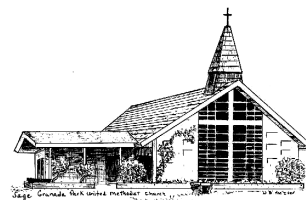




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

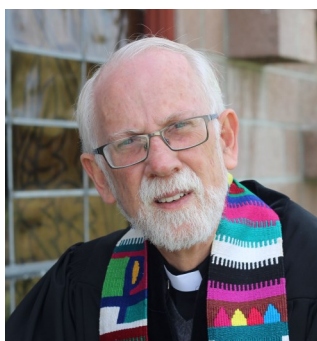
1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



October 2019 E-Thymes

phone: (626) 284-3229 | email: sagegrandapark@gmail.com | web: <http://www.sgpumc.org>

The Value of Kindness



—by *Rev. George Martzen*

Where do you fit kindness in today's world?

Isn't kindness a bit old fashioned? Maybe it was nice for an era when a single paycheck kept a home and you knew who your neighbors were. Doesn't the very act of survival now require us to think for ourselves? Indeed we live in a harsh, politically polarized world in which we are bombarded with threats to survival in every quarter from medical costs, housing costs, and the threat of mass extinctions from global warming.

Actually kindness has been in the spotlight recently. Last week Teresa Watanabe reported in the LA Times about current UCLA research on the science of kindness ([New UCLA Institute, LA Times 2019-09-24](#)). She reported on the inauguration of the UCLA Bedari Kindness Institute, which will research the science of kindness and offer courses to promote kindness.

Rather than being old-fashioned, kindness is an antidote to the violence and political strife in our current reality, according to Darnell Hunt, dean of the UCLA division of social sciences, which houses the new kindness institute.

While kindness benefits others, the act and attitude of kindness also has therapeutic benefit for the one showing kindness. UCLA researchers are already showing how acts of kindness help to reduce depression and anxiety by altering brain functions, according to Watanabe.

I see UCLA's initiative as part of a necessary and global movement in modern societies. When I served as a missionary in Singapore, a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society, I witnessed the growth of the Singapore Kindness Movement, established in 1997 with the intent to "inspire graciousness through spontaneous acts of kindness" ([Singapore Kindness](#)).

Continued on page 2, Kindness

Our Vision:

To be a light on a hill for our community (Matthew 5:14).

Our Mission:

We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Values:

We reaffirm our values as a multi-cultural and inclusive community united in the love of Jesus Christ.

Our Congregational Goals for 2019:

- To start a Saturday night fellowship with young adults.
- To develop a welcoming program.
- To encourage every member tithe their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service.

Meet Our Staff



Rev. Dr. George Martzen, Pastor
gmartzen@gmail.com

Ratheesh Pillai, Youth/Outreach Coordinator
ratheeshyam@gmail.com

Sally Bell, Sunday School
sallycbell@gmail.com

Leslie Hutchins, Wedding Director
macychick@aol.com

Kris Taniguchi, Organist
ktani28@hotmail.com

Benny Char, Admin Assistant
sagegranadapark@gmail.com

Of course, the appeal to kindness has been around for a long time, even when humans have acted in very unkind ways toward each other. Aristotle's Rhetoric talks about the importance of kindness as a virtue. The apostle Paul urged the Christians in central Asia Minor to practice kindness, as an element in the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:20). As we live by the Spirit, we will come to exhibit such virtues as kindness toward others.

But kindness is not simply a nice attitude. Is it any good to claim to be kind and to have some kind thoughts, but then to go about practicing random acts of meanness? Kindness, as with all aspects of the virtuous life, is known in its behavior. In the next few months, I want to focus on virtuous behavior, because there is a tendency in Christianity to focus on faith as a private relationship with God. Faith that isn't changing our behavior for the better is no faith at all. Faith that doesn't make us want to make our world a better place is not worth believing.

Acting in kind ways is one outgrowth of faith. And I am impressed by the many acts of kindness at Sage Granada Park, from people who write kind letters, to giving each other rides, and sharing financial resources to those in need. These are all signs of a vibrant faith. We need to make sure the next generation continues to have such faith that results in kindness.

