



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: eshinpaull@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

November 2023

Heart to Heart

On Sunday, October 15th, I delivered a sermon titled "Why Are We Here?" based on Judges 21 and Hebrews 8:10-11. My emotions were raw as I grappled with the ongoing conflict between Israel and the terrorist organization Hamas.

Much like the tumultuous times of the Judges, our present era is marked by division, self-interest, and a "me-first" mentality. It's a world where everyone believes they're right, and those who disagree are wrong. This atmosphere makes it all too familiar to see people doing "what seems to be right in their own eyes." But life has rules, and so does God. We desperately need order.

The reason we are here, I emphasized, is to treat one another with equality, to halt the violence, to transform the world's ways, and to align ourselves with what is right in the eyes of God. We must prioritize God's ways over our own, yielding to His guidance and letting His rules bring order to people's lives.

We are not here to engage in conflict, to commit violence, to steal, to cheat, to abuse, or to judge one another.

I concluded with a prayer from Howard Thurman that still echoes in my mind, reinforcing the message of why we are here:

Open unto me, light for my darkness.
 Open unto me, courage for my fear.
 Open unto me, hope for my despair.
 Open unto me, peace for my turmoil.
 Open unto me, joy for my sorrow.
 Open unto me, strength for my weakness.
 Open unto me, wisdom for my confusion.
 Open unto me, forgiveness for my sins.
 Open unto me, tenderness for my toughness.
 Open unto me, love for my hates.
 Open unto me, Thy Self for myself.
 Lord, Lord, open unto me!

May this prayer serve as a constant reminder of our purpose and the values we should uphold in our lives.

Shalom, Pastor Elaine



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



November Calendar

Weekly Activities

Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am

The Chosen Bible Study, 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, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-10:00 pm

Boy Scouts Parent Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm

Boy Scout Patrol Leader Meeting, 7:00 pm

Wednesday Men's AA Group (Learning to Live), Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Thursday Wesley Bible Study, Library, 11:00 am

Narcotics Anonymous (Recovery Zone), Parlor 7:00 pm

Men's AA Step Guide, Room #10, 7:00 pm

Friday Church of Christ, Hall & Lounge, 6-10 pm

SiliconAndhra, Room# 10 & Library, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Saturday SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 -12:30

Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

November Birthdays

- 1 Ken Dimmick
- 3 Selina Cho
Tom Roe
Chandra Seeger
- 4 RussAmico
- 5 Sharon Mountford
- 9 Denise Lenore
- 10 Perla Mercado
- 11 Shawn Alvarado
- 12 Edwin Villacisneros
- 18 Elaine Shin-Paull
- 20 Ajae Magnaye
- 27 Jessica Williams
- 29 Noel Roberson
- 30 AndreAnderson
Midge Herder
Doris Hood

Anniversaries

- 1 Jeanne and Charles Niss

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



November

- 5 Sharon Mountford in memory of her parents
- 12 Open
- 19 Open
- 26 Open

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.

Other Activities

Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am

Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

Sunday 12 Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon, after church

Wednesday 15 All Church Charge Conference, 6:30 pm, *See page 7*

Monday 20 Monthly social meeting, 11:00 am, Parlor

Craft your Advent Wreath Candle Holder

Coming in December

Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am

Weiler's Restaurant on Sherman Way

Hanging of the Greens

Deck the Sanctuary for Christmas! 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Let's come together to transform our Sanctuary into a festive wonderland for the holiday season!

Mark your calendars and join us as we decorate for Christmas.

Your help and holiday spirit are needed and welcomed!





United
Women
in Faith

The continuation of the Q & A article about the new United Women in Faith is found on page 4.



Canoga Park First UMW 50th Anniversary Celebration

Recently Canoga Park First UMW/UWF celebrated their 50th anniversary. Shirley Thomson spoke on “UMW – Who are we?” United Methodist Women DBA United Women in Faith is the country’s largest denominational faith organization for women in the world.



