

THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

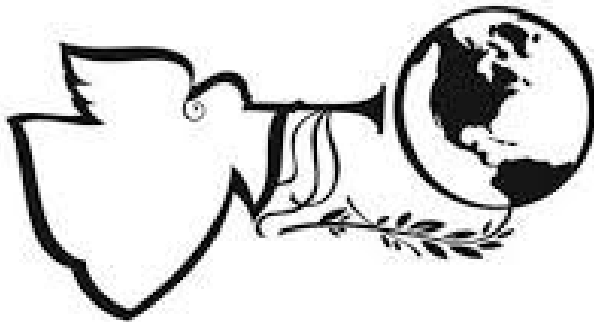
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December 2020



ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

And Boutique - 2020

Our Alternative Gift Fair & Boutique looks a little different this year, but we don't want to miss this season of giving, so we are giving you various options to buy alternative gifts or homemade gifts from our boutique. Full instructions will be emailed the week of 11/29.

- You will receive a list of the organizations we are supporting this year, an order form for alternative gifts, and a catalog and order form for boutique items
- Hartzell Hall will be open for a short time on Sunday December 6th from 10:30am-12:00pm for social distanced shopping of the boutique. You may also use the boutique catalog to place your order ahead of time and select a drive-thru pickup on 12/6 or request contactless delivery.
- Alternative gifts (such as Heifer or Habitat) can be purchased any time through December 15

CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS

We are sponsoring 15 children through the Friends in Deed "Christmas for the Kids" program. Gifts should be unwrapped and delivered to the Church Office or Hartzell Hall by Sunday, December 13. Make sure to have the child's name and family ID number attached to the Gift.

from Pastor Sharon

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At this writing, it is dark in the late afternoon. I am feeling the need for more sleep, like a hibernating bear.

December is the “dark” month, the month of the winter solstice, shortest day of the year.

Dark is often set over against light, with “dark” denoting evil, sin and death, and “light” symbolizing goodness, salvation and new life.

Christ is the light in our darkness. When we are trapped in a dark place of sin and despair, Jesus seeks us out and reclaims us for his kingdom of freedom and hope.

This is a helpful aspect of the dark-light dichotomy.

At the same time, as we live with the realities of racism and the original sin of slavery in America, white people, especially, need to be aware that we have often equated white with goodness and beauty, and black or dark with evil and ugliness. This is a deep wound in our national psyche and in our individual souls.

Healing can come through remembering the beauty of darkness.

There is a way to conceptualize the “dark” that is deep and rich. In the darkness of the soil a seed germinates. From the dark, painful places of our souls new life can emerge, too, if we let it.

In the darkness of night, our tired minds and bodies find rest in a land of dreams. The dark days of winter are a natural part of the seasons that God has established. Spring follows on winter follows on autumn follows on summer follows on another spring. There is comfort in the stability of God’s good creation and the workings of the seasons, especially in this year of unprecedented instability.

“Dark,” in this interpretation, is a part of God’s good plan.

(continued on next page)

John O'Donohue is a Celtic author, beloved by many, including me. There is a blessing in his book, To Bless the Space Between Us, entitled "Before Sleep." Here is an excerpt:

*As darkness within
Is wed to darkness without,
Freed from the weight of light,
Let my eyes sleep,
Relieved of all intensities.*

*Let my imagination
Trawl the compressed seas
To bless the dawn
With a generous catch
Of luminous dream.*

May Christ our Light be with you in the deep, rich, dark days of December, bringing you luminous dreams, and rest from intensities.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sharon

sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com

661-810-3953, cell

Pastor Sharon's sermon titles and worship themes for December
(9:30am Sunday unless otherwise indicated)

December 6	Second Sunday of Advent – <i>Communion Service</i> <i>“The Root of Jesse” (Isaiah 11: 1-10)</i>
December 13	Third Sunday of Advent <i>“Following Christ at a Distance”</i>
December 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>“Believing in God’s Possibilities”</i>
December 24	Christmas Eve – A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols (Thursday, 5:00 p.m.) <i>“Pondering God’s Gift”</i>
December 27	First Sunday after Christmas <i>“Depart in Peace”</i>

