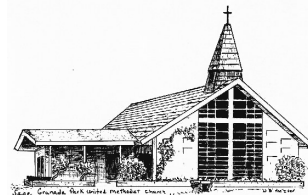




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



May 2020 E-Thymes

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 to tithe their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service.



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

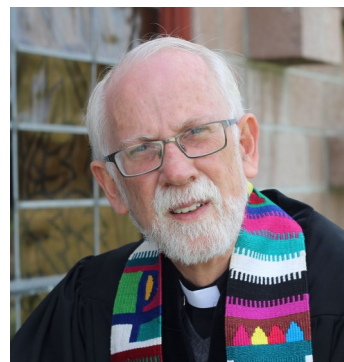
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Learning the Vocation of Hope



—by Rev. George Martzen

"You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

—Luke 24:48

I confess that I'm a news junkie. I get the morning newspaper, and I scour the headlines while making coffee. I have more than 10 news sources on my phone, but I try hard not to look at that before morning prayer.

It is largely from this safe perspective that I've observed the coronavirus pandemic. So far I am only aware of serious cases among friends of friends or relatives. To my knowledge, none of my inner circle have been infected. Whereas, others are more on the front lines, because of their work in healthcare or similar essential services. Or maybe a member of your household has the Coronavirus. You are direct witnesses of the pandemic.

Whether we have observed the phenomenon first hand or from the safety of your home, we are all witnesses of this amazing time. When we are able to go outside and gather with friends and neighbors, we will all have stories to share with the next generation. It will be like other significant events, like the assassination of JFK or the attacks on the Twin Towers on 9/11. Do you remember what you were doing when you first heard the news?

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus told the disciples that they are witnesses. Of what were they witnesses? And what were they supposed to do about it? The disciples had spent about three years with him traveling up and down the land of Canaan with Jesus, learning his ways. Certainly, they must have studied the scriptures, and they would have learned his perspective that pointed to the coming Messiah. But they also witnessed his manner of teaching and ministering, including the miracles and healing. They witnessed Jesus' compassion for the crowds, his gracious way with

Continued on page 2, *Of Hope*

Of Hope, continued from page 1

individuals and the way that he held leaders to account, enough to believe that he himself is God's promised one.

Jesus called them witnesses, and he invested his whole project to them in preparation for his departure. But there was one other thing they needed to do. Wait.

Wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Because even though they had been witnesses, they needed the confidence that comes from knowing how much God loved them. That's the work of the Holy Spirit.

As we consider optimistically a return to normalcy in the next few weeks, consider of what are you a witness? What stories will we tell to future generations? How has the coronavirus changed your perspective? How has the resurrection of Jesus changed your perspective? Have you experienced the pandemic as a time of deprivation, loss of freedom, of fear and death? Or will you be able to bear witness to acts of courage, kindness and generosity? How have you experienced God's renewing presence during these difficult times? If you don't feel very courageous yet, remember Jesus' words to the disciples. "Stay here until you have been clothed with power."

You are witnesses of these things. So let us wait upon God with the means of grace so that we may be full of the confidence that comes from divine love.

Letting Go



—by *Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

David, one of my best friends, suddenly suffered a brain aneurism. He was rushed to Emergency in intense pain and lost consciousness. He died in a day or two without regaining consciousness. I attended the memorial service at the Buddhist university where I believe he was central in building their new religion department. He was said to be a co-founder of the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies. The university auditorium was full of eminent professors in both religions. I was devastated as David and I and our wives were in the habit of enjoying a restaurant dinner twice a year in Hawaii and Los Angeles. It was my turn to pay at our next dinner. David had been my teacher in graduate seminars in Buddhism.

Something unexpected and unplanned happened. David, an ordained Christian minister, had one leg deep into Buddhism. His Buddhist mentor in Taiwan sent a farewell message through Rubin Habito, a professor at Southern Methodist University. This message was read at the microphone very deliberately.

"David, let go, let go, let go! David, let go of everything. David, let go."

Because the words were so brief, it especially reverberated to the core of my being. Those are words I need to die by when my time comes. But those are also words I need to live by now, while tied to my treasured projects and beloved people in my daily battles. I need to let go of everything and everybody every night before falling asleep.

