



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: firstumccp@gmail.com

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

Pastor: eshinpaul@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

May 2023

Heart to Heart

I have a prayer for all of us. This prayer is a prayer that I, from time to time, pull out and repeat reading from my favorite prayer book written by Stanley Hauerwas.

Pray this with me:

Gracious God, humble us through the violence of your love so we are able to know and confess our sins. We want our sins to be interesting, but, God forgive us, they are so ordinary: envy, hatred, meanness, pride, self-centeredness, laziness, boredom, lying, lust, stinginess, and so on. You have saved us from “and so on” to be a royal people able to witness to the world that the powers that make us such ordinary sinners have been defeated. So capture our attention with the beauty of your life that the ugliness of sin may be seen as just that — ugly. God, how wonderful it is to be captivated by you. Amen.

Rev. Elaine Shin-Paull

Audio/Video Update Project Report:

Did you notice that you no longer hear squealing, static or hissing sound on Sunday morning during worship? We have made some improvements with our existing equipment for sure. However, our AV equipment has served us for a long time and deserves to receive some TLC. With help from a friend of God in our midst, we have received donations of new/used equipment worth more than \$40,000. We also received a \$5,000 grant from North District EMT to be used toward the AV updating project.

So a Task Force was formed which is working together to give TLC to our existing Audio/Video system. We hope to improve our worship experience by providing an improved audio and video system for all worshippers at First UMC of Canoga Park. We appreciate your understanding and support in this matter!



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operator

Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux

MacKinnon



May 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
Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Wesleyan Bible Study with Pastor Elaine continues,
Library, 11:00 am
Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Friday Siliconandhra, Room 10 and Library, 5:30-7:30 pm
Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

May Birthdays

- 4 Robin Abernathy
- 7 Carolyn Lottman
- 11 Irma Santos
- 12 Matt Palmerlee

- 14 Wendy Finley
Bill Satterlee
Flora Wilhelm
- 17 Nancy Johnson
- 20 Sharay Abernathy
- 22 Lindy Amico
- 23 Garrett Finley
Linda Woods
- 24 Laurie Berger
- 26 Cheryl Willauer
- 27 Lea Flores

Anniversaries

- 24 George & Irene Miller

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

Other Activities

- Saturday 6 2023 North District Conference, via Zoom Webinar ,
9:00 - 11:00. All members and leaders are encouraged to attend. The Zoom link will be available as soon as it is sent out by the North District.
Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Saturday 20 Rock Chippers, Lounge, 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Pastor Elaine will be on vacation from May 17 to June 1.

Please contact church office for emergency, or contact Roger Johnson who will step in as our Interim Lay leader.



May

- 7 Provided by the Shin-Paull family in honor of Gideon's birthday
- 13 open
- 20 open
- 27 open

If you would like to provide altar flowers on a given Sunday, in honor or memory of someone, please contact Sydney in the church office, 818-340-2950 or Mary Mackay, 818-731-5872.

Coming in June

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way



Remember to bring food for the West Valley Food Pantry on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of every month. Collection boxes at other times are located in the hallway outside the kitchen.



United
Women
in Faith



UWF 2023 Directory

The directory will be late this year, however, if you have any changes in your existing information please let Shirley Thomson know either by phone or email — sthompson1@socal.rr.com.

UWF Pledges

A reminder to the United Women in Faith that their Pledges are due by June 30. The collection of annual pledges is our only source of income. Our unit strives to support worthwhile missions locally, nationally, and globally. There is no set amount as pledges are discretionary. Please consider making your 2023 pledge today. Make your check out to UMW dba United Women in Faith and mail it to Chandra Seeger, 6625 E Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377. Take care and know that your UWF sisters are thinking and praying for each of you and for all of your loved ones.

Cal-Pac Annual Conference 2023

The conference this year will be in person on June 15-17 at the Sheraton Gateway Los Angeles. The Cal-Pac UWF Luncheon will also be in person on June 17 at the Hotel.

Legacy Endowment Fund

In 2023 the Day of Giving raised \$398,839 for the Legacy Endowment Fund. This fund honors the spirit of the women who founded this organization and helps build a permanent resource to support the programs and ministries that we all hold so dear. Our UWF unit has been contributing to this fund.

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Thursday, May 25
12:00 noon, Room 10
The book
Half Broke Horses
by Jeannette Walls
will be reviewed by
Margaret Cates

Sarah Circle

Thursday, May 11
9:30 am
Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, May 17
6:30 pm
Church Library
Margaret Cates will
provide the program
and devotion.

Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference

The 39th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference will be held in person, June 14-17, 2023, at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Los Angeles.

All plenary and business sessions will be live-streamed.

