



# The Courier

**First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park**

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Telephone: 818.340.2950

e-mail address: [crossandflame@att.net](mailto:crossandflame@att.net)

website: [www.umccp.org](http://www.umccp.org)

Preschool: 818.340.6639

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

*Sunday Worship at 10:00 am*

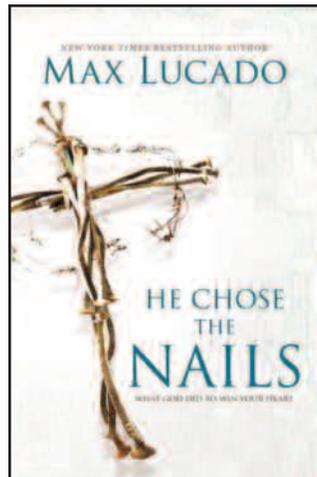
March 2017

## Lenten Study

***He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado**

Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 & April 2 at 11:30 am

In *He Chose the Nails*, a five-session video Bible study, Max Lucado examines the gifts that Christ gave at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the thorns, the nails, and the empty tomb. The cross is rich with God's gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear him whisper, "I did it just for you."



*He Chose the Nails* sessions include:

- † He Chose to Be One of Us;
- † He Chose to Forgive Us;
- † He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence;
- † He Chose to Love Us Forever; and
- † He Chose to Give Us Victory.

Books will be provided. You will have the opportunity to give a freewill donation to help defray the \$12 cost per book. If you prefer an E-book, it is available from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com).



**Pastor**

Lynn Westover

**Preschool Director**

Wendy Finley

**Music Director/  
Accompanist**

Paul Cady

**Christian Education  
Director**

Margaret Cates

**Administrative  
Assistant**

Julie Mosley

**Courier Editor**  
Sharon Mountford



**Resident Bishop**

Grant Hagiya

**North District  
Superintendent**

Rev. Jim Powell

## An Invitation to Join the Easter Choir

There will be a joyful celebration of the music of Easter on Easter Sunday, April 16. Our choir is already rehearsing, but it is not too late for you to sing with them. Come to Thursday night rehearsals (7:30 pm) and enjoy the fun.

## Easter Flowers

The Worship Ministry is again offering the opportunity to sponsor a beautiful Easter lily or Spring flowering plant to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Your dedication will be listed in the order of worship on Easter. Plants are \$9.00 each and you take them home after the Easter service. Please fill out an insert in a March worship bulletin. Deadline for ordering is April 2.



## March Calendar

### Weekly Activities

Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am  
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm

Monday Cub Pack, Scout Room, 7:00 pm  
Monday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor, 8:00 pm

Tuesday Shower Ministry, 8:30 am - noon  
Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm  
Tuesday Narcotics Anonymous, Hall, 8:00 pm

Wednesday Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:00 pm

Thursday Choir rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm

### Other Activities

Wednesday 1 Ash Wednesday Worship, Sanctuary, 7:30 pm

Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*

**Memorial service for Jasper Hood** at 11:00 am in the  
Sanctuary followed by interment in our  
Memorial Garden.

Tuesday 7 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am

Thursday 9 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am  
Sarah's Circle; Denny's, 9:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*

Sunday 12 Daylight Savings Time begins

Tuesday 14 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm

Wednesday 15 Faith, Hope & Love, Library, 7:00 pm  
Courier Deadline for April issue

Sunday 19 Lenten Play, *Bible Women Speak* with Olivia  
Woodford, Sanctuary, 2:00 pm

Tuesday 21 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am

### Upcoming in April

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

### Super Bowl Report

On Sunday, February 5, the Super Bowl drive netted 159 votes for the Atlanta Falcons and 50 for the New England Patriots. Instead of taking our totals, the teams decided to play the game anyway and came up with a different winner. Does that sound familiar?

