



News and Reviews

Excerpted from the church newsletter

Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

These are uncertain times and I hear from many of you how much you want directions from the District and the Conference as to the next steps. Well, the truth is things are kind of chaotic around the denomination these days. There are movements happening in the Western Jurisdiction from progressives, moderates, and conservatives. There are groups who support the Traditional Plan, and conservative groups who do not support the Traditional Plan. There are emerging movements like UMC Next, UM-Forward, and many others. Furthermore, there are many who stand in the middle — waiting for the fighting to stop.

The California-Pacific Conference is following our own journey to becoming one in mission while remaining many in cultural-context. In some ways, we are trying to continue to love everyone in front of us while struggling to understand the differences in theology and sexuality.

Regardless of the next steps of our Annual Conference, Jurisdiction, or UMC Denomination, our mission statement to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is still the most important thing we do as the United Methodist Church. We still have to be the Church of Jesus Christ in our community and around the world.

Our hope and our courage to love all will not come from instructions from an outside source. We must learn to lean on the Lord and trust God will bring a new church. It is at these times in which I pray the encouragement Paul prayed over the Philippians in Chapter 4: ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Rev. James R. Powell
North District Superintendent
California-Pacific Annual Conference



Pastor

Lynn Westover

Preschool Director

Wendy Finley

**Music Director/
Accompanist**

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Grace Leighton

**Administrative
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Grant Hagiya

**North District
Superintendent**

Rev. Jim Powell

New Member



In the last Courier we included a photo of new members and write-ups of some of them. We promised bios of the other two later. Here is one of them.

I am Christie Fernando from Sri Lanka. I am married to Dharshani, who is a Buddhist. We have two children, a daughter Tasini and a son Heshan. They have graduated from DeVry University and CSUN respectively.

I worked as a Research Assistant on the Flora of Ceylon Project funded by the Smithsonian Institute and co-sponsored by the University of Peradeniya and the Department of Agriculture. The work involved collecting and identifying all the flowering plants of Sri Lanka. All of the plants collected were identified, dried and preserved at the National Herbarium, Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. After the project ended I worked for the National Science Foundation on the continuation of this project. Currently I assist a friend who is a television wholesaler.

We came to America in 2001. Within 2 weeks we all had our green cards and in five years we all became citizens. I am interested in traveling and nature.

Rejoice In The Lord Always, Again I Say Rejoice.

(Philippians 4:4)

“Life Lessons from Philippians” a study / discussion compiled by Max Lucado, will continue after Worship Services in the Library beginning on September 22 and going for 6 weeks. The class, which began in October 2018, will continue after a review of the highlights of the first segment. Roger Johnson will lead the discussions.

“Find joy in a world where stress is the new normal” is a headline of the letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi while he was in prison around 60 AD. It is amazing that an ancient letter (written 1,959 years ago) can be so current and uplifting today.

Welcome Another New Member

Janet Casteneda was baptized and received into membership on September 8, 2019.



Key themes of this study are: 1) By faith we have Christ in us because of the Spirit of God; 2) Only Christ can bring salvation; and 3) Christian unity encourages our faith.

Each lesson will include a reflection on the situation, observation and exploration of the letter as written; discussion of the inspiration we can draw upon and how we react to the passage; and the LIFE LESSON we can draw from the passage and apply in our circumstances today.

Folks who participated in the first segment are encouraged to dust off their books and sign up to attend. Folks who would wish to join the group for the first time and need a book are encouraged to sign up early so your books can be ordered. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parlor for all who are interested in attending.

Preschool News

“Back to School Night” was Sept 18th. This is always a great time for our parents to see their child’s classroom and some of the work they’ve been doing, and for the teachers to fill them in on how things are going and what to expect throughout the year.

We will have our school pictures taken this month.

Our Halloween parade will be held on Wednesday, Oct 30th at 9:30 am. We invite all our church friends to join us as we “trick or treat” and sing our Halloween songs!!

Wendy

World Communion Sunday 6 October 2018

This observance focuses our attention on the universal and inclusive nature of the church. One-half of this offering is for World Communion Sunday Scholars administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. The remaining half is to be used for the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, which are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Simply designate your gift as World Communion Sunday offering.

You are welcome to give to the Good Samaritan Fund any Sunday, but a special Good Sam Offering is received on Communion Sundays. (The offering plate is in the center aisle as we gather for worship.)

Through your gifts, the pastor is able to help people in need.

Help for the Hungry

One way you might consider helping our homeless population is to carry a nonperishable lunch in your car. Some items to consider are shown to the right.

New UM Hymnal

Although we’ve been looking forward to a new United Methodist hymnal in 2020 since the 2008 General Conference, the United Methodist Publishing House and Discipleship Ministries have postponed it.

According to a recent press release, “the dynamic state of UMC life, with current debates about its future, polity, and organization in annual conferences and constituency groups across the connection, demonstrates that The United Methodist Church is not ready to coalesce with strong consensus about a fixed collection of worship and musical resources.” However, the two agencies are collaborating to compile a new, vibrant, and practical worship resource collection that will be available as early as Fall 2020.

InsightTimer

Pastor Lynn says that this free App for meditation and sleep is highly recommended. She recommends that you give it a try.

