



March 2023

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

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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

Heart to Heart

Lent is Here

It's been a week since we started the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday.

In Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The ash is a reminder and celebration of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.

At First Church, I would like to remind all of us that the Lent can be a season to spend more time with God, giving Him credit for our happiness, and a time to humbly accept our mortality.

I invite you to pray and read Scripture daily. Use the Lent season to "fast" from unhealthy things in your life. Everyone is different so it can be from eating potato chips (something you know that it is not healthy for you), spending several hours on media such as FaceBook, or Tiktok, or to filling your thoughts with negativity! However, one important fact here is that when we 'empty- out' something unhealthy, we must 'fill' it with something healthy.

Read Scripture.

Pray.

Show your love in all your actions.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Elaine



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux
MacKinnon



March Calendar

March Birthdays

- 2 Ainsley Cates
- 10 Robert Baker
Logan Maturo-Johnson
Steve Robertson
Amy Seeger
- 19 Erick Rodriguez
- 23 Evelyn Heim
Anita Parrinello
- 25 Clifford Abernathy
- 30 Kyle Finley
- 31 Byron McKibben

Anniversaries

- 2 George & Karen Grengs
- 29 Roger & Nancy Johnson

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



Altar Flowers

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

Weekly Activities

- Sunday *The Chosen* Bible Study with Roger Johnson, Library, 11:45 am (begins February 26)
Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus, Hall 1:45 pm
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 3:00 pm
- Monday Harmonettes, Fellowship Hall Lounge, 10:30 - 12:30 pm
Cub Pack 474, Boy Scout Room, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 6:30 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 Silicon Andhra, Rm.10 and Library, 5:30-7:30 pm
Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

Other Activities

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Wednesday 8 Church of Christ, Hall and Lounge, 6:00 - 10:00 pm
- Sunday 12 Scouting Ministry Sunday,
We look forward to seeing you there
- Wednesday 15 Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee,
Library, 2:00 pm
- Saturday 18 Rock Chippers, Lounge, 6:30 - 10:00 pm

Coming in April

- Saturday 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Sunday 9 Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Grants presented before worship

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.

Live Streaming On Hold

Live streaming of our Sunday morning worship services is temporarily suspended until the appropriate help is secured to do the filming and transmission. Please speak to Pastor Elaine if you are interested in helping with this service.



UWF Sunday

We celebrated UWF Sunday on February 19, 2023. Once a year UWF selects a woman to receive a Special Mission Recognition Award for their service in United Women In Faith, the church as well as in other areas. This year we awarded it to Margaret Cates. See the write up about Margaret on page 5.



USC Arcadia Hospital (Previously known as United Methodist Hospital)

For many years the hospital was seen as an extension of their service to the United Methodist Church and it has been a great way for them to express their support of the Spiritual Care Program at the hospital. With the merger of the hospital with USC it can seem that those ties have been broken, but in truth not too much has changed. The mission that they have supported goes on and we can still be a part of this new way of being of service to the community.

United Women In Faith Mission

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Purpose

To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends
Thursday, March 23
12:00 noon
Room 10

Sarah Circle
Thursday, March 9
9:30 am
Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love
Wednesday, March 15
6:30 pm
Church Library
Lora O'Connor will
provide the program
and devotion.



Spend this Season of Lent with your Church

1. Lenten Bible Study, *The Chosen*, led by Roger Johnson on Sundays at 11:45 am in the Library.

2. Lenten Outreach Project

During the season of Lent, we invite you to bring products for hygiene kits for the unhoused, including gallon-size ziplock bags, hand sanitizer tissue, travel size deodorant, granola bars, water, socks, toothbrush/toothpaste, soap, and shampoo. Together we will pack and distribute hygiene kits on Palm Sunday, April 2nd, after the Sunday worship service. Please look out for a sign up sheet to donate the items for the Ditty Bags.

3. Good Friday Service

On April 7th, Good Friday Service will be held at 5:00 pm. Many unchurched people ask why Good Friday is "good" when Jesus suffered and died his horrific death on the cross? Well, I hope you can answer that question if anyone ask. Come and commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.



