



May 2025

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

Faithfulness in Bloom

May is the season when the earth seems to stretch and awaken. Flowers blossom, the days grow longer, and we see signs of life and color returning after winter's stillness.

In our congregation too, May brings moments of celebration, remembrance, and spiritual renewal. We honor mothers and mentors, celebrate children in our midst, rejoice with graduates, and prepare our hearts for Pentecost – the day when the Holy Spirit breathed new life into the early Church.

This month, I want to share a story that touched me.

A wise king once gave each child in his kingdom a seed. He asked them to plant it and return in a year with their results. One boy, Ling, watered and nurtured his seed every day – but it never sprouted. Still, he came back a year later with an empty pot, while others brought flourishing plants. The king declared Ling the next ruler, saying, "I gave you all boiled seeds. Only one had the courage to return with an empty pot."

It's a story about honesty, trust, and the quiet power of doing what is right – even when the results seem invisible. Ling's pot was empty, but his heart was full.

In Galatians 6:9, Paul reminds us: "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest, if we do not give up."

That's our calling – to keep planting seeds of love, kindness, and faithfulness, even if we don't always see immediate results. Whether you are nurturing a child, showing up for a neighbor, serving behind the scenes at church, or walking through a season of waiting, know that God sees your offering. And in time, a harvest will come.

So, as the lilacs bloom and the sun lingers longer, let May be a month of renewed hope. Be encouraged – your faithfulness matters.

*With grace and gratitude,
Rev. Elaine*



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Pau

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Ebelyn Gaytan

Sunday School Childcare

Veronica Cabrera

Denise Lenore

Teen Ministry

Dante Wilson

Lay Leader

Roger Johnson

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operator

Bernie Godwin

Michael Mosbe



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Garth Gilliam

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

- 11 Irma Santos
- 14 Bill Satterlee
Flora Wilhelm
- 17 Nancy Johnson
- 19 Don Stanwood
- 22 Lindy Amico
- 23 Suzie Fisher
- 24 Laurie Berger
- 27 Lea Flores
Aubry Juarez

May Anniversaries

- 24 George and Irene Miller

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



May Flowers

- 4 Shin Paull Family,
in honor of Gid's birthday
- 11 Dixie Smith
- 18 Open
- 25 George and Karen Grengs

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.

May Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday San Fernando Valley Master Chorale, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Virtual prayer meetings: at 7:30 pm on Zoom
Meeting ID: 898 8990 4696 Passcode: 875564
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89889904696?pwd=emhFc011Y3NTNzVkRjJEWtZndiUT09>
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-10:00 pm
Men's AA Step Guide, Room # 10, 7:00pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group (Learning to Live), Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday 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
- Saturday SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

Other Activities

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank's Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
Liz Rogers Memorial Service, 1:00 pm, First UMC Canoga Park
- Young Ambassadors LA, Fellowship Hall, 1:00 pm
- Sunday 4 Native American Sunday
Church-Wide Tour of Education Building, after worship service. *All are invited to tour the newly renovated classrooms and red barn house.*
- Monday 5 Sabra Pittenger Memorial Service, 9:30 am, First UMC Canoga Park
- 5 to 11 Pastor Elaine will be on vacation
- Sunday 11 Mother's Day
- Tuesday 13 Administrative Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Saturday 17 Rockchipper's, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm
- Sunday 18 Children's Sunday
- Wednesday 21 Dead Sea Scroll Trip, Details TBA
- Saturday 24 Young Ambassadors LA, Fellowship Hall, 1:00 pm
- Monday 26 Memorial Day, Office will be closed

Coming in June

- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank's Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- Wednesday 11-14 Annual Conference
- Monday 15- 18 Pastor Elaine will be on vacation
- Thursday 19 Juneteenth



Pledge to Mission

UWF Cal-Pac Conference Pledge to Mission for 2024 was \$150,000. The Conference exceeded that pledge giving \$184,506. Thanks to Local Organization (units) that made that happen. The Cal-Pac Conference 2025 Pledge to Mission is \$125,000.

Cal-Pac Annual Conference 2025

The 41st annual session of the Cal-Pac Annual Conference is being held June 12-15 at Indian Wells in Greater Palm Springs. A highlight will be the UWFaith Luncheon on Saturday, June 14, where they will celebrate the theme **Cherish The Journey**. Our unit's representative will be Nancy Johnson at the luncheon.

Mission U

2025 Mission U is being held at Cal State Long Beach, July 11-12, Barbara Miller and Theresa Ellis, Co-Deans. Registration opens May 12, 2025 and closes June 12, 2025.

