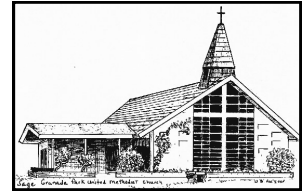




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



AUGUST 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.



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Embodying healing prayers

George Martzen



"Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.'" – Luke 13:10-11

As I write this, the LA County is considering a return to an indoor mask mandate. For those of us who continue using the word "recommended" for indoor masks, it may not make much difference. We could move our fellowship time outdoors again. How other businesses and patrons around the region will comply with another strict mandate at this point is a good question. After all, our 79-year-old President just recovered from his bout with Covid.

I believe that for every individual sickness there is a social component. Personal sickness often reflects dis-ease in our society. Many of Jesus' healing accounts highlight this relationship. Indeed, the healing stories often place Jesus in conflict between different worldviews. When Jesus healed the bent-over woman in a synagogue, the religious leaders saw it as work forbidden on the sabbath. Come back any other day and ply your healing trade, but not on this holy day.

This recurring conflict highlights Jesus' vision of God's reign that involves healing for all creation. In the original Greek of this story, there is a running play on words. Pronouncing the healing, Jesus said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." The Greek for "set free" is the same root as is used afterward in the analogy when someone "unties" an ox or donkey on the sabbath. It has the sense of being "cut loose." That woman in her ailment also embodied the sickness of her society. The purpose of the sabbath, Jesus concluded, is to "set free" or "cut loose" those who have been bound by Satan. Jesus connected the healing of one woman to the cosmic work of healing a broken and bound world.

The last three months have been a difficult stretch in my life. Over two years ago I was diagnosed with a form of interstitial lung disease. But through drug therapy and fairly healthy living, the disease was holding steady. Then the dam broke. In May I came down with shingles. It came with a vengeance. About the same time, the lung condition took a turn for the worse, and I was put on oxygen. In the process of managing shingles pain, I developed a bleeding ulcer and anemia. How many of you also bear a long list of ailments in your bodies?

But, like the accounts of Jesus' ministry, our prayers for healing can also embody God's intentions for the healing of creation. I have made a conscious decision, to see my body as an icon, or window, into God's healing power for the world's suffering. As I pray for my own well-being, I pray with Jesus for our society also to be released from the grip of Satan: the myriad cries of creatures facing violence, the suffocation of life from smoke, rising temperatures, and racism, the bleeding of our bodies and our rivers.

So as I pray for my own personal well-being, I also envision the healing of God's creation. I do not know to what extent healing is possible for all my bodily ailments. No, but I trust God's long-term healing intentions for the cosmos. You also may be experiencing some ailments of body. As you seek healing, pray also for the healing of all creation. Let us pray for God's reign and God's will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven.



Please join us on August 6, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Sage Granada Park UMC as we celebrate the life and service of our friend and long time member, Tak Yoshida

<u>July 3</u> 30 In Person/ Attendance: 40 On Line Offering: \$129.35	<u>July 10</u> 35 In Person/ Attendance: 47 On Line Offering: \$46.05	<u>July 17</u> 25 In Person/ Attendance: 35 On Line Offering: \$1,686.05	<u>July 24</u> 24 In Person/ Attendance: 35 On Line Offering: \$1,252.35	<u>July 31</u> Attendance: * Offering: \$ *
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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 \$81,538.16 and our general offering budget for 2022 is \$102,000.00

August 7
Worship
Liturgist: Paul Wong

August 14
Worship
Liturgist: TBD

August 21
Worship
Liturgist: Jan Hurtado

August 28
Worship
Liturgist: YOUTH



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, Louise Garcia Walt Martzen and Rev. George Martzen



Dying to Live

He was dressed completely in black, lying on a piece of cloth, face down on the floor. He was motionless. It was his funeral. A congregation had assembled as witnesses of this funeral rite for men becoming Catholic priests. They must die to their old life before being born into a new life as a priest. It is amazing that Zen Buddhists have the same beginning of the spiritual journey. You must die to your old self, the Great Death 大死, before you can live for others. Masao Abe, Zen scholar, claims that Christ died the Great Death in Philippians 2:5-12, descending to earth from heaven to die on the Cross. Akizuki Ryōmin and Kōshirō Tamaki, both renown university Zen professors, claim that

in Galatians 2:20 the Apostle Paul experienced being crucified with Christ, the Great Death. It is no longer Paul who lives, but Christ lives through him. For both Jesus and Paul, the Great Death, of course, results in a Great Birth. Little baby steps of faith for children lead to experiences of Great Death and Great Birth as they follow Jesus through 80 years in the briar patch of life.

