



April 2025

The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

E-mail: crossandflame@att.net

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

Pastor: eshinpauill@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

The Journey to Hope

Parents continually reach for hope when it comes to their children. Some are blessed with children who seem to thrive, following a path that brings joy and fulfillment. Others, however, face deep struggles – watching their children stumble, make painful choices, and drift far from what they had hoped for.

There are parents who, despite repeated heartbreak, keep reaching for hope – again and again – even as their child continues to disappoint them. It is a painful reality to witness, and even more difficult to endure.

Life itself is full of these moments—journeys marked by ups and downs, joy and sorrow, expectations and disappointments. Many have walked through seasons of pain, wondering how to hold on when hope feels distant.

During the final week of his earthly life, Jesus walked his own journey of heartbreak. He sat at the table with those he loved, even as he knew one would betray him. He knelt and washed the feet of his disciples, even while carrying the weight of what was to come. Yet through it all, he held on to hope in the Father.

The day of the cross – the day of suffering, abandonment, mourning, and endings – would come to pass. And beyond it, the day of victory, the day of joy, the day of new beginnings would arrive

That is why Easter is the happiest day for Christians. It is the day that reminds us that sorrow is not final, heartbreak is not forever, and darkness cannot extinguish the light of Christ.

So, in the meantime – before that great day arrives – we can still choose to find the little joys, the little people, the little hopes, the little ways, and even the little breaths that carry us forward – step by step – until we arrive at Resurrection Day.

Hope is not only found in the grand victory, but in the small moments that lead us there.

Pastor Elaine



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Pauill

**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

April Birthdays

- 4 Kay Taylor
- 6 Nancy Summer
- 7 Alma Anderson
- 8 Michiko Mosbe
- 9 Kathie Walters
- 12 Louis Parrinello
- 23 Dana Dreyfuss
- Stephen Jones
- Dixie Smith
- 29 Samantha Elliot

April Anniversaries

- 2 Grengs, George & Karen
- 20 Godwin, Bernie & Cate
- 29 Johnson, Roger & Nancy

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



April Flowers

- 6 Michael & Michiko Mosbe
- 13 Open
- 20 Open
- 27 Michael & Michiko Mosbe

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.

April 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=emhFc011Y3NTNzVkRjJEWCTmZndiUT09>
- 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 Lenten Bible Study, Library, 11:00 am
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 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- Tuesday 8 Administrative Committee Meeting, Library, 6:30 pm
- Saturday 12 Young Ambassadors, Fellowship Hall, 1:00 - 6:30 pm
San Fernando Valley Master Chorale, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
- Sunday 13 Passion/Palm Sunday
Monday 14 - Saturday 19: Holy Week
- Tuesday 15 Tax Day
- Thursday 17 Hindi Urdu Church, To Be Determined
- Saturday 19 Rockchipper's, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm
- Sunday 20 Easter Day**
- Monday 21 Easter Monday

Coming in May

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- Sunday 4 Native American Ministries Sunday
- Monday 5 Sabra Pittenger Memorial Service, First UMC Canoga Park
- Sunday 11 Mother's Day
- Sunday 18 Heritage Sunday
- Monday 26 Memorial Day





United
Women
in Faith



Crosses

The March Faith, Hope & Love Circle program was presented by Shirley Thomson. The topic was “Crosses”. There are many types of crosses. She displayed her personal crosses with the stories behind them. Pastor Elaine displayed a couple of crosses she had in her office and others told about the crosses they were wearing.

One of Shirley’s crosses, in particular, drew the attention of those present. It was the La Primavera cross – Spanish for “the season of spring”. This cross was designed by James Avery in 1970 (his sister was once a neighbor of mine). The design combines Christian symbols with spring symbols and the dove represents man’s reconciliation with God.



The cross is an interesting design and quite elegant.

A Call To Prayer and Self Denial

In 2025, the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support economic development and microenterprise 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, April 16 at
1:00 pm in Room 10.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, April 10 at 9:15
am for breakfast at Nico’s
Restaurant
7166 Shoup Ave.,
West Hills

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, April 9 at
1:00 pm
in the Church Library.
Program by
Anita Parrinello.
Topic will be Mary
Magdalene.



