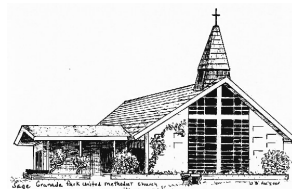




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



March 2021 E-Thymes

Our Vision:

To be a light on a hill for our community (Matthew 5:14).

Our Mission:

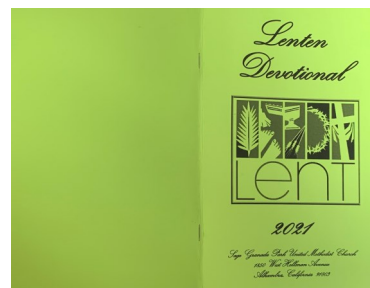
We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Values:

We reaffirm our values as a multi-cultural and inclusive community united in the love of Jesus Christ.

"Lenten Discipline"

—by Rev. George Martzen



"And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." – Mark 1:12-13

Have you seen our church's Lenten Devotional this year? Kris Taniguchi did another great job, and we had some exceptional submissions, many relating to struggles with the pandemic this past year. The adversities have brought out the best in us.

In the season of Lent we especially recognize our adversities and identify with our Lord Jesus in his struggles. The gospels say that he was tested by devil. Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark's gospel gives only a bare outline. He went to the wilderness with the wild animals, the devil tested him and the angels ministered to him. In other words, he didn't go for treatment at a Dead Sea resort and spa.

But if it says the Spirit made him go to the wilderness, does that mean God led him into temptation. Don't we pray "lead us not into temptation"? The wilderness can be seen as a place of danger and testing, yes, but it is also the place of spiritual renewal. Like many earnest people of his time, Jesus retreated to the quiet places of life to renew his spirituality. So today we also value spiritual retreats to mountain or wilderness settings.

Recently, I had a two-hour quiet retreat on Zoom, in which I practiced spiritual disciplines, like centering prayer and *lectio divina*. Indeed, every spiritual retreat involves self-discipline spiritual practices.

During Lent we are enjoined to practice spiritual disciplines, even if it's nothing more than giving away a cup of cold water, or deciding to wake up earlier for prayer. These disciplines involve a change of habits, but being creatures of habit, change isn't easy. We like to have regular meals, and maybe a few snacks, and a little binge watching. Well, why not treat ourselves; but if adversity is the mother of invention, sometimes we need to forgo some things in order to sharpen up other parts of our life, just like physical exercise.

Meet Our STAFF

Rev. Dr. George Martzen, Pastor
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Kris Taniguchi, Organist
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Sally Bell, Sunday School
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The gospels say that Jesus was in the wilderness and fasted 40 days. When I go without food just for a day the body starts to protest, and the enemy starts to play tricks on your brain. Why are you doing this, anyway? What's the point? You're not really going to make any difference. Don't worry. Be happy.

God in Jesus understands because Jesus was also tempted. Christians affirm that God was in Jesus – Emmanuel. But Christian theology also affirms the humanity of Jesus. He needed to prove his resolve, his character and fortitude, to carry out the mission of his life.

So, each one of us, if we intend in any way to follow Jesus, must also practice our spiritual disciplines. We must also engage in practices that strengthen our resolve and our character. And we are going to face temptations and doubts along the way. It's natural, and will sometimes be difficult. James, the brother of Jesus exhorts, "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). As the apostle Paul reminded us, "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

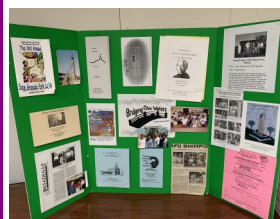
So let us journey with Jesus this Lent. See where he takes you. And if you face temptation, remember that it's just part of the journey. God is with you.



On February 10, 2021 our Scout Troops held a fundraiser at Pieology Pizza. Thanks to the participation from everyone the total sales were \$1,187.38 and the Scouts earned 30% of that, or \$356.21. Thank you to everyone that participated—we appreciate your support!

Saluting Our Scouts

SGPUMC History Collection Growing



Janet Mayeda recently delivered more items for our church history collection, including this display board from the 10th Anniversary of the merger of Sage and Granada Park churches. If you have large, garage style shelves, please let the office know as we need to organize and sort our collection.

February 7

Attendance: 53

Offering: \$152.85

February 14

Attendance: 90

Offering: 4,441.11

February 21

Attendance: 56

Offering: \$210.55

February 28

Attendance: ***

Offering: ***



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 \$ and our general offering budget for 2021 is \$102,000.

