



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

E-mail: firstumccp@gmail.com

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

Pastor: eshinpaull@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

February 2024

Heart to Heart

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, this year. It is a time for the church to journey together toward Easter and the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. It is not a time about being sad, miserable, or punishing ourselves in anticipation of Good Friday.

It's important for us to remember that Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days of Lent. They remain "little Easters" just like all other Sundays. During the 40 days of Lent, we can choose to give up things that distract us from living a healthy life as part of Lenten disciplines. Or/and we can take on practices that help us to grow spiritually, relationally, emotionally, and physically.

Here are some ideas for you to consider:

Spend time in solitude each day.

Read a book for inner growth.

Keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, and reading.

Focus on thanksgiving rather than asking in prayer.

Take control of my life by _____.

Worship together with the church.

Take on some loving task _____.

Plan to visit a "shut-in" church member or neighbor weekly.

Write a letter to a person who has touched my life: _____.

Would you like to hear more ideas? I will share additional suggestions on the first Sunday of Lent for you to consider taking on as part of your Lenten journey.

With His Love,

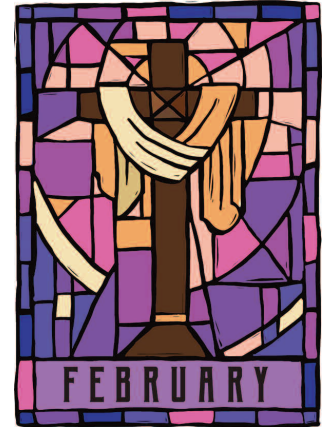
Pastor Elaine

from *Connecting our Daily Living and Worship in Lent*

(based on umcdiscipleship.org/resources)

*"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-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

Lay Leader

Roger Johnson

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operator

Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux

MacKinnon

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays

- 1 Brenda Jones
Diane Rosales
- 6 JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
- 11 Ayla Ann Palmerlee
- 12 Laura Pomeroy
- 15 Lois Jimenez
- 19 Mark Nogy
- 23 Abbey Hafner-Arnold
Shari Worrell
- 25 Libby Bennett
- 26 Jan Fenske
- 27 Margaret Cates
LynnWestover

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



February

- 4 open
- 11 open
- 18 open
- 25 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.

February Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday San Fernando Valley Master Chorale, 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 7:00 pm
Virtual prayer meetings: Mondays at 7:30 pm on Zoom.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85466860517?pwd=QURDc0FVUUU1uZjJBWU9DYUUhJVzVYUT09)
pwd=QURDc0FVUUU1uZjJBWU9DYUUhJVzVYUT09
Meeting ID: 854 6686 0517.....Passcode: 229523
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-10:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group (Learning to Live), Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Wesleyan Bible Study resumes on Feb. 1, at 11:00 am to study the Book of Galatians.
Bring a bible and a pen! We meet in the church library next to the pastor's office.
Narcotics Anonymous (Recovery Zone), Parlor 7:00 pm
Men's AA Step Guide, Room #10, 7:00 pm
- Friday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
SiliconAndhra, Room# 10 & Library, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Saturday SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 -12:30
Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

Other Activities

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Saturday 10 Young Ambassadors, Hall 12:30 - 5:30
- Wednesday 14 Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 pm
- Monday 19 Monthly Social
- Tuesday 13 Administrative Council Meeting
- Wednesday 28 Assistance League, Hall, 9:30 - 1:30
- Thursday 29 Your bonus day for 2024



IT'S LEAP YEAR!

Coming in March

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way



United
Women
in Faith



California-Pacific Conference Mid-Winter Event

In-person on Saturday, February 17 at Redlands First UMC. 9:30 am
Registration 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. Registration fee is \$15.00.
Topic is "Healing Community in a Hurting World".
Registration due February 7.

Voices From The Field

I recently registered for a virtual event entitled Love, Justice, Service:
Home Missioners in Ministry.

I was a little hesitant at first, but decided to join 174 other people participating in this event. I was pleasantly surprised to learn about the work of the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, administered by United Women in Faith.

We learned from the people who are transforming their communities and how you, through Mission Giving, can make this transformation possible.

Speakers were:

- North Texas Conference, Jonah Ballesteros, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Program Specialist;
- Georgia Conference, Jeff Fuller, Abundant Health Coordinator and
- Michigan Conference, Bill White, Co-Founder of 5Loaves2Fishes.

