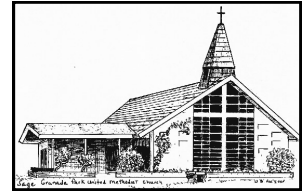




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803



February 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.



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

Kris Taniguchi, Organist
ktani28@hotmail.com

Ashley Parks, Sunday Childcare

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

Julie Quezada, Admin Assistant
sagegranadapark@gmail.com

"Salt of the earth in times like these"

Rev. George Martzen



"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot." – Matthew 5:13

Do you like soy sauce without salt? Ever tried salt-free beef jerky or French fries without salt? Granted, those minding their blood pressure should reduce their salt intake, but sodium is still essential for bodily function.

Salt figures highly in the history of human culture, long used for flavoring, preserving, cleansing, and even soil conditioning. The ancient Phoenicians were skilled at extracting and trading salt. Salt may have been taxed in China as long ago as 2000 years before Christ. The British taxed it in India, and so in the 1930s Mahatma Gandhi galvanized poor Indians in protest against British rule by leading a 200-mile march to the sea to collect untaxed salt.

In America, Martin Luther King, Jr. and friends were inspired by Gandhi's principles of *satyagraha* and non-violent protest, incorporating them into his Christian beliefs and forging a civil rights movement for African Americans and all Americans.

Thanks to Dr. King, we had a holiday in January. But if you happened to miss the point of that holiday, February is Black History Month, officially recognized in 1976 by President Ford, in order to spotlight the "too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Indeed, from the colonial era through the first 80 years of the U.S.A., the American economy was dependent upon the slave labor of people taken from Africa. The great abolitionist Frederick Douglass (born February 14) urged Black slaves to seek their freedom. President Lincoln (born February 12) signed the Emancipation proclamation in 1863, encouraging them to fight for freedom.

In the same way, when Jesus called his poor, powerless followers "the salt of the earth," he was empowering them. Those poor in spirit have a claim on the kingdom of heaven which eclipses all human power politics. Their saltiness signifies an authentic temperament forged in the struggle with trials and tribulations.

The Lunar New Year was sadly full of trials and tribulations this year. Our hearts were broken when a lone gunman killed 11 patrons at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park, shattering the festivities and traumatizing the community. In this case, to be salt of the earth means that we must stand with our neighbors to help restore wholeness and healing. It will take time to heal from the trauma. If you know people who were especially affected, do reach out to them.

On a couple of personal notes, I recently announced that I am officially retiring as of July 1 this year. Since we are United Methodists, my successor will be appointed by the Bishop. We have an influence on that process through our Church Council, in its function as the Staff Parish Relations Committee. Please pray for Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank and the Cabinet, including the District Superintendents, as they discern the best fit for the continuation of our ministry. I would also like to say that I continue under medical care for my pulmonary fibrosis. My condition is not bad enough to be listed for a lung transplant at this point. In the meantime, I continue to anticipate taking care of other associated medical conditions. Thank you for all your prayers and concerns.



Our United Methodist Missionary (GBGM) Rev. Claudia Genung Yamamoto sends New Year greetings from Japan. Every year she send a parchment calendar with a beautiful Watanabe art piece, this one depicting the Resurrection. It is posted in the Church Office. She also sent a card with a brief summary of their life and work, including their youngest son's wedding last year.



Opportunity To Give: KNI needs support— please see the attached flyer for more information about how you can help.

Opportunity For Fun: Looking for a group to enjoy music with, and improve your musical skills at the same time? See the attached flyer from Emese Mohi Music Studios. The lessons will be held at the church—it looks like fun!

<u>January 1</u>	<u>January 8</u>	<u>January 15</u>	<u>January 21</u>	<u>January 29</u>
Attendance: 29 In Person/ 39 On Line	Attendance: 36 In Person/ 42 On Line	Attendance: 26 In Person/ 44 On Line	Attendance: 32 In Person/ 45 On Line	Attendance: 34 In Person/ 57 On Line
Offering: \$1,557.05	Offering: \$126.05	Offering: \$2,709.15	Offering: \$126.05	Offering: \$75.00



Because we are not taking in-person offerings, you may give to the church by mail or online at our website www.sgpumc.org. 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 \$4,593.30 and our general offering budget for 2023 is \$102,000.00

<u>February 5</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>Liturgist: Jan Hurtado</u>	<u>February 12</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>Liturgist: Scouts</u>	<u>February 19</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>Liturgist: John Taniguchi</u>	<u>February 26</u> <u>Worship</u> <u>Liturgist: Jan Hurtado</u>
---	---	---	--



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



Hagar was Sarah

Genesis 16:1-6

Hagar was Sarah's Egyptian slave girl. Sarah could not produce a child heir. So, she gave Hagar to sleep with Abraham but was jealous when Ishmael was born. Sarah then sent Hagar and Ishmael into the desert to die. No one ever really saw Hagar; they only saw a work producing slave. But, God saved Hagar. Hagar was so surprised that God would notice a slave girl and gave God a new name; Yahwah, "THE GOD WHO SEES ME."

Be sure that God sees you, also!

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.



