



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: eshinpaul@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

October 2023

Heart to Heart

“In every part of our lives, we require revival from time to time,” Rev. Adam Hamilton observes in his book, **Revival**. Our spiritual vitality or passion can wane, and we may gradually notice our fervor or enthusiasm diminishing. This isn’t limited to our relationship with God; it also occurs in our marriages, friendships, and professions.

According to research by Gallup in June 2023, US church attendance remains lower than in the pre-pandemic era. While the study indicated it’s not conclusive that the pandemic is the sole reason for the decline, the temporary shutdown of churches and ongoing COVID-19 avoidance measures undoubtedly shifted many Americans away from the routine of weekly religious services.

I aspire to counteract these statistics about church attendance (this trend is also evident in synagogues and mosques, by the way).

Here are several initiatives I propose we explore:

* **Reach New People:** Leverage social media, enhance our website presence, improve the visual appeal of our campus, utilize Google, display banners, and promote online worship.

* **Welcome New People:** Implement sermon series, book studies, deploy greeters on Sundays, set up a welcome table, organize meet-and-greets with the pastor, and ensure we follow up with newcomers.

* **Incorporate New People:** Engage newcomers in small groups, host potlucks, facilitate shared service opportunities, make introductions, and organize one-on-one meetings with leaders or the pastor.

If our personal spiritual journey and the life of the church were likened to a flowering plant, would it currently be in full bloom or on the verge of wilting? As we usher in the fall of 2023, let us open our hearts to rediscover the finest aspects of ourselves and our churches. May God bless us with revival, restoration, and reinvigoration in our lives!

Shalom,
Pastor Elaine



OCTOBER



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Irma Hart

Courier Layout
Sharon Mountford

AV Operator
Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop
Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**
Rev. Melissa Roux
MacKinnon



October Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
Blessed are the Chosen, Library, 11:30 am, began Sept. 24
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.

Please contact the Church Office for the Zoom link.

- Tuesday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6:00-10:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group, Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Men's AA Step Guide, Room #10, 7:00- 8:30 pm
- Friday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm
SiliconAndhra, Room# 10 & Library, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- Saturday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor 9:30 - noon

Other Activities

- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way
- Saturday 14 Young Ambassador's Leadership Academy (YALA),
12:30-7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall and Lounge
- Sunday 15 Open House at the Parsonage, 11:30-1:30 pm
See invitation on page 4.
- Monday 16 Monthly social meeting, 11:00 am, Parlor
This will be a game day. Please make a reservation with
the church office and plan to bring \$5.00 for food.
- Saturday 22 Church of Christ, special meeting,
Hall & Lounge, 8:00 am-noon

Coming in November

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

October Birthdays

- 1 Charlee Houston
- 2 Geri Allen
P. J. Umphres
- 4 Lirio Del Rosario
Marcela Rodriguez
- 7 Sarah Alderman
Jenny Ervin
- 9 Paul Cady
Erin Landrum
- 11 Angela Anderson
- 13 Glynene Roe
- 15 Bernie Godwin, IV
Lou Mountford
- 19 Trish Simmons
- 21 Laverna Baker
- 22 Dave Perry
- 29 Ralph Bermudez

Anniversaries

- 6 Pat & Gerald Rowe
- 12 Bill Satterlee & Ginger
Huston
- 15 Tammy & Matt Palmerlee
- 21 Russ & Lindy Amico
*If your birthday or
anniversary is not listed,
please let us know.*



October

- 1 Open
- 8 Michael & Michiko Mosbe
- 15 Sharon Mountford *in honor
of Lou's 90th birthday*
- 22 Michael & Michiko Mosbe
- 29 Gid & Elaine Shin-Paull, *in
honor of Selina's birthday.*

*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.*

Graveside Funeral Service

for Jackie Dutcher, Lora O'Connor's mom,
will be held Saturday, October 28 at 11:00 am,
at Oakwood Memorial Park,
22601 Lassen Street, Chatsworth.

Lunch following at BJ's Restaurant,
6424 Canoga Ave, Woodland Hills.

If coming to lunch, please leave your name
with the church office.





**United
Women
in Faith**

**Mary Mackay awarded
this year's
Quiet Disciple Award**
See write-up on page 5



**Cal-Pac UWF Conference Annual Celebration will be
held October 21, 2023 in person**

Wilshire UMC, 4350 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles.

Registration is due by Monday, October 16. Registration Fee is \$15.00.

You can register online & pay by check:

<https://calpacumc.org/uwfaith/>. Make check payable to United Women in Faith mark 'AC2023 Registration' in Memo section.

World Thank Offering

This offering is supported by United Women in Faith. The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds collected are used in the total program of mission carried on through United Methodist Women's national office in the United States and around the world. If you wish to contribute to the World Thank Offering make your check payable to UMW dba United Women In Faith and send it to Chandra Seeger, 6625 E. Maplegrove, Oak Park, CA 91377 and designate it World Thank Offering.

**Frequently Asked Questions about
United Women in Faith (continued)**

How were these decisions made?

