



# The Courier

## First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Telephone: 818.340.2950

e-mail address: crossandflame@att.net

website: www.umccp.org

Preschool: 818.340.6639

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

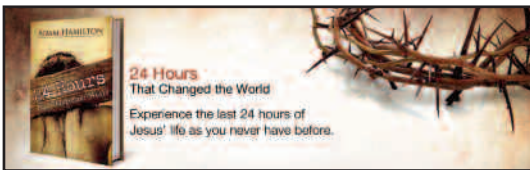
*Sunday Worship at 10:00 am*

February 2018

## Invitation to Observance of Lenten Discipline

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. We often think of the Lenten journey as a personal walk with God. But the truth is, as the body of Christ, these forty days can be an experience of profound community – a time to draw closer to God and to one another. As we walk with our brothers and sisters on the journey to Easter, we are welcome to a season of self-examination and repentance; prayer; searching the scriptures; and worship. May our hearts return to God as we begin the season of Lent and experience worship together on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

## 24 Hours That Changed the World



### Lenten Study

Sundays at 11:30 am

February 18 & 25, March 4, 11, & 18

Walk with Jesus on his final day.....Sit beside him at the Last Supper.

Pray with him in Gethsemane.....Follow him to the cross.

Desert him.....Deny him.

What a difference a day makes. You hear people say that phrase all the time. It could not be truer than when talking about the last day of Jesus' life. In *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Adam Hamilton guides us, step by step, through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. He will help you experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death as never before.

Adam Hamilton is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the fastest growing, most highly visible churches in the country. The Church Report named Hamilton's congregation the most influential mainline church in America.

In the companion DVD, Hamilton draws on insights from history, archaeology, geography, and the Bible and takes us to the Holy Land. We visit the sites where those earth-shaking events took place, and we walk where Jesus walked along the road that led to the pain and triumph of the cross.



### Pastor

Lynn Westover

### Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

### Music Director/ Accompanist

Paul Cady

### Christian Education Director

Margaret Cates

### Administrative Assistant

Julie Mosley

### Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford



### Resident Bishop

Grant Hagiya

### North District Superintendent

Rev. Jim Powell

# February Calendar



## Birthdays

- 1 Brenda Jones
- 6 John Caldwell  
JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
- 11 Ayla Ann Palmerlee
- 12 Laura Pomeroy
- 16 Lois Jimenez  
Emily Willauer
- 20 Shirley Ilgenfritz
- 25 Libby Bennett
- 27 Margaret Cates  
Lynn Westover

## Anniversaries

- 25 Jim & Marie Smith

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



## ALTAR FLOWERS

The calendar for altar flowers for February is completely open for you to donate an arrangement to commemorate someone or something special to you.

## Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am  
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Cub Pack, Scout Room, 7:00 pm  
Monday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor, 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Shower Ministry, 8:30 am - noon  
Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm  
Narcotics Anonymous, Fellowship Hall, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:00 pm
- Thursday Choir rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm  
Narcotics Anonymous Study Group, Youth Room, 8:00 pm
- Friday Girl Scouts, Scout Room, 6:00 pm (1st & 3rd Fridays)

## Other Activities

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Tuesday 6 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Thursday 8 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am  
Sarah Circle, Denny's, 9:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Wednesday 14 Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm  
*Ashes will be used as a sign of mortality and repentance.*
- Thursday 15 Courier Deadline, March issue
- Monday 19 Presidents' Day, office closed
- Tuesday 20 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 21 Faith, Hope & Love, Library, 7:00 pm

## Upcoming in March

- Saturday, Mar. 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Tuesday, Mar. 6 Leisure Club, 11:00 am in the Lounge

## Super Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 4, bring canned and boxed food for the West Valley Food Pantry. You will have the opportunity to 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.



## Future Meetings

### UMW Mission Team Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 2018  
10:00 am

### UMW General Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2018  
9:30 am

## North District UMW Local Officer Training

The Local Officer Training session is being held on February 3, 2018 from 10:00 am -1:00 pm at Thousand Oaks UMC. Cost is \$12.00 if mailed by January 24, 2018. Meet other officers, be trained and enjoy fellowship with other UMW members.

