



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: eshinpau@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

July 2023

Heart to Heart

One of the things that makes the United Methodist Church unique is the clergy deployment system called the itinerant system. Under this system, ordained clergies are appointed to local churches and other ministries annually by the bishop.

Thanks be to God and the bishop, I am reappointed to the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park for this year 2023-2024. So, I begin my second year with you as of July 1, 2023. Thank you for spending a year on the learning curve with me ... opening your hearts and being willing to stretch your ways in doing church. Thank you!

With all of you, I look forward to building each of us up spiritually and growing in Christ in the ways that God leads us.

During the Clergy Session at the Annual Conference yesterday (6/14), our new bishop Dottie asked us not to focus our ministry on the "growing number of members," but ask "why are we here." What is the First UMC of Canoga Park called to do in this season of its life? What is it that God wants our church to do? She encouraged us that we are living in a different time and season, and we need to think and do ministry differently.

With this on our minds and hearts, let's receive God's appointment of all of us to the First UMC of Canoga Park. You are a minister of God. We are all ministers of God. Thanks be to God for His calling upon our lives.

Pastor Elaine



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Pau

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Courier Layout
Sharon Mountford

AV Operator
Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop
Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**
Rev. Melissa Roux
MacKinnon

2023 Annual Conference Theme



Ending Spiritual & Physical Hunger



July 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 Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 7:00 pm
Prayer meeting 7:30 to 8:00 pm, beginning July 10
via Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?pwd=QU RDc0FVUU1uZjJBWU9DYUhJVzVYUT09MeetingID:85466860517Passcode:229523>
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6:00-10:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
- Friday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

Other Activities

- Saturday 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Tuesday 4 Church office closed in observance of Independence Day
- Sunday 16 Bettye Nowlin's Memorial Service, Sanctuary at noon
The family welcomes our congregation to join in celebrating the life of Bettye.
- Monday 17 Monthly social meeting, 11:00 am, Parlor
- Saturday 22 Church of Christ, special meeting,
Hall & Lounge, 8:00 am-noon

Coming in August

- Saturday 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

July Birthdays

- 3 Pat Rowe
- 11 Roger Johnson
- 12 Gerald Rowe
- 16 Judith Austin
Guy Maturo, Jr.
- 19 Shirley Thomson
- 22 Dylan Bautista
- 23 Nanette Roberson
- 25 Jonathan Arnold
- 29 Talia Maturo
- 30 Devon Cates
Elma Villacisneros

Anniversaries

- 7 Mountford, Lou & Sharon
- 14 Abernathy, Clifford & Sharay
- 15 Abernathy, Robin & Richard
- 26 Lamb, Robert & Flo

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



July

- 2 open
- 9 In honor of Lou & Sharon
Mountford's 61st
Anniversary
- 16 open
- 23 open
- 30 In honor of Robert & Flo
Lamb's 25th 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.

New Study Series

Jewish Observance of Biblical Holidays

June 25 to August 13
Sundays at 11:30 am in the church library.



United Women in Faith

Mission U

Mission U is being held July 14-16 at Azusa Pacific University, 901 E. Alostia Ave. Azusa, Ca 91702. The Theme of the Meeting is "Living the

Good News, Reflecting God's Love". A weekend where women of all ages learn, worship, have fun, and celebrate together. At Mission U United Women In Faith will be sharing the transforming experience of allowing the Lord's Prayer to transform their life.

A Program Resource book entitled "Hidden Figures" was on the 2022 UWF Reading list. There was also a movie by the same name and if watched you can count it on your reading list in the same category as the book – Leadership Development.

Faith Talks

These are Webinars held monthly by United Women in Faith via Zoom. A program held in June was on Juneteenth. It was to learn about and commemorate Juneteenth National Independence Day. Several speakers talked about the past, the present and the future of the federal holiday which began after the Civil War to celebrate the end of slavery in the United States. If interested in reading more on this subject there is a book entitled "On Juneteenth" by Annette Gordon.

Anyone who wishes to be a member of our United Women In Faith Organization at Canoga Park is welcome. Please contact President Shirley Thomson at 818-348-0414 or by e-mail at sthompson1@socal.rr.com. She will provide you with information about the organization.

Special Mission Recognition

United Women In Faith has been recognizing a man in our congregation every year for his hard work and dedication. The recipient this year was Paul Cady, who was born in East Orange, Texas, a friendly small town in East Texas where everyone knows your name. Paul's family consisted of his father, mother and two sisters. His father was the inspiration for his interest in music. His mother had an angelic voice. In High School Paul was their school cheerleader & Mascot. He attended Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas.



