

# Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

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Office hours: Mondays Closed; Tuesdays– Friday 8am-1pm

## April 2018 E-Thymes

**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 2018:**

- \* 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

### “Rising With Jesus” *Rev. George Martzen*

A pair of religious workers knocked on the parsonage door on my day off. I tried to engage them in civil conversation, but it quickly deteriorated with their aggressive mannerism, especially when they realized I was a pastor. They claimed that our church was defective (apostate) and that theirs was the true church. Have you had any pushy conversations like that at your door?

It felt alarming to think that such zealots are trolling my neighborhood. Actually, they were simply filling a void in the public space as good people have retreated more and more into private space. In fact, with all our modern innovations we don't even need to be home to answer the door. Great mobile applications like “Ring” let you see strangers at your door and shoo them away through your cell phone anywhere in the world. And of course, you don't need to go to the market any more since everything can be ordered online. That's all fine, but are there not some negative consequences?

Though we may watch from afar, we leave the public spaces unattended physically, and of course others, possibly more divisive and sectarian voices, will fill the void. So it is important that we not give away the public spaces.

When I was ordained, I was especially motivated with the idea of leading deep Bible study and preaching lofty sermons. I dig that stuff. But I was also called to the legacy of John Wesley, who made a drastic shift in his life. Yes, he started out preaching lofty stuff as an 18<sup>th</sup> century Oxford don. But God called him beyond the church walls, to “be more vile” and preach in the open fields and market place. Then he organized those non-church people into a transformative movement that became Methodism. Wesley came to see the world as his parish.

Easter offers hope and a process for the future. When Jesus' followers looked for him in the tomb, they found it empty. He had risen. Sprung from the very private space of that



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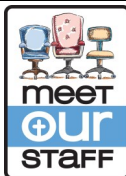
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grave, the Jesus movement was unleashed on the public spaces of the world.

So we also need to rise with Jesus and leave the tomb. The church of Jesus Christ betrays her Savior and Lord when we hide behind the parish walls. Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church is more than a building. It is a center for God's mission to the homes, streets, parks and market places where our neighbors are.

Recently several of us have been going door to door to engage our neighbors. We have been inviting people to church, but more than that our purpose has been to reclaim the space for conversation. Using a survey, we have sought to discern the hopes and concerns of our neighbors. Response so far has been positive. I wish I could say that our church attendance will suddenly increase as a result of knocking on doors. Unfortunately, our modern culture is less than conducive to church going. One young family expressed enthusiasm about Jesus and Christianity, but less about going to church. They tried a lot of churches, but said that they couldn't relate to church-goers.

During the month of April there will be opportunities to venture outside the walls. On April 15 the youth will have a sports day at the Granada Park following worship. Members of the Next Gen group will be assisting and will follow with a picnic in the park. Sunday April 22 is Earth Day, so we will have our worship outdoors in the lawn area between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Invite

your neighbors, and come, share in the resurrection of new life.



### THE REAL CHURCH

*Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

A French professor said he was a Christian because he was baptized as an infant. He didn't believe anything, but he showed his necklace which had a symbol of the saint of the month he was baptized.

A missionary pastor in Japan was sure he was a Christian because he was quoting respected Christian doctrines he had memorized. But his face was red with contempt and anger because I was entering a seminary he did not like. Christianity is love. His heart was contempt and anger.

As Jesus drew nearer to Calvary, he breathed on his disciples and said to receive the Holy Spirit. We are not Christians because we were baptized by Holy Water without believing. We are not Christians because we can write Christian answers to a paper test on religion.

We are Christians because the Spirit of God lives in our hearts. Quakers, Baptists, and Mennonites refused to call the building a church. They insisted that our bodies were the real church. So Quakers until today call the building where they worship the "Meeting

### SERVING SGPUMC THIS MONTH:

#### April 1

Liturgist: Doreen Bolten  
Acolytes: Tom Family

Communion Helpers:  
George Shafer and Brett Stahl

Communion Co-Celebrant:  
Rev. Yagi

#### April 8

Liturgist: Ruth Chon  
Acolytes: Saiki Family

#### April 15

Liturgist: Volunteers Needed  
Acolytes: Volunteers Needed

#### April 22

Liturgist: Leslie Staal  
Acolytes: Garcia Family

#### April 29

Liturgist: Youth  
Acolytes: Youth



House". They still insist that the real church is our bodies. God lives in our hearts.

As fish swimming in the ocean may not be aware of the water that surrounds them, so we may not be aware that the Spirit of God saturates every cell of our bodies. The real church is not a building. We ourselves are the real church. God lives in our hearts.

