



# THE TRYLON

## SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## February 2021

### from Pastor Sharon

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

Since the last edition of the Trylon, our nation has experienced the inauguration of our 46<sup>th</sup> president.

In listening to Republican and Democrat friends, I have heard vastly different reactions to the traditions and formalities of this presidential transition.

Republicans are mostly annoyed by the push for unity. They ask how Democrats felt about the idea of unity in 2016. They talk about the pass that BLM rioters got from the “lamestream” media, whereas the protesters at the capitol building were all vilified and painted with the same brush. There is a strong belief on the Republican side of the aisle that investigations need to be done into voter fraud, particularly concerning mail-in ballots. In addition, many conservatives who weren’t necessarily wild about Mr. Trump and his uncouth behavior were nevertheless supportive of a number of the policies he put in place while in office. The more wildly-supportive Trumpites continue to love his non-PC approach to public speech and his in-your-face stance towards the liberal elite. For the Republicans I have spoken with, the inauguration was not a day to celebrate, and the coming impeachment trial is a confusing waste of time.

Democrats experienced the inauguration as wave upon wave of emotion and patriotism. The capitol building was reclaimed from a January 6 insurrection as Lady Gaga sang a heartfelt, “and our flag was still there...” Jennifer Lopez warmed hearts with her patriotic medley of “This Land is Your Land” and “America the Beautiful,” with a call out in Spanish: “Una nación, bajo Dios, indivisible, con libertad y justicia para todos” – “One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all,” a reminder of the many who do not yet have liberty and justice in this nation. Garth Brooks invited everyone to singalong to “Amazing Grace.”

*(continued on page two)*

Democrats were thrilled at the inauguration of Kamala Harris as so many “firsts” for the office of Vice President: first woman, first Black American, first Asian American, first woman of color. And her husband is the first Jewish “2<sup>nd</sup> spouse,” also being, of course the first “2<sup>nd</sup> husband.” And, of course, Joe Biden’s inauguration brings for Democrats... the word I’ve heard most is “relief.” Relief that a grown-up is finally in charge again.

Amanda Gorman, the young woman who gave the stunning poem at the inauguration, has a bio too long for these pages; her beautiful poem, “The Hill We Climb,” begins on page five of this edition of the Trylon.

I want to mention a few highlights that have struck me about Gorman’s amazing life. She has two siblings. Her twin sister, Gabrielle, is an activist and a filmmaker. Their mother is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher.

Because I have a son who has struggled with learning disabilities throughout his life, I was drawn to Gorman’s view of her auditory processing disorder; she is hypersensitive to sound. Gorman considers her hearing challenges to be a gift and a strength. She quotes Marianne Deborah Williamson: “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate; our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.” She would say this quote to her mom even as a young girl!

The list of Gorman’s involvement in social change is deep and long. A *cum laude* graduate of Harvard, she founded One Pen One Page, a youth writing and leadership nonprofit organization. Gorman’s art and activism focus on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalization, as well as the African diaspora. Hillary Clinton has expressed support for Gorman’s intention to run for President in 2036. A line from Gorman’s poem reads: “We, the successors of a country and a time/ Where a skinny black girl descended from slaves/ And raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president,/ Only to find herself reciting for one.”

We live in divisive times. Then again, when in human history have people not fought, argued, warred, oppressed, and wreaked havoc on one another?

I love the church because we are supposed to love our enemies. We are called to pray for those who persecute us. When we worship together on Sunday mornings, when we pray and study together on Tuesday afternoons, or Wednesday nights, or Sunday evenings, we don’t ask each other what political party we are loyal to before we sit down together. We are not the United Methodist Church of the Democratic Party or the Republican United Methodist Church.

We are the Church. The body of Christ. Our purpose is to share God’s love in this place as God’s love has been poured out on us so freely and abundantly. Our unity is in Christ, not in any political agenda or even any nation’s agenda. I am a proud and patriotic American. But first, I belong to Christ.

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I leave you with this beautiful closing line from Amanda Gorman's poem:

*“For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it,  
If only we're brave enough to be it.”*

May Republicans, Democrats, independents, third party members, and apolitical people all be brave, together, and always find welcome in this church.

Be the light.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Pastor Sharon*

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661-810-3953, cell



Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

has a new Facebook address:

[www.facebook.com/UMCSierraMadre](http://www.facebook.com/UMCSierraMadre)



## **ZOOM Studies and Small Groups**

February – Lent - Easter 2021

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study, 3:00-4:00pm – ON BREAK

Faith Issues – Sunday, 5:00-6:30pm

**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.

NOTE: Bible study is on a break and will resume Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

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. Weekly Bible study handouts, for personal use, are made available to this list.