## California Pacific Conference Mid-Winter Event

The Mid-Winter Event "Mission Into Action" is being held this year at several locations on Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. They are David and Margaret Youth and Family Services in LA Verne, CA ; Susanna Wesley Community Center in Honolulu, HI; Toberman Neighborhood Center in San Pedro; Neighborhood House of Calexico in Calexico, CA. The registration fee is \$12.00 which includes lunch and is due by February 5, 2018.

## UMW Reading Program

Lynne German shared a review of a book which the Bookend Circle read recently, *Finding God in a Bag of Groceries*. Her review is on page 5.



*Faith, Hope & Love  
Circle  
at their December  
meeting*



## February Circle Gatherings

### Bookends

Thursday, February 8  
9:30 am

Church Library

Book: *Standing in the  
Rainbow*

by Fannie Flagg

Reviewer: Virgene Engberg

Hostess an Devotions:

Glynene Roe

### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, February 21  
7:00 pm

Church Library

Devotions and Program:

Beulah Hajek and

Shirley Thomson

Hostess:

Dana Dreyfus

### Sarah Circle

Thursday, February 8  
9:30 am

Breakfast at Denny's  
8330 Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
(north of Roscoe Blvd.)

## Preschool News

February is "Dental Month", we look forward to "Dr. Joe", a local children's dentist, coming to talk with us about how to brush our teeth and keep our beautiful smiles.

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.

We still have some spots open in all of our classes. If you know anyone looking for a great preschool, have them give us a call.

Wendy

## An Invitation to Join the Easter Choir

There will be joyful music on Easter Sunday, April 1. If you would like to sing with the choir, come to Thursday night rehearsals at 7:30 pm. The choir members have fun together. Come and see!

## Troop and Pack Holiday Events

We are proud to close another calendar year in Scouting. Our Annual Scouting For Food donation drive bested last year's efforts. Together with the First United Methodist Church, Scouts and Cub Scouts collected 400 pounds of food! A big THANK YOU to all those who supported our efforts and took part in helping those less fortunate this Holiday Season.

This year we hosted our First Annual Pictures with Santa event. The Scouts decorated and welcomed Santa when he arrived to take pictures with families in the community. We look forward to next year's event so that we can bring Holiday cheer to even more families!

We are so proud and thankful to be part of the First United Methodists Church and the local community in Canoga Park/West Hills.



Next meeting  
Tuesday,  
February 6  
11:00 am  
Lounge

Margaret Cates is organizing our gathering. The program will be **Free Library Services and Resources**. Bring a potluck dish to share. Remember the shower ministry offering. Everyone is welcome.



## From the Mailbox

*Betty Allen's thank you card*

Thank you to each one in the church family for prayers and cards. No plan to be in Kansas this long, but still here for now. Miss the warm weather for sure! So – hi to everyone.

*May the Lord show you kindness and faithfulness.*

Betty is living with Jeanne Allen  
3861 N. Athenian Ave., Wichita, KS 67294

*Sabra Pittenger's Christmas card*

I wish to tell you that I have enjoyed and appreciated receiving the Advent Calendar and Devotion for 2017. I have read through and reread many of the pages, studied and prayed over them. The many pages of devotions reveal multifacets of faith and belief.

May the love Jesus brings fill your Christmas with lasting joy and peace.

Sincerely,  
Sabra Pittenger

Sabra's address is:  
23600 Marine View Drive #350  
Des Moines, WA 98198

## Finding God in a Bag of Groceries

Many of us have found meaning and pleasure in contributing and serving in ministries involving food. Our congregation, Canoga Park FUMC, collects canned goods for the SFV food pantry, and prepares and serves casseroles on Tuesdays in conjunction with our church's shower ministry. Many folks graciously take food to families during times of illness or bereavement, prepare food for fellowship time after church service, or sort and distribute groceries at the food bank.

