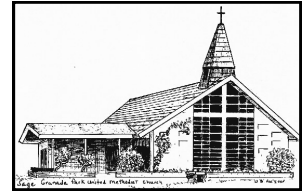




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



January 2023 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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Ashley Parks, Sunday Childcare

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"Epiphany: Putting Christmas to Work"

Rev. George Martzen



"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you." – Isaiah 60:1

Did you open Christmas presents this year? As a child, I was so excited to see all the colorful Christmas presents under the tree. Of course, at some point we opened up all the pretty packages with expressions of excitement and appreciation for whoever gave the gift, and then figured out to do with them. Clothes could be tried on, toys got immediate traction, and tools were set to work on something. We couldn't just leave them unopened.

At Christmas time we sometimes talk about God's gift to us in a child born in the manger of Bethlehem. What have you done with that gift?

Early in January, the church celebrates the Epiphany of our Lord. January 6 is the Epiphany, though we will celebrate it on January 1. The Epiphany refers to the manifestation of Jesus as the Christ or sovereign to the nations. In other words, Jesus is revealed as the expression or demonstration of heaven's intentions.

That is expressed in scripture and Christian tradition in several ways, especially the coming of the Magi, the sages from the east who followed the star to Bethlehem. The Isaiah text expresses that manifestation: "Arise, shine; for your light has come..." The light dawned on those sages, and they had an "aha" moment when they saw the Christ child. Countless others have also had moments of enlightenment or spiritual assurance from which they were energized.

There are two ways to talk about this Epiphany. First of all is to have an illuminating experience, not unlike John Wesley's when in 1738, he felt his heart "strangely warmed," and he knew personally that Christ died for him. But there was more, because, secondly, Wesley himself

became part of the manifestation or epiphany for others when he followed George Whitefield into field preaching and eventually organized the new movement into small groups for growth in discipleship. He had opened to Christmas and started putting it to work.

So the question for each of us is, first, how has the Spirit of Jesus Christ become manifest to you? And secondly, how have you continued to put this manifestation into practice in your lives, families and communities? As a young person, I was personally energized by the Jesus People movement, but I was also motivated to help my mother set up Open Gate Ministries, a shelter and program to help homeless families.

This January, after the Epiphany we will commemorate the baptism of our Lord on Jan. 8. That is an opportunity for those already baptized, to give thanks and reflect on the implications of their own baptism. All those who have been baptized into Christ also have a calling to serve Christ in the world. We are all ministers by virtue of our baptism. What ministry has God called you to? How will you be a continuation of the Epiphany?


January 15 is Human Relations Day, a time to consider how we as Methodist Christians can build on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of "the beloved community." On Human Relations Day there is a special offering to help programs such as Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. This relates to the ideals of this congregation. Let us consider how we ourselves can be that "beloved community" in which all persons are counted as worthy.

There may be other ways that we can help to make the Spirit of Christ manifest in our world. Many of us are serving in one way or another with the Preschool, with the Japanese Language School, with K.N.I., the Scouts, children's and youth programs directly connected to Sage Granada Park that make a difference in our community. May we each this month experience the Epiphany of Christ, and continue his manifestation to the world.

<u>December 4</u>	<u>December 11</u>	<u>December 18</u>	<u>December 25</u>
Attendance: 38 In Person/ 32 On Line	Attendance: 27 In Person/ 33 On Line	Attendance: 31 In Person/ 38 On Line	Attendance: 50 In Person/ 32 On Line
Offering: \$5,629.35	Offering: \$46.95	Offering: \$9,079.52	Offering: \$46.95



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 \$124,23.06 and our general offering budget for 2022 is \$102,000.00

<u>January 1</u>	<u>January 8</u>	<u>January 15</u>	<u>January 21</u>	<u>January 29</u>
Worship Liturgist: Elaine Chung	Worship Liturgist: Ruth Chon	Worship Liturgist: Sengeduane Tom	Worship Liturgist: Angelea Marquez	Worship Liturgist: YOUTH
 <p>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, Kai Garcia, Sunny Kim, Ryan Wong, Rev. Yagi, Rev. Phillip Wood and Rev. George Martzen</p>				



NOBODY IS RUNNING THIS SHOW?

It took millions of years for the planet Earth to cool down so life could appear. Sea animals became land animals through millions of years. Human beings appear with brilliant minds that perform heart transplants and fly rockets to the moon. Who is running this show? I talked to two people this month who are much smarter than I. They are Professors of Philosophy and World Religions. They were both saying that “Nobody is running this show. Some people resist the word “God”, so our church is here to say that “Love is running this show.” We raise children to learn to love, we build communities that heal the sick and wounded, feed the hungry, and take in strangers and refugees and help Ukrainians against aggressors. We give primary help to the poor and neglected because Jesus was a friend of the poor and forgotten people. That’s why I belong to this church—it is a “Community of Love”. Hallelujah!

Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi

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.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2022 Christmas Outreach. This year we “adopted” a family in need. Thanks to all of you who donated, organized, and helped we were able to give some joy to a family in need of encouragement.

Thank you again, and Happy New Year!





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)



JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

School Year 2022-2023



T/K & Kinder Ms. Lupe & Mrs. Kiki



Santa & Mrs. Maggie



Ms. Lopez & Miss. Emily



Ms. Fidela



Mrs. Maria

The angel said to them "Do not be afraid for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people." Luke 2:10

UPCOMING EVENTS 2023 Happy New Year

Visit our Preschool Facebook page to watch the students sing Christmas songs

School closed January 2, 2023

Martin Luther King Jr. School closed January 16th

School Choice Week : January 23-27



Follow us on Facebook



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

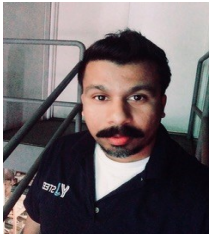


- 1/8 : Steve & Leslie
Hutchins
- 1/15: Damien & Cassandra
Echavarria



"I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS."
EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

- Family of Yoko Hayashida
- Sarah Wong
- Sunny Kim
- Family of Jean McIver
- Family of Tak Yoshida
- Rev. George
- Echavarria family
- Mary Sue Lodwick
- Marilyn McIver
- Mariko Garrett
- Sho Tabata
- Alice Lopez
- Kenley Craver
- David Iwomiya
- Bruce Del Monico
- Leonard Quezada
- Laura Quezada
- Gabriel Morales
- Peace in Ukraine
- Toshiko Ozawa
- Mark and Lauri Wright



A Time for Gratitude, a Time to Forget

Philippians 3:13 "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead..."

When I was a small child, I recall that many of the homes in my neighborhood had Christmas stars, which they hung a few days before Christmas, and I really wanted my own house to have a star. I remember thinking that a Christmas star looked very cool. I used to question my father about it. Why are there just a few homes with stars? I was saddened and embarrassed since many of my friends bragged about the sizes, hues, and forms of their stars, and I had nothing to say.

My father then explained to me that those neighbors believed in Jesus Christ, which we did not, and that they adhered to Christian religion and customs because they are Christians. On Christmas Day, the Christians next door gave us cookies and plum cakes (they soaked all the dry fruits in wine for over a year before making them) and we asked them to invite us to their house.

On one occasion, the neighbors played a TV broadcast in which a guy said that Jesus was not born and did not die only for Christian people or those who celebrate Christmas. Instead, he was born for all of humankind, distinct from what my father had previously told me. The famed Billy Graham was the one who delivered the sermon, and on the evening before Christmas, Billy Graham's worldwide ministry broadcasted the televised Christmas message to people all over the globe through television.

Even though this year I was going through some difficulties, the birth and resurrection of Jesus allowed me to approach the new year with faith rather than dread. My faith is sure today because I have hope.

When we come to Jesus via our faith and share our faith experiences with others around us, there is a fresh birth of hope. God is assuring us that we no longer need to chase new technology like 2g, 3g, 4g, 5g, or 6g; or wait for new technology; rather, all we need is the one and only "G" which is God, and we may proceed by placing our faith in him.

A brand new year has begun. The old year might have problems such as sickness, mistakes, errors, and vanished success. Everyone says they wish for a good and successful year. Remember that people can only wish, but Jesus is the only one who will walk with us even in the valley of the shadow of death. Human gifts expire, fade, and evaporate but Jesus is the same God today, tomorrow, and forever. When we step into the new year let's have faith and a new hope, because Jesus wasn't born just for our neighbors, family members, or the person sitting next to you in church. He was born and died for everyone and that gives us hope.

When we turn our backs on the previous 365 days and turn our gaze toward the next year, we can have hope because we, too can be certain of God's assistance, which produces the hope of a new year that is worth celebrating!


God with us, Emmanuel.

Ratheesh Pillai



January 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship Service 10 PM	2	3	4 Bible Study on break	5 Evening Prayer 4 PM	6 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	7 JLS 9 AM to 12:30 PM
8 Worship Service 10 PM	9	10 Church Council 7 PM	11 Bible Study 1 PM	12 Evening Prayer 4 PM	13 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	14 JLS 9 AM— 12:30 PM
15 Worship Service 10 PM	16  Martin Luther King Jr. DAY	17	18 Bible Study 1 PM	19 Evening Prayer 4 PM	20 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	21 JLS 9 AM— 12:30 PM
22 Worship Service 10 PM	23	24	25 Bible Study 1 PM	26 Evening Prayer 4 PM	27 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	28 JLS 9 AM— 12:30 PM
29 Worship Service 10 PM	30	31				