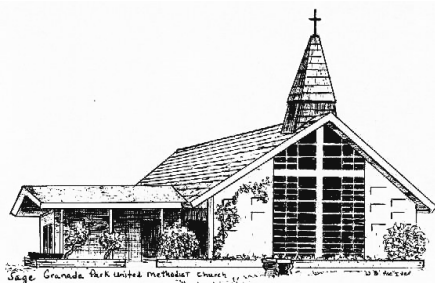


Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church



January 2020 E-Thymes

1850 West Hellman Avenue,
Alhambra, CA 91803

Office: (626) 284-3229;
FAX: (626) 570-4144

Website: <http://www.sgpumc.org>

Email: sagegrandapark@gmail.com

Office hours: Mondays Closed;
Tuesdays–Friday 9:30am–12:30 pm

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 2020:

- 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

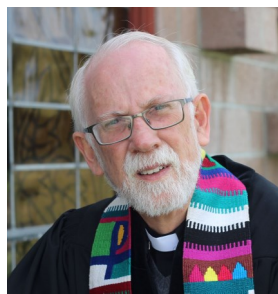
Kris Taniguchi, Organist
ktani28@hotmail.com

Sally Bell, Sunday School
sallycbell@gmail.com

Sengdeuane Tom, E-Thymes Editor
stom426@gmail.com

Julie Quezada, Admin Assistant
sagegranadapark@gmail.com

2020: Year of Vision



—by Rev. George Martzen

"Where there is no prophetic vision the people perish."

—Proverbs 29:18

"The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness."

—John Muir*

Those who drive to Yosemite via Highway 41 from Fresno are in for a visual retreat as they pass through a tunnel and emerge with a grand view of Yosemite Valley surrounded by monoliths like Half Dome and El Capitan. Tourists overflow the turn-offs to enjoy their initiation to the land of the Miwok and to take pictures.

It's well known that Yosemite was preserved and the National Parks system established because of the influence of John Muir's writings and activism. What may be less known is how an industrial accident was pivotal in turning the young Muir into the famous naturalist. The 27-year-old Muir was working at an Indianapolis factory in 1867 when a tool slipped from his hands and gouged his right eye, rendering him partially blind. For several

depressing weeks he remained cooped up in a darkened room in hopes his eye might heal. Eventually it did, but not before some soul-searching, and a glimpse of a flyer on the newly discovered Yosemite Valley. Actually, the Miwok had lived there for centuries, but an army battalion found it while protecting California goldminers in 1851.

Muir left the factory, and after several other trips, made his way to San Francisco and then to Yosemite, where he spent years studying nature. His temporary loss of sight led to a greater vision, to hold certain lands sacred for posterity (<https://historicindianapolis.com/misc-monday-john-muir-vision-lost-and-found/>)

I am calling the new year "2020: The Year of vision." Optometrists prescribe lenses to help people better see with "2020" vision. As important as that is, having perfect eyesight is not a prerequisite to holy vision or holy imagination. A sight-impaired Fanny Crosby extolled her "visions of glory." With the proper gaze we can see the universe in the forest wilderness, the life of the world in a broken loaf and the face of Jesus in eyes of a child.

While there is much in our world that leaves us blue or with distorted vision, the gospel offers us a vision of hope. Indeed, as I have discussed in the past year, hope begins with a vision of what can be, along with a sense of agency, and some pathways to accomplish visionary goals.

Just like John Muir, we may

need to stop and assess our own blindness or nearsightedness before we begin to behold a new vision. And just as an optometrist offers corrective lenses, I will be considering the optics of Scripture and other spiritual resources to help us see the world as God sees. I will be prescribing the lenses of spiritual practices include daily Bible reading and prayer, weekly worship and fellowship, and small group participation.

In fact, I am looking for people to start a new Discipleship Huddle and a new Bible study group. In hopes of sharpening our spiritual vision, I want to have a one-day spiritual retreat with Rev. Terry Van Hook in early March. I also want to put the word out to all youth to join an exploration of Confirmation in February. As the saints have always encouraged us, let us use a holy imagination to gaze beyond the cloudy skies, drooping limbs and our political chaos to behold God's kingdom of peace emerging in every corner.

*John of the Mountains: The Unpublished Journals of John Muir (1938), 313



SIKH PRASADA



—by *Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

About 25 years ago I was sent to Calcutta for 2 months to study Hinduism and Tibetan Buddhism. I walked down the street and came to a huge Gurdwara, which is the temple of the Sikhs. It was only me and the head priest in this huge temple.

