



**DECEMBER
2022**



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR BOUTIQUE & BAKE SALE

**Sunday, December 4th - after Worship
- in the Wesley Chapel**

- **Make Donations to your favorite charities**
- **Purchase crafts lovingly created by our members and residents of the British Home**
- **Stock up on yummy baked goods for Christmas**

**Sunday, December 11th - after Worship
- in Hartzell Fellowship Hall**

Everyone is invited to the Christmas Brunch in Hartzell Hall, food provided courtesy of the UMW.

- **OPTIONAL** – bring a wrapped gift (under \$5) for the “The Night Before Christmas” gift exchange game.
- **OPTIONAL** – bring donations for the Women’s Room at Friends In Deed (i.e., socks, lingerie, personal hygiene kits)
- **MANDATORY** – Have Fun!!!!

A Message from PASTOR JAE



Last Wednesday, a day before Thanksgiving, Mr. Francisco Acero, the campus manager, and I installed a nativity on our church front lawn. We picked the nativity with 10 ft. height, so that it can be well visible to the people who are walking or driving by our church. It was purchased through the donations of some church members. As I helped Francisco, I hoped and prayed that God use this nativity to deliver His message of hope and love to the families and people in our community.

Wondering how it looked at night, I came back after dinner. The little LED lights were presenting Joseph's family shining softly in peace. Now we are ready to move into a new season of Advent.

In his Gospel, the disciple Matthew recaptures the dream and Advent of Isaiah, which has been carried in the hearts of Israelites for many hundred years. "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'" (Matthew 3:3).

Why did God give us this tip of Advent preparation for the coming of the Lord? Was the discernment and recognition not easy? Why did God designate the place of Advent to be wilderness? How come did God not choose Jerusalem to be the place of the messiah's birth? In what way does God bring us a new season? Does it come unrecognizable on the surface, but underneath coming with a tectonic shift?

Wilderness is not a foreign place for us. Mojave Desert, Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Park are not far from us in Southern California. When I first visited there, one of the reasons that I was fascinated by it was its hidden ecology of life. At first glance, it seems to be dead. When we step into the wilderness, however, it reveals its own self-sustaining character. The Judean wilderness in the Bible land is characterized by the cycle of turning with two seasons, the dry season and the rainy season. In the dry season, it seems dead, but as God brings the rainy season, the wilderness turns into a place of green life. The wilderness is a sort of reflection of our world. Life is tough and challenging there, but lives are still alive in its own ecology of wilderness.

As we are all aware, the meaning of the word Advent is "emerging" or "coming." But the way that I take this word is with the word, "Adventure." God is taking adventure with his Son Jesus. Sending his Son to the young couple of Joseph and Mary is an adventure of God. Sending his son to a manger is an adventure of God. Taking the road to the cross is an adventure of Jesus.

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Installing a nativity on the front lawn of our church is a small commitment, but I believe that that is an action of our adventure, the adventure to witness a presence of God to the community. I hope and pray that we are stepping into a new season as we take the walk of adventure with God. We are already in the season of Advent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Jae Lew



HIDDEN TALENTS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

AFTER WORSHIP

A Concert for Amateurs only! If you once played in Band or Orchestra – or have a singing talent you have kept hidden, this is the time for YOU!

Church is the place where anyone can shine their own lights. This creates the Community of God.

After Coffee Fellowship, gather in the Wesley Chapel and we will see the beauty which is hidden in all of us.

Sierra Madre Candlelight Walk
Sunday, December 18th – 7:00 p.m.

**Gather at St. Rita Catholic Church (318
N Baldwin Ave) between 6 and 7 pm,
then walk down to Kersting Court.**
Come enjoy the singing!



December Lectionary Readings:

December 4	Isa. 11: 1-10; Rom. 15: 4-13; Matt. 3: 1-12
December 11	Isa. 35: 1-10; James 5: 7-10; Matt. 11: 2-11
December 18	Isa. 7: 10-16; Rom. 1: 1-7; Matt. 1: 18-25
December 24	Isa. 9: 2-7; Titus 2: 11-14; Luke 2: 1-20
December 25	Isa. 52: 7-10; Heb. 1: 1-4 (5-12); John 1: 1-14
December 31	Eccl. 3: 1-13; Rev. 21: 1-6a; Matt. 25: 31-46

Psalms for December:

December 4	Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19
December 11	Luke 1: 46b-55
December 18	Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
December 24	Psalm 90
December 25	Psalm 98
December 31	Psalm 8

