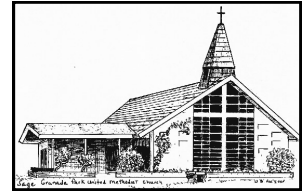




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



September 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.



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

Kris Taniguchi, Organist
ktani28@hotmail.com

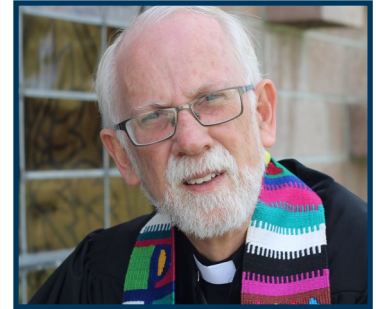
Sally Bell, Sunday School
sallycbell@gmail.com

Julie Quezada, E-Thymes Editor
sagegranadapark@gmail.com

Julie Quezada, Admin Assistant
sagegranadapark@gmail.com

The Wisdom of Fig Jam

—by *Rev. George Martzen*



“Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.” – James 3:13

I love keeping traditions, especially family traditions.

My mother grew up on my grandfather's fig orchard, where she preached to the squirrels and jack rabbits. That's what she told me. As I grew up she had two fig trees, and she became famous among family and friends for her fig jam.

Five years ago I reported that I had planted a fig tree at the parsonage. We had enough this year to make a small batch of fig jam. So I've kept a tradition going back to my grandparents.

Just so you know, preserving fruits and jams must follow certain tested rules and procedures. If you don't follow the procedure, your results will be off, and the fruit or jam might be spoiled. The New Testament writer, James, understood the basic principle. “Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs?” (James 3:12). He was using common agricultural impressions to express a core truth, that wisdom is known by its fruit. We know the same thing in computer science – garbage in, garbage out (gigo).

The problem is that too often we spoil the batch with poisonous words. Our voices and our tongues should be used to bless and praise. Too often we end up cursing and maiming. “From the same mouth come blessing and cursing,” James says.

Sadly, much of our social media where folks express ideas and share stories, has also become a place of vitriol. Twitch, an online forum with over 45 million viewers, faced an online strike this week, #ADayOffTwitch campaign. The reason is an increased flow of “hate raids,” spamming content that takes over a feed. This is happening especially on accounts owned by people of color, according to NPR and other sources. Users want to send a message to the management of this site to better control these “hate raids.”

Personally, I don't use social media very much. But it isn't hard to recognize the increasing lack of civility in our society.

James asks us to seek a life of wisdom. Those who seek wisdom don't just follow rules for rules' sake. Wisdom is born not simply of analysis and cleverness. We are a very clever society that can send people to the moon when we set our mind to it. But I think wisdom has been put in the back shelf or left on the launch pad. Wisdom is developed through living in relationship with others, with God, with family, with the earth. When we live in relationship to others, we want to care for those relationships. Wisdom grows out of that loving regard for the other.

Rather than boasting of our cleverness, with envy and selfish ambition, let us demonstrate our wisdom by working toward peace and reconciliation. Let's make jam not jealousy.

During the next month, I will be exploring more of biblical wisdom for our families. Join us on Sunday mornings for in-person worship in the sanctuary or online with Zoom or YouTube.



It has been quite a long time since we have created and distributed a church directory. What do you think? Would this be helpful to you? Would you be interested in having one? Would you be interested in helping to produce and distribute the directory? Please let me know what your thoughts are with an email to Sagegranadapark@gmail.com. I would appreciate your feedback and suggestions. *Julie Quezada, Administrative Assistant*

<u>August 1</u>	<u>August 8</u>	<u>August 15</u>	<u>August 22</u>	<u>August 29</u>
Attendance: 56	Attendance: 57	Attendance: 66	Attendance: 63	Attendance: 64
Offering: \$360.55	Offering: \$2,830.10	Offering: \$82.25	Offering: \$2,255.55	Offering: \$24,672.22



Because we are not taking 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 \$105,970.03 (as of 8/29/2021) and our general offering budget for 2021 is \$102,000.

<u>September 5</u> Worship Liturgist: Sengdeuane Tom	<u>September 12</u> Worship Liturgist: Ruth Chon	<u>September 19</u> Worship Liturgist: Elaine Chung	<u>September 26</u> Worship Liturgist: Janice Hurtado
---	---	--	--



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



Heaven: What if:

All Blacks became White, all Whites became Black?

All rich became poor, and all poor became rich?

All men became women, and all women became men?

All slaves became slave owners, and all slave owners became slaves?

All starving refugees became privileged citizens, and all privileged citizens became starving refugees?

