



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

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Join us at church Sundays at 10:00 am

March 2015

Heart to Heart

After Ash Wednesday worship, Stan and I stopped for dinner to go. As we waited for our order, I saw a young man with ashes on his forehead standing near us.

I said, "You've been to worship." He seemed surprised that I knew. I pointed to the ashes on my forehead, and he smiled.

"My name is Johnson," he said. We introduced ourselves and asked about his church. He gave us the name and location of his church.

Johnson said, "I don't know what I'd do without the church. I'd probably be dead or in big trouble, maybe in prison."

Johnson talked about the Bible and the things he is learning from it about life. With earnest conviction, he said, "The world is an evil place; Satan is out there ready to trip you up."

More than once, Johnson told us that he is thirty. He did not seem to expect he would live so long. And he is convinced that the Bible and the church and his pastor have made all the difference in his life.

"I've been oppressed," said Johnson. "People have walked up and disrespected me. They have taunted me, hoping I will retaliate."

Johnson said, "I am tempted to react. I want to get even, but the Bible says to walk away. So I do, but it's hard."

Johnson talked about spiritual warfare and the effort it takes to do the right thing. He said, "I couldn't do it without what I'm learning from the Bible and at church. I don't know what I'd do without my pastor - he's helping me live a good life."

I am always happy to hear that a pastor is helpful. But keep in mind, that before the pastor helped, someone invited Johnson to church.

What a difference the invitation to church can make! Johnson said, "People do wrong all the time; they don't know any better." And I say to you, how will they know any better, how will they hear the word of God, unless they are invited?

Pastor Lynn Westover



Pastor

Lynn Westover

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

Music Director/ Accompanist

Paul Cady

Christian Education Director

Margaret Cates

Administrative Assistant

Rebecca Roe

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Minerva G. Carcaño

North District Superintendent

Rev. Cedrick D.
Bridgeforth, EdD



March Calendar

Birthdays

- 10 Heidi Foreman
Steve Robertson
- 17 Helen Mackintosh
- 19 Erick Rodriguez
- 23 Evelyn Heim
- 23 Anita Parrinello
- 30 Kyle Finley
- 31 Byron McKibben

Anniversaries

- 2 George & Karen Grengs
- 11 Tom & Bettye Jo Nowlin
- 29 Roger & Nancy Johnson

If your special day is missing, please contact the church office.

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Senior Exercise Class, Hall, 9:00 am
- Tuesday Sacred Dancers, Sanctuary, 7:00 pm
Shower Ministry, 8:30 am - noon
Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:00 pm
- Thursday Choir rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm

Other Activities

- Sunday 1 Good Samaritan & Food Pantry offerings received
- Monday 2 L. Longman Scholarship Comm., Library, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday 3 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Thursday 5 UMW Mission Team, Room 10, 10:00 am
- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Sunday 8 Daylight Savings Time begins
- Tuesday 10 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Sunday 15 One Great Hour of Sharing
Sacred Dance during Worship, *St. Francis Prayer*
Courier deadline for April issue
- Tuesday 17 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Thursday 19 UMW General Meeting, Lounge, 9:30 am
- Wednesday 25 Education Ministry, Library, 4:00 pm
- Sunday 29 Palm/Passion Sunday



ALTAR FLOWERS

- 1 Liz Rogers in honor of her daughter Nancy's birthday
- 8 Open
- 15 Midge Herder in memory of Frank Herder
- 22 Roger and Nancy Johnson in honor of their 35th wedding anniversary
- 29 Open

The 2015 altar Flower calendar is posted in the Parlor, next to the pass-through window to the kitchen. You are invited to sign up to sponsor the flowers on your special date. The cost is \$35 and you may take the flowers home after church.

Upcoming in April

- Thursday 2 Maundy Thursday Joint Worship Service, 7:30 pm
- Friday 3 Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:30 pm
- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- Sunday 5 Easter Sunday, Choir Cantata during Worship
I Will Embrace the Cross.....arr. by Camp Kirkland
- Tuesday 7 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am

Transportation Ministry

If you need a ride to church or if you are interested in becoming a driver for the transportation ministry, please contact JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis at 818-932-9724 or Mary Mackay at 818-346-5872.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday:
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Quiet Work Time is everyday from 1:00 – 2:00 pm.
Phone calls received during that time will be returned after 2:00 pm.