From the Mailbox

To my church family & friends,

Many thanks to all who sent me get well cards, good wishes, goodies, as well as the telephone calls as a result of a fall I had in the house November 30. I fractured my pelvic bone and one rib. No surgery was needed just had to heal on its own. Spent 5 days in hospital and 5 weeks in rehab at Topanga Terrace. Am now at home recuperating with a caregiver three days a week to assist me. I am so grateful for all the good wishes, prayers etc. that I received. Hope to be in church soon as I miss being there in person.

Shirley Thomson

Preschool News

We celebrated the month of February as the month of Love, we learned about love and respect.

It was also Dental Health month. We did lots of fun projects and learned how to properly brush our teeth.

We will be starting parent/teacher conferences this month.

Wendy Finley

Bible Study Coming Up... 9-week study

Jewish Observance of Biblical Holidays will be offered by Gideon Paull. This series will focus on how the holidays mentioned in the Old Testament are observed today by Jews all over the world. We start the series with a look at sabbath observance and how commandments in the Old Testament have been interpreted to provide a framework of observance for the day of rest.

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.*

Special Mission Recognition

Margaret Cates was recognized on UWF Sunday for her service to the community as a teacher with LAUSD and to our church as UWF secretary, member of the Administrative Committee, liturgist, and anything else which she is asked to do.

Margaret was born in Los Angeles to Martin and Margaret Shuler. Her parents joined our church when they moved to the Valley.

Margaret married Darold Cates, to whom she was introduced by Tim O'Connor! Darold was part and parcel of the land on which our church stands. It belonged to his grandparents.



Margaret and Darold had two children who grew up in this church, Devon and Tammy. Devon was the best dressed little acolyte in the history of the church. The children are both grown, married, and have given Margaret the opportunity to be a grandmother.

Margaret learned to play the flute in her youth and is currently adding cello to her musical vocabulary. The church has had

opportunities to hear her mellifluous flute over the years. Perhaps a cello is in our future.

Congratulations, Margaret, on a much deserved recognition!

Financial Update

We continue to struggle with our financial statements. As a result, we have taken Denise Lenore's recommendation to look for outside help regarding QuickBooks. Pastor Elaine connected us to Jim Schmitt who is the Santa Clarita UMC treasurer, and he has agreed to help us move forward. Denise and Jim have met once, and we are already making progress solving some of the software mysteries and coding issues.

With a couple of areas in the church needing additional help in addition to the accounting area noted above, we expect the original \$16,000 deficit for the 2023 budget to increase to the \$20-25k range. We will continue to be able to pay our bills, but our ability to contribute toward our Conference Apportionments will be greatly hampered.

Facilities Update

Landscaping

The Maynard fountain has been off for most of the new year. It looks like the suspected sprinkler/main line leak near the corner of Maynard and Sherman Way is somehow related to

the fountain not the sprinkler system. We hope to have it identified and fixed by the end of March.

Sanctuary/Office buildings

Our roofer, Gaston Fontes has patched above the women's restroom in the sanctuary and over the AC vents in room 7 of the education buildings.

We are having the painting quoted for the remainder of the sanctuary doors, the FH double doors, and the sanctuary women's restroom. We expect everything will be completed before Easter.

Fellowship Hall

Late in 2022 we replaced the kickplate tiles in the FH kitchen and the tile floor was given a very thorough cleaning. What was missing was the thank you to the anonymous member who donated the money to upgrade the FH Kitchen. Many thanks for this donation!

We fixed a leak in the Fellowship Hall shower rooms last year. The walls which had been opened for a plumbing leak were repaired in mid-February. Now we can proceed on a request from one of our user groups to rent these rooms for storage.

George Grengs

In Memoriam

Joe Buttemeier

14 May 1935 – 27 January 2023

Joe was the only boy among three sisters. He and one of his sisters were known in the community for their clever and mischievous pranks.

He attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology earning a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1957. He moved to Southern California for an EE job at Rocketdyne, and soon switched to Litton Guidance and Control, where he worked for 42 years. One of his most notable projects was working on the Mars Viking Lander.

In 1958 he joined our church, which was then located on Jordan Street, and immediately joined the choir and Wesley Fellowship, a group for college-age young people. As a member he remembers going roller-skating at the Jordan rink, in the church basement.

When he met Sylvia, it was love at first sight. In 1962 they were married and had two daughters, Deborah and Robin. They are grandparents to three grandchildren, Alexandra, Analyssa, and Gavin.