Sermon Series

Pastor Elaine's Sermon Series Continues in February
Ten Words, One Life: Unpacking God's Guidance for Life

Join us as we learn from the Ten Commandments how to live a life that promotes justice and order for our personal lives and our society.

New and Improved Website

Thanks to Gideon Paull for redesigning the church's website.
You can access the live streams directly at www.umccp.org.

Help Wanted!

We need your help to spread the word. We are hiring an Administrative Assistant (part-time) and a Nursery Childcare person (Sundays only- \$50).
Please refer them to pastor Elaine or Shirley Thomson.

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Note change of day
Wednesday, February 21
at 1:00 pm in Room 10.
The book to be reviewed
is entitled *First Ladies* by
Marie Benedict & Victoria
Christopher Murray.

Sarah Circle

Note change of time
Thursday, February 8,
9:15 am
Breakfast at Weiler's Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, February 21
6:30 pm
In the library
Program TBA



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

The Chosen – Season III The Way of the Chosen

All are invited to join this interactive Bible study based on *The Chosen*, the groundbreaking television series about the life of Jesus and his followers. Classes will run for eight weeks, beginning Sunday, February 4th with a break for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Study material will be sent to you each week via email. Each meeting will include some introductory remarks, watching the episode of the week together, and an open discussion of the Episode's content. We will meet with leader, Roger Johnson, each Sunday at 11:30 in the Library. Sign up in advance on the bulletin board in the parlor or by contacting Roger, (818) 346-1233, so he can send you the preparation material each week.

"The Way of the Chosen" takes a close look at what it really means to follow Jesus on "The narrow road that leads to life", including:

Forgiving the way Jesus does
Going when and where Jesus says to go
Grieving what Jesus grieves
Standing firm on Jesus words and character
Delighting in the things that please Him
Asking because Jesus says to ask
Welcoming those whom He welcomes
Trusting His will and way

History proves that it is our human nature to wander away from God, to walk in the wide road that leads to destruction, and to miss out on the life that Jesus really wants for us (Matthew 7:13-14). But we don't have to, and self-sabotage is not a foregone conclusion.



There is a different way to live. And since the consequence of the wide road is our own demise, perhaps it's time to embrace the 'hard stuff' of following Jesus' way and storm the narrow gate. Perhaps it is time to go The Way of the Chosen.

Join us!

The Carpet is Clean!

Several years ago, the Men's Group purchased a carpet extractor to use, particularly, to clean the Fellowship Hall carpet. It is a well used room – six groups currently use the Hall on a weekly &/or monthly basis.

On Saturday, January 6th, Brian Finley and Wong Ramon spent the morning getting that carpet cleaned. Our many thanks to them! Brian has used the machine for many years cleaning the Preschool carpets, and was able to instruct Wong in using the equipment.

The next scheduled cleaning will be in July. You are invited to help with vacuuming before the cleaning and setting up chairs and tables when the carpet is dry. All are welcome.

Mary Mackay



After Jesus delivers the most impactful sermon in history (the Sermon on the Mount) Jesus' followers assume life will improve, since they are following the Messiah.

Judas Iscariot joins the group. Simon (Peter) and Eden, his wife, are reunited, and everyone is ready to live out Jesus' teachings. But challenges arise that must be met – in Jesus' way

Financial Update

The 2024 budget was approved at the January 16 Administrative Committee meeting. With the addition of the new 2024 lease of the Education Building to Charisma Preschool (see more under User Groups), and additional Fellowship Hall user group income, 2024 will become a transition year as we begin our financial turnaround. Building use income will improve this year but since Charisma payments will only be for a partial year and we have a real estate commission to pay, we'll still be struggling. The budget was approved with an \$18,000 deficit which means we will only be able to pay about \$5k of our \$23k in apportionment payments. This is an improvement from the \$2500 we paid in 2023. All in all, we're trending in the right direction and in 2025 we expect to be able to pay 100% of our apportionments, something we have not done for years.

Facilities Update

We continue to work on the facility water leaks including repairs to piping into the Yellow House (\$532), a leak in the Fellowship Hall upstairs piping (\$1032), and leak detection work (\$700). We have just identified another large leak under the cement near the church office where the main line enters the building. We hope to have that fixed and if we're lucky the water meter will then stop running. If so, we'll be able to get some credits from the LADWP for the lost water.

