



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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February 2022

MUNCHING WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH !!!



November Lunch Bunch – thanks to Susan and Bob Ross for hosting the Bunch at their lovely home.

All are welcome at our Second Sunday Lunch Bunch gatherings! Bring your friends!



A photo from the first Lunch Bunch of 2022. (Thank you to Jadon, our selfie-photographer) 😊❤️

Lunch Bunch meets the 2nd Sunday of each month after worship; you are cordially invited to the February gathering.

from Pastor Sharon

“No one ever told me that grief felt so much like fear. I am not afraid, but the sensation is like being afraid. The same fluttering in the stomach, the same restlessness, the yawning. I keep swallowing... At other times it feels like being mildly drunk or concussed. There is a sort of invisible blanket between the world and me.”

-- C. S. Lewis, A Grief Observed –

Dear church family,

You have likely heard of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, or the five stages of grief from her book, On Death and Dying, published in 1969. The stages of grief have become a part of our culture; we often make comments to each other, “I think so-and-so is in the ‘denial’ stage,” or similar references to Kübler-Ross’ grief model.

Our church family is complex. We are a tapestry of friendships, traditions, shared history, love-in-action, hopes and dreams for the future.

We also carry a significant burden of grief. Individuals carry grief from personal losses such as the death of loved ones, and many other kinds of losses:

“divorce and separation; change of jobs; loss of job; relocation; retirement; loss of health; loss of limb; loss through aging; loss of self-esteem, prestige, confidence, or judgment; loss of possessions; loss of pet; loss of opportunity; losing or breaking a treasured possession; children leaving the nest for college; children leaving the nest to wed; a child’s entry into school; marriage; promotion; moving from one developmental stage to another – the developmental ‘crises’.” (Mary Ann Bigelow, “Embracing the Sacred in Our Life Stories: Grief, Grief Work, and Spiritual Direction,” Presence, March 2020).

Our church, like many, is dealing with many challenges these days.

Grief is with us. Has been, and will be. Among us there are beloved members and friends of this church family at different stages in the grief process. Denial. Anger. Bargaining. Depression. Acceptance.

And these five stages do not necessarily happen in a linear fashion. People do not usually move in an organized way, from denial through anger-bargaining-depression, finally arriving neatly at acceptance. There is a coming and going from each stage; bargaining one day, anger the next. Accepting aspects of the situation in one moment; denying other aspects in the next; with a low-grade depression floating just under the surface of it all. Add on the layers of COVID stress and other stresses we carry in our daily lives.

It can put a knot in your stomach.

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From Pastor Sharon *(continued)*

Bill Hybels once shared this story in a sermon:

A friend of mine has a brain-damaged daughter. Sometimes the sadness she feels over her daughter's condition overwhelms her, as it did recently. She wrote me this letter and gave me permission to quote from it:

“. . . I can hardly bear it sometimes. My most recent wave of grief came just last year before her sixteenth birthday. As the day approached, I found myself brooding over all the things that she would never be able to do. What did I do? What I've learned to do again and again: I did what I believe is the only thing to do to conquer grief, and that is to embrace it. . . I cried and cried and cried, and faced the truth of my grief head on.”

People who face their feelings and express them freely begin the journey toward hope.

We need to be kind and gentle with ourselves and with each other – always, and in these days especially. We are experiencing many losses as individuals and as a church family. We have choices to make that will affect the lives of people we care about, value and appreciate. We have memories of the way things were. We have hopes for the future. We have present joys, and hard realities to face.

Allow yourself to cry now and then, if you feel tears coming. And if you have a special, trusted friend or two who would be willing to cry with you, all the better.

Robert Fulghum offers advice to anyone who has ever thought about writing a novel or telling a story. He calls it “The Storyteller’s Creed.”

I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge.
That myth is more potent than history.
That dreams are more powerful than facts.
That hope always triumphs over experience.
That laughter is the only cure for grief.
And I believe that love is stronger than death.

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REV. ROY SNAPP-KOLAS

February 13 -- Guest Preacher

Rev. Roy Snapp-Kolas is retired from The Salvation Army, currently serving a Corps (church) in Lancaster. Pastor Roy has taught classes around greater L. A. to homeless folks, people in recovery, and veterans. He also has a heart for teaching and ministering in the jails and homeless shelters around town. Most recently he directed a Cold Weather Shelter in Lancaster, before and during the coronavirus outbreak.



