



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Church 818.340.2950

E-mail: crossandflame@att.net

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

Pastor: eshinpau@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

January 2025

Heart to Heart

Happy New Year! Are you excited and hopeful for all that God has in store for you in 2025? I do, and I hope you do, too! This is a time of fresh beginnings, a season to reflect on His faithfulness in the past and embrace the opportunities ahead with renewed hearts.

This new year reminds me of God's promise in Isaiah 43:19:

"See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

This verse speaks of hope in the face of challenges and reminds us that God is constantly at work, shaping, refining, and leading us toward His purposes. Whatever this year holds, I pray that each of you feels His guiding hand and experiences, His peace that surpasses all understanding.

May your January be a time to seek His presence, align your heart with His will, and step boldly into the new chapters He is writing for your life. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of our faith.

Blessings to you all, 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."*



Pastor

Elaine Shin-Paull

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Administrative
Assistant**

Ebelyn Gaytan

Sunday School Childcare

Veronica Cabrera

Lay Leader

Roger Johnson

Courier Layout

Sharon Mountford

AV Operator

Bernie Godwin



Resident Bishop

Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Garth Gilliam

January Calendar



January Birthdays

- 10 Beverly Ewing
- 13 Susanna Jones
- 20 Jeanne Niss
- 21 Lora O'Connor
- 22 Will Landrum
- 25 Janet Lauredo
- 30 Juliet Kaburu
- Jo Anne McColloch
- 31 Nova Anderson
- Mary Mackay

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

January Flowers

- 5 Open
- 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.



Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:00 am
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 4:00 pm
- Monday Virtual prayer meetings: at 7:30 pm on Zoom.
- Tuesday Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall, 6:00-10:00 pm
Men's AA Step Guide, Room # 10, 7:00pm
- Wednesday Men's AA Group (Learning to Live), Parlor, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Thursday Wesleyan Bible Study, Library, 11 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
- Saturday SFV Youth Chorus, Hall & Lounge, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Narcotics Anon. (Sharing from the Heart), Parlor, 9:30 am

Other Activities

- Wednesday 1 New Year's Day - Office Closed
Hindi Urdu Church, Sanctuary, 12 pm
- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
- Saturday 11 Young Ambassadors, Hall, 12:30 - 5:30 pm
- Sunday 12 Baptism of the Lord Service
- Tuesday 14 Administrative Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Saturday 18 Rockchippers, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm
- Monday 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed, Office Closed

Coming in February

- Saturday 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 2116 Victory Blvd., Canoga Park
Young Ambassadors, Hall, 12:30 - 5:30 pm



Shari Worrell reports that twenty of our church families have opened a Ralph's Digital Account. The church will receive \$80.01 for the quarter ending November 30th.

The 2025 Flower Calendar is now posted on the bulletin board in the Parlor.

If you would like to provide altar flowers, on a given day, please sign your name.

1. You may bring your flowers that day (church vases are available).
 2. You may purchase an arrangement at your local market to bring.
 3. You may place an order for a floral arrangement – the cost is \$65.
- *You will be contacted, prior to the date you have chosen, for the dedication you would like to have listed in the bulletin.* Please make your check payable to the church and note the date of your flower order.

Thank you! Mary Mackay



UWF Meetings For January:

North District UWF Local Organization Recognition Event

This Recognition Event is being held at Simi Valley UMC, 2394 Erringer Road, Simi Valley, CA 93065 on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 10:00 am. All UWF members are encouraged to attend this event where they will recognize the 5-Star Units, 60/40 Units, Mission Today and the Reading Program. Registration is due Monday, January 6, 2025 and the fee is \$20.00.

North District Officer Training

This will be a Virtual Online Event over a few days. Zoom links will be sent in January before the training. Here is the schedule:

- 1) Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 pm – Secretary,
(deeannaduncans@gmail.com)
- 2) Thursday, January 23 at 6:00 pm – Committee on Nominations
(megpinn@sbcglobal.net)
- 3) Saturday, January 25 at 10:00 am – President
(rdgarner47@hotmail.com)
- 4) Saturday, January 25 at 12:00 pm – Vice President
(deeannaduncans@gmail.com)
- 5) Monday, January 27 at 7:00 pm – Program Resources
(marilynnewilander@gmail.com)
- 6) Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 pm – Treasurer
(Visionarychair@gmail.com)
- 7) Wednesday, January 29 at 1:00 pm – Membership
(alvamay@aol.com)
- 8) Thursday, January 30 at 2:00 pm – Social Action
(labarbara.madison@gmail.com)
- 9) Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 pm – Communication
(rivermiss05@gmail.com)
- 10) Saturday, February 1, 10:00 am – Spiritual Growth
(rdgarner47@hotmail.com)
- 11) Monday, February 3 at 7:00 pm – Mission Education & Interpretation
(niemann007@sbcglobal.net)

Registration for Local Organization Training can be done at:

<http://www.calpacumc.org/uwfnorthlltt2025>.