The head priest gave me a clump of Prasada, which was their holy, sacred food. I clenched it in my hand. It felt like raw dough. And the head priest must have dedicated it to the Sikh God.

But after a while the head priest stopped talking and pointed to my right hand, which meant I had to eat it. If I, a Baptist missionary, had to eat this Prasada, I knew only one way to eat it. It was the body of Christ broken for me. The Sikh Prasada became a sacrament of Jesus Christ for me.

Roman Catholics have 7 sacraments. I have 1 million sacraments. Everything good, bad, and neutral becomes blessing, if we receive it from the hand of God.

Everything becomes sacrament, even the Sikh Prasada holy food, the death of my wife Ellen, and the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Meet Our New Admin Assistant



Julie Quezada comes to us with over 30 years in the administration field as an insurance adjuster, an office manager for a construction company and in the hotel division. She is originally from Spokane, WA. but married her college sweetheart, Mark, 14 years ago and moved here to Los Angeles. She and her husband pastored in Baldwin Park for over 7 years. Her husband is retired from the ministry and now works in the mortgage industry approving loans. They currently reside in Pico Rivera. She enjoys the outdoors, loves to read and to bake cakes & pies. Welcome!



There are small groups that you can be a part of! We have "Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study" and "Discipleship Huddle".

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study is an ongoing study of the Bible.

We are currently studying the Book of Revelation every Wednesday at 1 pm.

We are taking sign ups for additional bible study and Discipleship Huddle is an online discipleship accountability group which will focus on discipleship and spiritual leadership. Meetings are held in person OR by video conferencing through zoom.

If you are interested in any bible studies, please contact Rev. George.

A church council meeting will be held January 26.

If you have any topics you would like discussed, please email them to sagegrana-dapark@gmail.com.



Who is your reason for the season?

*Ratheesh Pillai,
Youth/Outreach Coordinator*



To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Seasons are one of God's fascinating inventions for humans to enjoy his attributes and his creation. One of my favorite seasons is winter. I like snow, but heat and humidity

have always been a challenge for me. People assume that since I am ethnically Indian, I can bear hot weather. However, I did not grow up in hot weather. The seasons and weather are diverse in India, depending on the states and geographic location.

We must not forget that God invented all seasons for good reason. Having said that, as Christians, we need to stop for a while and ponder about the kind of season we are in in our lives. And who is the reason for this season? Seasons are, in reality, nothing more than periods of moments that we each walk through.

At present, we are in the season of "gifting" and preparing to welcome the New Year. Most of us are doing "math" to buy appropriate gifts for family and friends to celebrate a new season. In the midst of all these seasonal celebrations, we shouldn't forget how we are seasoning our seasons with God. Every time we put a light up, it is a celebration of the light that has come into the world. In Psalm 23, David talks about the season when he encountered with God. He seeks to explain his entire life—how God was with him in all seasons.

Seasons are also significant because God sends us to carry out his mission according to the seasons. Jesus, Paul, and all the disciples went through tough seasons in their lives. In the midst of both the excellent and challenging seasons, they reflected who Christ is, and they were faithful to his call. As David says in Psalm 23, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me."

The seasons that you enter are steps in fulfilling Christ's purpose, for which God has given situations and circumstances. Last month in the E-Thymes, Rev. Yagi wrote, "Human beings are the best windows to see God." No matter the season, God has a reason and has given us the purpose to make him known. Jesus is the perfect example of walking through his seasons. He faced different seasons in his life. Even though he knew he would be crucified, he faced this season knowing what his purpose on earth was. We are required to get to a point in our lives where we our concern for God's mission is reflected through each season of life. The gifting season can change, but Jesus is the absolute gift we give to others in every season. Paul says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful" (2 Tim 4:7). Whatever your age or the season, remember that the one who called us is always faithful. He is the reason for every season in our life. This is our mission in all seasons.

I do not know how many of us can gift, but remember, God is the ultimate gift that we can give to our children, family, neighbors, and even our enemies.

My New Year's wish and prayer for the Sage Granada Park family is that we become sensitive and discerning to the voice of God. I pray that God reveals to all of us what he wants us to do, and knowing that we obey in Jesus' name.

May you have a blessed and prosperous year ahead.



Fun With Numbers for SGPUMC

	Worship:	Sunday School:
Dec. 1	Attendance: 47	3
Dec. 8	Attendance: 65	5
Dec. 15	Attendance: 49	5
Dec. 22	Attendance: 76	5
Dec. 24	Attendance: 32	-
Dec. 29	Attendance: 45	4



Finance Update

2019 general offerings from January 1 to December 29 totaled \$100,599.28. Our yearly general offerings budget is \$102,000. 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!



Birthdays

1/1 Mary Tokeshi Senzaki
 1/5 Jim Bell
 1/6 Janet Furukawa
 1/7 Charles Reece Cuevas
 1/7 David Nakamura
 1/7 Phillip Kiriara
 1/10 Koharu Nakamura
 1/13 Sarah McIver Hutchins
 1/13 Janet Yukie Wong
 1/14 Nathan Tom
 1/15 Ajay Gershom
 1/15 Nancee Iketani
 1/23 Jillian Marquez
 1/24 Pang Lam
 1/26 Kantilal Macwan
 1/29 Christie Cheng Hutchins
 1/30 Leslie Staal
 1/30 Tien Cheong Chung
 1/31 Jeanette Cornejo

Anniversaries

1/8 Stephen & Leslie Hutchins
 1/15 Yutaka & Sachiko Yoshida

SERVING SGPUMC THIS MONTH:

January 5

Liturgist: Janice Hurtado Acolytes: Monojit Dhar & Lach Morrison
 Communion Helpers: Janice Hurtado & Stephen Hutchins

January 12

Liturgist: Alicia Marquez Acolytes: Angelea & Jillian

January 19

Liturgist: John Taniguchi Acolytes: Amanda & Sophia
 Wissman

January 26

Liturgist: Paul Wong Acolytes: Kevin & Ryan Wong



Family of Mudge Goodwell;
 Family of Violet Tomei; Family
 of John Burgess; Echhavarria
 Family; Sam Nieda; Shoji
 Tatsugawa; Dolores "Lori"
 Wright; Ratheesh Pillai; Mary
 Sue Lodwick; Ken Okuda;
 Nancee Iketani; Mat
 Nakamura; Alfred Chu; Phillip
 & Nenita Marquez; Bette
 McIver; Marilyn McIver; Derek
 Tani; All those whose needs
 are unspoken

Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten

—by *Theresa Laib, Director*

We are now accepting Registration
 for children 2 years 9 months and
 potty-trained to 5 years old for the
 2019-2020 School Year.

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



Hi friends and family,

I just passed my behind-the-wheel
 driver's test, and I am starting to look for a car.
 The rule is that my parents will help pitch in for
 a car, but I must pay for half of it. I am looking
 to purchase a car in the \$4,000-\$5,000 range.
 The purpose of this letter is to ask if anyone has or knows of some-
 one who is willing to sell a car in that price range. I thought it
 would be a good idea to ask friends and family before shopping at
 used car dealerships, which can often be untrustworthy. I am look-
 ing for an inexpensive, but reliable car that can get me where I
 need to go. If you have a car or know someone who has a car for
 sale, please contact my parents, and we can figure it out from
 there. Thanks for your help!

Sincerely,
 Tyler Mukai

Stephanie Mukai: 562-243-6317, stephmukai@sbcglobal.net

Brad Mukai: 213-709-8296, bmukai@alohabugs.com



January themes are:

Winter Wonderland;
 Artic Life;
 Night and Day;
 Transportation;
 the Shape of Things

January 2020 Calendar

Jan. 6- School resumes for all pro-
 grams
 Jan. 11- Dad's Day, 8:00-9:30 am.
 An opportunity for time spent
 in play and activity
 Jan. 20- School closed for Martin
 Luther King Holiday

Alhambra Performing Arts Center

—by *Bill Yee*, Artistic Director

Alhambra Performing Arts Center under the direction of Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee is starting its 14th season with the popular Beatlemania Singalong Concert featuring Bob Shuster and his Beatlemaniax tribute band. This free concert will feature many classic Beatle tunes and the audience from years past have always been highly enthusiastic to hear and singalong with their favorite songs like "I Want to Hold Your Hand" to "Yesterday" and "Twist and Shout" "Hey Jude" and many more. Location is Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church, 1850 W. Hellman Ave., Alhambra 91803. Authentic Fish & Chips bites provided by the Chefs from Alhambra Culinary School.

The Beatlemaniax (as coined by Chef Bill Yee) will be performing a fab and gear Beatles tribute show. They invite you to sing along as you ferry down the Mersey to the sound of magical songs of the Fab Four.