FOOD
PANTRY

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

Outreach/Mission

First United Methodist Church - Canoga Park serves the community in many ways:

Fire Recovery Fund

Instead of the Blessing Bags for Lent we have been collecting monetary donations (through March 30th) as our Lenten Project this year. We currently have received \$4,755 in donations for this fund [13 church families (\$2270) and 9 non-church members (\$2,485) from 6 states (CA, FL, IL, MA, TX, VA), United Women in Faith and one lineage group ((Don Jose Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution)].

If you would like to donate to the Fire Recovery Fund please mail or drop off your donation to the church office by Sunday, March 30th. You may also bring your donations to church on Sunday (hand to the Greeter or place in the offering box). Please put Fire Recovery Fund on the memo line.

Shelters

Our church continues to serve two local homeless shelters in Chatsworth. On February 21st the



Hope the Mission staff member, Ashley, accepting our donation

Outreach/Mission Chairperson, Shari Worrell, took over 18 bath towels, 10 washcloths, 31 pairs of socks, 2 boxes of clothes (including many pairs of jeans), shoes, a pair of slipper socks, 2 puzzles, wall calendars, a few toys and some hygiene products (see photo). The shelter still needs 10 bathmats.

Through our church members and the Don Jose de Ortega Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, donations have been made so we can make Easter gifts for the shelters.



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



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



Pastor Elaine and Roger Johnson set up a tent and table in front of the Church, in the rain on Wednesday, March 5 from Noon to 1:30 pm to administer ashes and talk about the meaning of the ashes and the beginning of Lent to folks who would stop by on their way to somewhere else. It was an interesting and inspiring event. Certainly worthwhile – even in the rain.

We were ready to go promptly at noon. Our first client had only stopped handle a text message. But she was grateful for the reminder and

pledged to attend her Catholic church down the road that night.

Several folks from our congregation stopped by, received our Lenten flyer, chatted, prayed, received the ashes and were happily on their way. See the photos below.

One of our last visitors said he was a Catholic but he was curious. As we talked, he said he would repent and change his behavior to be kinder to his parents during Lent – and hopefully after.

Later, we drove to visit folks who had requested that we stop by. We ministered to three ladies at Irma Santos' office and visited the Godwins at home too. It was a well-spent afternoon. Certainly a grand experiment and a very successful outreach. Praise the Lord.



Roger Johnson and Pastor Elaine with Kay Thomas and Michicko Mosely in the car.



The team with Bill Satterlee, Ginger Houston and Anita and Louis Parrinello.



Pastor Elaine, Robin Anderson and Roger Johnson

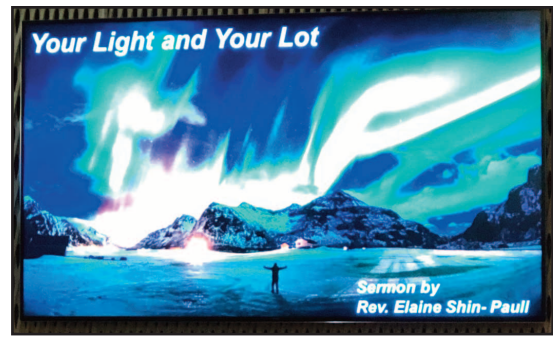
CELEBRATE
EASTER

PALM SUNDAY · APRIL 13 @ 10AM

GOOD FRIDAY · APRIL 18 @ 5PM

EASTER SUNDAY · APRIL 20 @ 10AM

AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK



On Sunday March 16, Pastor Elaine was home sick, but she had written her sermon. Husband Gideon Paull did a fine job delivering her message.



Do You Shop At Ralphs?

If so, every time you shop a percentage can go to our church. The next quarter is ending soon. The church should be receiving a check sometime in March or April. Last quarter we received \$80 because Ralph shoppers signed up for First UMC as their charity of choice.