Pastor Jae's Sermon titles and Worship themes for December

December 4	Second Sunday of Advent Communion Sunday <i>"Coming Back to Father's Home"</i> Luke 15: 16-24
December 11	Third Sunday of Advent <i>"A Precious Yearning"</i> Luke 2: 25-33
December 18	Fourth Sunday of Advent Children's Moment <i>"Mary's Humble Response"</i> Luke 1: 35-38
December 24	Christmas Eve Service – 4:00 p.m. <i>"The Holy Night"</i> Luke 2: 8-14
December 25	Christmas Day <i>"A Baby Christ is Born!"</i> Luke 2: 6-16

NEW MINISTRIES for 2023

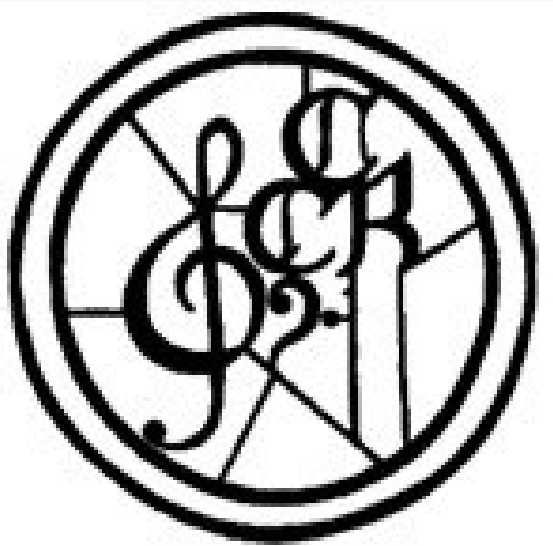
We are planning to create three new Task Forces in 2023! These are just in the planning stages, but we welcome any input!

- 1) Youth/Children /Young Families Mission Statement.
 - a. Connect with young families and encourage them to engage and support them while growing with Christ.
 - b. Provide them with environment within which they can work.
 - c. Plan programs of value, of interest to them, and to which they can relate.
- 2) Mission Statement for a Pop-up Drive-thru Sanctuary / Free Coffee Station
 - a. Serve the nursery school families & children and the people of our community with a free coffee station on our church parking lot.
 - b. Lead and invite them to our sanctuary.
 - c. Provide a future vision and programs for them.
- 3) Mission Statement for the Ministry of Transitioning Families
 - a. Identify the needs of transitioning families according to their life phases.
 - b. Provide care, support and information.
 - c. Find ways to walk together with them for safe and secure transition.

Won't you be part of these Visions and Ministries? If so, let Pastor Jae know at his email at jaedlew@gmail.com or 818-792-0538. Your sincere participation will be greatly appreciated!

Thank you,

Pastor Jae Lew



Community Chorus of Redlands Christmas Concert 2022

Sunday, December 11th – 4:00 p.m.

St. Rita Catholic Church
318 N Baldwin Ave
Sierra Madre CA 91024

Free Will Offering

YOU CAN HELP!

We are looking for people who will commit to helping with the Sunday Worship Service on one (or more) Sundays a month. We hope to have all positions filled by the beginning of 2023.

IN SHORT – WE NEED USHERS, CART DRIVERS and COUNTERS!

We need two committed people to **USHER**. This involves being at Church shortly after 9:00 on Sundays to organize the Usher Cart, check to see if we need the black hymnal, and welcome people as they enter the Church. For the offering, you need to carry the offering plate to the front, turn around to collect any offerings people might make. You will come back to the front of the Church when the Doxology is sung, and stay there until the Offering Prayer is completed.

There are two spots on the monthly **CART DRIVER** calendar that are open. This requires committed people who would be willing to get the cart out of the Hall and head up to the parking lot. Some of our members need help getting up and down the ramp, and you would drive them down and back up after Coffee. If you are “not a golfer”, someone will show you how to make it work, so people can depend on the cart being available EVERY SUNDAY.

COUNTERS are desperately needed. Your job would be to open offering envelopes and record the amount given on a tally sheet with members’ names. After all donations are recorded, you would then tally the contributions.

For any of these jobs, your help would be greatly appreciated. Even one Sunday a month will help. AND, Iwe’ll help you get comfortable doing the work.

BUT WAIT – THERE’S MORE!

I also find myself in the position of Communion Steward, and we have four Communion helpers who bring the bread and set up the Communion Table. Right now, they do this three times a year – but more helpers would cut that number down, maybe to once or twice a year. We supply the ‘wine’, the grape juice in the cupboard.

By the way, you can also volunteer to be liturgist for our Sunday Worship. Contact the Church Office – they will help you.

Please consider helping with the needs of our Church.