Bob Schuster: Guitar and Vocals. Leader. Born in Caracas, Venezuela grew up exposed to a world of music. Finally getting his hands on a guitar at age 12 he never looked back. Bob studied at Arranging and Composition at The Berklee College of Music and the Dick Grove School of Music. A musical chameleon. Decades of creating and performing original music in the recording studio, for film and television and the live stage, allows him to change musical colors in a heartbeat. As a performer he has played with such diverse acts as

The Coasters, The Platters, The Drifters, The Shirelles, Jan and Dean, members of The Beach Boys, Bob Dylan, members of Aerosmith, Michael McDonald, Patti LaBelle, Trisha Yearwood and Vince Gill to name a few. His experience as a conductor and accompanist for show biz legends such as Milton Berle, Danny Thomas, Steve Allen, Ray Romano, Charo, Don Ho, James Darren, Buddy Greco, Lani Kazan, Casey Kasam, Ed Harris has seasoned him into the consummate professional. He is a founding member of the best damn party band in the universe, The Hodads.

Lynn Coulter Lynn plays drums and sings lead and background vocals. Lynn was born in New Orleans, LA, and came to California by way of Jackson, MS, and Memphis, TN. He has recorded or toured with Leon Russell, Paul Butterfield, Dan Peek of 'America', Carole King, Helen Reddy, Johnny Rivers and currently tours with Rita Coolidge. He has also performed with Mary Wells, Peter Noone (Herman's Hermits) the Drifters, the Coasters, Bo Diddley, Little Anthony, the Shirelles, and the Marvellettes.

Dan Carson: Bass and Vocals. Dan has been playing in various bands since the age of 15 in Southern California. Now retired from a career in law enforcement, he has been playing the part of Paul McCartney in several Beatle tribute bands and more recently playing the role of Brian Wilson in a Beach Boy tribute group.

Bill Horn: Guitar and Vocals.. Bill is from Fort Worth Texas. Has performed all over Southern California including Disneyland with Fort Worth West. He currently plays in the Beatle tribute band Sargent Pepper and the Allman Brothers tribute band, Southbound.

The Alhambra Performing Arts Center (APAC) and Alhambra Culinary School (ACS) are community outreach programs of Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church (Sr. Pastor Rev

George Martzen). ACS provides training classes for culinary school graduates and enthusiasts who are interested in becoming professional chefs as well as High School and Elementary School children in the "Chef Kids" program. A special program for homeless Veterans is taught out at March Air Reserve Base in Moreno Valley which is supported by U.S. Vets Initiative and donations through APAC. Chef Yee is an award-winning chef and caterer who is also the President of the Le Cordon Bleu Alumni Association and VP of the Chefs de Cuisine of California Association chapter of the American Culinary Federation. He is the weekend omelet Chef at the Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena and Netflix corporate headquarters in Hollywood. His Chef instructors and catering partners all have 5-star hotel and prestigious culinary school backgrounds.



DATE: Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020; 7pm

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

ADMISSION: Free (A Free-will offering accepted during the intermission to support the artists)

CONTACT: Bill Yee, (626) 230-5435
E-mail: bizwind@yahoo.com



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>January</div>			1 10 am-5 pm COI 	2	3 6:00pm SGP choir	4 8:30am Japanese Language School 12:00 noon June Iwamoto Memorial 4:30-8:30 Louis Tan Scout Court of Honor
		5 9:30am Worship 7:30-9 am PLC Meeting 10:30am Sumio Sudo Fujimoto One Year Memorial	6 1:00 pm Ukulele 5-8:30 pm Champion Youth	7	10 6:00pm SGP choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Scouts	11 8:30am Japanese Language School 8:00-9:30 am Dad's Day GPUMNSK
12 9:30am Worship 11:30am Church Council Meeting	13 1:00pm Ukulele 5-8:30 pm Champion Youth	14 9:00-3:00 pm Chef Apprentice Workshop	15 No Bible Study today; Pastor at OSL Retreat	16	17 6:00pm SGP choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Scouts *Tentative	18 9:00 am –3:00 pm Alhambra Culinary School
19 9:30am Worship: CST Sunday—guest speaker Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan 7:00 PM APAC Concert—Beatlemania Sing-A-Long Human Relations Day	20 1:00pm Ukulele 5-8:30 pm Champion Youth	21 9:00 am—3:00 pm CPAC 7:00 pm PAC Meeting	22 1:00pm Bible Study	23	24 6:00pm SGP choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Scouts	25 8 am-12:30 pm Japanese Language School
26 9:30am Worship 11:00 am Church Town Hall Meeting 1-3:00 pm PFLAG B 3-5:00 pm PFLAG Y&B 7:00 pm APAC Beatlemania	27 1:00pm Ukulele 5-8:30 pm Champion Youth	28 Church Council 7 pm	29 1:00pm Bible Study	30	31 6:00 pm SGP choir 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:30 pm Scouts	