



April 2026

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: eshinpauill@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Heart to Heart

Easter is almost here, and I find myself reflecting on what this season truly means – not just as a date on the church calendar, but as the very heartbeat of everything we do here at First UMC of Canoga Park.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a symbol or a story we tell once a year. It is a historical fact. A man was crucified, buried, and raised on the third day. His frightened disciples were transformed into people who turned the world upside down. Something happened – and because it happened, nothing has ever been the same.

That includes us.

When I look at this congregation, I see the resurrection at work.

Our church is growing. New faces have become familiar ones.

Ministries started to take root, started by everyday people who felt a calling and said yes. That kind of growth doesn't come from strategy or programming. It comes from people encountering a living God and being changed by it.

The first Christians responded to the resurrection simply and beautifully – they gathered, they shared, they gave. Not out of duty, but out of joy.

Generosity and community were never obligations for them. They were overflow. That is the kind of faith I see growing in this community, and it fills my heart with gratitude.

This Easter, I invite you to come and celebrate with us. Bring a neighbor, a friend, a family member – someone who needs to encounter something real. Our doors are open, our hearts are open, and our Risen Lord Jesus is waiting to meet us all right where we are. Easter Sunday worship begins at 10:00 am – and I encourage you to arrive a few minutes early so we can settle our hearts and prepare ourselves to worship together.

He is risen indeed.

Pastor Elaine

*"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."*



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Pauill

Music Director/ Accompanist

Nathan Stephens

Administrative Assistant

Jyl Lawrence

Sunday School Childcare

Veronica Cabrera

Denise Lenore

Teen Ministry

Dante Wilson

Lay Leader

Roger Johnson

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operators

Bernie Godwin

Preston Simpkin

Michael Mosbe



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

North District Superintendent

Rev. Garth Gilliam

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays

- 4 Kay Taylor
- 5 Genevieve Anderson
(1 year old)
- 6 Nancy Summer
- 7 Alma Anderson
- 8 Micho Mosbe
- 12 Louis Parrinell
- 21 Nancy Easterly
- 23 Dana Dresyfuss

Anniversaries

- 10 Louis & Anita Parrinello
- 22 Ron & Jennifer Alderman
- 29 Michael & Micho Mosbe

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



April Altar Flowers

- 5 Michiko & Michael Mosbe
- 12 Louis & Anita Parrinello *in honor of their 22nd Anniversary & Louis' Birthday*
- 19 Open
- 26 Sharon Mountford *in honor of the Mosbes' anniversary*

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

Friday, 3rd Good Friday Service, 5:00 pm
Join us as we gather for a solemn time of reflection and worship as we remember the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the cross.

This is a sacred moment in our faith journey – a time to pause, to remember the price that was paid, and to prepare our hearts for the joy of Resurrection Sunday. Come as you are and draw near to the cross.

Saturday, 4th Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am

Frank's Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park

Sunday, 5th Easter Sunday Church service, 10:00 am

Tuesday, 7th Outreach Committee meets, 10:00 am, Library

Tuesday, 7-20 Pastor Elaine will be on vacation

Pastor Sandy will be with you, covering the pulpit. Please contact the church office or Roger Johnson for any emergency during my absence. You are in good hands! As always, don't let my being away slow any of you down – keep coming, keep loving, keep being kind.

Pastor Elaine

Tuesday 14th Administrative Committee meeting, Library, 6:30pm

Monday, 27th Virtual Prayer Meeting, Zoom Link ID: 898 8990 4696

Passcode: 875564

Wesleyan Bible Study will not meet in April, but will resume on May 7th.



Jewish Holidays in the Bible

Our 6-week study, Jewish Holidays in the Bible: What Christians Can Learn, has wrapped up – and what a journey it was! We were blessed with wonderful attendance and even richer conversations. A special thank you to Gideon for partnering with our pastor to make this study such a meaningful experience. Your contribution to this congregation is deeply appreciated!





