



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: crossandflame@att.net

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

Pastor: preachingbarefoot@att.net

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

February 2022

Heart to Heart

This is a story about a boy, his mother, an alligator and God.

Some years ago, a little boy in Florida went swimming in the lake behind his house. He ran out the back door, leaving shoes, socks, and shirt as he went and jumped in the water. As he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

Looking out the window, his mother saw this. She ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. When the little boy heard her voice, he turned around and swam to her.

But just as the boy reached her, the alligator reached him. Mother grabbed the boy's arms as the alligator grabbed his legs. Then, an incredible tug-of-war between the two began. The alligator was much stronger than mother, but she would not let go.

A neighbor, hearing her screams, grabbed a gun, took aim and shot the alligator. The little boy spent weeks and weeks in the hospital. And his legs were terribly scarred by the alligator.

A newspaper reporter asked, "Will you show me your scars?" The boy showed him his legs. Then, he said to the reporter, "But look at the scars on my arms! I have them because Mom wouldn't let me go!"

I can identify with the little boy. Can't you? Most of us have scars, too – not from an alligator but from a painful past. Some of those ugly scars are etched in our memory and have caused us deep regret. But some of our wounds, like the scars on the boy's arms, are because God refused to let us go. Because God so loves each and every one of us that he gave his only son.

Blessings,
Pastor Lynn



Pastor

Lynn Westover

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

Certified Lay Minister

Grace Leighton

**Administrative
Assistant**

Sydney Thiroux

Courier Layout
Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Grant Hagiya

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Melissa Roux
MacKinnon



February Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday 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, FH Lounge, 10:30 - 12:30 pm
Cub Pack 474, Boy Scout Room, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Boy Scout Troop 474, Boy Scout room, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Gym, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Choir practice, Choir room 7:00
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:00 - noon

February Birthdays

- 1 Brenda Jones
- 6 JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
- 11 Ayla Ann Palmerlee
- 12 Laura Pomeroy
- 15 Lois Jimenez
- 16 Emily Willauer
- 19 Mark Nogy
- 20 Shirley Ilgenfritz
- 23 Abbey Hafner-Arnold
- 25 Libby Bennett
- 26 Jan Fenske
- 27 Margaret Cates
- 27 Pastor Lynn Westover

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

Other Activities

- Saturday 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Sunday 13 Worship service, 10:00 am – Football Sunday 2022
Football Sunday showcases the faith journeys of current NFL players, including interviews with players competing in the Super Bowl. Bring canned and boxed food for the West Valley Food Pantry. Place your donations in a basket representing the team you want to win. It's a way for you to vote for your favorite team and to donate food for families in need. When the votes are counted, each can or box is one vote.
- Tuesday 15 Courier deadline for the March issue
- Saturday 19 Rock Chippers, Lounge, 6:30
- Saturday 26 Young Ambassadors, Lounge 2:30 - 7:30pm

Altar Flowers

Do you celebrate a special occasion in February? Perhaps you would like to remember it with a dedication of altar flowers on a Sunday morning. Sign up on the Flower calendar on the bulletin board in the Parlor. The current cost of an arrangement is \$50. Please mark your payment "altar flowers" for "date." If you have questions, or wish to order by phone, contact Mary Mackay at (818) 731-5872 or email marylynnmackay@gmail.com

Coming in March

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



We encourage everyone to bring food for the West Valley Food Pantry on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month, as well as any time you feel you can help.



Cal-Pac Mid-Winter Virtual Event:

Saturday, February 19 at 11:00 am.-12:30 pm.

Registration is due February 14.

You can register online at <http://www.calpacumc.org/umw>

The program is entitled "Healing and Joy as We Make Justice."

Guest Speaker will be Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice at UMW.

Message from Eutha Hankinson, Cal Pac UMW President:

Considering we were on lockdown for the entire year our Pledge to National of \$250,000.00 was \$233,300.00 which was only short by \$16,700.00. An excellent job by the Local Organizations under the circumstances. Thanks to everyone for meeting the challenge.

UMW 2022 Directory:

Please submit any changes in members information to Shirley Thomson at her e-mail address sthomson1@social.rr.com or call her at 1 818 348-0414 by the middle of February. Your UMW 2022 Pledge will be due by June 30th.

UMW in ACTION

One of United Methodist Women's two areas of action for the next four years is "Just Energy for All," with the aim of working toward ending our dangerous dependency on fossil fuels.

One method of extracting natural gas and petroleum is Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking). Bedrock is fractured by injecting water, sand, and chemicals at high pressure to obtain access to the fossil fuels. The process causes methane and other toxins to contaminate ground water.

In 2011, a farmer in Pennsylvania leased part of his land to Chevron. Soon after, his water had a metallic taste, methane was leaking from his pipes, and he developed stomach problems for which he was hospitalized. The water became so toxic that his 3-year-old son developed sores from taking a bath. Several years later they both still have multiple health problems.

In 2017, UMW members toured the fracking fields in Pennsylvania to learn what fracking does to the land and families. Hearing their stories prompted UMW to get involved. UMW partnered with anti-fracking organizations like Clean Air Council to work with companies and governments toward just and renewable energy.