One of the committees Joe enjoyed being on was Outreach on which he served for over 20 years. He remembers one year some members went to Watts and helped repair their church.

He was on many committees – the Building Committee, working on the construction of the Fellowship Hall, Staff Parish Relations, Lay Leadership, and Property & Upkeep Committee. He served as chair of the Trustees at the time the Gault Street lots were sold. He represented the church from 2001 to 2003 as the lay member to the Annual Conference. Joe was also instrumental in promoting the annual Crop Hunger Walk to raise funds to aid in ending hunger.

In recent years Joe and Sylvia have been living in Milford, NH close to their daughter Debbie. They joined the Milford UMC and Joe sang in the choir.

Joe led an exemplary life and is remembered fondly.



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.



New address

Midge Herder is now living at
Vista at Simi Valley
1236 Erringer Road #208
Simi Valley, CA 93065



Beulah Ann Sorenson Hajek

30 October 1948 – 27 January 2023

Beulah was born in the rural town of Long Prairie, Minnesota. Shortly after graduating from college, she got into her blue Ford Torino, drove to California by herself, and connected with one of her approximately 70 cousins.



She worked for several years as a secretary/office manager. She met and married her painter, jack of all trades, husband, Rick Hajek, and moved to his San Fernando Valley house in West Hills. She spent many years working alongside him in his business as an independent contractor doing residential remodeling until his death in 2015. She made close friends in the neighborhood, and handed out home baked goods at Christmas every year.

Beulah loved her husband, family, friends, her God, and enjoyed reading, traveling, and watching sports. Beulah's other love was her cat babies. At the height of her cat-caring career, she provided food twice a day for approximately 17 cats, many of whom were born in her backyard. She could not stand to have the cats picked up by the humane society as she feared that they would be put to sleep. She kept 4 cats in her home as her beloved pets, and over the years found homes for others.

Beulah was part of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park. She will be remembered especially for her work with the shower ministry, providing a shower for unhoused local people. Along with others, she cooked, provided much of the food for the weekly meal, and proceeded to wash and dry all the towels at her home to be returned for the following week.

After open heart surgery and two strokes, Beulah was not able to live alone anymore. In 2021 she moved into a senior living community, then into a rehabilitation facility after yet another hospital stay. Beulah would have much preferred to have been at home in West Hills with her cats, but she decided to sell her home in West Hills, and staying in the nursing facility seemed a better situation. On January 24, she was once again taken to the hospital. She passed away at Kaiser Sunset hospital on January 27, 2023 due to fluid filling up her lungs due to the congestive heart failure she had been living with for some time.

Beulah will be missed. Blessed be her memory.

Niece Anne Augustson



Joy to share

Ken and Lori Dimmick welcomed a new grandson named Wyatt!

Prayers for

Ken Dimmick, (COP)
*Cryptogenic organizing
Pneumonia*

Lee & Nancy Summer
Denise Lenore, *car accident*

Chuck Mabry
Brenda Jones
Dave Perry
Midge Herder
Mervin Hewitt

Family and friends of
Beulah Hajek

Family and friends of
Joe Buttemeier

Prayers for victims, families,
survivors and rescuers of
the Turkey/Syria
earthquake.

Prayers for Michigan State
University and all those who
suffered from the gun
violence.

Travel mercy for many of
our church families who are
traveling for safety and
health.

Send prayer requests to
Anita Parrinello
(lvo2bjedi@gmail.com)
and CC Pastor Elaine
(eshinpauill@gmail.com)



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

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West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Return Service Requested

Tech2Go Bundles

The Canoga Park Library and other select LA Public Library branches offer Tech2Go computer bundles that come equipped with a Chromebook device and an internet hotspot for long-term use. Computer bundles are available to adults with a library card in good standing. Contact the Canoga Park Library at 818-887-0320 to check availability.

Sunday Fellowship Time

Each Sunday following worship, refreshments are provided by a team of volunteers. If you would like to help in providing refreshments on a given Sunday, let the team for that week know. (This schedule is posted on the refrigerator in the kitchen).

A "Donation Jar" is also being provided for your donations to help with the cost of supplies. We are an "Equal Opportunity Kitchen" – everyone is welcome to be a part!

Mary Mackay, Coordinator