His decades-long career with The Salvation Army grew into a vocation. He was Executive Director of The Salvation Army HAVEN Program for Homeless Veterans, which was housed on the campus of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration. Pastor Roy grew the HAVEN from a 20-bed shelter to over 200 beds and multiple programs for veterans struggling with homelessness, mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, housing issues, employment needs, and many other life issues. Over time, Pastor Roy developed spiritual programs for the residents and graduates of the programs, as well as interested staff members. He grew a Corps in Inglewood to over 100 Soldiers (members). Pastor Roy is currently writing a Doctor of Ministry dissertation for The King's University Seminary that reflects his decades of ministry and social service experience.

Pastors Roy and Sharon will be celebrating their 37th wedding anniversary on August 24, 2022. Pastor Roy is from the Chicago area and has a Masters degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. He and Pastor Sharon have two adult, married sons, Chris (age 28) is married to Camille, and Josh (age 30) is married to Julie. Josh and Julie are the parents of Roy and Sharon's grandbabies – Titus Joshua (age 3-1/2), and Caleb Jonah (age 2). When Josh and Julie moved their family to Indiana, Roy and Sharon adopted their little dog, Shadow.

Pastor Roy is passionate about bringing together creative evangelical ministry and Christian ministries of service with those most rejected, excluded and forgotten in our society. He cares deeply about bringing people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and bringing people out of homelessness, addiction, and generational cycles of crime and incarceration. He loves baseball, and sports of all kinds; he is a lifelong, rabid, diehard Chicago Cubs fan. Roy also loves jogging, has run in many jogging events, and has run the L. A. marathon. He reads voraciously in a wide range of topics, preferring history, theology, biographies, and other non-fiction works. He has a beautiful baritone singing voice, but all attempts to entice him to sing in a choir have been thus far unsuccessful. His grandchildren and his dog, Shadow, are his joy. And barbequing; he loves to barbeque and share a leisurely meal in the backyard.

BIBLE STUDY at the Parsonage

Bible Study at the parsonage meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm.

February	1/2	C. S. Lewis' <i>A Grief Observed</i> , Chapter 2
	8/9	Chapter 3
	15/16	Chapter 4 (final session)
	22 & 23	"4 th week" read-thru-the-Bible conversations*
March	1/2	BREAK – ASH WEDNESDAY
	8/9	Bonhoeffer <i>Lenten study</i> , 1 st session (see article)

*The fourth week of each month has been designated for read-thru-the-Bible check-in and conversations.

Each Bible study session is self-contained, come when you can! Come to either – Wednesdays are a repeat of Tuesday sessions.

Bible study is a great time of fellowship and learning together, with lots of laughter and deepening of friendships. There's also coffee – and sometimes, cookies!

Some have expressed concerns: Will I have to read out loud? No. Will I be tested on my Bible knowledge? No. Do I have to agree with certain beliefs and opinions? No. These are low-key small group gatherings where newcomers are welcome and differing perspectives are encouraged.

Hope to see you soon at Bible study.

Bible study on Facebook, email, website and snail-mail

How can we apply the scriptures and this week's sermon to our daily lives in meaningful ways? A Bible study handout is emailed each week, on the theme of the previous Sunday's Bible passage, for personal use. The study is also posted on Facebook; snail-mail upon request. Please contact the church office for more info; Pam will be happy to assist you.

Pastor Sharon is happy to facilitate a group study for you and two or more friends; please contact her if you are ready to organize a Bible study group.

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“Read-through-the-Bible” 2022:

Once a month, on “4th Tuesday” weeks, Bible study sessions are devoted to a discussion of the month’s readings. You are invited to come enjoy a cup of coffee and listen in, even if you aren’t doing the readings! Enjoy the fellowship. See Jill Schofield for more info on participating in read-through-the-Bible.

LENTEN STUDY

Bonhoeffer

March-April 2022

Filmed on location in Germany, this video journey through the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer delves into why he has inspired so many people’s faith. Pulling themes from all of his major books, this study helps us to understand why these spiritual truths meant so much to Bonhoeffer and how they can be an inspiration and challenge to us. Each participant will receive a study guide to accompany them on their journey with Bonhoeffer.

Topics

March 7/8	“What is the Church?”
15/16	“Living in Christian Community”
22 & 23	“4 th week” read-thru-the-Bible conversations]
29/30	“Religionless Christianity”
April 5/6	“Come and Die”

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.
at the parsonage

Contact Pastor Sharon or the church office for more information,



C. S. Lewis
A Grief Observed

January/February 2022 Bible study

Written after his wife's tragic death as a way of surviving the "mad midnight moment," *A Grief Observed* is C.S. Lewis's honest reflection on the fundamental issues of life, death, and faith in the midst of loss. This work contains his concise, genuine reflections on that period: "Nothing will shake a man -- or at any rate a man like me -- out of his merely verbal thinking and his merely notional beliefs. He has to be knocked silly before he comes to his senses. Only torture will bring out the truth. Only under torture does he discover it himself." This is a beautiful and unflinchingly honest record of how even a stalwart believer can lose all sense of meaning in the universe, and how he can gradually regain his bearings.

