



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: firstumccp@gmail.com

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

Pastor: eshinpaull@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

February 2023

Heart to Heart

Clap your hands, all people!

Ps. 47:1

January was a good month for our church. We received five new members and five shepherds (sponsors) stood by them as we made the commitment to love, care and do everything in our power to increase *their* faith, confirm *their* hope, and perfect *them* in love.

What a wonderful way to begin a New Year!

We welcome all people of God. And all means all! If anyone experiences the hand of God at our church, if anyone sees a glimpse of God showing up at our church, if anyone feels love without any conditions attached, or if anyone finds the peace of God here, we are being a church of God's in this little corner called West Hills, California.

I would like all of us to be grounded and determined to make 2023 praise-filled and negativity free, hope filled and worry free, grace-filled and ungratefulness free, and half-full glasses and half-empty glass free.

My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you, my soul.

Let us give thanks to God in all circumstances and be happy.

Happy February, everyone!



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux
MacKinnon



New Member	(Shepherd)
Selina Cho.	(Karen Grengs)
Bev Ewing.	(Glynene Roe)
Denise Lenore.	(Anita Parinello)
Jeanne Niss.	(Mary Mackay)
Shari Worrell.	(JoAnn Chadwick - Ellis)

FEBRUARY



- 1 Brenda Jones
- 6 JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
Ayla Ann Palmerlee
- 12 Laura Pomeroy
- 15 Lois Jimenez
- 16 Emily Willauer
- 19 Mark Nogy
- 23 Abbey Hafner-Arnold
Shari Worrell
- 25 Libby Bennett
- 26 Jan Fenske
- 27 Margaret Cates

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



February Flower Calendar

- 5 Open
- 12 Diane Rosales, *in memory of her father, Carl*
- 19 UMF Sunday
- 26 Open

February 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, Fellowship Hall Lounge, 10:30 - 12:30 pm
Cub Pack 474, Boy Scout Room, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Friday Silicon Andhra, Rm.10 and Library, 5:30-7:30 pm
Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

Other Activities

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Saturday 18 Rock Chippers, Lounge, 6:39 - 10:00 pm

Coming in March

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way



Live Streaming On Hold

Live streaming of Sunday morning worship services is temporarily suspended until the appropriate help is secured to do the filming and transmission. Please speak to Pastor Elaine if you are interested in helping with this service.

Nursery Attendant

The church is still looking for a nursery attendant to take care of toddlers and young children during church services. Contact the church office if you might know someone who would be the perfect match for the job. A description of the job can be e-mailed to any possible candidates.



**United
Women
in Faith**



UWF Mission Team meeting

Will be by Zoom, Date to be determined.

Cal-Pac UWFaith Mid-Winter Event

Saturday February 18, 9:00am-3:00pm

In person meeting at Camarillo UMC.

Program: How UWFaith can support efforts to combat climate change.

Speaker on **Just Energy 4 All**.

Registration deadline is February 13. Cost \$15.00.

Consider bringing Target gift cards in any amount as a
“Love Offering” for David & Margaret Youth & Family Services.

**United Women In Faith
Mission**

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Purpose

To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Thursday, February 23

12:00 noon

Room 10

Sarah Circle

Thursday, February 9

9:30 am

Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, February 15

6:30 pm

Church Library

Shirley Thomson is
hoping to be able to
provide the program
and devotion.

Street Work on Sherman Way

Due to the heavy rain in January, the scheduled street resurfacing project on Sherman Way between Shoup Ave and Fallbrook Ave has been delayed.

The supervisors will work with us to ensure that vehicles can access the church parking lot for Sunday worship, user groups, etc. Alternatively, you may access the church parking lot while avoiding the street resurfacing by turning in on Gault Street to Enadia Way.

Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship Committee set a goal of \$100,000 for 2023 pledges.

39 pledges were received, totaling \$101,970.

They are delighted, but would be happy to add your pledge, if you have not already submitted one.

Preschool News

Amid the red construction paper hearts, our Bible verse this month reminds us that

“A friend loves at all times. (Proverbs 17:17)”

Preschool is an excellent opportunity to reinforce this concept of acceptance and forgiveness in our community of friends.

