

Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church



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April 2016 E-Thymes

Office hours: Mondays: Closed. Tuesdays-Wednesdays: 9am-2pm Thursdays-Fridays: 8:30am-1:30pm

Our Vision: We are a multi-cultural and inclusive church united in the love of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement: We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Congregational Goals for 2016:

- * Growing into stewardship with our gifts and strengths
- * Strengthening our outreach ministry in San Gabriel Valley
- * Vitalizing our Sunday worship service to reach out to the un-churched & de-churched

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MEMORIES OF LOVE



A couple of weeks ago, I attended a memorial service of a person I felt deeply blessed to have known. Her name is Doris Rhoades and she passed away at the age of 97. A good friend of mine introduced me to Doris while I was at Claremont School of Theology. Now, I do not even remember how I became close to her but Doris took me to Chinese restaurants—she loved Chinese food because she served as a missionary in Hong Kong for decades—and invited me to her beautiful home to share her Chinese tea with me. It did not take long for me to sense her incredible sense of openness and genuine interest in me. Naturally, I was drawn to her. She was as sharp as a tack and had a pleasant sense of humor. Such freshness filled my being every time I spent time with her. It is also true that

she offered everybody that came in contact with her, the same sense of genuine hospitality, love and laughter. I was fortunate to be one of her friends.

It was very meaningful for me to sit in the pew to listen to Doris' pastor's words of comfort. Apparently her pastor had personally known her for a long time. While listening to her personal memory of Doris, I happened to chuckle with tears in my eyes because my memories of her came alive along with that of her pastor's. What still stays with me out of the pastor's words is that "Doris loved people everywhere she went."

In listening to her pastor's words of comfort, I came to reflect on memorial services and funerals I have been honored to preside at and my personal relationships with many of those who passed away. In the time of reflection, I could grasp the message out of Doris' life that our love in Christ continues no matter where we go. Love will be manifested in different forms and ways but its circle will only become larger as we move on in our Christian journey. Continuing to love whoever we come in contact with will enrich our lives without diminishing the love we have already shared.

It is a mixed bag of sadness and gratitude for the years we shared,

and a hope for a new pastoral leadership that we feel in preparing for a change in the congregational life of Sage Granada Park in July. In the midst of them, however, I am fully confident that our love in Christ will continue to enlarge its circle by offering a genuine sense of hospitality to everyone whom we meet. I pray that our Risen Lord reminds each one of us of the many memories of love and joy that we were able to share for many years so that our hearts are enriched with gratitude.

Easter Cross Decoration



Easter Egg Hunt



Love & Gratitude,

Rev. Sunyoung Park



Kay Tokeshi, Jamille Regalado, Dorothy Jennings, Bonnie Novelo, Violet Tomei, Steve Meza, Beans & Lucy Sogioka, Yone Tokeshi, Michelle Jimenez, Edward Vargas, Albert & Connie Takahashi, brother & sister-in-law, Lauri Parks, niece of Flo Griffen, Flo Griffen, Barbara Houck, Elvis S. Gershom, Lucy Villegas; Marilyn McIver, Rayne McLoughlin, Robin Nakahara, Mr. Ed, Duane Martin, Isabel Reyes, Sada Mayeda,

Marilyn McIver, Sarah Hutchins, Manny Marquez, Mr. & Mrs. Marquez (parents of Manny Marquez), Robert Ellington-Montes, Rev. Phyllis Tyler.

What's Coming Up!

Sunday, April 3, 2016

- Holy Communion.
- Interfaith Speaker, Robert Yuge in Fellowship Hall after service.

Sunday, April 10, 2016

- Teaching Placement Committee Meeting @ 11am in the Board Room.
- Japanese Language School Spam Musubi Sale in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

- Board of Trustees meeting @ 7pm.

Friday, April 15 - 22, 2016

- Rev. Sunny is away for Continuing Education.

Sunday, April 17, 2016

- Rev. Dickson preaches. (Rev. Sunny is away for continuing education).

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

- P.A.C. meeting @ 7pm in the Church office.

Saturday, April 23, 2016

- Alhambra Performing Arts presents: Pianist, Dr. Tae Yeon Lim @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Admission: Free. Donations are accepted and appreciated.