UMW Local Leadership Training

Lynne German & Shirley Thomson attended the Leadership Training at the North Hollywood UMC on February 7. It was reported that UMW had a 39% participation in the Reading Program in 2014 with 49 readers from 12 churches. This was an increase of 14% from 2013. Our unit had a 6% participation in the UMW Reading Program for which we received certificates for our three readers who read a total of 25 books.

5-Star Unit

Again this year we received a certificate for completing the requirements to receive a 5-Star Certificate. This includes giving in five designated channels, which are: World Thank Offering, Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift in Memory and Gift to Mission.

UMW General Meeting

Thursday, March 19, at 9:30 am

Our program will be the Pledge Service. The 2015 UMW Directories and pledge cards have been distributed. Pledges can be given to Shirley Thomson and/or at the March General Meeting. Our new Treasurer, Chandra Seeger, is to be approved at this General Meeting.

Claremont School of Theology

We are thrilled to learn that the 2014-2015 recipient of the Miriam M. Mason Endowed Scholarship & Dr. Willie Foreman Endowment Fund Scholarship is Sadie Mizisin-Cullumber – Master of Divinity. Nancy Summer and Shirley Thomson plan to attend the Annual Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon on March 23 on the campus at Claremont School of Theology.

UMW Special Mission Recognition

Midge Herder

January 25, 2015

Our United Methodist Women’s unit presents a Special Mission Recognition Award each year to a deserving person for their service to UMW and to the church in other areas. This year’s recipient was Midge Herder.



Shirley Thomson and Midge Herder with certificate and pin at worship on January 25.

🌀 UMW Circle Meetings 🌀

Bookends

Thursday, March 12, 9:30 am
Library
Book review: *Leaving Time*
Midge Herder, hostess
Doris Hood, reviewer

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, March 18
7:00 pm
Home of Nancy Summer,
23438 Canzonet Street,
Woodland Hills

Sarah Circle

Thursday, March 12
9:30 am
Breakfast at Coco’s

This Year's Honoree – All About Midge

Midge Herder was born and raised in Salem, Ohio, and met her future husband Frank after he was discharged from the Navy in 1945. A couple of years later they were married in her hometown. In the fall of 1950 there was a big snowstorm in the town where they were residing and Frank was working. At that point he decided he no longer wished to spend the winters shoveling snow. A few years later, in 1954, the Herders decided to move to California after the birth of their first child. The family settled in Canoga Park and joined the church. Their family continued to grow with the birth of two other children. Midge is also the grandmother of several grandchildren. A favorite thing that Midge and Frank liked to do was to dine "out" with friends.

When a fellow church member, Frank Wilken, opened up a Veterinary Hospital in Canoga Park, Midge went to work as the receptionist. In addition, the hospital became the answering service for a youth job agency. Midge took the calls from those requesting services such as babysitting and yard work. She remained with the Veterinary Hospital for at least a quarter of a century.

In 1956, when the Herders joined the First Methodist Church (as it was known then) it was located on Jordan Street. Midge immediately joined the church choir and has been a dedicated member to this day. From 1999 to 2007 she served on the Choir Support Committee. She is the choir librarian, making certain the music is ready for choir members each week, and is also the choir wardrobe co-ordinator. In addition to singing in our choir she was also a member of the Valley Harmonettes for a number of years. The Harmonettes provide entertainment at various locations which include retirement homes. There are many other ways in which Midge has been involved in Church activities. Served 10 years on the Staff Parish Relations Committee; was a member of the 100th anniversary committee which planned events in celebration of this milestone in

2012. At one time our church had a group called "Los Amigos" of which she was a member. This group met monthly for fellowship; going apple and cherry picking, enjoying progressive dinners and evenings at plays as well as taking trips to locations such as to Solvang and Long Beach. Another member of Los Amigos recalls that one year a number of people had a big crop of zucchinis but she didn't. Midge asked if she could have some to make her 'z' pickles. At the next potluck this person's husband had 2 or 3 helpings of her pickles and thought they were the best pickles he had ever tasted. As a result he received pickles for many years thereafter from Midge.

At the monthly Leisure Club meetings you will find her in the kitchen helping to prepare the food, serving the food, cleaning the coffee pot and washing the dishes at the conclusion of the meeting. Midge is also the Sunshine person for Leisure Club, sending out birthday cards to members.