A Call To Prayer and Self Denial

In 2025, the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support economic development and micro-enterprise projects, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally. Specifically, funds will support the work of United Methodist conference women's teams that design and lead projects that make a direct impact on improving the lives of their families and community members.

Contributions for Prayer and Self-Denial can be made payable to UMW dba United Women in Faith and sent to Chandra Seeger, 6625 E. Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377 and designate it Prayer and Self Denial.

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

Wednesday, May 21 at 1:00 pm in Room 10.
The Henna Artist
by Alka Joshi

Sarah Circle

Thursday, May 8 at 9:15 am for breakfast at Nico's Restaurant
7166 Shoup Ave., West Hills

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, May 14 at 1:00 pm in the Church Library.
Program by Margaret Cates.



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



Outreach/Mission

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park serves the community in many ways.

Fire Recovery Fund

Through your generosity we donated \$8,750 to Cal-Pac. There were 19 church families who donated



\$6,165 (and a car) and 11 others from 6 states (CA, FL, IL, MA, TX, VA) who donated \$2,585. Groups such as United Women in Faith, Men's Breakfast Group and members from two lineage groups (Don Jose Chapter, California State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge) also donated.

The donation was presented by Pastor Elaine to DS Garth Gilliam on Wednesday, April 9th. Our donation will be used to assist those who lost everything during the January wildfires in Southern California.

Good morning Shari,
Thank you so much for this beautiful blessing and for sharing your generosity with the families and young adults we serve at Casa de Vida and TAY. We are so grateful for you and the love you consistently give. Your thoughtfulness truly makes a difference, and

Shelters

Our church continues to serve two local homeless shelters in Chatsworth.

Through our church members and the Don Jose de Ortega Chapter, CA State Society Daughters of the American Revolution, donations have been made so we could make 90 Easter bags for the shelters. Shown here are some of the recipients of the gift bags when Shari delivered them on April 12.



The children at the family shelter received a bag with handles filled with an axolotl stuffed animal (with bunny ears), sticker book about Jesus, cookies, candy, plastic eggs with jellybeans, etc. Everyone will receive an Easter card and a chocolate cross.

Toiletry bags (black for the males and blue for the females) have been donated for the TAY shelter. These were filled with hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, lotion, socks, bar of soap, lip balm, emery boards, nail clipper kit, etc.) and some candy and cookies.

Dr. Arminda Mendiola donated 48 tubes of children's toothpaste. These and a toothbrush were added to everyone's Easter baskets/bags.

Thank You Note

the children and families benefit so much from your kindness. I also want to thank you for coming by to share these gifts, especially when you put so much effort into gathering donations and putting everything together.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you bless others.

*Julie Camacho
Hope the Mission*

Laura Longman Scholarships

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarship grants of \$3,000 each on Easter in celebration of the life and memory of Laura Lynn Longman, (1958 – 1984). Laura was raised in the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park. She loved her life as a Christian and loved learning. She graduated with honors from Taft High School in 1976 and began working while attending L.A. Pierce College. In early 1979 she was diagnosed with heart failure.

That September she received an experimental heart transplant at Stanford University Medical Center. During her recovery she traveled the United States by car and enrolled in San Francisco State University as a junior to complete her studies in Biochemistry. She loved science and loved to discuss social issues. Her family and church helped support her through her illness and recovery for five years. On February 10, 1984, while a senior at San Francisco State University, Laura died of sudden heart failure while in class.

Many people, especially from The First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park had helped her thrive before, during and after her heart transplant. She was so positive about her challenges there seemed to be no adequate way to memorialize such a motivated, vital and energetic life. The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship was founded as a living memorial to honor and assist junior and senior students toward graduation. On Easter Sunday, 1985 the first Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship grants were awarded. This year is the forty-first year granting scholarship awards to well qualified upper-class undergraduate students. With these 3 awards presented on Easter, 127 scholarship grants will have been awarded in Laura's memory to 98 different students for a grand total of \$212,500.

We, the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee and the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park congratulate the following recipients on their accomplishments to date and look forward to hearing of their future successes.

2025 Recipients

Selina Cho will be a junior at San Jose State University. She is majoring in Industrial Design and plans to graduate with her Bachelor of Science degree in June 2027. We know Selina as the young lady with a beautiful energetic singing voice, enthusiastic liturgist, AV operator and bundle of spiritual joy. Selina's faith is strong as she seeks God's guidance and direction in her life.