I need to say also, that our kindness today must also take into consideration the current ecological realities. Will we be kind to our grandchildren by ensuring they still have a climate and resources that can still sustain life as we know it? May God give us grace to walk in the Spirit and so bear such fruit of kindness.

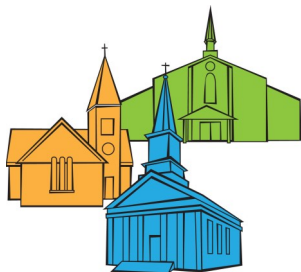
GARDENING GROUP

Do you love the earth? Do you like getting your hands dirty in the garden? Do you have a curiosity in God's creation? The church is starting a **gardening group** that will actively explore the practices of gardening and ecological formation. We can consider how to make our church grounds both inviting and a means for teaching earth care. Special considerations could be given to the side vegetable garden and aquaponics system. If you are interested please contact Rev. George Martzen or the church office at: sagegranadapark@gmail.com

East District Training Conference

is on **Saturday, November 16**
from 8:00am—3:15pm
at Church of the Good Shepherd in Arcadia

The title of the conference is
"Equipping for Renewal"
with keynote speaker,
Alan Fadling,
author of *The Unhurried Life*.



\$15 registration fee includes lunch.
Deadline to Register is November 4.
Find more information and register at
<https://calpacumc.formstack.com/forms/eastraining1119>

A Cal-Pac **Listening Post** will be held
here on **Saturday, October 26**
from 9:00am—12:30pm.



The purpose of the
Cal-Pac listening
posts is to give the
people in local
churches an
opportunity to reflect
on what is important
to them in their
Christian faith and in the United
Methodist Church.

Find more information at
calpacumc.org/listeningposts/

Serving SGPUMC this month:



17th Sunday
after Pentecost
October 6

Liturgist:
Archana C.

Acolytes:
Otto S.
COI

(World Communion
Sunday)
Communion

Helpers:
Archana C.
COI

Elements:
Kitsuse Family

18th Sunday
after Pentecost
October 13

Liturgist:
Janice H.

Acolytes:
Monojit D.
Lach M.

19th Sunday
after Pentecost
October 20

Liturgist:
Ruth C.

Acolytes:
Angelea M.
Jillian M.

20th Sunday
after Pentecost
October 27

Liturgist:
Otto S.

Acolytes:
Kevin W.
Ryan W.

What Makes the Kingdom of God Rich?



—by *Ratheesh Pillai*,
Youth/Outreach Coordinator

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
—2 Corinthians 9:7*

Recently Rev. George and I participated in a mission meeting with other UMC leaders at Shepherd of the Hills. In that meeting, somebody quoted a core Methodist value: "Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can." Let's talk about how this relates to our mission and the Christian life. The World Giving Index 2018 is based on data collected over five years and includes results from 146 countries. Surprisingly, it shows Myanmar (Burma) as the number 1 generous country. Most of us would think that developed countries donate the most.

The Bible teaches that it's not about the quantity that we give. It's about why we give, and that we recognize the needs of others. When we think about giving, most of feel burdened, or we think about money only. In 2005, I accepted Christ. Then God called me to full-time ministry, and I decided to resign from my job. I joined a mission organization which is faith-based (meaning we don't earn anything). People told me I must be insane. Even my own family told me I was foolish and asked how I was going to live. For four years I lived without support, hardly went home, and even sat in the back row at church because I had only a few coins to put in the offering plate and I didn't want people to hear the sound of the coins.

Then I prayed to God, telling him I needed to wash my clothes, eat, and travel. How could I do these things? Whenever I prayed, I saw things I needed on my bed, and until today I don't know the person that gave them to me. God reminded me that the he, the one who calls me, is always faithful.

One of my friends spends 2 hours 40 minutes every day reading the Bible and doing things for God. He told me he doesn't have money, but he wants to give his time for God. Do you know what makes the kingdom of God rich? It's our generous heart, our generous actions, and our compassion for others.