All of the collected food was donated to the West Valley Food Pantry. There will be another in-gathering on Sunday, March 5. Plan to donate



### Birthdays

- 10 Heidi Foreman  
Steve Robertson
- 17 Helen Mackintosh
- 19 Erick Rodriguez
- 23 Evelyn Heim  
Anita Parrinello
- 30 Kyle Finley
- 31 Byron McKibben

### Anniversaries

- 2 George & Karen Grengs
- 11 Tom & Bettye Jo Nowlin
- 29 Roger & Nancy Johnson

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



### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Flower Calendar for 2017 is posted in the Parlor. Please sign up for any special days when you would like to honor someone with altar flowers.

### March

- 5 Given by Liz Rogers in  
*honor of Nancy Fox's  
Birthday*
- 12 Open
- 19 Given by Midge Herder in  
*memory of her husband*
- 26 Given by Roger & Nancy  
Johnson in *honor of their  
37th anniversary*



**UMW  
General  
Meeting**  
Thursday, March  
**23 at 9:30 am.**

Our Program will be the Pledge Service. The 2017 UMW Directories along with the pledge cards have been distributed. Pledges can be given to our Treasurer Chandra Seeger or to Shirley Thomson or brought to the March General Meeting.

### North District UMW Local Leadership Training

At the Local Leadership Training held at the Glendale UMC, I received certificates for our two readers, Pat Taylor and Lynne German, who read UMW books in the five categories – Education For Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing For Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Crescenta Valley received the reading banner for 2016 for the most books read.

### Reading Program

Another magazine to which our UMW unit subscribes is *New World Outlook*, the mission magazine of United Methodist Women. This current issue contains an article entitled "Theology of Mission."

*New World Outlook* can be found in the church library on a shelf just inside the door. Pick up a copy and enjoy the articles contained therein.

At the Faith, Hope & Love Circle February Meeting we discussed the UMW Reading book entitled "Growing Up Muslim" written by a Sumbul Ali-Karamali, a California female Muslim. This book helps you

understand the beliefs and practices of Islam written in an easygoing style. It provided for an interesting discussion by all in attendance.

### UMW Special Mission

#### Recognition

We were pleased to award Grace Leighton our annual Special Mission Recognition on UMW Sunday. See the story on page 4.

### Newest Arrival in the Church Family

Tammy Cates-Palmerlee and Matt Palmerlee are the proud parents of Ayla Ann Palmerlee. She arrived on February 11 at 3:15 pm. She was 9 pounds and 22 inches. Of course grandma, Margaret Cates, is "crazy happy."



### Circle Meetings

#### Bookends

Thursday, March 9  
9:30 am

Church Library

Book: *Finding God in a Bag of Groceries*

by Laura Lapins Willis

Reviewer: Virgene Engberg

Hostess: Midge Herder

#### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, March 15  
7:00 pm

Church Library

Hostesses: Nancy Summer  
and Marcela Rodriguez

#### Sarah Circle

Thursday, March 9  
9:30 am

Breakfast at Denny's  
8330 Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
(north of Roscoe Blvd.)

## 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 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. March 1, 7:30 pm  
Worship

**Lenten Study** - *He Chose the Nails* Sundays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2

**The Heart of the Cross** by Olivia Woodford  
Sunday, March 19, at 2:00 pm

**Palm/Passion Sunday Worship** A Service of Lessons and Hymns April 9, 10:00 am. Worship followed by Brunch in the Fellowship Hall

**Maundy Thursday Worship** April 13, 7:30 pm

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service** April 14, 7:30 pm

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

## Readiness 360

Readiness 360 is an online survey that helps a church discover exactly where it is in 4 key areas, so that it can see which way to go, and what path will most dependably get it moving toward God's future. Readiness 360 does not focus on church growth, but rather on the idea of being faithful stewards. Watch for details about how you can help.



Tuesday  
March 7  
11:00 am  
Lounge

## Bingo!

We will enjoy our usual pot-luck feast and have a friendly session of Bingo.

Don't forget the shower ministry collection.



