



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

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Join us at church Sundays at 10:00 am

February 2016

Heart to Heart

The day after Christmas, Stan and I flew to Seattle to see our granddaughter and her family. Lucy, two years and eight months old, is at that age where she seems to grow before our eyes.

One day, Lucy said, "Grandma, I love you." Those words are high on the sweetness scale but more joy was to come.

When I unpacked ornaments this year, I found her mama's manger set from 1981. I took it for Lucy. After reading the Christmas story several times from a children's book, Lucy and I told the story using the manger pieces.

While we were there, Lucy and I rehearsed the basic story several times. An angel said to Mary, "You're going to have a baby." Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. Baby Jesus was born in a stable with animals. Angels said to the shepherds, "Good news! Jesus is born!" The shepherds went to see Jesus. Wise men followed a star and brought Jesus presents.

One night, I said to Lucy, "Jesus is God's son. And he loves you very much." Then, I taught her *Jesus Love Me*. Before long, she could sing it with me.

From time to time, Lucy tried to sing it by herself. But she couldn't quite remember the words and would ask me to sing it again.

Later, I heard her singing quietly. The words were an interesting jumble of songs, including *The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round* and *Itsy, Bitsy Spider* and *Jesus Loves Me*. But one line was very clear. She sang, Jesus loves the little girl, and pointed her index finger to her chest.

My heart filled with joy that Lucy understood something so important about that sweet little Jesus boy!

Pastor Lynn Westover



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

Minerva G. Carcaño

North District Superintendent

Rev. Jim Powell



February Calendar

February Birthdays

- 6 John Caldwell
JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
- 11 Coral Harper
- 12 Laura Pomeroy
- 16 Lois Jimenez
Emily Willauer
- 20 Shirley Ilgenfritz
- 25 Libby Bennett
- 27 Margaret Cates
Lynn Westover

Anniversaries

- 14 Charles & Virgene Engberg
*If your special day is missing,
please contact the church office.*



ALTAR FLOWERS

The flower calendar for 2016 is posted on the wall of the parlor, next to the pass-through from the kitchen. You are invited to sponsor the altar flowers for a special Sunday.

Arrangement are ordered from Mr. B's Flowers. They do a great job for us, and are willing to personalize the arrangements with requested flowers or colors.

Arrangements are only \$35 each and are yours to take home after church.

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
Monday Narcotics Anonymous, Lounge, 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Shower Ministry, 8:30 am - noon
Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm
Tuesday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor, 8:00 pm
- Wednesday Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:00 pm
- Thursday Choir rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm

Other Activities

- Tuesday 2 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Saturday 6 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Sunday 7 Super Bowl Sunday, *see below*
- Tuesday 9 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 10 Ash Wednesday worship service, 7:30 pm
- Thursday 11 Bookends, Library, 9:15 am
Sarah Circle, Breakfast at Denny's, 9:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Sunday 14 Valentine's Day
Boy Scout Sunday, *see page 4*
- Monday 15 *Courier* Deadline for March issue
- Tuesday 16 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 17 Faith, Hope & Love, location TBA, 7:00 pm

Upcoming in March

- Tuesday 3 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.

Super Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 7, bring canned and boxed food for the West Valley Food Pantry. You will have the opportunity to place your donations in a box 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.

Reminder

*Fifth Sunday
Pot-Luck
January 31
After worship*



California Pacific Conference Mid-Winter Event:

“Human Trafficking” A Time of Learning...A Call to Action!

Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 10:00-3:00

Lakewood First UMC, 4300 Bellflower Blvd, Lakewood

Registration Fee of \$12.00 includes lunch and is due by February 12.

Future Meeting:

UMW General Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Reading Program:

The Reading Program catalog is updated each year to include new information as available. The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women members:

- to expand understanding of and participation in God’s mission.
- to increase sensitivity to all human beings, their needs, interests and concerns.
- to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- to grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- to enhance self-knowledge and to act from that knowledge and to strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

Bookends Reading Selections

The Bookends Circle will be reading and reviewing the following books this year. Perhaps you would like to join them.

Book List for 2016

<u>Month</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
January	<i>Go Set a Watchman</i>	Harper Lee
February	<i>Cutting for Stone</i>	Abraham Verghese
March	<i>The Nightingale</i>	Kristin Hannah
April	<i>The Girl on the Train</i>	Paula Hawkins
May	<i>Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy</i>	Karen Abbott
July	<i>I am Malala</i>	Lamb & Yousafzai
August	<i>Miss Brenda and the Loveladies</i>	Spahn & Zutell
September	<i>Rogue Lawyer</i>	John Grisham
October	<i>All Over but the Shoutin’</i>	Rick Bragg



February Meetings

Bookends

Thursday, February 11,

9:30 am

Church Library

Hostess: Glynene Roe

Reviewer: Margaret Cates

Book: *Cutting for Stone*

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, February 17

7:00 pm

Location TBA

Sarah Circle

Thursday, February 11

9:30 am

Breakfast at Denny’s

8330 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

(north of Roscoe Blvd.)



