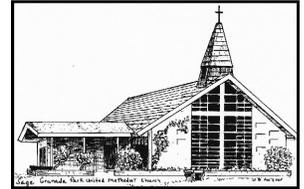




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803

Happy Independence Day



July 2022 E-Thymes



Our Vision:

We aspire to be a reflection of God's epic love:

- ◆ Engaged in a community of mutual support
- ◆ Proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Inviting families to step up to ministries in the world
- ◆ Celebrated in social networks and digital media

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

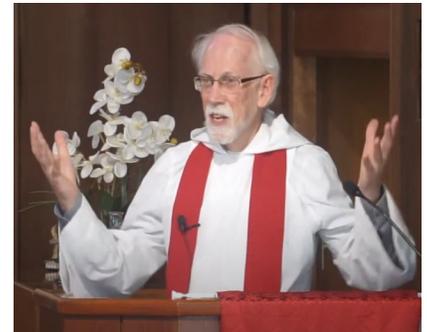
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"Dancing with the Spirit"

Rev. George Martzen



"May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from [God's] glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. [God] has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son..." – Colossians 1:11-13

July is a reset month for many of us. For many businesses, it's the beginning of a new fiscal year. Most schools are taking a break, so families are taking vacation. United Methodist congregations typically have pastoral transitions in July. Three churches in our Greater San Gabriel Valley Mission are transitioning. The English ministry at San Gabriel First will be receiving Rev. Terry Van Hook and Sierra Madre UMC will be receiving Rev. Jae Duk Lew. Sadly, El Monte UMC will be closing down by vote of the Annual Conference.

Sengdeuane Tom and Elaine Chung joined me in this year's hybrid Annual Conference. We met fully online for two separate days, June 7 and June 15, and two days were hybrid. My wife and I went in-person to meetings at the Costa Mesa Hilton.

Conference highlights included the nomination of three persons to the office of bishop, Rev. Cedrick Bridgeforth, Rev. Sandy Olewine and Rev. Tom Choi. Their names will be submitted to the Western Jurisdictional Conference, which elects bishops.

Moral support was given to what is being called the Florida 16, a class of ministry ordinands that Florida Annual Conference rejected entirely for commissioning because three among them identified as LGBTQIA+.

We approved the Annual Conference budget of \$10,071,582, which is a reduction over the previous year of \$95,508. During the in-person gathering conference members assembled 30,000 meals for hungry folks as well as an assortment of hygiene kits for families in need. A big highlight of this Annual Conference was the farewell for Bishop Grant Hagiya. Though he will continue through the fall, he will be retiring at the end of the year.

I am also in a bit of a transition myself. Two and a half years ago, I was diagnosed with a type of Interstitial Lung Disease. Everything was under control, until May when I had shingles, and then my lung condition took a turn for the worse. I am now on oxygen therapy. After a brief stay in the hospital, I will be taking a couple weeks of sick leave but will be consulting with my healthcare team and the District Superintendent to consider taking some time off. I will have more to say on that later.

I find comfort and challenge in the scripture quote above. It's part of a prayer-blessing for the ancient Colossian Christians that acknowledges their state of transition. The "power of darkness" need not be taken literally as though light is better than shadows. The writer emphasizes the contrast between a life connected to God and a life that is disconnected. No matter our circumstances, Christians are in transition from the disconnected life, doing whatever seems or feels right, to a life in relationship with God and with God's people. It is a transition that we accomplish by God's grace, "all the strength that comes from [God's] glorious power."

To be intentionally connected with God doesn't make everything suddenly hunky dory. Rather we enter into the divine dance. In the uncertainties and transitions of life, we move and transition with the Spirit, never clinging too tightly to any one thing, nor putting all our weight on any one position. We must be nimble. We have inherited great riches from the saints, but only so that we may pass those riches on to the next generation.

In all of our transitions, let us dance with the Spirit.

June 5	<i>40 In Person/</i>	June 12	<i>39 In Person/</i>	June 19	<i>28 In Person/</i>	June 26	<i>30 In Person/</i>
<i>Attendance: 45 On Line</i>		<i>Attendance: 40 On Line</i>		<i>Attendance: 30 On Line</i>		<i>Attendance: 30 On Line</i>	
<i>Offering: \$51.05</i>		<i>Offering: \$1,529.05</i>		<i>Offering: \$71.05</i>		<i>Offering: \$25.00</i>	



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 \$78,426.26 and our general offering budget for 2022 is \$102,000.

July 3 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Alicia Marquez</i>	July 10 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Christie Chen</i>	July 17 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Elaine Chung</i>	July 24 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Ruth Chon</i>	July 31 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Youth</i>
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Thank you to our Zoom Worship Crew: Ruel Reyes, Kris Taniguchi, Doreen Bolten, Ratheesh Pillai, Brad Hutchins, Phillip Kiriara, Sengeduane Tom, Jaimie Hill, Ruth Chon, Arnie Saiki, Walt Martzen and Rev. George Martzen.



Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi

“How many of you had a terrible childhood full of suffering and worry?” No one raised their hands. “So no one in this class will become an outstanding writer,” said the Japanese literature professor. “The outstanding Japanese writers were those whose childhoods were wretched.”

