



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

website: 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

June 2017

Heart to Heart

The most dependable way to have a wedding is to plan to get married. After I asked Stan to marry me, things moved right along toward the day we would say "I do."

There were many things to decide. When and where do we get married? Who do we ask to officiate? Who will be the maid of honor and bridesmaid, the best man and groomsman?

There was food to figure out – the rehearsal dinner, the wedding reception, and a cake. There were dresses, tuxedos and shoes to get. There were invitations, photos, flowers, gifts, honeymoon and more to arrange.

A successful wedding needs a plan. So does a strong future for a congregation. Therefore, the Administrative Committee has scheduled a **Congregational Planning Event for Saturday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the parlor.**

The Congregational Planning Event is the next step in our journey with the Readiness 360 process. Twenty-nine people – a mix of staff, key leaders and active ministry participants – took the Readiness 360 survey. Twenty of us gathered with the Rev. Nicole Reilly, Director of New Ministries for the California Pacific Conference, to debrief our results. (The Readiness 360 overview is on page 6.) Eleven considered the next step at the May Administrative Committee meeting. Thank you for participating and considering how to multiply our ministry.

Some wisdom and agreement is necessary for a successful wedding. The same is true for a helpful church plan. So, we need as many people as possible in the congregation to gather to puzzle through a plan for our future.

Consider yourself invited. Save the date. And pray about the future to which God is calling us.

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 Editor

Sharon Mountford



Resident Bishop

Grant Hagiya

**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 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 1 & 8*)

Other Activities

- Saturday 3 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Sunday 4 **Pentecost**
Wear **RED** to symbolize the coming of the spirit
- Tuesday 6 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Thursday 8 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am
Sarah's Circle, Denny's, 9:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Friday 9 Preschool Program, Sanctuary, 11:00 am
- Sunday 11 Peace with Justice Sunday, special offering
Newton Task Force meeting, Library, 11:30 am
- Tuesday 13 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 14 Annual Conference begins, University of Redlands
- Thursday 15 Courier Deadline for July / August issue
- Sunday 18 Father's Day
- Tuesday 20 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 21 Faith, Hope & Love, Library, 7:00 pm

Upcoming July

- Saturday 1 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Tuesday 4 Independence Day, office closed

From Here to There Annual Conference 2017

Wednesday 14 June - Saturday 17 June

Our lay delegates are Grace Leighton and Grant Simmons.

Our clergy delegate is Lynn Westover.

Uphold the work of Annual Conference in your prayers.

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- 2 Wendy & Brian Finley
- 5 Grant & Trish Simmons
- 7 Verda & John Longan
- 11 Joshua & Jackie Gardner
- 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

For June

- 4 Open
- 11 Given by Elmo Maiden *in honor of Betty Phillippi*
- 18 Given by Lynne German *in honor of Lucy's fourth birthday*
- 25 Given by Jennifer & Rebecca *in honor of their parents, Tom & Glynene Roe's, 51st Anniversary*



Future Meetings

UMW Mission Team will meet September 7
UMW General Meeting will be September 21.

Five Channels of Mission Giving:

Through their generosity United Methodist Women members help empower the lives of women, youth and children in the United States and around the world.

Reminder: We would appreciate receiving your UMW Pledge by June 30. Checks should be made payable to United Methodist Women and designated for your Pledge.

5-Star Unit



For many years our unit has been the recipient of a 5-Star Unit Award. Each year we meet the following requirements to receive this award.

Pledge to Mission: An individual member's Pledge to Mission is the amount a woman gives to her local unit to help fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

World Thank Offering: Spontaneous additional gifts can be given out of gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life.

Special Mission Recognition Pins & Certificate: These pins offer a meaningful way to honor members who have dedicated so much time and effort to service.

Gift to Mission: This is a gift in honor of someone and for which a card is sent to the honoree.

Gift in Memory: This is a gift in memory of a member, a friend or anyone, in an amount of \$5.00 or more.

Merritt Memorial Fund

Five of our youth will be going to camp this year. Many thanks to those who made donations to the UMW Merritt Memorial Fund allowing our youth to have this wonderful experience. This was very much appreciated.



Circle Meetings

Bookends

Thursday, June 8
11:30 am

Lunch at the Red Lobster
22800 Vanowen Street,
Canoga Park.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, June 8
9:30 am

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

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, June 21
7:00 pm

Dinner out
Location to be announced

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

The school year is coming to an end. We have 26 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 9th and Tuesday, June 20th at 11:00 am 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 20th to start our six weeks of summer school.

Wendy

Graduates

Congratulations to Jackie Gardner who received a Master's degree in Education from Humboldt State University. Her thesis project was: "Transcending Language - Bridging Language Gaps in Science Education with Drawing." She has certainly been working hard this year: teaching full-time during the week, teaching Sunday school, and working on her Master's Degree. Wow! We are very impressed!