ALLELUIA!  
CHRIST IS ALIVE!



David Nakamura; Tak Yoshida; Nancee Iketani; Jean Taniguchi; Mat Nakamura; Alfred Chu; Phillip & Nenita Marquez; Amy Mori; Echavarria Family; Lucy Sogioka; Flo Griffen; Bette McIver; Toni Tomita; Elizabeth Kells; Duane Martin; Isabel Reyes; Sada Mayeda; Elvis Gersham; Violet Tomei; Robin Nakahara; Marilyn McIver; Derek Tani; All those still recovering from the natural disasters and fires in So Cal.



**Join us for Sunday School!** 9:45 a.m.: Pre-school & K-4<sup>th</sup> grade with Sengdeuane Tom or Ashley Parks and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade & above are with Pyoung Hwa Lee.

## “A Way Forward”

compiled from  
United Methodist News Service articles

The United Methodist Commission on a Way Forward met recently at El Segundo United Methodist Church near LAX, as part of its ongoing effort to come up with solutions to a divisive issue. The Commission was established by the Council of Bishops after the 2016 General Conference found itself at an

impasse on LGBTQ inclusion.

We are part of a global denomination that has 56 annual conferences in the United States, including our own California-Pacific Annual Conference, and 75 annual conferences in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. While we all share a common heritage, core doctrines and polity, there are significantly different views on sexuality and other matters of biblical interpretation.

The Commission, made of 32 representatives from across the UMC, is tasked with researching solutions to these divisive issues. The March 22 meeting continued to dialogue about solutions. Eventually they will have to present a final report to the Council of Bishops at the April/May meeting in Chicago. The bishops will have to decide which ideas should be received and acted by delegates to a Special Session of the General Conference February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ideas that have been floated include:

Retaining the existing Book of Discipline language and accountability that makes homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching” and lists officiating at a same-gender union or being a “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy member as chargeable offenses under church law.

Removing such restrictive language from the Discipline and giving more

emphasis on local or regional contextualization. Rights would be extended to those who may have differing views on same-gender weddings or the ordination LGBTQ people.

Create new branches, such as new annual or central conferences that would allow for differing views and practices of LGBTQ inclusion. These branches would still be united by shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops.

Let us keep the process and these fellow United Methodists in prayer.

**YOU NOW HAVE ON-LINE ACCESS TO YOUR DATABASE INFORMATION AND GIVING RECORD!**



If you provided us with an e-mail address on your returned data sheet, you can make changes to your name preferences, address, phone, and can chose whether or not to be included in a on-line directory. You also have access to your giving record. Use this web address: [https://churchtraconline.com/member\\_access.php?church=6262843229](https://churchtraconline.com/member_access.php?church=6262843229)

Just follow the instructions to set up a password. Questions? Contact the church office.

*PS—It’s not too late to get your data form (at the end of this newsletter) filled out and returned if you have not yet done so. Thank you!*

## SGPUMC Administrative Committees

Since last year we simplified our committee structure with the adoption of a Single Board Church Council. We used to have a separate Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Church Council and Nominations Committee along with various ministry groups. Now the Trustees, SPRC and Finance meet together as the Church Council, at least four times per year. The next meeting will be Sunday, April 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board Room. Meetings are open, except where personnel matters require closed session. We still also have a Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership which is tasked with encouraging leadership development in our congregation.

### Members of the Church Council

Manny Marquez – Chair

Janice Hurtado

Sengdeuane Tom

George Shafer

Brett Staal

Archana Carey

John Taniguchi

Stephen Hutchins

Jim Bell

Phillip Kiriara

Brad Hutchins

Elaine Chung

Rev. George Martzen

### Members of the Council on Nominations and Lay Leadership

Rev. George Martzen – Chair

Jim Bell

John Furukawa

Elaine Chung

Alicia Marquez

George Shafer

Sally Bell

### A NOTE FROM JANICE HURTADO:

#### Clothing Drive



Thank you to all who donated children's clothing for the Kingdom Causes clothing drive. They were distributed to our community's children and teens on March 24th



We are now accepting Registration for children 2 years 9 months and potty-trained to 5 years old for the 2018-2019 School Year.