Due to her love of baking Midge made many beautiful cakes for weddings, funerals and special occasions over the years. You can also find her assisting with the food at wedding and funeral receptions, which she did recently at Ethel Johnson's service. When a cake needs cutting at fellowship time you can often find her cutting it.

Midge became a member of United Methodist Women in 1986 and joined the Bookends Circle where she is still a member. For a number of years she served as its Sunshine person. Once a year this circle decides on books to read and then a member will give a book review at their monthly meetings. She is one of the reviewers. At the 2014 UMW Silver Tea, Midge was a part of the entertainment as a trio member who called themselves the "Three Graces".

It gave me great pleasure to award the UMW Special Mission Recognition Award for 2015 to Marjorie "Midge" Herder.



Leisure

**Tuesday, March 3,
11 o'clock, Lounge**

Norm Coleman has an exciting show for us, and here is how he describes it:

“Yabadoo! This program will take approximately 35 minutes unless the people want to see the December Cantata. That will take an additional 31 minutes. The program will start with some photos I took in Maui last April when we attended the Methodist church. I will also show a half minute more of the most unusual choir performing during the service. The rest of the program scheduled will be the classic TV show of *I Love Lucy* with Harpo Marx. Most people know the Marx Bros, but few have actually seen their brilliant talent. Harpo was truly a genius, but then, so was his brother Chico. Harpo was the master of 8 different instruments. Chico was absolutely a unique and master pianist.”

Pot-Luck lunch and fellowship time will follow. Don't miss it!

Preschool News

We will have a parent seminar this month led by Bonnie Geary, a wonderful family therapist who has been coming to give interesting talks for many years. We are so thankful to Bonnie for donating her valuable time to come and help us get some new perspectives on how to deal with daily struggles of being parents!

We will start our Parent/Teacher conferences this month. This is a great time for our parents to see where their child is developmentally and what they need to work on.

We will also have our annual Trike-a-thon towards the end of the month. We will be raising money for our Good Samaritan account that helps our families that are struggling and are in need of a little help. The children will also be bringing in canned foods that we will take to the local food pantry.

Wendy robingreenbird@yahoo.com



- Amanda Lucas
- Bill Mason
- Elmo Maiden
- Shirley Thomson
- Ted Jimenez
- Hope Schmidt
- Jonathan Ferrin
- John Caldwell
- Pat Ferrin
- LaDean Owen
- Paul Morrison
- Martin & Margaret Shuler
- Joan Kelly
- Karen Kolway
- Glenna O'Dell



To receive Prayer Chain e-mails, please contact Robin Abernathy at

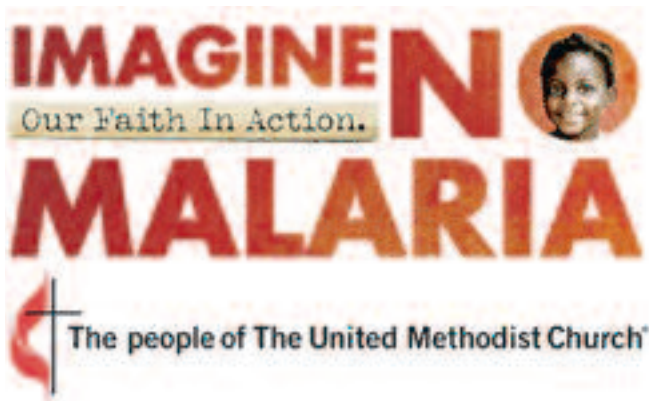
Consider Serving as a Liturgist

If you would like to help lead worship, let Pastor Lynn know that you are interested. She is happy to provide training and encourage you on the journey.

Congratulations!

Josh Gardner proposed to Jackie Robertson on Valentine's Day. They are extremely happy and look forward to getting married.





Congratulations and Gratitude

Roger Johnson

...are due to you, our congregation, for your generosity in contributing over seven hundred thirty-five dollars (\$735) to the Imagine No Malaria Project since our request during worship on January 25th.

Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary ministry of the people of The United Methodist Church that is dedicated to eliminating deaths from malaria in Africa through prevention, treatment, education and communication. Through the generous support of the United Methodist Church, this goal has never been closer. Malaria's death rate is half of what it was in 2006; but this preventable disease still claims a life every 60 seconds. Ten dollars (\$10) will save a life.