The company which makes it says, “We offer the largest free library of guided meditations on earth and the world’s most loved meditation Timer, for



Stewardship 2020 ... A Grateful Heart

Stewardship is a word you don't hear very often, but it's an important one. And it's not hard to define. As Christians, we believe that all of what we have comes from a God who loves us. Stewardship is no more and no less than responding to God's love with a grateful heart for all that we have been given.

But what does "responding to God's love with a grateful heart" actually mean when we get up in the morning, every day, in our small corner of the world here in the West San Fernando Valley? Jesus asks us to visit prisoners, feed the hungry, visit hospital patients, and bury the dead – how are we doing?

The answer is we're on it. The First United Methodist Church of Canoga Park, California has been doing all these things since its founding, over a hundred years ago.

Your generous giving to this church provides for people with no place else to go a hot meal and a shower. Sick people are not forgotten, the bereaved find hope, and young people are encouraged in their dreams through scholarships. Your support also bolsters targeted ministries around the world benefiting refugees, prisoners, and other people needing help, because what the larger church does is also done by you.

This year's stewardship program theme is "A Grateful Heart." Let's respond abundantly to God's love with grateful hearts as we care for our church family and our neighbors. Please pledge to donate generously. Please volunteer. Please remember the church in your will or trust.

This year's Stewardship Program begins in October and runs for three weeks:

Inspiration Sunday, October 13th

Your individual stewardship packet will be available for pick-up. If you can't attend this service, your packet will be mailed.

Gratitude Sunday, October 20th

We'll bring our Estimated Giving cards up to the altar to be blessed. If you forget to bring your card, blank ones will be available at the service.

Celebration Sunday, October 27th

The Stewardship Committee will report the initial totals for 2020. As a thank-you for everyone who supports First United Methodist Church, Canoga Park, a gift card drawing will be held; six winners will dine at favorite local restaurants.

Everyone who has returned an Estimated Giving card is eligible to participate in the drawing; names are automatically entered.

Why do we need Estimated Giving cards? The projected totals help us to develop a church budget for 2020. Consider a percentage increase over last year or setting a plan for tithing (ten percent of your income). Your gifts are confidential and seen only by our Financial Secretaries.

Remember, stewardship isn't just sharing our treasure – it's also giving our time and talent! Share those gifts by considering something new this year. Contact Pastor Lynn for ideas about how you might join with others to make our church more effective.

*Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The Stewardship Committee: Judith Austin/George
Grengs co-chairs, Karen Grengs, Dana Dreyfuss, Trish
Simmons, Pastor Lynn Westover*



October Calendar

Weekly Activities

- Sunday Peace Evangelical Church, Hall, 9:30 am
Hindi Urdu UMC, Sanctuary, 5:00 pm
- Monday Valley Harmonettes Rehearsal, Lounge 10:30 am
Cub Pack, Scout Room, 7:00 pm
Monday Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor, 8:00 pm
- Tuesday Shower Ministry, 8:30 - 11:00 am
Boy Scouts, Scout Room, 7:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous, Parlor, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday Men's Stag AA meeting, Parlor, 7:00 pm
- Thursday Choir rehearsal, Choir Room, 7:30 pm
Narcotics Anonymous Study Group, Lounge, 6:30 pm
- Friday Girl Scouts, for details email: gsav11896@gmail.com

Other Activities

- Saturday 5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd.
- Sunday 6 World Communion Sunday, special offering
Pastor Herb Lucas preaching
Life Lessons from Philippians, Library, 11:30 am
- Tuesday 8 Preschool Board, Library, 1:00 pm
Administrative Committee Meeting, Library, 7:00 pm
- Thursday 10 Bookends Circle, Library, 9:30 am
Sarah's Circle, IHOP, 9:30 am
Corner of Fallbrook and Vanowen
- Sunday 13 Inspiration Sunday
Life Lessons from Philippians, Library, 11:30 am
- Tuesday 15 Courier Deadline for November issue
- Wednesday 16 Faith, Hope & Love, Library, 7:00 pm
- Sunday 20 Gratitude Sunday, return estimate of giving cards
Life Lessons from Philippians, Library, 11:30 am
- Saturday 26 Boy Scout Yard Sale, Lawn, 6:00 am-2:00 pm
- Sunday 27 Celebration Sunday
Life Lessons from Philippians, Library, 11:30 am
- Wednesday 30 Preschool Halloween Parade, 9:30 am

Upcoming in November

- Saturday 2 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 8:30 am
Frank Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd.
- Sunday 3 All Saints Sunday
Life Lessons from Philippians, Library, 11:30 am
- Monday 4 San Fernando Valley Mission Area 3
Charge Conference, place TBD, 6:30 pm



Bookends

Thursday, October 10
9:30 am
Library

The book to be reviewed is
The Woman in the Window
by A. J. Finn
Reviewed by
Glynene Roe
Hostess and devotions by
Margaret Cates

Sarah Circle

Thursday, October 10
9:30 am

New Location:
Breakfast at IHOP
Fallbrook & Vanowen.

Faith, Hope & Love

Wednesday, October 16
7:00 pm

Library
Anita Parrinello will
provide the program.
Hostess TBA

<p style="text-align: center;">FALL RUMMAGE SALE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 6AM - 2PM</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">BENEFITTING OUR SCOUTING PACKS & TROOPS IN WESTERN LA COUNTY</p>
<p style="font-size: small;">First United Methodist Church 22700 Sherman Way West Hills, CA 91307</p>	