Lauren Zambello graduated from the University of Cincinnati with high honors as a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics. She is a recipient of the Laura Longman Scholarship and the granddaughter of Evelyn and Don Heim.

Kevin Chao, grandson of Roger & Nancy Johnson, graduates from Crean Lutheran High School, Irvine, CA on June 10. He is a member of the National Honor Society, an All-American in athletics, graduating with a "Medical Cohort Designation." He will be entering Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX this fall.

Grandchildren of Jack & Betty Barlow who are in the ranks of 2017 graduates are Brent Johnsen, who has graduated from Channel Islands State College with a BA, and Lauren Gorgita, who received her PhD from California Lutheran University in Psychology. She has joined the faculty there.



Tuesday
June 6
11:00 am
Lounge

We will play our fun dice game.
Pot luck lunch will be cold food, salads.
Leisure club will be off July, August and
September. Have a great summer.

Lora



From the Mailbox

Thank you, prayer warriors.

I received the best news today! The tumor has shrunk to less than half – best results we could even hope for.

I will take chemo pills 5 days of each month. There will be regular MRI's and regular checkups. As long as it doesn't begin to grow again, I will be fine. I will be on a much lower dose of steroids, which will be better. And, I still take anti-seizure pills.

Isabelle Walters



Directory Correction

Lynne German's correct e-address is:
Lynne_German@yahoo.com.

Peace with Justice Sunday 11 June 2017



In his journey from Bangladesh to the U.S., Samil traveled through 10 countries. In 2015, crossing the border from Mexico into the U.S., he was

immediately detained and incarcerated in Texas for 8 months. Fleeing religious persecution in his home country, he had left his wife and two young sons in hiding.

When Samil arrived at a detention center in Monroe, Michigan, he met Elizabeth Hammer, who is a volunteer with the Interfaith Detainee Visitation Program (IDVP) and a member of First UMC, Chelsea, Michigan. She put him in touch with Melanie Goldberg, an attorney with Justice for our Neighbors -Southeastern Michigan (JFON-SEMI). Goldberg reviewed his case and put him in touch with the Southwest Detroit Immigrant and Refugee Center. A lawyer immediately agreed to represent Samil. Despite denial of his request for political asylum, Samil and his attorney await a favorable appeal.

A United Methodist faith-driven ministry, JFON-SEMI welcomes immigrants into churches and communities by providing free or low-cost, high-quality immigration legal services, education and advocacy. The program model is church-based and grassroots with many dedicated, reliable volunteers. In addition, IDFP provides friendship and emotional and spiritual support for immigrant men in detention.

In preparation for JFON-SEMI's biweekly visits, 4 to 6 volunteers gather in the lobby of the detention facility. The volunteers – from United Methodist, Catholic and Church of Christ faith communities – bring snacks, drinks, Bibles and devotional readings. An officer greets and escorts them to a meeting room where detainees eventually join them. After enjoying snacks, they talk individually

with the volunteers. They talk about their situation, their families and life outside of jail, their home countries. If requested, they pray together. In some cases, the men ask us to contact a lawyer or a family member. When the two-hour visit is over, they depart, sign out and share their experiences. The goal is simply to show compassionate hospitality to men like Samil, who are distraught, stressed or feeling hopeless.

A grant – made possible by United Methodist generosity on Peace with Justice Sunday – proved essential for JFON-SEMI. When you give generously on Peace with Justice Sunday, you give The United Methodist Church a voice in advocating for global peace and justice.

Bishop Hagiya's



Anna Olson, *Claiming Resurrection in the Dying Church*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2016

Arbinger Institute, *The Anatomy of Peace*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2015

Grant Hagiya, *Spiritual Kaizen*, Abingdon Press, 2013

Sarah Heath, *What's Your Story?*, Abingdon Press, 2017

Patricia Farris, *Five Faces of Ministry*, Abingdon Press, 2015

Mary Elizabeth Moore, *Children, Youth & Spirituality in a Troubling World*, Chalice Press, 2008

Frank Rogers Jr., *Practicing Compassion*, Upper Room Books, 2016

Newton Fund Local Church Grant Proposals

In the recent past, the Newton Task Force has awarded grants to fund an Elementary Teacher, Youth Teacher and special events for Sunday School. Think about programs or events that will benefit our church and/or community. Write and submit a grant request, including budget.

The task force will meet Sunday, June 11, at 11:30 am to consider grant proposals. Send grant requests no later than Wednesday, June 7, to Pastor Lynn at preachingbarefoot@att.net.

Congo Women Arise

Building the Mama Lynn Center Zuma Live Saturday, June 3, 2017

We have an opportunity to celebrate and support women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are considered the foundation of the family.