**United
Women
in Faith**

**Mission Team
Meeting**

April Meeting date
by Zoom – TBA



A Call to Prayer and Self Denial

For more than 155 years United Women in Faith members have taken action to turn faith, hope and love into work on behalf of women, children and youth in every corner of the world. The 2026 Call to Prayer and Self Denial offering will support vulnerable children through the work of the National Mission Institutions. Donations for Prayer & Self Denial may be made payable to UMW dba United Women in Faith and designate it Prayer and Self Denial and given to Chandra Seeger or myself in church or, sent to Chandra Seeger, 6625 E. Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377

Faith, Hope & Love Circle

Margaret Cates presented a program on “Gratefulness”. She distributed items on this subject by various authors. Mine was “Gratefulness” by James Crews. Here is what he wrote.

“Gratitude passes through you like the clouds of mood-like rain turning to sleet or gray skies breaking into blue. It is only gratefulness that stays holding your trembling hand beneath the hospital sheet as you count each breath, or jumping up and down when you hear good news. It is the faithful companion we have always been seeking, this feeling of fullness that follows us everywhere we go, less like a shadow trailing the body, and more like a glimmer held in the heart that promises never to leave”.

*Psalm 9:1 “I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds”.*

A Prayer

There is a separate bookcase in the church Library which holds a collection of Bibles and hymnals that were donated by deceased member, Dwight Cushman. I picked up a book called “Union Prayer Book” published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 1945. I found this prayer that is appropriate for the unsettled times we are going through.

“May the time not be distant, O God, when Thy name shall be worshiped in all the earth, when unbelief shall disappear and error be no more. We fervently pray that the day may come when all men shall invoke Thy name, when corruption and evil shall give way to purity and goodness, when superstition shall no longer enslave the mind, nor idolatry blind the eye, when all who dwell on earth shall know that to Thee alone every knee must bend and every tongue give homage. O may all, created in Thine image, recognize that they are brethren, so that one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before Thee. Then shall Thy kingdom be established on earth and the word of Thine ancient seer be fulfilled: The Lord will reign forever and ever.”

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Wednesday, April 15 at
1:00 pm in Room 10.
Book to be reviewed is
entitled

A Marriage at sea
by Sophie Elmhirst
Sandy Bell will lead the
discussion.

Sarah Circle

Thursday,
April 9 at 9:15 am for
breakfast at Nico’s
Restaurant

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday,
April 8 at 1:00 pm
Church Library
Program TBA

Margaret Cates

Outreach Committee

In the last month changes have been made to the Outreach Committee. Many projects have been transferred to the Education Ministry. These include the “gifts” for the children in our church, Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk or Treat, Children’s Sunday, wrapping bibles for presentation to third graders on World Communion Sunday and Back to School Sunday. With these changes we have new projects as well as old projects:

Rummage Sale: The Rummage Sale, scheduled for May 2nd, has been **cancelled**.

T-shirts: It was suggested by the pastor we create t-shirts to wear when doing events. By wearing a t-shirt with FUMCCP’s name on it we will be easily identified as church volunteers when participating in Outreach activities for the community, at inter-faith groups or while attending meetings in the community, North District and CALPAC. These t-shirts will be available to all members, not just the Outreach Community, for \$20. A sign-up sheet is available before and after worship service, you may call the church office to order one or contact Shari Worrell for a fillable form online.

West Valley Food Pantry: A member of the Outreach Committee, Nancy Summer, suggested we do a little more for the pantry. A few members of our congregation volunteer at the food pantry. The decision was made that one of the baskets will be near the name tag table on Sundays. Attached to the basket will be a list of 5-6 items the pantry needs. Members can bring donations on Sundays. By having the basket more visible it could remind people to help those in need within our own community.



Front design

Back design

Those items most needed are: peanut butter (no larger than 16 oz), chili (can with pop-Top), chicken, tuna, salmon (can, pouch, pop-top), low sodium soup, cup noodles, pasta, canned pasta sauce (no glass jars), jerky (beef, chicken, turkey), wipes for babies and adults.

Advent Project: We will continue coordinating our Advent Project of \$25 gift cards with the two Hope the Mission Chatsworth shelters.

