



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

September 2017

Heart to Heart

A mother and two young daughters walked into the restaurant. Mom was holding a huge bouquet of balloons she tied to one of the chairs. Then, she put two tables together. And the family sat down to wait. Soon an older couple arrived and hugs were shared all around. It was a clearly a celebration gathering. Some of the mylar balloons said CONGRATULATIONS!, so it was probably not a birthday party.

Mom, the older sister, and the younger sister sat on one side of the table. Grandma sat across from the older girl; grandpa, from the younger one.

Before long, the child in the middle was wearing a graduation cap. She had graduated from preschool and was headed to kindergarten. Grandma pulled out the camera. She took picture after picture of the graduate as well as of the graduate and her mother together.

Meanwhile, younger sister turned her back to the group and began to pout. Grandpa noticed. He leaned across the table to talk to her. Grandpa said, "You seem sad. Are you sad?" She nodded. Grandpa said, "People sometimes feel sad, when nobody is paying any attention to them. Sometimes they even feel angry." She nodded bigger this time.

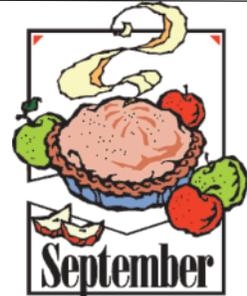
Grandpa said, "It's okay to feel sad and angry. But today is Sister's special day, and it's important for us to celebrate it." Then, Grandpa said, "Next year, it'll be your turn. You'll be graduating from preschool. You will have a special day. And we will celebrate it!"

"That will be fun!" she said. And she smiled at Grandpa.

Grandchildren are a remarkable blessing and so are grandmas and grandpas!

Pastor Lynn Westover

P.S. I invite you to participate in the Congregational Planning Meeting on Saturday, September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in the parlor. Some wisdom and agreement is necessary to develop a helpful church plan. I look forward to gathering with as many people as possible 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

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



September 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

Other Activities in September

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Monday 4 Labor Day, office closed
- Thursday 7 UMW Mission Team, Room 10, 10:00 am
- Sunday 10 Sunday School resumes during worship
- Tuesday 12 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Thursday 14 Bookends, Library, 9:30 am
Sarah Circle, Denny's, 9:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.
- Friday 15 Courier deadline, October issue
- Tuesday 19 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 20 Faith, Hope & Love, Church Library, 7:00 pm
- Thursday 21 UMW General Meeting, Lounge, 9:30 am
- Saturday 23 Congregational Planning Event, Parlor, 9:00 am
- Sunday 24 All Church BBQ, *see page 8*

Upcoming in October

- Sunday 2 World Communion Sunday
- Tuesday 3 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Saturday 7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am
Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- 7 Byron & Mary McKibben
Jack & Pat Taylor
15 Joe & Sylvia Buttemeier
*If your special day is missing,
please contact the church office.*



ALTAR FLOWERS

- 3 Given by Jack & Pat Taylor *in honor of their 57th wedding anniversary*
- 10 Given by Roger & Nancy Johnson *in memory of Laura Longman*
- 17 Given by George and Karen Grengs *in memory of her mother, Elizabeth Searle*
- 24 Given by the Connollys and Aldermans *in memory of Bob Connolly*
Bud vase given by Charlotte Girvan *in memory of her mother, Rose Hadley's birthday*

Congregational Planning Meeting

Saturday, September 23

9:00 am to Noon

Consider yourself invited.

Save the date and pray about the future
to which God is calling us.



UMW Mission Team

Thursday, September 7th, at 10:00 in Room 10.

UMW General Meeting

Thursday, September 21st, at 9:30 am in the Lounge

Program is the World Thank Offering.

The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. The funds received are used in the total program of mission carried on through United Methodist Women's national office.

UMW North District Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 23, at North Hollywood UMC

From the UMW of Vista UMC Newsletter... June 6, 2017

Congratulations to Helen Robertson for being honored at the District Quiet Day as Vista's UMW Quiet Disciple for 2017. Included here is the 100 word description of Helen's discipleship submitted to the district.

Helen arrived at Vista UMC four years ago. It did not take long for her to become a UMW member and then the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Vista UMW. Her worship center and devotions were a delight to the members. Each Thursday afternoon Helen is at the church to help prepare and serve dinner to the homeless of the community. On Sundays, she is part of the hospitality and greeters team and regularly serves as an usher. Her kindness and caring are her everyday discipleship. Helen is a blessing to our congregation.

