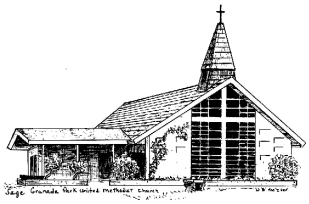
Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803

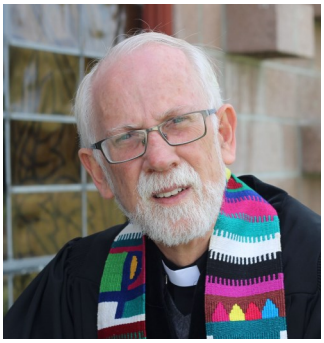


November 2019 E-Thymes

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

Endurance and Gratitude

"By your endurance you will gain your souls." – Luke 21:19



—by *Rev. George Martzen*

When I was growing up, my family had a tradition on all patriotic holidays, especially Veterans Day and Memorial Day, to hang the flag. It wasn't just any flag.

Not until I was a teenager, when the tradition was fully handed down to me by my older brothers, did I learn the full account. It was the coffin flag of my mother's first husband who was killed in July 1944 in one of the battles following the Allied invasion of Normandy. My father was also a veteran of World War II, so my siblings and I grew up respecting veterans. They had endured for a greater cause, even to the point of giving their lives.

During November we commemorate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day. They are very different holidays, but they affect me in similar ways. Thanksgiving, celebrated on November 28 this year, recalls the familiar story of how of group of settlers, adventurers and religious separatists, gave thanks after surviving a difficult winter. It wasn't a fancy sit-down with commercially raised turkey and a football game in the background. While the legacy of European colonization is a mixed bag, especially for the native Americans who were decimated by disease and conflict, I respect the struggle of those who tried to make friends and struggled together through hard times. These are values for which we can be grateful and which we can emulate.

On November 11 we celebrate Veterans Day, originally Armistice Day after the treaty with Germany in 1918. That was supposed to be war to end all wars. Sadly, we have learned differently. In 1954 Armistice was changed to Veterans Day to honor all people who served honorably in our nations military.

Continued on page 2, *Endurance*

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
ratheeshywam@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

Endurance, continued from page 1

While I may not agree with the politics of warfare, I appreciate the struggle of those who have been forced to labor and put their bodies in the face of conflict. Indeed, let us continue to pray and work for that time when swords are beaten to "plowshares," when nations no longer lift up sword against nations, nor learn war any longer.

In the church we are also into a period of reflection on ultimate things, the end of time. Jesus' saying about endurance comes from Luke's version of the end-times teaching, a prediction about the destruction of Jerusalem and a cluster of other apocalyptic sayings. These have kept the church curious over the centuries. With the disciples we ask, "Teacher, when will this be?" Well, not yet.

Rather, Jesus told the disciples to endure and to keep watch. "Stay with it to the end." (The Message).

We just had our Church/Charge Conference on October 29, combining with the members of San Gabriel First UMC. It was a celebration of what we've accomplished and a charge to be faithful in the coming year. I want us to work more on discipling and leadership development for the future of the church. We are going to have to work together. But let us take to heart the message of thanksgiving and endurance.

Remembering the good values that have been passed down to us from previous generations, let us continue the struggle, by the grace of God, to bring about that Church in which all people are welcome, in which every knee shall bow and give glory to God.

Thanksgiving Hope Meal Drive

The HOPE program is requesting donations of the following items to help families in transition get through the Thanksgiving break. Please consider donating :

Breakfast Ideas

- Breakfast Bars
- Instant Oatmeal
- Apple Sauce
- Trail Mix
- Individual Cereal Boxes
- Fruit Cups
- Water Bottles
- Boxed Milk

Lunch Ideas

- Cup of Noodles
- Mac'n Cheese Cups
- Tuna and Crackers
- PB&Crackers
- Granola Bars
- Pudding Snacks
- Water Bottles
- Juice Boxes

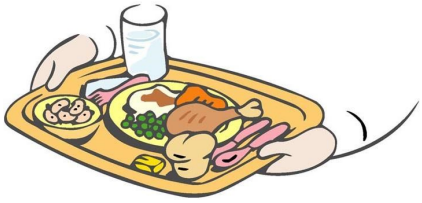
SGPUMC's goal is 50 bags of each, with a deadline of the items to be delivered to the church office by **November 8**, 12:00 noon.

All Saints Day is on **Sunday, November 3, 2019.**

Please come as we participate in an ancient festival that will honor those friends and relatives that have died in the Lord.