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Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

On summer break
Next meeting in
September

Sarah Circle

Thursday, July 13,
9:30 am

Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, July 19
6:30 pm
Dinner out TBA



Remember to bring food for the West Valley Food Pantry on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of every month.

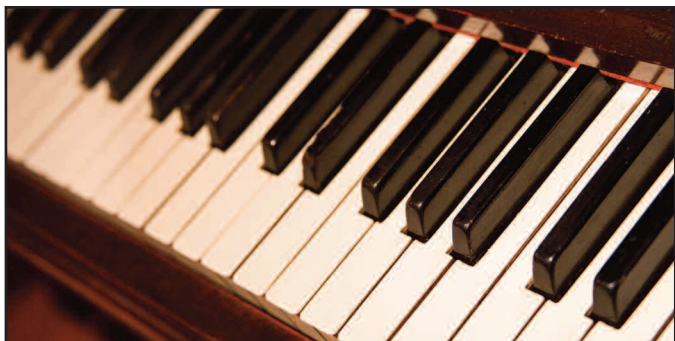
Collection boxes at other times are located in the hallway outside the kitchen.

Continued from page 3

Paul eventually moved to Los Angeles where he has remained. Since musical talent runs in the family, he wanted to further those interests, which include acting, singing, directing and playing the piano. He has held a number of different jobs such as being a chauffeur, working in a well-known real estate office as Office Manager, participating in a Disney musical show *Pocahontas* playing the part of Captain John Smith at Disneyland for 2 years.

In his spare time he works with Group Repertory at the Lonny Chapman Theater in North Hollywood, a local theater featuring live productions of both classics and modern plays. The Group Repertory is a hidden gem in the NOHO arts district. It is one of LA's oldest non-profit Hollywood Theater companies. Paul has a number of productions to his credit such as *London Suites*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Pirates of Penzance*, to name a few.

His Musical talents were also put to use at St. John's UMC until it closed. He came to our church in 2009 as pianist, seen here in 2010 with our then music director Pamela Blackstone. When Pamela moved on to direct the National Children's Choir, Paul assumed her duties as Musical Director. We have been enjoying his many talents including his participation in Sunday skits and various readings.



Baptism Sunday

Pastor Elaine had the privilege of baptizing two young children on Sunday June 11.



Angela and Noah Anderson with daughter Nova.



Tiffany and Sean O'Shea with son Hudson, the Great-grandson of Don and Evelyn Heim.



Annual Conference

Pastor Elaine and George & Karen Grengs attended the 39th California Pacific Annual Conference in Mid-June at the Gateway Sheraton Hotel near LAX. They were long days, but we enjoyed worship, a wide range of music and dancing, presentations, focus discussion groups (Real Talk), retiree videos, legislative voting and of course meals.

The Thursday morning session began with the worship service accompanied by Tonga Drums, Polynesian/Hula dancing, and rock music. This was followed by an Episcopal Address by our new Bishop – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank and a brief introduction to her chihuahua, Chica! It’s clear that the new Bishop understands the challenging work that needs to be done to revitalize the local churches. Everyone, including Pastor Elaine, feels she’s the right person for the position!

This was followed by voting. The most notable vote, on the third day, was to sell Camp Colby which has had many campers from First Church over the years. The decision was a result of years of underinvestment, bad damage in a fire about 15 years ago followed by damage to the access road with recent flooding. Any sale proceeds will be reinvested in the other three campgrounds run by the UMC.

Commissioning of new pastors by Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank at Annual Conference

The “Real Talk” discussion groups were led by task force members discussing the effects of racial, social, and cultural inequities related to where pastors get appointed and what they get paid. This process has produced many problems and trauma in the lives of Pastors as they get moved around. It was recommended that these decision-making processes be reexamined.

The second “Real Talk” discussion was about the Cal-Pac budgeting process with an emphasis on making it much more transparent and reducing the length of time it takes to produce. The goal is to make the process and the final budget more relevant and timelier, so it can be used as a tool to help guide us in a changing world.

Lastly, it was heartwarming to witness the retirement of the Reverend Catie Coots, who was the District Supervisor who directed Pastor Lynn Westover to First Church . She represents a family that has been in ministry for the UMC since the late 1800’s. An amazing history of service!

George Grengs

The Top 4 Facts You Should Know About the Conference’s Finances

1. Conference is financially stable – uninterrupted positive cash flow
2. Unqualified ‘clean’ audit report since 2012
3. The reserve funds are actually there.....and not on paper
4. Setting missional priorities is key to projecting an effective budget



Preschool Recognition

After 51 years of serving the San Fernando Valley community through a weekday preschool program, it is now closing. With the current market factors, including the changing in neighborhood demographics, changes in LAUSD policies and the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which led to drastic decline in enrollment, we have determined that it is no longer fiscally feasible to continue to operate the school.