February is dental month, we're hoping to have Dr. Joe come and visit to teach us how to care for our teeth.

Next month we will begin our Spring unit with lots of artwork and planting new flowers in our flower beds in the playground.

Wendy Finley



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers on a given Sunday, there are several options

First: Sign up on the Flower Calendar for the date you would like or call the church office.

Second: Bring flowers from your garden, or a flower arrangement or flowering plant & bring it on the Sunday requested.

Third: Send a check for \$65, marked “Altar flowers for the date requested.” Flowers will be ordered from a local florist.

Questions? Contact Sydney in the church office 818-340-2950 or Mary Mackay 818-731-5872.

Bible Studies Coming Up...

Study # 1 starting on Jan. 26 (10-week study)

Wesleyan's Bible Study led by Pastor Elaine. Please order a book written by Amy-Jill Levine called “Short Stories by Jesus.”

Study # 2 Tentative schedule starting Feb. 26 (6-week study).

The Chosen led by Roger Johnson: This will help us to see the story of Jesus through the eyes of those who followed him. This study group will watch *The Chosen* series together, followed by discussions for each session.

Study#3 Starting date is TBA (9-week study).

Jewish Observance of Biblical Holidays will be offered by Gideon Paull. This series will focus on how the holidays mentioned in the Old Testament are observed today by Jews all over the world. We start the series with a look at sabbath observance and how commandments in the Old Testament have been interpreted to provide a framework of observance for the day of rest.



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 worked, 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. If you or your computer needs help, please contact me and I'll schedule you in!



George Grengs, george.grengs@outlook.com or 818.632.7538.

Let Us Become the Beloved Community

“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The *beloved community* manifests and protects agape love as its guiding principle and is expressed in the following ways:

Offers radical hospitality to everyone; an inclusive family rather than exclusive club;

Recognizes and honors the image of God in every human being;

Exhibits personal authenticity, true respect, and validation of others;

Recognition and affirmation, not eradication, of differences;

Listens emotionally (i.e., with the heart) – fosters empathy and compassion for others;

Tolerates ambiguity – realizes that sometimes a clear-cut answer is not readily available;

Builds increasing levels of trust and works to avoid fear of difference and others;

Acknowledges limitations, lack of knowledge, or understanding – and seeks to learn;

Acknowledges conflict or pain in order to work on difficult issues;

Speaks truth in love, always considering ways to be compassionate with one another;

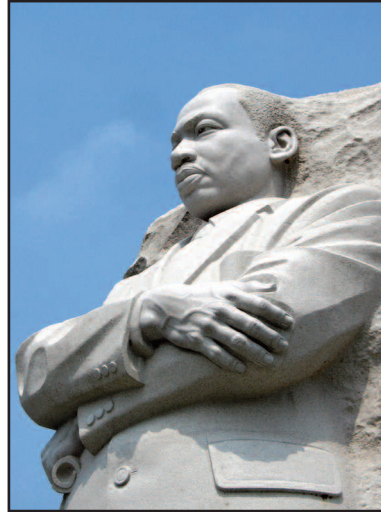
Avoids physical aggression and verbal abuse;

Resolves conflicts peacefully, without violence, recognizing that peacefully doesn't always mean comfortably for everybody;

Releases resentment and bitterness through self-purification (i.e., avoidance of internal violence through spiritual, physical, and psychological care);

Focuses energy on removing evil forces (unjust systems), not destroying persons;

Unyielding persistence and unwavering commitment to justice;



Achieves friendship and understanding through negotiation, compromise, or consensus – considering each circumstance to discern which will be most helpful;

Righteously opposes and takes direct action against poverty, hunger, and homelessness;

Advocates thoroughgoing, extensive neighborhood

revitalization without displacement (this also applies to the Church – working toward responsible and equitable growth, discipleship, and worship);

Blends faith and action to generate a commitment to defeating injustice (not forgetting that injustice can also be found within the Church);

Encourages and embraces artistic expressions of faith from diverse perspectives;

Fosters dynamic and active spirituality – recognizes that we serve a dynamic God who is not left behind by a changing world or people, and that a passive approach will not work;

Gathers together regularly for table fellowship, and meets the needs of everyone in the community;

Relies on scripture reading, prayer, and corporate worship for inner strength;

Promotes human rights and works to create a non-racist society;

Shares power and acknowledges the inescapable network of mutuality among the human family.