Thanks To Pastor Herb

We in the congregation want to give you a special nod of thanks for dedicating yourselves to preparing a five-week series of talks based on the book of Romans during Worship Services in July. Your teaching is so well thought out and delivered in such a personal manner.

We, the congregation, say 'thank you.' We appreciate your leadership, instruction and example in Christian living.



Circle Meetings

Bookends

Thursday, September 14
9:30 am

Church Library

Hostesses: Jean Smith
and Ann Peterson,

Devotions: Midge Herder

Book: "Light Between
Oceans" by M.L. Stedman

will be reviewed by
Margaret Cates.

Sarah Circle

Thursday, September 14
9:30 am

Breakfast at Denny's

8330 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
(north of Roscoe Blvd.)

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, September 20
7:00 pm

Church Library

Devotions and Program:

Chandra Seeger and
Lynne German;

Hostess: Trish Simmons

Sunday School Starting

September 10 ... 10:00 to 11:00

We look forward to seeing all our children back in class. Grades 1 through 8 will be held in the Lounge located in the Fellowship Hall and taught by Jackie Robertson. Grades 9 through 12 will be held in the Library next to the office and taught by Josh Gardner.

A Bible craft lesson for toddlers and Kindergarteners will be taught by Jennifer Alderman in Room 1 of the Education building.

UMW Special Mission Recognition 2017

Stan Westover

A suggestion was made twelve years ago by a member of the United Methodist Women's Mission Team (I believe it was Barbara Dimmick) that we recognize a man in our congregation by awarding him a UMW Special Mission Recognition award for his hard work, volunteerism and dedication. There are a number of dedicated men currently in our church who spend numerous hours volunteering their time to make our church the best possible place in which to worship. Their many and varied gifts are appreciated and we say thank you to each one of you.

Our selection this year is Stan Westover who was raised in the Southern part of California and brought up in a Methodist church in the same area. Stan attended Sunday School, sang in the children's choir and was a member of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF). As young children he and his brother would wear long sleeves to church during baseball season to hide the wire for the earpiece to their transistor radios, so they could secretly listen to games during worship. Apparently the saints in the congregation would watch over and encourage him but also traded their dessert for his beet salad.

As a lover of the Lord, Stan hoped and prayed that he would become the man God wanted him to be. This desire led him to study the Bible, to worship and pray, to teach, to serve where and when needed.

For a number of years he participated in the leadership of Lay Witness weekends. As a certified lay speaker, he has preached in several churches and has served on a variety of committees over the years.

Stan prayed he would meet a woman with whom he could serve the Lord. His prayers were answered when a pastor friend played matchmaker and introduced him to a friend. They went on their first date, and before each date he would pray for

their time together. Pastor Lynn once asked him how he knew she was the one. He said, "You kept saying yes when I asked you out." Then in 1998 they were married, and he became a family man with two step-daughters and now a granddaughter.

Stan started a temporary job as an electrician with Rockwell, now Boeing, and eventually retired after thirty-eight years with the company. Both he and his brother, who worked side by side for many of those years, retired on the same day. His experience in that area led him to his interest in handling maintenance issues and logistics.

About six years ago this couple, Stan and Lynn Westover, became a part of our church family at Canoga Park First United Methodist Church. Our church has been the recipient of all his great experience.

Stan presently acts as an alternate on the Administrative Committee, is an Usher, Liturgist, and preaches on various Sundays. He took on the responsibility for the many of the maintenance issues that need attention around the property. We can count on Stan at any time to take care of what needs to be done on the property such as air conditioning, Memorial Fountain, Memorial Garden, replacement of lights, cleaning of gutters on both the church and preschool, carpet cleaning, revarnishing of benches, repairs to the solar panels on the parking lot structure and meeting with various contractors. These are just a few of the issues needing attention. No matter what he is asked to do he does it willingly, and in a positive kind way.

Stan calls this congregation family and this church home. He treasures his time here.

Directory Update

Geri Allen no longer has her home phone number. Please use her cell phone only ... 818-618-0756.

New Members

On Sunday, August 20, we welcomed four new members.

Diana Willson was raised in Redondo Beach and moved to Hawthorne in her Junior year in high school. She spent most of her life working as a Sales Secretary while raising her children as a single parent. She moved to Canoga Park in 2010 to care for her aging mother and step-father. She lives close to her beloved daughter. She enjoys gardening, fixing broken things and working with stained glass.

Julie Demoraes is that daughter who loves to crochet, knit, garden and camp. She is an avid reader who loves history. She cares for four rescue dogs whom she adores. She and her Mom have been attending First Church for the past year.