Family representatives will be placing roses, provided by the church, in remembrance of those we have lost this year.

Thanksgiving Lunch is on **Sunday, November 17, 2019.**



The Mukais will be joining us on November 17, to put on a light Thanksgiving Lunch. Please put it on your calendar and stay after worship for a fun time of fellowship and good food. Invite you friends, family and hungry neighbors.

Need a refresher on serving in worship? Come **November 9**, from 10 am to 12 noon to the sanctuary for **Worship Training**. This is for liturgists, acolytes, greeters, etc.

Serving SGPUMC this month:

21st Sunday after Pentecost **November 3**	*Communion*	22nd Sunday after Pentecost **November 10**	23rd Sunday after Pentecost **November 17**	Christ the King Sunday **November 24**
Liturgist: Paul W.	*Helpers:* Paul W. Janice H.	*Liturgist:* Kim M.	*Liturgist:* Alan K.	*Liturgist:* Kai Garcia
Acolytes: Amanda W. Sophia W.	*Elements:* Sharon M.	*Acolytes:* Monojit D. Lach M.	*Acolytes:* Angelea M. Jillian M.	*Acolytes:* Kevin W. Ryan W.

Food + Laughter = Transformation:

How our communal fellowships with others lead to transformation

—by *Ratheesh Pillai,*
Youth/Outreach Coordinator

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in … you came to visit me."
—Matthew 25:34-36

When we look at Jesus and His disciples, we see that food, fellowship, and hospitality were central to their ministries. One of the things I like to do is cook. When I see people are enjoying the foods I cook, it gives me so much happiness. My experience working in a mission organization with people from around the globe introduced me to the way these people cook and serve food. During this time, I learned different kinds of food culture and the table manners. Sometimes people asked what kind of foods I liked the most; I told them I have an international stomach because God had put me in different cultural contexts. Even though I may not like the food in a culture, I was still obligated to respect the different shapes, colors, and flavors of the food.

Let me share something from the religious perspective where I grew up. Hindu culture presents the idea of the god as a guest, emphasizing hospitality. The Hindu culture and religion in India give much value to dining with friends, family, neighbors, and others in society. Hindus believe that food is a building block of the community and a means for leading someone to the Hindu deity. Food is the what enables us to share blessings, and through these blessings, we hear one another.

In the Book of Genesis, Abraham was able to listen to God through a table conversation with the angel of God. The Bible describes active dialogues that can occur in table fellowship rather than in any other situation. When people eat food, there is a lot of happiness and joy, as well as fullness. I once was exposed to a culture in a particular country where people did not invite others to their homes but instead met at a restaurant. During my ministry there, I decided to invite people to my home, and we shared meals. I believe Food + Laughter = Transformation.

We see table fellowship in the incident of Peter and Cornelius, as well as between Jesus and the tax collector Zacchaeus. Food also demonstrates our dependence on God. The dinner table is a place of connection, brokenness, and blessing. When is the last time you offered a meal to a homeless person? When is the last time you were invited by your neighbor to share a meal or participate in one of their festivals or celebrations? If SAGE wants to see people's lives transformed, we must move beyond the church in order to engage with people's lives through food and fellowship.

As followers of Christ, our love and compassion should extend not only to fellow Christians but even to strangers. "Love your neighbor" has nothing to do with geography, citizenship, or race. Wherever and whenever people need us, we can be neighbors, and like Christ, show our generous heart through sharing a burger, burrito, kimbap, or rolls. This is the essence of our Christian calling and mission. A shared meal is an activity that is most closely tied to the reality of God's kingdom, just as it is the most fundamental expression of the great commandment. Praise God that SAGE has a fellowship team that provides a place for our communion so we can share table fellowship. After the service, instead of hurrying away, we should sit together, listen, laugh, and bless each other.

Food is one of God's Love languages.

Shalom!

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; Shoji Tatsugawa; Ratheesh Pillai; Mary Sue Lodwick; Ken Okuda; Nancee Iketani; Mat Nakamura; Alfred Chu; Phillip & Nenita Marquez; Bette McIver; Marilyn McIver; Derek Tani

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

11/1 Emmanuel Marquez
11/4 Steve Meza
11/8 Robert Austin
11/10 Wesley Tanaka
11/12 Kai Garcia
11/15 Erin Tanaka
11/15 Elaine Chun
11/19 Don Morrison

Anniversaries

11/11 Jaime & Louise Garcia
11/14 Kenji & Dorothy Kinoshita
11/19 Emmanuel & Alicia Marquez
11/21 Paul Wissman & Jeanette Cornejo
11/25 Shoji & Shihoko Tatsugawa

Taizé Worship

—by *Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

Rev. Sunyoung Park came on a pastor's visit several months after Ellen died. She gave me a CD of Taizé Worship hymns that she knew would comfort me. Taizé was monastic worship, something very new for Protestants.

