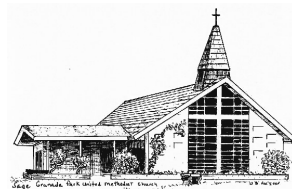




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



November 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,



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

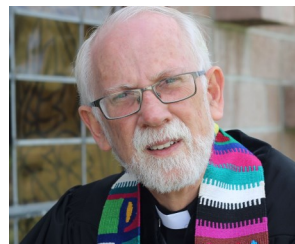
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—by Rev. George Martzen



"These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." – Revelation 7:14

I can't believe that November is upon us! But before we say good-bye to October, be sure to attend the Halloween Zoom Party at 4 p.m. Saturday. You need to sign up at <https://forms.gle/N8gnUSi97xfU6BeK6> to get the Zoom link.

As we think about the holidays ahead, it may seem a little sad, because the pandemic will be with us through the winter months, and we will have to curtail the usual holiday activities such as shopping, parties, family gatherings of multiple households, and gathering in the sanctuary for worship.

For that reason, we may need to work a little more on the practice of giving thanks so we can ramp up to Thanksgiving Day. It's kind of like exercising a muscle; if you don't use it even in difficult times, your capacity to be thankful may soon atrophy like when we just sit in front of the TV and never take a walk. You might want to sit down with pen and paper or your computer and begin listing the little things you are grateful for.

For one, I'm grateful that this Sunday, with the end of Daylight Savings Time, we get an extra hour in the morning. Hurray! I also know that many of you are very grateful for the Dodgers winning the World Series this week. Even though I wasn't tuned in to the game, I knew when they became champions because of all the fireworks.

I'm also thankful for all those who contributed to the Bazaar in Spirit drive this year. So far, you have given a total of \$14,520. Thanks be to God! We have listed the donors in this month's E-Thymes.

I'm grateful for the right to vote. I hope that if you haven't voted yet, you will consider it a sacred privilege, and make your opinion known.

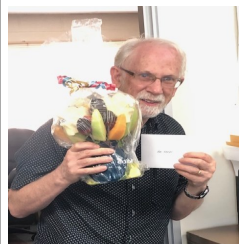
Last week I received news that a group of Mark Keppel students received a grant for a food give-away for needy families and approached me through Tina Dun at Catalyst. As with any group activity at the church, I need to present a plan to the District, but I am happily working on that, along with adjustments to outdoor fellowship protocol.

Now that my gratitude is warming up, I'm especially thankful for all the saints who served God in many ways, who made Sage Granada Park their home, and now rest from their labors. This Sunday, after you have had an extra hour of rest, please join us for All Saints Sunday, as we remember those passed from us this past year.

Here is the personal vision that I shared last week in my sermon, both in prose and in the form of *Haiku* poetry. It's a work in process to envision how I see myself living out my Christian discipleship: Like the valley oak, I want to tap the deep sources of life, so that I can reach out with sheltering arms of hospitality and share seeds of hope for others who wish to share in the same sources of life. Like the tree, I will facilitate those hospitable spaces where nourishing conversations tap into the wells of life, from which new ideas or movements may spring from God's shalom.

Nestling sparrows chirp
Communing with the branches
Deeply rooted Oak

Sharing acorn planted
Join the Forest communion
Hospitality



CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

October was Clergy Appreciation Month and we want to take this opportunity to honor our pastor, Rev. George Martzen. The Church Council presented him with a gift and a card to thank him for his hard work, care and concern for this congregation and community. This, of course, has been a particularly challenging year, navigating through the rules and regulations surrounding the pandemic but still meeting the needs of the congregation. Thank you, Rev. George, for all you have done and continue to do. You are



BOOK MOBILE PROJECT: We are partnering with Catalyst to provide new or gently used books for children in our community. Because all students are learning from home they no longer have access to the school library. All you have to do is bring your book donation to the church office and we will deliver them to Catalyst; the books will be quarantined and safety precautions will be taken. Catalyst will then deliver the books to pre-planned locations for families to come and borrow and exchange books every couple of weeks. This is a wonderful opportunity to minister to the children in our community who need help and support right now.

