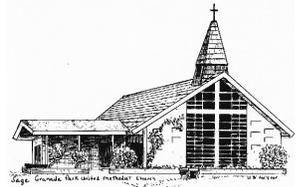




# Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



## January 2021 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 2021:

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



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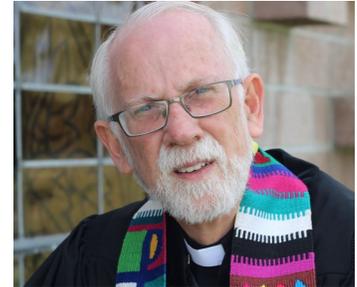
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

—by *Rev. George Martzen*



The Faith of the Magi

“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” – Matthew 2:2

The gospels often highlight the faith of foreigners. Jesus commended a Roman soldier for trusting him to heal a servant remotely (Matthew 8:5-13). He recognized the faith and wise rhetoric of a Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-28). And it was a Samaritan leper who turned back to Jesus in gratitude when healed (Luke 17:11-19).

The Magi, or Persian astrologers in Matthew’s account seemed to model religious faith better than the inhabitants of the Holy City. Mesmerized by Herod, who used the sacred traditions only to maintain his grip on power, all Jerusalem was “troubled” by the news of a new ruler.

But the Magi allowed faith to guide them on a journey. They followed the light of God, not knowing initially where it would lead, but when they found the right spot, they worshipped Jesus. Then, being attentive to the Spirit, they bypassed Jerusalem on their return journey in order to spare Jesus from the awful anger of the despot Herod. One might even say that theirs was a Christian faith.

During the next few weeks, I would like to talk about this thing we call Christian faith. What is it? Sometimes faith is essentially a set of principles or a statement to be agreed on, like a party platform. What do we believe in? What’s the content or object of our faith?

Christian churches and religious organizations typically feature a faith statement on their websites. The United Methodist Church has its Articles of Religion. Sage Granada Park UMC has a mission statement: “We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” which we agreed on at a Church Council meeting. It’s great when everyone agrees. Sometimes faith communities are divided because they can’t agree about what they believe. They have no consensus over the content of their faith. That can be sad.

Faith can also be defined as personal trust or confidence in someone or something. Individuals, from birth, have capacities for trust, first in their parents and

family, and then friends of the family. Faith also involves discernment. Children must learn boundaries. Some persons and things should not be immediately trusted, a fire, deep water, strangers and liars.

At some point we find ourselves trusting in greater, unseen principles, networks, even God. Then we begin to get a sense of the whole of life. Each of us is on a journey, scanning the horizon for the light that illumines our way. This is spirituality, which in recent years has a higher rating than religion, with all its hierarchies, confessions and statements of faith that demand the “amen.”

The Magi present a good model of faith. They journeyed, not knowing, only trusting in a transcendent light. But the spirituality they embodied can be found in every religious tradition and even some traditions that might not think of themselves as religious. The Magi might even represent a proto-scientific quest, observing and measuring the cosmos, hypothesizing their effects on earthly phenomena, and drawing theoretical conclusions.

But at some point, all such spiritual questing finds a home, an object of adoration. That is when faith must make a decision, to offer gifts to the baby Jesus or to the local despot. There are risks either way. The strength of religious faith is that we are searching together, pooling our own various insights and the insights of a historic faith tradition.

This year, 2021, let us commit to follow, by faith, the light of God.



**\*\* The Rose Video Project\*\*** The video was a success! I want to give a special thanks to Louise Garcia, Rev. George Martzen, Walter Martzen, Sharon Mori, Lachlan Morrison, Arnie Saiki, Marise Sasiki, Otto Saiki, Joshua Tom and Nathan Tom—the video could not have been done without their participation. Thanks to them for sharing their talents and their words. I have posted the video on Facebook in the Sage Granada Park UMC page and have put it as an unlisted video on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/heGEaHAeB38>. Happy New Year, Ruth Chon



**When**

Friday, January 08, 2021  
Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, January 08!

**Where**

Available at Panda Express locations nationwide

**How**

Online orders only. Apply Code 901229 in the Coupon Box during checkout at [order.pandaexpress.com](http://order.pandaexpress.com)

**\*\*28% of sales go to the Japanese Language School\*\***

<b><u>December 6</u></b>	<b><u>December 13</u></b>	<b><u>December 20</u></b>	<b><u>December 27</u></b>
Attendance: 63	Attendance: 54	Attendance: 57	Attendance: 59
Offering: \$181.15	Offering: \$18,182.29	Offering: \$4,374.35	Offering: 1,236.45



Because there are no in-person offerings, you may give to the church by mail or online at our website [www.sgpumc.org](http://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 \$102,747.27 and our general offering budget for 2020 is \$102,000.

<b><u>January 3</u></b>	<b><u>January 10</u></b>	<b><u>January 17</u></b>	<b><u>January 24</u></b>	<b><u>January 31</u></b>
<b>Online Worship</b>	<b>Online Worship</b>	<b>Online Worship</b>	<b>Online Worship</b>	<b>Online Worship</b>
<b>Liturgist: Janice Hurtado</b>	<b>Liturgist: Paul Wong</b>	<b>Liturgist: Sengdeuane Tom</b>	<b>Liturgist: Christie Cheng</b>	<b>Liturgist: Bill Yee</b>



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



—by *Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

## CHRISTMAS FOR ME

Christmas trees, Santa Claus,  
red nose reindeer...?

Christmas simply is **In-carn-ation**.

“Carne” means meat as in Chili-con-carne.

God coming down into the body  
(carne) of Jesus.