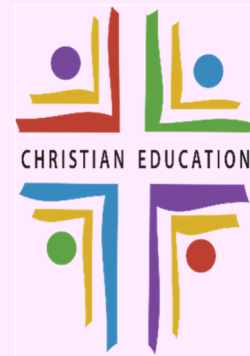
If you have questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact me at my email: 1000woods@gmail.com – or contact the Church Office at sierramadreumc@gmail.com

Thank you,

Peg Schuster

CONFIRMATION AND CHRISTIAN BASICS CLASSES

**Sign up to prepare for confirmation and
Church membership!**



- We are planning Three Sessions beginning SOON!
- Each session will last one hour
- These classes are designed for those who are preparing for confirmation, those who want to re-confirm their basic Christian beliefs, AND those who want to prepare to be members of our Church.
- Sunday, December 25th – presentation of the Liturgy

Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. "What God offers us must be accepted in repentance and faith," *[This Is Your Baptismal Liturgy](#)* states. "Confirmation and reaffirmation are our responses of commitment, profession of faith, and rededication."

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-is-your-baptismal-liturgy>



East District – Greater San Gabriel Mission Area

Christmas Meeting and Potluck

Saturday, December 10th – 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sierra Madre UMC will be hosting the Christmas gathering of our Mission Area for a meeting and potluck in Hartzell Fellowship Hall.

WATCH FOR UPDATES!

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

We at Sierra Madre United Methodist Church are mourning the passing of two family members, Anne Schryver and Dick Johnson. Our prayers go out to both families, we were blessed to know them a long time.

I have no information about Dick Johnson, but Anne's daughter Carol contacted the Church to say that the family will be holding a graveside service when they take her ashes to the family plot in Texas. Carol suggested that memorial gifts be made to:

Pasadena Humane Society
361 S Raymond Ave
Pasadena, CA 91105

USC Arcadia Hospital Foundation
300 Huntington Drive
Arcadia, CA 91107

Cal Farley's Boys and Girls Ranch
600 S W 11th Ave
Amarillo, TX 79101-3228

Our deepest condolences to Anne's and Dick's families,
these special people are truly missed.



Thanks to Dee Suzuki for posting this wonderful picture of Sierra Madre decorated for Christmas and Hannukah

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AROUND TOWN:

Saturday, December 10th – Upper Hastings Ranch Holiday Light-Up. Come see some impressive lighting displays throughout Hastings Ranch.

ONGOING – Patsy Cline Holiday Concert starring Cori Cable Kidder – Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre CA.

Sunday, December 18th – Sierra Madre Candlelight Walk – 7:00 p.m. at St. Rita Catholic Church, 318 N Baldwin Ave, Sierra Madre CA..



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Tuesday/Wednesday 29/30 Bible reading sessions
- Thursday, Dec 1 – Choir practice
- Friday, Dec 2 – Sarah Circle Book Club at Connie's @ 12:30 pm – *"The Last Night at the Ritz"* by Elizabeth Savage (next meeting will be in January)
- Sunday, Dec 4 – Alternative Gift Fair, Boutique and Bake Sale in the Chapel –after Worship
- Thursday, Dec 8 – Choir practice – 1:15 pm
- Saturday, Dec 10 – Mission Area potluck in Hartzell Hall 10 am – 12 noon.
- Sunday, Dec 11 – Brief Church Council meeting to approve staff pay followed by Christmas Brunch in Hartzell Hall
- Thursday, Dec 15 – Choir practice
- Sunday, Dec 18 – Hidden Treasures Talent Show
- Thursday, Dec 22 – Choir practice
- Saturday, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 4:00 pm
- Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Worship – 9:30 a.m. – Sanctuary
- Sunday, January 8 – Epiphany Brunch/Potluck

Are you looking for in-home assistance?



Maria Luna, a member of our church, is available. She does personal care for women or men. No housework, and no less than 5 hours a day. Maria's contact info is in your church directory, or you may contact Pam in the church office to get in touch with Maria, who can tell you more about her rates and services.



ATTENTION CRAFTERS!

Only ONE month until our AGF and Boutique!

Hope everyone is working diligently on their crafts. We're looking to have a wonderful AGF and Boutique.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00 p.m.

in the Sanctuary



- 8 Scott Basinger
- 9 Ning Basinger
- 12 Dwayne Miller
- 24 Yvonne Miller
- 28 Chandler Guzman (Garzzia)
- 29 Geoffrey Basinger
- 31 Dr. Richard Mittleman