In our weekly Thursday evening worship, we have Taizé worship about every third month at Pilgrim Place. But I quit going to Taizé worship because I would start crying and I could not stop the flow of tears until worship ended. I did not want to disturb the person on my left and the person on my right by an endless flow of tears.

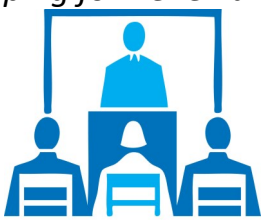
Tonight I thought that the man would be preaching Baptist style—with an excited loud voice, shouting, and pounding the lectern. It was my mistake that he is preaching next week. Tonight was Taizé worship! It was my first time in nine years to sing the slow, worshipful rhythms of Taizé hymns.

Surprise, surprise! My tears did not flow. Instead the slow, worshipful and repeated words and music flooded my soul with peace, sense of Presence, and joy. After nine years the flow of tears had dried up.

Surprise! Surprise! There is life after a death even in couples in their senior years.

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/easttraining1119

Listening Posts are being offered throughout the Annual Conference, including Hawaii. These opportunities are for hearing and sharing thoughts about the direction of our United Methodist Church, with regard to the Special Called General Conference vote in February which established the "Traditional Plan" as church law. That plan continues language in our Book of Discipline prohibiting the ordination of openly practicing homosexual persons, and weddings of same-sex couples. Members may voice approval or resistance to this stance, and whether or not to remain within the UMC or start a new connection.

San Gabriel First UMC will host a listening post on November 2, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Listening Post at Sage Granada Park last week was meagerly attended. If you are not able to attend and would like your voice heard you can fill out the online survey at http://www.calpacumc.org/listeningposts/

Fun with Numbers!

September 8:
Attendance: 54
Sunday School: 5

September 22:
Attendance: 62
Sunday School: 5

October 6:
Attendance: 52
Sunday School: 3

October 20:
Attendance: *Not Posted Yet*
Sunday School: 3

September 15:
Attendance: 48
Sunday School: 4

September 29:
Attendance: 34
Sunday School: 3

October 13:
Attendance: 54
Sunday School: 3

October 27:
Attendance: 68
Sunday School: 4

As for 2019, general offerings from January 1 to November 1 totaled $73,513.96. Please consider donating by placing your gift in the offering plate on Sundays or going online at http://sgpumc.org/make-a-donation/
Thank you for helping us do ministry in our area and the realms beyond!

On October 19, we gathered for our annual…

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Food!

Crafts!

Smiles!

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

Stories

Tessellations

November Curriculum Themes are:
Welcome Harvest; Forest Animals; Hibernation; We are Thankful

Giving Thanks: Help your child trace their hand with their fingers spread open. The thumb is the head of the turkey and the fingers are the feathers. Draw a turkey head on the thumb. Explain to your child that on Thanksgiving we celebrate by giving thanks for all the wonderful gifts we have in our lives. Start with the Monday before Thanksgiving and each day have your child talk about something they are thankful for. Write that on a "tail feather." Add something each day on the rest of the fingers. This will help to focus on thankfulness all week long.

Upcoming ***November*** Events:

Marie Callenders' Pie Orders (forms are available in the church office) you can leave the order form with payment in the church office. THANK YOU

3- Daylight Saving Time End
11- Veterans' Day School Closed
19- Pie orders Due
12-15- Book Fair in the school office
18- Thanksgiving Feast 6:00-8:00pm Pot Luck
19 & 20- Vision Screening 9:00 A.M.
27- Pick up Pies in the School Office 10:00 am -6:00 pm
28 & 29- School Closed Thanksgiving Holiday

There are still openings for our **Gardening Group**. If you care about the environment and like gardening or urban farming, please contact Rev. George Martzen or the church office at: sagegranadapark@gmail.com

Parsonage Open House
Don't be a stranger! Come on over to the parsonage to visit with Rev. George and Rev. Yu on **November 23**, from 4 to 8 p.m. This will be a joint open house with our friends from San Gabriel First UMC. More information will follow soon.

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 Murray Middleman and Brazil 2019 in a free concert on Sunday November 17, 2019 7pm at Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church.