March 7

Online Worship

Liturgist: Ruth Chon

March 14

Online Worship

Liturgist: Kim Morrison

March 21

Online Worship

Liturgist: Ratheesh Pillai

March 28

Online Worship

Liturgist: Jan Hurtado



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*

I SHALL NOT WANT (23rd Psalm)

#1. Naomi Ogawa was a “picture bride.” She got on a ship from Japan to California to marry a man she had never met. Clutching his photograph, she crossed the Pacific. She married the man, bearing him eight children in the poor farmland outside Sanger, some 35 miles east of Fresno. The daughter of a Methodist minister in Japan, she had enough theology coming out of her ears. But struggling to raise eight children in poverty, her religion was reduced to only one anchor of faith—**“God will not let us starve!”**

#2. My uncle lived a rich life, spreading fun and compassion through everybody he touched. He even coached a softball team in the giant Okinawan softball league in Honolulu. But in his elder years my uncle suffered from terminal cancer. He flew from Honolulu to Japan where some promised a cure through apricot pits. He phoned me in Fukuoka from Tokyo, saying, “I’m going to get well; I’m going to get well!”

Later in Honolulu, the doctors and nurses hated to enter his room—he was so angry. His wife finally scolded him saying, “Enough already!” “Just put everything into the hands of Odaisama.” They were Shingon Buddhists trusting in their founder, Odaisama. Doctors and nurses were glad to enter his room now, where uncle rested in trusting peace. **“The Lord is my shepherd, I refuse to die.”** This hard-headed obsession matured into **“Odaisama is my shepherd, even if I die, biku-tomo-shinai (I will fear no evil.)**

According to your maturity, the 23rd Psalm can mean: Because the Lord is my shepherd, we will not starve to death. Because the Lord is my shepherd, I refuse to die. Because the Lord is my shepherd, I am not afraid to die.

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever, 23rd Psalm, vs 6. ”

Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi

Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten

Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten program now accepting enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact the school office for more information.

Chapel time with Mrs. Bell on Ash Wednesday



March themes are: Windy Days; My Five Senses; Rainbows

March Schedule

14- Daylight Saving Time Begins

17- St. Patrick’s Day

20- Spring Begins

28- Palm Sunday

Playing outside

Nutrition Time



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.



Ratheesh Pillai will be on a brief hiatus as he works on his Ph.D. We look forward to his article returning very soon.



Thoughts from the Editor

Covid has not gone away, the return to normalcy that we were hoping for is very slow in returning, and our church family has experienced illness and unexpected loss of loved ones. As I have been reflecting on this and praying about it, I have been reminded that it is not a matter of if we will face difficult times while on earth, but when. What is really important is how we react to these difficult periods: are we treading water just enough to survive, or do we allow God to let us thrive, even in the midst of heartache and hardship? When my time is done and I go into eternity, I sincerely want to have lived life well and have God say to me, "Well done." As we enter the Lenten and Easter season, I pray that we love more, live well, support each other and put aside all the things that hinder us from thriving God's way.

The Dash

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end. He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years. For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash. So think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be arranged. To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before. If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile...remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?

By Linda Ellis, Copyright 2020 Inspire Kindness, thedashpoem.com

Blessings—Julie Quezada

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3/1: Minaxi Bariya
3/3: Tony Solomon
3/8: Amy Elizabeth Hutchins
3/10: Archana Carey
3/15: Parimal Roy
3/18: Shihoko Tasugawa
3/20: Roger White
3/21: Walter Martzen
3/23: Michelle Mori
3/28: Alphuno Chase-Roy
3/30: John Taniguchi

Anniversaries

3/14: Sam & Kikuko Nieda
3/23: Alan & Gina Kitsuse
3/29: Shogo & Beatrice Tabata



-Ratheesh's wife
-Roger White
-Jeannie Wong
-Family of Mike Hurtado
-Ken Matsumoto
-Yoko Hayashida
-Iketani Family
-Echavarria Family
-Marilyn McIver
-Mary Sue Lodwick
-Matt Nakamura
-Alfred Chu
-Derek Tani
-Jean McIver
-Mariko Garrett
-Shelly Bitner and Family
-Kenji Kinoshita and Family
-Sho Tabata
-Mark Quezada



We are very sorry for the passing of Michael Hurtado. Please keep Jan and the family in prayer.



March 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM	4	5 Scouts 6:30—9:30 PM	6
7  Third Sunday IN LENT <i>Zoom Worship</i> 10:00 AM	8	9  MEETING 7:00 PM	10 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM	11	12 Scouts 6:30—9:30 PM	13 Don't Forget: 
14  Fourth Sunday IN LENT <i>Zoom Worship</i> 10:00 AM	15	16 PAC 7:00 PM	17 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM	18 Youth Meeting 7:30 PM	19 Scouts 6:30—9:30 PM	20
21  Fifth Sunday IN LENT <i>Zoom Worship</i> 10:00 AM	22	23	24 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM	25	26 Scouts 6:30—9:30 PM	27
28  Palm Sunday <i>Zoom Worship</i> 10:00 AM	29	30	31 Bible Study 1:00 PM Evening Prayer 5:00 PM			