



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

February 2017

Readiness 360

Many churches, including First UMC of Canoga Park, are overwhelmed by financial challenges and by their aging base of workers and donors. They are unable to think of moving beyond survival or maintaining slow decline. So our district superintendent and conference have invited us to use Readiness 360, a tool to provide input to use in congregational development.

Readiness 360 is an online survey that helps a church discover exactly where it is in 4 key areas. Even if a church is languishing outwardly, the church will find encouragement in a report that celebrates what is right about them! Moreover, knowing where you really are is critical if you want to begin taking first steps toward the place you wish to be! Readiness 360 is like a Global Positioning System that helps a church to discover exactly where it is, 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; on being who we are, seeing what we have and doing what matters to God. Watch for future details about how you can help.

Visit our Website: <https://umccp.org/>

You will discover videos of our 2016 Christmas Cantata and Pastor Lynn's *What makes you happy?* talk. Click Welcome! at the top of the page for the menu. Then, click Videos. There is also a new Laura Longman video. At the bottom of the page under Ministries, click Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship to see a video about Laura's life and the scholarship.



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



February 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

- Saturday 4 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Sunday 5 Super Bowl Sunday
- 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 Boy Scout Sunday. Breakfast following worship
- Tuesday 14 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 15 Faith, Hope & Love, Library, 7:00 pm
Courier Deadline for March issue
- Monday 20 Presidents' Day, office closed
- Tuesday 21 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am

Upcoming in March

- Wednesday 1 Ash Wednesday worship
- 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

Super Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 5, bring canned and boxed food for the West Valley Food Pantry. You will have the opportunity to place your donations in a basket representing the team you want to win. It's a way for you to vote for your favorite team and to donate food for families in need. When the votes are counted, each can or box is one vote.



Birthdays

- 1 Brenda Jones
6 John Caldwell
JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis
11 Coral Harper
12 Laura Pomeroy
16 Lois Jimenez
Emily Willauer
20 Shirley Ilgenfritz
25 Libby Bennett
27 Margaret Cates
Lynn Westover

Anniversaries

- 25 Jim & Marie Smith

*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.

February

- 5 Open
12 Open
19 Given by Toby Lane
*remembering the birthdays
of her husband and
grandson*
26 Open



North District UMW Local Leadership Training

Local Leadership Training is for the Local Organizations' officers, circle leaders and those interested in UMW leadership at the local level. All UMW members are encouraged to attend as well as those interested in learning more about UMW.

The Training session will be held on February 11, 2017 at Glendale FUMC, 134 N. Kenwood Street, Glendale. Registration deadline is February 3. Cost is \$12.00. If interested contact Shirley Thomson at 818 348-0414.

California Pacific Conference Mid-Winter Event

This event will be held at Wilshire UMC, 711 S. Plymouth Blvd., Los Angeles on Saturday, February 18, 2017 from 9:30-2:30 pm. The theme will be "Welcoming Strangers." Registration Fee is \$12.00, which includes lunch and is due by February 10, 2017.

Future Meetings

UMW Mission Team Meeting will be held Thursday, March 2, 2017.

UMW General Meeting will be held Thursday, March 23, 2017.

Reading Program

Our UMW unit subscribes to *Response*, the official magazine of United Methodist Women. This magazine contains Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth and development, program suggestions, etc. *Response* can be found in the church library on a shelf just inside the door. Pick up a copy and enjoy the articles contained therein.

Recycling for Glasses

Dana Dreyfuss is a volunteer at West Hills Hospital. She wants to remind you that they have a program of gathering old eyeglasses, which are distributed to those who need them through the Lions Club. If you have any pairs of glasses which are no longer the prescription for you, please speak to Dana.



Circle Meetings

Bookends

Thursday, February 9
9:30 am

Church Library

Book: *Truly Madly Guilty*

by Liane Moriarty

Reviewer: Pat Taylor

Hostess: Glynene Roe

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, February 15
7:00 pm

Church Library

Hostess: Dana Dreyfuss

Sarah Circle

Thursday, February 9
9:30 am

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

New Church Office Hours

As of Tuesday, January 17, our church office is on a new schedule.

The new hours are:

Monday through Thursday

8:00 am – 2:30 pm

(closed for lunch from

11:30 am – 12 noon)



Leisure

Club

Tuesday
February 7
11:00 am
Lounge

Sport Day

Wear your favorite teams shirt or hat.
Use your imagination for our pot luck
with tailgate food.
Don't forget the shower ministry collection.

From the Mailbox

To Mrs. Thomson and the rest of the wonderful donors,

I want to say THANK YOU for the wonderful gifts you all provided to the kids on my case load this Christmas. They were all well received and brought smiles to my kids, who range in age from 1 to 18 years old.

What you do for the community is appreciated.