**Faith Issues** – the topics vary in this lively small group discussion.

**“Alpha”** is our book and topic for the holy seasons of Lent and Easter. The first session is January 31. See the **“Alpha”** article in this edition of the Trylon (p. 8).

## **February Lectionary Readings:**

February 7	Isa. 40: 21-31; 1 Cor. 9: 16-23; Mark 1: 29-39
February 14	2 Kings 2: 1-12; 2 Cor. 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9
February 17	
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; 2 Cor. 5: 5-20b-6: 10; Matt. 6: 1-6, 16-21
February 21	Gen. 9: 8-17; 1 Pet. 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 9-15
February 28	Gen. 17: 1-7, 15-16; Rom. 4: 13-25; Mark 8: 31-38

## **Weekly Psalms for February:**

February 7	Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c
February 14	Psalm 50: 1-6
February 17	Psalm 51: 1-17
February 21	Psalm 25: 1-10
February 28	Psalm 22: 23-31

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

February 7	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – <i>Communion Service</i> <b><i>“Preaching and Healing, Two Sides of One Coin”</i></b>
February 14	Transfiguration Sunday <b><i>“Resurrection Foreshadowed”</i></b>
February 17	Ash Wednesday ( <i>to be determined</i> )
February 21	First Sunday in Lent <b><i>“Satan, Wild Beast, Angels – and Jesus”</i></b>
February 28	Second Sunday in Lent <b><i>“I am Not Ashamed of the Gospel”</i></b>

## **WHO ARE WE?**

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

Still keeping a place-holder for a couple of potlucks in 2021, to share Past-Present-Future stories, and Passion-Need-Action hopes and dreams. With continued gratitude for those who submitted responses this past summer.

At least one potluck at the Parsonage. Maybe two, unless someone else offers when the time comes. 😊 “Who are we” in 2021? Let’s plan to eat food together and talk about it.

Maybe by summer? Or fall at the latest . . .



Amanda Gorman became the youth poet laureate of Los Angeles at age 16 in 2014 and the first national youth poet laureate three years later. On Wednesday the 22-year-old became the youngest poet to write and recite a piece at a presidential inauguration, following in the footsteps of Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. Her poem: (*Los Angeles Times*, 1/21/2021)

### *“The Hill We Climb”*

When day comes we ask ourselves,  
Where can we find light in this never-ending shade?  
The loss we carry,  
A sea we must wade,  
We've braved the belly of the beast;  
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace.  
And the norms and notions of what just is  
Isn't always justice.  
And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it.  
Somehow we do it;  
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed  
A nation that isn't broken but simply unfinished.  
We, the successors of a country and a time  
Where a skinny black girl descended from slaves  
And raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president,  
Only to find herself reciting for one.  
And yes we are far from polished, far from pristine,  
But that doesn't mean we aren't striving to form a union that is perfect.  
We are striving to forge a union with purpose,  
To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and  
conditions of man.  
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us,  
But what stands before us.  
We close the divide, because we know to put our future first,  
We must first put our differences aside.  
We lay down our arms  
So we can reach out our arms to one another,  
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.  
Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:  
That even as we grieved, we grew,  
That even as we hurt, we hoped,  
That even as we tired, we tried,  
That we'll forever be tied together, victorious --  
Not because we will never again know defeat  
But because we will never again sow division.  
Scripture tells us to envision

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*(continued from page five)*

That everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree,  
And no one shall make them afraid.  
If we're to live up to our own time,  
then victory won't lie in the blade but in all the bridges we've made.  
That is the promise to glade,  
The hill we climb if only we dare it.  
Because being American is more than a pride we inherit,  
It's the past we step into and how we repair it.  
We've seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it,  
Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy.  
And this effort very nearly succeeded,  
But while democracy can be periodically delayed  
It can never be permanently defeated  
In this truth, in this faith we trust,  
For while we have our eyes on the future, history has its eyes on us.  
This is the era of just redemption.  
We feared at its inception.  
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour,  
But within it we found the power  
To author a new chapter,  
To offer hope and laughter,  
To ourselves sow. While once we asked:  
How could we possibly prevail over catastrophe?  
Now we assert: How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?  
We will not march back to what was,  
But move to what shall be,  
A country that is bruised but whole,  
Benevolent but bold,  
Fierce and free.  
We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation  
Because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance  
of the next generation.  
Our blunders become their burdens  
But one thing is certain:  
If we merge mercy with might and might with right,  
Then love becomes our legacy.  
And change our children's birthright.  
So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left.  
With every breath of my bronze pounded chest,  
We will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one.  
We will rise from the golden hills of the West,

*(continued on page seven)*



*(continued from page six)*

We will rise from the wind-swept Northeast where our  
forefathers first realized revolution.  
We will rise from the lakeland cities of the Midwestern states.  
We will rise from the sunbaked South.  
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover  
In every known nook of our nation,  
In every corner called our country,  
Our people, diverse and beautiful,  
Will emerge, battered and beautiful.  
When day comes we step out of the shade,  
Aflame and unafraid.  
The new dawn blooms as we free it.  
For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it,  
If only we're brave enough to be it.