The first reason why we should give is simply that God gave first. He gave his only Son because he felt compassion on us. We do everything in response to the love God has graciously shown us, demonstrates every day, and will show us continually.

Christian compassion will always spread beyond care for people's physical well-being to their spiritual well-being. There are times we support others with our finances, there are times we can encourage others, and there are times we can buy a meal for someone to show our participation in God's mission. When we give, we are not just giving to a particular need, but participating in the kingdom of God. We are supporting God's vision through someone's life through our compassion. Giving makes us a part of the ministry itself! The generosity and compassion in our Christian life can be a blessing to someone as well as an act of obedience to God. It's not all about the quantity we give, but about our willingness and commitment to our Christian life and to the kingdom of God. Let our children and youth learn good deeds from us, seeing all possible opportunities to be involved in the kingdom of God. Let us open our hands and hearts and tune our ears to the call for generous giving to the needs around us, as well as spending time praying for, listening to, and encouraging one another.

In His Service.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Family of Mudge Goodwell,
Family of Violet Tomei; Family
of John Burgess; Family of
Haru Hochi; Family of Rev. Paul
Nagano; Echavarria Family;
Ratheesh Pillai; Mary Sue
Lodwick; Ken Okuda; Nancee
Iketani; Mat Nakamura; Alfred
Chu; Phillip & Nenita Marquez;
Bette McIver; Marilyn McIver;
Derek Tani



Birthdays

10/3 Alexandra Ragos
10/8 Charles Staal
10/11 Louise Wong Garcia
10/11 Joshua Tom
10/12 Kristin Taniguchi
10/12 Gary Yukio Furukawa
10/12 Kikuko Nieda
10/14 James Oshita
10/14 Phyllis Tyler
10/20 Jonathan Roy
10/21 Anya Shafer
10/22 Ratheesh Pillai
10/25 Gabriel Jon Hurtado
10/29 Otto Saiki

Anniversaries

10/2 David & Ets Nakamura
10/7 Roger & Leslie Staal
10/10 Tetsuro & Hiroko Suzuki
10/15 Rajesh & Hasumati Vyas

On September 22, 2019 SGPUMC held the annual talent show:

FLAVORFULL '19



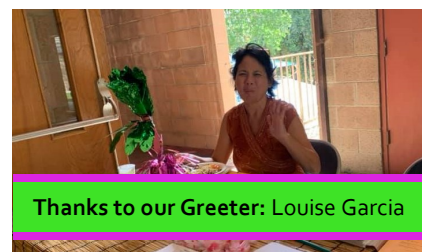
Thanks to our Hosts:
Sharon Mori & Alan Kitsuse



Thanks to our Food Preparers: Ernie Tom,
Sengdeuane Tom, Ruel Reyes, & Manny Marquez



Thanks to our Sound Tech:
Jim Bell



Thanks to our Greeter: Louise Garcia



Thanks to our talented performers.
Pictured: The Divine Band

National Japanese American
United Methodist Caucus:
2019 Clergy and Laity Convocation
October 17th - 20th, 2019



*Learning from the Past
Living in the Present and
Building for the Future*

Celebrating the Ministries of
Bishop Roy I. Sano, Bishop Bob T. Hoshibata, Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

Registration deadline extended to
October 7. Register at
<http://bit.ly/njaumc-reg2019>

Held at Faith UMC (2115 West
182nd Street, Torrance, CA 90504)

Bishops' Celebration Dinner Re-
ception on Oct 19 at Ken Miller
Recreation Center (3341 Torrance
Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503)

Contact (509) 202-2584 or
pastorjohn@cornerstonesocal.org

And thanks for coming and showing your support!



Fun with Numbers!

August 11: Attendance: 58 Sun. School: 5	August 25: Attendance: 55 Sun. School: 3	September 8: Attendance: 54 Sun. School: 5	September 22: Attendance: 62 Sun. School: 5
August 18: Attendance: 59 Sun. School: 2	September 1: Attendance: 58 Sun. School: 4	September 15: Attendance: 48 Sun. School: 4	September 29: Attendance: 34 Sun. School: 3

As for 2019, general offerings from January 1 to October 1 totaled \$66,684.85. Please consider donating by placing your gift in the offering plate this Sunday or going online at https://www.churchtrac.com/online_giving?key=acct_1EE0ANL50EeOTEAX. Thank you for helping us do ministry in our area and the realms beyond!



