



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

Preschool 818.340.6639

E-mail: crossandflame@att.net

Website: <http://www.umccp.org>

Pastor: preachingbarefoot@att.net

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

January 2022

January Worship Gatherings

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

In-Person Worship ... Sundays at 10:00 am

Services will be Live-streamed soon.

Watch past prerecorded services on our website at any time.

Sunday, January 2

Covenant Service and Communion

Welcome for Sydney Thiroux

John Wesley introduced the covenant renewal service for use by the Methodist societies in 1755. Every year, on or near January 1, the Methodists gathered to renew their covenant with God. The service is adapted from a Puritan ritual. It is a powerful time of self-examination and confession that culminates in renewal of commitment to discipleship.

Sunday, January 9

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant

Celebrating Christ's baptism by John reminds Christians of our own baptism. During worship, you will be invited to reaffirm your baptismal vows.

Sunday, January 16

Men's Fellowship Sunday

Our men enjoy fellowship with one another each month and fund various ministries and projects at church. The Men's Fellowship group will share their faith and life together.

Sunday, January 23

UMW Sunday

The work of United Methodist Women around the world will be celebrated.

Sunday, January 30

Human Relations Day Special Offering

This offering supports ministries of social justice and outreach like the Community Developers, Volunteer Service and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.



Pastor

Lynn Westover

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

Certified Lay Minister

Grace Leighton

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Grant Hagiya

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux

MacKinnon



January Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus, Hall 1:45 pm
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 3:00 pm
- Monday Harmonettes, FH Lounge, 10:30 - 12:30 pm
Cub Pack 474, Boy Scout Room, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Gym, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Choir practice, Choir room 7:00
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:00 - noon

Other Activities

- Saturday 8 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Wednesday 15 Courier deadline for February issue
- Monday 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, office closed
- Saturday 29 Young Ambassadors, Lounge, 2:30 - 7:30 pm

Coming in February

- Saturday 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Sunday 13 Football Sunday 2022

Football Sunday is an experience that coincides with pro football's biggest weekend. The primary element is a video resource showcasing the faith journeys of current NFL players, including interviews with players competing in the big game. At the heart of it all, Football Sunday aims to lead people into a relationship with Christ.

Young Ambassadors

We welcome YALA, Young Ambassadors Leadership Academy back to our campus. They begin their 14th year at our church providing mentorship to young African American males throughout LA County with their main focus here in the San Fernando Valley.

During that time, their program has provided training to over 375 young males. Each year, The Dr. Willie Foreman Community Service Award is given to a deserving mentor at their Banquet of Honors Culmination Celebration, in remembrance of our Pastor, who was a mentor to this group.

The program founders are Andrew and Deanna Thomas. They look forward to begin in-person meetings the 4th Saturday of January.

For more information you may contact the Thomases at:
www.youngambassador.org (drewthomas85@aol.com)

January Birthdays

- 3 Ester Vidauri
- 5 Dean Schafer
- 14 Mary McKibben
- 21 Lora O'Connor
- 22 Will Landrum
- 25 Mervin Hewitt
Janet Lauredo
- 26 Brian Finley
Willard Imai
John Willauer
Irene Zelaya
- 30 JoAnne McColloch
- 31 Mary Mackay

Anniversaries

- 26 Dean & Carolyn Lottman

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

From the Mailbox



Barbara Dimmick would enjoy cards that Ken and Lori can read to her during her 'good' days.

Barbara Dimmick 107
Simi Valley Health Care
5270 E. Los Angeles Ave
Simi Valley CA 93063

Contact Lori at
lori.sharma.dimmick@gmail.com>



North District UMW

Officer Training is being held virtually over the course of a few days. Here is the schedule:

- Saturday, January 15 at 10:00 am – Treasurer
- Saturday, January 15 at 1:00 pm - Communications
- Tuesday, January 18 at 10:00 am – Membership, Nurture & Outreach
- Tuesday, January 18 at 10:45 am – Mission Education & Interpretation
- Tuesday, January 18 at 7:00 pm – Secretary
- Wednesday, January 19 at 10:00 am – Spiritual Growth
- Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00 pm – Social Action
- Thursday, January 20 at 10:00 am – Committee on Nominations
- Thursday, January 20 at 1:00 pm – President/Vice President/Circles
- Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 pm – Program Resources

Local Organization Recognition Event will be held online January 22, 2022 at 10:00 am. All UMW members are encouraged to attend this event where they will recognize the 5-Star Units, 60/40 Units, Mission Today and the Reading Program. If you wish to attend, please register by Thursday January 20, 2022 at <http://www.calpacumc.org/northumwrecognition2022>.

