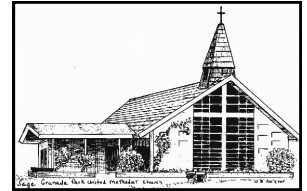




# Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



## July 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.



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[gmartzen@gmail.com](mailto:gmartzen@gmail.com)

Kris Taniguchi, Organist  
[ktani28@hotmail.com](mailto:ktani28@hotmail.com)

Sally Bell, Sunday School  
[sallycbell@gmail.com](mailto:sallycbell@gmail.com)

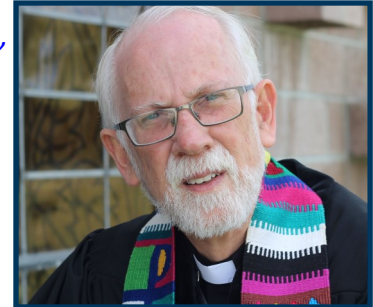
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### Annual Conference Reports

#### *"Restoration: Parables of the Pandemic"*

—by *Rev. George Martzen*



During the pandemic we have all been stretched a lot, especially as we found alternative means to continue our work. An important work of the Annual Conference is gathering for deliberation, updating information and having fellowship. Unfortunately, fellowship has been a major casualty of the pandemic. The latest session of our Annual Conference, meeting June 17-19, shows that we have grown adept at sharing information and voting on Zoom. I offer a brief summary and observation.

We heard various speeches, video presentations including composite worship experiences, voted on legislation, celebrated Juneteenth, held break-out sessions to converse about the direction of our Conference, witnessed ordinations and retirements, and memorialized conference members who had passed away.

The theme, *"Restoration: Parables of the Pandemic"* was illustrated in a series of videos by the new Director of Connectional Ministries, Erin Hawkins, that portrayed the Japanese art of *kintsugi*, a way of repairing broken pottery with gold. We were reminded that brokenness is not the end of the story, because God is the Master Potter. Throughout the three-day conference, videos were shown of various church and ministry leaders sharing how the challenges of the pandemic had opened up new windows of opportunity and ministry. These can be found online at the [conference website](#).

There was also plenty of talk about [General Conference](#), which was postponed twice since 2020 due to the pandemic, and is now set for Aug. 29 – Sept. 6, 2022, in Minneapolis. In the meantime the GC delegation team has been working on a theological position paper that was discussed on Saturday morning, as well as drafting petitions that could be used if the conference should eventually decide to disaffiliate with the General Conference. The team also endorsed what is known as the *"Christmas Covenant,"* one of many proposals for reconfiguring our denomination.

As one of two resolutions to the General Conference that were supported, the "Christmas Covenant" revises a decades old plan that would allow for regional equity and diversity in church organization while sustaining

connectional unity. The denomination is currently centered in the United States. The Christmas Conference would make North America but one among equal regional conferences.

The other resolution is the "[Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation Through Separation](#)" which assumes that the only way forward for our denomination is division, and it recommends equitable ways to do so. These and other resolutions will be deliberated during General Conference in 2022.

Our Annual Conference spent part of Saturday morning in Zoom breakout rooms discussing [Proposed Theological Grounding](#). This statement weaves together compact summaries of a Wesleyan theology of grace and our United Methodist baptismal covenant. While I am personally sympathetic with the statement's intentions for an inclusive church, my opinion is that it has significant gaps in the theology of repentance leading to justification, and that it is missing the historic renunciation part of the baptismal covenant.

Since we were meeting on June 19, we celebrated Juneteenth and heard several reports and celebrations on the Black Church and community vitalization, including a poem by Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth and a reading by W.E.B. duBois, civil rights activist, scholar and one of the founders of NAACP.

We also passed a budget of \$10,167,090, including \$2,487,253 for General and Jurisdictional conferences. This total is a reduction of \$531,015 from the previous year, a tribute to Conference Treasurer, Archana Carey, and her team.

We witnessed with hope the commissioning of seven persons as provisional Elders, the ordination of six persons to full Elder and one as a full Deacon, as well as one person being transferred from the Korean Presbyterian Church as a provisional Elder.