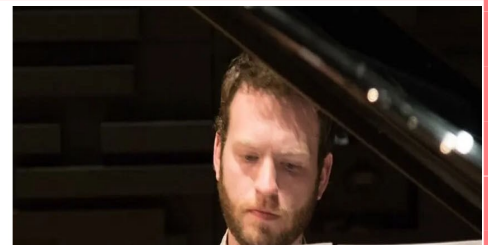
Saturday Feb. 25, 2023

Admission Free with RSVP at

alhambra.eventbrite.com

or \$20. admission at the intermission

Chef/Artistic Director Presents Brenden White



Hosted by Sage Granada Park UMC

1850 W. Hellman Ave., Alhambra CA 91801

(626) 230 5435 Email: 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)



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

School Year 2022-2023



Martin Luther King Jr.

"I Have A Dream"

Chinese New Year

"Year of the Rabbit"



California-Hawaii Elks Vision Screening: The purpose is to identify children who may be at risk for undetected vision abnormalities.



SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK—"CHOOSE OURS": Parents have an opportunity to choose the schools their child will attend



UPCOMING EVENTS:

School closed February 20, 2023 Presidents Day

Ash Wednesday February 22nd, 2023

Save the Date: School Open House March 10th, 2023



Follow Us On Facebook



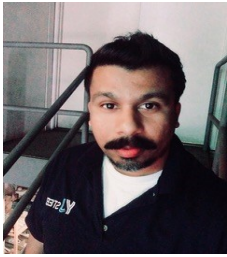
- 2/1: Douglas Williams
Suzanne Yoshiko
- 2/3: Sets Tani
- 2/5: Kenji Kinoshita
Mariko Garrett
- 2/8: Andrew Iwamoto
Roberta Echavarria
- 2/9: Christina Solomon
Julie Quezada
- 2/10: Damien Echavarria
- 2/12: Arnold Saiki
Max Hurtado
- 2/16: Ruel Reyes
- 2/17: Steve Houk
- 2/21: Keira Garcia
Patty Peebles
- 2/26: Elain Kishina
Helen Ikeda



*None



- 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



Is That Really You, God?

John 4 11: 12 “Sir, the woman said...Are you greater than our father Jacob?”

My 2023 began with meditating and asking, in numerous contexts, *“Is that really you, God?”*.

I discerned that merely performing a few spiritual rituals or Christian deeds is an insufficient remedy to answer this question. Even though Jesus' chosen disciples accompanied him daily, listened to him, and watched what he did, they were always skeptical and ambiguous. They kept asking the same question: Is he really God?

In Matthew 11:3, John the Baptist sends disciples to Jesus and asks “Is that really you, God?” In Matthew 14:22-33, the disciples doubt and suspect Jesus, asking the same question. In John 18 at the time of the crucifixion, Peter’s denial of Jesus raises yet again the same question, “Is that really you, God?” In John 20:24-29 the disciple Thomas expresses his uncertainty and speculated whether Christ is really God. Jesus, who was aware of their internal monologues, questioned his disciples regularly: "How do you discern me?" or “Do you believe, without a shadow of a doubt, that I am the Maker, the Redeemer, and the Son of God?” When we all experience irrefutable, life challenging circumstances, I think most Christians will approach it with the same question. When I started my Christian pilgrimage, the first book I read was called *“Is that really you, God?”* Written by the founder of Youth With A Mission, it tells the story of how he discovered the difference between pondering the question and meeting Christ as God in every hard, daunting, and suffering situation. We meet God every day when we listen for his voice, walk by faith, and seek his kingdom by attempting to put our faith into action. Therefore, it is very important for each one of us to recognize that the path of searching for answers to questions about Jesus is a firm conviction, and a spiritual discipline. My 2023 did not get off to a fantastic start. Because of my father's continual health issues, my job, and studies, I found myself questioning, *“Is that truly you, God?”*.

Then, I recall the promise: "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, he is with me." That gives me hope each and every day. There is only one path for us to discover the answers to all of our questions, and that is to seek for him with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. The year for many, just like mine, probably didn't get off to a good start. However, days may change, people's promises can significantly change, and different good and unpleasant seasons can pass through our lives. But if there is one thing that I have gained from my encounters, it is that the God we love is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Furthermore, answering the same question offered me a clearer purpose for why I desire and seek Christ and his kingdom in my life as well as a deeper comprehension of myself and the world. When was the last time you extended your arms and whispered, *“Is that really you, God?”* and also, how did you seek a remedy for the answer? Is He really God?

Shalom.



FEBRUARY 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bible Study 1 PM	2 Evening Prayer 4 PM	3 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	4 JLS 9 AM to 12:30 PM
5 Worship Service 10 PM	6	7	8 Bible Study PM	9 Evening Prayer 4 PM	10 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	11 JLS AM— 12:30 PM
12 Worship Service 10 PM	13	14 	15 Bible Study PM	16 Evening Prayer 4 PM	17 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	18 JLS 9 AM— 12:30 PM Scouts Pancake Breakfast 6:00—11:00 AM
19 Worship Service 10 PM	20	21	22 Bible Study 1 PM  7:00 PM	23 Evening Prayer 4 PM	24 Scouts 6:00— 9:30 PM Choir Practice 6:00 PM	25 JLS 9 AM— 12:30 PM
26 Worship Service 10 PM	27	28				