



# The Courier

**First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park**

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*Join us at church Sundays at 10:00 am*

January 2016

## Sunday Worship in January 2016

### January 3 - Love Feast

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Love Feast was a very important expression of Methodist spirituality. John Wesley borrowed and adapted it from the Moravians. The Love Feast is an informal time of worship that includes prayer, hymn singing, Scripture, testimony, and sharing bread and water. Since it is not sacramental like Communion, the Love Feast is often lead by a lay person. Sharing a Love Feast together will be a wonderful beginning to the new year!

### January 10 - Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant and SADAA

Sisters Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse (Robin Abernathy, Donna, Gloria and Terry) will be featured in worship. They are a contemporary, inspirational music group that grew out of their recovery from addiction and that now focuses on helping other women recover. The group has been invited to minister at the International Women's Convention of AA in Norfolk, VA. We will have the opportunity to help them financially as they fundraise for their airfare and lodging. <https://www.gofundme.com/h98zyu8zh8>

### January 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Worship will include Quilts and the Underground Railroad.

### January 24 - United Methodist Women Sunday

### January 31 - Healing Service

The Bible affirms spiritual healing. "Are any among you sick? They should call the elders of the church and have them pray for them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14).

When pastors and laity pray for people with the laying on of hands or anointing with oil, they are not claiming that they are doing something for the sick. They are not claiming that God will make everything better. They are seeking to be faithful to continue Christ's threefold ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing.

The Bible clearly calls disciples to pray with and for one another, and this faithful ministry of touch with prayer shares the grace of God.



**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



# January Calendar

## January Birthdays

- 3 Robert Hromadka
- 13 Joan Kelley
- 14 Mary McKibben
- 15 Sylvia Buttemeier
- 21 Lora O'Connor
- 25 Mervin Hewitt
- 26 Brian Finley  
John Willauer
- 30 JoAnne McCulloch
- 31 Mary Mackay

## Anniversaries

- 26 Dean & Carolyn Lottman  
*If your special day is missing,  
please contact the church office.*



The flower calendar for 2016 is available for you to sign up for a special Sunday. Arrangements are \$35 each and are yours to take home after church.

## On Giving Tuesday

Nearly 6,000 donors from 27 countries donated \$2.8 million through The Advance to support mission and ministries around the world. Global Ministries matched the first \$1 million, building additional incentive for giving. More than 770 projects and missionaries received 8,757 gifts through The Advance, the designated giving channel of The UMC.

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

## Other Activities

- Friday 1 New Year's Day, office closed
- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Sunday 3 De-hanging of the Greens
- Monday 4 Parking lot closed for repairs
- Tuesday 5 Parking lot closed for repairs  
Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Tuesday 12 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Thursday 14 Bookends, Library, 9:15 am  
Sarah Circle, TBA, 9:30 am
- Friday 15 Courier Deadline for February issue
- Sunday 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, *Quilts and the Underground Railroad*
- Tuesday 19 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 20 Faith, Hope & Love, location TBA, 7:00 pm

## Upcoming in February

- 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)
- Sunday 14 Boy Scout Sunday

## 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.

## Food In-Gathering

The First Sunday of every month is an in-gathering of food for the West Valley Food Pantry. Please remember our hungry neighbors and bring non-perishable items for the Pantry.



## UMW Sunday January 24, 2016

### 2015 UMW Christmas Silver Tea



*Mary Mackay made sure that Maxine McAuley and Ruth Albrecht were there on time.*

The 42nd UMW annual Christmas Silver Tea was held December 5. It was a huge success with approximately 75 persons attending. Invitations were extended to Chatsworth West UMC, Northridge UMC, Reseda UMC and Woodland Hills UMC. Representatives from the four churches attended. The entertainment was provided by



*Youth who assisted at the tea were Ashely Aguilar, Eric Rodriquez, Anthony Laguna, Dylan and Dominic Bautista*

our very own "Men In Black" and Eric Cloud on the piano. A Freewill Offering was taken for our Good Samaritan Fund in the amount of \$422.00. Many thanks to Grace Leighton who chaired this event and to all those who helped in its success, including the youth who helped with the serving. Many compliments have been received.



*Faith, Hope & Love at their December meeting at the Olive Garden*

*Sarah Circle at their December meeting at Coco's, before it closed forever*



### January Meetings

#### Bookends

Thursday, January 14,  
9:30 am

Church Library

Hostess: Virgene Engberg

Reviewer: Doris Hood

Book: *Go Set a Watchman*

#### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, January 20  
7:00 pm

Location TBA

#### Sarah Circle

Thursday, January 14  
9:30 am

Breakfast out

Location TBA



#### Fundraiser

Nancy Summer was the recipient of the quilted wall hanging made and donated by Sharon Mountford.