The Canoga Park First United Methodist Women’s Unit received its charter in 1973. There were 174 Charter Members. Two Charter Members – Glynene Roe and Mary Mackay – were in the congregation on September 24th. There are a few other Charter Members in Assisted Living Facilities.

Our Unit has three Circles that meet monthly. There are two Circles that meet during the day. **Bookends** reviews and discusses books drawn from biography, fiction, Spiritual Growth and the classics; **Sarah Circle** meets for breakfast at Weilers Deli on Sherman Way. Emphasis is on fellowship, concern for church members and development of supportive relationships among the members. **Faith, Hope and Love** meets at night in the Library where the hostess presents a program in an area of interest. In addition there are **Members at Large** who have not designated a circle to which they wish to belong.

Membership is open to any women who indicate their desire to join. If interested, please contact Shirley Thomson, President at 818 348-0414 or at church, for information.

Above is a picture of our mission team: Margaret Cates, Secretary,
Chandra Seeger, Treasurer,
Shirley Thomson, President,
Lora O’Connor, Hospitality Co-Ordinator.
Mission team members also serve in other capacities.

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Thursday, November 9
Note date change
at 1 pm in Room 10.

Selection of books will be either at the November or December meeting.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, November 9,
9:30 am
Breakfast at Weiler’s Deli,
22323 Sherman Way,
near Shoup

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, November 15
at 6:30 pm
in the Church Library.
Program and devotion
TBA



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

Frequently Asked Questions on United Women in Faith (continued from last month)

Can we remain members, stay connected and join another local unit if our church leaves The United Methodist Church?

Yes. United Methodist Church membership has never been required for United Methodist Women membership. Bylaws changes allow for women to be involved and be leaders in our organization even if they become affiliated with another denomination. Our new name captures this inclusivity.

What do these changes have to do with “new wineskins?”

United Methodist Women – now United Women in Faith – is again saying yes to being part of what God is doing in the 21st Century by creating new ways for women today to gather for faith, sisterhood and action for women, children, and youth.

In other words, we are making new wine and new wineskins to fulfill our role in God’s mission today. We tap Jesus’ use of the metaphor in Mark 2:22 to explain the need for change to help us share with members the new tools, programs, and exciting changes on the horizon for our organization.

Upcoming Advent Project

for Hope the Mission Family Shelter

Hope the Mission’s family shelter, in Woodland Hills, opened in May 2023. Currently, there are 275 children and 125 adults (75% single mothers, 15% single fathers, 10% 2 parent families) in the 100 unit, 400 bed facility. Each room has two bunk beds (four beds per room). Each room comes with a microwave, mini-fridge and bathroom and residents are provided three meals per day as well as mental health services if needed.

Between December 3-December 17, First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park will be collecting money or gift cards as our Advent Project.

Congregants may purchase as many gift cards as they choose, but we ask that each gift card not exceed \$25. These will be distributed to the families living at Hope the Mission, so they can purchase Christmas gifts, clothes, shoes, etc. for their children.

Suggested gift cards (no fast-food gift cards):

Target	Wal-Mart	Dollar Tree
99 Cent Store	Ralph’s	Gas cards
Burlington Coat Factory		

Please drop off Gift cards or Checks made payable to the church to the church office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Shari at: sharikworrell@gmail.com or 310-902-0179.

*“You shall open wide your hand to your brother,
to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”*

Deuteronomy 15:11

Stewardship

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

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received
to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace....”*

1 Peter 4:10

We believe that everything we have comes from a God who loves us. Stewardship is no more and no less than responding to God’s love with a grateful heart for all that we have been given. Your generous giving to this church means that in our corner here in the West San Fernando Valley, sick people are

not forgotten, the bereaved find hope, and young people receive scholarships. Your support also bolsters ministries around the world benefitting refugees and other people needing help, as everything the larger church does is also done by you.

The campaign began in mid-October and will conclude with these three Sundays:

Inspiration Sunday will be October 29, when Stewardship packets will be available.

Gratitude Sunday will be November 12.

Celebration Sunday will be November 19.



Financial Update

Appeal: The appeal was a huge success! After preparing the 9-month financial statements we found additional appeal monies that were misclassified as loose plate.