Sunday, April 24, 2016

- Pyoung Hwa Lee is preaching for his internship requirement.

- Church Council Meeting @ 11am in the Fellowship Hall after service.

Saturday, April 30, 2016

- Boyscout Troop 286 Pasta Fundraiser from 6pm-8pm. The Boyscouts will leave your order in the Fellowship Kitchen refrigerator for Sunday pick up if you are unable to pick up on Saturday.

Easter Sunday Lilies



Thanks to the following individuals for assisting in unloading, tagging and placing the Lily plants in the Sanctuary on Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday:

T.C. & Elaine Chung, Kenji Kinoshita, Janice Hurtado, John and Janet Furukawa, Rev. Sunyoung Park.

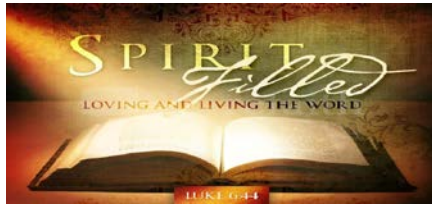
Thank you to the following for their dedication of the Easter Lily which greatly enhanced the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday:

Christine Cheng, Harry & Sumio Fujimoto, John & Janet Furukawa, Mike & Janice Hurtado, Leslie Hutchins, Roy Iketani, Kenji & Dorothy Kinoshita, Ken & Pearl Matsumoto, Marilyn McIver, Paul & Florence Nagano, Ruth Chon & Arnie Saiki, Jean Taniguchi, Ryan & Kris Taniguchi, Kris Taniguchi, Sengdeuane Tom, Yoshie Tomei, Lucy Villegas & Family, Tak & Sachi Yoshida.

Thank you,

Janet Furukawa

SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Studies at 1pm and 7pm in the Board Room or Yokoi Chapel.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH & YOUTH GROUP

Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.: Pre-school & K-4th grade with Sally Bell and 5th Grade & above are with Stephanie Mukai (or Pyoung Hwa Lee) until further notice.

Coffee-Tea Fellowship



Coffee-Tea Fellowship Committee gratefully acknowledges the following for:

MARCH REFRESHMENTS

Elaine & TC Chung
Shihoko Tatsugawa

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Roberta Echavarria for package of decorated plates & matching napkins. A festive Welcome New Members Potluck luncheon was

held on March 13 after worship service.

Our Japanese School held a wonderful Bake Sale on March 20 with lots of "goodies" for our members to purchase for Fellowship Time! On Easter Sunday, Chefs Alan & Brad with their crew prepared a hearty Easter Breakfast! It was so good to have our Boy Scouts helping with the serving. Debbie Iwamoto, church trustee, was in charge of purchasing the nifty rolling cart just in time for our Easter Breakfast. The Boy Scout leaders assembled the rolling cart. We appreciate Debbie's expertise in Food Service!!!

Coming early on Sunday mornings in March to help Elaine Chung set up Fellowship Time were Helen Ikeda and Mariko Garrett. YOU ARE APRECIATED AS ALWAYS!!!

Please don't forget to sign up for refreshments on our Fellowship Schedule in the church office so our committee can plan accordingly!

In Love & Gratitude,

Sets for Fellowship Committee with Elaine C.

THANK YOU

Timothy Chu & Fellow Boy Scouts



A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Timothy Chu and his fellow Boy Scouts from Troop 286 who made and donated the gorgeous bench to SGPUMC.

Timothy – you can rest be assured that your bench will be put to good use!

Bench



“Pasta Night” @ SGPUMC (hosted by Boyscout Troop 286)

“Pasta Night” is here at SGPUMC. Mark your calendar, *Saturday, April 30, 2016*, from *6:00-8:00pm* in the Fellowship Hall.

Boy Scout Troop 286 will have their Annual Pasta Night to fundraise for their Scouts to attend Summer Camp, purchase camping equipment and attend district competitions.



Scout parents will make homemade bolognese and vegetarian marinara sauce served with pasta, salad, roll and drink for \$7. Ticket sales and pre-orders will begin on April 2, 2016. Scouts will be selling tickets and taking pre-orders after church service on April 17th and 24th, Sunday at 11:30am.

Come join us for dinner and meet our Troop 286 scouts and their parents. Music and a slide show presentation of our Troop will also be shown that evening. For additional information, please call Linda Chu at 626-318-2916.

We look forward to serving you dinner!



GPUMC Nursery

-- by *Theresa Laib, Director*

April themes are: Spring: Taking Care Of Our Earth: Week Of The Young Child

April Calendar

- 5- Pick up Little Buckaroo Pictures @ 11:30 am
- 18- Scholastic Book Fair Begins: Buy one get one Free
- 25- Scholastic Book Fair Ends

Thank You Parents for making our School Shine

Parents Work Day



Getting ready for our Easter Egg Hunt



LENT & EASTER: Dying to Live



A group of men dressed formally in black laying on the floor, face down. They lay on the floor for a long time, silent without moving a muscle. These are Roman Catholic monks who are now being ordained as priests. It is a funeral service. All ordination services of all religions are funeral services. They are putting to death their first life when they lived for themselves. When they get up from the floor, they will be new men living new lives for God, serving all living creatures.

In our physical lives, we are born, we grow up, we grow old, and we die. We live first and then we die. But a Japanese religion says it backwards. We are all living selfish lives, living for me, myself, and I. We must die first—die to me, myself, and I. Only after we have died to self-centered living can we begin to live as spiritual men and women. We must die the Great Death—*Dai-Shi*. *Dai* means big in Japanese, and *Shi* means death. Do you want to become a spiritual person? You must go through the Great Death—*Dai-Shi*.

We are now **ACCEPTING REGISTRATION** for children 2yrs 9mo and potty trained to 5year old for the **2016-2017 School Year**.

GPUMNS

TUITION:

Full Day

(7:00am – 6:00pm):

5 days – \$756/month

3 days – \$454/month

2 days - \$302/month

Half Day

(8:30am – 3:00pm):

5 days – \$727/month

3 days – \$437/month

2 days - \$290/month

Morning Program

(8:30am – 11:30pm):

5 days – \$421/month

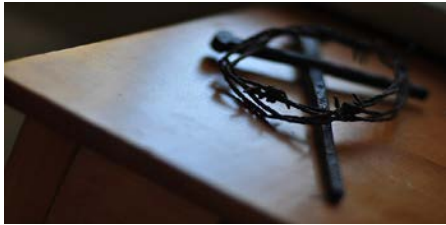
3 days – \$251/month

2 days - \$170/month

SGPUMC members receive a 10% Discount.

Please call the school for more information at 626- 284-5006, or visit our web site at <http://gpumnsk.org>

At Fourth of July services, they talk about brave soldiers who gave their lives for their country. But nobody gives his life for his country. How can you choose to die if you have a girl friend? If you have a wife and children? Nobody chooses to die. Rather, their lives are taken, not given.



There is just one exception when we actually choose to die. It is people with a calling. It is those Roman Catholic men dressed in black lying on the floor, face down. They are choosing to die to themselves, so they can live for God, live for Jesus, and live for all beings. It is also those Zen Buddhists choosing the Great Death, *Dai-Shi*, so they can be born in the Spirit.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus begged God “to take this cup from me.” He didn’t want to face the torture of dying on the Cross. Then Jesus said, “**Not my will, but yours be done!**” That is the meaning of Lent and Easter for you and for me. Like the Roman Catholic monks lying on the floor, face down... Like the Zen Buddhists going through the Great Death, we are being challenged to die to self-centered living. That is the one meaning that connects Lent and Easter—dying to self and living for God, living for Jesus, and living for all beings.

Blessings,

Dickson Kazuo Yagi



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER Part 2

■ by Pyoung-Hwa Lee

1. Things in Common and Differences between Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

All Synoptic Gospels contain the Parable of the Sower. The authors of Matthew and Luke took the Parable of Sower from the Gospel of Mark. According to Gregory J. Riley, “the Gospel of Mark is the earliest such story that has survived from the ancient world, and became the pattern for the similar stories of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.” In comparison, Matthew’s story of the Parable of the Sower is very similar with Mark’s. However, Luke modifies the story from the Mark’s. B. T. D. Smith says,

“Matthew reproduces the parable with few alterations. Luke treats Mark more freely, adding the detail that the seed on the pathway was trodden underfoot as well as eaten by birds, compressing the account of the seed on the rocky ground, and mentioning only the hundredfold yield of the seed on fertile soil.”¹

A. Secrets about the Kingdom of God.

When Jesus explained the parable of the Sower to his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew, he says “whoever has will be given more and he will have an abundance.” (NIV) Jesus’ words imply that his disciples possessed the secret about the Kingdom of God and will have abundance. However, whoever does not know about the secret, even what they have will be taken from them. In Matthew, because the secret of the Kingdom of God has not been given to the “Others,” Jesus uses the Parable to help them learn about the Kingdom of God. In contrast, in the Gospel of Mark and Luke, the Parable has been used for hiding the secret of the Kingdom of God from those who are on the “outside.” Stern says, “Matthew suggested that the parables were designed to help those who didn’t understand to comprehend the secrets, while Mark implied that the parables were designed to hide the secrets, lest those who didn’t understand gain insight and repent.”² These differences might come from the different understanding about Jesus’ intention why he used Parables among the writers of the Synoptic Gospels.



¹ B. T. D. Smith, *The Parables of the Synoptic Gospels: A Critical Study*, (London: Cambridge University Press, 1937), 125.

² Frank Stern, *A Rabbi Look at Jesus’ Parables*, (Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers INC, 2006), 31-32.

Alhambra Performing Arts Center presents:

DR. TAE YEON LIM



ALHAMBRA –
Alhambra Performing Arts Center
(APAC) presents **DR. TAE YEON
LIM** at our very own SGPUMC
Fellowship Hall.

Pianist Tae Yeon Lim, a native of South Korea, has appeared across North America, Austria, Germany, Italy, South Korea and China as a recitalist and concerto soloist. She participated in the International Summer Academy of Mozarteum in Salzburg, Beijing International music festival where she won the concerto competition and International Keyboard Institute and Festival in New York City. In South Korea, she performed with Sorisam Chamber Orchestra and Kyung-Hee University Symphony. She also debuted at Sejong Hall as a member of Chosun Journal Young Artist Series and also won the first prize in the Busan Duo-piano competition.

Ms. Lim has received chamber music instructions from the members of the American String Quartet and Raphael Trio and participated in master classes given by Oxana Yablonskaya, Chenh Zong Yin, Stephen Hough, Abbey Simon, John Perry, Victor Rosenbaum and Massimiliano Ferrati.

Ms. Lim studied at the Kyung-Hee University in Seoul, under Prof. Young-Hae Chun and graduated in 2003 with honors. In the United States, she continued her piano studies with Phillip Kawin and a renowned pianist James Tocco as a scholarship student at the Manhattan School of Music where she earned Master of Music and Professional Study certificate.

Ms. Lim also served on the piano faculty of Westerhoff School of Music in New Jersey and worked as a music director at the Korean Trinity Presbyterian Church in Queens, NY.

In 2008, Ms. Lim moved to Los Angeles where she received the William H. Phillips and Beatrice C. Phillips Music Scholarship in the Graduate Certificate program at the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music. Currently she is pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree under the tutelage of Prof. Dr. Stewart Gordon receiving Lina Gale King Memorial Fund and serving as a Teaching Assistant in Keyboard department of Thornton School of Music at USC. In 2010, she performed a public recital at Palos Verdes Library and won the Special Award at the MPE Loeb Competition. She won the prestigious Beverly Hills Auditions with a trombonist. As for the prize, she performed in Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan Beach and “Music in the Mansion” recital

series in the Beverly Hills’s historic “Greystone Mansion” as an active chamber musician. In addition to piano performance, she is deeply interested to Sacred Music and currently she is serving as a pianist at Holliston United Methodist Church in Pasadena and is also a pianist at Korean American Music Academy Choir.

Please find details of her performance at SGPUMC as follow:

Performance Date: Saturday,
April 23, 2016

Time: 7pm

Admission: Free (Donations gratefully appreciated & accepted during Intermission)

Location: Sage Granada Park
United Methodist Church,
1850 W. Hellman Ave.,
Alhambra, CA 91803

Contact: *Bill Yee*, artistic director

Tel #: (626) 230.5435

E-mail: bizwind@yahoo.com

Website: www.cvpaministry.com