



May 2017

# 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*



## Bishop Hagiya's Easter Message

It was a bad week. Mounting deadlines, challenging complaints to adjudicate, difficult people to navigate, and work that never seems to end. I am always optimistic, but this week was somehow different. As I went to bed one evening that week, I wondered: "Am I depressed?" Sleep came, but even my dreams were depressing!

As I awoke the next day, I was worried that I was still depressed, but it was a beautiful day, and after a night's sleep, for some reason, my spirit was buoyed and open. Like a dark cloud given way to the in-breaking of the sun, my soul was renewed. I wondered where the depression had gone. I wondered why I suddenly felt better. I wondered how this all came about. All of the problems and challenges were still there, so why didn't I feel the same as before? There was no question that I was back to my normal upbeat self, but I couldn't understand why. Nothing in my life had changed, except God had worked a new beginning for me.

There was no response for me except to fall to my knees and thank God in prayer for this new spirit

created within me. Perhaps it was just a psychological glitch or a momentary chemical imbalance that created my temporary depression.

Perhaps there is a logical explanation, but dare I make the leap that this can only be attributed to God. As I have reflected upon on this a lot, I believe the only answer is God. Nothing else makes sense. More importantly, I feel deep inside my soul that God is the reason for my renewal. It is not an intellectual certainty, but a certainty of faith, and faith alone.

As Easter is about to break forth in our lives once again, as we witness the resurrected Jesus that Mary knew in her heart was alive, as we pass through our own Good Fridays of depression, darkness and death, Jesus is risen – He is risen indeed!

### PRAYER

*O God, we pray for this resurrected Jesus to enter our lives and the lives of all those who desperately need renewal and new life. Let us give witness to the Easter Hope. Let us be the Easter people! Amen.*

*Bishop Grant J. Hagiya  
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 Editor**

Sharon Mountford



**Resident Bishop**

Grant Hagiya

**North District  
Superintendent**

Rev. Jim Powell



## May Calendar

### Birthdays

- 4 Robin Abernathy  
Jessie Satterlee
- 5 Donna Nall
- 7 Kaye Hall  
Carolyn Lottman  
Julie Mosley
- 9 Betty Allen
- 11 Irma Santos
- 14 Joseph Buttemeier  
Wendy Finley  
Bill Satterlee  
Flora Wilhelm
- 17 Nancy Johnson
- 23 Garrett Finley  
Linda Woods
- 24 Laurie Berger
- 25 Virginia Scannell
- 26 Diane Mountford  
Cheryl Willauer  
Dante Wilson
- 27 Lea Del Rosario

### Anniversary

- 24 George & Irene Miller  
*If your special day is missing,  
please contact the church office.*



### May Altar Flowers

- 5 Open
- 14 Given by Tom & Glynene  
*Roe in memory of their  
mothers*  
Rose buds given by  
Charlotte Girvan *in  
memory of her mother, Rose  
Hadley*
- 21 Given by Dana Dreyfuss  
*in memory of her husband,  
Richard, and daughter, Jill  
Marie*
- 28 Given by Libby Bennett  
*in loving memory of Floyd*

### 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, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:00 pm
- Thursday Choir rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm (*except 13th*)

### 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.*  
**North District Conference** ... 10:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Valley Korean UMC, 10408 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills
- Tuesday 9 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Thursday 11 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am  
Sarah's Circle, Denny's, 9:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*
- Sunday 14 Mother's Day
- Monday 15 Courier Deadline for June issue
- Tuesday 16 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 17 Faith, Hope & Love, Library, 7:00 pm
- Sunday 21 Preschool Teacher Appreciation Day
- Monday 29 Memorial Day, office closed

### Upcoming June

- Tuesday 2 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
- Sunday 4 Pentecost-Wear **RED** to symbolize the coming of the spirit
- Thursday 8 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am  
Sarah's Circle; Denny's, 9:30 am
- Friday 9 Preschool Program, Sanctuary, 11:00 am

### Readiness 360

**Sunday, May 7, at 11:30 am**

Thank you for participating in the Readiness 360 online survey. Your input makes a difference as we move toward God's future. After worship on May 7, Rev. Nicole Reilley, Director of New Ministries for California Pacific Conference, will share the results of our survey with the church family. Plan to stay!



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**UMW Mission Team Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 4 at 10:00 am in Room 10**

**UMW General Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 18 at 9:30 am in the Lounge**

Program is Prayer & Self Denial. This is an annual observance during which members and friends reflect on the gospel of Christ, pray together and make an offering to mission with women, children and youth in response to God's love and grace.

### UMW Merritt Memorial Fund

This fund is maintained by United Methodist Women and is separate from the church funds. Each year this fund has provided scholarships for our youth to go to camp. In 2017 there are about 4 of our youth interested in attending camp. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Merritt Memorial Fund should make their checks payable to UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, with the designation for the Merritt Memorial Fund.



