



April 2022

# 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](mailto:crossandflame@att.net)

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

Pastor: [preachingbarefoot@att.net](mailto:preachingbarefoot@att.net)

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

*Sunday Worship at 10:00 am*

## Pastor Lynn is Retiring

As you know, Pastor Lynn is retiring in June. She and Stan are hoping to find their Forever Home in Oregon. On their first trip there, they found one they would have loved, but they were outbid. The current method of buying houses is extremely frustrating, but the Westovers are certain that they will be led to the home made for them. **We wish them well in their search!**



## Meet Pastor Elaine Shin-Paull

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park is excited to welcome Pastor Elaine Shin-Paull to our congregation. Pastor Elaine's first Sunday worship service will be July 10.

Educated at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pastor Elaine is ordained in the California Pacific Annual Conference. She has served Southland congregations at La Canada United Methodist Church and Santa Clarita United Methodist Church.

Pastor Elaine's family includes husband Gideon and two children, college student daughter Selina and middle-school-aged son Aaron. Rounding out the family is Babycho, their four-legged furry friend whom Pastor Elaine describes as "very clingy, but sweet!"



In her free time, Pastor Elaine enjoys hiking, paddle boarding, and travel. She also confesses a passion for Belgian waffles with strawberries. Take a look at her website, too: [elainepaull.com](http://elainepaull.com)

We look forward to getting to know Pastor Elaine as she gets to know our congregation at First UMC of Canoga Park.

**Welcome, Pastor Elaine Shin-Paull!**



**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

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## April Birthdays

- 2 Jeff Leighton
- 5 Julie Demoraes
- 6 Nancy Summer
- 9 Kathie Walters
- 12 Louis Parrinello
- 13 Ren Natali
- 23 Dana Dreyfuss  
Stephen Jones  
Dixie Smith
- 25 Miranda Boyer  
Virgene Engberg

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



## Altar Flower Dedications

April 3: flowers provided by Grace Alcalde *in honor of George and Karen Grengs*

If you would like to sponsor or provide flowers for the altar, you may;

- 1) sign up on the flower calendar in the Parlor, or
- 2) call Mary Mackay at 818-346-5872 to talk about the date and dedication message you would like.

# April Calendar

## Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am  
San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus, Hall 1:45 pm  
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Harmonettes, Fellowship Hall 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, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Choir practice, Choir room 7:00
- Friday Girl Scouts, Scout Room, 6:00 - 7:30, 1st and 3rd Friday
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

## Other Activities

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am  
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- 7 Boy Scouts Parent Committee meeting at 7:00 pm
- Sat-Sun 9-10 Boy Scouts backpacking trip at Mt Baden Powell
- Sunday 10 Palm Sunday, in person worship, 10:00 am**

## Virtual Worship Gatherings

- Thursday 14 Maundy Thursday, Virtual Worship Gathering
- Friday 15 Good Friday, Virtual Worship Gathering  
*First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park*  
Website: [umccp.org](http://umccp.org)

Friday 15 Courier deadline for the April issue

## Sunday 17 Easter Sunday, in person worship, 10:00 am

- Hindi Congregation, 6:30 - 8:30 Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday 23 Young Ambassador's, Fellowship Hall - 2:30 - 7:30
- April 29- May 1 Boy Scouts Camporee

## Coming in May

- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am  
*Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way*



## FOOD PANTRY

We encourage everyone to bring food for the West Valley Food Pantry on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, as well as any time you feel you can help.



**United  
Women  
in Faith**



## Share the faith, action and sisterhood

It's been a big day for United Methodist Women. We've shared our new look, launched our new website and debuted a new name:

### **United Women in Faith.**

We've been around for 153 years now—not because we stay the same but because we're willing to follow God's call to new places. We are love in action. We are a faith-driven sisterhood ready to change the world. You are a crucial part of a bright future. I'm so glad I get to do this work with you.

## Voices From The Field

This is a new quarterly event featuring leaders sharing their work and life stories, daily challenges, hopes and dreams. This conversation series highlights United Women in Faith initiatives supported by Mission Giving – initiatives that significantly improve the lives of women, children, and youth down the block and around the world. This recent event on March 14 was a webinar which we heard from the Woman's Peace Dialogue Platform members from Ukraine, Georgia, Latvia, and Lithuania on issues specific to the crisis/state of emergency in Ukraine. There were 5 speakers each from one of the neighbors speaking about what the women are doing in their countries to help the Ukrainians fleeing from their country. I participated in this Webinar and found it most informative. A recording of this event will be forthcoming.

## UMW 2022 Pledges

The past few years have been extremely challenging. Unfortunately, UMW General meetings keep being postponed due to safety concerns; your Mission Team has continued to conduct business meetings periodically via Zoom.

The collection of annual pledges is our only source of income. Our unit strives to support worthwhile missions locally, nationally, and globally. In 2021 we collected 19 pledges totaling \$2,025. A pledge card will be inserted into your 2022 directory which has not yet been printed. You may submit a pledge without a card if you wish. There is no set amount as pledges are discretionary.