Statistically speaking, we have, with our \$735, saved 73 lives. Now that's exciting! Thank you!

If you are moved to save more lives, checks may be written to the First United Methodist Church with "Imagine No Malaria" in the memo line. Your contribution will be recorded and forwarded to the Imagine No Malaria Project.

Direct contributions may also be made online at www.imagenomalaria.org/#donate, or

By phone – Call 1-800-554-8583

By check – Mail checks (payable to UMCOR) to:

UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087

North District Superintendent

I am pleased to announce that I intend to appoint the Rev. James R. Powell as the next Superintendent of the North District of the California-Pacific Conference effective July 1, 2015.

Rev. Powell comes to this new appointment having served in faithful and exemplary ways as Director of Evangelism at Mt. Pisgah UMC (Atlanta, GA), as Senior Pastor of Imperial Beach United Methodist Church and most recently as the long-term Senior Pastor of Palmdale United Methodist Church. He also served a season as Assistant Director of Camping and Outdoor Ministries in the California-Pacific Conference.

Rev. Powell earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from San Diego State University (San Diego, CA) and a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology (Atlanta, GA), as well as completing advanced studies in church leadership at Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX).

I am inspired and encouraged by Jim's commitment to the local church, his strong pastoral leadership skills, and his deeply connectional spirit. I have every confidence that he will strengthen the work of our Cabinet through the skills, wealth of ministry experience, and great gifts and grace that God has blessed him with.

As we prepare to welcome Jim to our Cabinet I want to express profound gratitude to God for the servant leadership of the Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth. During his term on the Cabinet he has served both the Los Angeles and the North District. He has also served as Dean of Cabinet, gaining the respect and admiration of his colleagues in the California-Pacific Conference as well as from throughout the connection. Christ's spirit within him and his many gifts have blessed us all. We know that God will continue to use him in amazing ways in his next appointment.

Please join me in praying for these servants of God in this time of transition.

*Peace,
Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño*



A Joy for our homeless

On a Tuesday last month Nancy Summers' son-in-law DaJuan Houston and his coworker Ray came to our shower ministry. They are professional barbers and came to give free haircuts to our homeless men and women. Nancy transformed our bride's room into a great little barber shop. The smiles were everywhere as two by two they came out of the room with their fresh cuts and pride in themselves. We hope you will support these generous men. Their shop, "Houstons," is located on the south side of Ventura Blvd., just east of Fallbrook.

Good News!

Fourteen members have signed up with UMCmarket. As of 19 February, their online purchases have generated a \$76.36 donation for our church. We encourage you to register. Instructions follow.

1. Register with UMCmarket.org (very simple process)
2. Choose "Canoga Park First" from the list of churches.
3. Shop online through UMCMarket.org at your favorite retailers such as Amazon, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Staples, Office Depot, Sears, Old Navy, etc.

It's that easy!

Extra, Extra, Read All About It

Grace Leighton

FUMC of Canoga Park opens a new Outreach Ministry

It is my honor to announce that a new Outreach Ministry is starting this month. I have been trained and authorized to offer a Eucharistic Visitation Ministry for our homebound congregants. I will be making visits, providing prayer and serving communion. Contact me at 818-267-7567 to make an appointment. Visitations will take place at your convenience in your home or care facility.

One Great Hour of Sharing UMCOR 75th Anniversary Sunday, March 15, 2015

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is celebrating 75 years of being with those in crisis around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love. The offering underwrites UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not for administrative costs.

Learn more www.umcor.org

Please give generously.





Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

A Service of Lessons and Hymns

March 29, 10:00 am

Followed by Brunch in the Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday Worship

On this night Christians commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet and instituted the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

April 2, 7:30 pm

Joint Worship ~ First UMC of Canoga Park
with the Hindi Urdu congregation

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 3, 7:30 pm

Worship ~ First UMC of Canoga Park

If you need a ride to any of these services, please contact the church office.



You are invited

to the traditional Palm Sunday brunch following worship on March 29.

The Family Life Committee will be serving your favorite dishes in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to join your church family and invite your neighbors as well.

Sunday, March 8



Return Service Requested

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

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