



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

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Pastor: eshinpauill@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

June 2026

Heart to Heart

Summer has arrived — and with it, an invitation.

Longer days, warmer evenings, and a gentle shift in the rhythm of life are quietly calling us to something most of us find difficult: to slow down. To breathe. To simply be.

We live in a world that celebrates busyness, that measures worth by productivity and fills every quiet moment with noise. But the God we serve is not a God of frantic rushing. He is a God of still waters and green pastures. He is a God who restores.

Summer gives us a small, grace-filled opening to receive that restoration. Maybe it's a quiet morning on the porch before the day begins. A walk at sunset. An evening meal shared without hurry. These are not wasted moments. They are holy ones.

As your church family, I want to encourage us all to resist the urge to fill this season with more activity and instead let God fill us with more of himself. The prophet Isaiah reminds us:

*In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.
Isaiah 30:15b*

Our strength is not found in striving — it is found in trusting. Our peace is not something we manufacture — it is something God gives. And often, we receive it best when we stop long enough to open our hands and our hearts to him.

So this June, I invite you to accept the gift of summer. Enjoy the people you love. Delight in the beauty of creation. Sit in the presence of God without an agenda. Let peace — his peace, which “surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) — guard your heart and your mind.

You are deeply loved. You are held. And you do not need to earn your rest — it has already been given to you.

With grace and gratitude, Pastor Elaine



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Pauill

Music Director/ Accompanist

Nathan Stephens

Administrative Assistant

Jyl Lawrence

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

June Birthdays

- 1 Karen Grengs
- 14 Charles Niss
- 19 Robert Lamb
- 24 Jim Ervin
- 29 Toby Lane
- Tammy Palmerlee
- Elaine Villanueva

Anniversaries

- 5 Chris Flores & Lea Santos
- 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 Altar Flowers

- 7 Michael and Miko Mosbe
- 14 Ken and Lori Dimmick
- 21 Open
- 24 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.

June Calendar

- Every Monday Prayer meeting, 7:30pm to 8:30pm
Meeting ID: 898 8990 4696 — Passcode: 87556
- Every Thursday Bible Study, 11:00am to 12:30pm in the Library
- Tuesday, 2 Outreach Committee Meeting at 2:00pm in Library
- Tuesday, 9 Administrative Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Library
- Thursday 11 Sarah's Circle at 9:15 am – Nico's Family Restaurant
- Sunday 14 Flag Day
- Wednesday 17 Bookends at 1 pm in Library
- Sunday 21 Father's Day

Happy Father's Day!

As we celebrate Father's Day this month, we give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, and father figures who reflect God's love in the lives of their families. We honor you and pray for God's continued blessing over each of you

Proverbs 17:6 reminds us,
Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their parents.

Annual Conference 2026

Theme: Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger: Astonish!

Dates: June 17-20, 2026

Location: La Quinta, CA

This year, Pastor Elaine and Mike & Nancy Easterly will be attending the 2026 Annual Conference on behalf of our church. Our Lay Leader, Roger Johnson, has recommended Mike and Nancy, who have deep roots and extensive experience in the UMC.



West Valley Food Pantry — A donation basket is now placed by the Name Tag table each Sunday. This month's most needed items include canned chili, peanut butter, low-sodium soup, canned chicken/tuna/salmon, pasta and sauce, jerky, and baby/adult wipes.



2026 Mission U

is being held at Bell Memorial UMC, located in Rowland Heights, CA beginning midday on July 24 and concluding before lunch on July 26. The location is close to the 60 Freeway. Local motels and hotels will be used for housing .

Mission U is a transformative experience designed to recharge and refocus your faith. Mission U motivates, informs, and enriches our commitment to create a more just and equitable world locally and globally.

Pledges

Remember that United Women in Faith pledges for 2026 are due by June 30, 2026. Make your check payable to UMW and either mail to Chandra Seeger (6625 E. Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377) or give it to her at church.