As part of our strategic planning guided by the Board of Directors, and the Program Advisory Group (PAG) we have conducted an enormous amount of research over the past five years. The new name, programs and program innovations are fruits of that research along with prayerful efforts to discern the times for our organization. The member-elected United Methodist Board of Directors, along with input from the PAG, has guided the organization throughout this process.

We've conducted surveys, focus groups and interviews with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other denominations and Christian traditions. The changes and programs are data informed and tested to address the needs and life stages of current and future members.

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Thursday, October 26
at Noon in Room 10.
The book *Mad Honey* by
Jodi Picoult
will be reviewed by
Toby Lane.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, October 12,
9:30 am
Breakfast at Weiler's Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, October 20
at 6:30 pm
in the Church Library.
Anita Parrinello is
scheduled to do the
program and devotion.



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



Financial Update

Appeal: Wow, \$33,128!!!

A very amazing appeal.

Through September 12, we received 47 gifts including 44 gifts from individuals and 3 gifts from groups: Men's Breakfast Group, United Women in Faith and Denise Lenore's home church, The First Evangelical Church of Christ. Thanks to Noah Anderson, who set up a GoFundMe page that brought in about 10% of the total. A resounding Thank You to everyone for your generosity!

The Gas Re-pipe began on Monday September 18 and should be complete by the time you read this. We are blessed and it's a blessing that we will have a warm sanctuary this winter!! Of the \$33,128 about \$15,000 will go toward the Re-pipe project and the remaining \$18,000 will replenish the designated funds that were used during Covid. This will be detailed in the November Courier.

Facilities Update

The flea infestation in the Education Yard was treated in early September. The pest company will be out again in late September for a second treatment to catch any egg hatches since the original treatment. We also had the Yellow House completely secured against any animal or rodent intrusions. The total paid was \$1600. Thanks to Irma Hart and Pastor Elaine who treated the inside of the Education Buildings with bug bombs! We've made one treatment to rid gophers in front of the Education Buildings. We will probably need additional treatments.

Much has been done to clean up the Education Buildings in preparation for tours being set up by our real estate agent Kidder Mathews. Our quest to lease the whole Education area to a large pre-school, charter school is off to a good start. Thanks to Pastor Elaine and Mary Mackay for leading this project and thanks to the volunteers who have put in a lot of work hours cleaning up the rooms!

We had one of the sanctuary main water lines sprout a leak just below the sprinkler valves near the office. It was repaired. The DWP was out to review our application for credits on our other leaks. As they found the meter still slowly running, they denied our initial claim for reimbursement until all leaks were fixed. As we write this update, it looks as if we have found the leak – inside the Yellow House. We decided to shut off all water to the Yellow House until it's back in use. We will continue to pursue the credits from DWP.

User Groups

A new AA group started in mid-September called AA Men's 12 Step Guide and they will be using room 10. Silicon Andhra, an Indian cultural and language program has decided to come back on campus for the 2023/2024 school season, they will be using room 10 and the Library. We continue to work with the Bonsai Club about using the FH Lounge. Our church property continues to serve many non-profit groups with space to meet at reasonable prices. A real service to the community! Amen!!!

George Grengs



at the Parsonage Sunday, October 15

You are invited to the parsonage for fellowship after the Sunday worship service.

Pastor Elaine and family invite you to come by for snacks and drinks at the parsonage. Fellowship is an extension of worship.

They hope you will come!

Time: 11:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Address: 22167 Bryant Street, West Hills

New Church Secretary



Hello all faithful servers of Christ,

My name is Irma Hart and I am your new Administration Assistant in the office. I pray I do the job as well as Sydney did to serve you all.

I love serving the Lord and hope to learn all I can while being of service. I am married to Charles Hart, who has been a great supporter of me in our marriage. We have 3 wonderful children- James, Jared and Jessica Hart.

James is an artist who works with an organization for Special Needs Kids. Jared is still thinking what he wants to become one day and Jessica is at Pierce College getting her AA in Business Administration. She will move on to either Arizona State University or CSUN next year.

In my leisure time, I love to walk, hike, read, garden and go to museums and movies. Thank you all for welcoming me to First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park.

All glory to our Almighty God.
Blessings to you all, *Irma Hart*

Quiet Disciple Award – 2023



The Canoga Park 1st UWF unit selected Mary Mackay as the person to receive the UWF 2023 Quiet Disciple Award. This will be awarded at the North District UMW Annual Celebration being held in person on the 23rd of September at North Hollywood UMC.

Mary has served Canoga Park First UMC in many capacities since joining in 1961. She has also served the women's groups during this time. She was President of UMW, Vice President & Spiritual Growth Coordinator as well as a long-time circle member. For the church she has served as its Secretary, and is currently a member of our Administrative Committee. She is the go-to person on Membership and keeps in touch with the shut ins. She knows more about our church campus than anyone else and keeps her eyes on the entire property, knowing when something needs attention. She is the liaison between the church and our many renters working with them in regard to the care of the space they use. She also helps resolve any problems that arise between renters who use the space. In addition, Mary is in charge of scheduling volunteers for fellowship hour, organizes the calendar for altar flowers, and works with the families of deceased individuals regarding their needs for a reception.

