



**FEBRUARY
2018**



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024-2288

Phone: (626) 355-0629 – E-mail: sm_umc@verizon.net

Follow us on TWITTER.com at [SierraMadreUMC](https://twitter.com/SierraMadreUMC)

Website: www.smumc.net



*Laissez Les Bon
Temps Rouler!*



**It's Time to Celebrate Fat Tuesday
on Sunday, February 11th
Hartzell Fellowship Hall**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

Greetings in Christ:

This year Lent begins on February 14th. What is Lent? The Lent fast is a Christian tradition, but many non-believers also take part. On Ash Wednesday, people all over the globe give up certain foods or habits to improve their health or demonstrate self-restraint. It lasts for 40 days until Easter, but this does not count the Sundays (it would be 46 days were they counted). Ash Wednesday, the day Lent begins, changes every year in accordance to the lunar calendar, just as Easter Sunday. To mark the day, clergy all over the world burn palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday services to create ash. This is then rubbed across people's foreheads in the shape of the cross, as they are reminded: "For dust you are and to dust you shall return". The ceremony is meant to show followers that their lives are short and they must live them to the fullest. We will begin this 40 days of spiritual journey at the Ash Wednesday ceremony February 14th at 5:30 P.M.

Actually, every day of our lives is a spiritual journey. When we wake up in the morning, we start the spiritual journey of the day. A spiritual journey is a very individual and intimate quest to consciously deepen our insight about life. Some people decide to go on a spiritual journey in order to pose themselves profound questions about their lives. The journey can, for instance, help us to better understand our purpose in life. Others seek to intensively study the nature of reality, or wish to grow their understanding of God. Whatever form it takes, a spiritual journey can greatly help us be more at peace with ourselves and the world. Let us search for the mission and purpose of our life. And once we do develop an understanding of our purpose, let us have the courage to pursue it. Our journey will confront us with uncertainties and challenges. But all these experiences will eventually help us to realize our full potential. God be with us all!

Your Servant,
Rev. Sangman Shin, Pastor

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MESSAGE:

Incredibly, we are STILL waiting approval of the Montessori School lease from the East District lawyer. We proceed with renovation to the Education Building. Work is basically complete on Rooms 305 and 306. Lennart has now begun on 307 and 308 and has finished the bathroom in 308. Walls are being prepped for paint and the floors have been stripped to the linoleum awaiting the new faux wood coverings.

We move forward, hoping that the new School will bring new life to the classrooms and to our Church. We believe all the work we are doing now will make for a better future for SMUMC.

As always, we ask that you report all problems or deficiencies to the Board of Trustees, through a Board member or the Church Office.



John Wesley could have been a Jedi

Excerpted from the article by Christopher Fenoglio, dated January 15, 2018

Christopher Fenoglio collects films, books and lots of "et cetera" Star Wars merchandise. He is the managing editor of UMC.org.

The more I read and learn about John Wesley's convictions, hard work, and austere lifestyle, the more I believe [Methodism's founder](#) could have made an excellent Jedi.

Of course, the Star Wars stories are complete fiction, set "a long time ago in a galaxy, far, far away." Still, these films contain motifs that resonate with contemporary audiences, such as the [Christian themes](#) of self-sacrifice, faith in the face of persecution, rebirth, and hope for future generations.

In diving deeper and reflecting on the Jedi characters, I see parallels with [John Wesley's life](#) and ministry.

Jedi on Meditation

In *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, Qui-Gon battles the evil Sith Darth Maul on the planet Naboo. When the two are separated by an energy field, Qui-Gon drops to his knees for a quick meditation to remain calm and focus on the present. A Jedi must maintain a clear mind, achieved through meditation and contemplation. A cluttered mind causes stress and distracts one from the task at hand. One must purge these unnecessary elements from one's consciousness on a daily basis.

John Wesley on Meditation

Wesley practiced prayerful meditation during his daily routine. There is a passage in 1 Timothy 4:15, in which Paul is instructing a young pastor: "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."

About this passage, Wesley wrote that "True meditation is no other than faith, hope, love, joy, melted down together, as it were, by the fire of God's Holy Spirit; and offered up to God in secret. He that is wholly in these, will be little in worldly company, in other studies, in collecting books, medals, or butterflies."

Jedi on Money and Possessions

In *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*, Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn needs to purchase parts to repair the damaged Royal Starship. However, he only has Republic credits, a form of currency not accepted on the remote planet of Tatooine. This illustrates Qui-Gon's inexperience with money matters, for he knows that Jedi must let go of material attachments, even if they need currency for daily activities.

As Qui-Gon was taught by Master Jedi Yoda, Jedi must let go of obsessive attachment, both material and personal. Obsession over possessions creates the fear of losing those possessions, which can lead to the Dark Side.

(Continued on Page Four)



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD
5:00 P.M. – HARTZELL HALL**

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

It is a Friday in Lent, and the faithful parishioner stumbles through pouring rain past hamburger huts and steak houses into the monastery at Mount Angel and requests shelter. He's just in time for dinner and was treated to the best fish and chips he's ever had.

After dinner, he goes into the kitchen to thank the chefs. He's met by two brothers, "Hello, I'm Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis."

"I'm very pleased to meet you. I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful dinner. The fish and chips were the best I've ever tasted. Out of curiosity, who cooked what?"

Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar."

The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be . . ."

"Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."

*credit: Chase at
www.alldeaf.com*

(Continued from Page Three)

John Wesley on Money and Possessions

Wesley knew poverty as a child, but eventually made a decent salary as a teacher at Oxford. He later realized that if he spent money on frivolous items for himself, he would have less to give to those who needed it more than him.

According to Bishop Kenneth L. Carder in his article "[John Wesley on Giving](#)," Wesley felt that Christians should follow all three of his rules regarding wealth, not just stopping after the first:

- Earn all you can
- Save all you can
- Give all you can

"Affluence, according to Wesley, tends to separate us from the poor – and from God and the motivation for giving. Giving to alleviate the suffering of the poor is a joyful passion and a glad participation in Christ's ministry," writes Bishop Carder.

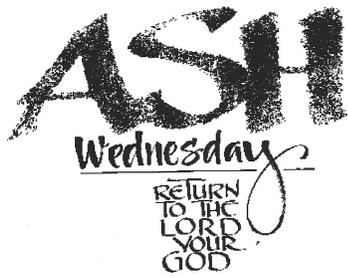
Jedi on Nature

In *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*, Luke journeys to the planet Dagobah to train with Jedi Master Yoda. The entire planet is a swamp, dense with rich vegetation and teeming with living creatures. A Jedi is spiritually aware of the Living Force flowing throughout all of nature. Jedi are trained to become sensitive to the Force's energy, fluctuations, and disturbances, regardless of being in the natural environment or man-made structures.

John Wesley on Nature

Thomas C. Oden, author of [John Wesley's Teachings](#), writes that Wesley saw the [inherent good in the physical earth](#). "We find in Wesley an uncommonly high doctrine of the original goodness of unfallen physical creation. As created, the earth is filled with unadulterated, untainted creaturely goods. As such, it is beautiful; though when distorted by sin, it can be terrifying."

What's more, Wesley believed that the inside of a church is not the only place one can meet God. He "boldly chose to move preaching and faith formation into the 'open air'" where the people would have new access and new opportunities to hear and respond to the Good News. This nurturing of faith in the outdoors, known as 'field preaching,' was a very practical response to [reaching more people](#) and ended up being an amazing asset to the Methodist movement.



**JOIN US
IN WORSHIP
ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

February 14, 2018
5:30 p.m.