December Lectionary Readings:

December 6	Isa. 40: 1-11; 2 Pet. 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8
December 13	Isa. 61: 1-4, 8-11; 1 Thess. 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28
December 20	2 Sam 7: 1-11, 16; Rom 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38
CHRISTMAS EVE	Isa. 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-20
CHRISTMAS DAY	Isa. 52: 7-10; Heb. 1: 1-4; John 1: 1-14
December 27	Isa. 61: 10 – 62: 3; Gal. 4: 4-7; Luke 2: 22-40
WATCH NIGHT/ NEW YEAR'S EVE	Eccl. 3: 1-13; Rev. 21: 1-6a; Matt. 25: 31-46

Psalms for December:

December 6	Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-13
December 13	Psalms 126
December 20	Luke 1: 47-55 (Mary's Song)
CHRISTMAS EVE	Psalms 96
CHRISTMAS DAY	Psalms 98
December 27	Psalms 148
WATCH NIGHT/ NEW YEAR'S EVE	Psalms 8



WHO ARE WE? -- update

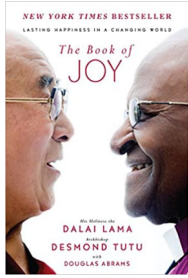
“Past, Present, Future; Passion, Need, Action”

Once again, a heartfelt “thank you!” to those who have already sent in responses to the “Who Are We?” article from previous Trylons.

You may continue to send responses to the church office by email or snail mail, or directly to me at sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com.

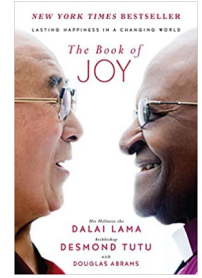
More information will be shared about a conversational Zoom gathering or other format(s) for sometime in 2021 to encourage more telling of Past-Present-Future stories, and more Passion-Need-Action hopes and dreams.

Thank you for participating in this SMUMC storytelling project.



ADVENT STUDY – The Book of Joy ***Lasting Happiness in a Changing World***

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama
and Archbishop Desmond Tutu
with Douglas Abrams**



“In April 2015, Archbishop Desmond Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama’s home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness’s eightieth birthday and to create what they hope would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life’s inevitable suffering?” – excerpt from book jacket

“The ultimate source of happiness is within us.” – His Holiness the Dalai Lama

“We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

When: the 4-week small group study **Wednesdays** – November 18, December 2, 9, 16

What time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: on **ZOOM**, usual worship log-ins (**see page 7**)

Who: You. And a friend or two. Newcomers always warmly welcomed.

1. Invitation/Introduction/Arrival
Day 1: The Nature of True Joy
2. Days 2 & 3: The Obstacles to Joy
3. Days 4 & 5: The Eight Pillars of Joy
Pillars 1-4: Perspective, Humility, Humor & Acceptance
4. Days 4 & 5: The Eight Pillars of Joy
Pillars 5-8: Forgiveness, Gratitude, Compassion & Generosity

The study includes “joy practices” suggested by these two spiritual giants – the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu – to help us in learning to find the joy that is available to us all.

Do I need a book?: No. You can join the conversation without having the book.

What if I want a book? If you would like to have your own copy of The Book of Joy, you may either order it yourself online from Cokesbury.com or the seller of your choice; or you may order a book through the church office; cost is \$23.49; checks made out to SMUMC. Please let Pastor Sharon know if cost is an issue for you; we want everyone to have a book who wants one.

Please attend a session or two in December, even if you missed the introductory session in November. Newcomers always welcome!



Meet Amanda Lewis, Social Media Consultant

I am delighted to introduce Amanda Lewis, a Social Media Consultant helping me to strengthen our church's online ministry.

In these times of coronavirus, quarantines and no in-person gatherings, social media is crucial to the work we do as a church family in sharing God's love with our community.