Or mail to Amber Hedges, A.S.Hedges, United Women in Faith North District, P.O. Box 1549, Flintridge, CA 91012

Deadline for registration: Wednesday, January 17, 2025.

*Confirm gatherings
before you go.*

Bookends

Wednesday, January 15
1:00 pm in Room 10.

The book to be discussed is called *The Man Who Died Twice*, A Thursday Murder Club Mystery by Richard Osman.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, January 9,
9:15 am

Breakfast at Nico's
Restaurant
7166 Shoup Ave.,
West Hills

Faith, Hope & Love

Please note new time and date
Wednesday January 8
1:00 am.

in the Church Library.
Shari Worrell will be
presenting the program
entitled Amish the
"Plain" People.



*Pastor Elaine baptized Cloud and Brio Waldman on December 8.
Seen above with their proud parents Lirio and Beau Waldman.
Cloud and Brio are blessed with a large and loving family, the Lirios.*



*Charlee Houston was confirmed on Dec. 15th!
She was joyfully received as a member of the First UMC of CP.
Seen below is Charlee's family with Grandmother Nancy Summer.*



2024 Advent Project Report

Thank you to the 23 FUMC-CP families who donated to this year's Advent Project. Between you, my neighbors, United Women in Faith and California Society of the Daughters of Colonial Wars we donated \$2,800 worth of gift cards to the Casa de Vida and TAY shelters in Chatsworth. We also donated Christmas stockings for those at Casa de Vida and Merry Christmas Snack Boxes to TAY.

What started out as our church donating to The Woodlands changed when I was making arrangements for the pastor and I to deliver our donations.

Here is the back story: In October, George and I went to visit two small shelters in Chatsworth. Both are converted houses on the same property. One is a 48-bed family shelter housing mostly single mothers with children up to 18 years of age who have escaped violent situations. The other is a 38-bed Transitional Aged Youth shelter for kids 18 – 24.

When George and I left those two shelters they tugged at our heartstrings. We believed because of the size of the shelters and the size of our congregation we would be a good fit for them.

Because we had already told the congregation we would donate to The Woodlands we decided to continue but thought we would change to those two shelters next year.

While making arrangements with Hope the Mission for the pastor and I to deliver our donation, the lady I was working with said this, "Good Shepherd Church is blessing all 189 children at The Woodlands this weekend with gifts from their wish list so would you be willing to donate to two small shelters; Casa de Vida and TAY?"

Those two were the same two George and I visited in October. After discussing it with the pastor we said we were willing to donate to them. Between the two churches all three local shelters where children reside will all have a Christmas gift. That is over 250 children!!

This is what FUMC - CP donated:

CASA DE VIDA (25 children, up to 18 years old)
Christmas Stocking; Christmas Card; 25 - \$25 Target Gift Card; Jesus Loves You Sticker; Finger Fidget; Candy Cane; Candy Cane Meaning Cards; 2 Oreo Cookies

CASA DE VIDA (18 Adults):

Christmas Stocking; Christmas Card; Cross Sticker; Trail Mix; Candy Cane; Meaning of a Candy Cane; 31 - \$25 Ralph, Walmart and /or Dollar Tree Gift Card

FOR TAY (38 Transitional Aged Youth - 18-24)

Christmas Card; 38 - \$25 Target Gift Cards; Cross Sticker; Merry Christmas Snack Box; Trail Mix; 2 Oreo Cookies; 8 Pieces of Candy; Candy Cane

While the pastor and I were touring the shelters when delivering the donation, we saw that the TAY shelter did not have a Christmas tree. Since we had some leftover gift cards, we gave them \$200 to buy a Christmas tree and some decorations.

God is so good!, Shari Worrell



Louis and Anita Parrinello donated 2 Christmas trees, 2 pictures of Santa and a Santa costume to Program Manager, Rosalba Hercules, at Casa de Vida and TAY shelters.

Update on the Advent Project.

When Pastor Elaine and I donated the gift cards, stockings, snack boxes, etc. we noticed that one shelter of the two shelters had no Christmas tree or decorations. We gave them gift cards to buy them. At the Administrative Council meeting Anita and Louis Parrinello offered to donate a Christmas tree they had in storage they no longer could use.

