



# June 2018 E-Thymes

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**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

## “Pentecost, Promotions, and Beyond”

*Rev. George Martzen*

Last year I planted a couple grape vines, and now they are showing off their brilliant new foliage. It reminds me of my youth when I helped care for my father’s vineyard. Every season of the year was marked by some transition in the life of the vines. In late summer the vines gave up their sweet fruit to the grape pickers (in our case, family and friends). In fall, the leaves turned color and began dropping. Then, in the dormancy of winter we pruned the vines and tied back new canes. Then, magically new buds emerged from the seemingly dead branches in spring and then burst forth with radiant green in early summer.

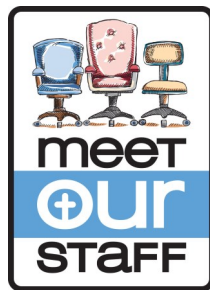


I love June’s many transitions. In June we mark the summer solstice, the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer. Graduations are taking place. Our young people and

world. Couples often use June to start new married life, and some families are taking vacations to renew old relationships. Several in our church family are facing difficult transitions of sickness and end of life. Let us keep them in prayer.

Here in California we’re looking at some political transitions as we head to the polls on June 5. Who will be our next governor or U.S. Senator? For Methodist pastors June is when new appointments are confirmed (no announcements for me). For those of us who follow the liturgical calendar, we have transitioned into what is sometimes called "Ordinary" time and the Sundays after Pentecost. It may seem like we’re heading into a down-time liturgically after the more intensive periods around Christmas and Easter. The choir will continue one more month before taking a deserved summer break. But there is still plenty going on.

Our Church Council meets this Sunday (June 3) to “look around” at our diverse neighborhoods to evaluate and begin planning ministry for next year. We are getting ready for our “Heroes



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That will take place September 16.

Our Annual Conference takes place June 13-16, with the theme "Thirst No More," as an invitation for churches to become more disciple-making. There will likely be a lot of talk about the 2019 special General Conference which will decide the future of our denomination based on recommendations of the Council of Bishops and the Commission on A Way Forward. Will we stay the same, split or find a new unity around the gospel of Jesus Christ? All of this reflects how we relate as a church and denomination to the transitions our society is going through. I can still hear Bob Dylan's 1960s refrain, "For the times they are a-changin'."

To go along with this sense of transition, my June sermon series will be, "Transitions." I will reflect on leadership changes in ancient Israel and consider implications for our modern transitions. Samuel became a new kind of priesthood and prophet because he was attentive to the divine voice. But when he anointed Saul to be king, he was soon disappointed because Saul failed to heed that voice in his own blind spots. Samuel learned to see as God sees when he anointed David as king of Israel. Finally, David himself found courage in the face of daunting opposition by heeding God's voice, and he overcame

Whatever our transitions may be, let us go forward trusting in the one who says, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).



### "Stinky Feet"

*Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

In 1980 I worked in **Nirmal Hriday**, Mother Teresa's **Home for the Dying** in Kalighat, Calcutta (Kolkata). Ellen volunteered there for two weeks. When she returned home in the late afternoons, I kept my distance from her. After all it was the **Home for the Dying**, people dying of scary diseases. Only after she had a shower and changed her clothes did I relax. Later I escaped from Bishops College, the main seminary of the Church of North India in Calcutta. I was there as Visiting Professor. I took only 2 days away from my classes to work in the Home for the Dying.

On September 4, 2016, Mother Teresa was declared a Saint by Pope Francis. What is a Saint? Mother Teresa writes that she hates dirty hands and stinky feet. Dirty hands are dirty. Stinky feet

are a Saint, if your eyes are opened to see Jesus among the poor, the abused, and the dying.

#### SERVING SGPUMC THIS MONTH:

##### June 3

Liturgist: George Shafer  
Acolytes: Shafer Family

Communion Helpers:  
Brad Hutchins  
Philip Kiriara

Communion Co-Celebrant:  
Rev. Dickson Yagi

##### June 10

Liturgist: Leslie Staal  
Acolytes: Wissman Family

##### June 17

Liturgist: Alan Kitsuse  
Acolytes: Marquez Family

##### June 24

Liturgist: Youth  
Acolytes: Youth



##### *In Need of Prayer*



David Nakamura;  
Tak Yoshida;  
Nancee Iketani;  
Jean Taniguchi;  
Mat Nakamura;  
Alfred Chu;  
Phillip & Nenita

Marquez; Echavarria Family; Lucy Sogioka; Flo Griffen; Bette McIver; Toni Tomita; Elizabeth Kells; Duane Martin; Isabel Reyes; Elvis Corsham; Violet Tomoi;

### Birthdays

- 6 Yukiko Okada
- 7 Alan Kitsuse
- 8 Tato Takahama
- 9 Hiroko Suzuki
- 12 Flo Griffen
- 16 Kevin Wong
- 17 William Ragos
- 19 Pearl Matsumoto
- 20 Bradley Hutchins
- 22 Marise Saiki
- 25 Manisha Macwan
- 26 Gina Kitsuse
- 30 Soraya Shafer

### Anniversaries

- 8 Rev. George Martzen & Rev. Chin Cheak Yu
- 14 Adison & Minaxi Bariya
- 28 Adelyne & Pang Lam

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!**

You are invited to join Florence Sumire Griffen as she celebrates her 95th birthday on Saturday, June 23, from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Audubon Center at Debs Park, 4700 Griffen Avenue in Los Angeles. Please RSVP to (323) 737-3742 or ann@zumwinkle.com.



