



Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

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

May 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

“The Empty Tomb and Pentecost Fire”

Rev. George Martzen

If you think about it, Christians have a lot of favorite numbers—the 40 days of Lent, the 12 disciples, the seven churches in Revelation, Jesus’ three days in the tomb and the first day of the week. Actually we borrowed most of those numbers from our Jewish friends, like the 40 years that the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt. We even borrowed some of our festival days, like Pentecost, which is the Greek version of the Jewish festival of Shavuot. Pentecost literally means “fiftieth,” being 50 days after Passover. For Christians, it’s 50 days after Easter. This year it was coincidental that Easter and Passover occurred on the same weekend (except for Orthodox Christians, but that’s another story). So we are in the middle of the season of Easter or the Great 50 Days, looking forward to the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost and the anniversary of the church’s birth.

Easter was the celebration of the empty tomb, the victorious resurrection of Jesus over the forces of sin and death. But the empty tomb is not the end of the story. Christians see in the empty tomb of Easter an anticipation of God’s gift of the Holy Spirit.

Indeed the empty tomb and the resurrection are prerequisite to Pentecost. In the gospel of John, Jesus said, “The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12). The work will be greater because the risen Lord will send the Holy Spirit, or the Advocate. “It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you” (John 16:7).

This is a bit ironic, because we like to focus on Jesus, the great healer and sage. But Jesus said that he needed to leave and make way for the Holy Spirit so that his followers could more effectively live out the gospel. Indeed the early Christians came to identify themselves collectively as the body of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit. And they continued to

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spread phenomenally across human empires east and west.

Historically, churches have seen the period of the Great 50 Days as an extension of the formative practices of Lent. During Lent baptismal candidates were preparing to die and rise with Christ in the baptismal waters on Easter morning. Between Easter and Pentecost we should be considering what it means to be people who have been born again through those baptismal waters into the body of Christ. We are Easter People. By the grace of God we have been gathered from our diversity into the beloved community so that can live out the gospel.

Sage Granada Park UMC reflects that spread of the gospel. Like other Christians around the world we will celebrate the Pentecost and the birth of the church on Sunday, May 20. As a way of embodying the Spirit's unity in diversity, we will share our Pentecost Sunday worship with our Gujarati brothers and sisters in the Church of India with a combined worship service at 10:30 a.m. Like the first Pentecost, there will be different languages, but we will be unified by the languages of Christian love and music. The service will be followed by potluck dinner.

Don't be left out of Pentecost this year. Let's start counting down.



"Benny Tokusato"

Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi

On returning from Japan, I visited my cousin, Benny Tokusato, in Los Angeles. He sold merchandise from vending carts on the sidewalk. He had a problem. Black kids would come in numbers to distract him while their buddies would steal his stuff out of sight.

His mother, a no-nonsense business woman, kept scolding him, "You must call the police. You know which kids are doing it. How can you support your family with these kids stealing from you all the time!" Benny said that calling the police would create a criminal record on the boys. That would likely push them toward gangs. And sooner or later, prison. Minority race, poverty, gangs, prison—a slippery slope. Benny concluded: "Mom, you must do things your way. I must do things my way. Those boys could grow up as solid citizens, but not if I call the police and report them."

Then came the Watts Riot. On the TV news, Korean storekeepers hiding on rooftops were ready with rifles and shotguns. They had fierce shootouts with angry, rioting blacks from the neighborhood. It was a miracle that nobody touched Benny's vendor carts—unbelievable! The boys knew that he knew they

SERVING SGPUMC THIS MONTH:

May 6

Liturgist: Paul Wong
Acolytes: Marquez Family

Communion Helpers:
George Shafer and John Taniguchi

Communion Co-Celebrant:
Rev. Fujimoto

May 13

Liturgist: Jan Hurtado
Acolytes: Tom Family

May 20

Liturgist: Christie Cheng
Acolytes: Saiki Family

May 27

Liturgist: Youth
Acolytes: Youth



were stealing from him daily. Through his eyes they could see the unprotected kindness of his heart. They knew he would never call the police on them—so naïve! The neighborhood boys had protected his carts in the midst of the riot!

I preached Benny's memorial service at Faith United Methodist Church in Gardena, CA, about 15 years ago. The church was full of expatriates from Waiakea Uka Camp 6, Sugar Plantation Camp in Hilo, Hawaii. Benny had lived there the first half of his life. I had lived below Camp 4. That must be the vision of Jesus—to nurture people like Benny for a future society. It is unnerving to run into them ahead of their time, already in our risky world, where we each protect ourselves. But then, maybe we are to nurture people

like Benny for a transformed society now being born—communities of pure hearts!

