



march 2021



# 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](mailto:sm_umc@verizon.net)

Follow us on TWITTER.com: @SierraMadreUMC

FACEBOOK at [www.facebook.com/sierramadreumc](http://www.facebook.com/sierramadreumc)

Website: [www.smumc.net](http://www.smumc.net)



## Fat Tuesday on Sunday – February 14, 2021

Who needs pancakes? We had donuts, masks and beads for our pre-Lenten celebration. Thanks to the organizers and drivers, and thanks to Stephanie Lan for the screenshot. We are getting better at documenting these remote get-togethers!

## **from Pastor Sharon**

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

The highest holy days of the Christian faith are Lent-Easter.

In March we walk together through Lent and enter with Jesus into Holy Week – Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday, culminating in the celebration of the Resurrection. Easter Sunday. On April 4 this year.

Some of our Christian sisters and brothers don't recognize these annual walks through the history of Jesus' life. They say, "Jesus is my risen Lord and Savior; He has won the victory; why focus on the past?"

I suppose they have a point. As with all things spiritual, finding balance is key. , We don't want to avoid the joy by wallowing forever in weeping and wailing at the cross. At the same time, we don't want to bubble with superficial joy and forget all that Jesus suffered on our behalf.

To avoid Jesus' pain and suffering is to cut ourselves off from a part of who Jesus is. To avoid the joy Jesus brings is to cut ourselves off from a part of who Jesus is.

To follow Jesus, the way I look at it, we need to embrace all of who He is. We need to allow Him to touch the pain *and* the joy in our lives – to show us how to be present with those who mourn and those who celebrate (Romans 12:15).

The Church Universal's yearly journey through Lent and Easter helps us to keep learning this deceptively simple lesson. Easy to understand, gnawingly difficult to live. Which is why we have religions and gurus and painkillers and escapism -- ways to dig deeper and ways to avoid.

How blessed we are to be in this church family together, where we struggle through our sorrows and dance through our joys, not alone, but as the body of Christ, filled with his Spirit of love.

*Yours in Christ,*  
Pastor Sharon  
[sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com)  
661-810-3953, cell

*“As I move toward the cross, O God,  
help me to become aware of the now  
and the not yet.”– April Casperson,  
The Sanctuary for Lent 2021*

## When Are We Going To Re-Open?

The Supreme Court has given the OK.

The Bishop has given the OK.

So why aren't we back worshipping in the sanctuary yet? "When are we going to re-open?" This question is on everyone's mind, whether they are anxious to re-open or more on the cautious side of things.

In answer to the "why" question – there is a process. We may have permission, but there is a process to be followed.

In answer to the "when" question – I don't know. As with everything having to do with the coronavirus, the situation is fluid, constantly changing. Just yesterday I heard three opinions on the news regarding when the world would open up again – April, July, and sometime in 2022!

We have wise, patient and caring United Methodist leaders at the Conference, District and Local Church levels. So, thanks to these wise, patient, and caring people – including the leaders of the Sierra Madre UMC! -- I can share with you the process by which our church can re-open for "limited indoor worship service":

1. Obtain permission from the appointed Pastor.
2. Obtain permission from the Church Council. The Church Council will need to review our plan for re-opening, to see if any adjustments need to be made since the plan was first approved.
3. Obtain permission from the District Superintendent.

"Limited indoor worship service" means:

1. No singing
2. Attendance is limited according to the California State Tier Status Guidance in our area. Currently L. A. County is in the most severe "Purple – Widespread" category, which means
  - a. worship indoors is allowed with modifications
  - b. 6 feet distance
  - c. no singing or chanting
  - d. indoor activities must be limited to 25% of capacity

*(continued on page 4)*

*(continued from Page 3)*

Even though the Bishop and the Cabinet have come up with a process for churches to re-open for limited indoor worship, the Bishop asks each local church and every pastor to reflect on the following:

1. If only one person in our congregation contracts the virus through a worship service or event, is it worth opening?
2. John Wesley's key instruction of "Do no harm" must be taken seriously.
3. Not everyone will be comfortable returning to public worship, and this means that our clergy and church leaders will be doing double the amount of work by providing both online and in-person worship. The Bishop asks that we pray deeply over the additional workload we will be asking of our clergy and our church leaders.