A Grief Observed, by C. S. Lewis, is available wherever books are sold.

If you would like us to get your book for you, please contact the church office. Pam will be happy to help you.

Sessions continue in February; newcomers welcome:

Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.
at the Parsonage

ASH WEDNESDAY
March 2 - 4:00pm

We gather on Ash Wednesday to begin the season of Lent.

The sermon theme, reflecting on 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 is "Jesus in the Dust."

Some Ash Wednesday liturgies make use of a traditional phrase that may seem disturbing. As we receive the ashes on our foreheads, the pastor is to say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." And yet we find that we meet Jesus in the dust when we take time to worship together on Ash Wednesday.

Prior to Ash Wednesday, we hope to enjoy a traditional Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast after worship, on February 27.

ZOOM WORSHIP *and choir, and coffee fellowship*

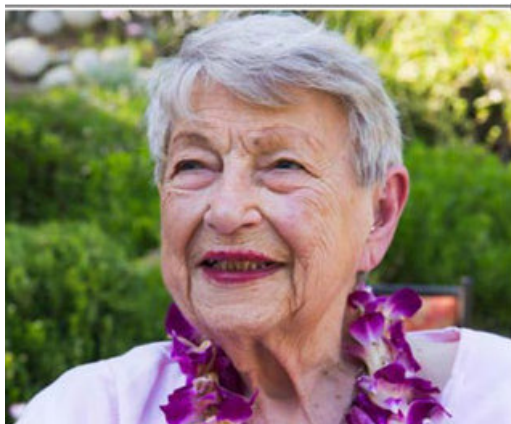
Worship in the Sanctuary and on Zoom began on January 23. Choir and choir rehearsals are on pause for a time. Coffee fellowship is also on pause for now.

We are “playing it by ear,” continuing to adjust to changing circumstances. Please keep your church family and worship leadership in prayer, especially in these times.

Your presence in the Sanctuary or at Zoom worship on Sunday mornings is urgently important right now. Through your presence, you encourage others; when you are absent, you are missed even more than usual.

“Presence” is one of the membership vows we all took – “to support the church with our prayers, our **presence**, our gifts and our service.” In recent years “witness” has been added to the list – to remind us that we are also called to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

See you in church! (Sanctuary, 9:30 a.m., or Zoom 11:00 a.m.)



Betty Gagne Memorial Service

Plans are in the works for a memorial service for our beloved Betty Gagne, whom we lost in 2020.

Watch for more information, the date will be
Saturday, March 5th



Lunch Bunch – February 2022

- WHO:** Everyone! All are welcomed.
WHAT: Lunch/brunch.
WHERE: **Carolina Garzzia's home**
WHEN: **February 13**
WHY: Fun, food, and fellowship. Friendship evangelism – invite a friend or a family member – even if they didn't come to church! They can meet you for lunch/brunch and get to know your church family in a relaxed setting.
QUESTIONS: Contact the Church Office

Lunch bunch meets the 2nd Sunday of each month; the location is decided by the lunch bunch group. If you would like to host a Lunch Bunch, or choose a restaurant as a destination, please contact the church office, Anna Garzzia or June Drenten (Anna & June are Co-Coordinator of the Outreach Team).

BISHOP HAGIYA CALL TO PRAYER AND SUPPORT FOR TONGA

Greetings as we start the New Year, 2022:

Many of us have been following the volcanic eruption near Tonga, and instead of worrying about a tsunami affecting our shorelines, our hearts and prayers are going out to the people of Tonga and the Island itself. We have so many clergy and laity who have relatives from Tonga, and reports have been slow as to the damages to the Island and its people. For sure, the concentration of ash and resulting tsunamis have negatively affected the Island.

Please join me in your regular prayers for our Tongan siblings and for the physical island itself. We ask God to watch over the Tongan people, animals, and land. We ask God to move us to send relief in the form of donations as well as these prayers. May the Island of Tonga know that we hold them in our daily prayers!

Donations for relief can be sent to the California-Pacific Conference at P.O. Box 6006, Pasadena, CA 91102-6006. Please mark any donations with "Tongan Relief," on your check or electronic offering.*

Let us Be the Hope for the Island of Tonga,
Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

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Tonga (continued)



*Electronic offerings can be made at calpacumc.org.

A note from Pastor Sharon – I would add to Bishop Hagiya’s “Call to Prayer and Support for Tonga” that our East District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Saia Tu’itahi, is from Tonga. We keep him and his family in prayer, knowing that he has many friends and family in Tonga who will have been affected by the volcanic eruption.