Margaret Cates

From "Awareness to Action" in the January/February 2022 Response magazine.

Confirm gatherings before you go.

Bookends

Thursday, February 24

1:00 pm

Church library

The Tattooist of Auschwitz, by Heather Morris, will be reviewed by Mary Mackay.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, February 10

9:30 am

Breakfast at Weilers Deli,
22323 Sherman Way
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, February 16

6:30 pm

Church Library

This will be dependent on the Covid protocol.

In Memoriam

Charyl Patterson

December 14, 1944 – December 18, 2021

A memorial and interment service to celebrate Charyl's life will be held on

Thursday, February 10,
at 2:00 pm.



Ted Stanwood

April 12, 1919 – January 11, 2022

A service to celebrate Ted's life is pending.



Financial Report: February 2022

UMC Apportionments are payments to the larger UMC to support the larger church's ministries in our local district, the work done in our Calpac Annual Conference, and support for global ministries. This money can then be used for such items as loans to local churches (we have been a recipient of one of these loans), costs for running our Calpac Conference, as well as support for global ministries. It's the UMC way of keeping us all connected and paying our fair share. For 2021 and also 2020 we have only been able to meet 50% of our apportionments but we're hopeful of doing better in 2022.

George Grengs

Church Office Reopened

The church office reopened on January 3.

It is now open from 10:00 to 2:15

Monday through Thursday,

but will be closed for

Presidents' Day on Monday, February 21.

The church office is a very small space. It is difficult to stay 6 feet apart and not share air. So, if possible, call or email Sydney Thiroux instead of coming to the office. When you need to work in the office, come outside office hours as much as possible; it is safer for everyone. Let Sydney know if you're coming during office hours, so she can stagger visitors. Always wear your mask, even when you are alone in the office.



Welcome to the Family

Ander Rylan Cates

Born 12/22/21, 7.1 lbs., 19.65 inches

from your grandmother Margaret

your big sister Ainsley,

your parents Devon and Tracy Cates

and your church family!



Facilities Update for February

Irrigation system/Grass areas:

Rohan Mathews and the scouts are making progress on Rohan's Eagle Scout project to convert the parkway grass along Maynard to a maintenance-free gravel strip. They've been slowed by the heavy rains in December and are now projecting completion in early March. On completion this will move us toward our goal of reducing water consumption as we respond to the cost and scarcity of water.

Thank You Rohan!

Roofs:

Great news - our three main roof leaks in the Narthex, Sanctuary Beams, Sanctuary Womens' restroom ceiling all made it through the December rains completely leak free. There were minor leaks reported in the education buildings and office that will be addressed, but we're all pleased that when the heavy rains arrived our roof was in good repair!

Sanctuary Ceiling Beams:

Some of the beams on the front end of the sanctuary are stained by previous leaks. We are in the process of finding someone to clean and repaint the beams. We have decided to get quotes on all plastering/ painting/ mold remediation throughout the property before proceeding with a fix. We hope to have this done by spring.

Trees:

In late fall we purchased about 200 fertilizer spikes - some for the deciduous trees and some for the pine trees. Our gardeners were able to get many of them into the ground during the December rains. Hopefully this spring we will see greener and healthier trees on the property!

George Grengs



Eagle Project

Rohan Matthews has set up a GoFundMe account to raise money to help pay the expenses for his Eagle project addressed above. If you are able to assist Rohan with this, look up "Eagle Project - First United Methodist Church" on GoFundMe.

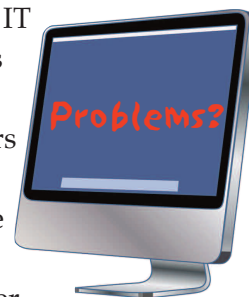
The actual address of his site is:

<https://www.GoFundMe.com/eagle-project-first-united-methodist-church>.

Alternatively, you may still write a check to the church and designate Eagle Project in the memo line. We will forward the money to the Scout troop.

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 work and has gladly looked at a number of 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 who had great success improving his ability to connect with others. If you or your computer needs help, please give me a call (818-632-7538) and I'll schedule you in!



George Grengs, george@valterra.com

From the Mailbox



To my wonderful Church Family and Prayer Shawl Ministry,

I was thrilled when I received the Prayer Shawl. For you to think of me means so much.

On these cold days and nights, when I wrap it around me, I will think of the work and love that went into making it. Thank you so very much.



Love, *Dana Dreyfuss*

To the congregation,

It has been a difficult December and January, as I was hit by the Covid bug and ended up spending 5 days in the West Hills Hospital over Christmas.

As I write this note in the middle of January, I'm just starting to feel human again! Still very tired and weak, but the number of lingering symptoms is subsiding and I'm starting to walk on a daily basis to crank up my activity level.

Many thanks for all the phone calls, text messages, and cards from the church family. We do have a caring church and it warms the heart to be a recipient of all the Love!

Blessings,
George Grengs

Just so you know...