Shirley Thomson, President,
Canoga Park First UMW

Stewardship

The theme this year is **"A Grateful Heart."**

Pastor Elaine will use the "Four principles of Biblical Stewardship" from *Leadership is Stewardship* for four Sundays:

- October 22 Ownership (Psalm 24:1-2)
- October 29 Responsibility (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- November 12 Accountability (Matthew 25: 14-30)
- November 19 God's Happiness as a Reward (Matthew 25:21; Colossians 3:23-24)

Who are United Methodists?

The United Methodist Church is a global denomination that opens hearts, opens minds and opens doors through active engagement with our world. The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

A United Methodist is someone who joins in that mission by putting faith and love into action. We believe that God loves all people, and that we share in expressing that love. So the United Methodist tradition emphasizes God's grace and in serving others. We believe that Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of God's love—showing us the fullness of God's care through Jesus' teachings, death and resurrection.

John Wesley started the Methodist movement in 18th-century England. His teachings on practical divinity (living out our faith) and appeals to reason and experience form important aspects of United Methodist practice today.

We invite you to learn more about our rich theological heritage.
from www.umc.org/rethinkchurch

Rev. Elaine Shin-Paull
First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park
www.umccp.org
www.elainepaull.com

"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."

Prayer Group

The group meets every Monday from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm via Zoom. Drop in anytime you can and join us. See link on page 2.

"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
Phil. 4:19

Insights from Pastor Elaine's Journey

I had the privilege of being interviewed by a podcast series called "When Women Preach," hosted by ISAAC (Innovative Space for Asian American Christianity). In the podcast, I shared my passion for aiding God's people in deepening their relationship through insights from the Old Testament. Here are three ways you can listen to the podcast:

Applepodcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/when-women-preach/id1487761044?i=1000627789500>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1R03kzBshXFarkRnx3NaaI?si=i20d4HfHTHS7z4kVB5RjTQ>

Website: <https://isaacweb.org/category/podcast/>
Pastor Elaine

2023 Charge Conference

Nov. 15, 2023.....6:30 p.m.

Your participation is invaluable to us

All are welcome to join.

A Zoom link will be provided in early November.

What is the Charge Conference?

The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council. All members of the charge conference must meet at least once per year. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry.

Source: A Dictionary for United Methodists, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press. Used by permission.



What is an AED

The ever vigilant Mary Mackay caught some errors in last month's article about the church's AED's. Here is the correct information.

The AED can help save a life when caring for a non-breathing child aged 8 or older who weighs more than 55 pounds, or for an adult during cardiac arrest. If no one with experience using the AED is available, calling 911 is always best.

Our church facilities have 3 Automated External Defibrillators; 1 in the Sanctuary hallway and 1 in the Fellowship Hall hallway. The key to these AED's is attached on the bottom of each unit in a magnetic box.

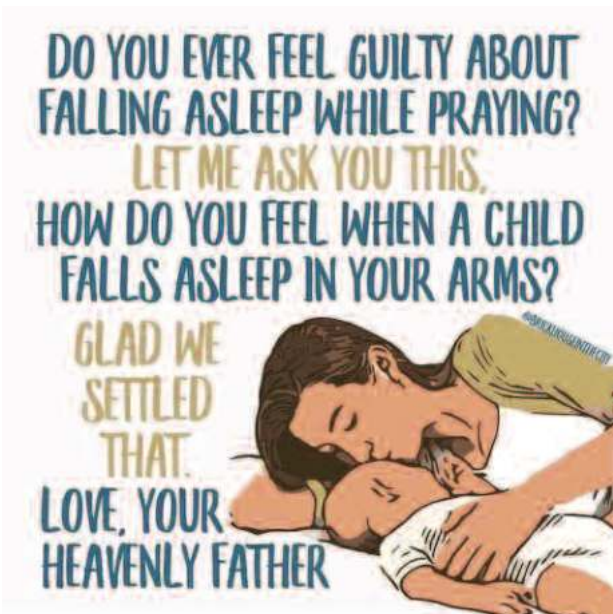


There is also one AED in Room #2 of the Education Building. The key for this one is in a cupboard above the sink in Room #2.

Written instructions are posted on the nearby bulletin boards and in the Room #2 cupboard.

From the Internet

Roger Johnson shared this calming thought.



Herb and Amanda Lucas

Jennifer Ervin

Dana Dreyfuss

Grant Simmons

Sharon Mountford

Karen Grengs

Mark Nogy

Ron Alderman

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



From the Mailbox

Dear Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee and First United Methodist Church,

With the new school semester fast approaching, I wanted to write and thank you for your contribution to my education. I look forward to starting school again in a couple of weeks and know a significant level of stress often associated with that has been mitigated by your generous contribution. The \$2,000 you sent me will be used to help pay rent and tuition as I continue to work at a residential treatment center to pursue a career in recreational therapy. I appreciate you more than you know and hope to honor Laura's memory in the upcoming year. I look forward to keeping in touch.

Gratefully,

Kierstin Douglas

2023 Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship recipient



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Return Service Requested

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.