Shirley Thomson at the flower cross

### Worship Gatherings

Many people come to church because friends or family invite them. And Easter is a wonderful time for someone to come to worship for the first time. Well done!

4th Sunday - March	.64
1st Sunday - April	.69
Palm Sunday	.72
Maundy Thursday	.36
Good Friday	.23
Easter Worship & Cantata	.160

The story of Easter is a story for sharing with the world. Who in your world needs to meet Jesus and be saved? Go, tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Pastor Lynn



### Circle Meetings

#### Bookends

Thursday, May 11  
9:30 am

Church Library

Book: *Hope Runs*

by Claire Diaz-Ortiz

Reviewer: Doris Hood

Hostess: Lynne German

#### Sarah Circle

Thursday, May 11  
9:30 am

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

#### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, May 17  
7:00 pm

Church Library

Program: Lora O'Connor  
Hostesses: Chandra Seeger  
and Lynne German

### Church Audit

The church needs to complete an audit for 2016. We are not required to have a professional audit done, but our financial records need to be reviewed. If you can spearhead the audit and complete this important task, please contact the church office or Pastor Lynn.



## Preschool News

We just finished school pictures and all Parent/Teacher conferences are over for this year.. Spring semester is in full swing!

We've let our Preschool families know that it's time to enroll in Summer Session, which runs 6 weeks, starting the last week of June. We are also accepting registrations for Fall semester, which will start in August. We get a lot of our students from "word of mouth," and are pleased that we do have a reputation for being such a good school. Let your friends and neighbors know!

Wendy



*Easter Crosses in a Preschool Window*

## Sunday School



*Students in the 1st-8th grade Sunday School class picked out lines from their favorite Psalms to build a class prayer. They learned that prayers are words from the heart that can become beautiful poetry.*



**FOOD  
PANTRY**

You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of every month.

Your much-appreciated contributions are taken to the West Valley Food Pantry for distribution to their clients.



Tuesday  
May 2  
11:00 am  
Lounge



## From the Mailbox

Dear Pastor Lynn, Mary,  
Sharon and all of the helpers,

Please thank the whole congregation for such a wonderful service you provided for Jasper and for Doris.

Warmest regards,  
*Patricia, Bryn and family*

Shirley Thomson will do a presentation on a book called *Growing Up Muslim*. Bring a dish to share for lunch. We are still collecting men's white socks for the shower ministry.

*Lora*

Dear Church Family,  
Special Thanks for the prayers, cards, flowers, the phone calls and visits.

In life, there are many paths you can take and many people who share the journey... But it's the special people who help you along the way, and it's the most important people who care enough to give of themselves unconditionally.

Thank you for being one of those special people.

Your Sister in Christ,  
*Dixie Smith*

The office has received word from Talia Maturo that her baby, who was born on March 10, is named Logan Christopher Lee Maturo-Johnson.

*Julie*



At  
the  
Cross

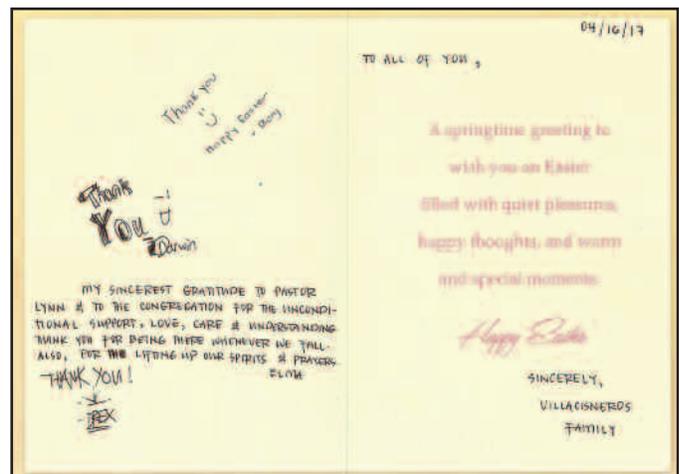
*Marcella Rodriguez with  
Erick, Annaliesa, Shawn  
and Anthony  
(above)*



*George and Karen  
Grengs and family  
(above)*



*Frances and Andrea  
Leslie  
(to the right)*



## Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Awards 2017

The Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Congregation of the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park congratulate the following scholarship recipients on their accomplishments to date and look forward to hearing of their future successes.

### Cameron Zambello

Cameron will be a junior this fall at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio majoring in Communications.

Cameron attends the Crossroads Church in Cincinnati and volunteers

in their "Young Life Capernaum" program for people with special needs. This program can introduce them to Jesus Christ in ways they can more easily understand. Through his fraternity, he helps to organize two events each year for the benefit of "Feeding America" and their local food pantry. He hopes to work in an internship in marketing or business communications during the summers. Cameron's grandparents, Don and Evelyn Heim, are very proud that Cameron can be recognized in this award.



