



The Courier

First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

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

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

September 2016

Brothers and Sisters,

Grace and peace to you in the precious name of Christ Jesus.

Effective September 1, I will be assuming my new assignment as the bishop of the California-Nevada Conference.



A reassignment at this point in my ministry was not what I had hoped for or expected, but as a bishop of the church I go where I am sent. It was in going where I was sent that I came to you, and what a blessing it has been to serve as your bishop. It has truly been a privilege to serve among you. The love I carry in my heart for all of you without exception goes with me. The memories we have created together will bless me for the rest of my life.

You are a passionate community of disciples of Jesus Christ and I pray that you will continue to inspire the world; you certainly have inspired me. You have taught me a great deal about reaching out to ALL God's children, and through you I have been blessed in seeing other glorious dimensions of God's life-giving love. I thank God for all of you.

I pray that you will continue to persevere in serving Christ Jesus. Be unafraid to tackle human sin and injustice, in the knowledge that the grace, mercy and love of Christ our Lord are at work through you every time you step out in faithfulness to him. Set aside all doubt that you can indeed transform the world. Remember that you are disciples of Jesus, our living Lord, who has already transformed the world by overcoming sin and the suffering and death it brings. I also pray that you will love each other. In loving each other and welcoming others with even greater love, you will give the brightest witness of the love of God within you and among us.

As I pray for you, pray for me and our brothers and sisters in the California-Nevada Conference. We are family together, our life and witness bound together by the One Lord we love and serve.

Peace and love,

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño, Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop



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

Grant Hagiya

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Jim Powell



September Calendar

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, *resuming on September 9*

Other Activities

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Monday 5 Labor Day, Office Closed
- Thursday 8 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am
Sarah Circle; Denny's, 9:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Friday 9 Interment for Janice Hawley, 10:00 am, Rose Garden
- Saturday 10 Service for Marilyn Kleinsmith, 2:00 pm
Sunrise Westlake Village, 3101 Townsgate Rd.,
Westlake Village
- Sunday 11 Sunday School classes resume (*see page 7*)
Final photo session for the Directory, after church
- Tuesday 13 Administrative Committee, Library, 7 pm
- Thursday 15 Courier Deadline for October issue
- Tuesday 20 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 21 Faith, Hope & Love, home of Nancy Summer
- Sunday 25 Annual All-Church Barbecue, 3:30 pm

Upcoming in October

- Saturday 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Tuesday 4 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am

Last Call For Pictures

If you have not had your picture taken or submitted your picture for the new directory, NOW IS THE TIME. There will be one last photo time on Sunday, September 11th, following worship. Mark it on your calendar – we don't want to miss you.

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 818-280-6441 or Mary Mackay at 818-346-5872.

September Birthdays

- 2 Donald Heim
- 4 Rae Wilken
- 10 Rebecca Roe
- 15 Barbara Caldwell
Herbert Lucas
- 17 Joshua Gardner
Florence Lamb
- 18 Dominic Bautista
- 22 Ali Nejad
- 26 Bettye Nowlin
- 29 Lynne German
Ginger Huston
Wilbur Wilhelm
- 30 George Grengs

Anniversaries

- 7 Byron & Mary McKibben
Jack & Pat Taylor
- 15 Joe & Sylvia Buttemeier
- 24 Norm & Bonnie Coleman

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



ALTAR FLOWERS

- 4 Given by PJ Umphres in
memory of Wally
- 11 Given by Roger & Nancy
Johnson in *memory of*
Laura Longman
- 18 Given by Charlotte
Girvan in *memory of Rose*
Hadley's birthday
- 25 Given by the Connolly
family in *memory of Bob*
Connolly



UMW General Meeting

Thursday, September 15 at 9:30 in the Lounge. Program will be World Thank Offering.

UMW North District Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
Simi Valley UMC

Merritt Memorial Fund

Many thanks to all who contributed to the United Methodist Women's Merritt Memorial Fund making it possible for four of our youth (Shawn, Dominic, Dylan and Dante) to attend summer camp. We are grateful for the support of this program for our youth.

UMW Annual Afghan Opportunity

Again this year you will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for a beautiful afghan. Tickets will go on sale every Sunday after worship starting September 11 until September 25 and at the All Church BBQ. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 tickets for \$5.00. Proceeds benefit UMW's mission and ministries work.

Report from Bookends

Lynne German

In July we reviewed I AM MALALA: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, by Malala Yousafzai. Since Malaya turned 19 on July 12th, we celebrated her birthday at the beginning of our meeting. We also made signs with the slogan, #BooksNotBullets, and listed our favorite books. Malaya encouraged women worldwide to go online last year and do this on her 18th birthday. So here we are a year later keeping the tradition.



