing and building improvements, but in 2025 this lease will provide substantial building-use income.

The second lease we hope to conclude by the time you read this is for the room previously used by the Boy Scouts (who have relocated to a smaller upstairs FH room). This lease will call for new flooring and paint in the room and upstairs hallway. By later in 2024, when rents begin, this lease will create another new space providing income for the church.

We are now exploring the possibility of leasing the Fellowship Hall Gym to an Elder Day Care organization. We'll provide more info next month, but it's an exciting new possibility for using the Gym Monday through Friday during the day – a time the Gym is typically not used. It has been a very busy last few months, as we continue making progress in developing income sources that will stabilize the church financially and ensure that the facilities are maintained properly.

Facilities Update

We continue to fight water leaks. Recently, a new one was fixed under the concrete patio, but the meter is still running. Ken Dimmick will be thoroughly checking each toilet to make sure they aren't quietly leaking. One step at a time. If we can get the meter stopped, we'll be able to get credits from the LADWP for the lost water.

The cement and asphalt repairs are planned to happen on the 2/17 or after the expected rains. They will correct some problem areas and specifically eliminate all trip and fall problems on campus. After the repairs we'll be restripping the parking lot. This will be paid through the Capital Fund.

There is a new roof problem in the Fellowship Hall, since the high winds in early January tore off many asphalt shingles. We're in the process of repairing leak damage upstairs and hope to have the roof repaired in the next 30 days. This will be paid through the Capital Fund.

The sanctuary has been warmer recently on Sunday mornings. We've experimented with having someone come in early to turn the heat on but have found a simple solution for the moment – keep all doors closed during the warmup period before the service! Once we have better cash flow, we'll invest in a remote-controlled thermostat so we can start the heat earlier in the morning.

Mary Mackay's team continues to work on cleaning out the Education Building. The Open House, where we offered the remaining furniture and playthings to the neighborhood went well. We're pleased to say, after a tremendous amount of work by Mary Mackay and her team of workers (many thanks to all of you!) that the building is about clean for Charisma Preschool to begin their building improvements.

Mary's report on the process is found on page 7.

User Groups

Fit Families Fit Kids who currently rent room 6 in the Education Building will be moving upstairs in the Fellowship Hall to the Boy Scout room. As discussed in the Financial Update. This new lease will call for long needed upgrades to the upstairs paint and flooring.

We have 16 regular user groups! It's a handful to manage, but an exciting ministry for our church. We provide space to a wide variety of religious and community groups who are deeply appreciative of having access to our wonderful campus.

George Grengs

Upcoming Lenten Project

for the unhoused

Between March 3rd - March 17th, First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park will be collecting items for Blessing Bags.

Items Still Needed for the Blessing Bags.

- 150 Cookies/Snacks
- 150 Men's Crew Socks
- 150 Women's Crew Socks
- 125 1st Aid Kits (Dollar Tree)
- 25 Bars of Soap

Travel Size

- 6 Hand Sanitizer
- 41 Shampoo/Body Wash
- 139 Deodorant
- 133 Dental Floss
- 35 Skin Lotion

Already have:

- 150+ Gallon Size Ziploc Bags
- 150 Protein/Energy Bars
- 125 bars of soap
- 150 Wet Wipes
- 150 Lip Balm
- 150 Toothbrushes
- 150 Facial Tissue
- 150 Dental Floss
- 150 Combs
- 150 Bottles of Water
- 1500 Q-Tips
- 150 Emery Boards
- 150 Toothpaste
- 150 Deodorant
- 115 Skin Lotion

Please bring your donations to church on Sunday or to the church office by Sunday, March 17th. You can also make monetary donations for the items and the

Mission Project team will purchase the items for you. Please put Blessing Bags on the memo line.

The whole congregation is invited to assemble the Blessing Bags after Worship on Palm Sunday.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Shari Worrell at sharikworrell@gmail.com or 310-902-0179; Robin Anderson at (robin@alinems.com or 818-464-5584); Angela Anderson at (anganderson1995@gmail.com or 815-579-5990).

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

Deuteronomy 15:11



General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held on April 23, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina. If you are interested in following the quadrennial global gathering, please check out www.calpacumc.org.



From the Mailbox

To our church family,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, texts and words of concern for our daughter Jennifer.

After 129 days in the hospital, she is now healing at home.

Love,

Tom and Glynene Roe

Many, Many Thanks!

It has taken a bit longer than expected to clear the preschool building of its 50 years of equipment and supplies, but we did it! Charisma Academy will now begin their upgrades to the facility, in preparation of opening their school this Fall.

A very special thanks to Tim O'Connor for the many hours of hard work hauling and clearing old furniture and equipment. No matter the size of the task, he did it!

We couldn't have done this without the village of people who prepared things for the day of the "Give Away", worked that day, and then helped sort, pack and then delivered the "left-overs" to Hope the Mission, Goodwill and the Canoga Park Children's Learning Institute.

It is a good feeling knowing that so many of the items have gone to teachers, families and other churches & preschools. We are blessed to have received \$480 in donations, during this time, which can be used for church facility projects. Many, many thanks to everyone!

There is one remaining piece which is still looking for a new home. Someone offered to buy it, but it was never collected. The long arm measures 59.5" L x 30" W x 28.5" H. The short arm is 40.5" L x 18.5" W x 25.5" H.

Is it something you could use or do you know of someone who could? Is so, please contact me.



Mary Mackay, Coordinator



Guest speakers

Pastor Elaine has invited members who would like to serve as Guest Preachers to consult with her to discuss content and schedule.

The first volunteer was Gid Paull who served in this capacity of February 11.



People lifted on the prayer chain:

PJ Umphres

Pastor Elaine

Mary Beth Godwin

Dixie's niece Lisa and her friend Lani Tuzon

Marilu Mampell

Dave Perry

Jennifer Ervin

Jeanne Niss

Mervin Hewitt

Kathy Borisoff

Betty Phillippi's friend Pam Hubbard

Robin Anderson's friend Celina

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





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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. 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.