All judges became jail prisoners, and all jail prisoners became judges?

All doctors became sick patients, and sick patients became doctors?

In some ways, heaven should **reverse** life on earth?

I would be thrilled if I could live in heaven with my family once again.

I want to be with my wife, my parents, my children, my siblings, my grandparents, my uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews. I love my family.

What would be heaven for you?

More than something we **know**, heaven can be something we **dream**.

I need dreams. Do you need dreams?

Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi



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

For more information, contact us at 626-284-5006

gpumns1850@gmail.com <http://gpumnsk.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/gpumns1850>

We are accepting Registrations for the 2021-2022 school year:

Children 2 years 6 months (potty trained) to 5 years old
(Kindergarten).

First Day of School 2021



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 - TIPPI TOES Demonstration at GPUMNS & K for students from 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 - Midland Fund Raising. To support our fundraiser, go to <http://fundraisingshoppingcart.com/> and SHOP ONLINE: Use Seller ID# 00043672
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 6, 2021 – Labor Day (School is closed)
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 – Chapel with Mrs. Sally Bell begins.

We are looking for new or refurbished Chromebooks for our TK/ Kindergarten classroom. Please contact our office if you know anyone who is selling or willing to donate them to the school. We would really appreciate any support.



Follow us on Facebook



IN PERSON WORSHIP NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

We have returned to in person/hybrid worship. Masks will be worn indoors and we will continue to register participants given the presence of new Covid variants in our region. Look for the Friday email from the church for online registration and links for viewing on Zoom or YouTube.

***APAC News:** Don't miss the next event in our concert series:

Sgt. Pepper Beatlemania Sing a Long

Sunday, September 19, 2021—7 PM





**Ratheesh is on a brief hiatus but his article
will return in October**



We need your help. Our membership/friends of the church information is very outdated. Over the next 3 months I will be sending everyone a contact information form. Please update your contact information and return to me via email, or you can print it and drop it off at the office if you prefer. Thank you for your help!

~Julie Quezada, Administrative Assistant~

BACKPACK BLESSING



The annual school supply drive was a big success thanks to your generous donations. We were able to fill and deliver 40 new backpacks with supplies for children in need at Bella Vista Elementary School in Monterey Park. Thank you to all who donated money, supplies and backpacks and to all the volunteers who prepared and delivered them.

Thank you for blessing others!



9/1: Mark Kishina
9/3: David Tokeshi
9/4: George Shafer
9/5: Toni Tomita
Sommer Kitsuse
9/8: Ernie Tom, Jr.
Sengdeuane Tom
9/11: Lachlan Morrison
9/15: Amanda Wissman
9/16: Arpita Bariya
Nathan Hutchins
Damien Echavarria
9/21: Cassandra Echavarria
9/25: Paul Wong



9/18: Ryan & Janet
Taniguchi
9/26: Erin & Wesley Tanaka
Gabriel & Leelana
Hurtado



-Bruce Del Monico
-Family of Phillip Marquez
-Family of Alfred Chu
-Family of David Nakamura
-Jeannie Wong
-Ken Matsumoto
-Yoko Hayashida
-Nursery School
-Echavarria family
-Marilyn McIver
-Mary Sue Lodwick
-Matt Nakamura
-Jean McIver
-Mariko Garrett
-Sho Tabata
-Elaine's sister Lavina
-Leonard Quezada
-Outdoor Ministry
-Ken Anami
-David Iwomiya
-Alice Lopez
-Friends and family in India
-Kenley Craver
(Sengdeuane's brother)



September 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bible Study 1:00 Evening Prayer 5:30 Outdoor Worship Team 7:30	2	3  Choir Rehearsals Resume 6:00-7:00 Scouts 6:00—9:30	4
5 In Person and Zoom Worship 10:00	6 	7 Nominations Committee 7:30	8 Bible Study 1:00 Evening Prayer 5:30	9 KNI 7:30	10  Choir Rehearsal 6:00-7:00 Scouts 6:00—9:30	11 
12 In Person and Zoom Worship 10:00	13	14  7:00	15 Bible Study 1:00 Evening Prayer 5:30	16	17  Choir Rehearsal 6:00—7:00 Scouts 6:00—9:30	18 Prayer Chain Meeting 10:00
19 In Person and Zoom Worship 10:00	20	21 PAC 7:00	22 Bible Study 1:00 Evening Prayer 5:30	23	24  Choir Rehearsal 6:00—7:00 Scouts 6:00—9:30	25
26 In Person and Zoom Worship 10:00 Outdoor Worship 4:30	27	28	29 Bible Study 1:00 Evening Prayer 5:30	30		