Noel Roberson is a graduate of Texas Tech in Finance. In 1991 he took early retirement after 28 years with Unilever Foods. He purchased several apartment buildings in Lubbock, TX, and still is in the apartment business. He and his wife work part-time for LA Recreation and Parks. He collects walking sticks, wears Hawaiian shirts and follows the Lakers.

Nanette Roberson is also a Texan. She and Noel have been married for 55 years. They have two daughters, one grandson and two granddaughters. Nanette continues to teach pre-kindergarten and art. She loves traveling and painting.



*Noel Roberson, Nannette Roberson, Diana Willson
and Julie Demoraes*

Roster Additions

Diana Willson
8221 Kentland Ave., West Hills, CA 91304
Home Phone 818-884-8284
westhillsred@yahoo.com

Julie Demoraes
22323 Schoenborn St, West Hills, CA 91304
Cell Phone 818-914-9507
jdemotowo2@yahoo.com

Nanette & Noel Roberson
8417 Denise Lane, West Hills, CA 91304
Home Phone 818-274-6639
nannoel@yahoo.com

Preschool News

Back to School!!! Our Teachers have been cleaning and organizing classrooms and meeting their new and returning students. Our first day of school was August 15th. What a great start to a new year!!!

We'd like to welcome back our terrific teachers!!!

Miss Cheri & Miss Jen in room 3.....Miss Joanne & Miss Sue in room 4....Miss Deb & Miss Sari in room 5. Miss Robin will be our resource teacher again 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!! Thank You, Robert!

We will also have a Tumbling class once a week. This is taught by Miss Amanda, who is one of our former teachers who now subs for us! The kids love the class.

I am very happy to announce that our Preschool was voted Best Preschool In Los Angeles for the 7th year in a row!! We are very proud of this!

Here's to a fantastic new year!!

Wendy



Compassion and Community

Christianity is a simple religion. There are not a lot of rules. "Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself" pretty much sums it up.

But if Christianity is simple, it is also demanding. Loving our neighbors as ourselves? All of them? All the time? When you think about it, that is a lot to ask.

Our Stewardship campaign this year is directed toward "Compassion and Community." Our compassion is for those in our community and around the world; we are dedicated to carrying out God's work.

When did you last visit a prisoner, give something to drink to someone who was really thirsty, or visit someone in the hospital, as Jesus asks us to do?

The answer is you did those things today, as you have done for over a hundred years. That's because First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park, California, has been doing these things since its founding, and whatever the church does is done by you.

Through your support, this congregation, in turn, supports targeted ministries to feed the hungry with the Food Pantry, the Shower Ministry for those in need, scouting ministries for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and encouragement for young people in finding their dreams.

You will receive your Stewardship packet on October 8, Inspiration Sunday. Plan to bring your pledge cards forward on October 15, Celebration Sunday. When you return your pledge card, we'll mail you a ticket making you eligible to receive a gift card in appreciation.

We are deeply grateful for both your service and your generous gifts.

God Bless,
The Stewardship Committee



Gala Breakfast

This year we are thrilled to announce that the keynote speaker for our 2nd annual Gala Breakfast will be radio host JOE SIKORRA.

Joe's show looks at the news of the day through the eyes of a marriage and family therapist.

Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 – 9:00 am
Woodland Hills Country Club
21150 Dumetz Road, Woodland Hills

Breakfast is complimentary but seating is limited – RSVP's are a must. Please call or visit our website to host a table or reserve a seat 818-346-2229 / www.angelswayhome.org.

Angels Way Maternity Home is for pregnant women 18 years and older with no other children living with her. The women live together as a family, go to work or school and participate in the running of the home with the supervision of an on-site House Manager. Angels Way receives no federal funding, so it is only through the generosity of our donors, and fundraisers such as this, that Angels Way is able to keep its doors open to help the vulnerable homeless pregnant women who come to us.



Remembering Doris Taylor

Roberta Foreman, Doris Taylor's daughter, informed the church that her mother passed away on July 28. Doris and her husband John belonged to First Church and sang in the choir. Doris' favorite hobby was working on her elaborate doll house.

If you would like to send condolences to the family, Roberta Foreman's address is 5827 Glenwood Ave., Everett, WA 98203-3033.

Roberta suggested that memorial donations in Doris' name be made to the church, and used to support the Choir ministry.

