



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

E-mail: firstumccp@gmail.com

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

January 2024

Heart to Heart

Happy New Year, friends!

May this New Year bring you closer to understanding and experiencing the depth of Christian spirituality in your life. Wishing you a year filled with blessings, joy, and a deepening connection with your faith.

May the blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, light your path in the year ahead. May your faith flourish and deepen, filling your life with peace, love, and grace at every turn. May God's abundant blessings overflow into your life and the lives of your loved ones.

May the coming year bring you boundless joy, success, good health, and thrilling new adventures. May you reach all of your goals and realize your dreams, with each day brimming with happiness and laughter.

Here's to a year filled with love, robust health, and prosperity. Let's embark on this new year's journey together, guided by faith and hope!

Pastor Elaine



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Irma Hart

Courier Layout
Sharon Mountford

AV Operator
Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop
Dottie Escobedo-Frank

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

ADVENT PROJECT

The Mission Project Team handling the Advent Project would like to thank you for your generosity. Because of your kindness we donated over \$1400 worth of gift cards (Target, Wal Mart, Dollar Tree, 99 cent store, etc.) plus over 40 new children's books, pillows, bedding and 8 boxes/bags of toys and clothes to Hope the Mission, The Woodlands, the family shelter located in Woodland Hills. This Christmas the children living in this family shelter will be able to have a nicer holiday because of your giving hearts.

I am planning a tour of the facility in January. If anyone would like to take this tour, please let Shari Kelley Worrell know at sharikworrell@gmail.com.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Birthdays

- 10 Beverly Ewing
- 13 Susanna Jones
- 14 Mary McKibben
- 20 Jeanne Niss
- 21 Lora O'Connor
- 22 Will Landrum
- 25 Mervin Hewitt
- 30 JoAnne McColloch
- 31 Nova Anderson
- Mary Mackay

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



January

- 7 open
- 14 open
- 21 open
- 28 Sharon & Lou Mountford
in honor of Mary Mackay

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.

January Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday San Fernando Valley Master Chorale, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
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=QURDc0FVUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhhJmVzVYUT09)
Meeting ID: 854 6686 0517.....Passcode: 229523
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-10:00 pm
- 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
SiliconAndhra, Room# 10 & Library, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Saturday SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 -12:30
Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

Other Activities

- Monday 1 Church Office Closed
- Saturday 6 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Monday 8 to 11 Pastor Elaine on Leave
- Saturday 13 Open House Give Away, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
- Monday 15 Monthly Social
- Tuesday 16 Admin. Council Meeting (rescheduled from the 9th)

Coming in February

- Thursday 1 Wesleyan's Bible Study will recommence at 11 am.
The study will delve into short letters of the apostle Paul, starting with Galatians.
- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

Altar Flower Update

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar on a given date, please put your name on the altar flower calendar in the Parlor, or call the church office.

Flowers may be from your garden, an arrangement you purchase, ordered through a florist of your choice, or ordered by the church. Flowers ordered by the church, through a florist, will be \$65.

Please note on your payment "Altar Flowers" and the date you have chosen.



**United
Women
in Faith**

UWF Mission Team:

Tuesday, January 16
at 10:00 am via Zoom



North District UWF Local Organization Recognition Event:

This Event is being held virtually online January 20, 2024 at 10:00 am. All UWF members are encouraged to attend this event where they will recognize the 5-Star Units, 60/40 Units, Mission Today and the Reading Program.

North District Officer Training:

This will be a Virtual Online Event over a few days.

Here is the schedule:

Sunday, January 7 at 4:00 pm – Treasurer

Thursday, January 11 at 10:00 am – Social Action

Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 pm – Communication

Saturday, January 13 at 10:00 am – Secretary

Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 pm – Committee on Nominations

Wednesday, January 17 at 10:00 am – Membership

Wednesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm – Program Resources

Thursday, January 18 at 12:00 pm – Mission Education & Interpretation

Thursday, January 18 at 2:00 pm – Spiritual Growth

Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 pm – President/Vice President/Circles

Registration Online for 2024 Recognition Event and Local Organization Training: <http://www.calpacumc.org/uwfnorthl1t2024>.

Or mail to Amber Hedges, A. S. Hedges, United Women in Faith North District, P.O. Box 1549, Flintridge, CA 91012

Deadline for registration: Wednesday, January 17, 2024.



Sarah Circle met at Weilers Deli recently. Clockwise from Shirley Thomson are Pat Lukhan, Nancy Johnson, Toby Lane, & Bev Ewing.