The US Post Office will begin shipping four free at-home Covid Test Kits in late January, to each home that requests them. You may request your set at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

Stan Westover

News from Joe Buttemeier in Milford, NH.

Joe & his daughter, Debbie, joined the choir at the Milford United Methodist Church. There are 16 choir members, a wonderful choir director who also plays the organ. A team of people record the services for you tube.

He sends best wishes to everyone.



Thank you,

Brian and Diane
Mountford for singing
with our choir for
Christmas.

Blessings, *Lora
O'Connor*

Oh my, Pastor Lamuel Jacobs... there's one we knew from St. John's and then at this church. I am certainly praying when you send requests. There's SO much happening in people's lives, even here in Wichita, KS!

My mom, Betty Allen, is still running like a bunny on EverReady batteries; she's quite a trooper. I'd love to get her back "home," but what a risk with Covid. She has been safe and well in which we rejoice!

Thank you for the prayer concerns as our hearts can join in with the prayers. We do get The Courier to stay in touch, Mary Mackay has sent the Upper Room, and we receive some greetings from loving friends at the church.

God bless you, Anita, Pastor Lynn and the fellowship of believers!

Jeanne (and Betty) Allen



Preschool News

Amid the red construction paper hearts, our Bible verse this month reminds us that

*A friend loves at all times.
(Proverbs 17:17)*

Preschool is an excellent opportunity to reinforce this concept of acceptance and forgiveness in our community of friends. February is dental month. We're hoping to have Dr. Joe come and visit to teach us how to care for our teeth. Next month we will begin our Spring unit with lots of artwork and planting new flowers in our flower beds in the playground.

Wendy Finley

Bishop Hagiya on the Boy Scout Situation

Pending court approval of a settlement agreement in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) bankruptcy case, United Methodists have agreed to contribute \$30 million to a \$3 billion Survivor Trust Fund that will receive contributions from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), insurance companies and charter organizations. Every annual conference is asked to raise funds to contribute toward the \$30 million toward the Survivor Trust Fund.

The fund will be used to compensate persons alleged to have experienced abuse while in Scouting. The BSA filed for bankruptcy as it faces more than 80,000 claims for alleged child sexual abuse over the last 80 years. United Methodist congregations sponsor more than 6,000 Boy Scout troops and Cub packs.

I am so proud of our United Methodist connection: Our Council of Bishops, Chancellors and Treasurers have worked together to care for the victims and negotiate a minimum of our liabilities as a church. Our own Annual Conference has decided to cover the entire amount of our obligation for the settlement. This means our local churches will not have to raise funds for this purpose. This is the United Methodist connection at its best!

United Methodists participated in the bankruptcy mediation process with five goals.

- * Healing and support for survivors
- * Releases from claims related to sexual abuse for United Methodist congregations that chartered Boy Scout troops and Cub packs
- * Releases for all charter organizations
- * Preservation of congregations' and annual conferences' insurance
- * A fair and just financial settlement

Continued on page 8



Laurie Berger

Russ & Lindy Amico

Jonathan & Abbey Arnold

Sam Arnold

George Grengs

Pastor Lamuel Jacob

Hindi Urdu Church

Leaders

Liz Rogers

Johnny Ramirez

Barbara Dimmick

Barbara's Facility

(lockdown)

Preschool Families with

COVID

Baby Mila

(preemie with COVID)

Dixie Smith

Bob & Linda Schuster

(Charyl Patterson's family)

Mary Beth Godwin

Beulah Hajek

Dawn Hromadka

Lou & Sharon Mountford

Frank & Diane Rosales

Don & Peggy Stanwood

(Ted's family)

Nancy Summer

Irene and Sal Zelaya

Send prayer requests to

Anita Parrinello

(luv2bjedi@gmail.com)

and CC Pastor Lynn

(preachingbarefoot@att.net)



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Return Service Requested

Scouts, Continued from page 7

The settlement agreement meets each goal, but the cornerstone of the United Methodist settlement was the healing and support for survivors. "When people hurt, United Methodists help," said Bishop John Schol, chair of the UMC Leadership Team created to support the United Methodist chartering organizations in the bankruptcy matter. "The commitments of United Methodists, working together, are bringing healing, hope and wholeness to the survivors."

The United Methodist Church does not tolerate sexual abuse of any kind and has consistently worked to keep young people safe. Most of the 80,000 claims occurred in the 1950s through the 1970s. Since that time, new practices and policies have been put in place by the BSA and UMC, which has dramatically decreased child sexual abuse. For United Methodists, only 1 percent of all claims alleged to have taken place in and through United Methodist Scouting programs

occurred in the last 20 years. While that is a dramatic reduction, even one case is too many.

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- * Each annual conference is now being asked to commit to follow-through by agreeing to the following:
- * Identify leaders who are willing to be trained and listen to survivors' experiences.
- * Review all Safe Sanctuaries/Ministry Safe policies of congregations and the conference to ensure they are up-to-date and are being followed.
- * Re-publish the series of articles about child sexual abuse.
- * Raise funds for the Survivors Trust Fund.

Working together,
United Methodists are making a difference.

Be the Hope,

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop