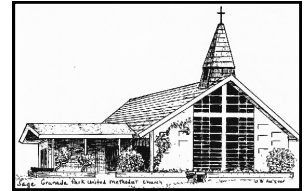




Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

1850 West Hellman Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803
626.284.3229



May 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
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E-Thymes May 2023

"Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month"



"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." – Acts 2:4

If you've gotten out of your house in the past few weeks, or you've driven past open hillsides, then your eyes have probably been bombarded by the brilliance of the poppies, wild lilac, mustard, sage and other wildflowers flourishing from the abundant rains. Our own wildflower garden, planted by the Morrisons, is also spreading, with flowers blooming in the raised bedding along with the milkweed planted by Ryan Wong. It's so wonderful to see the diversity of colors and species. In the same way, it is so wonderful to experience the diversity of people that make up our region and our church.

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. May was originally chosen because of two important dates. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrant, a 14-year-old fisherman by the name of Manjiro, arrived in the United States, after being shipwrecked and then adopted by the American ship's captain who rescued him ([History Channel](#)). Then on May 10 in 1869, Americans celebrated the golden spike being driven into the first transcontinental railroad. That could not have happened without the backbreaking labor of Chinese immigrants.

Of course, that reflects only some of the Asian ethnicities who have helped to make America what it is today, not to mention the Asia Pacific Islander communities. California Pacific Annual Conference includes people from across the Pacific, including Tonga, Samoa, Saipan, as well as Hawaii. Our own church is a microcosm of ethnic diversity. Sage Granada Park UMC was created 25 years ago, in May 1998, as a merger of Sage UMC, a historic Japanese American congregation, and Granada Park UMC. Our diversity now includes families with ancestry from Japan, China, Korea, India, Southeast Asian nations, Hawaii and other Pacific Islands, as well those who trace from Europe and Latin America.

Joined together as a faith community, we may certainly enjoy each other's diverse stories and contributions. I have certainly valued the stories of how Japanese American families struggled during World War II to maintain their identity and pride in spite of the incarcerations resulting from Executive Order 9066. And so we should hear each other's stories and cherish the diversity of our identities.

But we are a church called into being by the same Holy Spirit who fell upon the apostles on that Pentecost so long ago. That means that we have a purpose that both includes and transcends our diversity. In the Acts 2 story of the first Pentecost, the Spirit didn't come just so they could have a nice big church in Jerusalem. They were called to mission, to transform the world according to the vision of God's eternal reign. Eventually, they were scattered abroad to the linguistic diversity of the Jewish diaspora and eventually to the linguistic and ethnic diversity of the whole world.

So also we in our diversity must also be looking outward. That is what our Communion prayer proclaims: "Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others."

Faith communities, like Sage Granada Park, which are learning to live and work together in diversity are also being equipped by the Spirit to minister in a world of diversity. We live in a world of need, hungering for spiritual food, hungering for food to fill their stomachs. So let us follow the Spirit to address bringing spiritual and physical food to the world.

**Many things celebrate in May – JA Awareness, UM Heritage month, Mother's Day.
We may very well celebrate our diverse heritages.**

<u>April 2</u>	<u>April 9</u>	<u>April 16</u>	<u>April 23</u>	<u>April 30</u>
Attendance: 42 In Person/39 On Line	Attendance: 60 In Person/33 On Line	Attendance: 49 In Person/27 On Line	Attendance: In Person/On Line	Attendance: In Person/ On Line *not available



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 \$18,982.70 and our general offering budget for 2023 is \$102,000.00

May 7 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Ruth Chon</i> <i>Preaching: Rev. Dickson Yagi</i>	May 14 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Sengeduane Tom</i> <i>Preaching: Ratheesh Pillai</i>	May 21 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Angelea Marquez</i> <i>Preaching: Rev. George</i>	May 28 <i>Worship</i> <i>Liturgist: Archana Carey</i> <i>Preaching: Rev. George</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, Louise Garcia, Ryan Wong, Rev. Yagi, Rev. Philip Wood, Rev. Yvonne Boyd and Rev. George Martzen



The Miracle of the Resurrection

The early church believed in the Easter Resurrection as a dead body coming back to life, blood circulating, lungs breathing, body temperature warming, then rising into heaven to the Right Hand of God. A Physical Miracle.

In the pre-scientific world view, religions proved their religious truth by physical miracles. Theravada Buddhism has virgin birth stories for Gautama Buddha. Islam teaches that Muhammed rode a miracle horse through the sky from Mecca to Jerusalem, visiting Heaven on the way, in one night. (ISRA & MIRAJ) In today's scientific world it is the Apostle Paul's view of a spiritual resurrection (New Testament Romans, etc.) that inspires most Christians. The Resurrection for Paul is mainly a spiritual Jesus rising to live in the hearts of all Christians. Elsewhere

Paul confirms the bodily resurrection. But in his writing of Christian living, he speaks only of the Spirit of Christ (Cosmic Christ) which fits well in today's view of science. Today Christians have this choice of Physical or Spiritual Resurrection—or both. No problem.

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 May 27, 2023 - 7pm

**Jazz Pianist/Vocalist Peggy Duquesnel - Jazz Vocalist/Drummer Tony Jones
Seven-String Guitar Ron Eschete - Bassist Luther Hughes**



FREE with RSVP: alhambra.eventbrite.com or \$20. at the door

Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church 1850 W. Hellman Ave, Alhambra 91803 (626) 230 5435



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 2023-2024 school year: Children 2 years 6 months (potty trained) to 5 years old (Kindergarten)

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

School Year 2022-2023

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Bunny



Easter chapel with Rev. George

All About Caterpillars



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8th-12th Teacher Appreciation week

May 24th last Chapel day with Rev. George at 9:30am

May 25 & 26 last day of school for the 2 days & 3 days

May 29th Memorial Day School Closed

May 30th & 31st School closed in preparation for Summer School June 1st

The preschool is hiring for the positions of Teacher and Teacher's Aide

Requirements: 12 units ECE, Proof of current TB and experience.

For more information please contact the preschool at (626) 284-5006



SCAN ME



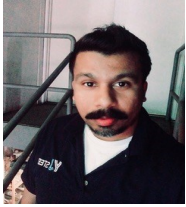
5/2: Doreen Bolten
5/4: Shawn Solomon
5/5: Bill Yee
5/6: Leslie Hutchins
5/11: Dickson Yagi
5/17: Mark Quezada
5/23: Alicia Marquez
Jonathan Kishina
Marilyn McIver
5/24: Karinia Shafer
Kenny Okuda
5/25: John Furukawa
5/29: Annica Carey
5/30: Christian Stevenson
Sarah Wong



5/16: Arnie Saiki & Ruth Chon
5/20: Mark & Julie Quezada
5/21: Howard & Janet Nishina
5/26: Pyoung Hwa Lee & Sehong Mun
5/30: Christie & Brad Hutchins



-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



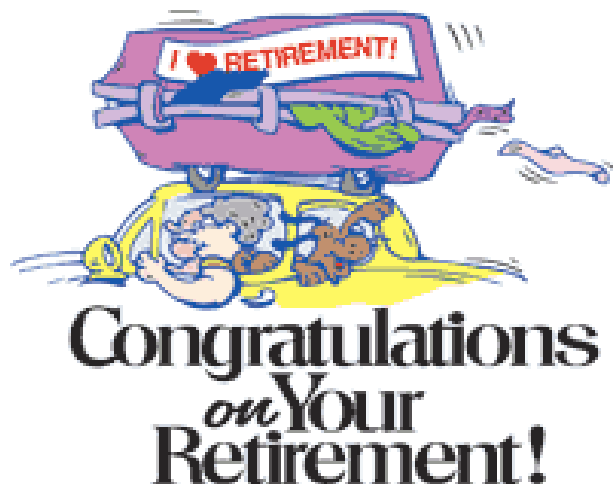
Ratheesh's article will return next month



Retirement Luncheon: May 20, 2023, 11:30 A.M., at the church

Please rsvp by May 12 to: <http://evite.me/2J1qPZmKRN>

As you know, our good friend and minister, Rev. George Martzen, is retiring this year. It will be difficult to say goodbye to someone who has been a wonderful friend, teacher, counselor and minister to all of us in this congregation and we want to honor him and send him off to retirement in grand style! Please plan to attend and take the opportunity to wish Rev. George well in this next phase of life.





May 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>Asian American Heritage Month</i>	2 Nikki Interfaith Fellowship 11:30 AM	3 Bible Study 1 PM	4 <i>National Day of Prayer</i> Evening Prayer 4 PM	5 Scouts 6—9 PM Choir Practice 6 PM	6 JLS 9 AM
7 Worship In Person and Online 10 AM	8	9  7 PM	10 Bible Study 1 PM	11 Evening Prayer 4 PM	12 Scouts 6—9 PM Choir Practice 6 PM	13 JLS 9 AM
14  Worship In Person and Online 10 AM	15	16 PAC 7 PM	17 Bible Study 1 PM	18 <i>Ascension Day</i> Evening Prayer 4 PM	19 Scouts 6—9 PM Choir Practice 6 PM	20 JLS 9 AM <i>Rev. George's Retirement Party 11:30 AM</i>
21 <i>Heritage Sunday</i> Worship In Person and Online 10 AM	22	23	24 <i>Aldersgate Day</i> Bible Study 1 PM	25 Evening Prayer 4 PM	26 Scouts 6—9 PM Choir Practice 6 PM	27 JLS 9 AM APAC 7 PM
28 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> Worship In Person and Online 10 AM	29 	30	31 Bible Study 1 PM			