**UMW Mid-Winter  
Virtual Event 2021**

***“Knitting Together God’s Family”***  
**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION:** ZOOM  
**COST:** Free to all United Methodist Women  
**RSVP DEADLINE:** Friday, February 12, 2021

*“It takes a village to raise a child” is an African proverb that means that an entire community of people must interact with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. (Wikipedia)*

Join us as we hear from volunteers working with families in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Daily struggles of social injustice, racism and poverty take an extra toll on the mental health of the youngest members – children – in the family.

**SPEAKERS:**

Susannah Lee Kandikatti, University of Hawaii; Adrienne Hidalgo Esguerra, Community Activist; Brenda Tuita, Cal-Pac Social Action Coordinator

ZOOM MEETING information will be sent to you by email closer to the event date.

**For more information:** contact Lisa Kadowski at [smidgetsk@gmail.com](mailto:smidgetsk@gmail.com) or  
(805)236-3370



## New Year – Lenten Study “Alpha” *a Faith Issues small group study*

Is there more to life than this?

Why and how do I pray?

Does God heal today?

“Alpha” looks at these and other questions through a series of interactive sessions that provide an introduction to the Christian faith in an informal, fun, and friendly environment...

“Nicky Gumble is the pioneer of Alpha. He studied law at Cambridge and theology at Oxford, practiced as a lawyer, and is now the senior pastor of HTB in London, one of England’s most vibrant churches.”

-- excerpt from Alpha Guide

A “pilot” group, made up of leaders from our church, has already committed to Alpha. The study is not limited to this pilot group, however. Everyone is invited to join the group and try out Alpha for our church.

We envision using Alpha as an ongoing program:

- 1) as a refresher course in Christian beliefs,
- 2) as a training course in hospitality,
- 3) as a resource for outreach into our community, and
- 4) as a plan and an opportunity to grow together in sharing the good news of Christ’s love and grace with others.

**When:** Sunday Evenings beginning January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (Except February 7<sup>th</sup>, when the meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>)

**Where:** on ZOOM, usual worship log-ins (*See Page 10*)

**Who:** the pilot group, plus anyone else who is interested; contact the church office or Pastor Sharon for more information.

**Do I need a book?:** Yes. Books provided; contact the church office for your copy. (Donations to defray part or all of the \$10 cost for each book are welcomed.)



**Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**

## Hartzell Hall – Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral artery disease
- Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle)



### **A Great Big Thanks!**

To Amy Crismer for her invaluable assistance in making our Boutique a great success, and to all of you who contributed your time into making your wonderful crafts. We **SOLD OUT** all Boutique Items!

We are already making plans for this year's Boutique, and primary among these plans is getting you all started knitting, crocheting and sewing to build up our inventory. So pull out those needles, dust off the Singer and get crafting!



## MEETING ACCESS 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=S3NHT3VUcWN0UWIamNqeWRTVEVYUT09>

Meeting ID: 612 742 4604

Passcode: 695



## SARAH CIRCLE

Meetings every  
Fourth Friday of the  
month

Connie Wortham's  
House

## GARD CREATION

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



- 2 Rose Hernandez
- 8 Amy Crismer  
Tracy Crismer
- 18 Millie Mittleman  
Annie Shin