*Donna Nall showing her Alabama team spirit at the February Leisure Club Sports Day. Dana Dreyfuss in the background – supporting the All Pinks?*

## Preschool News

We will start our Parent/Teacher conferences this month. This is a great time for our parents to see where their child is developmentally and what they might need to work on. We continue to have the Pre-K kids get some extra help by our resource teacher to prepare them for Kindergarten.

We had a very nice Valentine Chapel time by Pastor Lynn. The kids learned a song about friends and love. They also learned about the true meaning of friendship.

We have started enrollment for the Summer session and Fall session. If you know of any families that need a great preschool, have them give us a call.

*Wendy*

# UMW Special Mission Recognition

## Grace Leighton, January 22, 2017

Our United Methodist Women's unit has presented a Special Mission Recognition Award since the inception of our unit in 1973 for a total of 68 awards to deserving persons for their service to UMW, the church as well as in other areas.

This year's recipient, Grace Leighton, was born in 1958 in New York. At a very young age her family moved to California. Grace attended Cleveland High School in the San Fernando Valley, graduating in 1976.

Shortly after graduating from high school she got married. Grace then decided to go to Nursing School and completed that course graduating in 1981 as a vocational nurse. She is the mother of four grown children – 2 girls and 2 boys and is also a recent grandmother.

Over the years she kept busy volunteering in many areas. She spent 12 years at the Wildlife Way Station, which is a private sanctuary and rehabilitation facility for various kinds of animals. She taught CPR and First Aid for the Red Cross; has been a candy striper; a PTA President and a Sunday School Teacher at Simi Valley UMC.

In 2010 Grace said she heard an auditory voice telling her to return to the church. She paid heed to that voice and decided to return to church.

In 2011 she became a member of Canoga Park 1st UMC. Her involvement in our church began with participating in local church events and serving as an usher and greeter.

Her big commitment started with attending her first Lay Servant class in 2011, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She continued on with those classes completing the course in 2013. In February of 2014, she was invited to the Lay Academy Class

and it was at this time she knew what she was called to do. In 2016 she finished the required course of study and graduated in June at the Cal-Pac Conference Annual Meeting. She continues to further her education by completing many on-line courses. She is presently pursuing a process leading to Certified Lay Ministry.

In addition this gracious lady is serving our church as a Head Usher and Liturgist; preparing the sanctuary for Sunday services; assisting with the Shower Ministry; serving on the Administrative Committee, and is our Church Lay Leader.

She has also performed a Memorial Service and has prepared sermons.

As a result of her nurses' training, she has helped our elderly in many ways in their homes. She also does hospital and home visitation ministry including bringing communion to our shut-in members.

Grace became a member of Canoga Park's United Methodist Women's unit in 2012 joining our Faith Hope & Love Circle. In 2014 she joined our UMW Mission Team as Spiritual Growth Coordinator and is currently in that position. She has been an asset on the Mission Team and a great help in providing the programs for the UMW General Meeting and for UMW Sunday. In addition she has chaired our successful UMW annual Silver Christmas Tea for the past two years.

Would you believe she has a few other interests, one of which is her wonderful doll collection. A few years ago she shared some of the dolls and their history with the Leisure Club.

To sum up – Grace is extremely busy, but always willing to help in any way she can.



## UMCOR Sunday – March 26, 2017



Together, we reach children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

When disaster strikes around the globe – Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 – so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity – without regard to race, religion or gender – together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- \* When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- \* When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- \* When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.
- \* And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus’ name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. Please give generously.

## Shoes or Undies?

Thanks to two generous donations by Nancy Summers and Joanna and Ross (parents at our preschool), we were able to offer our friends at the Shower Ministry their choice of two new items. They could choose either new shoes or new sets of underwear. Of course most wanted new shoes.

We found a shoe store in the neighborhood which offered a large selection of tennis shoes and work boots by Fela brand which was within our price range. We were there both Friday and Saturday from 11:00 to 1:00. In the two days, we had 13 show up. It was fun watching them make a decision. One or two wanted the first pair they tried on and the rest took much longer. Some were there for most of the two hours enjoying trying many shoes before making the decision.

