



August 2023

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: eshinpaul@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Heart to Heart

Jesus showed us a way of life and invited us into a relationship with God that is meaningful, vibrant, and fruitful. He said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit...you bear much fruit and become my disciples." (John 15:5, 8) Jesus wanted us to flourish and be fruitful!

What do you think Jesus meant by "fruit"? Robert Schnase writes that "fruit" refers to how plants reproduce. "Fruit contains seeds that create life apart from the original plant and yet related to it. Through fruit, life passes along to another generation. Fruit is new life. Fruit is growth. Fruit is future."

My husband, Gid, has planted grass seeds in the parsonage backyard, creating a small patch of a lawn. He prepared the ground by adding bag after bag of good soil, planting seeds generously, regularly watering, feeding fertilizers in a timely manner, and tending and caring for it daily. Every week, I notice an addition to the parsonage backyard. He repeats this cultivating act to this small patch of lawn that has become his own.



This is no different than what we must do to nurture and foster our inner growth by feeding our spirit daily. In the soil of our hearts, plant generously with God's Word, water the seeds through passionate worship and prayer, and give generously and serve others. That is how we receive God's love, love God in return, and grow in the grace of God while loving others by serving. Now, that's what fruitful living is.

Pastor Elaine



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Courier Layout
Sharon Mountford

AV Operator
Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop
Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**
Rev. Melissa Roux
MacKinnon

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August Birthdays

- 4 Grant Simmons
- 5 Lee Smith
- 8 Irene Miller
- 12 Helen Robertson
- 15 Tim O'Connor
- 16 Dean Lottman
- 18 Johnny Ramirez
- 19 Liz Rogers
- 26 MaryBeth Godwin
- 29 Jennifer Alderman

Anniversaries

- 4 Ken & Lori Dimmick
- 27 Donald & Evelyn Heim

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



August

- 6 Lori & Ken Dimmick, *in honor of their Anniversary*
- 13 Open
- 20 Michael & Michiko Mosbe
- 27 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.

August Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 5:00 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=QURDc0FVUUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhhJVzVYUT09)
[pwd=QURDc0FVUUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhhJVzVYUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?pwd=QURDc0FVUUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhhJVzVYUT09)
Meeting ID: 854 6686 0517.....Passcode: 229523
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6:00-10:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Friday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

Other Activities

- Saturday 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Monday 21 Monthly social meeting, 11:00 am, Parlor
- Saturday 22 Church of Christ, special meeting,
Hall & Lounge, 8:00 am-noon

Coming in September

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

Laity Appreciation

Don Heim was recognized on Sunday, July 23 for his many years of service to the church.

Don joined the First UMC of Canoga Park in 1963, soon after he moved to California with his wife. Don and Evelyn got involved in various church activities, such as a Young Couples group, Los Casados. He served on a number of committees, such as Family Life, Membership, Church Council, Nominating Committee, and Worship Committee. He has acted as our financial secretary and treasurer and still serves as a counter.

Don Heim served God and the church for countless years. His love for the Lord and this church is outstanding and extraordinary. How can anyone honor someone like Don for what he has done for over 60 years? I just wish that God will honor and bless Don Heim for his faithfulness and commitment unto the Lord.

Don, the First UMC of Canoga Park says, "thank you." Thank you for serving God with "all your heart, all your mind, and all your might!"



UWF Mission Team
Tentatively set for August 31
via Zoom

**North District UWF
Annual Celebration**
September 23, 2023 in person.
Location to be announced.



Cal-Pac UWF Conference

Annual Celebration
October 21, 2023 in person
Location to be announced.

New CEO

Sally Vonner, newly elected General Secretary / CEO of United Women in Faith, primary focus is to continue and expand the mission and reach of United Women in Faith as we put our love and faith in action to change the world, and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world.

Candle of Commitment

This represents the cost of our Mission work to women, children and youth in the U.S. and countries around the world. The candle will burn at the Conference Annual Meeting on October 21, 2023 as a way of honoring “The Mission-Minded Men and Women in our Lives.” The candle will burn for one minutes for a minimum gift of \$16.56 per honoree. Names must be submitted by October 1.

New resources for 2024 will be available in September.