## Church

Office Hours

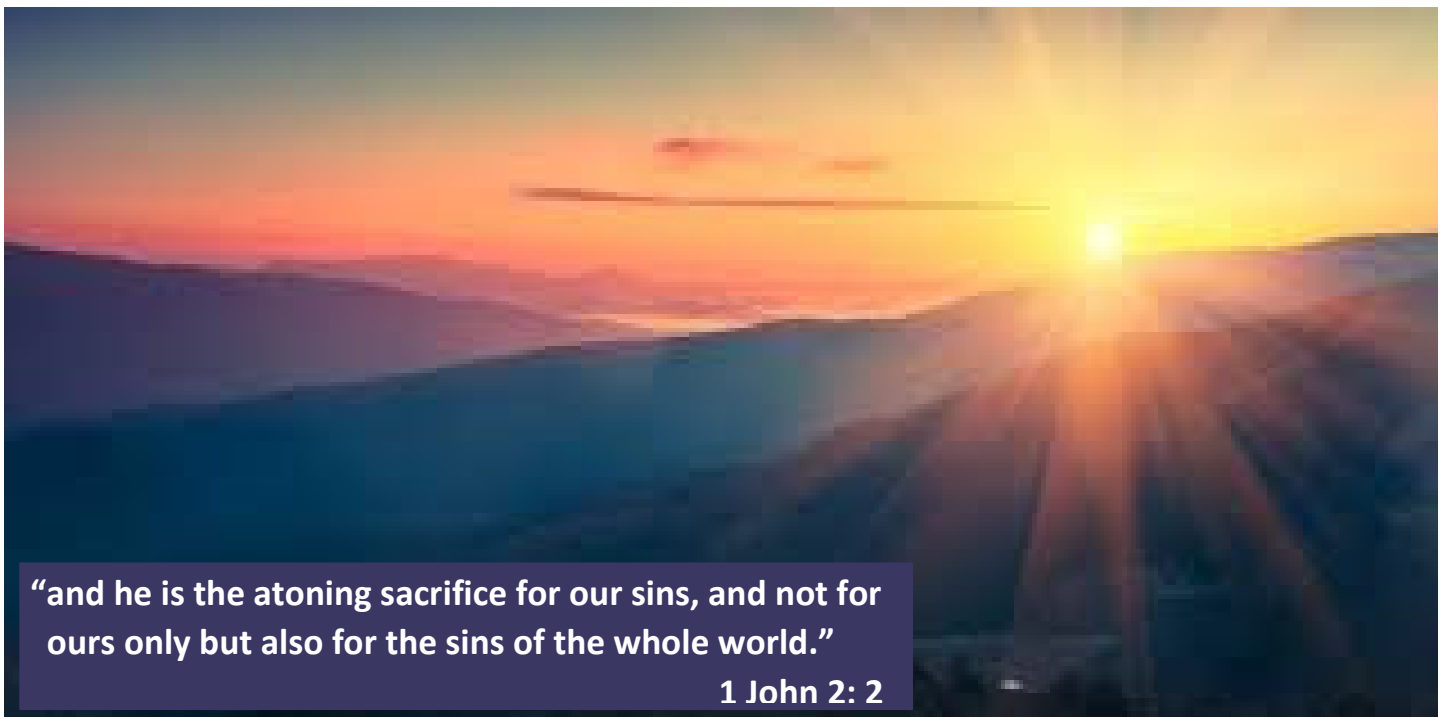
The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm. You can also contact us at our email addresses:

[sm\\_umc@verizon.net](mailto:sm_umc@verizon.net)  
[sierramadreumc@gmail.com](mailto:sierramadreumc@gmail.com)

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



**“and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for  
ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”**

**1 John 2: 2**

# February

2021

## Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>31</p> <p><b>JANUARY 31st</b> ALPHA SERIES BEGINS 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. ZOOM MEETING</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>CALIFORNIA WESTERN MONARCH DAY</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. - Worship *</p> <p><b>THIS WEEK ONLY</b> ALPHA SERIES - WEDNESDAY</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>NATIONAL KITE FLYING DAY! FEBRUARY 8th</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>ZOOM ALPHA</b> MEETING - WED. <b>THIS WEEK ONLY</b> 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>新年快乐 2021 CHINESE NEW YEAR</p> <p><b>RSVP DEADLINE</b> UMW 2/20 EVENT</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Transfiguration Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Worship * Scouting Ministries Sunday</p>  <p>ZOOM ALPHA GROUP 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Happy Presidents Day!</p>	<p>16 Shrove Tuesday</p>  <p><b>Finance Committee</b> SHCR **</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Let today be the day you give up who you've been for you who can become. <i>Blessed Ash Wednesday</i></p> <p><b>WORSHIP TO BE</b> DETERMINED</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>LIFELINE SCREENINGS HARTZELL HALL ALL DAY</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>United Methodist Women FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION</p> <p><b>UMW MID-WINTER</b> VIRTUAL EVENT 2021 11:00 a.m. on ZOOM</p>
<p>21 First Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. - Worship *</p> <p>ZOOM ALPHA GROUP 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Card Creation **</b> Connie Wortham's house</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>INTRODUCE A GIRL TO ENGINEERING DAY WOMEN IN SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>SARAH CIRCLE **</b> Connie Wortham's house</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>National Strawberry Day</p>
<p>28 Second Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. - Worship *</p> <p>ZOOM ALPHA GROUP 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>* <b>Worship by teleconferencing</b> / video conferencing. Limited opening of Sanctuary to be announced.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>** <b>All meetings to</b> be verified</p>	<p><b>Abbreviations</b></p> <p>LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = Sierra House Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel</p>	