



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: eshinpau@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

October 2026

Heart to Heart

Treats, Tables, and a Whole Lot of Gratitude

Dear Church Family,

October might be the most delicious month on the church calendar. We start at the Lord's Table and end in a parking lot full of candy, and somewhere in between, God has something to teach us about generosity.

We begin on October 4 with World Communion Sunday, when Christians around the globe share the same bread and cup. It's the world's biggest potluck, and nobody has to bring a casserole. So Come dressed up in the traditional clothing of your heritage or culture. We will see how diverse we are, and yet how united we are in Christ!

At that Table, we simply come with open hands and receive. That is where all giving begins.

Then, on Saturday, October 24, we have our second Trunk or Treat. Last year, you amazed me. Decorated trunks. Wonderful costumes. So much candy. And so many families from our neighborhood came through our parking lot, some for the very first time! So let's do it again. Start dreaming up your trunk now. Pirate Ship? Noah's Ark?

I love that Trunk or Treat is generosity you can see. We open our trunks simply for the joy of it, and we go home with fuller hearts than the kids have bags.

That's the spirit of our sermon series, **From the Inside Out: Grateful Living, Faithful Giving**. As King David prayed, *For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you*. (1 Chronicles 29:14, NRSV). In other words, it was never really our candy to begin with!

So as you shop for fun-sized treats this month, pray about your commitment to God's work through our church in the year ahead. Then, the very next morning, Sunday, October 25, is Commitment Sunday. Come, even if you're a little tired. Bring your commitment forward as an act of worship. Let's offer it to God together, with open hands and grateful hearts.

Thank you for being the sweetest part of this church.

With joy and gratitude,

Grace and peace, Rev. Elaine



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**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



October Church Calendar

Every Monday

Prayer Meeting, Library, 7:30 pm

Meeting ID: 898 8990 4696 — Passcode: 87556

Every Thursday

Bible Study, Library 11am-12:30pm

3 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am-10:30am,

Weiler's West Hills Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park

6 Outreach Meeting, Library 2:00pm-3:00pm

8 Thursday Bible Study, Library 11am-12:30pm

13 Administrative Committee Meeting, 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Library

14 UMF Faith, Hope, Love Circle, Library 1:00-2:30pm

21 Bookends, Room 10, 1:00-2:00pm

24 Fall Festival: Trunk or Treat 4:00-6:00pm, Parking Lot

October Birthdays

- 1 Charlee Houston
- 2 Geri Allen
Phyllis Umphres
- 4 Marcela Rodriguez
Lirio Waldman
- 7 Sarah Alderman
Jenny Erwin
- 9 Paul Cady
Erin Landrum
- 11 Angela Anderson
- 13 Glynene Roe
- 15 Bernie Godwin IV
- 16 Brio Waldman
- 19 Trish Simmons
- 23 Nathan Kaburu
- 29 Ralph Bermudez

Anniversaries

- 6 Pat & Gerald Rowe
- 12 Bill Satterlee & Ginger
Huston
- 15 Tammy & Matt
Palmerlee
- 21 Russ & Lindy Amico

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



October Altar Flowers

- 4 Irma Santos *for Lirio's birthday*
- 11 Michael & Miko Mosbe
- 18 Open
- 25 Pastor Elaine Shin-Paull

If you would like to provide altar
flowers on a given Sunday, in
honor or memory of someone,
please contact Mary Mackay,
818-731-5873



If you shop at Ralphs, please enroll in the
Ralphs Community Rewards Program.
One quarter last year we received a donation of
\$75.50 for education purposes.



Future Meetings:

Cal- Pac Conference Annual Celebration

(Women in Faith, Stronger Together making a difference)
will be held at Laguna Country UMC, 24442 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Woods, CA 92637 on October 17 from 9:00 – 2:00. Registration is due by October 8, 2026. Cost is \$25.00

World Thank Offering

United Women in Faith members' pledges and special offerings. One of those special offerings is the World Thank Offering. It is an annual United Women in Faith initiative where members express gratitude for God's blessings and raise funds to support women, children, and youth in local and global communities.

The offering is both a spiritual practice and a mission program. It encourages members to give from a spirit of abundance, recognizing that acts of kindness, volunteering, and generosity are expressions of faith and hope.

Our unit will forward your 2026 World Thank Offering to the District late in November, because all payments must be submitted by **December 5, 2026**. Please consider making your World Thank Offering for 2026 today. The DBA for the organization has not changed, so checks should still be made payable to UMW and either mailed to Chandra Seeger (6625 E. Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377) or given to her at church. Thank you for your continued support.