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>

### **SUMMER SCHOOL begins June 4.**



Chapel Time with Rev. George



for arranging the beautiful Easter Lily plants in the Sanctuary: Shelly Bitner for preparing the order forms and the list of donors, Janice Hurtado for accepting the delivery and setting them up in the Sancturay, and to San Gabriel Nursery for always presenting us with a large, beautiful Lily plant for the church.



Also, thanks to the following who generously donated the Easter Lily plants: Mr. and Mrs. TC Chung, Rev. Harry Fujimoto, Mr. and Mrs. Joh Furukawa, Mr. and Mrs. Kenji Kinoshita, Mr. and Mrs. Pyoung-Hwa Lee, Rev. George Martzen, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Matsumoto, Sada Mayeda, Marilyn McIver, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nieda, Toni Tomita, Janet Wong, Lori Wright, and Jean, Kris, & Ryan Taniguchi.

We mourn with two of our member families whose loved ones finished their course in May.

Hilda Oshita passed away on May 4 from pneumonia. The family held a private memorial. Please keep James Oshita and his son, Warren, in prayer.

Clara Macwan, mother of Archana Carey, passed away in India on



is "Hero Central." Invite your children, grandchildren, and neighborhood children! Be watching for details regarding donations and volunteers.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, June 17, Noon**



Next Gen Pool Party at the Saiki/Chon home, 920 Stuhr Dr., San Gabriel. Bring something to share:

main dish, side dish, salad, dessert, drinks, or munchies. And of course, don't forget your swim gear! **RSVP by June 10 to Arnie, Ruth, or Peace.**

**Sunday, September 16**

SGPUMC 20th Anniversary Celebration. Be watching for details.

**September 21-23**

Church Camp at Pilgrim Pines. More information

Join us for Sunday School 9:15 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.

## Alhambra Performing Arts Center Presents...



Alhambra Performing Arts Center (APAC) under the direction of Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee presents the exciting Flamenco Nights featuring Award-Winning Juan Talavera and his internationally renowned dance troupe.

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 and more will be Sat. June 23<sup>rd</sup> with space for up to 12 students. Email Chef Yee for reservations.

for over 15 years in Santa Barbara during the city-wide Fiesta celebrations. He tours with his company and continues to make artistic contributions to the development of the next generation of flamencos. Talavera is a native of East Los Angeles where, at the age of 12, he began his initial studies of flamenco with the famous master Antonio Triana. In later years he studied with other prominent flamenco masters. He was one of the first flamenco dance teachers in Santa Barbara. He still performs during Old Spanish Days' La Fiesta Pequeña at the Santa Barbara Mission. In motion pictures and television, he has performed with many of Hollywood's leading stars, such as Shirley MacLaine, Michael Caine, Edward James Olmos, John Wayne, Andy Garcia, Bob Hope and many others. He also appeared in the daytime TV drama, General Hospital. To expand his knowledge of flamenco, he has participated in workshops offered in California by Spanish artists in residence. To further his studies of flamenco, Talavera travels to Spain to attend the annual Jerez Flamenco Festival, where he studies with Manolete, Angelita Gomez, Ana María Gonzales, Javier La Torre and Javier Barón. In Sevilla, a major center of flamenco, Talavera continues to meet and study with some of the most

appeared and choreographed for concerts and operas throughout California, including the Orange County Performing Arts Center's production of Bizet's opera, *Carmen*, the 2004 and 2008 productions of *Carmen* for L. A. Opera, and 2009 production of *The Barber of Seville*. Juan Talavera remains dedicated to the work he has done tirelessly for decades – helping to build future generations of flamenco artists by teaching Spanish and flamenco dance at his studio in Whittier. He continues with his first passion – dancing flamenco with enormous passion and success.

