



September 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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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

Dear Church Family,

Summer has a way of loosening our routines. A trip here, a lazy Sunday there, a season of "we'll go back next week." I understand it. I've lived it too. But September is knocking. And I find myself wanting to say something simple:

Come Home.

Not because you did anything wrong by stepping back for a season. Just because this is where you belong, and a seat has been waiting for you.

There's a reason the Israelites were told to keep gathering, keep remembering, keep showing up together, not because God needed the ritual, but because we need each other. Faith isn't meant to be practiced alone in the quiet corners of our own lives. It's meant to be sung out loud, in a room full of people who are also trying, also stumbling, also showing up anyway.

So as September begins, I'm not asking for anything dramatic.

Just this: come back to your seat.

Sing the hymn you know by heart.

Shake a hand.

Let this place remind you who you are.

We've missed you. I've missed you.

See you Sunday.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthday

10 Rebecca Rowe

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



September Altar Flowers

6 - Michael & Miko Mosbe
13 - Roger & Nancy Johnson *in memory of Laura Longman*
20 & 26- Open

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.

Pet-Family Blessing

will be held on August 30

As part of our summer sermon series, *Creatures & Creator: The Animals That Tell God's Story*, we will end our last Sunday of the sermon series to bless our pet-families! Bring your pet's best photo.

We'll display them together and lift them up in prayer, so it's just like they're right there with us in worship.

September Church Calendar

Monday Prayer Meeting, Library, 7:30 pm

Meeting ID: 898 8990 4696 — Passcode: 87556

Thursday Bible Study, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, Library

- 1 Outreach Meeting, 2:00pm Library
- 8 Administrative Committee Meeting, 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Library
- 12 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am-10:30am,
Weiler's West Hills Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- 20 Gideon Paull's Book Signing Event, 11:30am, Library

Meet Local Author Gideon Paull



His work ranges from stories of love and the people who shape a life to searching questions about the soul, and it is unified by a single curiosity: how it all fits together.

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.

Whether you're drawn to the big questions or to a good story well told, stop by on September 20, say hello, enjoy a cup of coffee, and take home a signed book. Learn more at gidpaull.com.

Gideon will be signing his books at a book signing following Sunday service on September 20, from 11:30 am. to 1:00 pm. The gathering is free and open to everyone. Light refreshments will be served, and copies of Gideon's books will be available to purchase. It's a relaxed chance to meet a neighbor whose writing takes the questions of ordinary life seriously.

For 30 years, Gideon Paull built a career solving hard problems in engineering and systems design, but he was always, quietly, a writer too.



Future Meetings:

North District Annual Celebration is being held at Simi Valley UMC on September 19 from 10:00 – 2:00. The theme of this meeting is *Still Blooming* to draw on the living waters of the Holy Spirit. Featured Speaker is Rev. Garth Gilliam, UMC North District Superintendent. Registration is \$25.00. The Quiet Disciples who serve the church and community with faithful commitment will be recognized at this meeting.

Cal- Pac Conference Annual Celebration will be held at Laguna Country UMC on October 17 from 9:00 – 2:00.



On August 2 Michael Mosbe received the UWF Special Mission Recognition Award.

He was born in Waterbury Connecticut, growing up in Bloomfield, Connecticut and vacationing at York Beach in Maine. This provided him with a blessed childhood experience of wonderful family memories. A love of college football has always been, and is still a high priority during football season. He was a linebacker for Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) on an academic merit scholarship. Unfortunately, a knee injury took him away from playing himself.

He worked for the City of Boston, while attending college, promoting concerts with Maurice Starr, gave him experience and contacts in the music and entertainment industry. With Maurice, they found fledgling groups like New Edition, New Kids On The Block, and Marky Mark. Michael majored in Television Broadcasting Radio Production and minored in Advertising at Emerson College.

After moving to California, he played a vital behind-the-scenes role as a long-time audio engineer and production director for RadioScope. creating audio packages for multiple musical artists.