Reaching out and helping others is something Jesus did himself and instructed us to do. Laura Willis writes about reaching out to those in need in her book, *Finding God in a Bag of Groceries*. She reminds us how the simple act of sharing groceries can literally change someone's life. This is a book about the ways that God works through us to help others and in turn enriches our own lives.

The author began by simply handing out bags of groceries to the needy in her rural town in Tennessee. There was no organized food bank with lots of volunteers; she worked out of a tiny building behind her church, collecting, bagging, and distributing food. In addition to distributing groceries, she also offered a loving heart and compassionate ear. Laura grew this tiny food ministry into a quite a large one manned by many, and in the process, she found her spiritual direction.

This short book can be found in our church library. It is a book that was read by the UMW group, Bookends. We enjoyed it and encourage you to check it out!

*Lynne German*

## Transportation Ministry

If you need a ride to church events, or if you are interested in becoming a driver for the transportation ministry, please contact JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis at 818-280-6441 or Mary Mackay at 818-346-5872.

## Help for Jim & Marie Smith

You may have seen the news report or read about it in the newspaper. Jim and Marie Smith lost their mobile home and van in a six-alarm fire, not connected to the recent wildfires. They were fortunate to escape without injury with their dog, before Jim's oxygen tanks exploded. Now they are homeless and transportation-less.

The church has established a designated fund to assist them at this difficult time. Your donations will be much appreciated.

## Help Feed our Friends at the Shower Ministry

Volunteers are needed to provide a hot, ready-to-go casserole for twenty on Tuesday by 8:00 am.

Contact Beulah Hajek at 818-883-2616 or by e-mail (BSorensonhajek@gmail.com) to schedule a time you can help. Donations to the Shower Ministry fund are always welcome.

## Recycling for Glasses

Dana Dreyfuss is a volunteer at West Hills Hospital. She wants you to know that they have a program of gathering old eyeglasses, which are distributed to those who need them through the Lions Club. If you have any pairs of glasses which are no longer the prescription for you, please speak to Dana.



You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of every month.

Your much-appreciated contributions are taken to the West Valley Food Pantry for distribution to their clients.

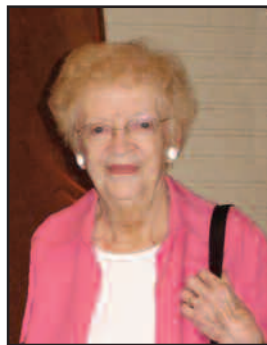
## In Memoriam

December and January have been especially difficult for our congregation, as we have lost five women who had been long-time active members of our church family. They will be deeply missed. We hope these brief notes about their church service will remind you of the devotion with which they served us all.

### Betty Anne Barlow

27 August 1925— 5 January 2018

Betty joined the church in 1964 and became a Charter member of United Methodist Women Canoga Park unit in 1973. During the subsequent 44 years she served as Secretary, Mission Coordinator for Supportive Community, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, and Treasurer.



She was a faithful member of the Bookends Circle from 1973 to 2017, serving as Bookends Communication Coordinator, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Treasurer and Chairman.

In 1986 the UMW awarded her the Special Mission Recognition Award and the Mary/Martha Award in 1994.

She and Jack were long-time members of the Family Life Committee, contributing to our corporate lives in many ways. Betty also served on the Membership Committee for 12 years, from 1993-2005.

Betty Anne was born in Los Angeles on August 27, 1925. She was raised in Bishop and had spent the last 68 years living in the San Fernando Valley.

She was a registered nurse before becoming a full-time housewife and mother.

A graveside service was held at the West Line Cemetery in Bishop on January 13.



### Sandra Dedinas

21 August 1935 – 24 December 2017

Sandra was a Charter Member of United Methodist Women of Canoga Park unit in 1973.

She served in many official capacities for the UMW: President, Vice President/Program, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, and Mission Coordinator for Christian Social Involvement.