The shower ministry was grateful for the opportunity to offer something new that they had not had in a long time. Thank you all for your support of your shower ministry.



## From the Mailbox

Coral Harper is missing her church family and would love to have visitors.

She resides at Hideaway II Board and Care, 5929 Donna Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356. The phone number for Hideaway II is 818-344-0501.

Mail for Coral should be sent to her daughter, Mary Fagerstrom, at 7757 Millwood Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91304.

## Directory Updates

Isabelle Walters’ e-mail address  
icwalters6@gmail.com

And remember that the phone number for the church is really 818-340-2950.

# The Heart Of The Cross

A One-Woman Passion Play with Olivia Woodford  
Sunday, March 19 at 2:00 pm

*Scripture comes to life with this beautiful script and 90-minute performance.*

Be transported back in time to the foot of the cross and the heart of the Passion as Olivia portrays the women who witnessed the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection.

The presentation features Veronica watching Jesus carry the cross; the Repentant Prostitute at the foot of the cross; Mary, Jesus' Mother washing him for burial; Mary Magdalene at the tomb for the Resurrection; and Martha at Pentecost.



The play brings to life the spirit of Easter through the love, faith, and triumph of the gospel women as they each experience a personal awakening that brings them closer to Jesus.

This is one of five plays featuring Women of the Bible that Olivia has created and presents to churches and schools of all denominations throughout the country and internationally.

Olivia Woodford is an actress, storyteller, founder of Healing Theatre and a member of The Network of Storytellers, International. She has a BFA in Theater from Boston University, has performed in regional and off-Broadway theaters and has taught theatre in public and private schools and to special needs groups. Through her ministry, *Bible Women Speak*, Olivia tours throughout the country and internationally to present her one-woman plays and facilitate retreats focused on Women of the Bible and the cultural/historic context of the time Jesus lived. She is an artist dedicated to bringing the sacred into people's lives.



## Maxine McAuley

3 July 1921 — 3 February 2017

If you would like to send your condolences to the McAuley family on the passing of Maxine, the address is:

Pat Romolo, 5973 Canon Court, Ventura, CA 93003

## Jasper Hood

15 October 1922 — 8 February 2017

Memorial service for Jasper will be on Saturday, March 4 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary followed by interment in our Memorial Garden.



Joan Kelley

Lois Jimenez

Isabelle Walters

Ruth Albrecht

Maxine McAuley's family

Martin Shuler

Margaret Cates

Barbara & Stan Dimmick

Doris Hood

LaDean Owen

Coral Harper



*To receive Prayer Chain e-mails, please contact Robin Abernathy at [robingreenbird@yahoo.com](mailto:robingreenbird@yahoo.com) "cc" the church office at [crossandflame@att.net](mailto:crossandflame@att.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 818-280-6441 or Mary Mackay at 818-346-5872.



**Troop 474  
& Cub  
Pack 474**

We enjoyed a wonderful celebration of scouting. Our troop and cub pack are having fun and growing in numbers. The pancake breakfast was delicious, as always. One of the younger boys said that being in worship made him feel closer to God. There were 120 children, youth and adults in worship – the same size crowd we enjoyed for the Christmas Cantata.

**Boy Scouts – 12 Points of Light**

The 12 Points of Light Walk was Saturday, February 4. Scouts and their families walked approximately 5 miles and stopped at 12 churches along the way. Each church was assigned to talk about one part of the Scout Law. Pastor Lynn had the fun of talking about *A Scout is friendly*. She said that there are 5 things you can do to become known as a Friendly Person: Speak first; Act friendly; Use complete sentences (avoid one word answers, like yes or no); Ask questions; and Be a good listener. Tim and Lora O'Connor and Stan Westover helped welcome more than 75 scouts and leaders.



**Return Service Requested**

22700 Sherman Way  
West Hills, CA 91307-2396



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Canoga Park, CA  
Permit # 1