# Congratulations, Cadet Alvarado

*On December 13, the church family rejoiced in the accomplishments of Shawn Alvarado. He served as acolyte that morning, wearing his new LAPD Cadet uniform.*



Shawn Matthew Alvarado's journey began back in May 2015, when his friend Jose told him about the Los Angeles Police Department's Cadet Program at the Topanga Police Station. The program meets every Tuesday and he could learn a lot of things that would help him become a better person. We all agreed to go and see what this program was all about. Shawn, Dylan and Dominic all wanted to be a part of the program. Shawn was considered a recruit, until he started his training in August.

Every Saturday for 18 weeks, he had to be at the Topanga Police Station at 6:00 am dressed in 1 of 3 different uniforms. During this time he attended classes, participated in physical activities and did volunteer work.

Shortly after Shawn started the program Dylan and Dominic began their journey as Junior Cadets. Hopefully they will continue and when they turn 13, they will also begin their training to become LAPD Cadets like their brother Shawn.

Shawn finished his training in December and was part of a graduating class of over 550 cadets in a ceremony at the Galen Center in Los Angeles. The graduation

marked the end of his training and the beginning of a new life journey as Cadet Alvarado.

We are so proud of him and ask that God will bless him, and all the cadets, everyday. We would like to give a special Thank You to Nancy Summer. She and her husband were a part of Shawn's Journey. They taught Shawn how to iron his uniform and polish his shoes and helped him get a haircut every week. They are always there for us. Nancy is Our Angel and we are very thankful that God has sent us someone special like our Nancy Summer. We love you so much, Nancy, and will be forever thankful for everything you do for our family

*Marcela Rodriguez (proud Mom)*

*Cadet Alvarado (Shawn Matthew Alvarado)*

*Dylan & Dominic Bautista (Jr. Cadet recruits)*

## Parking Lot Repair

The parking lot will be under repair December 23 and resealed / striped on Mon/Tues January 4-5th, when parking will be restricted to the street. This repair was initiated for safety and our hope of prolonging the life of the asphalt. The cost is about \$13,000 of which we have about \$10,000 already designated from the Capital Fund and donations to date. We are looking for additional monies to cover the remaining \$3,000. Please consider an extra gift to keep our facilities up to date! Mark any checks "Parking Lot Repair." We thank you for your generosity in advance!!

## Human Relations Day January 17, 2016

Our offering makes a real difference. Take, for instance, the story of Robin W. in Oklahoma. Robin spent three years in jail for drug trafficking. She had a distorted image of God. She did not even know if God loved her. Today, she is addiction-free and helps other women find recovery. Today, she shows others Christ's powerful and transformative love. She does this through her work with Exodus House. Exodus House provides transitional housing to formerly incarcerated drug and alcohol addicts, and, with it, a new picture of the love of Christ. This ministry is just one of many we support when we give on Human Relations Day.



Tuesday, January 5  
11:00 am...Lounge

**It's Crazy Socks Day!**

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**

The Christmas program we had on Wednesday, December 16th was a great way to get into the holiday spirit. Thank You to our church family for coming to watch us sing! A good time was had by all.

As you are reading this, we are enjoying our winter break! Our first day back to school will be Monday, January 11, 2016, ready and refreshed for a new year!

It's a good time for parents to start their little ones who weren't ready in September, but now can start Preschool. We will observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 18th. Look for information next month about our Trike- A-Thon and "Dental Month!"

Wendy



The Ferrin Family

Perla Mercado

Lori Dimmick

Devon Cates

Mike and Annie Tart

Robin Abernathy

Karen Grengs' mother

Hope Schmidt

Stan Dimmick

Evelyn Heim

La Dean Owen

Lois and Ted Jimenez

Chuck Engberg



To receive Prayer Chain

e-mails, please contact

Robin Abernathy at

[robingreenbird@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

*Experience is the best teacher,  
but the tuition is very costly.*

*Oliver Cromwell*

## Congratulations, Roger

Roger Johnson has faithfully served the church. As we come the end of the year, we recognize and appreciate his thirty remarkable years as our Lay Leader. He was recently awarded a crystal cross through which the light shines in beautiful ways. This reflects the way the Light of the World shines in his life.



## Angel Tree 2015

Many thanks to everyone involved in making the 2015 Angel Tree a success. All those who helped prepare the angels for the Angel Tree by putting the names on the angel decorations; those persons who helped on Sunday mornings with the sign-ups; carrying the gifts to the Brides Room; Lora & Tim O'Connor, Nancy Summer & Stan Westover who helped prepare the gifts for pickup; to all the persons who took the angels and bought the presents. It was greatly appreciated. Again thank you all for participating in this most worthwhile project.

## Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

**Sunday, January 10**

During worship, you are welcome to reaffirm your Baptismal Covenant. The Baptismal Covenant is God's word to us, proclaiming our adoption by grace, and our word to God promising our response of faith and love....Christians are encouraged to reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant from time to time. Such reaffirmation is not, however, to be understood as the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is not administered to any person more than once, for while our baptismal vows may be less than reliable, God's promise to us in the sacrament is steadfast.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The United Methodist Hymnal, page 32*

## From the Mailbox



I want to say thank you to our entire congregation for the honor and gift given to me in recognition of my serving a total of thirty years as your Lay Leader. It has been a real growth experience to be trusted by you, to serve God, and to assist our most recent five pastors in this way. This beautiful crystal cross now sits in the center of our home as a remembrance to Nancy and me of the blessings we enjoy while serving in Jesus name.