Faith, Hope & Love Circle

The May Program on Gratitude was presented by Anita Parrinello. Gratitude is a positive emotion that involves being thankful and appreciative and is associated with several mental and physical health benefits. When you experience gratitude, you feel grateful for something or someone in your life and respond with feelings of kindness, warmth, and other forms of generosity.



Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends
 Wednesday, June 17 at 1:00 pm in Room 10.
 The book to be reviewed is entitled *Revenge* by Laura Blumenfeld

Sarah Circle
 Thursday, June 11 at 9:15 am for breakfast at Nico's Restaurant

Faith, Hope & Love
 Wednesday, June 10 at 12:00 noon
 Lunch at PF Changs 21821 Oxnard Street Woodland Hills



Outreach Team

The Outreach Team continues to serve our church and community with grateful hearts. The team meets on the first Monday of each month at 2pm in the church library. All are welcome. Contact any team member with ideas or questions: Valerie Aivazian, Carol Berns, Mike Easterly, Nancy Easterly, Louis Parrinello, Nancy Summer, Valerie Woods, or Shari Worrell.

Mother's Day

Every female member of our congregation received a red foil-wrapped chocolate rose in a box and a card for Mother's Day. Every mother at the family homeless shelter received a card and a bag filled with goodies for Mother's Day.

West Valley Food Pantry

A donation basket is now placed by the Name Tag table each Sunday. This month's most needed items include canned chili, peanut butter, low-sodium soup, canned chicken/tuna/salmon, pasta and sauce, jerky, and baby/adult wipes.

Shari Worrell, Chairman

New Reading Program

The family shelter has a new reading program. Outreach Chairman, Shari Worrell, read two books to the children this month. After having a snack each child picked two books to keep/read. Some of the choices are shown here.



Our Mission Outreach



Hope the Mission is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to prevent, reduce and eliminate poverty, hunger and homelessness.

They do this by offering immediate assistance and long-term solutions. Their services are grounded in a deep respect for the dignity inherent in each human being. As an inclusive faith-based organization, they focus on the spiritual, emotional, physical, relational, occupational and financial needs of their participants.

Their vision is that no one goes without; thus they have provided 1,058,500 nights of shelter, 5,025 medical & mental health referrals, 3,175,500 hot meals and 1,045,500 hot showers. They also provide a message of hope, support and freedom for a better tomorrow, food distribution to the hungry, resources for basic human needs, healing programs that lead to wholeness and self-sufficiency and emergency housing/transitional shelter for the situational and chronically homeless.

Their core values are compassion, integrity, faith, diversity, growth and excellence. They have family shelters, transitional aged youth shelters, women shelters, men shelters, tiny homes, etc. They also operate 9 Thrift Stores. They serve Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern and San Diego counties.

The two shelters we serve have up to 48 residents in the family shelter and 38 residents in the TAY (Transitional Aged Youth) shelter. The TAY shelter is for youth aged 18 to 24 years of age who have aged out of the Foster Care system.



A Day to Remember

2026 All-Church Rummage Sale

What an incredible day! To every single person who donated, volunteered, set up, sold, packed up, and cheered us on — thank you, thank you, thank you.

Watching our church family work hand in hand with such joy and unity was truly one of the most beautiful things I have witnessed. You are not just a team. You are the hands and feet of Christ in action.

And the results speak for themselves — we raised \$2,506.00 for the ministries of First UMC of Canoga Park! To God be the glory — and to each of you, our deepest gratitude. Everyone worked hard, and we give a big shout-out to Mike Easterly, Nancy Easterly, and Valerie Woods, who spearheaded the event.

All remaining sale items have been packed up and donated to Hope the Mission, a beautiful and fitting final act of generosity from this remarkable group of people.

We are also happy to share that Toby Lane is healing well! Many of you may recall that Toby, who was so committed to helping with the sale. But she had an accident on her way home that day. We are grateful to God for her recovery and so glad to have her back with our church family.