Faith, Hope & Love Circle at Lamplighter's



September Meetings

Bookends

Thursday, September 8
10:00 am
Church Library
Hostess: Doris Hood
Book: *Rogue Lawyer*,
by John Grisham

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, September 21
7:00 pm
Home of Nancy Summer,
23438 Canzonet Street,
Woodland Hills

Sarah Circle

Thursday, September 8
9:30 am
Breakfast at Denny's
8330 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
(north of Roscoe Blvd.)



**FOOD
PANTRY**

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 Special Mission Recognition

Timothy O'Connor ... July 17, 2016

Eleven years ago United Methodist Women began recognizing a man in our congregation by awarding him a UMW Special Mission Recognition Award for his hard work, volunteerism and dedication. This year's awardee is Tim O'Connor.

Tim began life on August 15, 1943 in Santa Monica right in the middle of World War II. He suffered from asthma from a very early age. His parents decided to move to North Hollywood when he was seven, thinking the drier climate might help with their son's asthma but it hardly had any effect. His parents decided to move to Encino when he was in his teens. Tim started taking up weight lifting. His first set of weights consisted of two one-gallon paint cans filled with cement with a broom handle connecting the two cans. While attending Reseda High School he got interested in gymnastics and started to compete on the "Still Rings" for a few years. He feels his weight training helped in the sport as well as overcoming his asthma. He competed against different high schools which included Canoga Park High School, where he met a young man who later became his best friend, Darold Cates. When each finished their respective high schools these two young men would meet on occasion and work out. Subsequently, around 1965-1966 they would share an apartment.

One night when Tim went to a club in Van Nuys he met two young ladies. He introduced his best friend to one of the ladies and they subsequently got married. Not too long after that Tim attended another club and met a shy young lady who was attending a club for the very first time. He asked



her to dance and they had a great time that night. That was in October of 1967. That weekend while walking through Topanga Mall with a friend he spotted a jewelry store – Kay's Jeweler. He told his friend that he was going to get married. His friend thought he was crazy; however, Tim did marry the young lady in June, 1969. They have had a

wonderful marriage for 47 years and have two wonderful children, a son and daughter as well as a beautiful granddaughter.

Tim worked as a teamster for 25 years in a grocery warehouse. After falling off the roof at their home in 1988, he started working for the AMC Theatres and ended up working there for 17 years. Finally he retired and has enjoyed time spent at Big Bear Lake and spending time with his children and grandchild.

Tim and Lora joined our Church in 2008. He was not a churchgoer but came one Sunday to hear his best friend's wife, Margaret Cates, play her flute for One Generation. His involvement with church began with helping his wife Lora with the paraments as a function of the Worship Committee. For several years he helped with Wonderful Wednesday barbecues. He and his new-found church friend, Stan Westover, are "Jacks of all Trades." They help in so many ways to maintain the church property, such as changing light bulbs, gutter cleaning (both church and preschool), shampooing carpets, varnishing benches, maintaining the memorial fountain and marquee, etc. Tim sets up and takes down tables and chairs for UMW and Leisure Club events, and serves as a head usher.

Episcopal Assignment

Grant Hagiya was elected as a Bishop from the California-Pacific Conference. He has been serving in the Pacific-Northwest Conference. Watch for announcements for the celebration receptions for Bishop Hagiya in September and October, hosted by each of the five districts. Plan to attend our North District celebration.

How Bishops Are Assigned

Summary by Rev. Adiel DePano, Chair of Cal-Pac Episcopacy Committee

Bishops are assigned by their jurisdiction or central conference to serve a geographical area for a four-year term. There are 46 episcopal areas in the United States and 20 episcopal areas outside the United States. New bishops may not be assigned to the area where they were a clergy member until at least four years after their election; however, the Book of Discipline allows for this restriction to be superseded by a two-thirds vote of both the jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy and the jurisdictional conference. Bishops may be assigned to the same area for up to three quadrennia.

After the election of new bishops, each jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy recommends to the jurisdictional conferences the assignment of bishops to their episcopal areas. New bishops are consecrated, not ordained. They remain elders in the denomination, but they become ordained members of the Council of Bishops instead of an annual conference. Assignments take effect September 1.

A Note from Your Shower Ministry

As most of you know we are up and running every Tuesday from 8:15 am until anywhere from 12 to 2. Attendance varies each week from a low of twelve to a high of twenty-one. Several people have asked if there is anything we need. One need is for used bath towels in fair to good condition. After over four years of weekly washing and bleaching many of our towels are getting thin and falling apart. Also, if you are in the Dollar Store, the items we use weekly are: shampoo, bar soap, body wash, disposable razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant. At this time, thanks to the Leisure Club, we do not need socks.