Thank you all once again,  
*Roger Johnson*

Dear First UMC of Canoga Park,

I am writing to announce my resignation as Nursery attendant and SS teacher, effective now. This was not an easy decision to make. The past 8 years have been very rewarding. I've enjoyed working for you and managing a very fun Sunday School and nursery. This church and its members have helped me through so much.

Thank you for all the opportunities for growth that you have provided me. These were the best 8 years. But, since I moved to Santa Barbara, the cost of traveling every Sunday on the train has proved to be a financial burden. If I can be of any help during the transition, please don't hesitate to ask.

*Alexia Mendoza*

Thank you, Pastor Lynn and all the wonderful church friends, for the beautiful memorial service and reception for Jonathan! It was a glorious day and a good way for us all to move forward in our closure and healing process. ... Blessings to you and the church this Christmas season and hugs of love and thanks for everything!

*The Ferrin & Evans Family*



## In Memoriam

*Pastor Lynn conducted memorial services in recent weeks for Rod Mercado, husband of Perla Mercado, and Jonathan Ferrin, son of the late Pat and Ralph Ferrin.*

### Jonathan Henry Ferrin

12 October 1962 – 2 August 2015



Jonathan worked at Rocketdyne on the J-2X rocket engine program. After evaluating the new nozzle design and all the previous designs, he designed some elegant tooling for the new nozzle. His creativity and

ingenuity were well-known and respected. He excelled at every job from Janitor to Tooling Designer to Combustion Devices Designer.

Jonathan was charismatic and had a good sense of humor and a beautiful heart. He was loving and kind and would help others when he could, whether it was a person or a Great Dane. A large black dog followed him home from school one day in Junior High and stayed. The dog even figured out how to climb up to the top bunk bed in order to sleep with Jonathan.

Jon enjoyed nature and painted watercolor landscapes of mountains, trees, and the sunset. He dabbled in photography and did a sculpture of Tom's head. He liked the electric guitar, Jimmy Hendrix, and building airplane models. And he loved to watch TV shows like *Star Trek*, *The Outer Limits*, *The Big Bang Theory*, and *The Twilight Zone*.

He was a devoted father who exposed Devin to karate, piano and more. Scouting was a big part of their life together. They always had the fastest cars in the Pinewood Derby, thanks to Jonathan's engineering skills. When it became necessary for Jon to move out of the family home, he missed Devin terribly.

### Rod Pasion Mercado

14 December 1937 – 19 November 2015



Rod, born in the Philippines, came to the United States in 1958 when he was 18 years old. He went to Hawaii first and attended the University of Hawaii. He moved to Los Angeles and attended

Woodbury College for a degree in Business Administration. He worked as a Claims Manager with Blue Cross for thirty-three years.

The first time Rod met Perla, he told to his friend, "I'm going to marry her." And he did, on 10 September 1964. The Mercados have two children, Courtney and Liza, and four grandchildren, Brooke, Alana, Tiana, and Nico.

Rod and Perla enjoyed camping on holidays with a group of friends whose kids were about the same age as their children. They camped all across California and as far as Vancouver.

Rod had a wonderful gun collection and loved to hunt. He had a green thumb and loved to garden! He had all kinds of fruit trees, including persimmon, Honey Tangerine, Navel Orange, Blood Orange, and Pomelo Grapefruit. He liked roses, pansies, and whatever flowering plants were in season.

The Narvacan Club of town-mates meant so much to Rod. They were friends from elementary school through old age. They came to visit at the house. Seeing them was his happiness.

Although Rod grew up in the Catholic Church, he joined First United Methodist Church in Canoga Park in 1978 and attended services with his family.

# Thanks for Sharing!

On December 13, Anthony Hernandez played *Silent Night* as the Offertory in the morning worship service.

Anthony started playing the accordion when he was 9 years old. His dad enrolled him in music class with his 2 step sisters Ana Maria and Erika. All 3 play the accordion. They went to school once a week, but practiced every day for an hour and a half.

His dad was very involved with their music so that he also learned to play the accordion and learned how to read music so he could help his kids in their practice. Anthony attended music school for about six years. He performed for the music school every semester in front of his parents' and classmates. Even though Anthony finished attending music school, he still practices and he is asked to play for family events. He has a notebook with over 100 music sheets that he knows how to play on the accordion.

We were extremely proud when he reached out to Paul Cady for permission to play for our church Family and



very thankful that the church loved his performance. With God's help Anthony will continue to perform for our church, as it brought so much joy to all of us. On behalf of our family we give thanks for our church family

*Maria & Carlos Laguna*

Visit us @ [umcnp.org](http://umcnp.org)



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