



June 2016

# The Courier

**First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park**

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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

## Heart to Heart

I have loved mockingbirds, since I was seven and quarantined with scarlet fever. Mama rescued an injured bird. While recuperating, he was in a cage and kept me company. So I am delighted that Northern Mockingbirds live in our neighborhood.

Not so long ago a male bird claimed the tree outside our bedroom window and began to sing. He sang all day. Then, he got serious and sang night and day. He was singing when I went to sleep, when I turned over at night and when I got up in the morning. And he kept singing throughout the day.

When his songs became less frequent, I decided he found a female, and they would live happily ever after. I had no proof, but this is what I thought.

Then, something happened that convinced me a nest was nearby. I saw a mockingbird swooping, diving and pecking a big black cat. The cat would turn to defend itself but the bird was already poised to strike again. That bird drove the cat across the street and through the neighbor's hedge. And it stayed on guard, watching where the cat went through the hedge.

The nestlings did not see papa fiercely protect the nest, but he did. And sometimes we – God's children – do not see our heavenly Father's protection either. But God does protect and watch over us.

Like a shepherd seeks a lost sheep, God seeks and saves the lost. Like a woman searches for a lost coin until it is found, God seeks and saves the lost. Like a father receives the prodigal son returning home, God welcomes us, and lets the past be the past.

Why? Because God loves you with a fierce love.

*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



# June Calendar

## Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am  
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Cub Scout Pack 474, Scout Room, 7:00 pm  
TOPS, Room 10, 7:00 pm  
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

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Tuesday 7 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Thursday 9 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am  
Sarah Circle, Breakfast at Denny's, 9:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Saturday 11 Gardner-Robertson Wedding, Sanctuary, 11:00 am  
*Garden reception following*
- Sunday 12 Newton Task Force meeting, Library, 11:30 am
- Tuesday 14 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 15 Courier Deadline for the July/August issue
- Wednesday 15 Faith, Hope & Love, Dinner at Olive Garden, 6:30 pm  
*6501 Fallbrook Avenue, West Hills*
- June 16-18 Annual Conference, Redlands (*see below*)
- Sunday 19 Father's Day
- Tuesday 21 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am

## Upcoming in July

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Monday 4 Independence Day, office closed

### June Birthdays

- 1 Karen Grengs
- 3 Betty Phillippi
- 11 Ron Alderman
- 14 Bonnie Coleman
- 16 Barbara Dimmick
- 18 Isabelle Walters
- 19 Robert Lamb
- 24 Jim Ervin
- 25 Pat Taylor
- 29 Toby Lane  
Tamara Palmerlee

### Anniversaries

- 2 Wendy & Brian Finley
- 5 Grant & Trish Simmons
- 6 Paul & Barbara Coffman
- 12 Wilbur & Flora Wilhelm
- 21 Bob & Dawn Hromadka  
Tim & Lora O'Connor
- 25 Jack & Betty Barlow  
Tom & Glynene Roe
- 27 John & Barbara Caldwell
- 29 Jennifer & Jim Ervin

*If your special day is missing,  
please contact the church office.*



### ALTAR FLOWERS

- 5 open
- 12 Jack and Betty Barlow in  
honor of their 61st  
anniversary  
Helen Robertson in  
celebration of Jackie and  
Joshua's wedding
- 9 open
- 26 In honor of the 50th  
anniversary of Tom &  
Glynene Roe.

## 32nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference

"Therefore, Go" is the theme this year based on Paragraph 122 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline and the passage of Matthew 28:19-20. Our lay delegates are Grace Leighton and Trish Simmons. Our clergy delegate is Lynn Westover. Uphold the work of Annual Conference in your prayers.



## Reading Program

Books for the 2016 United Methodist Women’s Reading Program are now available for UMW members or other interested women. We’re hoping that you will find some titles that will enhance your knowledge and understanding of your faith and issues facing the world today.

I’d like to tell you about one of our choices, *I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood up for Education and was shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai*. When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala spoke out and fought for her right to an education. She almost paid the ultimate price. The 16 year-old’s miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York and worldwide fame.