Note: Shusako Endo, best seller Japanese Catholic author, wrote *Wonderful Fool (Obakasan)*, 1959. Fyodor Dostoevsky, acclaimed Russian author, wrote *The Idiot* (1874, Movie 1958). We have all become too smart. Our minds like computers calculate our risk and advantage, polluting our souls. People cursed with less intelligence are naïve and uncalculating. The retain the sacred treasure of dogs—**purity of heart**. When we run into these “fools” and “idiots,” our eyes are opened to our own ugly, self-seeking egos. Our hearts condemn us. Americans saw this so clearly in the movie, *Forrest Gump* (1994). Susako Endo and Fyodor Dostoevsky describe two such men in Japanese and Russian cultures. Surely Francis of Assisi was such a fool. My cousin, Benny, was another.



David Nakamura; Tak Yoshida; Nancee Iketani; Jean Taniguchi; Mat Nakamura; Alfred Chu; Phillip & Nenita Marquez; Echavarria Family; Lucy Sogioka; Flo Griffen; Bette Mclver; Toni Tomita; Elizabeth Kells; Duane Martin; Isabel Reyes; Sada Mayeda; Elvis Gersham; Violet Tomei; Robin Nakahara; Marilyn Mclver; Derek Tani.



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

East District Conference

“God Is Still Calling”

Saturday, May 12; Ontario First UMC, 918 Euclid Ave., Ontario

All are invited!

(RSVP Required for the luncheon.

Contact the District Office—
eastdistrict@calpacumc.org)

8:30 Gathering Time ~~ Refreshments available

9:00 Worship

9:20 Business of the East District *
Committee Reports * Nominations and Approval of District Officers, etc.

10:45 Recognitions * Retiring Clergy *
Churches with 100% Apportionment Giving for 2017

11:00 Farewell worship and program

11:30 Lunch and fellowship with D.S. Jan Wiley



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>

May Curriculum Themes are: May Day; Pets; Mother’s Day; Farm Life; Zoo Animals.

May

5-Cinco de Mayo

13-Mother’s Day

29-Armed Forces Day

25-Exotic Pets 9:30-11:00am

28-School Closed Memorial Day

30-Kinder Graduation 10:00am

30-31-Last Day Morning Program

31- Day Care Continues

June 4, 2018 Summer School Begins

SUMMER SCHOOL Registration:

The school year is coming to an end and we are accepting Summer School Registration. Please contact the school office for information about our summer program (626) 284-5006.

Alhambra Performing Arts Center Presents...

Alhambra Performing Arts Center (APAC) under the direction of Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee presents the exciting Brazil 2018 in a free concert on Sunday May 20, 2018 7pm at Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church 1850 W. Hellman Ave., Alhambra CA 91803.

Award winning Le Cordon Bleu Chef Yee is also the owner of 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 Class which includes a

full chef uniform, knife set, cooking equipment and more will be Sat. May 26th with space for up to 12 students. Email Chef Yee for reservations: bizwind@yahoo.com.

Today, music of every kind is heard in Brazil. Some of it is strictly regional, but much of it can be heard in several regions of the country. Some musical styles include: samba, axe, MPB, choro, forro, frevo, Bossa nova, brega, afoxe, and maracatu, to name a few. Classical music and operatic music also have a place in Brazil music, especially in the larger cities. Brazil 2018 under the leadership of Murray Middleman will be performing songs by Antonio Carlos Jobim such as Girl from Ipanema and Wave which was popularized in America by legendary Stan Getz and many



other artists. Audience members may feel the urge to Samba in the aisles....

World Class Saxophonist, Clarinetist, Composer and

Jazz Artist Murray Middleman, is a product of a musical family. Murray, a graduate of The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, has worked in the Jazz arena in the New/York/Philly area with many leading stars of Jazz including, Buddy Rich, Al Grey and Jimmy Forest from the Count Basie Orchestra. Murray relocated to Pasadena /Los Angeles California in 1982, where he

performed with the music icons Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. He has toured with The Glenn Miller Orchestra and was part of a Los Angeles Brazilian Band Mariza, with Marietta Waters (member of Sergio Mendez band). In 1984, Murray founded his music event company, Park Avenue West Entertainment, in Los Angeles, which performs a variety of music styles for fund raising events, and features many of Los Angeles' most dynamic musicians and vocalists. Murray has also recorded two CDs.

Joining Murray is:

- Multi-Instrumentalist, Award-Winning Composer, Vocalist, and Producer Stephan Oberhoff who enjoys a very successful and multi-faceted career in Los Angeles, CA.
- Mike Shapiro, with a degree from Julliard is on Drums. He has studied with and played alongside various famous artists.
- Larry Steen, Bass, has recorded two jazz releases and has performed for film, radio, and TV, as well as with world-renown artists.
- Karina Corradini is originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, began singing professionally at the age of 18. She has played with many prominent jazz musicians of Argentina. Her repertoire was based mostly in jazz standards and Brazilian jazz.

DATE: SUN May 20, 2018 7PM
LOCATION: SAGE GRANADA PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1850 W. Hellman Ave., Alhambra 91803
ADMISSION: FREE (Free-will offering)

Support Sage Granada Park financially just by making on-line purchases of things you would normally buy. **Check out UMCmarket.org.** It's kind of like purchasing something from Amazon Smile. There are thousands of vendors, some offering free shipping, discount pricing, or special incentives, who will donate a percentage of your purchase back to our church. All you need to do is go to the website, sign up, choose Sage Granada Park as your designated church, and create your own UMC market secure profile. Why not give it a try? It's an easy way to give an additional donation to SGPUMC!