Lenten Project: The congregation will assemble Blessing Bags for the unhoused. After worship service on Palm Sunday. Thank you to 20 church families, United Women in Faith, family, friends, neighbors, the Don Jose de Otega DAR Chapter and others we are able to make 150 bags.

Hope the Mission Shelters: We continue to donate numerous in-kind donations to the Hope the Mission shelters located in Chatsworth. These include clothes, shoes, coats, hats, socks, toys, arts and crafts, a vacuum, a microwave, diapers, everyday silverware, pots & pans, frying pans, Christmas trees, Christmas decorations, Christmas tree storage containers, books, magazines, etc.

As an example of our congregation’s kindness is just the other day when this Chairman took a carload of donations to the Shelter she was told there was a new family at the shelter. They have 2 children: a newborn girl and a 2-year-old boy. They arrived with nothing, not even a pair of shoes. This Chairman put out a call on Facebook. The Waldman family saw it and donated boys’ clothes and diapers the same evening and a \$25 check was sent by a high school friend so this Chairman could buy diapers. YOUR church is a very giving and loving church; we treat ALL as family!

Ideas: We are open to suggestions as to how you would like your Outreach Committee to serve. The committee members are Valerie Aivasian, Carol Berns, Mike Easterly, Nancy Easterly, Louis Parinello, Nancy Summer, and Valerie Woods.

Please contact any one of them with your ideas.

Meetings: We hold our meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the church library. All are welcome to attend, and if you would like to serve on the committee you are welcomed.

Shari Worrell, Chairman

Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John: 4-11

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

We had the privilege of awarding three scholarship grants this year on March 29, in celebration of the life and memory of Laura Lynn Longman, (1958 – 1984) who was raised in this Church, who loved her life as a Christian and who loved learning, but was taken to be with her Lord Jesus early in life. She died of heart disease in a classroom. She did not graduate from college but through this memorial scholarship, has helped many others do so.

This year's scholarship grant recipients are

Brinley Douglas: will be a senior this fall, majoring in Statistics at Brigham Young University. She expects to graduate in May 2027 and begin her professional career as a social program impact evaluator providing feedback to organizations to help them be more effective. She participates in student government at BYU, plays intramural soccer and enjoys other outdoor activities. Having served as a missionary in Switzerland, Germany and Austria, she speaks fluent German and now teaches newer students preparing to travel to Europe as missionaries for the LDS Church. Brinley is said to be a fearless, self-motivated servant-leader. This is Brinley's second year as a Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Recipient.

Lillian King: will be a Junior this fall at Colorado State University, Boulder Colorado. She is studying "Animal Science" and expects to graduate in May 2028 with her Bachelor's degree. She carries a full load of classes and works two jobs (Life Guard and Swimming Instructor and a Lab Animal Technician at CSU) during the school year while also competing in the CSU Women's Water Polo Club. She works as a summer camp instructor when home from school. She has been selected to study in Australia at an animal hospital which complements her studies. Upon graduation, Lily expects to continue her studies in veterinary school and become a veterinarian. Today, she is known for her deep sense of service, kindness, responsibility and community mindedness.

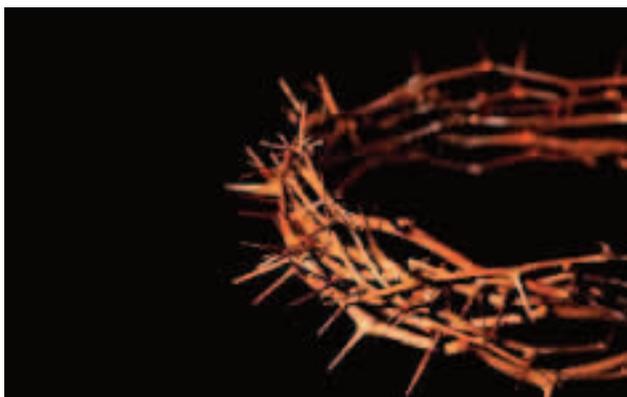
Sarah Van Slooten: will be a Junior at Brigham Young University, Provo Utah. Her major field of study is "Supply Chain". She expects to graduate in April of 2028. In addition to her studies, she is working at the BYU Healthcare Leadership Department as a data analyst. Sarah has been playing the violin since she was 5 years old and is now a highly recognized musician who has played first chair violin in the BYU Symphony Orchestra and is an accomplished soloist in other venues. She has studied religious history in England and has worked as a docent at the "Amazeum," a children's museum at the "Crystal Bridges Art Museum" in Bentonville, AR. Sarah has accomplished many things, is a fine student with strong leadership qualities. She defines success by her ability to work hard to provide for her family while nurturing a home – centered on faith in Jesus Christ.