Lay Servant Ministries presents their 2018 Event
"Forward Together" on Saturday, February 24th
from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Keynote Speaker: Rev. Steve Horswill Johnston

All Clergy and Laity are invited

Sherman Oaks UMC
14401 Dickens Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
Early Registration ends February 15, 2018

To view the flyer, or to register online, go to:
<http://www.calpacumc.org/event/forward-together-2018-lsm/>

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NOTES:

SUNDAY, February 4th
FIRST SUNDAY



SUNDAY, January 28th to February 4th

FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING – Be sure to get
in touch with Jill to sign up for your shifts.

AND DON'T FORGET!

**Family Promise Potluck Supper
and Game Night**

Saturday, February 3rd, 5:00 p.m.
Hartzell Fellowship Hall



**Family Promise Hosting
for 2018**

January 28 to February 4
August 19 to August 26
October 14 to October 22
December 2 to December 9

NEXT TRYLON DEADLINE

Friday, February 23
for the March 2018 Trylon



FEBRUARY WORSHIP HELPERS

Lead Ushers

- 4 Liz Mackey-Peterson
- 11 Peg Schuster
- 18 Dee Suzuki
- 25 Millie Mittleman



Cart Drivers

- 4 Peg Schuster
- 11 Joe Schuster
- 18 Bob Travis
- 25 Steve Bridal



Fellowship Refreshments

- 4 Member Care
- 11 Adult/Family Ministries
- 18 Foundation
- 25 SPRC



SARAH CIRCLE MEETING

Sarah Circle will be meeting Friday, February 23rd, 12:30 p.m. in Sierra House.

Sarah Circle is open to everyone interested in enjoying fellowship, discussion and a cup of tea.



**Monday through
Friday**
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

626.355.0629



CRAFTY ??? JOIN THE CARD CREATION GROUP

Come join us on Tuesday,
January 30th, 6:30 p.m. at
Connie Wortham's home,
510 Pembroke Dr.,
Pasadena.

This group will be making cards to send to our shut-ins, but you can also make any type of card you want. Contact Connie Wortham at (626) 351-9260 for more information.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

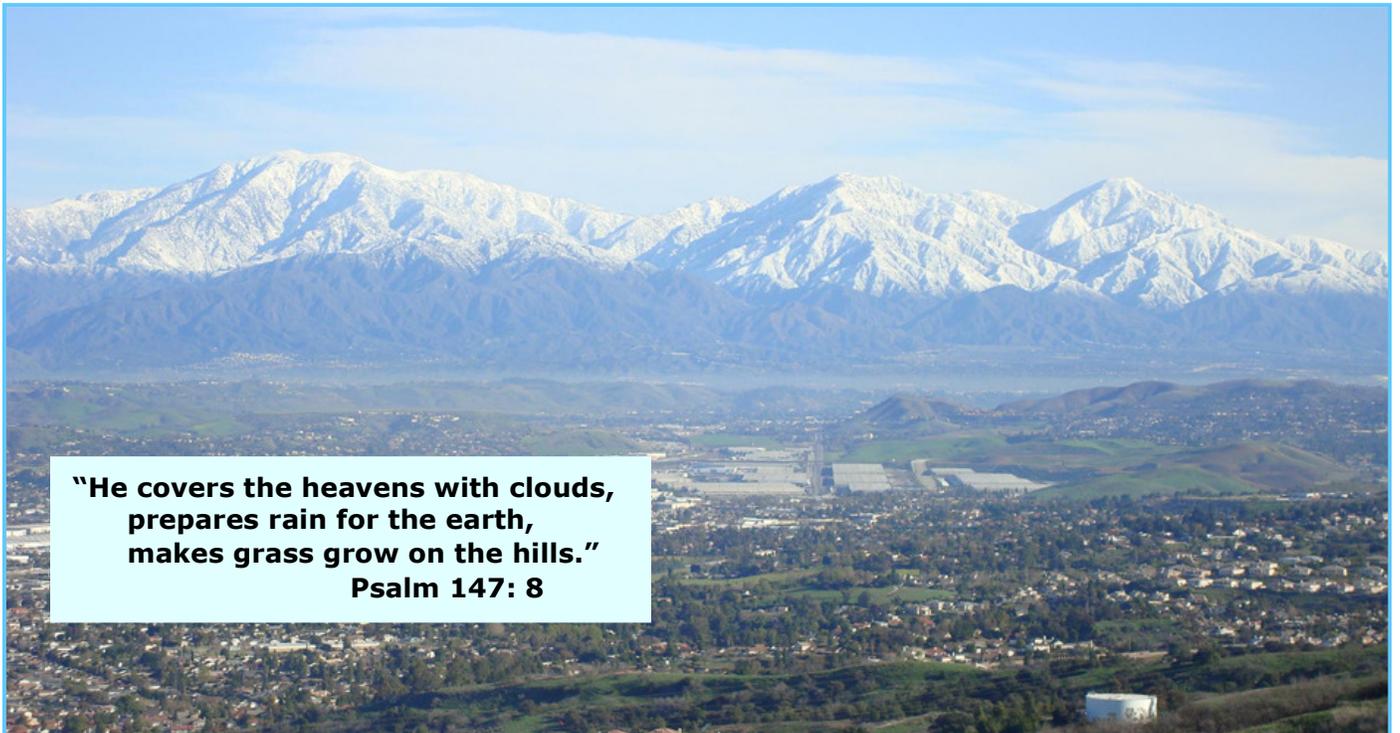
- 2 Rose Hernandez
- 9 Amy Crismer
Tracy Crismer
- 18 Millie Mittleman
Annie Shin
- 19 John Snyder-Walkiewicz