End of the Line

The Women of Standing Rock. This is a wonderful documentary that appears on YouTube and was made available for a UMW program. It is the story of a group of indigenous women in North Dakota who risk their lives to stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which jeopardizes their land, water and entire way of life. Despite the desecration of their ancient burial and prayer sites, violent confrontations, and limited resources these women refused to back down.

Faith Talk

These are Webinars that are held once or twice a month on various topics. The one for December was on Advent and how important it is to incorporate music at this time of year particularly. Music is an excellent way to praise God for Jesus. Listen closely to the words of the songs. Knowing why and when the Composer wrote the song helps to understand the meaning. Advent is about waiting and preparation.

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

Thursday, January 27
1:00 pm
Church library
Mrs. Bird by A.J. Pearce
will be reviewed
by Doris Hood

Sarah Circle

Thursday, January 13
9:30 am
Breakfast at new location
Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, January 19
6:30 pm
Church Library
Lora O'Connor will be
responsible for the
Program and Devotion.

New Home

The Parranellos have finally found a place to lay their heads. Their new address is:

6121 Glade Ave #320
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Great News

The church office will again be open starting in January. Sydney Thiroux will assume the Administrative Assistant position on January 3. She sends this greeting to you.

Hi everyone!

I am so excited to join the ministry at the First UMC of Canoga Park as an administrative assistant. A fun fact about me is that I am one of triplets. I was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and I recently graduated from Whittier College with a Bachelor's in Chinese and Global & Cultural Studies with a minor in Anthropology. I was involved in campus ministry through high school and college, which helped me develop my relationship with Jesus. In my free time, I enjoy partaking in all things crafty (sewing and crochet bring me a lot of joy!). I look forward to learning new skills, meeting new people, and serving the local church in this role!

Sydney Thiroux

Church Office Hours - January 2022

Monday - Thursday

10:00 am - 2:15



Meet Sydney Thiroux

Altar Flowers



As we begin this New Year, fresh flower arrangements for the altar will once again be used for Sunday morning worship when sponsored. You may sign up on the Flower Calendar for the date(s) you would like. The flower calendar is posted on the bulletin board in the Parlor.

The cost of the flower arrangement is \$50. Your payment needs to be received at least one week prior to the flower date selected, but feel free to pay in advance for all dates you are sponsoring during the year. Please make your check payable to First UMC, note on the check "flowers with date/s sponsored" and put Attn: Mary. You will be contacted, when your payment is received, to confirm your flower order and the dedication message you would like. We assume you will take home the flowers after worship, unless you tell us to give them as seems best to bless someone else.

If you have questions, or wish to place an order by phone, please contact Mary Mackay at (818) 731-5872 or email marylynnmackay@gmail.com.

Facilities Update for December

Irrigation system/Grass areas:

Rohan Mathews and the scouts are making progress on Rohan's Eagle Scout project to convert the parkway grass along Maynard to a maintenance free gravel strip. They are close to completing the removal of all dirt and grass in the area and will be placing down the weed barrier and Golden Gravel (a brown tint vs. gray color) next. We hope the project will be completed sometime in January. This will move us toward our goal of reducing water consumption as we respond to the cost and scarcity of water. Thank You Rohan!

Roofs:

Like the Irrigation projects the roofs are a work in process. At the time of writing we've just had our first big rainstorm - 4.5" in Woodland Hills. Plenty of water to find our problem areas. There have been reports of leaks in the education buildings. We'll have a full report in January. Once we are confident that everything is water proof, we'll be repairing all damaged plaster areas throughout the church.

In late November, Jose Juarez's gardening guys went up on all building roofs to blow off any leaves and clean the gutters in preparation for the winter rains. They did a terrific job and removed an amazing quantity of leaves the weekend before the big December rain!

Sanctuary Ceiling Beams:

Some of the beams on the front end of the sanctuary are stained by previous leaks which now are fixed. We are in the process of finding someone to clean and repaint the beams. We will probably delay this project for a month or so to ensure we have all roof leaks on the property addressed so we can have all plastering / painting / mold remediation completed at the same time.

Fellowship Hall Kitchen:

As of mid-December the Fridge in the Fellowship Hall was back up and running but we're investigating some larger than normal temperature changes.