*Thanks from your Shower Committee
Grace, Mervin, Beulah and Toby*

From the Mailbox

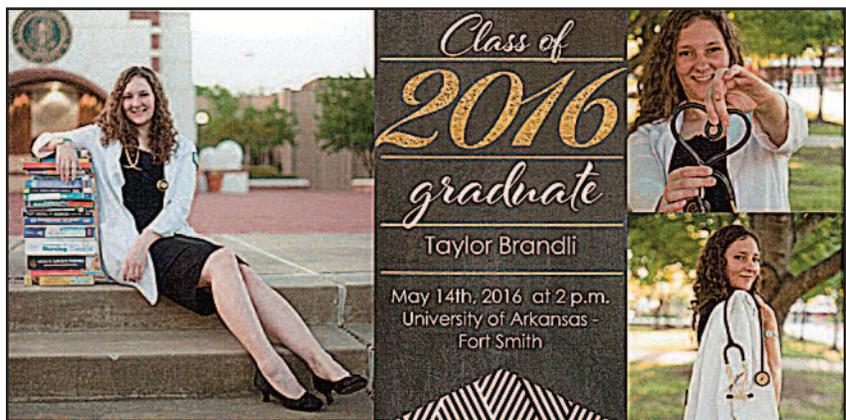
I just wanted to let you know that this is finally happening! Thank you for introducing me to the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship. It was much needed and appreciated. Please pass my thanks along to the Laura Longman Scholarship Committee and your congregation.

Love, Taylor Brandli



Evelyn Heim
George Dutcher
Louis Parrinello
Wendy Finley
Irene Zelaya
Linda Woods
Robin Abernathy
Tammy Palmerlee
Joe Buttemeier
Connie Cook
Michael Hawley
Barbara Schmidt
Jane Card
Brenda Jones
Ruth Albrecht
Martin & Margaret Shuler
Jasper Hood
Barbara & Stan Dimmick
Ted Jimenez
Chuck Engberg
LaDean Owen


To receive Prayer Chain e-mails, please contact Robin Abernathy at robingreenbird@yahoo.com "cc" the church office at crossandflame@att.net



A Call to Generous Giving



All of who we are and what we have comes from God. And God asks us to

respond generously as we give of our life's work and financial resources. During Paul's second missionary journey, he held up the Macedonian church as an example: they had nothing, yet still managed to give "as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." In fact, they begged for the opportunity to do more. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5) As Paul put out the call, we call on you to respond abundantly to God's love as we care for our church family and our neighbors.

Here's a brief review of our Stewardship Program Financial gifts are about your personal approach to stewardship. Consider a percentage increase from last year or setting a plan for tithing (10% of your income).

Your gifts are confidential and seen only by our Financial Secretaries.

Why do we need Estimated Giving Cards? The projected totals help develop a church budget for 2017.

Share your time and talents by considering something new this year! Contact Pastor Lynn for ideas about how you might join with others to make our church more effective.

This year's Stewardship Program begins in October and runs for three weeks:

Inspiration Sunday, October 9th

A guest speaker will deliver a stewardship message. Your individual stewardship packet will be available for pick-up. If you can't attend this service, your packet will be mailed.

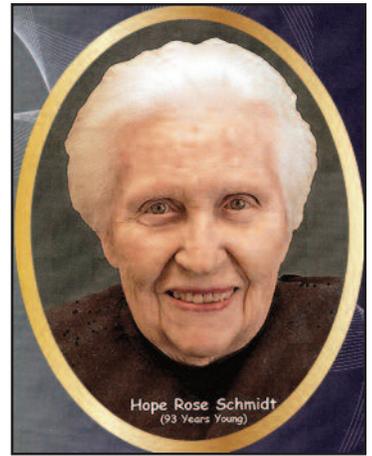
Celebration Sunday, October 16th

A few of our members will deliver personal messages about stewardship. We'll bring our estimate of giving cards up to the altar to be blessed. If you forget your card, there will be blank ones available at the service.

Remembering Hope Rose Schmidt

18 March 1921 – 18 July 2016

Hope was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her early childhood was spent at Lake Miramar and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



She was raised Christian Science and later became Methodist. She married her childhood sweetheart, Erwin Herbert Schmidt, in 1942. They were at each other's side for fifty-five years, until his death in 1997.

Hope and Erwin moved from the Milwaukee suburbs to Canoga Park in 1962. She devoted her life to raising her four children, while Erwin, a metallurgical engineer, worked in the space industry. She remained in the Canoga Park home she loved, until her death.

Remembering Hope – her life stories, the fun sense of humor, the kind words of wisdom and motherly advice she shared from the heart – helps to soften the sadness felt by her surviving children, Patricia Huston, Jeffrey Schmidt and Barbara Schmidt.