Murray Middleman received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the Arts, in 1978, and later his Masters Degree in Music from UCLA. In addition, Mr. Middleman has music education training in the Carl Orff Method for Children from the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts. From 1978 until 1982, Mr. Middleman held the position of professor of saxophone and clarinet at the Settlement Music School. In 1983, he moved to the Yamaha Music School as Director of Woodwind Education with an emphasis on saxophone, clarinet, and flute performance and maintained this position until 1992. Since that time, Mr. Middleman has served as Director of the Brand Library Chamber Concert Series, has been a consistent recording artist for Hollywood motion pictures and television, and has produced, composed, and performed music for CD projects and alongside music legends such as Frank Sinatra, Count Basie, and John Lennon.

Stephan Oberhoff is a frequent collaborator with internationally acclaimed artists such as Brenda Russell, Burt Bacharach, Melissa Manchester, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil and numerous other iconic artists. Before his move to the US, Stephan garnered the coveted "GOLDEN LION" Award. He also created one of the longest running TV and radio commercials in the history of European TV and radio media which was chosen to be released as a single recording under his name, featuring Stephan's extraordinary abilities as a vocalist and composer. After returning from an extended sabbatical in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, Stephan spent a lot of time in various studios in L.A. in co-production with the great Quincy Jones in the quest of completing a ground-breaking pop album for Jason Gould. Stephan has performed live with many Jazz and R&B greats. Stephan founded his own Brazilian concert showcase ensemble named "HeartBeat Brazil" in 2014 and is currently touring the West coast of the United States.

Lucio Viera was born in Manaus - Amazonas -Brazil, drummer, begin to play drumset at 12. Raised by a musician father, Lucio developed a keen sense of the art form as a child. From an early age, he was exposed to classical music, 80's/90's rock & soul, jazz, Brazilian music and the pop world of the 1990's. Such eclecticism would later come to shape his career. After gaining recognition in Brazil as a musician, Lucio received multiple invitations to play in Brazilian tours with great names of Contemporary Jazz and Pop Music.

Gary Wicks is a second generation bassist from Albany, NY and has been a part of the vibrant music scenes of Los Angeles, CA; London, UK; Albany, NY; and Boston, MA where he earned a BM in Double Bass Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music. He also holds an MM in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California which he earned with full time studies and a Teaching Assistant appointment all while touring internationally with the Grammy award winning vocal quartet the Manhattan Transfer. Gary has performed and recorded at many prestigious recording studios, music festivals, concert halls and jazz clubs around the world for music stars and various productions of musical theater and many more. praise. He conducts clinics and masterclasses on different aspects of professional bass playing.

Murray Middleman

APAC (formerly The Center for the Visual & Performing Arts CVPA) is in its 13th season and is already booked with many more exciting world-class performances. Bill Yee, the founder, is a nationally awarded ACF (American Culinary Federation) chef. 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.

DATE: Sunday,
November 17, 2019, 7pm
LOCATION: Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church
1850 W. Hellman Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91803
ADMISSION:
Free (Free-Will Offering accepted during Intermission, credit cards accepted)
CONTACT:
Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee
Phone: (626) 230 5435
Email: bizwind@yahoo.com

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				B=Birthday A=Anniversary	1 *All Saints Day* B: Emmanuel Marquez	2 8:30am Japanese Language School
3 *All Saints Sunday* 9:30am Worship 	4 1:00pm Ukulele B: Steve Meza	5	6 1:00pm Bible Study	7	8 12:00noon Deadline for Hope Meal Donations B: Robert Austin	9 8:30am Japanese Language School 10:00am Worship Assistant Training
10 9:30am Worship B: Wesley Tanaka	11 *Veterans Day* 1:00pm Ukulele A: Jaime & Louise Garcia 	12 B: Kai Garcia	13 1:00pm Bible Study	14 A: Kenji & Dorothy Kinoshita	15 B: Erin Tanaka B: Elaine Chung	16 8:00am East District Training Conference *@ Church of Good Shepherd* 8:30am Japanese Language School
17 9:30am Worship 11:00am Thanksgiving Lunch 7:00pm APAC—Brazil 2019	18 1:00pm Ukulele	19 Order deadline for pies from Nursery B: Don Morrison A: Emmanuel & Alicia Marquez	20 1:00pm Bible Study	21 A: Paul Wissman & Jeanette Cornejo	22	23 8:30am Japanese Language School 4:00pm Parsonage Open House
24 9:30am Worship	25 1:00pm Ukulele A: Shoji & Shihoko Tatsugawa	26	27 10:00am Nursery pie pick-up 1:00pm Bible Study 	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30