After RadioScope, he freelanced with his own company - Wavelength Audio - and produced commercials, and post-production work for film and radio.

Family responsibilities with three young daughters at the time, took him away from Wavelength to become the Director of AV Services for KVL, managing operations across all hotel contracts based out of the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles.



Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

Wednesday, September 16
1:00 pm, in Room 10
Book to be reviewed is
Death of Croissant,
by Ian Moore

Sarah Circle

Thursday, September 10
at 9:15 am at Nico's
Restaurant
7166 Shoup Ave,
West Hills,

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, September 9
1:00 pm in the Church
Library.
Come and join us for
Bingo.

But 9/11 dealt a devastating shock to the hospitality event technology sector, transforming the business overnight. Michael was recruited by a family-owned business which ended when they were bought out by a private equity firm. As a result, many changes were made and Michael was forced into retirement after 22 years. *more on page 6*

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.

What We Remember Will Be Saved, by Stephanie Saldana - A journalist chronicles her journey across nine countries to learn what refugees save to take with them when they escaped. The things they save speak of beauty and suffering and the indomitable human spirit.

The Women by Kristin Hannah – This is a story of a woman who enlists in the Army Nurse Corps and follows her brother who serves in Vietnam. After living through the horrors of war, she comes home to a changed and divided country that wants to forget Vietnam. The story also about the many women who put themselves in harms way and whose commitment and sacrifice is often forgotten.

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray – An historical novel about a woman hired by J.P. Morgan to curate manuscripts, books and artwork for his new library. The story tells of her need to hide her true identity to pass as white. She became one of the most powerful people in New York City society.



The Aloha Choir in sunglasses



Men's monthly Breakfast Group met on August 1st. Thank you all men (and pastor Elaine) for showing up for a good meal and fellowship!



Paul Cady donated the Altar Flowers on August 16 to all of his friends at church, saying that he missed us all. He wanted everyone to take some blossoms home after the service.

Thank You Letter

I have had two amazing opportunities to learn more about animals and enhance my veterinary knowledge. I spent the first half of my summer shadowing a local small animal & wildlife vet and learned so much about working in a clinical environment. I spent the second half of my summer studying wildlife and conservation medicine in Australia. My favorite part was learning about tracking and caring for wild koalas, a protected species in Australia. Thanks again for your support and making these goals a reality!

Sincerely, Lillian King,

a 2026 Laura Longman Scholarship winner



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. Reserve Sunday, August 23, after church and refreshments to meet with Nancy, Mike and another former mission team member. Learn about Costa Rica, the Costa Rica Mission Project, and the projects in support of the Methodist Church.

Mission Trip Details - Accommodations - Costs
Weather - Food - Activities - Fun-Day - 'Being Church'





Don Heim's Memorial service was held at Gates Kingsley Gates on August 8.

Don Heim's Memorial Service

Gary Dickey used material from this UMW description of Don in his eulogy.

Don Heim was born in Plymouth, Indiana in 1940. He and his brother grew up on the family farm. He attended high school in his home town, graduating in 1958. Don met his future wife, Evelyn, in a science club. They started dating in their senior year in high school.

Don decided to attend Purdue University, graduating with a degree in Physics and a minor in Mathematics, and with six job offers. He narrowed down his choices to Rocketdyne at the Santa Susanna site in the San Fernando Valley and Hamilton Standard in Hartford, Connecticut. The jobs were similar, but one was rocket engines and the other was jet engines.

Don and Evelyn decided on Rocketdyne in California since there was little rain as compared to Hartford with much rain. Rocketdyne also hired Evelyn, who was a Chemist. She worked in the materials lab in Canoga Park.

The Heims moved to California in 1962 raising 3 daughters: Debbie, Kathy & Karen. They have four grandchildren and a great grandson.

Don's Rocketdyne job was to manage instrumentation for testing which was at the beginning of the space age. Over the years he held a number of positions at Rocketdyne in different areas. Don also led bus tours on Saturdays at Rocketdyne. He worked there until his retirement in 1998. After his retirement he worked as a consultant. Don speaks some Russian taking it for two years in college and two more years at UCLA. He and Evelyn have taken a trip to Russia.