*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Wednesday, October 21
1:00 pm, in Room 10

Book to be reviewed is
*The Love Elixir of Augusta
Stern,*

by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Sarah Circle

Thursday, October 8
at 9:15 am at Nico's

Restaurant
7166 Shoup Ave,
West Hills,

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, October 14
1:00 pm in the Church
Library.

Come and join us for
Bingo.



Do not pass by on the other side of the street,
but be an example of love and charity for everyone,
like the Good Samaritan of whom Jesus spoke.

Luke 10:25–37

The 2026 United Women in Faith Reading Program

The following books have been added to the UWF Reading Program books in the Library. See Margaret Cates if you are interested in reading any of them. She will show you how to check them out.

See No Stranger, A memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love, by Valarie Kaur – How do we fix our broken world? The author describes revolutionary love as a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. She urges us to look at someone and not see a stranger and say “You are a part of me I do not yet know.”

Red, White, and Whole, by Rajani LaRocca – A book in verse about an Indian American girl torn between two worlds: school, where she is the only Indian American student, and home with her family’s traditions and holidays. Her family doesn’t understand why she’s conflicted. Then her mother becomes ill, and the daughter is determined to make her mother well again.

A Faith of Many Rooms - Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity by Debie Thomas – People are leaving Christianity in large numbers. The author claims that wherever God dwells, there is expansiveness and belonging. She asks, “What if the faith we inhabit is roomier than we’d thought? What if our collapsing faith is just a closet in a much larger dwelling?” Thomas takes us on a deeply personal and profoundly theological odyssey.

Church Directory

Our updated church directory is now available for our church family! If you haven't picked up your copy yet, please do so soon. As it contains contact information for our church family, we ask that you handle it carefully and refrain from sharing it outside our congregation. Thank you for helping us protect one another's privacy!

Author Gideon Paull

The Books

The Soul Framework Series. Three works of non-fiction that map the interior life of the human soul. The Soul Framework explores why we love, sin, and long for God, drawing on scripture and the great spiritual traditions. **Soul Mates** asks what a soul mate truly is — and how to become the person who can recognize one. And **The Return** follows the soul past death, reframing dying not as an ending but as a homecoming.

Holloway. A sweeping novel about survival and its aftermath — thirty years in the life of a woman who escapes the streets of Los Angeles, builds a life brick by brick, and slowly learns the cost of the walls she raised to protect it. It is a big-hearted story about the single moments, and the single people, that decide a life.

The Held Breath. A quietly powerful novel of marriage and ambition that follows one couple across two decades, tracing the distance between the life we build and the life we live inside the marriage.

Learn more at gidpaull.com.



A Message from Bishop Escobedo-Frank

Every Immigrant Life is Sacred

Dear beloveds in the California-Pacific UM Conference,

Last month, as we prepared for our Annual Conference gathering, we stood vigil outside of the Adelanto Detention Center and, in the heat of the desert, read the names of those who needlessly lost their lives as a result of immigration enforcement actions since January 2025. We read the names of 64 beloved souls.

Since that vigil on June 16, four more names must be spoken. Felix Alcorta-Rodriguez, found unresponsive three days after being transferred to ICE custody in Laredo, Texas. In Harlingen, Texas, Adrian Andreas Florian, an 85-year-old German man with dementia. Lorenzo Salgado Araujo, shot and killed by an ICE officer in Houston, and Joan Sebastian Guerrero, a 26-year-old father with valid work authorization, was an uninvolved bystander who was shot and killed during an ICE operation in Maine.

We remember every name and every person who lost their lives due to government-sanctioned violence.

In the oft-quoted Matthew 25:31-40 scripture, we are told that our judgment will be based on whether we feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit prisoners. We quote this often, but we forget its setting. Jesus was teaching a word to the nations, not just to individuals who want to please God. Jesus is dividing the nations between those who care for others and those who ignore the ones who are suffering.

So, when we read and apply this scripture with a sacred voice, we understand that, as we follow Christ, we must speak to our nations about the harm being done in our communities.



Be a Part of the Mission! August 13-21, 2027

Join Nancy and Mike Easterly as they go, love, serve and make a difference in the lives of others through Christ. Mission Trip Details - Accommodations - Costs, Weather, Food, Activities and 'Being Church'

Outreach Team

Valerie Aivazian, Carol Berns, Mike Easterly, Nancy Easterly, Louis Parrinello, Nancy Summer, and Valerie Woods serve our church and community with grateful hearts. The team meets on the first Monday of each month at 2:00 pm in the church library. All are welcome.

Our church works with the Methodist Church of Costa Rica which serves the local community through a day care, a counseling center, and housing for young women attending the local university.