Holding a conference on Zoom is a major undertaking, involving an army of tech support. Still there were numerous gaffs and the usual frustration when the personal equipment doesn't connect. We can usually get over such frustrations after sitting down to enjoy a meal and fellowship. Sadly, circumstances have not allowed such fellowship this year. While Zoom got us through, I look forward to in-person conference next year.



David Nakamura, long time member and church leader, was welcomed into God's presence on May 4, 2021. He was 98.

A memorial service will be held on August 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Sage Granada Park UMC.

**June 6**

Attendance: 50  
Offering: \$5,430.55

**June 13**

Attendance: 50  
Offering: \$67.25

**June 20**

Attendance: 51  
Offering: \$5,137.25

**June 27**

Attendance: 48  
Offering: \$ 67.25



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 \$43,719.76 and our general offering budget for 2021 is \$102,000.

**July 4**

**Online Worship**  
**Liturgist: Janice Hurtado**

**July 11**

**Online Worship**  
**Liturgist: Kai Garcia**

**July 18**

**Online Worship**  
**Liturgist: Christie Cheng**

**July 25**

**Online Worship**  
**Liturgist: Kim Morrison**



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



Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi

### THE NEXT WAR

Jesus taught us to love our enemies, forgive our enemies, pray for our enemies, and Jesus Christ died for his enemies. If in times of war the government tries to draft church youth into the army to kill the enemy, should Christian youth refuse?

Only Mennonites, Quakers, and Brethren Churches hold seriously what Jesus taught on loving enemies. Their youth are taught what Jesus taught. So their denominations are called "historic Peace Churches." Their youth are committed as **conscientious objectors** to serve in "alternative services" instead of killing enemies.

Most other churches ignore Jesus and choose rather to obey the call of the government to defend our country and patriotism. There is much anger against conscientious objectors who live while others die to defend the nation. It takes courage to declare as conscientious objector to face the anger of the public and be called "cowards."

What do you think about ignoring Jesus and obeying the military chain of command instead? But do you want to be called a coward? During the Viet Nam war, many youth escaped to Canada instead. If compulsory draft is re-instated in preparation for the next war, our daughters, of course, will be drafted, too. What do you think?

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

We are currently accepting Registration for the 2021-2022 school year: Children 2 years 9 months (potty trained) to 5 years old.

For more information, contact us at 626-284-5006, [gpumns1850@gmail.com](mailto:gpumns1850@gmail.com) or visit us at <http://gpumnsk.org>



### Summer School Themes for June, 2021

**VOLCANO**





**ALOHA**





**OUTER SPACE**





**DINO DIG**






### Summer School Themes for July, 2021

Stars & Stripes    Around the Campfire    Famous Artists  
Ahoy, Matey!                      Howdy Partner

July 5, 2021 - School is closed in observance of the Fourth of July

### A Virtual Attendance to the 2021 California Annual Conference Conference Theme: Restoration: Parables of the Pandemic

Kudos to the competent staff who made this year's annual conference possible. With their help we were able to complete the goals set forth. The symbolic picture of a vase that was beautifully restored puzzled me at first. It was explained that the concept was taken from the Japanese art restoration style Kintsugi, to make something whole and becoming something new. The whole idea fascinated me and gives me much hope for the future of our church. After overcoming this period of pandemic, we need to look ahead for a renewal in spirit.

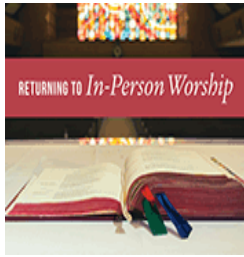
**Here are some thoughts:** \*Do not languish but flourish \*We are not promised no death or suffering but to overcome. \*There is hope in Christ. \*There is hope for eternal life, light, love and music. \*Shine your light for others to see. The diversity of the California Conference always impresses me and reinforces the idea of inclusiveness and that we are all God's children. Many of the churches shared their cultural music during the virtual conference and I so enjoyed that aspect of the entire program. The ordination of young men and women dedicating their lives to God gives me much hope for the church. I am grateful that I had an opportunity to be a part of this conference. **Elaine Chung**



## IN PERSON WORSHIP NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### In-door worship resumes next week



Are you ready to come back to the sanctuary? We will begin indoor worship at 10 a.m. on July 11. It will remain limited and hybrid for the time being. Masks are highly recommended, especially for those not vaccinated and given the presence of Covid variants in the state. Health screening and registration will still take place. You may pre-register at <https://forms.gle/TTMCufwB29Myt6668>. For those remaining at home we will be sending a link soon.