For many, Jesus is the Superman.

Faster than a speeding bullet,  
hopping over tall buildings in one bound.

But **Incarnation in me** is the Christmas I need.

God within me; God within you;

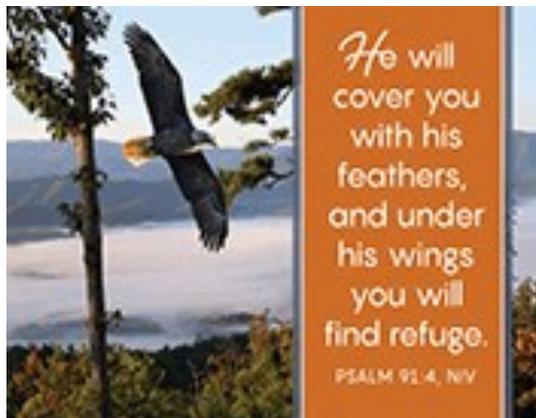
God within everybody!

Not **God Outside**.

Christmas is **God Inside!**

**EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US.**

*Rev. Dickson Yagi*



## Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten

*We are so sorry we all missed out on our Christmas Program this year. We pray everyone has a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.*



*We had a surprise from Santa today. We pray everyone has a safe and Healthy Christmas*

**January themes are:** Winter Wonderland; Arctic Life; Night and Day; The Shape of Things; Transportation

### HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

#### January

4- School Resumes for all programs

18- School Closed Martin Luther King Holiday

## 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.



### New, Renewed, and Refurbished

New, renewed, and refurbished.

These words are not unfamiliar to most of us, particularly people who like electronic gadgets. I also like to have the latest gadgets. Whenever I see a new one, I want to have it. However, my limited finances do not support my heart's desires. Therefore, instead of buying a new one, I go for the renewed or refurbished. One of my friends often buys brand new. He doesn't like to fix old things; he buys new. I think it's more than the electronics; it's his attitude, laziness, and lack of commitment to not waste a lot of money.

With the start of 2021 upon us, let us discern our perception of the "New Year's resolutions" and how they relate to our Christian life. New Year's resolutions are very "fancy vocabulary" in our Christian world. Without a doubt, having goals for the New Year is important. But do we have to hurry to find something new to add to our uncompleted list of old resolutions? For many people setting up a new resolution is just a yearly habit. However, later they miss the commitment to fulfill and reassess those goals and achievements. Therefore, before we put those in the papers, it must begin from a refreshed, renewed heart.

We cannot have a "new heart" every year, but we can have a renewed heart and mind. In Romans 12:2 Paul says "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will". So, it's not all about the lists that we write in those fancy journals, but that we renew our minds and hearts and continue our Christian journey.

Our Christian mission in life is all about renewing and having renewable energy in the Holy Spirit. For God, what matters is how we find a new direction and discernment by a renewed mind. If we genuinely want to be fruitful with any New Year's resolution, we must pursue God's will. God's renewing of the mind gives hope, opportunities, and new life to all of humanity. God has made it possible for us to change, not by making a New Year's resolution but by the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. God desires commitment, not just the tenacity to do something we can't complete. Such a commitment runs deeper than resolutions.

God doesn't require us to rush into a new resolution; instead, let us commit to renew our hearts and walk in the Christian life. 2021 is going to be the year of changes more than the previous years. We have a renewed hope; vaccines have arrived, but how about our mind and soul? As Paul says in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus".

The beautiful poem of Thomas Obadiah Chisholm, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Methodist Minister and songwriter, says

*"Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love."*

Our church has Bible studies and other offerings, but as a child of God, how does your New Year's resolution accelerate the commitment to Christ's "faithfulness, mercy and love"? Resolutions are significant because they are the language of a longing to be renewed. Have a wonderful year ahead with God's care, safekeeping, and provision.

Shalom!

# JANUARY

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 1/1: Mary Senzaki
- 1/5: Jim Bell
- 1/6: Janet Furukawa
- 1/7: Phillip Kiriara  
David Nakamura
- 1/10: Koharu Nakamura
- 1/13: Janet Yuki Wong  
Sarah Hutchins
- 1/14: Nathan Tom
- 1/23: Jillian Marquez
- 1/24: Pang Lam
- 1/29: Christie Hutchins
- 1/30: Tien Cheong Chung  
Leslie Staal

### Anniversaries

- 1/8: Steve & Leslie Hutchins
- 1/15: Yutaka & Sachika  
Yoshida



- Joannie Wong
- Mike Hurtado
- Ken Matsumoto
- Yoko Hayashida
- Elena Littlefield
- Ernie and Ernest Tom
- Nursery School
- Echavarria family
- Marily McIver
- Mary Sue Lodwick
- Matt Nakamura
- Alfred Chu
- Derek Tani
- Jean McIver
- Mariko Garrett



# January 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Zoom Worship 10:00 AM	4	5	6 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM Mission Outreach 7:30 PM	7 Youth Zoom Meeting 7:30 PM	8 JLS Panda Express Fund Raiser	9
10 Zoom Worship 10:00 AM	11	12  Via Zoom 7:30 PM	13 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM	14 K.N.I. 7:00 PM	15	16
17 Zoom Worship 10:00 AM	18	19 Preschool Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00 PM	20 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM	21 Youth Zoom Meeting 7:30 PM	22	23
24 Zoom Worship 10:00 AM	25	26 Ministry Coordinating Team 7:30 PM	27 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM	28 Discipleship Huddle 5:30 PM Nominating Committee 7:30 PM	29	30
31 Zoom Worship 10:00 AM						