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

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

#### April Calendar

1- Easter Sunday

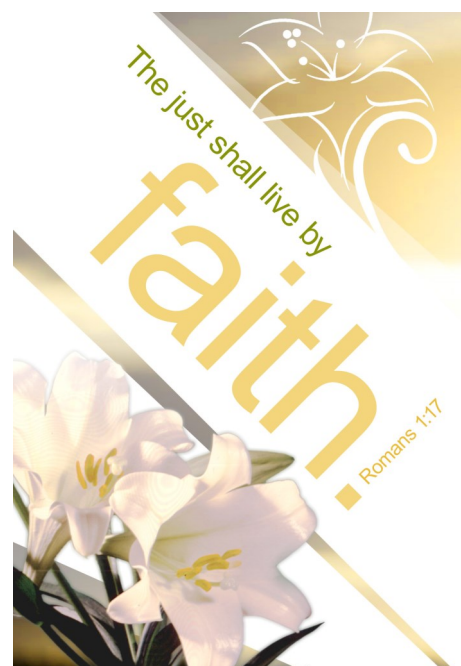
2- School Resumes for all programs

26- Shakey's Night 5:00-8:00pm  
Valley Blvd

Getting ready for our Easter Egg hunt.



Theresa Laib, Director





## COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP

When we holler “Help!”, we can count on our leprechauns and Sage Granada Park Church to come “a-running” to help. That was the case when we honored Sumio Fujimoto with a memorial luncheon. What a wonderful celebration of her life it turned out to be. Thanks to everyone who shared...we had enough good food to feed the “multitude.” Again, thank you to all.

February and March Providers and Helpers

Thank you to the following who provided the refreshments. We carry on because of your generosity, and the goodies are so appreciated by all.

Bea and Sho Tabata—for your delicious bar cookies, mikan, Cheetos, and all the baked goodies your magic fingers create for us.

The Marquez Family—for the cornbread, muffins, mini cakes, cookies, candy, Snapple, and popcorn cones you bring to us. We love them all.

John and Janet Furukawa—for the chocolate chip oatmeal cookies and your famous banana bread. Your home must always smell so warm and cozy with all your baking.

Mariko Garrett—her concern for our health prompts her to bring fruits and cranberry juice to balance our diet. Good for you, Mariko. We like them so much!

Ruth Chon—relatives from Hawaii shared the famous Big Island

Cookies. With a blink of an eye, they seemed to have been gobbled up by some hungry folks.

There have been some other delicious items shared, but because of not knowing who brought them, I cannot acknowledge them by name. I am so sorry about that!

Helpers: The people who keep our morale upbeat are those who join in the clean-up after fellowship without being asked to do so. We appreciate them so much and know we can't function without them: Mariko Garrett, Helen Ikeda, Alan Kitsuse, Janet & John Furukawa, John Taniguchi, Toni Tomita, Janice Hurtado, Ruch Chon, Robert Austen, Bea & Sho Tabata, Sengdeuane Tom, Alica, Angelea, & Jillian Marquez, Ets Nakamura, and Kiku Nieda.

What more can I say? Kudos to them all!

Blessings from the Fellowship Group!

## Alhambra Performing Arts Center Presents...



...the renowned **St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble** in a free concert on Sunday April 29, 2018, 7pm at

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

Chef Yee, APAC Executive Director, is also the owner of the Alhambra Culinary School, and his chefs will be preparing refreshments for the

audience during the intermission when there will be a free-will offering to support the artists. The next Intro to Culinary Classes which includes a full chef uniform, knife set, cooking equipment, and more will be on Sat. April 14<sup>th</sup> and Sat. April 21<sup>st</sup> with space for up to 12 students each. Email Chef Yee for reservations: [bizwind@yahoo.com](mailto:bizwind@yahoo.com).

"The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble" is an independent group from Russia which was founded in 2003. The group's repertoire encompasses various epochs and styles - from ancient Russian chants and chorales of Western European to modern music. Since one of the tasks of the ensemble is to popularize preeminent Russian music, their program allows them to most fully elucidate and introduce to the audience Russian folk songs, secular and ecclesiastic compositions, as well as modern composers and transpositions of popular melodies.

### Upcoming Concerts:

May 20—Brazil 2018 featuring Murray Middleman and his Brazilian Band

June 24—Flamenco Nights featuring Juan Talevero and Troupe

July 22—Sabine, Russian Jazz Pianist

August 19—Dali Ensemble, Baroque with a twist

September 16—Grace Chung, pianist

October 20—Flamenco 2018 featuring Inesita and Troupe

November—To Be Announced

### For more information contact:

Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee; E-Mail: [bizwind@yahoo.com](mailto:bizwind@yahoo.com) (626) 230-5435



# JUST FOR FUN

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete words with various vowel arrangements. Then place the circled letters in the correct blanks below to complete an Easter phrase.