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Note change of day

Wednesday, January 10 at
1:00 pm in Room 10.

The book to be reviewed
is entitled
*The Department of Sensitive
Crimes*
by Alexander McCall
Smith.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, January 11,
9:30 am

Breakfast at Weiler's Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, January 17
In the library
Program TBA



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

Another New Year, Another New Start, Another Reset!

I have been in prayer and contemplation, pondering what 2024 will bring to us. What is God's plan for us? What are His desires for us, individually? What sets First UMC of Canoga Park apart and makes us unique?

All of these thoughts have led me to consider what 21st-century Christian spirituality means. Here are some reflections that we know, but can improve upon in the year 2024.



Online Presence: In this digital age of the 21st century, Christian spirituality extends and shares itself through the internet and social media. Online worship, Christian blogs, virtual Bible studies, and digital Christian communities thrive on digital platforms.

Inclusivity and Diversity: Many Christian churches and groups emphasize inclusivity and respect for diversity, welcoming people of all races, gender identities, and sexual orientations. This culture of welcoming individuals from diverse backgrounds is a source of strength.

Social Justice: Christian spirituality is deeply attuned to social issues. Many Christian groups raise awareness of poverty, inequality, and human rights concerns, and they actively work to drive social change.

Spiritual Growth: Christian spirituality places a strong emphasis on nurturing spiritual growth and deepening faith. Many Christians seek spiritual growth through practices such as prayer, Bible study, seeking spiritual guidance, and daily devotions.

Community and Solidarity: Christian spirituality underscores the importance of interaction within the church and the Christian community. Christians care for and support each other within the community while practicing and sharing their faith.

Environmental Stewardship: Christian spirituality highlights environmental protection and respect for the Creator's creation. This can manifest in efforts to protect and care for the Earth's environment.

We are already actively engaged in many of these aspects of Christian spirituality. However, there is always room for improvement. In the year 2024, let us commit to building upon our existing efforts to enrich our spiritual lives further and strengthen our bonds as a community.

Blessings,
Rev. Elaine Shin-Paull

"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."

Financial Update:

We have approved a preliminary 2024 budget, but since we hope to have additional information on new user groups by the end of December, we have decided to wait until January to finalize.

Stewardship: A Grateful Heart

Thirty-four Estimate of Giving Cards equaling \$94,384 have been received through mid-December which is down about 8% from last year. A bit of a disappointment, but quite understandable after raising \$37,000 in the fall appeal. The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone for your generosity and support!

Facilities Update:

We continue to work with the LADWP in our quest for water credits for leaks at the end of last summer, but the meter continues to run, so no credits yet. Several of us walked the campus and were not able to find any water on campus. As a result, we hired a leak detecting company who helped us find a new leak at the entry to the Yellow House. This will be fixed before the holidays and will hopefully bring the water meter flow to a stop. Once that happens, we'll schedule another appointment with the LADWP.

Tree problems! The upper part of the tree trunk on the large pine tree at the southwest corner of the Education Building play yard came down during the December winds. The broken branches were lying on top of the Jungle Gym cover which luckily did not rip, but made the branch removal quite a bit more difficult. It's a strange looking tree (that you can see from the alley) but trimmed up better than expected.

Cleaning of the roofs and rain gutters were delayed because of the winds but it should be finished before any major December/January storms arrive.

We continue working to get back online to enable us to see how much electricity the solar system is producing. We found a tech guy that can help with the internet set up with the monitoring company so we will now go through the set-up process.

We're still looking for a vendor who can service the system on a regular basis. Additionally, If you have any interest in solar systems, we still need someone to check the electricity being produced (on your phone) and coordinate with a vendor who services the installation. Not a lot of time required – just an interest in making sure we continue to make the most out of our solar system! Call the office if you are interested!

Michael Mosbe and the AV Team continue with the upgrades to the sanctuary sound system. The improvements are too numerous to report here, but they have made a lot of progress and they will continue their work into 2024. A shout out to Michael for the many electronic components he has arranged to be donated to the church. Amazing! Thanks Michael!

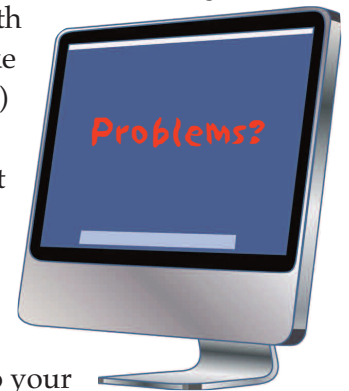
User Groups:

In our effort to increase the income from our facilities, we continue to work on the lease of the Education Buildings and finding new user groups for the Fellowship Hall. Nothing new to report at this time, but we are optimistic that our efforts will pay off soon!

