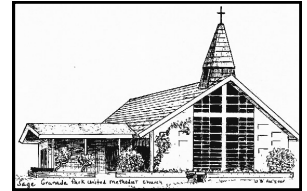




# Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803

626.284.3229



## April 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  
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Ashley Parks, Sunday Childcare

Julie Quezada, E-Thymes Editor  
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### E-Thymes April 2023

#### "We are Easter People"

Rev. George Martzen



***"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3***

"Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring...

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe..."

Rev. William Marcus James wrote the words of this hymn, "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" (UMH 304) in 1979. It was first sung at Metropolitan Community UMC, in Harlem, where he had already been pastor for many years. Rev. James worked tirelessly both as pastor and civil rights activist, inspiring many young people to become involved in ministry themselves.

What does it mean to be Easter People? We might take a clue from the "living hope" that 1 Peter 1:3 mentions. Could it mean that the celebration of that one day, Easter, becomes the overriding purpose of one's life?

Jesus had proclaimed the kingdom of God in word and deed, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and even raising the dead. He broke down barriers to the marginalized, eating with the tax collectors and sinners. All his actions threatened the old guard. So, he was betrayed by his so-called friends and handed over to be killed as an enemy of the state. The few remaining disciples must have been paralyzed by fear, knowing that they could also be rounded up as co-conspirators. But by experiencing the miracle of his resurrection, Peter and the other disciples discovered a hope that lifted them above their fear.

The same power of God that raised Jesus can also be our aid in our own suffering and fears. As the hymn says, "Fear of death can no more stop us."

Indeed, the New Testament Acts of the Apostles recounts the courage and faith of those followers of Jesus after they had been born again into that living hope. Isn't courage inspiring? Jesus' followers now spoke boldly and convincingly to crowds and defended themselves before interrogators, who wanted to suppress the new movement. Because of that courage over fear, the movement grew.

What are your biggest fears? Are you afraid of poor health, of economic deprivation, of disappointing someone else, or of failure itself? Some people are understandably fearful that something terrible may happen to their children at school. As I've watched my own health deteriorate, an honest fear I have is that I won't have enough time to finish all the projects that I had put off until retirement. All these fears are related to the fear of death. But the experience of resurrection inspires hope. And that hope is the power of imagination to see beyond whatever obstacles life throws at us. So, let us be Easter People.

The Easter story begins with Good Friday. This year, we have the opportunity again to join with our friends at Shepherd of the Hills UMC, in Monterey Park, for a Good Friday service, April 7 at 7 p.m.

Easter falls on April 9. Besides being the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, Easter historically marked the ending of the Lenten fast, during which time Christians showed solidarity with Christ's suffering (incidentally, this year Lent and Easter overlap with Ramadan, when our Muslim friends are fasting). So, we begin the celebration of Easter morning with Easter Breakfast, beginning at 7 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets will not be sold in advance.

Easter worship is at 10 a.m., with the flowering of the cross, baptisms and choir anthems, along with a special surprise guest. Children will have an Easter egg hunt. So if you have been shy about coming out for worship, don't be shy on Easter Sunday. See you then!



#### March 5

Attendance: 40 In Person/  
34 On Line

Offering: \$1,627.47

#### March 12

Attendance: 28 In Person/  
20 On Line

Offering: \$692.40

#### March 19

Attendance: 36 In Person/  
26 On Line

Offering: \$126.05

#### March 26

Attendance: In Person/ On  
Line

Offering: \$541.35



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 \$15,495.00 and our general offering budget for 2023 is \$102,000.00

#### April 2

Worship

Liturgist: Alicia Marquez  
Preaching: Rev. Yagi

#### April 9

Worship

Liturgist: Paul Wong  
Preaching: Rev. George

#### April 16

Worship

Liturgist: Jan Hurtado  
Preaching: Rev. Wood

#### April 23

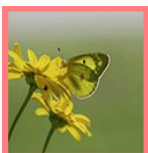
Worship

Liturgist: John Taniguchi  
Preaching: Rev. George

#### April 30

Worship

Liturgist: Youth  
Preaching: Rev. George



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, Ryan Wong, Rev. Yagi, Rev. Philip Wood, Rev. Yvonne Boyd and Rev. George Martzen



Being self-centered may be the main human problem.  
I eat when I am hungry; not when you are hungry.  
I sleep when I am sleepy; not when you are sleepy.  
I yell when I pound my finger; not when you pound your finger.  
Some Asian religion might see self-centered living as the most difficult to solve.

Yet Jesus simply taught us to love our brethren, our neighbor, and love even our enemies. When we love anybody, we forget ourselves. That is, when we love anybody, we automatically forget to love ourselves. What seems an unsolvable problem in Asia might be the simplest thing for Christians. Love your neighbor. Love your enemy.