Brinley Douglas will be a junior at Brigham Young University, majoring in Statistics, with a minor in Strategic Management.. After her freshman year, she went to Europe on a mission trip, serving in Germany, Austria and Switzerland for 18

months. She is taking extra courses to get her studies back on schedule to graduate in May 2027. Brinley intends to work as a social impact evaluator, consulting with companies to help them make a greater impact with their product.

Benjamin Villareal will be a senior this fall, majoring in Nursing at Mount Saint Mary's University. He is taking a full student load while working two part time jobs and helping his parents to manage the household. He is working toward graduation in May 2026. Benjamin intends to focus his career on becoming a Nurse Practitioner advocating for patients emotional wellness and health equity.



A Glorious Easter Sunday



Thanks to the Anderson family for organizing our second-year Easter Egg Hunt for children! It was a glorious day of celebrating our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, and so many church family and friends came out to celebrate.



Contributing musically to the Easter service were Roger Johnson, Alyssa Rupert, Preston Simpkin, Diane Rosales, Anita Parrinello, violinist Siranush Hoveyan, with Paul Cady on the piano



Administrative Committee Reports

Financial Update

We approved the 2025 budget which includes \$60,000 for repair/maintenance items in 2025 of which about \$40,000 will be paid using the Covid related, Employee Retention Credit monies we recently received from the U.S Government. The ERC monies will cover \$10,000 for the final phase of the sanctuary Audio/Visual upgrades, \$6,000 for worship related activities, \$10,000 for Christian Education, \$30,000 for the Capital Fund, and about \$18,000 for the Fellowship Hall roof and lighting projects. The financial boost from the ERC monies will allow us to invest in both Pastor Elaine's ministry, as well as the deferred maintenance projects needing to be addressed on campus. The last financial item for this report is the invoices we have sent out to both "for profit" user groups who pay their portion of the non-exempt property taxes on our property tax bill.

Facility Update:

After losing the large branch on the tree nearest the office, we discovered the tree was diseased and it needed to be removed. Before doing so we looked at other trees on the property and found 5 additional trees behind the Education Buildings that were also diseased and needed to be removed. This was done in April with the new Preschool and First UMC splitting the cost of removing the 5 education yard trees. In addition, we trimmed the pine tree on the west side of the FH and the three on the north side of the FH facing Sherman Way. All in all, we spent about \$6k on tree trimming and removal. The Heating/AC in the old Boy Scout room (now leased by FitkidsFitFamilies) was not working. We had new thermostats installed as well as two new pumps to make sure the condensation is removed from the building for \$1,100. The wall repair on the backside of the Women's restroom still needs to be addressed and then painted. We also need to address the termites in the wood backing behind the monitors in the sanctuary with a heat treatment this spring. Vandals tried to steal the pump on the Maynard fountain. Jeff Leighton is working to get it back up and running. He also worked on the toilets in the sanctuary Women's Restroom as one of them continued to run. Both fill valves were flushed of debris and are back working correctly. Louis Parrinello was able to replace the window blinds on the Sherman Way side of the upstairs landing with a stain glass vinyl film which looks much better! Thank You, Louis! If you see anything on campus that needs attention, call the office and we'll put it on the master list!!

Facility User Groups:

We have decided not to pursue additional user groups unless they are truly beneficial to First UMC. With 18 user groups, we're at our limit, regarding our ability to manage additional groups. We did have one movie production group use the parking lot in April for \$1,500. The SFV Master Chorale decided to move from the Parlor to the Choir room for their spring practices.

George Grengs



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Tammy Cates

Rose Chadwick

George Grengs

Shari Kelley Worrell

Paul Cady

Mary Mackay

Lori Dimmick

Ken Dimmick

Grant Parrinello

Ginger Huston's brother, David

Baby Maggie

Liz Rogers family

Angela Anderson's dad
Brett

Edwin and Elaine's daughter

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





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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Meditation and Memorial Garden Guidelines

Memorial Committee met on March 24, 2025 and reviewed the Guidelines for the Meditation and Memorial Garden. These are a couple of the updates.

1. Interment Eligibility: Interment in the Memorial Garden shall be open to active members* and active constituents* of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park who request to be interred in the Memorial Garden.

** Please refer to the pastor for details
relating to active members/constituents.*

2. Officiant: According to the United Methodist Book of Discipline (#340: Responsibilities and Duties of Elders and Local Pastors), services of worship such as funerals and memorials held within the church are to be officiated by the pastor appointed by the Bishop and the Cabinets of the California-Pacific Annual Conference. ONLY the pastor appointed by the Bishop can extend invitation to other clergies to be a part of the service