We are working on asphalt and cement repair quotes to eliminate all trip and fall problems on the campus. We'll update more next month.

After fixing the gas leak we still are having a very hard time getting the sanctuary warm on Sundays. Some improvement has been made and we're working on additional options to keep us warm!

We had the sanctuary carpet cleaned and the cost was split with one of the user groups who had an unauthorized dog running loose.

User Groups:

Very big news – we signed a 5-year lease with Charisma Pre-School for the Education Building/ Yellow house/ Play Yard. Assistance League will remain in room 7/8 through mid-2025. As noted in the Financial Section, this is a start to a real financial turnaround for our church and just as important, Charisma will upgrade the buildings including: 1) new building water lines, 2) new toilet and sink fixtures, 3) new flooring, 4) new A/C in rooms 1-5, 5) new windows, 6) installation of synthetic grass in the back play yard, 7) new paint. These upgrades will improve the buildings and make them useable for years to come!

Fit Families Fit Kids who currently rent room 6 in the Education Building will be moving upstairs in the Fellowship Hall to either Youth Room 1 or the Boy Scout room.

We've had some recent parking lot use for Jessica Alba's new home remodeling series. Two uses at the end of 2023 and two uses in January 2024.

George Grengs

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.

ADVENT PROJECT



First UMC of Canoga Park had 25 different donor families contributing to this Advent Project.

The donation amount which we gave to The Woodlands, Hope the Mission family residence in Woodland Hills, was just over \$1500 worth of gift cards (Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, 99-Cent Store, etc.). We also donated 4 new pillows, 8 boxes of toys, 8 bags of coats and clothes and 40 new children's books.



Shari Worrell and Pastor Elaine delivering gift cards to Erica Hernandez at the Woodlands

The Anderson family collected from various places and donated two trash bags of large stuffed animals, one trash bag of small stuffed animals, one extra-large trash bag of medium stuffed animals, bags of toys plus 15 girls' gift bags, 15 boys' gift bags and goodie bags containing combs, brushes, hair ties and bobby pins. All were donated prior to Christmas, so the children had a great Christmas because of your generosity.



Jeremy Drake, Hope the Mission contact person, wrote, "Wow, Shari, this is so awesome! We all truly appreciate the support and altruism that your groups have shown to Hope, and in particular to The Woodlands

residents. From the feedback I've received, Christmas was a wonderful day there, especially for the kids. Your efforts are a big part of making that happen!

We appreciate you!"

Lenten Project for the Unhoused

A follow-up project is being planned for the lenten season. Between March 3 - 17, First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park will be collecting items for Blessing Bags. We will be putting together the Blessing Bags after Worship on Palm Sunday. Complete information will be in the March Courier.

Farewell To Fump!

Our "Open House - Give Away Event" on January 20th was a memorable and busy day. Approximately 50 people, from the community, came to find toys, games, furniture and play equipment they could enjoy. This was a farewell to our First United Methodist Preschool of 52 years, and our getting ready to welcome Charisma Academy Preschool, that will open in the Fall.

Many thanks to Tim O'Connor for his many hours of labor and to Ken Dimmick for adjusting doors and locks. George Grengs continues to oversee getting the property repairs completed, needed for licensing. Workers JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis, Margaret Cates and Toby Lane helped sort and prepare the classrooms and Yellow House and worked, "The Give Away day," alongside, Anita & Louis Parrinello, Shirley FitzGeorge, Shari Worrell, Tom & Glynene Roe, Robert & Flo Lamb, Ginger Houston and Bill Satterlee.

It does take a village!

Mary Mackay, Crew Chief



Some items went to the preschool at the Northridge UMC



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Miko Mosbe

Jennifer Ervin

Donna Evans and family

Mary Beth Godwin

Amy Seeger's dad

Helen Robertson

Chandra Seeger
Chandra's sister, Sherry,
brother in law, Alan
and niece Karri

Lori and Ken Dimmick

Don and Evelyn Heim

Send prayer requests to
Anita Parrinello
luv2bjedi@gmail.com
and CC Pastor Elaine
eshinpau@gmail.com





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Return Service Requested