Amanda is usually in the church office 2:45-4:45 Tuesdays and Wednesdays. She is hard at work, with joyful enthusiasm and insightful creativity, making our social media outreach better. Her work is privately funded through a generous gift from an anonymous benefactor. Please feel free to drop by and say "hello." And please feel free to share your input, ideas or questions with me.

Welcome, Amanda Lewis, Social Media Consultant!

-- Pastor Sharon



STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITY 2020

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

--2 Corinthians 9:8 --

ZOOM Studies and Small Groups

December 2020

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study, 3:00pm

Wednesday evening Faith Issues, 7:00pm

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study – The conversation in this group centers on encouraging one another in how to grow in our relationship with Christ. How can we apply the scriptures and the sermon to our daily lives in meaningful ways? We discuss questions from a Bible study handout that is emailed each week, on the theme of the previous Sunday's Bible passage. Come join the lively dialogue.

If you would like to be added to the study email/snail mail list, we would be happy to do so; simply contact the church office and Pam will cheerfully assist you.

Wednesday evening Faith Issues – the topics vary in this lively small group discussion. We recently completed a 5-week study of Adam Hamilton's Unafraid.

See the article about The Book of Joy, our Advent study based on conversations between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Newcomers always warmly welcomed. Next session December 2.



MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Option 1 – Phone

Dial **1 669 900 9128**. When prompted put in the meeting ID: **612 742 4604** followed by **#**

OR

For smart phones click on the following for One-Tap Mobile phone access **+16699009128,,6127424604#**

(You may need to type the **#** at the end when prompted)

Option 2 – Video

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6127424604?pwd=S3NHT3VUcWN0UWlnamNgeWRTVEVYUT09>

Meeting ID: 612 742 4604

Passcode: 695



JOIN US ON ZOOM
for a celebration of
our Lord Jesus' birth
with music and
scripture

DECEMBER 24TH
5:00 P.M.



SARAH
CIRCLE

Will NOT be
meeting in the
month of December

GARD
CREATION

meetings will be
 announced. Call
 Connie Wortham if
 you want to meet
 her individually to
 make cards.
 (626) 351-9260



- 8 Scott Basinger**
9 Ning Basinger
28 Chandler Guzman (Garzzia)
29 Geoffrey Basinger
31 Dr. Richard Mittleman



The Church
Office is open
Monday through
Friday from 9 am
to 1 pm. You
can also contact
us at our email
addresses:

sm_umc@verizon.net
sierramadreumc@gmail.com

Office Telephone:
(626) 355-0629



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



**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
Luke 2: 14**

DECEMBER

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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

2020

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Abbreviations LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = SH Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel	30 ** All meetings to be verified	1 # GIVING TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 P.M.	2 ZOOM ADVENT SERIES 7:00 P.M.	3	4  INTERNATIONAL CHEETAH DAY	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. - Zoom Worship *	7  WALT DISNEY DAY (1901-1966)	8 ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 P.M. Finance Committee (after Bible Study)	9 ZOOM ADVENT SERIES 7:00 P.M.	10  HAPPY HUMAN RIGHTS DAY	11	12  Gingerbread House Day
13 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. - Zoom Worship * 10:20 a.m. - CHURCH COUNCIL (time approximate - after Worship)	14	15 ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 P.M.	16 Ludwig van Beethoven 250 th BIRTHDAY ZOOM ADVENT SERIES 7:00 P.M.	17	18 CHARLES WESLEY born 1707	19  HOLLY DAY
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Zoom Worship *	21  WINTER SOLSTICE	22 ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 P.M.	23  National Pfeffernusse Day	24 ZOOM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5:00 p.m.	25 Church Office Closed  merry Christmas	26  BOXING DAY December 26
27 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:30 a.m. - Zoom Worship *	28  National call a friend day WHO ARE YOU CALLING?	29 ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 P.M. Card Creation ** Connie Wortham's house	30	31  NEW YEAR'S EVE Watch Night	1 Church Office Closed  2021 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2