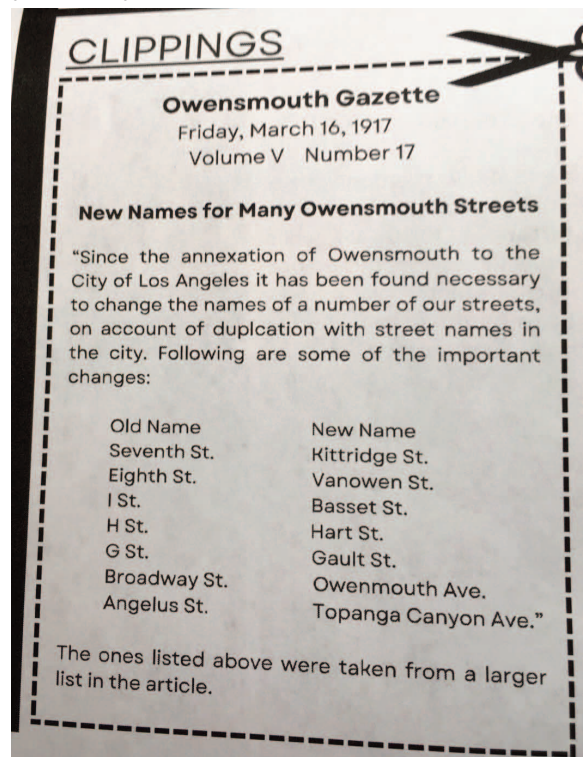
If you haven't signed up yet, please stop at the Customer Service desk at your local Ralph's and ask for assistance in how you can sign up.

If you have any questions about these Mission projects, please contact Shari Worrell, at sharikworrell@gmail.com or 310-902-0179.

*"You shall open wide your hand to your brother,
to the needy and to the poor, in your land."
Deuteronomy 15:11*

Voice from the Past

Mary Mackay sent this for its historical interest.



Administrative Committee Reports

Financial Update

We still have some final financial items to finalize by the end of March. The first being the 2025 budget which should be approved by the end of March. We'll provide a final breakout of how we plan to spend the ECR monies we received earlier this year, in the May update. Denise continues to work with the Assessor's Office on understanding the property tax bill so we can correctly apportion it with our for-profit entities on campus. We have spent approximately \$20,000 for the Fellowship Hall shingle roof and the Gym LED lights.

Facility Update

As noted above we have completed both the FH roof and Gym LED lights. The LED lights look great and should save electricity/money going forward. The gardeners dropped some free wood chips which have now been spread throughout the campus. This helps to insulate the plants from the higher summer heat we're experiencing and helps keep weeds down. The large juniper on the Sherman Way side of the sanctuary was cut down to about 4' which has opened things up. We are quoting the repair of the lighted cross above the succulent garden. We hope to finish the wall repair on the backside of the Women's restroom sometime in April at which time we'll be ready to paint all the repaired walls and ceilings in the sanctuary building. We had a very large branch (about 15" diameter) come down in front of the office which was cut up and removed. We are also scheduling the removal of that same tree as it's diseased, as well as the trimming or possible removal of the pine trees around the Fellowship Hall. They are overhanging the roof and causing maintenance problems as well as being fire risks. There are at least two trees behind the Education Building that need to be removed or trimmed back substantially as major limbs are overhanging the building. We're working with Charisma to make this happen. Never a dull moment!

George Grengs

Note of Thanks

It is with grateful hearts that the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee receives a very generous donation from the Men's Breakfast Fellowship. Thank you!

This will be a part of the blessings that will be awarded on Easter Sunday when the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship awards are granted.

May God Bless us All,
Roger & Nancy Johnson



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Mary Beth Godwin's daughter August

Mary Beth Godwin

Galeria

Shirley Fitzgeorge's niece Wendy

Pat Lakhan

Ken Dimmick

Tammy Cates Palmerlee

Tim O'Connor

Ardeen Wolfe

JoAnn Chadwick Ellis'

Step-Mom Rose Chadwick

Jim Turner

Don Heim

Jeanne Nolan's family

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





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Non-Profit Organization

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

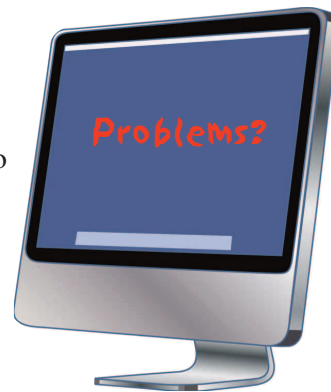
U.S. Postage
PAID
Canoga Park, CA
Permit #1

Return Service Requested

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.

He doesn't come to your house, he just connects to your computer through the internet 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*