United Women in Faith along with the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church joined with several interfaith communities to co-sponsor a Briefing with the U.S. Department of Energy on July 18, 2023.

The session was led by the Rev. Susan Hendershot, president of Interfaith Power and Light, a national non-profit that mobilizes people of faith to take action on climate change.

The session began with a presentation by Sec. of U.S. Dept. of Energy, Jennifer Granholm, who highlighted congregations of different faiths that are making changes to reduce their carbon footprint. Because of the Inflation Reduction Act, non-taxable entities can now get tax credits on energy upgrades for HVAC systems, lighting and windows.

Ms. Granholm said faith communities are uniquely positioned to get the word out about the tools we have to support clean energy. This is a moral mandate that benefits all people.

Margaret Cates

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends
On summer break
Next meeting in September

Sarah Circle
Thursday, August 10,
9:30 am
Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love
No meeting
in August



Remember to bring food for the West Valley Food Pantry on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of every month.

Collection boxes at other times are located in the hallway outside the kitchen.

Financial Update

The June quarterly financials were completed promptly, and we are starting to get a clearer picture of where we stand. Over the first half of 2023, our financials show that we are close to a breakeven, so that's the good news. In addition, we'll start saving insurance and utility costs the church was paying for the preschool before its closure. This will drop our costs by about \$7500/year, and we are in the process of cleaning the preschool rooms and looking for a tenant. When we find one, it will mean about \$25,000/year in new income. All of this means we're continuing to move in the right direction. We just need time!

Even though our finances are stabilizing we have a large, unexpected item that needs repair, and which is not in our budget, so we have decided to run an Appeal. The unexpected expense is to replace the main gas lines to the sanctuary that were leaking. The gas has been shut off for about 30 days, which is fine for the summer, but we'll need heat for the winter. We've gone through a quoting process with five different plumbing companies and the lowest quote is around \$15k. This \$15,000 is the first part of our Appeal, which is urgent.

During Covid we spent about 38k of our designated monies for budget items – weakening our overall financial position. The second part of the Appeal is to find a few people in the congregation who might be able to give in a major way to get us back closer to our pre-covid financial position. If we can raise more than the \$15k needed for the gas re-piping it will go to making up the Covid financial deficits and give us financial breathing room for any future emergencies with our aging facilities!

Appeal: Our Goal

\$15,000: Gas Re-Pipe - It's critical that we raise this money

\$35,000: Covid Financial Deficits - Anyone contemplating large gifts – this is the time we need it!

It's a big number but we all must dig deep and do our best. It's a time to give back in response to God's Love! We thank you in advance!!!

Facilities Update

Landscaping:

We continued to be plagued with irrigation system problems. The evening of July 4th one of our user groups reported the sprinklers had been on for hours near the sanctuary double doors. A difficult time to get people out to repair when fireworks events are happening, but we were lucky to get Jose Juarez, our gardener, out to identify the problem as a broken sprinkler valve and he was able to manually shut off the system. We are attempting to get money back from the DWP for this event and the main water line leak a month ago.

Our new Succulent Garden just outside the Narthex is having a bit of a hard time with the high heat but the plants should survive, and the roots set by next summer. Our gardener is going to move one of the large rocks in the area which will complete the project.

Gophers are back! We spotted some holes under the large tree by the Preschool Office. We'll be after them soon.



Thanks to George Grengs for this amazing gift of plants and labor to enhance our church property.

Do take a peek at this new flower bed, that George is working on, and share your thanks with him.

Maintenance:

The natural gas is still off to the Sanctuary and Education buildings due to a leak discovered last month. We expect to have the project completed in August. It most likely will be re-piped over the roof from the outside of the choir room, up over the roof, and down to the two main entry points on the Maynard side of the building. We had 5 plumbers quoting and we were pleased to get some very competitive but still expensive quotes!

User Groups:

We're glad to say that all user groups are current with their user fees/rents. We've had one new enquiry from a Bonsai Club. Thanks to Michael Mosbe for the referral. If any of you know a non-profit organization that needs space, please tell them about First UMC of CP!!