Posted by the CalPac Conference

Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Funding 2023

*Laura Longman
1958 - 1984*



This February is filled with anniversaries and memories for the friends and family of the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship. It was 44 years ago this month that Laura drove herself to St Joseph's Hospital in Burbank, because she was having

difficulty breathing. She had had the flu since before Christmas of 1978. She was admitted and diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. Later that year she received an experimental heart transplant at Stanford University Medical Center. It was like "putting a new engine in a very tired old car."

She went on to travel the United States in her new life. Since her childhood she had loved to be learning. She entered San Francisco State University as a junior studying Biochemistry. On February 9th of 1984, Laura sent valentine cards to her friends and family. None of those cards had return addresses on them. She knew that her heart was failing. Laura, then a senior died in class of heart failure on February 10th, 1984.

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship was founded as a living memorial. On Easter Sunday, 1985 the first scholarship grants were awarded. By April 2022, \$188,500 had been awarded in 128 scholarship grants given to 101 different students. More memories of Laura are shown in a video presentation on the church website: www.umccp.org.

Since the inception of the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship, families have chosen to make contributions in memory of their loved one or in honor of someone. This month we are encouraging interested people to contribute in support of the 2023 recipients, yet to be chosen. All donations are dedicated to fund scholarship grants.

Anyone who would like to contribute to this ministry in memory or honor of a loved one is invited to write a check payable to the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park with the memo line reading "Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship." Please include a note of dedication to your loved one or honoree. All donations and gifts are dedicated for use in this ministry. Your gifts are very much appreciated and will be acknowledged for your tax purposes.

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship is a memorial ministry of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park, 22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307.



From the Mailbox

Thank you note from Jonathan Driggs - father of Benjamin Driggs (recipient of the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship in 2022)

December 25, 2022

During this Christmas I am looking back over the Year and counting my blessings. I am very grateful to you, the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park and the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee for awarding our son, Benjamin such a generous scholarship grant.

Not only was the money very helpful to him for his schooling, it provided a helpful morale boost for him. The pandemic has been hard on a lot of our college students, my son included – having to switch to remote learning wasn't easy. I very much appreciate the encouragement he felt from you and your congregation to persevere with his demanding program.

Thank you for this kindness and for the many kindnesses you have shown to my family over the years. I/we really appreciate it.

With Love,
Jonathan Driggs

Sunday Fellowship Time

Each Sunday following worship, refreshments are provided to enjoy a time of fellowship. Here is the monthly schedule of workers providing the refreshments and assisting in clean up.

1st Sunday	Sharon Mountford & Shari Worrell
2nd Sunday	Nancy Johnson & Bev Ewing
3rd Sunday	Toby Lane & JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
4th Sunday	Glynene Roe & Chandra Seeger
5th Sunday	Shirley FitzGeorge & Mary Mackay

Our thanks to Tim O'Connor, Ken Dimmick and George Grengs for taking out the trash each Sunday.

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



*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.*



You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the church. Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Select Canoga Park First United Methodist Church as your charity.

Remember to start at smile.amazon.com to support the church.



Joys to share:

Rosalind is cancer free

Shirley Thomson is feeling better and returned home!

Prayers for:

Mervin Hewitt

Joe Buttemeier
hospice care

Denise's Aunt, Elsie

Dana Dreyfuss

George Grengs
for his ankle

Shari Worrell

Brenda Jones

Helen Robertson's great grandson

The Alderman family

Tim and Lora's daughter,
Kelly

Chuck Mabry

Nancy Summer

*Send prayer requests to
Anita Parrinello
(lwo2bjedi@gmail.com)
and CC Pastor Elaine
(eshinpauill@gmail.com)*



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Return Service Requested