George Grengs

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.

We Need Your Help!

As we continue our leasing efforts for the Education Buildings, we need to completely clean out the facility, so the buildings are ready for tenant-paid improvements. The sooner we completely empty the buildings and yard the better.

Many of you have helped pack up boxes of books and toys to donate to Hope the Mission. Guadalupe Center, came in December, and took a car and truck load of things they could use. In addition, paper goods, office supplies, and cleaning supplies are being used in the office and for our Fellowship Time.

Toby Lane, JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis, Tim O'Connor, George Grengs, Pastor Elaine & family have sorted, dismantled, and taken things to E-waste or to be recycled. But there remain plenty of good items that people might want.

To reduce the number of good items that are taken away to the dump, we plan an "Open House Give Away" (donations would be gladly accepted) on Saturday, January 13th. This will be an advertised event, open to the public, that will hopefully empty most of the Education Building, play yard and Yellow House. It will be open from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm.

Here is where you can help!

Let us know if you could be a worker/monitor/cashier in one of the rooms on Saturday, January 13.

If you have some free time between now & then, we still have 3 cupboards of books to box & E-waste to remove.

We can use all the help we can get. If you are able, please contact Mary Mackay 818 731 5872 – Margaret Cates 818 919 9444 – George Grengs 818 632 7538. There will also be sign-up sheets at the upcoming Sunday worship services. Thanks!

Open House Give Away January 13

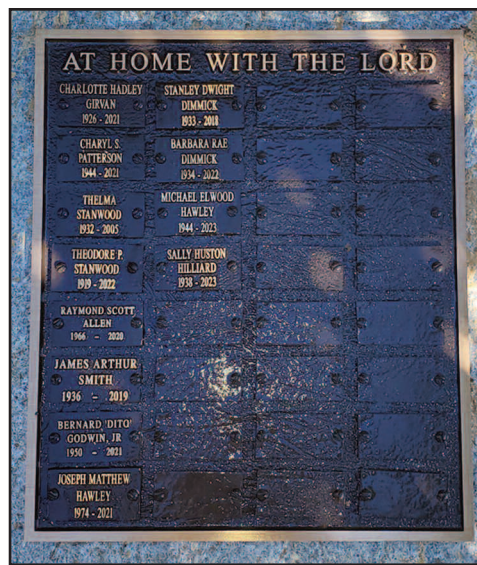
Here are some of the items available for adoption.

They will be offered to all comers on January 13.

If you see something you could use now, please talk to Mary Mackay.

If you are trying get rid of things which others might want, you may donate items to be added to these treasures.





Memorial Garden Rock

Finally, after a couple of years, the 3rd Memorial rock and plaque were installed in the Memorial Garden. Margaret Cates, Mary Mackay and Ginger Huston searched for an appropriate rock. Devon Cates and Ken Dimmick placed the rock in the ground. Randy Gorlick installed the plaque on the rock with names of those members who have been interred. Very grateful to all who were involved in getting this project finalized.

Shirley Thomson, Memorial Chair

Prayer Group

Virtual prayer meetings: Mondays from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm via Zoom.

Drop in anytime you can and join us.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?pwd=QURDc0FVUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhhVzVYUT09)
 pwd=QURDc0FVUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhhVzVYUT09
 Meeting ID: 854 6686 0517...Passcode: 229523

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

People lifted on the prayer chain:
 Daina & Maurie Hulet
 on the death of Sal Zelaya
 Miko Mosbe
 Toby Lane
 Dave Burdsall
 Jennifer Ervin
 Baby Bishop
 Darlene – Asst League
 Mervin Hewitt
 Steve Thomas
 Lora O'Connor
 Sharon Mountford
 PJ's grandson's twins
 Aneeti
 Tom and Donna Evans
 Anabel Flores
 Anita Parrinello
recovery from cataract surgery
 Send prayer requests to
 Anita Parrinello
luv2bjedi@gmail.com
 and CC Pastor Elaine
eshinpauall@gmail.com



A recent meeting of the Bookends Circle in the Parlor.

From the left: Toby Lane, Evelyn Heim, Mary Mackay, Margaret Cates and Diane Rosales

Behind the camera: Glynene Roe



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Return Service Requested