Dancers: Misuda Cohen, Rosal Ortega, Vanessa Albalos, Nancy Najera, and Juan Talavera  
Singers: Jesus Montoya, Linda Cuevas  
Guitarists: Jose Tanaka, Edwin Luevanos

Date: Sun., June 24

Time: 7:00pm

Where: Sage Granada Park  
UMC1850 W. Hellman Ave.,  
Alhambra 91803

Admission: FREE (Free-will offering)

Refreshments: Free from the Alhambra Culinary School

### Upcoming Concerts:

July 22—Sabine, Russian Jazz Pianist

August 19—Dali Ensemble, Baroque with a twist

September 16—Carmen, L.A. Opera

E-Mail: bizwind@yahoo.com

## SHELLY BITNER'S RECITAL

*By Louise Wong-Garcia*

What a treat it was to attend the graduate recital of our own administrative assistant, Shelly Bitner. Shelly has been working towards a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance at Azusa Pacific University. This recital was the culmination of all her hard work.

Being able to perform opera and art song requires extensive training in classical singing technique to maximize vocal power, range and resonance. This is important as classical singers perform without the use of microphones. In addition, operatic repertoire is mainly performed in other languages; so one must be able to master foreign language diction. Throw in the ability to act and bring expression into a role and one can see the skill involved in singing opera well.

Shelly did all this with much aplomb. Taking the stage in a beautiful, blue flowing dress, she was poised and confident. With her equally-accomplished pianist,



Pedro Manuel Toro, by her side, Shelly was our tour guide for the next hour on a musical journey that encompassed four (five

songs by de Falla, Shelly seamlessly switched between the four languages with such authenticity that one could imagine her being fluent in all of these.

Shelly's full mezzo-soprano range was utilized to bring out the unique mood of each piece. Her powerful high notes brought out the impassioned confession of Ariodante in Handel's Aria from *Ariodante*; her lush lower range mesmerized in the contemplative lullaby of Brahms. Facial expressions such as a sly little smile at the end of the humorous "El Paño Moruno" or a hand beckoning to the heavens added just the right amount of drama and expression to the pieces.

The final pieces were selections from American composer Gwyneth Walker. Walker had composed a piece for the Wausau Lyric Choir of which Shelly was a member. After hearing Shelly sing, Walker gave her a gift of her music, "Collected Songs," and specifically requested that Shelly sing these. These beautiful solo selections are based on poems. The piece "Crossing the Bar" was especially poignant; Shelly's eloquent interpretation and shaping of the musical phrases brought tears to this author's eyes. (Yes, we all hope to see our Pilot face to face).

Shelly has been blessed with an amazing voice. She is grateful to God and wants to share her gift of music with others. Her next goals

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

We have a great group of people...always working together as a team. It was especially evident at Fellowship time in the month of April. When asked to help out, so many individuals stepped forward and asked, "What can we do?" With Helen Ikeda and Mariko Garrett at the helm, everything ran so smoothly.

Everyone took time to help out, whether it was preparing the coffee, setting up the place, and cleaning up after all was done.

Helen and Mariko were the dynamic duo leading the group.

Sho and Bea Tabata were there with baked goods and helped with cleaning the coffee pot.

Angelea, Gillian, and Alicia were there with their helping hands.

Janet and John were so generous of their time...baking goods and seeing that things that needed to be taken care of were done.

Sengduane Tom, Ko Nakamura, Toni Tomita, Janice Hurtado, Janet Wong, Louise Garcia, Sharon Mori, and Alan Kitsuse were all indispensable. These "helping hands" made the work much

to make sure we have piping hot coffee every Sunday.

We thank everyone so much for all that you did, and if we missed anyone, please know that we appreciate you very much. Please forgive us for omitting some names.

Blessings from the Fellowship Bunch!



Are you graduating from high school or college, or do you have a graduate in

your family? We would like to honor them on Sunday, June 10.

Please submit the following to the church office by **MONDAY, JUNE 4:** graduate's name; name of school graduating from; degree earned and area of study (if college graduate); special awards or scholarships, and any future plans.






Find the missing letter in each alphabet below. Then read the words from top to bottom to discover Israel's promise from Joshua 24:24, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
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ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	___
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFDCBA	___

Answer: We will serve the Lord ... and obey him.  
Joshua 24:24, NIV





					7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	8:30am Japanese Language School
3 9:30am Worship 11:30am Church Council Meeting	4 1:00pm Ukelele	5	6 1:00pm Bible Study	7 7:45pm Chinese Choir	8 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	9 8:30am—Noon: Japanese Language School Graduation
10 9:30am Worship Noon Next Gen Pool Party  GRADUATION SUNDAY 	11 1:00pm Ukelele	12	13 1:00pm Bible Study  CAL-PAC Annual Conference	14 7:45pm Chinese Choir	15 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal	16
17 9:30am Worship  FATHER'S DAY 	18 Ukelele at Pasadena Highlands	19	20 1:00pm Bible Study	21 7:45pm Chinese Choir	22 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:30pm Boy Scouts 6:00 pm SGP Choir Rehearsal  NewsLetter DEADLINE 	23
24 9:30am Worship 3:00pm PFLAG 7:00pm APAC Concert	25 1:00pm Ukelele	26	27 1:00pm Bible Study	28 7:45pm Chinese Choir	29 7:30pm Boy Scouts	30