Gratitude Sunday, October 23th

We will report the initial totals for 2017.

Stewardship Committee: Co-chairs Judith Austin & George Grengs, Dana Dreyfuss, Shirley Ilgenfritz, Mary Mackay, Trish Simmons, Isabelle Walters, Pastor Lynn Westover

"Why I Give"

Would you be willing to join a couple of your fellow congregants and speak briefly about your stewardship experience during our October 16th Sunday service? We will also bring our Estimated Giving cards to the altar in Week 2 of our Stewardship Program. If you're interested in participating, please contact Pastor Lynn through Julie in the church office.

A Letter from Joe

Dear church family,

Words cannot express the wonderful comfort and support that all of the cards, calls, and visits have made to help me heal so rapidly. I got visits in the hospital from our grandchildren Analyssa and Alexandra, daughter Robin and her husband Spin. Robin took over paying the bills. Deborah came out from New Hampshire for a few days to help. I can't imagine how folks without a support group of family and friends manage. We also have long-term care personnel who helped with meals and cleaning. So I want to thank everyone so much for their loving support.

I first noticed a problem in March when I came home from church, sat down and immediately experienced a severe pain level of 10. This persisted for a few weeks until we went to the hospital where they could alleviate the pain. They ran a bone scan and an MRI with no idea where the pain was coming from. I could not hold still for the contrast MRI but they must have seen something because they then turned me over to Dr. Bluming from the Oncology group. He was a god-send, always smiling and encouraging. After about a week he told me that he had identified the type of cancer as Lymphoma, which he said was treatable. It had started in the left hip. After the first Chemo infusion the pain started to diminish. I am scheduled for infusion every week.

They released me from the Hospital 3 weeks ago. I still have 2 more infusions to go and a PET scan to see the results. I spent about a month in the hospital, which made all of the leg muscles get very weak. I finally took the dog for a walk yesterday and I did fine with just a cane.

Thank God and my support group!

Sincerely, *Joe Buttemeier*



Preschool

Back to School!! Our teachers have been cleaning and organizing classrooms and doing their home visits. Our first day of school was August 16th. What a great start to a new year!!!

We'd like to welcome back our terrific teachers and welcome a couple of new ones!!

Miss Cheri & Miss Kelli in room 3

Miss Joanne & Miss Jen in room 4

Miss Deb, Miss Sari & Miss Sue in room 5

Miss Robin will be our resource teacher this year, helping prepare the Pre-K kids for kindergarten.

We would also like to welcome back Robert Lamb! He will be doing music again this year. Music time has become a favorite part of the week!!

The preschool was able to give the church an additional donation in the amount of \$10,000 for this past school year.

I am also very happy to announce that our Preschool was voted Best Preschool In Los Angeles for the 6th year in a row!!

Have you seen the flag waving? Thanks to the Men's Fellowship for purchasing the necessary hardware and to Scoutmasters Robert Rees and Marc Tucker for rigging the new rope. It's good to have the flag flying once again. The kids were all very excited to see it fixed!

Wendy

Sunday School Starting

Sunday School classes, beginning 11 September, will be held from 10:00 to 11:00. Grades 1 through 8 will meet in the Lounge located in the Fellowship Hall and be taught by Jackie Gardner. Grades 9 through 12, taught by Josh Gardner, will meet in the Library next to the Office.

As soon as we are able to hire a Nursery Attendant, a Bible craft lesson for toddlers and kindergarteners will be held in Room 1 of the Education building. Pray that God will bring a person who will be blessed and a blessing in the nursery.



The Family Life Committee invites you to the
57th annual all-church Barbecue

Sunday, September 25

Dinner served from 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Adults: \$6.00

Children 6-12: \$3.50 Children 5 and under: free

We'll be barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs with all of the trimmings and our traditional beans, cole slaw, watermelon and ice cream.

Bring your families and friends for an informal afternoon

Please buy your tickets by September 18.

Call 818-340-5084 for more information.

Thanks to the Carpet Cleaners

Our Fellowship Hall is used on a weekly basis by PEACE Church Congregation and Narcotics Anonymous. Over the past few months, there have also been several receptions and a weekend retreat in the Hall. Needless to say, it was time to do a little house cleaning.

Using the carpet extractor the Men's Breakfast Group purchased for the Church, a "carpet cleaning crew" of George Miller, Tim O'Connor, Grant Simmons and Stan Westover took on the three-hour job of cleaning the Fellowship Hall carpet.

If you would like to be a part of the next "carpet cleaning crew," let one of these workers know. No previous experience is needed – they will be happy to train you.

The church says, "Thank You!"



Return Service Requested

West Hills, CA 91307-2396

22700 Sherman Way

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK



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Canoga Park, CA
Permit # 1