With gratitude and joy,

Pastor Elaine



Obituary for Libby Bennett



Long-time church member and singer in the choir, Libby Bennett, who had been living in Winchester, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on November 2, 2025.

Born in Glen Alpine, North Carolina, on February 25, 1929, Libby was the youngest

of seven children of John Blaine and Greta Summie Melton. She grew up in Glen Alpine and later moved with her husband, Floyd R. Bennett, to Southern California, where they raised their four children.

Elizabeth was a woman of grace, faith, and quiet strength. A lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park, she was active in her congregation and sang in the choir for most of her life. She also enjoyed being part of a community choral group, sharing her love of music with others.

Education and service were central to her early life. She attended Gardner-Webb College in North Carolina, where she worked as an assistant to the dean. Libby had many interests, including genealogy, bridge and crossword puzzles, which she enjoyed throughout her later years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Floyd R. Bennett, her daughter, Susan Bennett, and her son-in-law, Leonard Belanger. She is survived by her sons, Richard Bennett and Michael Bennett (Dawna), and her daughter, Jan Belanger. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, who brought her endless joy. Elizabeth's life was defined by love -for her family, her faith, and the simple pleasures of each day. She will be remembered for her kindness, her gentle humor, and the music she carried in her heart.

A memorial service was held December 12th at 3:00 pm at Glen Alpine Methodist Church in Glen Alpine, NC.

Memorial Service for Libby Bennett

After church on Sunday May 3, Pastor Elaine conducted a memorial service for Libby Bennett, committing her ashes to a site in the Rose Garden.

Her daughter Jan wrote "It was wonderful seeing you all, and could not have been a more perfect way to honor our Libby. Hers was a life well lived, and you all are a testament to that.

As I shared with my brothers and sister-in-law, the only wrong thing was that they couldn't be there.



Reports from the Administrative Committee

Financial Update

Our first Jan-March financial statement shows that we are in a good financial position. We are running slightly positive vs. our budget. We made a transfer of \$8,600 from our checking account to our designated funds account at Fidelity so it matches the number on our balance sheet. We hold about \$68,000 in designated funds broken up between 22 different line items. Here are some of the larger accounts: Capital Fund - \$25,600, Memorials - \$6,800, Education - \$12,700, Renters Deposits - \$9,900, Worship - \$5,300.

User Group Update

Our Thursday N/A group disbanded and is no longer using our facilities. Monthly payments are up to date, and we are glad to report that all past due shared use payments for utilities are now caught up. Use of our facilities is a two-way street. The user groups are blessed with reasonable rents, and our church is blessed with cash flow to help maintain the property.

God is good!!!

Facility Update

We completed a painting project in early May as we continue to work on updating the facilities. Most of the painting revolved around areas with problems but we did completely paint the Choir Room, Brides Room, and Church Office. This was a planned expense in our 2026 budget.

In preparation for the summer heat, we had the sanctuary A/C unit looked at and found a large coolant leak on the roof. This was repaired by Mr. Kim at Smile Heating & AC. Soon we will be carpeting the Church Office and in the Fellowship Hall we will be carpeting Youth Room 1 & 2 in preparation for renting those rooms. We have lots to do over the next 5 years. One step at a time!!



People lifted on the prayer chain:

- Carol Berns
- Deanna Tyndell
- Patricia Davis
- Paula Slatten
- Darrell Thomson
- Dana Dreyfuss
- Ken Dimmick
- Carol Rogers
- Jennifer Alderman
- Lynne German
- PJ Umphries
- Toby Lane
- Preston Simpkin
- Ray Pyles

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



Repainting in progress



Repainted Office





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Canoga Park, CA

Permit #1

Do you want to order a church t-shirt?

The cost of the shirt is \$20. The vendor is All Above Prints, part of AKD inc., the same company who makes the metal plates for the Memorial Rocks in the Memorial Garden, the plates for the Laura Longman Scholarship and Memorial plaques in the Narthex. We ordered a few extra t-shirts. If you would like to order one, please contact either the church office or Mike Easterly.