Even though we are discontinuing the preschool ministry, we know that when one door is closed, God opens another door. With that trust in the Lord, we move forward with hope and anticipation on what God has in store for us.

The church wants to thank Director Wendy Finley, husband Brian Finley and teacher Mary Tuszynski for their years of dedication and work with the children. They were recognized during the June 11 service and presented with this memorial clock.

Pastor Elaine



Wendy put together the collage on the following page with pictures of preschool students accompanied by their older selves as captured at reunions.

The end of an era

The sadness of the closure is visible in the faces above.

Wendy was glad that Bonnie Doshier, who dedicated her life to the Preschool, did not live to see its demise.



Final Fump Farewell



Nursery Attendant Needed

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park
22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307
www.umccp.org.....818.340.2950

Position

Responsible for the care of infants and toddlers during Sunday worship and fellowship time.

Duties

- * Opens and prepares the room no later than 9:45 am on Sunday mornings.
- * Welcomes children and their parents or grandparents.
- * Uses curriculum when appropriate.
- * Engages the children in creative play, stories, and songs, providing a happy Sunday experience.
- * Monitors nursery equipment and supplies.
- * Cleans nursery and locks up before leaving each Sunday.
- * Other duties as needed.

Qualifications

- * Christian familiar with children's Bible stories and songs.
- * A warm, loving adult able to provide all aspects of child care, including changing diapers and giving bottles.
- * Enjoys being with children.
- * Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- * Able to handle emergency situations.
- * A flexible, dependable and cheerful team player.
- * Experience caring for infants and small children; references required.

Please contact the church office ... 818-340-2950.

Church Office Administrator

Sydney Thiroux is returning to California State University, Northridge to pursue her Master's degree in Social Work, leaving us on August 15. We need to find a suitable replacement before then. Pastor Elaine has posted this notice on the conference website:

First UMC of Canoga Park is currently seeking a part-time Church Administrator to manage general operations of the church including communications, facilities, finance, as well as ministry support for the pastor and lay leadership.

Excellent communication skills are essential and must be highly organized. Monday through Thursday work week. Office hours are 10:00 am – 2:15 pm. Pay range is from \$18-\$22 depending on experience.

To apply for this job, email your resume to crossandflame@att.net.

If you know of any appropriate candidates, please let them know of the opening.

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. 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.



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.*

Financial Update

As noted last month our monthly statements are cleaning up and in early July, we'll have the 2nd quarter statements which will help us better understand how we're trending for the year. We do know over the last 24 months, coming out of Covid that we've run budget deficits that have come out of designated funds. Soon we will be able to establish what amount that is and develop a plan to deal with it. More information will be presented as it's available.

A couple of positive notes. With the help of Jim Schmitt, the Santa Clarita UMC treasurer who is assisting us, we have gone to direct deposits for all employees. Reducing the number of checks cut will make us more efficient and the employees love to see the money put directly into their checking accounts. Thanks for all the work done by Jim, Sydney Thiroux, and Denise Lenore to make this happen.

The closure of the Preschool will reduce some of our Workman's Comp and Liability Insurance costs. The Workman's Comp quote for 23/24 is down about \$4000 and we expect savings with the liability insurance as well.

Facilities Update

Landscaping:

In mid-June we had the main sprinkler line break. It was exposed and it looks like it was kicked or maybe it simply blew apart, but it resulted in a lot of wasted water. It is now fixed, and we'll come up with something to protect it in the future.

As you walk up the entrance walkway from Sherman Way, we have planted a succulent garden to the Maynard side of the walkway up against the Narthex wall. Check it out!

We were notified in June by LA City that we need to conform to the new State laws about having a third waste container for food or garden scraps. One of the smallest bins is about \$80/month. A new cost we'll have to deal with a little later in the year.

Maintenance:

The natural gas is still off to the Sanctuary and Education buildings due to a leak discovered last month. At the end of June, we'll have 4-5 plumbers quote on capping off the original line and doing a re-pipe over the roof. At this point we're not sure how difficult this will be, but it could represent a substantial cost. We'll keep everyone updated.

User Groups:

We're glad to say that all user groups are current with their user fees/rents. We've had a new enquiry from one of the Master Chorale groups looking for practice room. We are currently working with them to see if we have a space that would work for them.

George Grengs



Brenda Jones and family

Mark Nogy

David Burdsall

Randy Hinton

Lisa Starlz

Jessica Williams

Robert Unoki

Bernie Godwin

Doris Hood

Clint and Lizzie Garvin

and unborn baby

Doug Gilham

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





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Return Service Requested