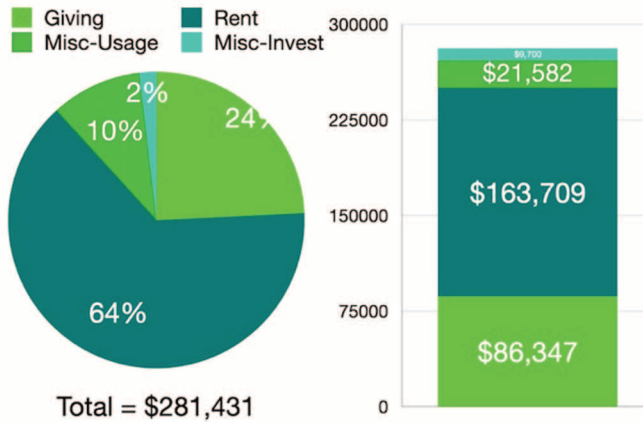


Reports from the Administrative Committee

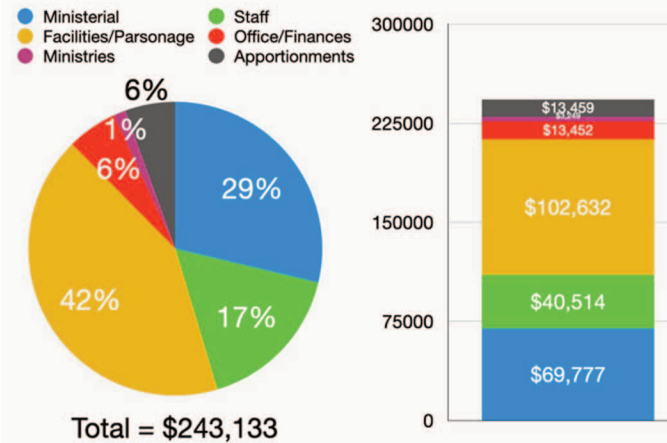
Financial Update

Mike Easterly put together the pie charts below showing our church income and expenses. It's a good visual breakout of the church finances.

2026 FUMCCP- Income as of 8/30



2026 FUMCCP - Expense thru 8/30



Facility Update:

Air Conditioners - another emergency on our sanctuary A/C units – luckily, the weather is cooling. One unit that was replaced in mid-summer now has a Freon leak in long section between the roof above the Bride's Room and the Sacristy. The result – warm air. Because it's a long line that's inside the walls, we have decided to move the compressor unit from the roof above the bride's room to the ground near the outside exit door to the Sacristy. We're having the electrical and labor to move the compressor quoted. Gardening - The committee has agreed to move forward on the leak in our sprinkler line near the Education Building - \$1200. In addition, we expect to have one city parkway tree trimmed along Sherman Way which is partially blocking our banners. Zero cost as this will be done by volunteers! Our next two project are 1) to clean the outside of the stained-glass windows in hope of brightening them 2) deciding on a tankless or traditional water heater for the sanctuary as the water heater has not been working for a month or so. Lastly, we're still working on the Parlor lights!

User Group Update:

The Rockchipper's Gem Show on October 17th will be primarily an outside event with Room 10 being used for some demonstrations and displays.

The Boy Scouts have started removing their dead storage on campus. When this is complete, we will recarpet Youth Room 1 and 2 in the Fellowship Hall and put them up for rent.

George Grengs



2026 Fall Festival Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat

will be held on Saturday, October 24th, from 4-6pm! Last year there were many families who brought their youngsters by to pick up a sweet treat and enjoy looking at the fire trucks and police cars that participated in the event.

Michael Mosbe will again be coordinating the fun and would be happy to have your help in carrying out this event. You can volunteer to decorate your car trunk or donate "nut-free" candy for the children. Everyone's help will be appreciated.

Here are some pictures of last year's trunk displays for the first Trunk or Treat event. See what you can come up with for this Halloween event in our parking lot!



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Nick Aiani
Valerie Aivazian
PJ Umphries
Jennifer Alderman
The Heim Family
Bill Brown
Robin Snagg
The Leighton Family
Evelyn Heim
Vee Longan
Shirley Fitzgeorge
Janis Lake Matriciano
Valerie Woods

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

Lifting Jeff Winstead
in prayer.

He has brain cancer
and had surgery on
Monday September 21
in Palm Springs.

Lord guide Jeff's
medical team to
successfully remove all
the tumors. May Jeff's
recovery be full ,
complete and
cancer-free



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage
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Canoga Park, CA
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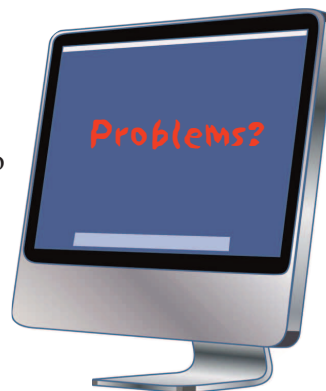
Return Service Requested

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*