Family Camp



"Discovering God's New Creation in the Wilderness" on September 27-29, 2019 at Pilgrim Pines in Yucaipa.



Blessing OF THE ANIMALS



Blessing of the Animals service will be held on **Saturday, October 5** starting at **12:30pm**. God has blessed and filled the earth with many kinds of inhabitants. Bring your pets to the church at this time so they can be blessed.



World Communion Day

We will be having an outdoor combined service with COI on **World Communion Sunday, October 6** at **10:30am** (1 hour later than usual). Come and join us as we gather to break bread together and commune with all of God's creation.



A Prayer of Peace



—by *Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

God above us, God within us,
God all around us.

In August, 1945, about 135,000 people were killed in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. About 80,000 people were killed in Nagasaki.

The crew flying the B 29 bomber to Nagasaki could not have known that Nagasaki was the headquarters for Roman Catholics in Japan.

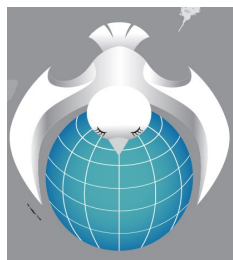
American Christians killing Japanese Christians!

O Lord God, Jesus Christ taught us to love our enemies, forgive our enemies, pray for our enemies. And Jesus Christ died for his enemies.

But many Christians say “Just War,” so we can kill our enemies. The press called Japanese Americans “enemy aliens,” but Quakers called us “friends.”

Slowly, slowly, inch by inch may we turn our enemies into friends and so become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Prayer, August 8, 2019 by Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi at Toriumi Plaza, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles at Nagasaki Memorial Service. Buddhist prayers by Rev. Ryuzen Hayashi (Shingon Buddhist) and Rev. Peter Hata (Shin Buddhist East).

Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten

—from *Theresa Laib, Director*



We are now accepting Registration for children 2yrs 6mo and potty trained to 5year old for the 2019-2020 School Year. Call the school for more information at 626-284-5006, or visit our web site at <http://gpumnsk.org>

Shakey's Pizza Fundraiser Night



October Curriculum

Themes are:

Welcome Fall;
Fire Prevention,
All About Apples,
Pumpkins,
Acorns,
Squirrels
and Halloween



Bible Story Time

Upcoming **October** Events:

17 - School closed Thursday Teacher work shop
19 - Parent Work Day 8:00-12:00
23 & 24 Hearing Center 9:00am-12:00pm
25- Life Touch Picture Day 9:00am-12:00pm
30 & 31 – Mrs. Good Witch



The Japanese Language School is holding their **Spam Musubi Fundraiser**. Please make sure to put your order down by **Sunday, October 13** and pick them up on **Saturday, October 19, from 10:30—11:30am.**

Alhambra Performing Arts Center

—from *Bill Yee, Artistic Director*

Alhambra Performing Arts Center (APAC) under the direction of Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee presents award-winning Hanbyul Jang in a free concert on Sunday October 20, 2019 7pm at Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church 1850 W. Hellman Ave., Alhambra 91803.

A native of South Korea, Hanbyul Jang began playing the violin at the age of five. Her early studies were with Dennis Kim. Hanbyul received her Bachelor of Music degree from the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles where she studied with Robert Lipsett. She received her Masters of Music degree and Graduate Certificate from USC Thornton School of Music where she was a full scholarship recipient of the John H. Laub and Lilli J. Laub Endowed Music Scholarship under the tutelage of Glenn Dicterow. Hanbyul served as concertmaster in the Thornton Symphony Orchestra and was the recipient of the USC Thornton Orchestra Award. She regularly plays with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Pacific Symphony. An active chamber musician, Hanbyul has recently appeared on the Da Camera Society series in LA, toured to France with her string quartet, and performed on the Colburn Chamber Music Society series. Hanbyul has attended several summer festivals, including the Bowdoin International Music Festival and the Aspen Music Festival & School as a fellowship recipient. She participated in the inaugural class of the Colburn Teaching Fellows Program. Hanbyul enjoys teaching and has a passion for working with kids with special needs.