Have You Joined UMC Market?

www.umcmarket.org

It is a painless way to support your local church whenever you purchase items on the internet. Try it out! The church has received its first payment from the program, small, but useful. If more folks enrolled, it might become a nice additional income for the church.

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 and even somewhat lonely 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.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ashes will be used as a sign of mortality and repentance.

February 10, 7:30 pm Worship ~
First UMC of Canoga Park

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

A Service of Lessons and Hymns
March 20, 10:00 am Worship ~
First UMC of Canoga Park

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.

March 24, 7:30 pm Joint Worship ~
First UMC of Canoga Park with the Hindi Urdu congregation

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

March 25, 7:30 pm Worship ~
First UMC of Canoga Park

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

Boy Scout News

Robert Lamb is now serving as the church's liaison with Troop 474. Welcome aboard.

Boy Scout Sunday ... February 14

We look forward to being with the Boy Scouts and their families, as well as with their capable leaders. They will share their scouting activities in the past year.

As always, the scouts will provide a light breakfast after worship. However, this year, they are inviting you to make a \$5 donation per breakfast to help fund a backpack trip in July 2016. They are going for a 2-week, 50+ miles backpack trip at a BSA National High Adventure base in the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) range of the Rocky Mountains in northeast New Mexico. It will be a great adventure for fathers and sons, and other scouts, too.

Since the trip is expensive, the scouts are inviting you to give a donation for breakfast if you are able. But if this is a hardship, do not let it keep you away.



From the Mailbox

All of us women from Chatsworth enjoyed the silver tea so much!! As always the refreshments were outstanding and we enjoyed again "The Men In Black." Thank you for including us in your special day.

Virginia Lyon from Chatsworth UMW



It was good to see Frank Wilken in worship on Sunday, January 17, supported by three members of the Home Team: sons, Loren, Charlie and Mike.



It's Crazy Socks Day!

Tuesday, February 2
11:00 am...Lounge

Since Leisure Club was cancelled in January for the planned resurfacing of the parking lot, the program planned for that meeting will take place in February.

Wear your craziest socks and you might be the winner. We will also be collecting white socks for Shower Ministry. Come for the fun and a pot luck lunch.



Preschool

February is "National Children's Dental Health 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.

Our Trike-a-thon will be held the end of this month (depending on the weather). This will be our 10th year doing this! As we did last year, we will be raising money to help our families & our community who are having a rough time. We will also hold a canned food drive for the local food pantry.

Our Spring semester Toddler Class will begin this month. This is a "Mommy & Me" program for ages 18 to 30 months, meeting one morning a week. The teacher is trained in early childhood education and child development. The program offers play and socialization opportunities along with parent discussion, and is a great opportunity for the children to become familiar with the routines of preschool in the presence of their parents.

Wendy



Frank Wilken
Liana Burdsall
Ruth Albrecht
Martin Shuler
Perla Mercado
Lori Dimmick
Mike and Annie Tart
Robin Abernathy
Hope Schmidt
Stan Dimmick
Evelyn Heim
La Dean Owen
Ted Jimenez
Chuck Engberg



To receive Prayer Chain
e-mails, please contact
Robin Abernathy at
robingreenbird@yahoo.com

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.

Dr. Tom's Thought *Years wrinkle the skin, but lack of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.*
Norman Vincent Peale

Reflections on Human Relations Sunday

Sharon Mountford

During the January 17 worship service, Pastor Lynn focused our attention on the quilts of Yvonne Wells, who has illustrated the people and events of the Civil Rights Movement. As we shared the two quilts highlighting Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Alabama bus boycott of 1955, I was reminded vividly of my own southern bus experience.

I was born and grew up in Glendale, California. In my teen years, as I became active in organizations outside my own community, I quickly learned to hide the fact that I lived in Glendale and just to say I was from the Los Angeles area. Glendale had an actual law on the books that “people of color” were not allowed on the streets after sundown, so my own experiences had been all-white.