Congo Women Arise is a partnership of the East Congo Conference, Cal-Pac-Conference, Memphis and Tennessee Conferences, to address the needs of rape survivors.

The goal is to build the Mama Lynn Center, a women's center that provides physical, psychosocial, and spiritual support as well as transitional housing and opportunities to learn income-generating skills.

Our Cal-Pac local churches are invited to join in this partnership and make a real difference in the lives of these women and their families by collecting a special offering for Congo Women Arise. If you would like to make a donation, please write your check to First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park and include "Congo Women Arise" in the memo.

Members of Malibu UMC have set the stage for "Zuma Live," a benefit concert for Congo Women Arise on Saturday, June 3, 2017. Along with the great music will be a bar-b-que and, of course, the beach.

Readiness 360 Report

This is how the survey makers interpreted the results of our survey.

Only a small percentage of today's churches still have multiplication of ministry on their radar. Your church does – and that sets you apart! First UMC of Canoga Park is strongest in terms of Spiritual Intensity and is most challenged in terms of Missional Alignment.

Spiritual Intensity

There is some fire in people's hearts at Canoga Park UMC, but it isn't burning as brightly as it should. Canoga Park UMC has some work to do in strengthening the personal connection between your people and God and God's mission for you in the world. It would be wise to spend some time reconnecting with God through renewing spiritual practices both personally and as a church body.

Dynamic Relationships

In some respects, your church has seen some amazing relationships and friendships across the years. However, the DNA of these relationships is not currently indicative of the church as a whole. You have some work to do in terms of cultivating trust within the church and relating effectively to folks who are different from the majority of the members.

Missional Alignment

Many folks at your church have a good sense of where God is calling you to go, but others are not aligned with this point of view. There is seldom enough personnel or financial resources to run in many directions at once. Now is a time for serious conversation about Canoga Park UMC's priorities.

Cultural Openness

On one hand, many in the church want to reach diverse people, but many in the church still have great apprehension about what this might mean in terms of changing the face of Canoga Park UMC. There may be some limitations in terms of how far the church is able to reach toward different kinds of people in the next few years. Open communication will be critical.

The Miriam Mason – Willie J. Forman Memorial Scholarship

Miriam Mason was a member of our congregation from 1954 until her death in 1994. Her professional life centered on finance as an escrow officer at United California Bank here in Canoga Park. She was active in the community, serving as President of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce and as a Charter Member of the Woodland Hills Business and Professional Women's Club.

Miriam served as Secretary of our Board of Trustees for seven years, as Financial Secretary for four years and was an active member of the United Methodist Women.

By her bequest, her estate was given to the Claremont School of Theology, the Vici Oklahoma Methodist Church (her home church) and to our church asking that the funds be given as scholarship grants.

The Rev. Dr. Willie James Foreman was our pastor from July 2003 until his passing in April 2012. He had an outstanding career serving the United Methodist Church as Assistant General Secretary of the General Board of Discipleship; Riverside District Superintendent, Cal-Pac Annual Conference; Board of Directors Chairman of the Wesley Social Service Center; Chair of the Conference Relations for the Board of Ordained Ministry and Trustee of the Board of Directors for the Compton Community College. He served as Senior Pastor to five congregations throughout his years in ministry.

He was a strong advocate for education and the Willie J. Foreman endowed scholarship, at Claremont School of Theology, was established in his honor.

This year's recipients are Lacey Soto and Timothy R. Hunsinger.

They are both second year students pursuing Master of Divinity degrees at Claremont School of Theology.

Lacey is a single mother of mixed ethnic background. She feels her call to minister to others in the marginalized sectors of our country – "Latinos, blacks, immigrants, homeless and those who live in poverty."

Timothy left a career in the credit union industry in 2014 to become a full-time student at CST. He is in his third year serving as a student pastor at Desert Spring UMC in Las Vegas. He will graduate in 2018 and has already received provisional membership in the Desert Southwest Conference.

They both have written to Shirley Thomson and our whole congregation to express their gratitude for their scholarships and the vital assistance which they have received through them.

Should you be moved to assist future pastoral students, donations to this Scholarship Fund at Claremont are always welcome.



Sandra Dedinas
*(Sunrise on Topanga
near Nordhoff)*

Pat & Jack Taylor
(Commons on Ventura)

Dana Dreyfuss

Jane Card

Isabelle Walters

Jim Smith

Joan Kelley

Barbara & Stan Dimmick

LaDean Owen

Coral Harper



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



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22700 Sherman Way
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FLAG DAY

Wednesday, June 14

Pentecost Sunday, June 4

Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church.



The United Methodist Cross & Flame

The emblem relates The UMC to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3).

The elements of the emblem also remind us of a transforming moment in the life of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "*strangely warmed.*"