Benjamin Lash began studying cello at the age of six. In his early teens, as a first place winner of multiple Chicago area competitions, he performed concertos by Saint-Saens, Shostakovich, Hindemith, and Haydn. Benjamin received his Bachelors of Music from the Colburn Conservatory of Music where he studied with Ronald Leonard. He completed a Master of Music degree at the USC Thornton School of Music where he studied with Ralph Kirshbaum. Benjamin was a top prizewinner in the Washington International Competition. Recent concerto performances include Haydn's C Major Cello Concerto with the USC Thornton Symphony, Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the Colburn Orchestra, and Dvorak's Cello Concerto with the Brentwood Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, Benjamin has participated in summer festivals including Ravinia's Steans Music Institute, Sarasota Music Festival, Taos, Aspen, Holland International Music Sessions, Fortissimo Fest in Bulgaria, and Franco-American Chamber Music Festival in Missillac, France. Benjamin is a member of SAKURA, a Los Angeles based cello quintet which will be featured in the upcoming Piatigorsky International Cello Festival in March 2020.

APAC (formerly The Center for the Visual & Performing Arts CVPA) is in its 13th season and is already booked through July 2020 with many more exciting world-class performances. Bill Yee was a founder of this community outreach program based at the historic Sage Granada Park United

Methodist Church in 2006. He is a nationally awarded ACF (American Culinary Federation) chef who also owns the Alhambra Culinary School and L.A. Omelets Catering Services. He is the past president of the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu Alumni Association and Vice President of the ACF Chefs de Cuisine Association of California.



Benjamin Lash (cello) and Hanbyul Jang (violin)

DATE: Sunday, October 20, 2019, 7pm

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

ADMISSION:

Free (Free-Will Offering accepted during Intermission)

CONTACT:

Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee
Phone: (626) 230 5435
Email: bizwind@yahoo.com

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 1:00pm Bible Study A: David & Ets Nakamura	3 B: Alexandra Ragos	4	5 8:30am Japanese Language School 1:00pm Blessing of the Animals 
6 <i>World Communion</i> 10:30 Combined Worship 	7 1:00pm Ukulele A: Roger & Leslie Staal	8 7:00pm Ministry Coordinating Team Meeting B: Charles Staal	9 1:00pm Bible Study	10 8:30am Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Networking A: Tetsuro & Hiroko Suzuki	11 B: Joshua Tom B: Louise Wong Garcia	12 8:30am Japanese Language School 8:00am Fall Cleanup B: Kristin Taniguchi B: Kikuko Nieda
13 9:30 Worship *Deadline to order Japanese Language School Spam Musubi 	14 <i>Columbus Day</i> 1:00pm Ukulele B: James Oshita B: Phyllis Tyler 	15 7:00pm PAC Meeting A: Rajesh & Hasumati Vyas	16 1:00pm Bible Study	17 	18	19 8:30am Japanese Language School 10:30am Spam Musubi pickup 6:00pm Hallowe'en Party
				NJ AUMC Convocation 10/17-10/20		
20 9:30 Worship 11:00am Methodist Perspectives 7:00pm APAC—Hanbyul Jang B: Jonathan Roy NJAUMC (end)	21 1:00pm Ukulele B: Anya Shafer	22 B: Ratheesh Pillai	23 1:00pm Bible Study	24	25 B: Gabriel Jon Hurtado	26 8:30am Japanese Language School (Undokai @ park) 9:00am Listening Post 
27 9:30 Worship	28 1:00pm Ukulele	29 7:00pm Joint Church Conference @ San Gabriel First UMC B: Otto Saiki	30 1:00pm Bible Study	31 <i>Reformation Day</i> 	B=Birthday A=Anniversary	