*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 April 22, 2023***

***7:00 PM***

***You don't want to miss The South Pasadena Transit Authority—come and enjoy an evening of good music and good food hosted by APAC and Chef Bill Yee***







## 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](mailto:gpumns1850@gmail.com) <http://gpumnsk.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/gpumns1850>

**Limited openings:** We are still accepting Registration for the 2023-2024 school year: Children 2 years 6 months (potty trained) to 5 years old (Kindergarten)

### APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

School Year 2022-2023

#### Little Buckaroo



#### Plumbing Fundraiser



**Pony Rides and Pictures.** Thank you for supporting our Plumbing Fundraiser. Each student received a stuffed lamb and snacks as a thank you to our parents.

#### St. Patricks Day



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Easter Bunny Visit 9:30am

April 7<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday School closes at 12:00 noon

April 9<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday

*"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door." Irish Blessing*

Follow us on Facebook



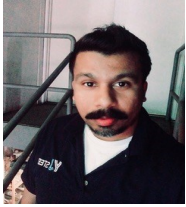
- 4/1: Alison Mori
- 4/2: Jerry Littlefield
- 4/6: Sally Bell
- 4/9: Carri Matsumoto
- 4/10: Lisa Elaine Del Monico
- 4/19: Debashish Dhar
- 4/22: Angelea Marquez Emma Parks Mataro Nakamura
- 4/26: Ernest Tom III
- 4/28: Judy Wong Kotoko Toji



- 4/6: Sally & Jim Bell
- 4/13: Doreen & Paul Bolten
- 4/15: Shelly & James Bitner



- Ratheesh and Esther Pillai
- Phil Martzen
- Rev. George
- Sarah Wong
- Sunny Kim
- Echavarria family
- Mary Sue Lodwick
- Marilyn McIver
- Mariko Garrett
- Sho Tabata
- Alice Lopez
- Kenley Craver
- David Iwomiya
- Bruce Del Monico
- Leonard & Laura Quezada
- Gabriel Morales
- Toshiko Ozawa
- Janice Schenfische
- All affected by the Monterey Park Shooting



*Ratheesh's article will return in May*

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I hope you all survived our exciting weather; cold, hail, tornados, rain, snow, you name it we got it! But now it's time for clean up and spring time renewal. At Christmas we celebrate God's gift to us in the form of the Christ child. Now we celebrate the reason for that gift—the cross, the resurrection and the empty tomb. We have so much to be thankful for—we are blessed!



**Don't miss out!** ~Good Friday Service with the Shepherd of the Hills Congregation in Monterey Park on Friday April 7 at 7 PM ~Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday from 7-9 ~Easter Service with the flowering cross, music, baptisms, a special guest, and even an egg hunt ~Like to sing? Consider joining the choir—practice is every Friday at 6 PM ~Saturday May 6 (time to be determined) we will be picking strawberries and enjoying the fresh air together. More information to follow but save the date.



**Weddings, family reunions, baby showers, birthdays, anniversaries and memorial gatherings—do you know anyone who is looking for a venue for their event?** We have an excellent facility that many rent for such events, which provides a good source of revenue for our church. If you are in the market for a place to hold your event, or if you know someone who is in need of a venue, please recommend our church. You would be helping them and helping our church at the same time. Pricing is very reasonable. If you have questions or know someone who does, please have them call the church or email:

**Church: 626-284-3229 Tuesday—Friday 9:30 AM—2:30 PM**

**Email: [Sagegranadapark@gmail.com](mailto:Sagegranadapark@gmail.com)**



# April 2023



| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY                        | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY                       |
|--|---|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>2</b><br><br><b>HOSANNA!</b><br>Worship Service<br>10 AM   | <b>3</b><br><br><b>Holy Week</b> | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b><br>Bible Study<br>1 PM  | <b>6</b><br><br><b>Maundy</b><br>Thursday<br>Evening Prayer<br>4 PM | <b>7</b> <i>Good Friday</i><br><i>Service 7 PM</i><br><i>Shephard of the Hills UMC</i><br>Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM<br>Choir Practice 6:00 PM | <b>8</b><br>JLS 9 AM—12:30 PM  |
| <b>9</b><br><br><b>Easter SUNDAY</b><br><i>He is Risen</i><br><b>Easter Breakfast</b><br>7-9 AM<br>Worship Service<br>10 AM | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b><br><br><b>MEETING</b><br>7 PM | <b>12</b><br>Bible Study<br>1 PM | <b>13</b><br>Evening Prayer<br>4 PM   | <b>14</b><br>Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM<br>Choir Practice 6:00 PM  | <b>15</b><br>JLS 9 AM—12:30 PM |
| <b>16</b><br>Worship Service<br>10 AM  | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b><br>PAC 7 PM  | <b>19</b><br>Bible Study<br>1 PM | <b>20</b><br>Evening Prayer<br>4 PM   | <b>21</b><br>Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM<br>Choir Practice 6:00 PM  | <b>22</b><br>JLS 9 AM—12:30 PM |
| <b>23</b><br>Worship Service<br>10 AM  | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b><br>Bible Study<br>1 PM | <b>27</b><br>Evening Prayer<br>4 PM   | <b>28</b><br>Scouts 6:00—9:30 PM<br>Choir Practice 6:00 PM  | <b>29</b><br>JLS 9 AM—12:30 PM |
| <b>30</b><br>Worship Service<br>10 AM  |   |  |                                  |   |   |                                |