On Friday the 13th the Parrinello's and I drove to the shelter. They donated 2 Christmas trees, two Christmas tree skirts and two Santa Claus pictures. The gift cards we gave the shelter were used for lights for one tree and decorations for the tree and walls.

Last night the staff put up one of the trees so when the children woke up this morning they saw a decorated tree. I asked if the kids liked it. The Program Manager said, "They LOVED it!"

Thanks to all of you for being so kind. Your generosity put smiles on many faces and made Christmas special for almost 100 people!!

God is good; so good! Shari



Thanks from Hope the Mission

I am deeply touched by the love, care, and generosity that went into these incredible donations. What you've done is more than just providing gifts—you've brought hope, joy, and a sense of belonging to so many individuals during this Christmas season.

The thoughtfulness behind every item, from the stockings to the gift cards and the meaningful details like the candy cane meaning cards, speaks volumes about your hearts. I'm especially moved by your quick and generous action to ensure the TAY shelter had a Christmas tree. It's these kinds of gestures that create lasting memories and remind everyone that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Your partnership and dedication inspire us all to continue the mission of caring for and uplifting those in need. Please share my deepest gratitude with the pastor and everyone involved. We couldn't do this work without your support, and it's truly an honor to stand alongside you in making a difference.

Wishing you all the blessings of this beautiful season. Thank you for shining the light of love and compassion so brightly.

With Dignity, Love & Respect,
Laura L Harwood
Deputy Chief Program Officer – LA County

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

Deuteronomy 15:11

To learn more about Hope the Mission, please visit their website www.hopethemission.org



Administrative Committee Reports

Financial Update: Our finances continue to hold up even though we're spending almost double what was budgeted in 2024 for facilities upkeep. We are blessed to have an Endowment Fund at First UMC which was funded by an estate gift many years ago. We cannot use any part of the \$80,000 principal without a vote of the church membership, but any investment earnings can be used to support the budget. We have had a wonderful investment year, pulling out \$8000 in the spring and another \$8000 in December which will go into the budget in late 2024! If anyone is doing estate planning, please consider adding the FUMCCP Endowment Fund to your list of beneficiaries. It's a wonderful and very impactful way to GIVE and support the never-ending life of our church!!

Facility Update: We still have a good list of projects we are working to complete. As noted in previous reports we continue to work on how best to convert the Fellowship Hall lights to LEDs. Louis Parrinello has taken over this project and he has been able to find lower cost ways to complete the project. It now looks like it will cost around \$6,000 and we think it will be completed in the first quarter of 2025. The other major repair is the remaining asphalt shingles which are about 40 years old on the Fellowship Hall roof. We've replaced about half of them in the last few years and now the strong winds have blown off more of the original shingles. We don't have the \$10,500 to complete the replacement of the remaining original shingles so for the moment we'll do a patch which will cost about \$1500. We are going to proceed with a \$900 job to set up a way to track our solar electrical generation on a phone app. The trimming of the three pine trees on the Sherman Way side of the Fellowship Hall will have to wait until next year. The sanctuary ceiling repair (\$1200) and the cleaning, waxing, and tile replacement on the Parlor & Hallway floors (\$900) were completed.

User Groups: The AA Guide group has added a Tuesday meeting each week in room 10.

We have one very sad item to report on groups using the facilities. The Boy Scout troop we have worked with for over 50 years has not been re-chartered for 2025. Coming out of Covid was difficult, they were down to 2 scouts this year and had been having struggles finding new boys/girls and just as importantly, difficulty in finding parents that were interested in participating in the leadership of the troop. The two remaining scouts have been transferred to another troop and the Boy Scouts will begin vacating their room upstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

George Grengs



People lifted on the prayer chain:

Margaret Cates'
daughter Tammy

Mary Mackay

Lirio and Beau
Waldman

Brenda Jones

Mary Beth Godwin

Jessica Williams

Bret Kirsch

Herman Rich

Pastor Lynn Westover

Lora O'Connor

Angela Anderson

Don Heim

Verda Longan

JoAnn Butler

Irma Santos' daughter,
Lian

*Send prayer requests to
Anita Parrinello
luv2bjedi@gmail.com)*





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West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Return Service Requested



*Faith Hope & Love at the Olive Garden, December 11.
Anita's son, Christopher, joined us, as it was his
birthday. Margaret Cates was there, but had to leave
early before the picture was taken.*