The new grand total is \$37,000. With this money we were able to pay for the gas repiping, get this year's budget on track, and limit the amount of designated fund write-offs. The original \$37,000 in designated funds which we used during Covid was reduced to \$19,000 and written off. We now have money behind all fund balances. Most importantly we have protected the Capital Fund's \$23,000 which is the fund that we use for facility repairs over \$2,500. We're now in a markedly improved financial condition and we thank everyone for your contributions!

Facilities Update

The gas repipe is done. Relighting pilot lights has been a struggle, but we got them working and the gas is on. We have one more fix to the floor under the gas heater that the gas company tagged us for. That is in progress and will be done by the end of October. The flea abatement behind the Education Building cost \$1,700 which included closing off 6 openings under the Yellow House. All in all, a good quote and the service went smoothly. The sanctuary hall and women's bathroom walls were re-plastered since we did not see any additional water leaks from Hurricane Hilary's summer rainfall. We will complete the painting of the patched walls in the next 90 days. Before year's end, we'll have the roofs and rain gutters cleaned in preparation for the winter rains. In preparation for the October 21st RockChippers, Rock & Mineral retail show we fixed a couple of sprinklers that could have been liability issues.

The request for a credit from the LADWP regarding the two major water leaks we had this summer has been resubmitted, but it has turned complicated and we're not sure we will have the proper backup that is required. Hopefully, we will get some good news on this front!

We are also quoting two large projects that will be done in conjunction with any new renters of the Education Buildings. The two projects are replacement of the main water line to that building and then re-piping the building water lines. The 50+ year old piping was done in galvanized pipe which is now corroded, with rusty water and leaking pipes. We will keep you posted.

User Groups

The Boy Scouts are slowly progressing with the move to Youth Room 2 – the old Puppet Room. We plan to offer their original room on an exclusive basis to new user groups. We have two separate real estate agents helping us look for new user groups. We've had 5 preschool tours and four tours of the Fellowship Hall with churches interested in renting space for their religious services. No offers yet, but we expect something by year's end. The Assistance League who already rent two Education Building rooms and the FH office will now be holding their monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of the month in the FH Gym.

George Grengs



Don't forget to claim your extra hour on Sunday morning, November 5.

The Parsonage Open House was a Success!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for an afternoon of fellowship at the pastor's home. Your presence made it a truly special occasion.



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.

San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus

You are invited to hear a concert by the San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus, which rehearses in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday mornings.

Saturday, November 4th, Fellowship Hall
10:30 am coffee and donuts – 11:00 am concert
Donation in lieu of tickets

Please invite all your young friends who like to sing to come with you. This Open House event is designed to give them a first-hand experience of the dedication, passion, and talent that goes into every performance. The chorus will welcome new members after the Christmas break.

Graveside Funeral Services

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

Jackie was born March 2, 1929 in North Hollywood. She had two daughters, Lora and Lindy, three grandchildren: Sean, Kelly, and Paul, and one great granddaughter: Chloe.

Jackie married George Dutcher in 1971. She enjoyed mall walking, belonging to the Woodland Hills Woman's Club and getting all dressed up to go out to dinner. Her favorite lipstick color was red.

Jackie and George enjoyed traveling and lots of family time in Big Bear, Jackie passed away August 27, 2023, while living at Fallbrook Glen Assisted Living.



Jennifer Ervin
Mark Nogy
Family of Herb Lucas
Family of Randy Hinton
Geri Allen
Jennifer Ojeda
Gideon Paull's Family
Mary Beth Godwin's
brother, Gary

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

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*





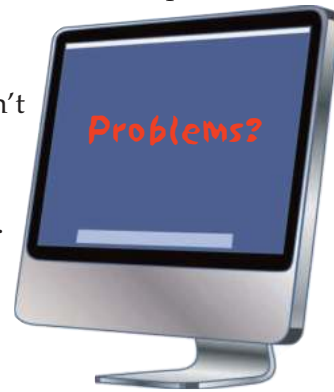
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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.