This year is the 42nd year granting scholarship awards to well qualified upper-class undergraduate students. With this award, 130 scholarship grants have been awarded in Laura's memory to 100 different students for a grand total of \$220,000.



Join Us for Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Friday, April • 5:00 PM

As we journey together through Holy Week, we invite you to pause and draw near to the foot of the cross.



Tenebrae

means "darkness" or "shadows"

It is an ancient and deeply moving worship service that walks us through the final hours of suffering, death, and silence for Jesus.

Through Scripture, music, and the gradual extinguishing of candles, we are reminded of the cost of our redemption and the hope that awaits on Sunday morning.

This is a sacred and contemplative time for the whole church family.

Come expectant, come quietly, and come ready to encounter Christ in a profound way

*But he was pierced for our transgressions
and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5*

New Church Attendee

Novelette Currie has been attending church recently and she is seeking a job. Her skills may fit well with our aging population.

Novelette's resume

Compassionate and dependable Caregiver with 3+ years of experience providing quality care to elderly and dementia patients in residential and in-home settings. Skilled in medication management, meal preparation, and assisting with daily living activities. Committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for clients.

Skills

Dementia Care
Medication Management
Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
Meal Preparation
Appointment Scheduling
Companionship
Light Housekeeping
Patient Safety Monitoring

Certifications

First Aid Certification and CPR (Renewal in Progress)
Residential Care Facility State License
Other qualification is a Bachelor of Science degree
References can be had upon request

Novelette Currie

Phone: 310-686-2324

Email: novcurrie199@msn.com



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

Reports from the Administrative Committee

Financial Update

The year is starting on a good note. With some year-end giving that rolled over to 2026 we are about \$,6000 over budget! Denise Lenore is working on some older facility shared-use billings (utilities, trash, water, etc.) to our user groups and setting a procedure for monthly billing of these items. Our counters/ financial secretaries have been meeting with Jim Schmitt (the Santa Clarita UMC Treasurer) who has been putting together our financial statements for the last 8 months. The meetings have helped to get everyone on the same page about how to book different income and expenses. Denise Lenore has also been working with Crown Castle, our cell tower company to increase the electricity reimbursement we receive from them to compensate for the increased demand since their new 5G equipment was installed last year.

Facility Update

At our March Administrative Committee meeting we approved the trimming of the off-balance tree outside the office and the tree over the Memorial Garden. Half will be paid by the Memorial Fund and half by our regular budget. Louis Parinello has been busy! He's improved the Fellowship Hall double doors, replaced a missing overhead lighting lens in the FH Foyer, shaved down parts of the education room 8 door that was sticking, worked with J&J lock to change the Room 8 entrance locks and replace the frozen lock on the Marquee sign near the front walkway. Tim O'Connor (who moves the glass cover to the Altar table for each worship re-set) was pleased with the new 2-piece plexiglass replacement which is easier and safer to handle than the heavy glass.

User Group Update

Chaminade, our new user group in the Fellowship Hall, has been quiet as their wrestling team just finished the season. We are working with a new enquiry for an AA group. The Rockchipper's Gem Show will be held outside this October instead of inside the Fellowship Hall.



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Arlette and Edmund Razafimanantso

Tim & Lora O'Connor

Louise Garabedian

Marianne Menter

PJ Umphries

Carol Berns

Carol Rogers

Darrell Thomson

Ken Dimmick

Michelle Christie

Dana Dreyfuss

Diane Rosales

Send prayer requests to

Anita Parrinello

luv2bjedi@gmail.com)

and CC Pastor Elaine

(eshinpauill@gmail.com)





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Non-Profit Organization

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