Virginia Sandoval, CSWIII



UMCmarket

This online portal is designed for United Methodists to shop online at a variety of retailers who will donate to our local church. A percentage of every dollar you spend is contributed to the church.

Visit umcmarket.org, establish your free, online account and support your church with every online purchase you make at these participating retailers.



Preschool News

February is "Dental Month." We look forward to "Dr. Joe," a local children's dentist, coming to talk with us about how to brush our teeth and keep our beautiful smiles.

Our Bible verse this month reminds us that "A friend loves at all times." (Proverbs 17:17) Preschool is an excellent opportunity to reinforce this concept of acceptance and forgiveness in our community of friends.

We still have a few spots open for our 2 ½ to 3 ½ year-old class. If you know anyone looking for a great preschool, have them give us a call.

Wendy

December Worship Attendance

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

- 1st Sunday – 64
- 2nd Sunday – 63
- Cantata Sunday – 120
- Christmas Eve – 71
- Christmas Day – 55

Easter will also be a good time to invite friends and neighbors to join you for church.

Pastor Lynn

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.

Roster update

Maxine McAuley has moved.

Her new address is:

AlmaVia, Room 209

2500 Ponderosa Drive N

Camarillo, CA 93010

Troop 474 and Cub Pack 474

Happy New Year from your very own Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack 474!

The last part of 2016 was a very exciting and eventful time for our Scouts. The last three months of the year saw the Cub pack grow by six boys to twenty strong, with three of them reaching Webelo status, getting ready to transition full Boy Scout status.

At the same time Troop 474 added three boys and is seeing a steady growth in both numbers and interest. If anyone in the community is aware of boys, eight to eighteen interested in learning the skills of scouting and wanting to enjoy the fellowship of Scouting, please let them know about us!

Speaking of fellowship, Sunday February 12th is Scouting Appreciation Day and your troop will be thanking the Church for all the many years you have supported us with a Thank You Pancake breakfast, starting right after the service. This will be an ideal time to get to know your scouts and bring by any young person wanting to get to know more about us.

Recent activities

On Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th Troop 474 provided a color guard and participated in the flag raising ceremony at the Fair Winds Retirement Home Veterans Day Celebration in West Hills. The scouts were much appreciated and were encouraged to sing along with the residents, and learn country dancing, taught by the country band performing at the Celebration. A good time was had by all!



Also in November our Cubs learned the art of building balsa wood, wire line guided "rockets," propelled by rubber band driven propellers. A fierce competition ensued. The cubs learned a lot about this subject.

December was a busy month for both troop and cub pack. This year saw the inauguration of our annual Scouting For Food Drive. Our scouts involved family members and went door-to-door in their neighborhoods gathering food donations for the needy. Over 275 pounds of food was collected and donated to a local food bank in time for the holidays.

The second annual Toy Drive was also a repeat success! The Toy Drive culminated in a day of celebration and presentation for the children. The program included costumed movie characters, one of whom, Sponge Bob, was played by various of the older scouts, uniformed scouts, and the help of long-time supporter and Eagle Scout Guy Maturo. Guy played Santa Claus, a natural if ever there was one. All in all the scouts helped out over one hundred needy families at this event hosted by a local Lutheran Church.



As this article goes to press the Scouts are heading off on January 14th to Death Valley for the traditional Annual Campout and backpacking experience. At this event Scout Troop 474 and families, along with our Webelos and their families will be taking on the solemn and patriotic duty of a ceremonial retirement of the flag. Over this past year several organizations and individuals have donated worn out American flags to the troop for proper final rest and disposal. This is another opportunity for our scouts to learn about the traditions of our country and be of service to the community.

Stu Schwartz

Remembering Margaret Shuler

3 December 1918 — 1 December 2016

My Grandma Margie Shuler was a wonderful woman whom I will miss. I admire who she was and how she lived her life. She was a strong, strong woman.

She was born in a log cabin in the middle of winter in Minnesota and grew up on a farm with 3 brothers. She was strong.

She was also warm and loving, full of compassion, creative, resourceful, intelligent, curious and always seeking to know as much as possible.

I'm proud that my grandmother (born in 1918, during a time when women in higher education could not have been that common, or encouraged) was not only a college graduate but also a graduate of a master's program. However, her education did not stop there. She was always reading books and newspapers, listening to and watching the news, doing anything she could to stay on top of current issues in the world.

Even in the last several years of her life, when her sight and hearing was failing, and it was so very difficult and discouraging for her to read and listen to the news, she did not give up. She was driven to know what was happening. I greatly respect the way her education was not only about the acquisition of knowledge. She was active with her knowledge.