Please consider making your 2022 pledge today. Make your check payable to UMW and mail it to Chandra Seeger,  
6625 E Maplegrove,  
Oak Park, CA 91377.

Take care and know that your UMW sisters are thinking and praying for each of you and for all of your loved ones.

### **Reminder:**

Your UMW 2022 Pledge will be due by June 30th.

*Confirm gatherings  
before you go.*

### **Bookends**

Thursday, April 28

1:00 pm

Church library

Mrs. Bensen's Beetle  
by Rachel Joyce

### **Sarah Circle**

Thursday, April 14

9:30 am

Breakfast at Weilers Deli,  
22323 Sherman Way  
near Shoup

### **Faith, Hope & Love**

Wednesday, April 20

6:30 pm

Church Library

This will be dependent  
on the Covid protocol.





## 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.

## Amazon Smile

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](https://smile.amazon.com). Select Canoga Park First United Methodist Church as your charity. Remember to start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to support the church.



## From the Mailbox

Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you so very much for this beautiful blessed prayer shawl. It has comforted me many a night. I am grateful for the shawl, your blessings, prayers and love.

*MaryBeth Godwin*

### New address and phone for Bonnie Doshier

Bright Water Assisted Living  
28807 Baseline St. # 122  
Highland, CA 92346

## Remembering Betty Allen

9 May 1921– 10 March 2022



Hello to the Believers in Faith and Pastor Lynn,

It is with comfort and joy that I reach out to you about my mother, Mary E. (Betty) Allen. I was with my mother as she remained in the hospital on hospice with wonderful care for her comfort. It was on Day 11, Thursday, March 10, 2022, after I anointed her with oil for her departure, her homecoming came. It was in the early hour before dawn, Jesus came. I say that because she ever so gently and peacefully left this life behind. I'm sure it was your prayers for both of us because the whole room was peaceful along with my heart.

I will have a celebration for her here at Faith Community Church, Wichita, Kansas, with her two favorite things, worship and cookies. When timing works out, I will be bringing her urn to California. She will join our family that have gone on before her at Oakwood Cemetery. We may discuss a gathering with her faith family at FUMCCP.

For now, pray for me as there are so many details I've not handled before. If you have a photo or a memory to share, you can send to my email or home in Wichita.

*Love in Christ, Jeanne Allen*  
3861 N. Athenian, Wichita, KS 67204-3426

## Facilities Update - April 2022

### **Irrigation system/Grass areas:**

We are going to begin experimenting with some deep watering vs. the current three day a week schedule this spring in hopes of strengthening the root systems before the summer heat.

The extra dirt that was piled up on the tree trunks in front of the Preschool has been removed and redistributed. We used the extra dirt to fill in low areas on the lawn, cover more roots near the church office, and most importantly to raise the lawn areas next to the cement to help reduce trip and fall issues.

As of mid-March, when this was written, Rohan Mathew's Eagle Scout project is nearing completion. We very much appreciate all the work done by Rohan and the Boy Scouts! Removing the Maynard parkway grass will help us keep future water use and water costs down.

### **Fountains:**

The Maynard/Sherman Way Fountain was fixed and is up and running again. We are considering running the fountain for fewer hours to cut our electricity and water bills. Next month we will update everyone.

### **Roofs:**

The roofer has been out and inspected the problem areas over the office and sanctuary restrooms. We are going to receive a quote for applying a silicone repair to the section between the Parlor and the Library.

*George Grengs*

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## **Ukraine Relief UMCOR Response**

According to the most recent statement released by Roland Fernandes, General Secretary of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief arm of Global Ministries, is in communication with partners in the region and actively exploring the coordination of humanitarian response in Ukraine. Support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift to Advance #982450.

## Preschool News

We will be on Spring Break April 11-14, hopefully enjoying some nice weather and time with our families.

Parent/Teacher conferences will resume in person this month.

We have started tours and enrollment for summer and fall, as things are getting back to "normal" we are getting more and more calls. We are very optimistic that fall will be back to our normal classrooms and most of the restrictions lifted.

*Wendy Finley*

## Cal-Pac Annual Conference North District UMC

From the mountains to the sea, from the high deserts to the downtowns, the North District of the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church covers almost 1/5th of the State of California. We are a people of such diverse communities, yet we are all children of God-serving the people of God, our diversity is not a division. We are tied together by the 1, 5, 14, 101, 118, 126, 134, and 210 freeways. More importantly, we are tied together by the Holy Spirit.

As we live and love the communities from Pasadena to Bishop, Malibu to Paso Robles, and all persons in between, we love as Christ loves us. The challenges to reach multi-generations of nominally religious, but spiritually hungry, people is not a small task. Yet, when the Lord calls us to a big task, the Lord provides an abundance of resources.

Therefore, the North District Office and Leadership Team are here to support and resource the ministries of this great district. We are all about becoming faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ so we can lead others into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We are all about loving as Christ loves in our vast communities. We are all about meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the lost, the marginalized, and the sojourners in our land.