His interests include gardening, fishing, camping, etc. He and Evelyn joined First United Methodist Church in 1963 and they involved themselves in the various church activities such as a young couples group, Los Casados. Don also enjoyed preparing the beef and helping with the cooking of it in the pit for our annual BBQ.

Don served on a number of committees such as family life, membership, church council, nominations, and worship. He acted as our financial secretary, treasurer and head counter. He was also involved in the planning and building of the fellowship hall.

More About Michael Mosbe

Today, in addition to USC football as an obsession, Michael is an avid sumo wrestling fan, and a Bonsai enthusiast and member of the Sansui-Kai Bonsai club.

He says the best thing in his life was meeting his current wife and soulmate Michiko in 2014. They married in 2017 and now have Michiko's mother, Kay Taylor, and 3 feline fur babies living with them.

Michael has been very active with the church, upgrading the AV system with new monitors and equipment. Phase 1 & 2 of this project were successfully completed.

He spearheaded the first ever "Trunk-or-Treat" event for the church in 2025. His vision and level of production quality is a key factor contributing to the increased online viewership of the church's service via live-stream and later.

Additionally, he is an amazing cook and has contributed refreshments for potlucks and after church services.

Reports from the Administrative Committee

Financial Update:

The Administrative Committee met on August 11 and reviewed the July financial statements. We ran close to budget – about \$600 to the negative. A good July but followed in early August by the unexpected replacement of two of the sanctuary A/C units which totaled \$22,000. The money to pay for them came out of our Capital Fund which we once again will need to start building up for any future large capital expenditures. We will have about \$10,000 left in the fund after the repair is paid for. We are discussing how we can better prepare for future major facility repairs and capital projects. We will keep you posted.

Facility Update:

As noted in the last Courier, the summer is a slow period for any major facility projects, but when we found two sanctuary A/C units out we didn't have much choice but to replace them. Here is an update on current projects.

Louis Parrinello, Christopher Guerrero and Nick Aiani were able to put the little church sprinkler valve cover up on bricks to stop termite infestations. Roger Johnson is working with our electrician Eric Elm to help us identify and repair the Parlor light switch problems. A leak in the sprinkler system, near the Education Building walkway from the parking lot was detected by our Gardener. The repair which includes about 130 feet of 1" PVC pipe to replace the galvanized pipe and four large sprinkler heads, will cost about \$1,200. We have also decided to prune one of the parkway trees with dead limbs along Sherman Way (after LA City decided it wasn't an emergency) which distracts from our new banner. The list goes on and on!

User Group Update:

Denise Lenore was successful in getting an increase to our electricity reimbursement payment from Crown Castle who owns the cell tower site. Based on the higher electricity consumption of the new 5G equipment we received \$2700 in back monies as well as \$226/month going forward. We have not begun the removal of the user group dead storage on campus, but it is a priority. We're in touch with the user groups about the costs to do so.

George Grengs

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!



*People lifted on the
prayer chain:*

Laurie Berger
Irma Santos
Shirley Thomson
The Heim Family
Brenda Jones
Robin Anderson
Valerie Aivazian
Carol Berns' Family
Ken Dimmick
PJ Umphries
Dana Dreyfuss

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



If you shop at Ralph's you can link the church to your Ralph Rewards card. Thanks to the 22 households who have named the church to receive the rewards.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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U.S. Postage

PAID

Canoga Park, CA

Permit #1

Do you want to order a church t-shirt?

The cost of the shirt is \$20. The vendor is All Above Prints, part of AKD inc., the same company who makes the metal plates for the Memorial Rocks in the Memorial Garden, the plates for the Laura Longman Scholarship and Memorial plaques in the Narthex. We ordered a few extra t-shirts. If you would like to order one, please contact either the church office or Mike Easterly.