The UMW recognized her service with the Special Mission Recognition Award in 1988 and the Mary/Martha Award in 1995.

She was an active member of the Bookends Circle from 1973 – 2017 and served as their Chairman from 1999- 2008.

Sandra was a loyal member of the Chancel choir from 1992 until last year.

The Outreach committee remembers Sandra as providing thought-provoking devotions at their monthly meetings for many years. She also served on the Trustees, Memorials and Worship Committees for many years.

Sandra was trained as a nurse and served in the Army, being posted to Europe in her younger years.

## Patricia Eaton

20 December 1937 – 7 January 2018

Pat joined the church in 1994 and belonged to the Faith, Hope & Love Circle from 1999 to 2017. She presented a wonderful program for UMW entitled "Sanctified Sacred Symbols and Signs."



Pat enjoyed playing the piano. She joined the Church choir in 1995 and sang in the choir along with her husband until his death in 2007. She served on the Worship Committee and was a member of the Church Council, serving as its secretary for nine years, from 1995-2004.

A memorial service for both Pat and her late husband Mearl will be held at Riverside National Cemetery on 2 February 2018, followed by a celebration of life. If you plan to attend, please contact their daughter Melissa Brown at mlbcoalesce@yahoo.com.

## Kaye Hall

7 May 1936 – 21 December 2017

Kaye joined the Chancel Choir in 1999 and continued to sing with them until last year.

She served on the Membership Committee, including the Cookie Ministry, as well as the Committees on Lay Leadership and Staff Parish-Relations. Kaye assisted with Vacation Bible School for several years and was a faithful member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry.



Her daughter Judy had been living with her and can be reached at  
20751 Clark Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

## Coral Ruth Harper

11 February 1924 — 26 December 2017

Coral's husband John was a friend of the Jureys and was the general contractor for the Fellowship Hall. John and Coral both worked on the building and later married and joined our church.



Coral belonged to Sarah Circle from 1998 to 2016. She served as UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action and Chairman of the Committee on Nominations.

She also served on the Worship, Stewardship, Lay Leadership and Memorials Committees. She always made sure that Ted Stanwood had a ride to church after he could no longer drive.

Coral was buried at Oakwood Memorial Park in Chatsworth on 29 December 2017.



Evelyn Heim  
The family of Jack & Betty  
Barlow

Joe Dedinas

Barbara & Stan Dimmick

George Dutcher

Pat Eaton's family

Kaye Hall

Coral Harper's family

Lois Jimenez

Brenda Jones

Joan Kelley

La Dean Owen

Tom Roe

Sue Rosen

Marie & Jim Smith

Willie Wilhelm



*To receive Prayer Chain  
e-mails, please contact  
Robin Abernathy at  
robiningreenbird@yahoo.com  
"cc" the church office at  
crossandflame@att.net*

## Address Change

Del DeShazo  
c/o Inn at Olentangy Trail  
36 Corduroy Rd.  
Delaware, OH 43015

# Scouts Death Valley Trip

This year marks the 23rd year that the Troop has camped out in Death Valley and the second year that we invited our Cub Scout families. Our trip started with an overnight car camp out at Stove Pipe Wells.



The Scouts and Cubs practiced their wood-cutting skills for the night's campfire. The boys practiced their cooking skills by making Chicken Alfredo for their dinner. The adults demonstrated Dutch Oven cookery by preparing Prime Rib, Mashed Potatoes and Death by Chocolate Cake for desert. The cake was enjoyed and devoured by all.

Rib, Mashed Potatoes and Death by Chocolate Cake for desert. The cake was enjoyed and devoured by all.

On Sunday, the Boy Scouts gathered their gear and hiked out into the desert for a night of sleeping under the stars. The Cubs played in the sand dunes and learned about outdoor cooking before heading back home. During the overnight in the desert we were visited by some clever foxes who found some food the boys had not protected properly.

*2018 is off to a great start.*



Return Service Requested

22700 Sherman Way  
West Hills, CA 91307-2396



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

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Canoga Park, CA  
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