1. Brave: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ E O U \_\_\_\_\_
2. A dark profile: \_\_\_\_\_ ○ O U E \_\_\_\_\_
3. Circular: ○ O U \_\_\_\_\_
4. Running away: \_\_\_\_\_ E E ○ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Savage, fierce: \_\_\_\_\_ I O U ○ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Odd or nostalgic: \_\_\_\_\_ U A I \_\_\_\_\_
7. A person from the 50th state: \_\_\_\_\_ A ○ I A \_\_\_\_\_
8. Compress, push together: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ U E E \_\_\_\_\_
9. A large tree in California: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_\_ I A \_\_\_\_\_
10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: \_\_\_\_\_ ○ O E I \_\_\_\_\_
11. Upright, moral and righteous: ○ \_\_\_\_\_ U O U \_\_\_\_\_
12. Lining up in a row: \_\_\_\_\_ U E U ○ \_\_\_\_\_
13. Gorgeous: \_\_\_\_\_ E A U \_\_\_\_\_ E ○ U \_\_\_\_\_
14. Precipitation: ○ A I \_\_\_\_\_

Easter phrase:

\_\_\_\_\_ !  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: 1. courageous, 2. silhouette, 3. round, 4. fleeing, 5. vicious, 6. quaint, 7. Hawaiian, 8. squeeze, 9. sequoia, 10. canoeing, 11. virtuous, 12. queuing, 13. beautiful, 14. rain; Christ is Saviour!



# RESURRECTION HOPE

Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.

*Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.*

- |       |               |         |           |        |                  |
|-------|---------------|---------|-----------|--------|------------------|
| 2+2 = | ___ united    | 2x3 =   | ___ death | 7+6 =  | ___ resurrection |
| 3x3 = | ___ certainly | 18-16 = | ___ have  | 4-1 =  | ___ been         |
| 0+1 = | ___ if        | 2x4 =   | ___ we    | 13-1 = | ___ him          |
| 2+3 = | ___ in        | 20-6 =  | ___ like  | 2+5 =  | ___ his          |
| 2x5 = | ___ be        | 8+3 =   | ___ with  |        |                  |

"For \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 2 3 4  
 with him \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_,  
 5 6 7  
 \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_ united  
 8 9 10  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_  
 11 12 13  
 \_\_\_\_\_ his." Romans 6:5, NIV  
 14

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV



**DATABASE INFORMATIONAL SHEET** (Please print legibly. Thank you!)

**Head of Household:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Married? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No      Anniversary Date: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Church Member? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No      Date of Membership: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Church Member? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No      Date of Membership: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:**

Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**

\_\_\_\_ I/We wish to receive the monthly church newsletter via e-mail.

\_\_\_\_ I/We do not have e-mail. Please mail the monthly church newsletter .

\_\_\_\_ Please remove me/us from your mailing list:

Reason: \_\_\_ Moved \_\_\_ Member of a Different Church \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please turn the page.

**Children Currently in Your Household:**

1. Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female      Birthdate: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

2. Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female      Birthdate: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

3. Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female      Birthdate: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

4. Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female      Birthdate: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

5. Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female      Birthdate: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_


6. Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female      Birthdate: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Confirmation: MM/DD/YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: Only certain information will be public. A church directory for church members will be printed containing the following: Names, Addresses, Birthdates & Anniversaries (minus the year of birth), e-mails, home and cell phone numbers. Members with password access may also update their own information and see each other's public information online. **All other information will be kept confidential** unless you consent to share it.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Worship  EASTER SUNDAY	2	3 	4 1:00pm Bible Study 	5 4:30pm Chinese Dance Troupe 7:45pm Chinese Choir	6 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	7 8:30am Japanese Language School
8 9:30am Worship	9 1:00pm Ukelele 	10	11 1:00pm Bible Study 	12 4:30pm Chinese Dance Troupe 7:45pm Chinese Choir	13 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	14 8:30am—Noon: Japanese Language School Rummage Sale
15 Special Giving Sunday: Native American Ministries 9:30am Worship Noon: Next Generation Gathering/Youth Sports Sunday	16 1:00pm Ukelele 	17	18 1:00pm Bible Study 	19 4:30pm Chinese Dance Troupe 7:45pm Chinese Choir	20 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal 	21 8:30am—Japanese Language School Culture Study/Cherry Blossom Festival
22 9:30am Worship—Earth Day Outdoor Worship 3:00pm PFLAG	23 1:00pm Ukelele 	24 7:00pm Midwick Neighborhood Watch Meeting	25 1:00pm Bible Study 	26 4:30pm Chinese Dance Troupe 7:45pm Chinese Choir	27 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	28 8:30am Japanese Language School 5:30-8:00pm Boy Scout Pasta Night
29 9:30am Worship 7:00pm APAC Concert	30 1:00pm Ukelele 					