Fun With Numbers for April:	<u>April 5:</u>	<u>April 10:</u>	<u>April 12:</u>	<u>April 19:</u>	<u>April 26:</u>
	Attendance: 33 Zoom Families	Attendance: 9 Zoom Families	Attendance: 46 Zoom Families,	Attendance: 32 Zoom Families	Attendance: 33 Zoom Families
	Offering: \$1,897.40	Offering: \$ 0	Offering: \$1,609.80	Offering: \$3,371.11	Offering: \$81.05

Because there are no in-person offerings, you may give to the church by mail or online at our website www.sgpumc.org. Click on [Make a Donation](#) . Please make note of your name and contact information on the memo line.

Serving SGPUMC this month:



May 3
Online Worship
Liturgist:
John Tanaguchi

May 10
Online Worship
Liturgist:
Ruth Chon

May 17
Online Worship
Liturgist:
Alan Kitsuse

May 24
Online Worship
Liturgist:
Kim Morrison

May 31
Online Worship Liturgist:
Archana Carey

Thank you to our Zoom Worship Crew: Ruel Reyes, Kris Taniguchi, Sally Bell, Ruth Chon, Jim Bell, Doreen Bolten, Louise Garcia, Kai Garcia, Walter Martzen, Ratheesh Pillai & Rev. George Martzen.

*Acolytes: Monojit Dhar & Lach Morrison

*Acolytes: Angelea and Jillian Marquez

**Only if in-person service resumes*



What Are We Waiting For?

—by *Ratheesh Pillai*,
Youth Outreach Coordinator

*"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the
morning, more than watchmen for the morning."*
—Psalms 130:5-6

As an extroverted person, this COVID-19 condition is quite challenging for me, mainly staying inside the home and not being able to go where I want to. Meeting others and listening to their stories and holding a good conversation accelerates my energy. But on the other hand, my wife, who is an introvert, likes being in quietness, reading inaudibly, being in libraries, etc. She has persistence and enough endurance to wait.

Some people enjoy this season of the pandemic, and others do not. I remember the very first time I went fishing; it was hard, tedious and frustrating. Every single minute I pulled my fishing rod and checked it to see if there were any fish on the hook, but those days I never got a single one because I was so impatient.

Waiting is tough. What are we waiting for? Are we waiting for the pandemic season to finish so that we can move around freely? We know God could change this situation, but how long? When was the last time you waited for God? We have been so busy; we prioritize our things, but we can't wait God.

Are you enjoying the calmness of God and his presence during this waiting time? If you feel you are dried up because of daily news that shows deaths, sickness, financial crises, and the future, remember we have Hope. I hope that gives us the energy to move forward and wait for God. Instead of waiting, give yourself a little push and plug into his presence and refresh your life. You might be in your little room, tiny cubic house, apartment, or any place that you are right now. You can turn this waiting place into a place of hope, cheer, and newness. We can seek God's help to transform us to renew our spirit moment by moment, day by day, and leave the old behind.

As we are empowered by God, we keep away the gratification of electronics and reconstruct our relationship with our children, grandchildren, parents, husband, wife, and the family. This waiting season is the season for rebuilding and holding the unity of oneness in our homes with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 40:31 says that they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Relating with God and walking with God allows the waiting to go quicker. Because we do not feel we are alone and un-companioned. If you are sophisticated, it's hard to wait. It means we are unplugged from God; we are not enjoying the presence of God.

Joseph waited 13 years, Abraham waited 25 years, Moses waited 40 years, and Jesus waited 30 years. When we discover the secret of how to be cheerful in the Lord during this COVID-19 situation, then we know how to comfort and help someone else. As we wait on this season of the pandemic to finish, it doesn't mean we only stay home and hold the spirit of relaxation or irritably rush forward. Instead, we can pray, worship, meditate, and enjoy the fellowship online, which can give us liveliness.

May God Bless you and keep you safe.



Respond to the Census

You should have received a letter or card in the mail asking you to fill out the Census survey. It is very important that everyone in your household is counted as it helps to determine annual funding and programs for the next 10 years. It's actually quite easy to respond. You can fill out the survey online

at www.my2020census.gov or by calling the phone center:

English 844.330.2020

Spanish 844.468.2020

Mandarin 844.391.2020

Cantonese 844.398.2020

Japanese 844-460-2020

Korean 844-392-2020

For more information

see www.2020census.gov

LA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH 24/7 ACCESS LINE:

Support is just a
phone call or text away:
CALL (800) 854-7771
TEXT LA TO 741741



For more information, visit: publichealth.lacounty.gov/coronavirus



If you are a senior and need assistance or meals: Workforce Development Aging & Community Services distributes packaged and frozen meals at 180 meal sites throughout Los Angeles County. Please call 1-800-510-2020 or visit <https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/covid-19/> for more information and a map of meal site locations.