George Grengs



Eagle Project

Rohan Mathews has set up a GoFundMe account to raise money to help pay the expenses for his Eagle project addressed above. If you are able to assist Rohan with this, look up "Eagle Project - First United Methodist Church" on GoFundMe.

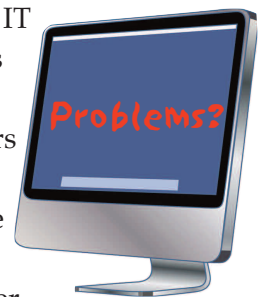
The actual address of his site is:

<https://www.GoFundMe.com/eagle-project-first-united-methodist-church>.

Alternatively, you may still write a check to the church and designate Eagle Project in the memo line. We will forward the money to the Scout troop.

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 work and has gladly looked at a number of 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 who had great success improving his ability to connect with others. If you or your computer needs help, please give me a call (818-632-7538) and I'll schedule you in!



George Grengs , george@valterra.com

Financial Report: January 2021

We had wonderful news in late November with an anonymous donation of stock worth about \$30,000. It was designated to the Capital Fund which now totals over \$60,000. This will enable us to keep the property in good repair over the next few years.

The Capital Fund was set up as a designated fund, separate of the church annual budget, to help pay for new facility projects and major repairs over \$2500. It has been instrumental in helping to pay for major parking lot and roof repairs, copper water pipe replumbs, and landscaping projects over the years. If anyone would like to make a contribution to this Fund, mark your checks "Capital fund".

At the time of writing, it looks as if the vast majority of budget line items for 2021 came in pretty close to budget. One exception was the cost for keeping the grass watered. Our water bill was projected at \$6000 which represented close to the previous year's bill when we were watering very little. The cost for our green grass this year was \$13,000. We will continue to work on ways to reduce this amount and keep the grounds green!

George Grengs

Preschool News

We had an outdoor Christmas program in front of our classroom where the kids sang the songs they had been practicing with Mr Robert.

As you are reading this, we are enjoying our winter break! Our first day back to school will be Monday, January 10, ready and refreshed for a new year! We are still hoping for more COVID restrictions to be lifted so we can keep enrolling. We will observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 17th.

Happy 2022!!

Wendy Finley



Faith, Hope, and Love

Seen below enjoying the December Circle meeting at the Olive Garden are Anita Parrinello, Pastor Lynn, Shirley Thomson, Lora O'Connor and Nancy Summer.





Jennifer Alderman
 Laurie Berger
 Russ & Lindy Amico
 Dana Dreyfuss
 Liz Rogers
 Johnny Ramirez
 Barbara Dimmick
 Barbara's Facility
 (lockdown)
 Dixie Smith
 Charyl Patterson
 Mary Beth Godwin
 Beulah Hajek
 Dawn Hromadka
 Lou & Sharon Mountford
 Irene and Sal Zelaya

Hanging of the Greens

Thanks to Judith Austin, Diane and Frank Rosales for leading the team to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.

They did a great job and the church looks appropriately attired for the season!

Captured for this page

Bill Satterlee, Stan Westover, Robert Lamb, Don Heim, Santino Nagy, Judith Austin, Ginger Huston and Flo Lamb, Diane and Frank Rosales.



*Send prayer requests to
 Anita Parrinello
 (lv02bjedi@gmail.com)
 and CC Pastor Lynn
 (preachingbarefoot@att.net)*





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22700 Sherman Way
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Return Service Requested

UMCOR US Disaster Response & Recovery...Advance # 901670

UMCOR is responding to the deadly tornadoes moving through several states. As the massive storm system continues to move across the country, we ask for your immediate response in prayer and financial support. Please be there for survivors by supporting UMCOR US Disaster Response with a gift today. Envelopes will be available on Sunday. Gifts can also be given online, and can credit the local church with your donation.

Project Information

Supporting UMCOR's response to disasters

Annual Goal: \$20,000,000.00

Year to Date Gifts: \$2,415,617.03



How will this Advance project help to address the need?

UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. Through UMCOR, United Methodists extend loving care to people within the United States. When disaster strikes, it is local churches that provide the first response to their communities. This basic understanding—that disaster response is local—forms the foundation for UMCOR's US disaster training and response. When responding to a disaster in the United States, UMCOR provides training, financial assistance, expertise, community collaboration to churches and partners making them more resilient to disasters.

Contact Information...<http://www.umcor.org>