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



BILLYEE PRESENTS

Mark Carter

MEN IN BLACK



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

Sun. August 22, 2022 - 7PM



Hosted by

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



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)

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

Under the Sea



When I Grow Up



Monday: Baker **Tuesday:** Fire Dept. **Wednesday:** Dancer **Thursday:** Lion Den Leader **Friday:** Dentist

Aloha



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 8 & 9 - School Closed - Preparing for the new school year

August 10 - First day of school for 3-day & 5-day programs

August 11 - First day of school for 2-day program



Follow us on Facebook



8/8: Ruth Sangok Chon
8/9: Cyndi Hutchins
8/10: Jesse Chang
8/12: Ashley Parks
8/13: Elena Littlefield
8/14: Elsie Takahama
8/15: Adison Bariya
8/16: Duli Dhar
8/17: Jasmine Furukawa
8/28: Janice Hurtado
8/30: Stuart Jacobson



8/3: Vivian & Alan Mori
8/7: Phyllis Tyler & Marshall Mock
8/9: Cyndi & Paul Hutchins
8/11: Yenny & Brett Staal
8/28: Sharon Mori & Kenneth Oku



-Family of Tak Yoshida
-Family of Roy Iketani
-Family of Ets Nakamura
-Sets Tani
-Family of May Tenaka
-Jeannie Wong
-Echavarria 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



How does our doing differ from our being?

Ratheesh Pillai

1 Thessalonians 2:12-13

Encouraging, comforting, and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory... you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

A few years ago, while visiting Hua Hin, Thailand, I visited some Buddhist cave temples and saw several monks around. For many years I questioned whether they believe in God or if they only live according to the Buddha's teaching. On one occasion, with nerve and courage, I asked, "Do you believe in God?" Then, a few years later, I met a person in a busy street in Seoul, South Korea. He was a white American but a Hindu sadhu and dressed like a Hindu priest. Following our conversation, he asked me "Do you believe in God?" A few weeks ago, an individual in a grocery store asked me the same question, "Do you believe in God?"

I used to believe in various gods from the mythical stories, the gods my parents taught, and they showed certain images of in certain religious buildings and worship places; they persuaded me to believe these were God. Many people want to believe in some kind of god or divinity for prosperity, security, and other advantages. I always pondered which God I should believe in. How do I even know there is a divine existence?

My life-shifting question and choice to obey Christ are posing the question: Do I believe, or do I have to believe in Him? Then how do we delineate belief? Beliefs can be different based on different perceptions, religious orientation, worldviews, education, and oral stories that are so different in certain contexts. Some believe in God because of their religious status. Therefore, we must examine ourselves by asking whether we believe in God and how we are convincing the world that we believe in God not just by going to church or giving biblical names to our children.

Every time my classmates meet online from various countries, we frequently talk about how our studies and research define that we believe in God. Apart from our ministries, preaching, and other social activities, how can we mirror to the world that we believe in Christ? As doctoral students, we all know we can construct social theories and do quantitative research, but what can be reflected from our studies is that we believe in God as a disciple of Christ. Is what you believe what you believe, act out, or say? How do I act if I believe in God? If we say we believe in God, we are not talking only about the words that we say on Sundays, the apostle's creed or the Nicene creed, or the Athanasian creed, but our beliefs that go beyond words; it's about how we live.

Many of us forget that our being echoes whom we believe in. Sometimes it's hard to explain to others which God we believe in. God help us to trust the gospel message, to produce that good news, and do all in our lives for you, the living and true God.

Let us draw people to Christ through a Godly lifestyle and by holding to our faith and the way we believe in God.

Do you believe in God?

Shalom.



AUGUST 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Bible Study and Evening Prayer on break: will resume September 7	4	5 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM	6 Tak Yoshida Memorial 10:00 AM
7 Worship Service 10:00 AM	8	9	10 Bible Study and Evening Prayer on break: will resume September 7	11	12 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 AM	15	16	17 Bible Study and Evening Prayer on break: will resume September 7	18	19 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 AM	22	23	24 Bible Study and Evening Prayer on break: will resume September 7	25	26 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 AM	29	30	31 Bible Study and Evening Prayer on break: will resume September 7			