**DON'T FORGET!
FEBRUARY 17th – RUMMAGE WORK**



**Sierra Madre
United Methodist Church
695 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, California 91024**



**"He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills."
Psalm 147: 8**

FEBRUARY 2018

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church 695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

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Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Color Codes:

- Church Activity □
- Church Sponsored □
- Charities □
- Outside groups □

<p>Color Codes: Church Activity □ Church Sponsored □ Charities □ Outside groups □</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING CONTINUES to February 4th</p>		<p>1  as Rhet Butler Clark Gable born 1901</p>	<p>2 </p>	<p>3 FAMILY PROMISE POTLUCK / GAME NIGHT 5:00 p.m. - HH</p>
<p>4 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship – LL 11:00 a.m. – Board of Trustees - SH</p>	<p>5  first published 1922</p>		<p>7 5:00 p.m. – British Home Ministry</p>	<p>8  BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOUNDED 1910</p>		<p>10  National Umbrella Day</p>
<p>11 Last Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary FAT TUESDAY BRUNCH hosted by AFM 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>12  1809-1865</p>	<p>13  1867 – Johann Strauss premieres 'Blue Danube'</p>	<p>14  ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15 Deadline for early registration – LSM event 2/24/18 Finance Comm. 4 p.m. – SH</p>		<p>17 RUMMAGE WORK DAY 9:30 a.m. - SH</p>
<p>18 First Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. – Worship – Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship – LL</p>	<p>19 </p>		<p>21 5:00 p.m. – British Home Ministry</p>	<p>22  1732-1899</p>	<p>23 SARAH CIRCLE 12:30 p.m. – SH</p>	<p>24 2018 Lay Servant Ministries Event <i>Forward Together</i> Sherman Oaks UMC</p>
<p>25 Second Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. – Worship - Sanctuary 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship – LL CHURCH COUNCIL 11:00 a.m. - WC</p>	<p>26  Groundbreaking 1933</p>	<p>27 CARD CREATION – 6:30 p.m. – Connie Wortham's home</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Abbreviations LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House HH = Hartzell Hall WC = Wesley Chapel AFM = Adult and Family Ministries</p>	