Young Ambassadors Leadership Academy

For many years, First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park has had the pleasure of welcoming the Young Ambassadors Leadership Academy, YALA, to our campus for their Fall session. Led by Andrew Thomas, Chairman of Board, and wife, Deanna



Thomas, Director and Founder, YALA has been operating since 2002, and is committed to providing a spectrum of services to young boys and teens, 6 to 16 years of age, that promote character building, leadership skills, and manhood development.

By faith, husband and wife started this program in their home with their first-born son and have continued the tradition with their additional sons. It was a program to affirm the significance and greatness of young males and to help them understand that their greatness, partnered with responsibility, fosters leadership and excellence. Friends inquired about the morals and values that they were instilling in their sons and were invited to become a part of this growing tradition, thus Young Ambassadors was born.

Now known as Young Ambassadors Leadership Academy, the program is supported by a community of *Bridge Builders*, who have committed to pouring knowledge and wisdom into the lives of the Young Ambassadors.

YALA has embraced a quote by Jackie Robinson, "Life is not important except the impact you have on others' lives." Today, YALA has touched the lives of many young boys and teens and has made a positive impact. The program is a legacy of courage, determination, leadership, and excellence.

It may seem an old fashioned concept, yet raising our sons to be gentlemen is as important a part of being a parent as teaching them right from wrong. It means teaching our sons to be courageous and considerate; to protect, not abuse; and to choose solid values to live by, rather than the poor values promoted in the media.

Last year, YALA had 33 boys in their Fall session here at FUMCCP. YALA has several yearly events that the boys look forward to participating in. This year, their college tour was to USC, and their community service project was to feed the homeless in North Hollywood Park. Their signature event was the first offering of Kings Code Bootcamp, a coding workshop which drew nearly 90 kids from the community. City Councilmen Bob Blumenfield attended and shared a word of encouragement and support.

For more information visit www.young-ambassadors.com.



Roberta Foreman

Isabelle Walters

Erin Landrum

Geri Allen

Raymond Allen

Pat Eaton

Sandra Dedinas

Linden Dickerson

Jim Smith

Joan Kelley

Barbara & Stan Dimmick

Lori Dimmick

LaDean Owen

Coral Harper

Paul Cady's Dad,
Bob Cady

Margaret Cates' sister,
Elise Madison



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.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

22700 Sherman Way
West Hills, CA 91307-2396

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

Return Service Requested



The Family Life Committee invites you to the
58th annual all-church Barbecue

Sunday, September 24

Dinner served from 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Adults: \$7.00

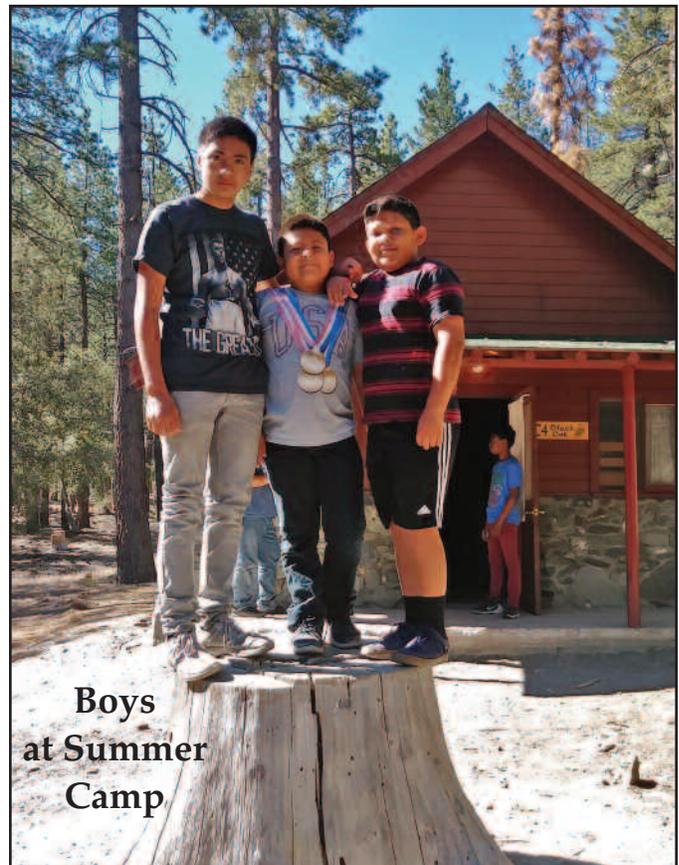
Children 6-12: \$4.00 ... Children 5 and under: free

We'll be barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs,
offering oven-barbequed chicken,
and our traditional baked 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.



**Boys
at Summer
Camp**