## Fishers of Men

Pastor Lynn invited members of the congregation to share their personal witness from the pulpit and then to submit it for the Courier, if they wished.

George Grengs shared this testimony.

Growing up, even though there was little doubt my family was Christian there really wasn't much conversation about religion or God. My Dad grew up Catholic and crazy enough, I didn't learn that fact until my early 20's. Clearly, he didn't talk about church often. On my mother's side my grandfather (who shared a bedroom with me) was a proud Scottish MacGregor who was born and raised Presbyterian. He went to church more than the rest of the family, but I would describe us as a family who occasionally attended an Easter/Christmas service and that was about it. My Mom stepped in when I was 13 and scheduled my Baptism. A complete immersion at a local church and my Christian life began, but there continued to be little focus what it meant to be Christian.

Later while attending UCLA, I took a religion course and spent many, many days in the library looking through and reading books about all the world's religions and religious thinkers. It was a time of idea exploration for me, and I spent many more hours researching and reading than my class required. I still remember running into a book by Martin Buber named "I and Thou." It was a hard read and much of it went over my head, but the main concept was finding God through authentic communication and relationships. I didn't connect this to my own Christianity until I was wondering what my Christian testimony would be here today. Some people connect with God through reading and studying the Bible; some through their participation at church, some connect by listening to a good sermon while others connect through their own good works inside and outside of church. The list goes on and on but for me what draws me closer to God is my connection to my church family. Creating friendships, communicating with them in a way that creates authentic relationships. That means whether they be liberal or conservative, healthy or unhealthy, rich or poor, active or

inactive, ornery or nice – they are all an important part of the church family. Sharing the same values, knowing people well, accepting them unconditionally, understanding that they are there for me in times of need as I would be there for them and working with them to keep our church functioning at a high level; these are all activities that continue to draw me deeper into the church and closer to God. It's a beautiful and fulfilling experience. I thank each and every one of you for being such an important part of my Christian life.

My connection to the United Methodist Church began with Patricia, my first wife and her family. Her Mom Jessie, born in Missouri, grew up Baptist. They lived in the Antelope Valley and one day an Elder from the Baptist church came to the door and told her she would have to quit her job at a beer distributor to stay in good standing with that particular church. She was a strong woman, and this didn't sit well with her and was the last contact she had with Baptists! She went on a quest to find a new church and landed at the UMC in Lancaster. She always told me that the UMC was a step above because they insisted that their pastors complete a full, four-year degree in Theology.

Pat and I got married at the Lancaster UMC and that was the beginning of our UMC journey. Later when we moved close to the North Hollywood UMC, we visited a few times and joined after being visited by a retired pastor from North Hollywood. It was a good 3-4 years before we moved again to the West Valley. The kids were young, we both worked, and I regret to say we fell out of regular church attendance. A major regret in my life is not bringing up my kids with a better understanding of the Bible and church life. We occasionally visited FUMCCP for about a 15-year period, mostly at Christmas and Easter until Pat was diagnosed with a brain tumor and given 18 months to live.



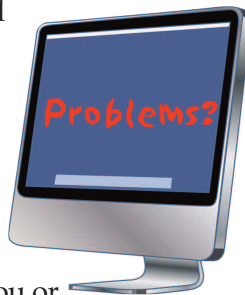
Obviously a horrible and stressful time and we started coming to FUMCCP on a regular basis. I often hear that we are a caring church and that's exactly the kind of support we found here. The many cards, letters, and visits from Pastor Gary really made a difference and we learned what "one day at a time" and "Give it up to God" really meant. Sadly, Pat passed away almost exactly 18 months after diagnosis and the church stepped in again to help make all the arrangements so easy during a time when my brain really wasn't working. It's amazing the kind of impact our church has made not only with my family but all the many members and congregants who have worshiped under our roof for over 100 years!

Four years later when I married Karen a new chapter of my church life began. It has been a time of Christian growth with God permanently back in our lives. As noted at the beginning, it's been a time of full involvement and participation which has been at the root of our experience. We thank God and we thank the people of the First UMC of Canoga Park for doing God's work in the West San Fernando Valley! Blessings to all!



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



George Grengs, [george@valterra.com](mailto:george@valterra.com) ...or 818 632 7538.



Pat Connolly  
 Laurie Berger  
 Russ & Lindy Amico  
 Jeanne Allen  
 (Betty Allen's daughter)  
 Geri Allen  
 Barbara Dimmick  
 Frank & Diane Rosales  
 Dixie Smith  
 Mary Beth Godwin  
 Beulah Hajek  
 Don & Peggy Stanwood  
 (Ted's family)  
 Nancy Summer  
 Irene and Sal Zelaya  
 Ukraine  
 World Peace

Send prayer requests to  
 Anita Parrinello  
 ([lvo2bjedi@gmail.com](mailto:lvo2bjedi@gmail.com))  
 and CC Pastor Lynn  
 ([preachingbarefoot@att.net](mailto:preachingbarefoot@att.net))



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**Return Service Requested**