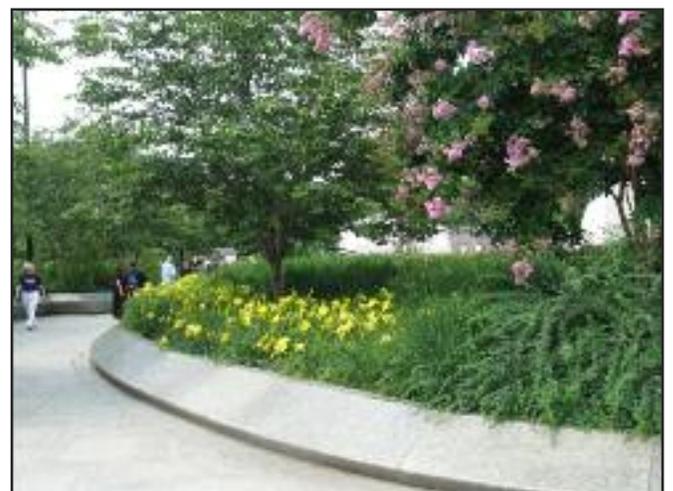
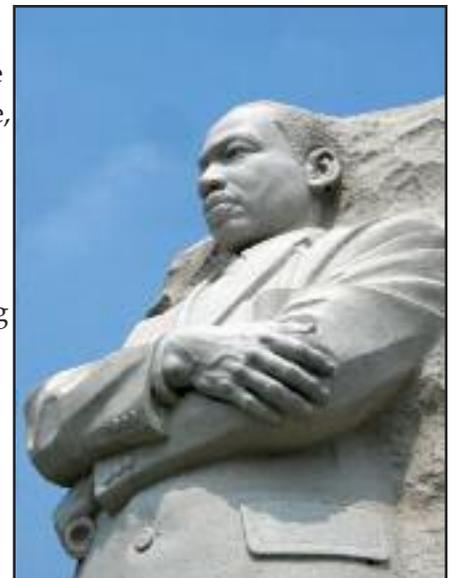
After high school graduation in 1954, I headed off to Houston, where I had never been, and where I knew no one. I was enrolled at the Rice Institute, as it was then called, to study math and science. Although I had probably heard of Jim Crow seating, the first time I boarded a public bus in Houston, I automatically went to my favorite seat on a bus – the one right behind the back door. Every black person seated in front of me “had” to get up and move behind me. That was the protocol. I nervously tried to excuse myself, but was met with obvious resentment.

Perhaps the white person on Rosa Parks’ bus was as unthinking as I was, rather than someone trying to demean and inconvenience black riders, but thanks to Rosa’s reluctance to move, some of the barriers began to collapse.



Last summer we spent several days in Washington DC and visited many of the monuments which have been built in the years since I was last there – in 1976. One of the most impressive was for Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition to the impressive statue, which is viewed through a monolithic gate, there is a lovely garden, following the contours of a graceful wall inscribed with famous quotes from Dr. King.



Fountain Dedication Plaque Installed



The new Memorial Garden Fountain was formally dedicated to the memory of Darold Cates.

In January the installation of the dedicatory plaque was completed by Stan Westover, Tim O'Connor and Randy Gorlick, of Gorlick Memorials.

Sistahs Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse

We welcomed SADAA to our worship service in January. Our own Robin Abernathy is one of their members.

SADAA is focused on elevating public awareness about the epidemic of substance abuse. Through their musical talents SADAA is dedicated to promoting healthy living and self-sufficiency, by refraining from drugs and alcohol.

Established in 1993, the concept came from Gloria's personal experience in her battle with drugs and alcohol. The women decided to pool together and utilize their God-given creative and vocal talents. They sing contemporary gospel, and write much of their own material, thus allowing another way of sharing their strengths, hopes and experiences. Together they are dedicated to promoting healthy living and self-sufficiency, and it is their mission to be of service by helping those, who unfortunately are still suffering from the disease of alcoholism



and drug usage. They are four miracles whose testimonies reveal that, because of a loving God, they have overcome their adversities!!

Winners of the 1998 McDonalds™ Gospelfest, SADAA consider themselves "Blessed" and "Highly Favored."

As they continue to pass on what was given to them, they insist on letting you know that

WOMEN DO RECOVER

SADAA has been invited to the 52nd International Women's Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott Convention Center in Norfolk, VA, February 11-14, 2016.

We took an offering to assist with their travel costs. If you did not have the opportunity to participate, you can donate by going to <http://www.gofundme.com/h98zyu8zh8>.

Angel Tree Gifts

Thanks to everyone who brought gifts for the Angel Tree. The workers who helped sort and package them for the Child Abuse Case Workers are seen below: Nancy Summer,



seated, with Stan Westover and Tim and Lora O'Connor, standing.

Thanks to Shirley Thomson for heading up the activity, as she does every year.



No telling where you will find our faithful volunteers!

Tim O'Connor is seen shining the flashlight as Jeff Leighton works under the kitchen sink!

Parking Lot Repair

The scheduled parking lot repair was postponed because of rain and will be rescheduled.

Visit us @ umccp.org

LEAP YEAR



Return Service Requested

22700 Sherman Way
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