SARAH CIRCLE

**Book Club meets
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



Celebrating **FEBRUARY** *Birthdays*

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



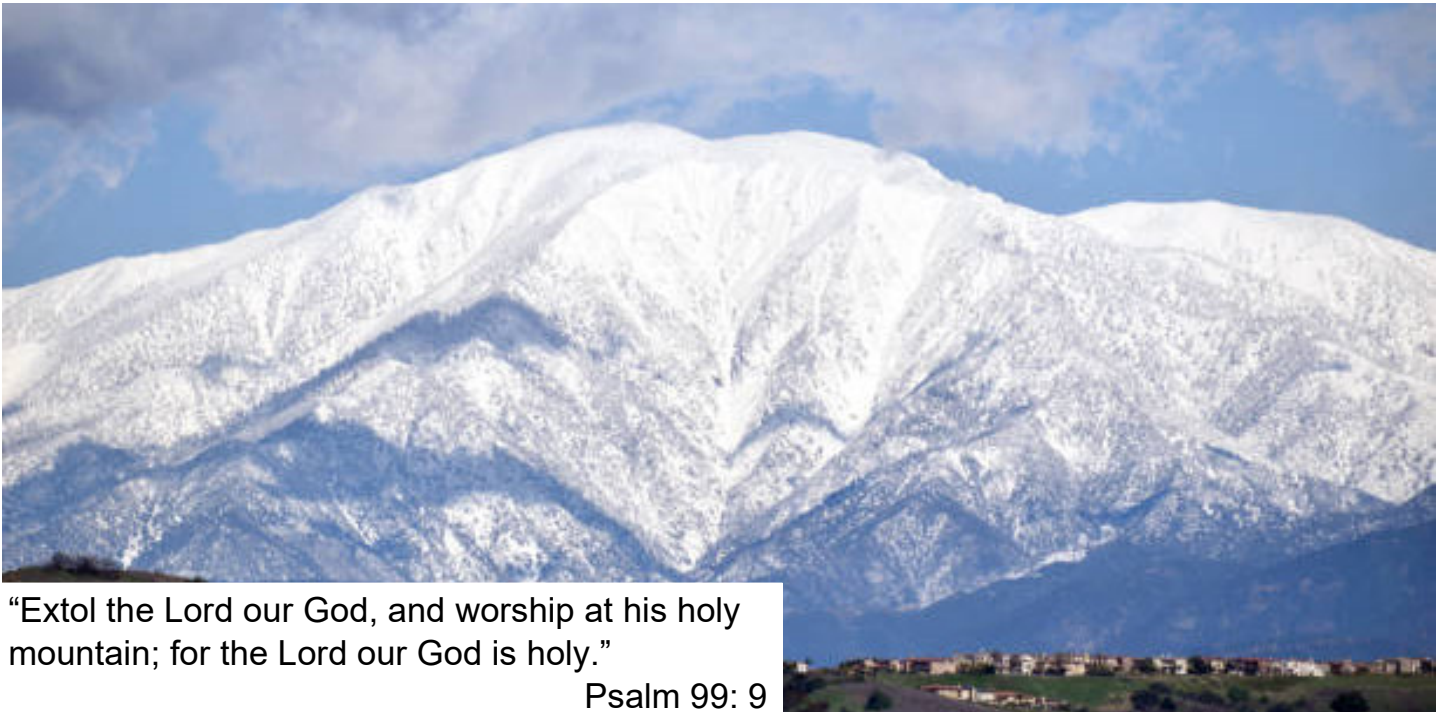
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Monday through
Friday from 9 am
to 1 pm. You
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**Sierra Madre
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“Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.”

Psalm 99: 9

February
2022
SUNDAY

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

30	31	1 BIBLE STUDY - PARSONAGE 2:30 p.m.  HAPPY NEW TIGER YEAR!	2 BIBLE STUDY - PARSONAGE 6:00 p.m.	3	4	5 
6 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Fellowship	7	8 BIBLE STUDY - PARSONAGE 2:30 p.m. FINANCE COMM. 4:00 p.m.	9 BIBLE STUDY - PARSONAGE 6:00 p.m.	10  International Cribbage Day	11	12
13 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Church Council - WC	14 	15 BIBLE STUDY - PARSONAGE 2:30 p.m.	16 BIBLE STUDY - PARSONAGE 6:00 p.m.	17	18	19 
20 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	21 Church Office Closed 	22 BIBLE STUDY - 2:30 p.m. Card Creation ** Connie Wortham's house	23 BIBLE STUDY - PARSONAGE 6:00 p.m.	24	25 SARAH CIRCLE 12:30 p.m. Connie Wortham's house	26
27 Transfiguration Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	28  28TH FEB NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY	1	2 Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 pm	3	4	Abbreviations LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = SH Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel