



# The Courier

## First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park

22700 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91307-2396

Telephone: 818.340.2950

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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*

December 2017

## Heart to Heart

I used to think having paid singers in a church choir was unnecessary, but I have changed my mind. Sometimes paid singers make a wonderful difference in the choir ministry and outreach. Some argue that paid section leaders guarantee consistency, a balance of voices, and high quality music. But this conversation is about guests who occasionally sing with the choir.

I appreciate our volunteer Chancel Choir. Worship is stronger when they sing with the congregation. I tell them this and always rejoice when they return from summer break. But there have been changes since I arrived that are challenging for both choir and director. They have lost eleven singers. One moved. Six are no longer able to sing for whatever reason. And four are now members of the heavenly choir. Our Chancel Choir feels this loss. It makes it difficult to sing more challenging music, like cantatas for example. And yet, the choir enjoys singing cantatas at Christmas and Easter. They want to be part of music that moves you, that fills your hearts with joy. But the hard truth is this. The Chancel Choir does not have the voices at this time to do cantatas without paid singers.

And, if we do not do a cantata, we give up a significant community outreach. Do you remember the recent Cantata Sunday crowds? In 2014, there were 128 worshipers; in 2015, 116; and in 2016, 120. Worship attendance spiked on a third Sunday in Advent due to the Christmas Cantata.

There are some additional benefits I should mention. Paid singers give confidence to volunteer singers, especially those who love to sing but cannot read music. And if the choir sounds better because of the pro voices, more people come on board as volunteers. Four volunteer singers joined our Chancel Choir after first singing in one of the cantatas. I changed my mind about guest singers a long time ago. I decided the benefits to the church and choir outweigh the small cost, considering the increased giving on high attendance Sundays and the fact that the cost is frequently covered by designated funds.

Singers can make a world of difference! The king, in the Book of Nehemiah, thought so too. So he commanded that the singers be paid every day their portion of the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil.

*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 Layout**

Sharon Mountford



**Resident Bishop**

Grant Hagiya

**North District  
Superintendent**

Rev. Jim Powell



## December Calendar

### Birthdays

- 7 Dawn Hromadka
- 10 Verda Longan
- 11 Christopher Guerrero
- 12 Mina Foreman
- 13 George Miller
- 14 Joseph Dedinas  
Amy Kelly  
Charyl Patterson
- 16 Sue Birkins
- 18 Lori Dimmick  
Anthony Hernandez
- 20 Patricia Eaton  
Diana Willson
- 24 LaDean Owen
- 29 Del DeShazo
- 30 Patricia Connolly  
Jim Smith
- 31 Francis Leslie

### Anniversaries

- 2 Herb and Amanda Lucas
- 4 Paula & Mark Slatten
- 5 William & Erin Landrum
- 17 Dale & Susan Barry
- 29 Nancy & Lee Summer

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



### ALTAR FLOWERS

- 3 Given by Karen & George Grengs in celebration of the holidays
- 10 Given by Anita & Louis Parrinello in honor of Christopher's 20th birthday
- 17 Given by Lori & Ken Dimmick in honor of Lori Dimmick's birthday
- 24 Poinsettias
- 31 Given by Pat Connolly in celebration of her birthday

### 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
- Friday Girl Scouts, Scout Room, 6:00 pm (1st & 3rd Fridays)

### Other Activities

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, Denny's, 8:30 am  
*Topanga Canyon Blvd., just north of Roscoe Blvd.*  
UMW Silver Tea, Fellowship Hall, 1:00 pm
- Sunday 3 Advent Study, Sanctuary, 11:30 am  
Dessert Musicale, Fellowship Hall, 6:30
- Tuesday 5 Leisure Club, Lounge, 11:00 am
- Sunday 10 Advent Study, Sanctuary, 11:30 am
- Tuesday 12 Administrative Committee, Library, 7:00 pm
- Thursday 14 Sarah Circle, Denny's, 9:30 am  
Bookends, Maria's Italian Kitchen, W.H., 6:30 pm
- Friday 15 Courier Deadline for input for the January issue
- Sunday 17 Christmas Cantata, 10:00 am, during worship
- Monday 18 Advent Study, Library, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday 19 Prayer Shawl Ministry, Library, 10:00 am
- Wednesday 20 Faith, Hope & Love, Weilers Deli, 6:30 pm
- Sunday 24 Advent Study, Sanctuary, 11:30 am  
Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary, 7:00 pm
- Monday 25 Christmas Day, Office closed
- Tuesday 26 -28 Limited office hours. *Please call ahead, if you are planning to visit.*
- Sunday 31 New Year's Eve

### Upcoming in January

- Monday 1 New Year's Day, Office closed
- 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.*



## Angel Tree

Our annual Angel Tree was placed in the Parlor on November 19. It contains the names of children provided us by the Department of Children & Family Services through the Adopt-A-Child- Abuse Caseworker program. December 10 will be the last day to bring in your gifts. We hope you will participate in this program by taking an angel and purchasing a gift. Contact Shirley Thomson, the liaison for our church with DCFS, at 818 348-0414 if you have any questions.



## UMW Silver Tea

## UMW Annual Christmas Silver Tea

Saturday, December 2...1:00 pm

All are invited: mothers, daughters, grandmothers, granddaughters, sisters, aunts, friends and neighbors. Some husbands enjoy attending. There will be beautiful decorations, lots of pretty tea sandwiches and cookies and plenty of time for visiting. Come and enjoy musical entertainment and fellowship. UMW women are encouraged to donate finger foods. A good will offering will be taken for our Good Samaritan Fund. Please RSVP to Grace Leighton at 818 267-7567 or by e-mail [jleigh2128@aol.com](mailto:jleigh2128@aol.com).

## Future Meetings

### UMW Mission Team

Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 10:00 am in Room 10.

### UMW Sunday

January 28, 2018



## December Circle Gatherings

### Bookends

Thursday, December 14  
11:30 am  
Maria's Italian Kitchen,  
23331 Mulholland Dr.  
Woodland Hills

### Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, December 20  
6:30 pm  
Weiler's Deli  
22323 Sherman Way #25  
Canoga Park

### Sarah Circle

Thursday, December 14  
9:30 am  
Breakfast at Denny's  
8330 Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
(north of Roscoe Blvd.)

## 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.



Tuesday  
December 5  
11:00 am  
Lounge

Our preschool children will entertain us with Christmas songs.

We will have a pot luck lunch, all are welcome.

## Preschool News

The year is flying by! We have had a great start to the school year. At Preschool we measure the passing time by the different holidays that we observe, starting with Halloween, then Thanksgiving and now getting ready for Christmas.

We had a special Thanksgiving Feast, with each of the classrooms responsible for preparing a different dish for our communal feast. We talked about what it means to be thankful. Pastor Lynn led us in our feast prayer.

We're looking forward to singing for the Leisure Club on Tuesday, December 5th at their Christmas get-together.

Our Christmas program will be Wednesday, December 13th at 11:00 am in the Church Sanctuary. Our friend Robert Lamb will sing along with the children in their Christmas songs. We invite you to attend, it will warm your heart.

The last day of school for us is Friday, December 15th and we will be back next year on January 8th.

*Wendy*

## Dessert Musicale

If you are attending the Dessert Musicale, consider helping the San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus with their food drive for the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission. The drive will benefit the new homeless center in Northridge which offers housing to families.



## From the Mailbox

Thank you for the beautiful shawl that was sent to me. I feel the blessing and the comfort of prayers coming from the shawl. Thank you also for the love and warmth I'll have in coming days.

*Love in Christ, Coyolyn Hammett*

Dear First UMC,

I was one of the Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship recipients in 2014 and 2015. I want to take this opportunity to give you an update and thank everyone involved in making this scholarship possible.

Receiving this scholarship allowed me to accomplish many goals, including graduating with no debt. During my senior year I was nominated by faculty and received the Academic Excellence Award in Nursing for the 2015/2016 year. I was invited to give a presentation at the Pi Theta Research Day at the University of Arkansas. In the Spring of 2016 I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing as Salutatorian of my class. In July of 2016 I passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and began working in the emergency department at Washington Regional in Fayetteville, AR. I have been working there since then and I love it! Thank you for your piece in making this possible!

Now I am engaged and will soon accomplish another long-term goal by marrying my best friend!

*Taylor Brandli*

## Laura Longman Memorial Scholarship 2018 Applications Available December Third

Students who will be juniors or seniors in the fall of 2018 and who have a grade point average of 2.75 or better, are invited to apply. Grants of at least \$ 1,000 each will be awarded on Easter Sunday. Request an application from the First United Methodist Church office by calling 818-340-2950. Completed applications are due into the church office not later than February 2nd, 2018 for consideration.

## Stewardship 2018 Report

The Stewardship Committee thanks the congregation of First United Methodist Church, Canoga Park, for their response to our 2018 stewardship program, "Compassion and Community." Our compassion is for those in need in our West San Fernando Valley community and around the world, as well as everyone who is carrying out God's work.

Whatever the church does is done by you, and through your generous giving, we support the hungry with the Food Pantry, the Shower Ministry for those living with homelessness, the Boy Scouts to encourage kids in their dreams, and other targeted ministries. We've been doing these things since our founding over a hundred years ago.

For 2018, we received a total of 46 Estimate of Giving cards, pledging \$117,740.00. That's a healthy increase over last year.

*Through the generosity of three members of the Stewardship Committee...Everyone who returned an Estimate of Giving card by Thursday, November 16th, was entered into a drawing for a meal at P.F. Chang's, Maggiano's, or Fleming's. The drawing was held during our Sunday service on November 19th. Congratulations to the Chandra Seeger, JoAnn Chadwick-Ellis and Nancy Summer.*

By the way, it's never too late to mail in your Estimate of Giving card, drop it in the Sunday Service collection plate, or bring it to the church office Monday through Thursday.

*"Well done, good and faithful servant."*

*Matthew 25:23*

Christmas  
Poinsettias



Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season are available for \$9 each. Please place your order by December 7. Order forms are in the worship bulletins and also in the church office.

## We Have New Coffee Pots

Last month both coffee pots, which we use each Sunday morning for the Fellowship Time, ceased to function. Our thanks go to Carolyn Lottman, who came to the rescue and provided funding to purchase new coffee pots. Dean and Carolyn were major funders and workers when the Sanctuary Kitchen was refurbished in 2012. Our many thanks to them for their continued caring support of our church.

## 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.



Pastor Lynn's online purchases have accumulated \$43.14 for the church. This does not seem like much, but if ten people did the same thing, the church would receive \$431.40.

The portal has been redesigned and is user friendly. You can download an app that will notify you when you shop online, if a donation is available from that retailer, and will helpfully redirect you to the portal to sign in.

Visit [umcmarket.org](http://umcmarket.org), establish your free, online account and support your church with every online purchase you make at participating retailers.

## CROP Walk a Success

The total donations were about \$16,000, of which \$615 was raised by our church. There were 89 walkers representing 12 organizations. Thanks so much for everyone's support. One-quarter of the funds raised goes to local food pantries and the remainder goes to Church World Service, which works world-wide solving food, water and health problems.

*Joe Buttemeier*

# Remembering Jack Taylor

## 11 July 1934 - 18 October 2017

Raymond "Jack" Taylor was born on 11 July 1934 in Chicago, Illinois. When he was nine, he moved to the San Fernando Valley with his mom and sister. The family followed several of his parents' friends to live in a nicer climate. His dad was in the army at that time, serving in Alaska.

Jack attended local public schools and graduated from Van Nuys High School in 1952. He worked for General Motors in Van Nuys and Lockheed in Burbank, before he was drafted into the US Army. He was sent to Germany for two years; his unit replaced the occupation troops.

After his tour of duty, Jack returned to his job at Lockheed. Then, he took a job in newspaper circulation. Over a period of twenty-five years, Jack worked for several newspapers, ending his career with the Los Angeles Times, as an independent dealer, working seven days a week. Finally, he went into business for himself and retired with Pat in 2003.

Pat's good friend, Bobbi, was going with Jack's friend, so she sent Jack over to meet Pat. They went to Disneyland on their first date in May 1959 and were married on 7 September 1960. Jack and Pat raised two daughters, Gail and Chris. Jack and his true love were married for fifty-seven years.

During those years, they lived in Sherman Oaks, Van Nuys, and, for the last seventeen years, in Calabasas. They attended Methodist churches in Sherman Oaks and North Hollywood. When they decided to find a church family closer to home, they joined First UMC of Canoga Park in 2013. Pat promptly joined the choir, and Jack held down his seat in the third pew.

Jack is survived by his beloved wife, Pat; daughter, Gail Taylor; daughter, Chris Taylor, and son-in-law, Jim Feldman; two grandsons, Sam and Ben Taylor-Feldman; and his sister, Lorelea Holford, as well as nieces and nephews.



Jack was funny, maybe even a bit goofy. He made up silly rhymes, sang silly songs and delighted his grandchildren with ad-libbed stories and poems. He

was also stubborn; when his mind was made up, it was his way or the highway. The girls remember Dad had a remedy for every injury; it was the magic stuff, otherwise known as Bactine.

Jack had a life-long obsession with cars; he owned and retooled many. Phone conversations with the girls often included questions like, "How many miles do you have on your car?" or "Did you get your oil changed?" He could build and fix anything. He made little inventions to solve problems and loved puttering around.

Jack was bald very young, so he always had a toupee. Consequently, there are toupee stories. One time, they thought the dog had a critter of some kind, but the dog was chewing Jack's toupee. Another time, Jack was riding his motorcycle down the street and looking cool, when his hair flew up and flapped a bit.

Jack, a strong Democrat, was active in the Valley Grassroots for Democracy. He was always honest and never cheated anyone. He was very loyal and enjoyed socializing.

Pat and Jack loved traveling to many destinations, including Europe, Hawaii, Italy, Egypt, and Iceland. They frequented Lake Tahoe and took cruises.

The Apostle Paul said, "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord." Like Paul, Jack had confidence, and he would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. He wasn't afraid of dying; he just wanted to die at home in his favorite chair. And thanks be to God, that's how Jack came to be absent from the body, present with the Lord!

*The Rev. Lynn Westover*

## And It Came to Pass, Emmanuel

*A Christmas Cantata*

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 am worship

THERE IS BUT ...

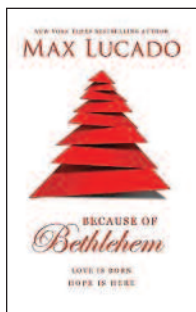
One God...One Word...One Story.

AND IT CAME TO PASS!



Yes, it came to pass – the incarnation of the Word, the divine promise of God! He came not in power but in weakness, not in wealth but in poverty. And this was God’s plan from the beginning. For it was out of His love and goodness that mercy was made visible to us by a Baby in a cradle. Our need called out to His love and He came. Though we turned away from eternal things, He restored them to us in Jesus. We were eyewitnesses to His majesty! And now, we eagerly await His return. Oh, wait but a little! Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. For just as it came to pass in that day, the day has been set when He will come again. For all that comes to us here on earth, comes to pass!

Invite family and friends for the choral cantata. You will be uplifted by this inspiring worship service.



### Advent Study, led by Pastor Lynn

*Because of Bethlehem* by Max Lucado

Sundays, December 3, 10, 24, at 11:30 am  
and Monday, December 18, at 7:00 pm

In *Because of Bethlehem*, a four-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world.

Jesus’ birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us — and that we no longer need to have marks on our record. “Because of Bethlehem” sessions include:

God Has a Face ...Worship Works

God Guides the Wise ...Every Heart a Manger



La Dean Owen

Dana Dreyfus

Toby Lane

Jack Barlow

Kaye Hall

Sandra Dedinas

Pat Taylor

Joan Kelley

Barbara & Stan Dimmick

Jim Smith

Coral Harper

Fire, Earthquake &  
Shooting Victims &  
Families



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)



## Can you help?

Our Shower Ministry needs you. You are always welcome to contribute to the designated Shower Ministry fund. Volunteers are also needed to provide a hot, ready-to-go casserole for twenty on Tuesday by 8:00 am.

Contact Beulah Hajek at 818-883-2616 or by e-mail [BSorensonhajek@gmail.com](mailto:BSorensonhajek@gmail.com), to schedule a week when you can help.

## UMCOR

UMCOR provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own. Feel free to give through UMCOR when your hearts are moved to respond. You can use UMCOR envelopes (in the sanctuary) or give online.



## Budding Thespian

Kyle Finley is seen here as Dr. Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein* at the Drama Teachers Association of Southern California competition on November 3. His group, representing El Camino High School, won 1st place for Comedy in a field of over 40 schools. His family is so proud of him.



## Highland Games

Here are photos of Jackie and Josh Gardner throwing their weights around, competing in the cancer toss (trying to toss and flip a huge wooden pole) and the sheaf toss with pitchforks. Josh placed 4th out of 13 in his men's category and Jackie was 7th in her women's field of 11 competitors.



*And It Came To Pass,  
 Emmanuel  
 A Christmas Cantata*  
 Sunday, December 17, 10:00 am



Return Service Requested

22700 Sherman Way  
 West Hills, CA 91307-2396



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANOGA PARK

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



# 20 17

## Advent Schedule

**Saturday, December 2**

### UMW Silver Tea

Fellowship Hall, 1:00 pm

Come one, come all for a delightful tea, good fellowship and musical entertainment. A freewill offering will be received for our Good Samaritan Fund.  
RSVP: Grace Leighton at 818 267-7567 or jleight2128@aol.com.



**Wednesday, December 13**

### Preschool Christmas Presentation

Sanctuary, 11:00 am

You are invited to come to the children's Christmas program, a highlight of the season.



**Sunday, December 17**

### Third Sunday of Advent

#### *And It Came to Pass, Emmanuel Christmas Cantata*



Invite family and friends for the choral cantata. You will be uplifted by this inspiring worship service.

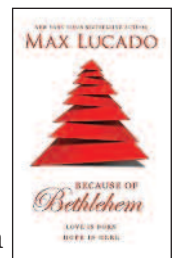
**Monday, December 18**

Advent Study, Library, 7:00 pm

**Sunday, December 24**

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Study, Sanctuary, 11:30 am



### Lessons and Carols

A quiet and reflective candlelight service of music and readings will help you focus on the coming of Christ into the world.



### Christmas Eve

**A Very Merry Christmas  
to everyone!**

**Sunday, December 3**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
Advent Study, Sanctuary, 11:30 am



### Dessert Musicale

Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm

Entertainment by the young singers of the San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus and your selection of a fabulous dessert. Please make reservations by November 29, with smountford@socal.rr.com or by phoning 818-340-5084.



**Tuesday, December 5**

### Leisure Club Christmas Luncheon

Lounge, 11:00 am

Potluck lunch and a Christmas program by the children of the Preschool.  
RSVP: Lora O'Connor, 818-887-9931



**Sunday, December 10**

### Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Study, Sanctuary, 11:30 am