During this holy season of Lent, let's join together in praying about these things – those who have been touched by COVID-19 in our church family and in our community; those who are lonely and isolated and missing the hugs of in-person worship; those who have died and those who have lost loved ones; the sick; the essential workers.

God is present among us. The timing is in God's hands.

-- Pastor Sharon

## **ZOOM Studies and Small Groups**

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 TBA.

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 was in January. See the "Alpha" article in this edition of the Trylon.

## **March and Holy Week Lectionary Readings:**

March 7	Exod. 20: 1-7; 1 Cor. 1: 18-25; John 2: 13-22
March 14	Num. 21: 4-9; Eph. 2: 1-10; John 3: 14-21
March 21	Jer. 31: 31-34; Heb. 5: 5-10; John 12: 20-33
March 28	<b>Palm / Passion Sunday</b> Mark 11: 1-11; Isa. 50: 4-9; Phil. 2: 5-11; Mark 14: 1 – 15: 47
April 1	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Exod. 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
April 2	<b>Good Friday</b> Isa. 52: 13 – 53: 12; Heb. 10: 16-25; John 18: 1 – 19: 42
April 4	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Acts 10: 34-43; 1 Cor. 15: 1-11; John 20: 1-18 or Mark 16: 1-8

## **Weekly Psalms for March, and Holy Week:**

March 7	Psalm 19
March 14	Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
March 21	Psalm 51: 1-12
March 28	<b>Palm / Passion Sunday</b> Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Psalm 31: 9-16
April 1	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
April 2	<b>Good Friday</b> Psalm 22
April 4	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24



## **SPECIAL OFFERING: UMCOR Sunday, March 14:**

The UMCOR Sunday special offering, formerly known as “One Great Hour of Sharing,” enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to live out its mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR responds to natural or human made disasters – those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on its own. In over 80 countries you assure your church is in the lead to alleviate suffering through your generous giving to UMCOR.

When you make your gift, please write “UMCOR Sunday” on an offering envelope and in the memo line of your check. Please make checks payable to SMUMC. Your gift can be delivered to the church office in person or by mail.



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m.
Holy Thursday	6:00 p.m.
Good Friday	6:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday	9:30 a.m.

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

March 7	Third Sunday in Lent – <i>Communion Service</i> <i>“My Father’s House”</i>
March 14	Fourth Sunday in Lent – <b>UMCOR</b> Sunday <i>“John 3: 16”</i>
March 21	Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>“The Life-Giving Power of the Cross”</i>
March 28	Palm / Passion Sunday <i>“Christ’s Passion”</i>
April 1	Holy Thursday - 6:00 p.m. <i>“He Loves His Own”</i>
April 2	Good Friday - 6:00 p.m. <i>“Were You There”</i> Rich Snyder and friends
April 4	Easter Sunday <i>“Christ Is Risen!”</i>

*Note: Communion will be celebrated on the Second Sunday of the month, April 11th*

### WHO ARE WE?

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

Potlucks place-holder. 😊

A monthly reminder of a hope and a plan for when the world opens up again.

Two potluck gatherins: to share Past-Present-Future stories, and Passion-Need-Action hopes and dreams.

With continued gratitude for those who submitted written responses this past summer.

At least one potluck at the Parsonage. Maybe two, but could meet at someone's home for the second potluck if anyone is longing to be a host/hostess again.

“Who are we” in 2021? Let's plan to eat food together and talk about it.

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





## 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

**When:** Sunday Evenings, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. March dates and themes:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 7     | Why and How Should I Read the Bible?     |
| March 14    | How Does God Guide Us?                   |
| March 20/21 | “The Alpha Weekend” (Sat/Sun; times TBA) |

-- Who is the Holy Spirit?

-- What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

-- How Can I Be Filled with the Holy Spirit?

-- How Can I Make the Most of the Rest of My Life?

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

**Who:** Anyone who is interested; contact the church office or Pastor Sharon for more information. Newcomers are welcomed!

**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.)

A Huge Thank You to Peg Schuster for this. Please enjoy!