### Andrew Zesiger

Andrew will be a senior this fall at Kendall College of Art and Design, Ferris State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan. His major is Digital Media. This is Andrew's second year as a recipient of the Laura

Longman Memorial Scholarship. He is very involved teaching and volunteering at his home church, the Lakeview Baptist Church of Battle Creek, Michigan. He comes home each weekend to play the drums in their praise band and to help with the Youth Outreach program. He has also volunteered in various artistic activities. This year he took part on a team of 5 artists which, in 24

hours, created an animated answer to a question. Their project was recognized in international competition. Andrew's career will be focused on sharing his artistic talents through digital media.

Scholarship awards were presented to these students before Worship on Easter Sunday, April 16th, 2017. Laura's mother, Nancy Johnson, and the entire Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship Committee express their gratitude to the congregation for making contributions in memory/honor of their loved ones enabling us to share so generously with deserving students.



*Grandparents Don and Evelyn Heim accept Cameron's scholarship from Pastor Lynn, Roger and Nancy Johnson on Easter Sunday.*

**Laura Lynn Longman**, (1958 – 1984) was raised in the First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park, loved her life as a Christian and loved learning. She graduated from Taft High School in 1976 and began working while attending L.A. Pierce College. In early 1979 she was diagnosed with life-threatening heart failure. That September she received an experimental heart transplant at Stanford University Medical Center. Her family and church helped support her through illness and recovery for five years. On February 10, 1984, while a senior at San Francisco State University, Laura died of sudden heart failure while in class.

# North Hills United Methodist Church Center

15435 Rayen Street, North Hills, CA 91343

Contact: Fred Morris @ 805-952-3370

North Hills United Methodist Church Center is located in the heart of North Hills East. Caring Services include: Head Start Program, English as a Second Language Classes, Sports Programs for Youth (basketball and others), Breakfast for the Homeless Program, Bible Study Groups, and Prayer/Healing Groups.

North Hills has been working with the immigrant community for almost three years now. One of the results has been the forming of a Welcome Center for the Unaccompanied Minors fleeing to the US from gang violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. They recently incorporated as a non-profit: San Fernando Valley Refugee Children Center, Inc.

The Center now has 114 children registered. They provide them with legal representation, medical care and socialization.

Last November, they also began a very unique pilot program of Group Trauma Therapy for some of the children. There are 7 professional Trauma Therapists who are donating their services and coming to the Center from Pasadena every other Sunday afternoon to work with these children. There are currently 3 groups of 6 children each. The children are all dealing with anxiety and panic attacks, due to the various traumas they have suffered: leaving home and family; traveling across Mexico, where a number of them were assaulted and/or raped; entering the US where they are treated as criminals, although it is not a crime to come to the US and ask for refugee status. This program is giving them some tools that help them control their unwanted reactions.

The Center has secured attorneys for 84 of the children, but that means there are 20 without legal representation. The Pro-Bono agencies in LA are currently all "maxed-out" and cannot accept any more clients. This means the Center has to pay "lo-bono" immigration attorneys who give a reduced rate - ranging between \$2,500 and \$3,500 per child. So fundraising is a part of life for the Center.

Your prayers for the San Fernando Valley Refugee Children Center, Inc., North Hills United Methodist Church Center and Pastor Fred Morris make a world of difference!

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## 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.

*Margaret Cates and her family posing at the flower cross on Easter Sunday*



Ken Dimmick

Pat Taylor

Janice Leighton

Jane Bayless

Jim & Marie Smith

Ruth Albrecht's family

Martin Shuler's family

Jackie Dutcher

Betty Allen

Joan Kelley

Dixie Smith

Lois Jimenez

Barbara & Stan Dimmick

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)*



# IN MEMORIAM

## **Ted Jimenez**

April 21, 1933 – January 11, 2017

Retired Fire Captain  
with the Los Angeles Fire  
Department.

He is survived by his wife, Lois;  
son Andrew, his wife Shelly and  
their daughter, Tana;  
daughter Melissa Mahoney and  
her husband Kevin.



## **Martin Shuler**

April 19, 1919 – March 20, 2017

Martin passed away peacefully  
in his sleep, with his family  
gathered around.

An informal memorial gathering  
is being planned for May.

## **Ruth Albrecht**

17 October 1924 – 31 March 2017

We remember Ruth Albrecht  
with gratitude.

She lived a long and rich life.  
She kept the faith and finished  
the race.

A memorial service is being  
planned for May, with interment  
in the Rose Garden.

Monday, May 29



Return Service Requested

22700 Sherman Way  
West Hills, CA 91307-2396



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

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