Books needed: middle school and high school fiction and pre-school books in Spanish

Where to bring your donation: church office, 1850 W. Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803 Tues-Fri: 9:00—2:00

Questions? Call or email Julie Quezada: 626-284-3229 or Sagegranadapark@gmail.com

October 4

Attendance: 78
Offering: \$240.70

October 11

Attendance: 60
Offering: \$679.00

October 18

Attendance: 56
Offering: \$87.40

October 25

Attendance: 55
Offering: \$2,600.35



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. Thank you for supporting our church and ministries!
*Please note that our general offerings year to date are \$69,168.44 and our general offering budget for 2020 is \$102,000.

Thank you for giving to Bazaar in Spirit 2020:

Ted Yamashita Eric Kamayatsu Bruce Del Monico Alan & Vivian Mori Janet Wong Mary Senzaki Yukiko Okada
Sally & Jim Bell Wesley & Erin Tanaka Patty Peebles Kenji & Dorothy Kinoshita Barbara Nozawa David Nakamura
Ailene Tanaka Mark & Janet Letourneau Yutaka & Sachiko Yoshida Jean McIver Leslie Ellington-Staal Paul Wissmann-
Marion Tani Mr. & Mrs. John Furukawa Rod & Marion Clifton Janice Hurtado Wesley and Erin Tanaka Debbie Iketani-
David Tokeshi Lucy Sogioka Tien Cheon & Elaine Chung Alicia & Emmanuel Marquez Kantilal & Niranjana Macwan
Ken & Pearl Matsumoto Rev. George Martzen

November 1

Online Worship
Liturgist:
Bill Yee

November 8

Online Worship
Liturgist: :
Paul Wong

November 15

Online Worship
Liturgist: :
Christie Cheng

November 22

Online Worship
Liturgist: :
Ruth Chon

November 29

Online Worship
Liturgist:
Ratheesh Pillai



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, Jim Bell, Walt Martzen, Kai Garcia, Sarah Wong & Rev. George



—by *Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

COMMUNIST COMPLIMENT

Toshio Sato was a professor of Tokyo Union Seminary in the 1960's. Coming from Hawaii, I was the first American foreign student in a degree program in that seminary. During the war Toshio Sato was captured as a prisoner of war (POW) by U.S. forces in the Philippines. At Christmas time the U. S. troops gave all the POWs Japanese Bibles. Christmas world-wide is a time of celebration, hope, and joy. Some years later at an annual seminary Christmas party for all faculty and students, Sato described what it felt like to be a prisoner of war during Christmas. He was a defeated and humiliated prisoner of the lost cause of World War 2, while the whole world celebrated with Christmas jubilation. Toshio Sato later became President of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, *Tokyō Shingaku Daigaku*, my alma mater.

Some years before that, Toshio Sato by chance happened upon a dear high school companion he had not seen in years. They talked over tea, about the massive tragedies coming upon them with losing the war. They discussed the foreboding collapse of the economy, the never-ending B-29 bombings, destruction of democracy, the political-military fascism, emperor worship, and the desperate foraging for food. His former high school classmate said as a concluding statement, "At least you Christians can pray!" His high school buddy had become a card-carrying Communist. Communists are atheists. These were his parting words: "**At least you Christians can pray.**"

Maybe it is only prisoners of war and card-carrying Communists who really know what a privilege it is to be able to pray. What do you think?



Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten
1850 W. Hellman Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803

(626) 284-5006

November 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.

November Calendar:

1- Daylight Saving Time End

11- Veterans' Day School Closed

26 & 27 School Closed Thanksgiving Holiday

Theresa Laib, Director



Alhambra Performing Arts Center Postpones Concerts

—from *Bill Yee, Artistic Director*

Chef/Artistic Director Bill Yee in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has reluctantly cancelled the Alhambra Performing Arts Center 2020 Season. 2020 would have been the 14th year for this popular free monthly community program. The program is only on hiatus, so plan on the return to enjoying quality entertainment as soon as we can.

Resources For Difficult Times: If you are feeling extra anxious or depressed, you are not alone. Don't be afraid to seek help. Call your own health provider, or check out the LA County Mental Health Helpline-(800) 854-7771. LA Unified School District, call the Student and Family Wellness Hotline: 213-241-3840 (weekdays 8-5). Rent Assistance, go to LA County Rent Assistance www.lacda.org/programs/rent-relief (August 17-31). LA County residents call 2-1-1 or go to www.211la.org



The Signature of God

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).