Simply calling or texting elderly friends, family, and neighbors to make sure they're okay can also be a way to be the hands of Christ during this time.

Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten

—from *Theresa Laib, Director*



School remains closed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We pray all are staying safe.

We plan to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please visit our website at www.gpumnsk.org

Alhambra Performing Arts Center Postpones Concerts

—from *Bill Yee, Artistic Director*

The Alhambra Performing Arts Center under the direction of Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee, continues to postpone their popular free performances for the next few months out of concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

The performances affected include: May 23rd - Flamenco Alhambra featuring legendary Inesita, June 21st - Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D Major featuring Jacqueline Suzuki.

For more information regarding the 2020 performances, email: bizwind@yahoo.com or call 626 230 5435.

When Can We Reopen?

The current LA County stay at home order is until May 15. However, before relaxing any rules, government officials want to meet these basic guidelines, as summarized in the pastor's sermon on Sunday:

- Ensure that hospitals maintain capacity to treat both people who are sick and those with standard medical needs
- Increase the capacity to care for those who are sick and protect the most vulnerable
- Increase the ability to test, isolate and quarantine compromised individuals
- Maintain ongoing physical distancing practices

Sage Granada Park UMC will follow the guidelines of the State and County. Until then we continue to worship via Zoom. Access is emailed each week by Friday. Sermons and Children's Time can also be

Video Clips

Our worship time is an opportunity to share your joys and concerns. You can even do that by making a video of yourself or your family. Give a short greeting, say how you're doing, and/or share a prayer request. Send it before Saturday at 3 pm to our video editor extraordinaire, Ruth Chon, so she has time to prepare it for Sunday morning: ruthchon@hotmail.com. Also, if you can, please join us on the after zoom worship fellowship time. It was quite fun to speak and catch up with each other after our zoom worship service this past Sunday.



Birthdays

5/2 Doreen Bolten
5/4 Shawn Solomon
5/5 Mayur Macwan
5/5 William Bill Yee
5/6 Leslie Hutchins
5/7 May Tanaka
5/11 Rev. Dickson Yagi
5/16 Paul Bolten
5/23 Jonathan Kishina
5/23 Marilyn McIver
5/23 Alicia Marquez
5/24 Karina Shafer
5/25 John Furukawa
5/26 Elvin Gershom
5/26 Jean McIver
5/29 Annica Carey
5/30 Stevenson Christian
5/30 Sarah Wong

Anniversaries

5/15 Arnold Saiki & Ruth Chon
5/21 Howard Toshio & Janet Nishina
5/25 Paul & Joanne Jen Wong
5/26 Pyoung Hwa Lee & Sehong Mun

Join us for worship and prayer via Zoom. Look for Friday emails with Zoom meeting ID and password.



Family of Yoshie Tomei, Family of Janne Sui Chun Wong, Liz Canadas, Family of Tetsuro Suzuki, Family of Ross Yukawa, Family of Toshi Ito, Echavarria Family; Sam Nieda; Shoji Tatsugawa; Ratheesh Pillai; Mary Sue Lodwick; Ken Okuda; Sharon Mori, Nancee Iketani; Mat Nakamura; Alfred Chu; Phillip & Nenita Marquez; Marilyn McIver; Derek Tani; All essential workers, the elderly and high risk populations, our families and friends, and all whose needs are unspoken during this Covid-19 pandemic.

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 					1 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	2
3 10 am Zoom- Worship	4	5 7:00 pm Zoom Council Meeting	6 1:00pm Zoom Bible Study 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	7 7:30pm Zoom for Youth	8 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10 am Zoom- Worship 	11	12	13 1:00pm Zoom Bible Study 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	14 7:30pm Zoom for Youth	15 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	16
17 10 am Zoom Worship	18	19	20 1:00pm Zoom Bible Study 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	21 7:30pm Zoom for Youth	22 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	23
24/31 10 am Zoom- Worship	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27 1:00pm Zoom Bible Study 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	28 7:30pm Zoom for Youth	29 5:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	30