*George Grengs
george.grengs@outlook.com*



Note from Sydney

Hi everyone! As my last day in the office quickly approaches, I want to express my gratitude to you all for supporting me in my position during the last year and a half. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, resources and words of affirmation. I've grown personally and professionally in this position more than I ever expected. I will remember my time here fondly as I transition into the next phases of my academic and professional career.

Sydney Thiroux

Kudos

Congratulations to Sarah Alderman as she graduates from Pierce College with AA's in Criminal Justice, & General Studies With a focus on Social Behavioral Sciences.

Sarah will continue her studies at CSUN majoring in Criminology & Justice Studies.

News from 2 Laura Longman Scholarship Recipients

Hello Roger and Nancy,



I wanted to share some exciting news with you both and work to ensure that members of the First United Methodist church receive this information as part of its support of both Brady and Becca through the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship.

Brady, Recipient in 2018

Brady will be starting his second year of medical school. He lives and attends school in Joplin, MO. He is working hard, excelling and enjoying his time at Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCU COM).

Becca, Recipient in 2020

Becca will be starting her first year of medical school this month at Michigan State University. We are moving her to East Lansing, MI this week and she will be part of the incoming class at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSU COM).

All of us greatly appreciate the support that First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park provided to both Brady and Becca. The contributions made through the Laura Longman scholarship have helped them in many ways and they are honored and humbled to be recipients of that scholarship. The financial benefit helped them come out of undergrad with less debt and put them on a better path as they move into medical school. I know Laura would be proud of the difference you are making.

We are very grateful and hope to hear that all is well for the two of you.

*Thanks!
Phil Longman*

Monthly Social

Our first Monthly Social on July 17th got us off to a good start. We started with an icebreaker playing a guessing game called “Who Am I?” and ended with learning about ourselves and each other by taking an MBTI personality quiz. It was super fun learning about ourselves and others. Here are two pictures. We hope you can join us on August 21 at 11:00 am!



Bishop’s Clergy Convocation

Pastor Elaine will be attending the Clergy Convocation from August 15th to 17th at Indian Wells.

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.

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

Study Group



Jewish Observance of Biblical Holidays is coming to an end on Aug. 13th. Thanks to all of you who made the class interesting, and it was very well attended every week. Thanks to Gid and pastor Elaine for bringing the Old Testament and New Testament together through the holidays that are still observed in Jewish culture.

Rev. Elaine Shin-Paull, www.elainepaull.com

“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.”



Sunday Fellowship Time

Each Sunday following worship, refreshments are provided by a team of volunteers. If you would like to help in providing refreshments on a given Sunday, let the team for that week know. (This schedule is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen).

A “Donation Jar” is also being provided for your donations to help with the cost of supplies. We are an “Equal Opportunity Kitchen” – everyone is welcome to be a part!

Mary Mackay, Coordinator



Baptism of Rita Elizabeth Arnold

Pastor Elaine had the blessing of baptizing Rita Elizabeth Arnold on Sunday, July 9th. Rita was born on June 28 to Jonathan and Abbey Arnold. She was 9 lb 7 oz, and 22 inches tall!

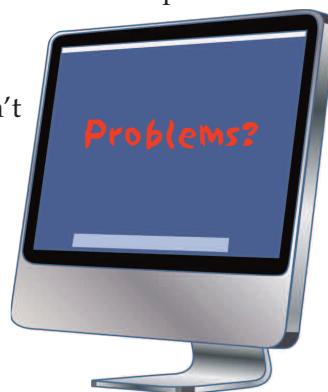
Her brother, Sam, is delighted to welcome his baby sister. We welcomed this little beauty into our church.



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.



Darrell Thomson

Verda Longan

Family of Donna Biess

Danielle, family friend of
Mary Beth Godwin

Lorraine Tiberi

Michael and Jayme Aiani

Joseph Pigeon

Angel Keller

Mark Nogy

Brenda Jones

Liz Rogers

Helen Ronertson

Randy Hinton

Jessica Williams

Brian Mountford

Pastor Elaine's parents

Send prayer requests to

Anita Parrinello

luv2bjedi@gmail.com)

and CC Pastor Elaine

(eshinpauill@gmail.com)





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Return Service Requested