Is there a God? Our answer to this question is vivacious. Because this question is not yes or no, but how we discover the answer is substance. My sister-in-law is a professor and ceramic artist. She holds many art exhibitions locally and in

many different parts of the world. Sometimes she can easily say who the Artist is. I inquired how she could know; she told me there are certain things we can observe and discover in various arts. Understanding the piece of art, the way the artist makes it, the materials used, or the Artist's message conveyed to the public. Moreover, there must be an Artist's "Signature."

I remember my childhood; my father had to sign my grade reports for school. It was terrifying for me because if he saw my lower grades he would react so critically. One time my grades were lower, and I was scared of talking to my dad. Instead I knew my older brother could copy my dad's signature well. With his support, I submitted my report to my headteacher and assumed no one knew. Later, I saw my father standing in my school office with the headteacher, because they found the signature wasn't my father's. The teacher told me they know my father's signature pattern. A few years ago, at one of the mission conferences in another country, I was interviewed by a TV channel; they asked me how I identify God's signature. I couldn't answer, but it disturbed me. I wondered "Are there any autographs of Jesus Christ?" One day I was spending time with God on a mountain, I saw the attributes of God. Psalm 19, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" came to my mind. In that specific moment, the Holy Spirit convinced me that I hold a **"divine signature"** from God; he made me in his image. I am God's signature to the world.

God did not sign it with an idiosyncratic signature. It's not the same as how God speaks in his word. Still, God's signature illuminates his nature, redemptive purposes, and mission to the world through every individual who acknowledges and lives accordingly. We can be a copied signature like a Sunday-only Christian; but God's genuine, authentic signature is real to the world when we reflect His character in everyday life. Understanding who we are and our worthiness is an integral part of the Christian life. Many people say "I am nothing", "I can't do this," but that person actually has so much potential. Many parents compare their children to other children who perform differently or get better grades. But we need to help our children, church members, and friends comprehend their value; they are the signature of God. Our Christian life gravity is that we live as a person who shows God's sign. God's mission is all about understanding that you are the signature of God and inviting others to acknowledge that they are, too. We still can be a copy signature (imitating being a Christian like traditional church people do) by just going to church on Sundays, or we can live every day as the signature of God that expresses the Artist's identity by mirroring who God is to society. "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." What do we declare and proclaim by being God's signature?

Shalom!



Birthdays

11/1: Emmanuel Marquez
 11/4: Steve Meza
 11/8: Robert Austin
 11/10: Wesley Tanaka
 11/12: Kai Garcia
 11/14: Hasumati Vyas
 11/15: Erin Tanaka
 11/15: Elaine Setsumi Chung
 11/29: Don Morrison
 11/30: Bruce Del Monico

Anniversaries

11/11: Jaime & Louise Garcia
 11/14: Kenji & Dorothy Kinoshita
 11/19: Alicia & Emmanuel Marquez
 11/21: Paul Wissman & Jeanette Cornejo
 11/22: Shoji & Shihoko Tatsugawa
 11/25: Henry Soong & Patricia Chou

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

-Roy Iketani and family on the loss of Nancee Iketani
 -More students for the Nursery School
 -Joy of Debashish & family for green card
 -Wisdom and strength for new parents Stephen & Jillian Yee of baby Logan
 -Echavarria family
 -Marilyn McIver
 -Mary Sue Lodwick
 -Mat Nakamura
 -Alfred Chu
 -Derek Tani

November 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day Zoom Worship 10:00 am 	2	3 	4 Bible Study 1:00 pm Prayer 5:00 pm	5 Ministry Coordinating Team Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm Youth Zoom Meeting 7:30	6	7
8 Zoom Worship 10:00 am <i>Scout Sunday</i>	9	10	11 Bible Study 1:00 pm Prayer 5:00 pm 	12 Discipleship Huddle 5:00 pm KNI Board Meeting 7:00 pm	13	14 Pas. George on leave
15 Pas. George on leave Zoom Worship 10:00 am	16 Pas. George on leave	17 Pas. George on leave	18 Pas. George on leave Bible Study 1:00 pm Prayer 5:00 pm	19 Pas. George on leave	20 Pas. George on leave	21
22 Zoom Worship 10:00 am	23	24	25 Bible Study 1:00 pm Prayer 5:00 pm	26 Happy Thanksgiving 	27	28
29 Zoom Worship 10:00 am	30					