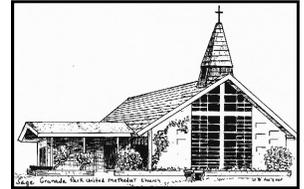




# Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

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.



Rev. Dr. George Martzen, Pastor  
[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)

Julie Quezada, E-Thymes Editor  
[sagegranadapark@gmail.com](mailto:sagegranadapark@gmail.com)

Julie Quezada, Admin Assistant  
[sagegranadapark@gmail.com](mailto:sagegranadapark@gmail.com)

### Thoughts on a dormant tree

—by *Rev. George Martzen*



“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” - Psalm 27

Remember my fig tree? I planted it shortly after I was appointed as pastor to this church. I’ve written about it occasionally, its first fruit buds, the early and late crops, and the times when all the cute critters ate the figs before I could pick them.

Jesus often used the fig tree as a metaphor for his people. The tree’s lifecycle became a commentary on his people. A fruitless tree was a sign of a faithless people and the first leaves of spring was a sign of coming redemption. I also like to think of this tree as a reflection of my life and ministry.

As a Black Mission fig, this tree tends to go into a state of dormancy in winter. Currently, most of the leaves have turned yellow and are laying on the ground. It’s a little skeleton of a tree that has gone to sleep for the winter. Good tree.

Blogger, Austin Kleon, who writes about his experiences from an artistic perspective, recently posted: “I’m not languishing. I’m dormant.” \* It was a rejoinder to someone else’s blog that offered a psychological range from thriving to languishing. The assumption had been that if your life isn’t always exciting, then you must be languishing. Poor life.

Kleon objected, based on his observation of nature. Many plants and animals enter a state of dormancy or hibernation when conditions are too cold and dark for active growth. It is a necessary way to conserve energy.

Kleon also observed that the pandemic has created conditions something like an extended winter. There are many things that we simply haven’t been able to engage in fully. But if you have the

expectation that you will continue to be just as active as during normal times, you will find it frustrating, like a peach tree blooming prematurely in the middle of winter. The next cold spell will be devastating.

But if we allow natural dormancy to take its course, we can look forward to the emergence of new life in spring. We'll see new life sprouting and blossoming. Indeed, there are vital, less noticeable movements taking place in dormancy that the active life will draw on. And if we fail to allow those deeper movements, the loss will be evident later. We may need to pick up a few winter chores, like mulching and pruning, but most of the work is quiet and underground. This is true of our own wellbeing. If you're frustrated because you can't meet your expectations, maybe it's time to reconsider your expectations. It may not even be that the expectations are too high, but that they are simply out of sync with reality. Winter is the time of wisdom.

I took a week's vacation at one of our favorite mountain hangouts, Bass Lake. We had some snow play, but it was nice just to be there with the quiet trees, the falling snow and be with the stillness with minimal expectations.

In the life of the church, rather than running around with all kinds of activities, now is a good to be dreaming, planning, praying – quietly putting our roots deeper into the sustaining life of God then to foster a mood of quiet expectation. For prayer is not just making requests to God, but waiting on God in contemplative prayer: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! (Psalm 27).

New life will emerge. Just don't force it.

*Happy New Year!*

*May this year be a time of renewal,  
strengthening relationships, good health  
and growth in our faith*



**December 5**

Attendance: 79  
Offering: \$1,509.35

**December 12**

Attendance: 60  
Offering: \$8,702.10

**December 19**

Attendance: 83  
Offering: \$566.35

**December 26**

Attendance: 110  
Offering: \$3,215.00



Because we are not taking 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 \$138,432.30 and our general offering budget for 2021 is \$102,000.

**January 2**

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

**January 9**

**Worship**  
**Liturgist: John Taniguchi**

**January 16**

**Worship**  
**Liturgist: Sengdeuane Tom**

**January 23**

**Worship**  
**Liturgist: Christie Chung**

**January 30**

**Worship**  
**Liturgist: Youth**



Thank you to our Zoom Worship Crew: Ruel Reyes, Kris Taniguchi, Sally Bell, Jim Bell, Doreen Bolten, Ratheesh Pillai, Walt Martzen, Phillip Kiriara, Jillian Marquez, Sengdeuane Tom, Sarah Wong and Rev. George Martzen.



**Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi**

The Bible begins with crying--Adam and Eve kicked out of the Garden of Eden. But the Bible ends with joy--a wedding celebration.

Beginning with a primitive Garden, the story ends with a Metropolis, the New Jerusalem descending from heaven for marriage to Jesus. Rejoice! Be happy because God is happy, wiping the tears from all our eyes. We will regroup with all our family dead rejoicing with us once again.

Some hard-headed Christians decide to be happy, no matter what! Not only when the Lakers and Rams win, not only when the stock market rises, or when we win the war. Be happy, not by good luck, but as a **lifetime decision**. Be happy no matter what!

But I did not know how to be happy when my wife died. That spiritual magic I haven't learned. I could laugh again, but only after three years of grief. I need to cry when sad; sing and dance when happy. It is enough for me that **joy outlasts sorrow**. Jesus was also the "Man of Sorrows." How do you keep happy?

**Happy New Year!**



**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](mailto:gpumns1850@gmail.com) <http://gpumnsk.org> <https://www.facebook.com/gpumns1850>

**Limited openings:** We are still accepting Registration for the 2021-2022 school year:

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

**Chapel Time 12.09.2021**

**"Great to be back in the Chapel"**



**Visit from Santa Claus 12.13.2021**



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**JANUARY 3, 2022** – School resumes after Winter break

**JANUARY 26, 2022** - Chipotle Fundraiser from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at 2121 W Main Street, Alhambra. To place your order, use code 4P8TPZD

A great big **THANKS** to everyone who supported the Alhambra Fire Dept. Spark of Love Toy Drive and our Fleece Blanket & Pillow fundraiser as we try and raise money to purchase new cubbies for the classrooms.

*Follow us on Facebook*



SCAN ME

**APAC**  
Alhambra Performing Arts Center

**BILL YEE PRESENTS**

*The Songs Of*  
**LENNON & McCARTNEY**

**Fri, Jan. 22, 2022 - 7PM**

FREE Admission with RSVP  
or \$15 donation at the Door

Performed by:

HOWARD PATTOW AS LENNON      JEFF TOCZYNSKI AS MCCARTNEY

Hosted by  
Sage Granada Park UMC  
1850 W. Hellman Ave.  
Alhambra, CA 91803  
(626) 230 5435  
bizwind@yahoo.com

RSVP:  
Alhambra-eventbrite.com

**APAC News:** Don't miss the next event in our concert series: Lennon & McCartney performed by Howard Pattow and Jeff Toczynski. Don't miss this evening of fun and great music.

**Sponsored by: Alhambra Performing Arts Center—  
Bill Yee, Owner/CEO**





### Stay on Progress, Focus on Purpose

Romans 8:28, "and we know that for those who love God all things work together ... according to his purpose."

Exercise is a way to release stress. A treadmill's odometer displays how many miles the individual has walked, but the individual has gone nowhere. The stepper odometer indicates that the individual has climbed over 100 steps but went nowhere.

Let's talk about exercise enthusiasts. Some individuals buy these exercise machines instead of going to a gym or park. They invest time, effort, and money. Then gradually, these treadmills become clothes hangers or are used for other purposes. I asked my friends why this was so. Some told me that it is very thrilling initially, but gradually it felt boring because there's no motivation. Knowing this, the treadmill companies market treadmills with large displays showing specific geographical locations, the sound of human interaction, nature, walking with animals, etc. These functions increase sales and prevent feelings of boredom (by the way, this is not an ad to buy a treadmill).

Let me talk about some treadmill enthusiasts. No matter what kind of treadmills they have, they have always been so happy when they use it appropriately and happily. They do not feel as though they walked so much but have gone nowhere. Someone told me that the purpose of using this machine is all about persistence and attitude; even older treadmills can offer so much to our health.