English and History teacher Margaret Shuler in the Teachers' Lounge, Venice High School

She felt strongly about human and civil rights and she was frequently compelled to take action when there was a need. She marched with Cesar Chavez; she wrote to Senators, Congressmen and Congresswomen; she respectfully and passionately talked about issues she cared about with her peers and family members; she was not afraid to speak her mind.

She had so much concern for others – from close family members to men,

women and children in all the corners of the earth, living in lands and cultures that she herself had never experienced. If anyone was in need, she wanted to know how she could help – she always wanted to be of use.

I'll remember Grandma Margie gardening, taking care of her beloved pet dogs, taking care of her family, swimming, telling stories at the dinner table of life growing up on the farm, making Jello salads, her incredibly adorable laugh and the way her nose would scrunch up when she laughed really hard. I'll remember how strong she was when things were very difficult for her, and how she simply would not give up.

I'll remember Grandma Margie because she was always comforting and kind, loving, giving, and engaged.

Tammy Cates-Palmerlee

Remembering Ted Jimenez

21 April 1933 — 11 January 2017

Dorothy Height Stamp Debuts February 1



It's a physically small form of recognition, but a hugely selective one. Not many people get their faces on a U.S. Postal Service stamp. Dorothy Height, a United Methodist who loomed large in the history of civil rights and women's rights movements, will soon join that group. A commemorative "forever" stamp honoring her goes on sale February 1.

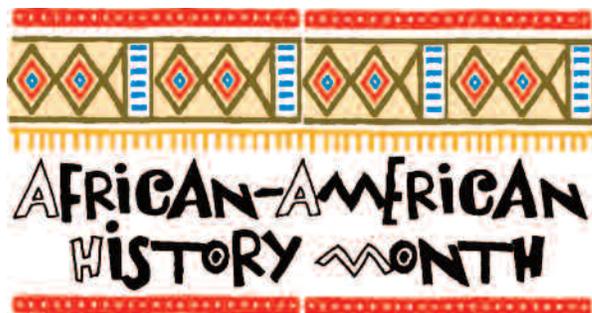
Height, who died in 2010 at age 98, held key positions with both the YWCA and the National Council of Negro Women. She led the latter for more than 40 years. A longtime member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in New York, Height helped organize the National Council of Churches women's caucus. She also founded the Black Family Reunion Celebration. Her work included fighting segregation in the 1950's and helping black citizens register to vote in the South in the 1960's. Through the years, she focused on addressing poverty, and on expanding opportunity for women and strengthening families.

She was on the stage when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. Four decades later, she was still traveling widely as a social justice and human rights advocate. Near the beginning of her career, she helped Eleanor Roosevelt organize the 1938 World Youth Congress. Height, who said she never expected to live long enough to see an African-American elected president, was a special guest at President Obama's 2009 inauguration.

Though not as well-known as King and other civil rights leaders, Height was much honored as an older woman, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Soon after her death, Congress passed a bill, signed into law by President Obama, naming a Washington, D.C., post office after her.

The image, already shared by the Postal Service, shows Height near the end of her long life, dressed to the nines in lavender, her favorite color. She's wearing one of her trademark broad-rim hats. Height was not as familiar as some subjects, but she dressed as vividly as any. Her hats have been the subject of fashion articles and touring exhibits. A play about her, drawn from her memoir, is titled "If This Hat Could Talk."

The stamp features artist Thomas Blackshear II's gouache and acrylics on board portrait of Height. The painting is based on a 2009 photograph shot by Lateef Mangum.



Lois Jimenez
 Isabelle Walters
 Dixie Smith
 Ruth Albrecht
 Elmo Maiden
 Maxine McAuley
 Martin Shuler
 Margaret Cates
 Virgene Engberg
 Barbara & Stan Dimmick
 Jasper & Doris Hood
 LaDean Owen
 Coral Harper
 Singers for the choir



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

Memorial Garden

Interment in our Memorial Garden is open to all who request it.

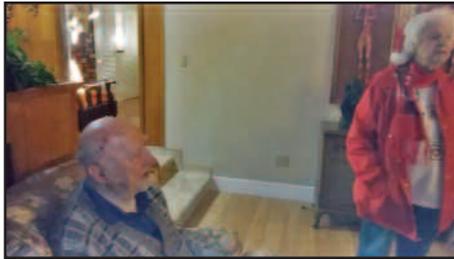
Caroling 2016

Thanks to this year's carolers, we were able to share the Christmas spirit with several of our shut-ins. In addition to LaDean and Walter, pictured here, they also visited Jasper Hood, Rae Wilken and Ruth Albrecht.

Singers included Mary Mackay, Midge Herder, Lou Mountford, Robert and Flo Lamb, Marcela Rodriguez and her extended family: Shawn Alvarado, Dylan and Dominic Bautista, Annaliese Laguna and Aileth Gutierrez.



Caroling at LaDean Owen's home



and at Walter Deonik's home



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