Suffering nurtures people with sympathetic, caring hearts. Wealth often creates spoiled children who become playboys refusing to work and who despise the poor. We do not always know what is good for us in the long run. In everything give thanks!

Rev Dickson Kazuo Yagi is a retired missionary, associate member of Sage Granada Park UMC, the Chair/President of the Council of Pacific Asian Theology and facilitator of the Interfaith Fellowship.

BILLYEE PRESENTS

APAC
Alhambra Performing Arts Center

Danny So & Cici Lau

Saturday July 16, 2022 - 7PM

Admission **FREE** with RSVP to alhambra.eventbrite.com or \$20 donation at the door

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

Danny So
"the Little Beatle"

Cici Lau
Movie Producer
Actor - Singer



Granada Park United Methodist Nursery School & Kindergarten

1850 W Hellman Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803

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

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)

JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER Summer School 2022

Friendship Week



Dinosaur Week



Colors Week



Monday: Blue

Tuesday: Red

Wednesday: Green

Thursday: Yellow

Pirate Week



Stars & Stripes Week



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ July 4, 2022 – School will be closed
- ◇ Fall Registration going on NOW!



Follow Us On Facebook



SCAN ME



- 7/2: Rev. George Martzen
- 7/3: Shogo Tabata
- 7/4: Stephen Hutchins
- 7/7: Bryan Mori
- 7/14: Kim Morrison
- 7/15: Joshua Roy
- 7/16: Joy Del Monico
Kevin Wong
- 7/19: Evelyne Wen
- 7/20: Leelana Hurtado
- 7/22: Ted Yamashita
- 7/23: Haruyoshi Fujimoto
- 7/25: Stephen Hutchins
- 7/27: Anthony Echavarría
- 7/29: Sharon Mori
- 7/30: Mary Sue Lodwick



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



- Family of Tak Yoshida
- Family of Roy Iketani
- Family of Ets Nakamura
- Sets Tani
- Family of May Tenaka
- Jeannie Wong
- Echavarría family
- Marilyn McIver
- Mary Sue Lodwick
- Jean McIver
- Mariko Garrett
- Sho Tabata
- Lavinia (Elaine's sister)
- Alice Lopez
- Kenley Craver
- David Iwomiya
- Bruce Del Monico
- Leonard Quezada
- Laura Quezada
- Gerry (Gina Kitsuse's mom)
- Gabriel Morales
- Ratheesh Pillai
- Peace in Ukraine



Diverse Voices, One Choir

1 Corinthians 12:18-19: *But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.* ¹⁹ *If they were all one part, where would the body be?* ²⁰ *As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

One of the beautiful things about our church is our Choir. When we look at our Choir, we may see diversity, but it sounds like one voice leading the church to praise and adore God in beautiful harmony. Although I am not a musician, I can hear each member singing individual parts while harmonizing with others, expressing the unity of diverse voices. We thank Kris for lending her hand and ear for tuning and coordinating the choir.

Every Christian (defined as a follower/disciple and obedient to Christ, not somebody who fits into a religious group or follows a religion only) "sings" different parts as we move toward the goal of kingdom seeking, commitment, and response to God's call. Though we are all from different parts of the world, carry different abilities, and think differently from each other, our efforts can result in unity in Christ and a beautiful synchronization of service. Have you ever understood and believed that we are all (without exception) a vital portion of the body of Christ and the church? Without us, the church may not survive. We should continue to believe that we are the hands to serve, the feet to go, the ears to listen, the arms to give, support, and receive; we are the eyes to see and cry, the mouth to share, encourage, appreciate, and pray, and we are the followers of Christ to welcome individuals regardless of their race, color, language, gender, or religion. Your part can only be done by you, not by others.

The Choir is not a solo effort; it's called a choir because diverse voices and positions are involved, playing into one goal and one voice. The body of Christ is made up of diverse individuals and their roles. "Let every man abide in the calling wherein he is called, and his work will be as sacred as the work of the ministry. It is not what a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular; it is why he does it." (The Pursuit of God).

Have you ever thought about why you do things? What are some elements that do not allow you to take part in the mission that Christ asks us to do? What is your contribution to the body of Christ?

By watching, many of us appreciate the contributions of others to the ministry and their roles in the body of Christ. Have you ever come to the point where you feel God has put you in a place to meet individuals across the globe and lead them to shalom? Let us persistently pursue wisdom and direction from the Holy Spirit so that we may not simply watch the Choir but instead actively use our gifts and talents to take our roles in the body of Christ.

Shalom.



July 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Choir Practice is on vacation Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM	2
3 Worship Service 10:00 AM	4  INDEPENDENCE <i>Day</i>	5	6 Bible Study is on vacation in July Prayer 5:00 PM	7	8 Choir Practice is on vacation Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM	9
10 Worship Service 10:00 AM	11	12	13 Bible Study is on vacation in July Prayer 5:00 PM	14	15 Choir Practice is on vacation Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM	16
17 Worship Service 10:00 AM	18	19	20 Bible Study is on vacation in July Prayer 5:00 PM	21	22 Choir Practice is on vacation Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM	23
24 Worship Service 10:00 AM	25	26	27 Bible Study is on vacation in July Prayer 5:00 PM	28	29 Choir Practice is on vacation Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM	30 Family Fun Night 5 PM—7 PM
31 Worship Service 10:00 AM Family Fun Night 5 PM—7 PM						