-----Kid's Talk To God In Prayer-----

1. Dear God, please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter.

There is nothing good in there now.

Amanda

2. Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before.

You can look it up.

Joyce

3. Dear Mr. God, I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.

Janet

4. God, I read the bible. What does beget mean? Nobody will tell me.

Love Alison

5. Dear God, how did you know you were God? Who told you?

Charlene

6. Dear God, is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house?

Anita

7. Dear God, I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Nancy

8. Dear God, I like the story about Noah the best of all of them. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too.

Glenn

9. Dear God, my Grandpa says you were around when he was

a little boy. How far back do you go?

Love, Dennis

10. Dear God, do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does?

Nathan

11. Dear God, did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident?

Norma

12. Dear God, in bible times, did they really talk that fancy?

Jennifer

13. Dear God, how come you did all those miracles in the old days and don't do any now?

Billy

14. Dear God, please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year.

Peter

15. Dear God, maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me and my brother.

Larry

16. Dear God, I keep waiting for spring, but it never did come yet.

What's up? Don't forget.

Mark

*(continued on Page Nine)*



*(continued from Page Eight)*

17. Dear God, my brother told me about how you are born but it just doesn't sound right. What do you say?

Marsha

18. Dear God, if you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes.

Barbara

19. Dear God, is Reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just know him through the business?

Donny

20. Dear God, I do not think anybody could be a better God than you. Well, I just want you to know that. I am not just saying that because you are already God.

Charles

21. Dear God, it is great the way you always get the stars in the right place. Why can't you do that with the moon?

Jeff

22. Dear God, I am doing the best I can. Really !!!!

Frank

( And, saving the best for last ) .

23. Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really cool  
Thomas.



## KEEPING IN TOUCH – WITH YOUR PHONE!

If you are unable to join us for Zoom worship on Sundays but would like to keep in touch with fellow church members please contact Pam in the Church Office and the Outreach Team will arrange a phone pal to call you.

In case you don't know: before and after the worship service on Sundays we have an informal chat time. Several people join us just using a regular phone. Here are the instructions for dialing in on a phone:

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

**On February 15, @UMWomen tweeted “If just 10% of United Methodist Women members used a reusable water bottle for 365 days rather than buying water in a bottle, we would save at least enough energy to power an average household for 552 years!**

[Unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability](http://Unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability)





# MEETING ACCESS zoom 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=S3NHT3VUcWN0UWlnamNqeWRTVEVYUT09>

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



## March Birthdays

- 6 Roz Towler
- 14 Lois Mackey
- 17 John Baier
- 18 Marna Korell
- 27 A. J. Hernandez
- 29 David Baier



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:  
(626) 355-0629



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



**“Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.”  
Psalm 31: 16**

# MARCH

2021

SUNDAY

## Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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

(626) 355-0629 \* E-mail: [sm\\_umc@verizon.net](mailto:sm_umc@verizon.net) \* [www.smumc.net](http://www.smumc.net) \* Follow us on TWITTER.com @SierraMadreUMC

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>28</p> <p>* <b>Worship by Teleconferencing / Video conferencing only.</b></p> <p>** All meetings to be verified</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p>  <p>NATIONAL OREO COOKIE DAY</p>
<p>7 Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship *</p> <p>ZOOM ALPHA SESSION 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY</b> March 8, 2020 was our last in-person worship!</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>SALVATION ARMY DAY</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> 
<p>14 Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship *</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time begins 2:00 a.m.</p> <p>ZOOM ALPHA SESSION 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>National <b>Well</b>derly Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Finance Committee SHCR **</p>	<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Oranges &amp; Lemons Day</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>ALPHA Weekend tomorrow and Sunday</p>	<p>20 *** Alpha</p>  <p>SPRING EQUINOX</p>
<p>21 Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship *</p> <p>ZOOM ALPHA SESSIONS *** Times TBA</p> <p>Saturday, March 20 <b>AND</b> Sunday, March 21st</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>Nat'l Puppy AND Cuddly Kitten Day</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>SARAH CIRCLE ** Connie Wortham's house</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Palm / Passion Sunday</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship *</p> 	<p>29</p>  <p>Holy Week</p>		<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</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>	