If you complete your plan and fill out a simple form, you are eligible for an award at the District Meeting in December. Please contact me if there are any questions.

*Pat Taylor – Program Resource Coordinator*



## Fun Fund-raiser

On May 17, 63 people joined us for dinner at the HomeTown Buffet. Everyone had time eat their fill and visit with friends. Thanks to Toby Lane and Liz Rogers for arranging the party. The church coffers netted \$410. Plan to join us for the next restaurant party!

## Grant Proposals

In 2015, the Newton Task Force awarded the following grants:

- Elementary teacher (Grades 1-8) – funding for 2 years;
- Youth Teacher (Grades 9-12) – funding for 2 years; and
- Three special events for Sunday School each year – funding for 2 years.

The task force will meet Sunday, June 12, at 11:30 am to consider grant proposals for programs and events that will benefit our church and/or community. Send grant requests **no later than Wednesday, June 8**, to Pastor Lynn at [preachingbarefoot@att.net](mailto:preachingbarefoot@att.net).



## June Meetings

### Bookends

Thursday, June 9

12:00 noon

Lunch at the Red Lobster

22800 Vanowen,

Canoga Park

Telephone: 818 713-9297

### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, June 15

6:30 pm

Dinner at the Olive Garden

6501 Fallbrook Ave.

West Hills

### Sarah Circle

Thursday, June 9

9:30 am

Breakfast at Denny’s

8330 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

(north of Roscoe Blvd.)



## 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.

## Preschool

The school year is coming to an end. We have 21 five-year-olds who will be "Graduating" from Preschool this month. Ready for kindergarten, these children will have a little bit of an edge moving on in their education due to all they were taught during their time here at FUMP!

There will be a performance for parents, family & friends on Friday, June 10th, at 11:00am in the church sanctuary. We invite you all to come and see the kids perform their songs. This will also be our last day of school!

We will be back on Tuesday, June 21st, to start our 6-week summer school.

Wendy



Tuesday  
June 7  
11:00 am  
Lounge

We will be playing our fun dice game.  
Bring a wrapped gift from the Dollar Store.  
Pot luck will be salads and desserts.  
Shower ministry collection to continue.



## Ready –Set – Smile!

Mary Mackay

It is time for a new church directory. With your help, the skills of our Courier team, Sharon Mountford and Julie Mosley, and the keen eyes of our volunteer photographers Trish and Grant Simmons, we plan to prepare this directory in-house.

Our Bride's Room will be converted into a photo setting area. Pictures will be taken each Sunday morning before church at 9:30 AM and during the Fellowship Time, following worship. Reservations are not needed. We will begin on Sunday, June 19th, and continue through July.

For our homebound members, we will contact you to schedule a visit and to take your picture. For our members living at a distance, please send us a picture with your current contact information to include in the directory.

*We need your smile! Get ready!*

## Cub Scout Pack 474 Recruitment Night

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park agreed to sponsor a Cub Scout Pack. Scout leaders have been working with the church and district to coordinate everything and launched the recruitment drive.

Maria Flores took flyers to the local schools and churches. Betsy Lacson has agreed to be the Cubmaster.

The first meeting for the new Cub Scout Pack 474 was Monday, May 9, at 7:00 pm in the Scout Room. Adults were there to talk to the prospective scouts and their parents about the program. Scouts were also there too to lead some activities and show the kids a good time.

*Stan Westover and Tim O'Connor modeling their aprons at last month's Leisure Club meeting on the history of the apron.*

## Church Summer Camps

Our camps are week long, overnight, Christian-based camps where your child will engage in worship, small group activities, large group activities and games. At summer camp, your children will grow in their faith, learn leadership skills, grow their self-esteem, develop inter-personal skills with peers and adults, make life-long friendships and have fun.