Sarah Circle

Book Club meets on
Fourth Fridays

Connie Wortham's
house

CARD CREATION

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



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

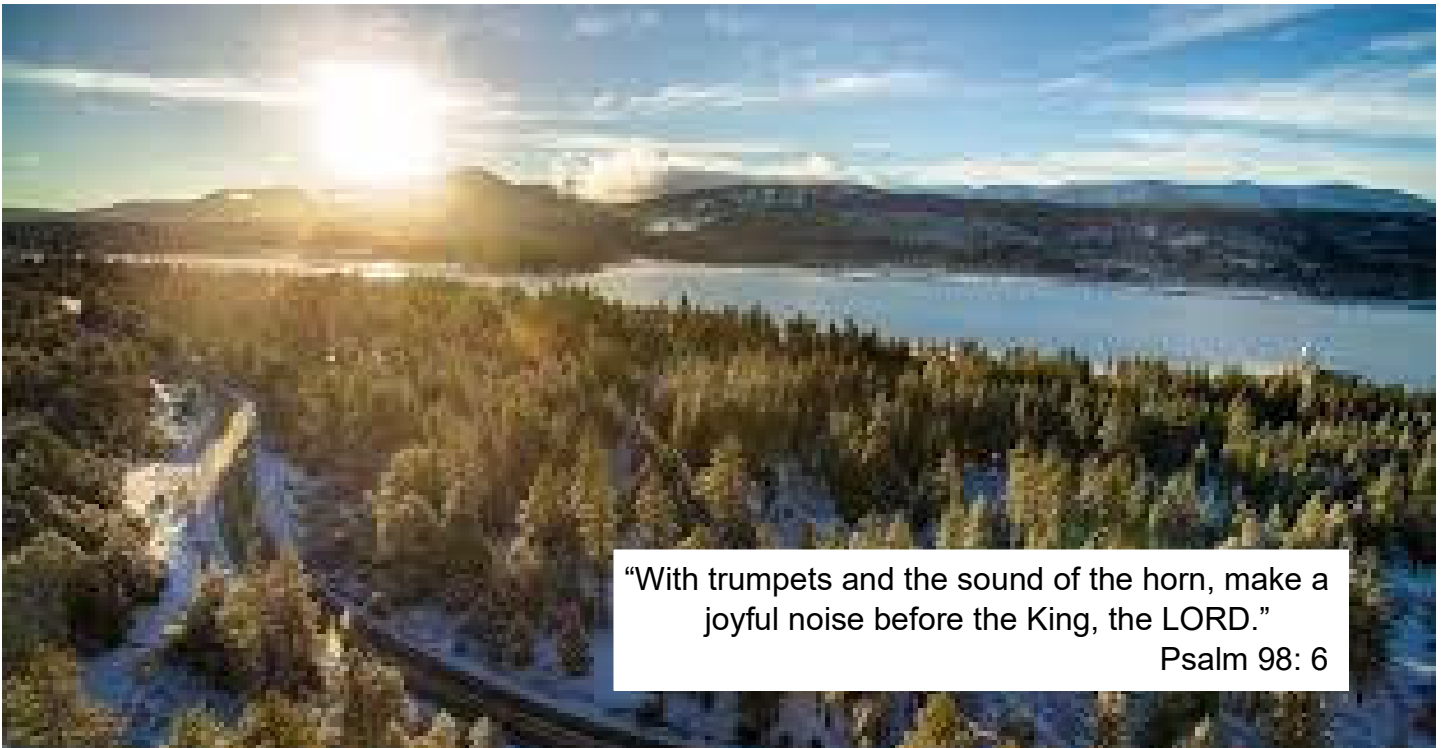
sm_umc@verizon.net
sierramadreumc@gmail.com *

* preferred email

Office Telephone:
(626) 355-0629



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



“With trumpets and the sound of the horn, make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.”
Psalm 98: 6

December

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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

(626) 355-0629 * E-mail: sm_umc@verizon.net * www.smumc.net * Follow us on TWITTER.com @SierraMadreUMC

2022

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	28	29	30	1	2 SARAH CIRCLE 12:30 p.m. Connie's House	3 AGF Set-up – Wesley Chapel
4 Second Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:30 a.m. – Coffee Fellowship ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR BOUTIQUE & BAKE SALE Wesley Chapel	5  National Blue Jeans Day	6	7  National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10 East District Mission Area Christmas Brunch – Potluck Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
11 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:30 a.m. – Brunch - HH RENTAL – Fellowship Hall 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.	12	13  National Ice Cream Day 2022	14	15	16  <i>This day in history</i> December 16, 1773 Boston Tea Party <small>BEARING ARMS</small>	17 RENTAL Fellowship Hall 3:00 – 9:00 p.m.
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:30 a.m. – Coffee Fellowship AMATEUR TALENT SHOW	19	20	21	22  NATIONAL COOKIE EXCHANGE DAY	23	24  Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary
25 Christmas Day 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:30 a.m. – Coffee Fellowship 	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Happy Boxing Day 	27 BIBLE-IN-ONE-YEAR Conversations 2:30 p.m. - LL	28 BIBLE-IN-ONE-YEAR Conversations 6:00 p.m. - LL	29	30	31 Watch Night 