Refreshments: Free from the Alhambra Culinary School

Upcoming Concerts:

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

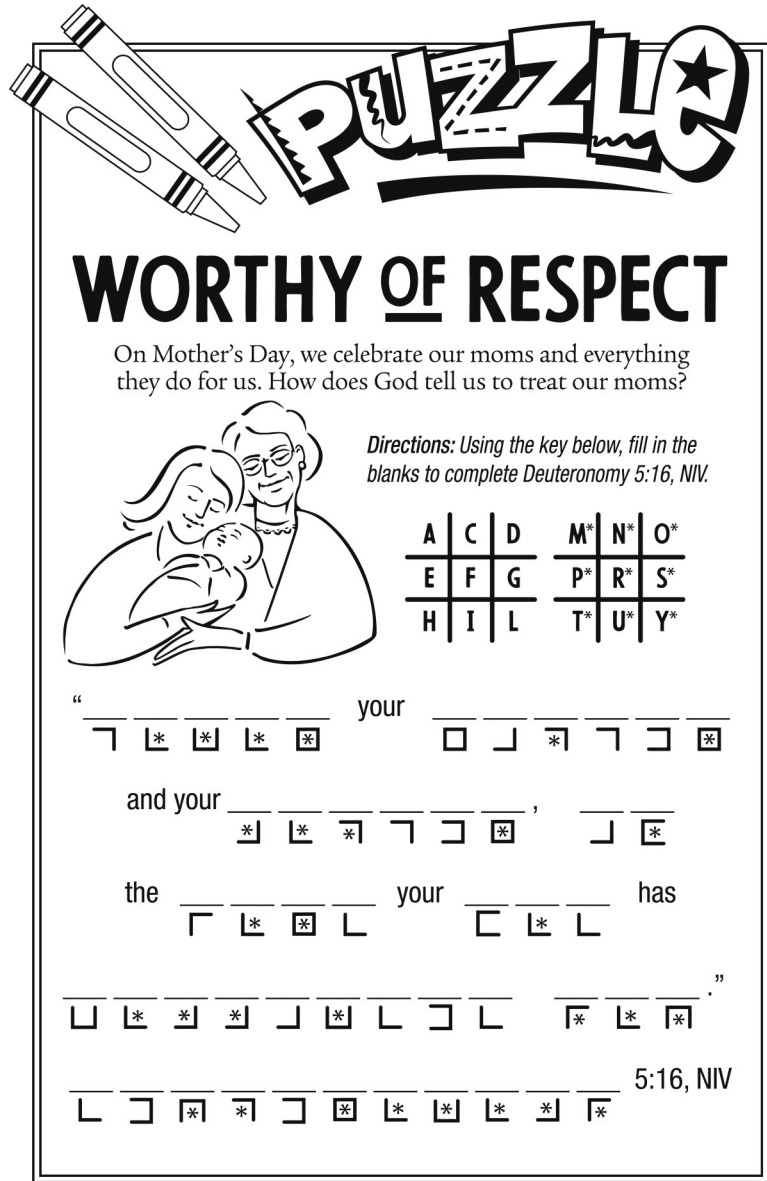
For more information contact:

Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee;
E-Mail: bizwind@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE! Plans are underway for VBS, the week of June 25-29. Our theme this year is “Hero Central.” Invite your children, grandchildren, and neighborhood children!




The logo is a stylized illustration of a city skyline at night, with several skyscrapers in black and blue. The skyline is set against a yellow starburst background. The text "COKEBURY'S VBS" is written in a blue, curved font across the middle of the skyline. Below the skyline, the words "HERO CENTRAL" are written in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline. At the bottom of the starburst, the phrase "Discover Your Strength in God!" is written in a yellow, curved font.



JUST FOR FUN



"Next year let's buy two carnations for the oldest mother."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>  </div>	1		2 10:00am CPAT 1:00pm Bible Study	3 7:45pm Chinese Choir  National Day of Prayer	4 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30am Japanese Language School
<div> 6 9:30am Worship  </div>	7 1:00pm Ukelele	8	9 1:00pm Bible Study	10 7:45pm Chinese Choir	11 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30am District Conference 8:30am—Noon: Japanese Language School Open House
<div> 13 9:30am Worship  </div>	14 1:00pm Ukelele	15	16 1:00pm Bible Study	17 7:45pm Chinese Choir	18 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	19 8:30am—Japanese Language School
<div> 20 10:00am Worship—Combined Service with the Church of India  </div>	21 1:00pm Ukelele	22	23 1:00pm Bible Study	24 7:45pm Chinese Choir 	25 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	26 No Japanese Language School
<div> 27 9:30am Worship 3:00pm PFLAG  </div>	28 No Ukelele 	29	30	31		