### 2016 Camp Dates

#### Camp Cedar Glen

Younger Elem - July 10-13

Older Elem - July 10-16

Jr Hi - July 17-23

Sr Hi - July 24-30

#### Lazy W Ranch

Elem - July 10-15

Jr Hi - July 17-23

Sr Hi - July 24-30

Fearless Adventure: June 26-July 1  
(Grades 8-11)

Night Owls: June 26-July 1 (Grades 6-9)

#### Camp Wrightwood

Younger Elem - June 29-July 2

Elem - June 26-July 2

Sr Hi - July 17-23

Jr Hi - July 24-30,

#### Surf & Film Camps

##### @ Aldersgate Retreat Center

Film - July 10-16 (Grades 7-12)

Surf - July 10-16 (Grades 7-12)

*For more information go to the camp website: [www.calpaccamps.org](http://www.calpaccamps.org)*

*If you have questions, call Margaret Cates at 818 919-9444.*

## Sunday School

Church school is on break for the summer.

### New email address for the church office

Starting in July, we will transition to a new email address for the church office. The new email address will be [crossandflame@att.net](mailto:crossandflame@att.net). The old email addresses will still be active and monitored during the transition period, and you will receive a friendly reminder to update your records to [crossandflame@att.net](mailto:crossandflame@att.net). Rest assured your emails will not be lost in the transition, and we will provide ample time and reminders for everyone to update their records.



### From the Mailbox

Dear Friends,

Maybe I'll see all of you at Jackie and Josh's wedding. This may be the last wedding of my family as Jackie is the youngest grandchild. All 3 of our kids were married there, grandson, Mike & Shanelle La Grasta. Christy and Rob were married at the "Odyssey" by Gary (then First Church Canoga Park). Both Christy & Jackie were baptized here. Mike joined as a young man. Raised Catholic!

*Love,*

*Helen Robertson*



Jackie Dutcher  
Irene Zelaya  
Charlotte Girvan  
Grant Simmons  
Anita Parrinello & family  
The Wilken family  
Walter Deonik  
Teddy Howell's family  
Pastor Herb Lucas  
Ruth Albrecht  
Martin & Margaret Shuler  
Jasper Hood  
Hope Schmidt  
Stan Dimmick  
Don & Evelyn Heim  
Ted Jimenez  
Chuck Engberg

*To receive Prayer Chain e-mails, please contact Robin Abernathy at [robingreenbird@yahoo.com](mailto:robingreenbird@yahoo.com) "cc" the church office at [FUMCCP@sbcglobal.net](mailto:FUMCCP@sbcglobal.net)*

### Transportation Ministry

If you need a ride to church events, 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.

# Remembering.....

## **Elvera Laurel Deonik**

*22 November 1925 – 15 March 2016*

Elvera earned a business degree and mastered all of the secretarial skills. She then worked in Chicago for an attorney as well as for a financial institution. Elvera's mother was a friend of the Deonik family and it was at their home that she met Walter. They fell in love and were married on 3 September 1953 in Chicago. They had a son, Craig, who died when he was only forty-nine years old. This was a painful loss in their lives.

When Walter was in the service, he was stationed in California. Since they liked the climate and the area, they moved here when Rocketdyne was hiring engineers like Walter. Elvera, who started as a clerk at Litton Industries, finished her thirty-year career as Secretary to the President.

Elvera was kind and thoughtful – always putting others ahead of herself. She delighted in children and would always stop wherever she was to talk with a child. She enjoyed people. When she went to see the doctor, everyone greeted her with hugs and kisses. She liked to play the poker machines, and even people at the casino knew her by name.

Elvera was an incredibly positive person. No matter what was happening in her life, she would make every day the best day possible. Even as she came to the end of life, she was true to form. She did not complain and steadfastly said, *These are going to be the best days of our lives.*

Elvera bowled weekly in a league. Recently she was immensely pleased when her team won the first place trophy for the most wins in the league.

Elvera grew up in the Methodist Church in Chicago. Faith was an important part of her life. She read the Bible every day. She would grab her Bible and climb onto her stationary bike. In this way, she read the Bible all the way through every year. The front cover is tattered and torn. So is the

back cover. Her Bible is indeed well worn, but she never wanted a new one. She would say that her Bible is like an old friend.

Elvera had a little booklet with prayers for just about any event in life that she kept close at hand. Every night, she prayed for many people by name and said the Lord's Prayer. In recent days, when the pain was great, she would pray, God help me. And sometimes, she said, *If it's your will, take me.* When Elvera called to tell me her prognosis, she said, *The doctor told me I'm going to heaven soon.*

*Excerpted from Pastor Lynn's eulogy*

## **Teddy Howell**

*22 July 1921 – 26 March 2016*

Teddy Howell was an active member of our church for many years, occupying her favorite seat on the cross aisle.

She was an active member of United Methodist Women, whose members admired her quick wit and boundless energy. They awarded her a Special Mission Recognition

During World War II she worked at the prominent publishing company Time Incorporated in Chicago, and then went to the University to extend her schooling. There she met her husband Harold. They had three daughters, Patti, Cheryl & Christi and one son Harold, as well as a number of grandchildren.

She was a charter member of Senior Friends here in the Valley and she belonged to the Republican Women's Association.

Teddy was an avid gardener. The Garden Club was one of her passions and she was the horticulture chairwoman for the West Valley Garden Club. She was in charge of our church prayer chain for several years.

She joined our United Methodist Women's unit in 1994 and served as Secretary and Mission Coordinator for Christian Global Concerns. She was an active member of Bookends Circle acting as its chairperson.

*Services are pending.*

# Liana Burdsall

10 July 1932 – 24 April 2016

Liana, was born in Los Angeles, a first generation American. She studied for and received an Associate Degree in Office Management.

She met Paul Burdsall, her future husband, when they worked at the same aerospace facility.

They were married 22 November 1958 and enjoyed fifty-four years together. They have four children Paula (Mark), Julie, David, and Anita (Louis); nine grandchildren Jessica (Justin), Michael, Alexandra, Andrew, Nicholas, Ashley, Christopher, Grant and Christian; and a great-grandchild, Madeline Grace.

Liana had the fun of being a stay-at-home mom until Anita turned fifteen. Then, she worked at Great Western in data entry for seventeen years.

She was always there for her children. Every kid in the neighborhood liked coming over to play at the Burdsall home, because Liana would let them set up Barbie's house wherever they wanted. And because Paul put a basketball court, volleyball net, swing set, and regular drinking fountain in the backyard.

Liana helped the kids with their newspaper drives. She did not do the work for them; she taught them how to do it. She taught them how to tie the newspapers. And she taught them to make a pile of newspapers the size they were able to carry.

When the children were growing up and participating in all kinds of sports, mom was always taking kids to practice. She was there, whenever they played a game.

Liana was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church. For a long time, she attended St. Bernardine's Catholic Church on Valley Circle. Even though she stopped attending services there, she kept the faith. Her bedroom was filled with crosses – even Palm Sunday crosses from this church. More importantly, she kept her prayer cards close at hand. When she was in the hospital, she asked the family to bring her prayer cards. Her prayer cards are well worn from the many prayers she lifted to God.

*Excerpted from Pastor Lynn's eulogy*

# UMC Market

Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.umcmarket.org>

## **How does the program work?**

When you shop online at one of the thousands of participating stores, a percentage of every dollar you spend is contributed by those stores to your church. For instance, if you shop at a store listed as "3%," that means for every \$100 you spend, \$3 is contributed to church, at no additional cost to you.

## **Does this program cost me anything?**

No. Participating in the program is free, and the contributions made to your church is paid entirely by the participating merchants, not by you.

## **Do stores charge me more when I make purchases through this program?**

No. They are thanking you for your business by making a corresponding contribution to your church.

## **How do I get the savings?**

Clicking on the "Shop Now" button in any offer will take you to that store's online store, where you will be directed to the product or products associated with that particular offer. The savings will typically be displayed at checkout. Some of our offers contain a coupon code that you enter during the checkout process in order to get the savings.

## **Do I always have to visit the deal site first in order to qualify my purchases for a contribution?**

No. If you use a Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or FireFox web browser you can install our "Support Button," which will alert you when you visit the website of a participating store, and automatically enable the spend-based contribution to your church without visiting the deal site first.



2016 Family Portrait

Visit us @ umcnp.org

Tuesday, June 14



Return Service Requested

22700 Sherman Way  
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

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