Blessing Bags



The Blessing Bags for the Unhoused Committee would like to thank you for your generosity for this Lenten project. There were enough donations to make 128 Blessing Bags. Each bag contained water, a pair of socks, Energy bars, trail mix or cookies (2), deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, comb or brush, 1st Aid kit, Q-Tips, packet of wipes, packet of tissue, chap stick and a small card with scripture and the words You Are Loved!

Thank you also to those members who helped assemble the Blessing Bags after service on Palm Sunday and to those members who took some bags (even a box) for distribution to those less fortunate.

On April 4th members of the committee took the rest of the bags, 200 razors, 6 large shampoo, 6 mylar blankets and 12 1st Aid Kits to the United Methodist Church in Reseda. This church has a food pantry and provides hot lunches, mobile showers and haircuts. They see anywhere from 10-20 unhoused weekly and also serve lunch and provide food the same day as their shower ministry to over 220 families.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you took me in,
I was naked and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me...

Matthew 25: 35-36

*Blessing Bags Committee: Shari Kelley Worrell,
JoAnne Chadwick-Ellis, Toby Lane, Mary Mackay
Pastor Elaine Shin-Paull, Sydney Thiroux*



From the Mailbox

On behalf of Reseda UMC and the unhoused individuals we serve, we wish to thank Canoga Park UMC for donating over 50 "Blessing Bags" which include, soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, socks, razors and more for those using SFV Mobile Showers each week during the Kingdom Food Pantry. Churches can make a real difference in the lives of those who are unhoused. They are in need of our kindness and compassion and by working together, we can inspire others to get involved in helping those in need.

Reseda UMC

My scholarship check and certificate arrived in the mail! Thank you so much for considering me as a candidate and offering me this opportunity. I am honored to be a recipient in Laura's memorial and hope to honor her memory in the way I use it to assist me in school.

Kierstin Douglas

1st Amendment Audit

There is a social movement usually involving 1 or 2 people (the "auditors") photographing or filming from a public space – often a government building or a church. The recorded interactions are posted on social media, particularly when there is any sort of aggression or perceived harassment toward the auditors. These videos are then posted on YouTube and advertised in an attempt to monetize through clicks to the different interaction.

These 'audits' are uncomfortable and disruptive. If an auditor comes to our church:

Be kind and polite

Don't get backed into a combative posture

If you do have an experience with a 1st Amendment Auditor, please let the District Office know.

*Reverend Melissa MacKinnon
District Superintendent – North District*

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Awards

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship awarded five scholarship grants of \$2,000 each on Easter Sunday 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. This year is the thirty-ninth year granting scholarship awards to well qualified upper-class undergraduate students. With these 5 awards, 133 scholarship grants have been awarded in Laura’s memory to 106 different students for a grand total of \$198,500.

We, the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park congratulate these recipients on their accomplishments to date and look forward to hearing of their future successes.

Selina Cho has just been accepted as a junior at San Jose State University. She will major in Industrial Design and plans to graduate with her Bachelor of Science degree in June 2025. We know Selina as the young lady with a beautiful singing voice, enthusiastic liturgist, AV operator and bundle of energetic joy. Selina’s faith is strong as she seeks God’s guidance and direction in her life.



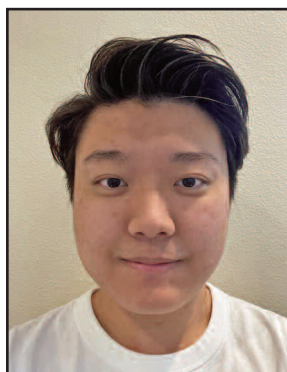
Brice Douglas will be a senior at Brigham Young University, majoring in Economics. He expects to graduate in May 2024. This summer he will intern as a product manager where he expects to find a permanent employment after

graduation. He will also be pursuing an MBA from an ‘ivy league’ school. His career plan is to start a software company with social impact.



Kierston Douglas will be a junior at Brigham Young University, majoring in Psychology, and expecting to graduate in May 2025. She holds summer and part-time employment assisting in recreational therapy for autistic children and youth at behavior interventional facilities and youth camps. She intends to earn a Masters degree and become a recreational therapist.

Lea Flores is attending the California Career College to become a registered nurse. She and her family have attended church here at First United Methodist Church for over 10 years. She loves the personal touch of patient care and has been working at various health care facilities in the valley as a licensed vocational nurse. Lea continues to work and will be continuing her education to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.



YiXians (Rocky) Ren will be a senior, majoring in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, Merced. He will graduate in May 2024 with a Bachelor of Science degree and intends to continue to earn a masters degree. Off campus

he enjoys technical clubs like the Association for Computing Machinery and other project-based experiences.



Hope of the Valley

A group of eight from our church toured the impressive site of a new homeless housing project on Ventura Blvd. across from Taft High School. We didn't know the property which Hope The Mission purchased included the old Denny's that was right next to the converted 818 motel. The plan is to open the 100 housing units in late May.