### **School Supply Drive 2021: "Backpack Blessing"**



In person class is resuming starting the first part of August in most areas. With all that has happened, students need help with supplies more than ever. We are again teaming with Catalyst to help provide needed support in our community.

**Donation Deadline:** July 31, 2021 **Dropoff:** Church Office

**Needs:** Backpacks (all ages), subject notebooks, pencils, pens,

highlighters, crayons, sharpeners, notebook paper, erasers, correction fluid, markers, binders, rulers, glue, glue sticks, Post It notes, etc. Thank you in advance for your help with this worthy project.

### **Theme: "Building with Jesus"**



Vacation Bible School 2021 will take place over four consecutive Sundays: July 18, July 25, August 1 and August 8, at 4:30 p.m. VBS will follow the format of our outdoor worship, will be family oriented and open to children of all ages. Look for registration soon.



Theresa Laib received a plaque from Maria Sandoval, on behalf of the teachers at Granada Park UM Nursery School and Kindergarten. The Preschool Advisory Committee held a celebration for Mrs. Laib on June 25, after she retired after 35 years as preschool director. Congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful retirement.



We have received a request for help from Jesse Chang and Catalyst for two Rosemead families whose mobile homes burned recently. They are in immediate need of food and clothing. Gift cards for Target, Walmart, Costco, grocery stores, Subway, McDonalds, etc. One family needs diapers size 5 regular diapers & size 5T pull ups for girls, and Nido brand formula.

**Any questions please call the church for further information: 626-284-3229**



There is an executive sized desk in the church office that needs a good home. If you are interested, please call the church office.



- 7/2: Rev. George Martzen
- 7/3: Shogo Tabata
- 7/4: Stephen Hutchins
- 7/5: Bryan Mori
- 7/14: Kim Morrison
- 7/15: Joshua Roy
- 7/16: Kevin Wong  
Joy Del Monico
- 7/19: Evelyne Wen
- 7/20: Leelana Hurtado
- 7/22: Ted Yamashita
- 7/23: Haruyoshi Fujimoto
- 7/25: Stephen Hutchins
- 7/27: Anthony Echavarria
- 7/29: Sharon Mori



- 7/1: Ernest & Sendgeuane Tom
- 7/29: Janet & John Furukawa



- Family of Alfred Chu
- Family of David Nakamura
- Jeannie Wong
- Family of Mike Hurtado
- Ken Matsumoto
- Yoko Hayashida
- Iketani family
- Littlefield family
- Nursery School
- Echavarria family
- Marilyn McIver
- Mary Sue Lodwick
- Matt Nakamura
- Alfred Chu
- Derek Tani
- Jean McIver
- Mariko Garrett
- Sho Tabata
- Morrison family
- Ratheesh Pillai and his wife
- Family of Dorothy Kinoshita
- Elaine's sister Lavina
- Laura Quezada Huerta
- Leonard Quezada



# July 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Virtual NJAUMC Jr. High Camp: 6/27—7/9	28	29	30	1	2 Scouts 6:30—9:30 Happy Birthday, Rev. George	3
4  Zoom Worship Service 10:00	5	6	7 Bible Study on hiatus Evening Prayer 5:30	8	9 Scouts 6:30—9:30	10
11 In Person and Zoom Worship Service 10:00	12	13  7:00	14 Bible Study on hiatus Evening Prayer 5:30	15	16 Scouts 6:30—9:30	17
18 In Person and Zoom Worship Service 10:00 VBS 4:30	19	20 PAC 7:00	21 Bible Study on hiatus Evening Prayer 5:30	22	23 Scouts 6:30—9:30	24
25 In Person and Zoom Worship Service 10:00 VBS 4:30	26	27	28 Bible Study on hiatus Evening Prayer 5:30	29	30 Scouts 6:30—9:30	31