We have all walked our Christian life through many hours, days, and years but maybe feel like we've gone nowhere and are lost. Good and bad, sad and happy, success and failure, gain and loss, all are a part of our walk. Life is always moving; we encounter challenges in good and bad ways. Then what motivates us to look forward? Some people feel like they walked so much but went nowhere and ended their life (the suicide numbers are increasing every year, especially among young people).

Have you felt like your Christian journey is the same as someone walking on the treadmill that has gone nowhere? Boredom, no hope, no motivation to move forward? Take time to evaluate the day you started walking on the treadmill (your Christian life) and where you are right now. How does your Christian journey fulfill God's purpose for your life by faith? Do you feel exhausted, unmotivated, and feel like giving up?

The emergence of a new year offers an excellent opportunity to renew the commitment of hope, joy, and salvation. From this day forward throughout your journey, God desires for us to focus on the goal and purpose of the Christian journey. Make use of church activities, build relationships, pray, trust in the word of God, and meditate. Those who are in Christ can walk joyfully and with complete assurance. The times, seasons, and coming years are in God's hands. Let go of the past and move forward with the assurance of hope. Therefore, recalling God's faithfulness will gear you towards stepping into the new year, a time of festive expectation. I pray that on this day and during the year, may each of us walk in hope and focus on the purpose, goal, and lasting way. Let's walk *together* as one body of Christ in celebrating the greatness of our God.

A delightful 2022 ahead with many blessings! *Shalom*



- 1/1: Mary Senzaki
- 1/5: Jim Bell
- 1/6: Janet Furukawa
- 1/7: Phillip Kirihara
- 1/10: Koharu Nakamura
- 1/13: Sarah Hutchins  
Janet Wong
- 1/14: Nathan Tom
- 1/23: Jillian Marquez
- 1/24: Pang Lam
- 1/29: Christie Hutchins
- 1/30: Tien Cheong Chung
- 1/31: Janet Cornejo



- 1/8: Steve & Leslie Hutchins
- 1/15: Yutaka & Sachiko  
Yoshida  
Damien & Cassandra  
Echavarria



- Family of Kasua Kondo
- Jim Meier
- Sets Tani
- Family/Friends of Fred Miwa
- Family of May Tenaka
- Marquez family
- Jeannie Wong
- Yoko Hayashida
- Echavarria family
- Marilyn McIver
- Mary Sue Lodwick
- Matt Nakamura
- Jean McIver
- Mariko Garrett
- Sho Tabata
- Elaine's sister Lavina
- Alice Lopez
- Friends/Family in India
- Kenley Craver
- Ken Anami
- David Iwomiya
- Bruce Del Monico
- Leonard Quezada
- Immigrant families
- Gerry (Gina Kitsuse's mom)
- Gabriel Morales
- Ratheesh Pillai
- Dorothy Chu
- Don's brother in law Sparky



# January 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 
2 Worship Service 10 am	3	4	5 Bible Study 1 pm Prayer 5 pm	6 Youth 7:30 pm	7 Choir Practice 6:00-7:00 pm Scouts 6:00—9:30 pm	8 JLS 8:30-12
9 Worship Service 10 am Church Council Town Hall Meeting after service	10	11	12 Bible Study 1 pm Prayer 5 pm	13	14 Choir Practice 6:00-7:00 pm Scouts 6:00—9:30 pm	15 JLS 8:30-12
16 Worship Service 10 am Open Doors Fellowship 4:30	17 	18 PAC 7 pm	19 Bible Study 1 pm Prayer 5 pm	20 Youth 7:30 pm	21 Choir Practice 6:00-7:00 pm Scouts 6:00—9:30 pm	22 JLS 8:30-12
23 Worship Service 10 am	24	25	26 Bible Study 1 pm Prayer 5 pm	27	28 Choir Practice 6:00-7:00 pm Scouts 6:00—9:30 pm	29 JLS 8:30-12
30 Worship Service 10 am	31				