The standard room (above)
Beyond the interior (unlockable) door (below)



The second phase of the project will be to turn the Denny's property into a pre-school. In addition, there will be food delivered to the site for each meal. Jeremy Drake, who gave the tour, said Hope The Mission, through its growing list of shelters now has beds for 2600 people and plans to cook 5 million meals this year.

It is hard to comprehend the size of this problem!
In the current project:

*About 10% of the units will be ADA compliant



- * There will be two bunk beds in each room with the normal set up for one adult and 2-3 kids. In addition, there will be a desk and a TV.
- * The site will have 24-hour security and will be gated.
- * The outside center court will have an eating area.
- * There will be a dog/cat run in the back.
- * There will be personnel at the site, helping to assist each person in regards psychiatric, drug rehab, documentation help with the push toward getting adults employed and families moved to more permanent housing.

For more information, go up on their website – www.hopeofthevalley.org.

If any of you would like to be on Jeremy's email list, drop me a note. Being on the email list will keep you updated on all that's going on at "Hope The Mission" including all their efforts to raise money! We won't supply your email address unless you tell us to do so.

That's it for now! Here's the link to more photos.
https://www.amazon.com/photos/shared/0EMSwIwhQli1DoQ_XLjIwg.Mi60htVrb3NWJ74N9bBOP



Blessings!
George Grengs

Financial Update

With the help of Denise Lenore, Jim Schmitt, and Chandra Seeger our financial reporting is back on track, and we received the 2023 First Quarter Financial Reports in mid-April...Yeah! We haven't done a thorough evaluation yet but here are a couple of the numbers that jump out compared to budget. Faith Giving is down about \$2000. Building Use Income is right on target. Ministerial Expenses are down about \$2500. Church Facilities Expenses are in line even though natural gas was \$2000 over budget. We were not able to make any apportionment payments.

Thanks to Sydney for learning QuickBooks, enabling her to pay invoices, process payroll and add deposits in such a timely manner.

We are evaluating the integration of QuickBooks (our financial software program) and Servant Keeper (our church data software program) later in the year.

Facilities Update

Landscaping: Flowers were planted in the Memorial Garden and near the Narthex entrance just prior to Easter which was paid for with monies from the Memorial Fund. We have identified a leaking valve in the Maynard Fountain area which was capped for the moment and hopefully completely fixed by May. Jeff Leighton unplugged the Maynard fountain. In mid-April, the gardeners did some tree work for us. They removed the dead Redwood to the west of the Sherman Way walkway and the smaller pine tree on the south side of the Education Building parking lot walkway – both were dead. We trimmed the two trees just outside the church office and the large Sycamore between the sanctuary and Sherman Way. The chips from the tree work will be used throughout the property. The gardeners were hired to clean both the Fellowship Hall and Education Building roofs of leaves and debris. The sanctuary was done the month before by Steve Wiggins.



Maintenance

Ken Dimmick fixed a couple of sticking doors, installed a dish soap dispenser that had fallen off in the Men's restroom and lastly installed a new single cylinder deadbolt on the Maynard side of the church office. Much more was done throughout the month by volunteers who keep the property running. Many thanks to all of you!

George Grengs



Prayers for Grieving:

Prayers for Ginger Huston and her family for the loss of her sister Sally

Prayers for Nancy Summer and her family for the loss of her husband Lee

Prayers for Michael Hawley's family for their loss.

Prayers for Healing:

Liz Rogers
Midge Herder
Helen Robertson
Kathy and her step-mother
Denusha

Other Prayers:

Finding Nursery Caregiver,
For improvement of AV system
For the finance of the church

*Send prayer requests to
Anita Parrinello
(lwo2bjedi@gmail.com)
and CC Pastor Elaine
(eshinpauill@gmail.com)*





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Return Service Requested

Easter Choir



What a joy it was to have a real choir in the choir loft on Easter morning!

Paul had arranged for Robin Delano and Bill Ledesma to sing with us for the day and Geri Allen, Beverly and Craig Harris joined us as well.

Margaret Cates, seen at the top right, also contributed greatly to the music for the morning by playing her flute on select verses of the hymns.

Preschol News

When Bonnie Dosier, the founding director, started our little preschool I doubt that she imagined that it would be around 51 years later. So it is with great sadness that the leadership of the Preschol Board and the church have decided to close the school at the end of this school year. Changing demographics, competition from LAUSD allowing earlier enrollment, and the COVID pandemic has made it impossible to continue operating.

Hundreds of children have had the opportunity to start off their education with a Christian background thanks to all the great teachers and directors who, throughout the years, have put their all into making our preschool a wonderful little school.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in my 20 years as teacher and director.

Wendy Finley