



March 2023



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WE CELEBRATED FAT TUESDAY!



Special thanks to the Outreach Team – with Sally Follett and Anna Garzzia taking the lead in pancake production.



A Message from PASTOR JAE

“Again, It is a Good Time to Plant”



Last Wednesday when the free coffee sanctuary was open early in the morning, a girl student of the La Salle high school was approaching our coffee sanctuary. I was wondering if she may want a cup of coffee. “Would you like to try my coffee?” Her response was no. Instead, she said, “I have a question.” “Well...” With much curiosity, I gave my ears to her. She continued, “A couple of weeks ago, I saw a sermon title, ‘Are Christians Fools?’ What does it mean?” Her question was about the message on February 12th with the Scripture reading from Matthew 5:38-48. Do you remember that message on that Sunday?

How can I say within a minute about it to the one, who seems to know nothing about Jesus and Christianity? With prayers, I said, “Jesus told us, when someone slaps us on our cheek, turn to that person the other cheek. If someone forces us to go a mile, be willing to go with him extra miles, two miles. How does it sound to you? It may sound foolish? I may sound like survival skills. Some people try to take advantage of that extra offer and abuse it. Why did Jesus say that to us? Is it okay to be that easily abused? Jesus was already aware of this possibility. Nevertheless, he invites us to be the first person to bring the grace to the world. We, Christians, may look foolish. But not really. We, Christians, are the ones who take that vision of Jesus, as we participate in that movement of going that extra mile of grace in the midst of those possible abuses.” She listened to me with the bright eyes, and as she was walking toward the school, she said this. “I am not religious. But I am interested. One day, I would like to listen to your message.”

I thought, wow... We put up a simple title for every Sunday worship service on our church sign board on the front lawn. We have done it for years with a wish that someone would see it and walk into our sanctuary on Sunday. “What if only one person sees it, Lord, bless the heart of that person. One person is enough, Lord, my God.” That has been our prayer. We are happy to do a little thing, and God takes and transform it for his graceful task in our community.

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For our free coffee sanctuary, I use one of the best coffee beans in the town. I use the best milk - organic. For the sweet latte, I do not use sugar, utilizing agave syrup and Canadian maple syrup instead. There is a reason. I want to serve our young parents with the best product. From the parsonage next to the preschool, sometimes, I hear their children crying and whining. I see their mom or dad try their best to calm them down. Dropping their kids to the preschool needs much more patience and energy, especially early in the morning. When they drop their kids or pick them up, they may consider it as a trivial and mundane task. But from God's perspective, that is a sacred task. I just want to treat them with a sense of sacredness, even though I don't say that to them. For sure, raising children is a sacred task, which God takes as honorable.



Three weeks ago, I sowed sunflower seeds at a few places on our church campus as well as in the front yard of the parsonage. Sometimes, during heavy rains, I was concerned, one of the most sincere forms of expression to show we really care. Every time I walk by those places, God moves me to pray that every seed will survive and sprout at its own right time. I also pray that the squirrels nesting with us on our church campus would not find the places where the seeds are sown. I believe that our God shares his spirit of grace with the squirrels as well.

Our Christian life is a journey of grateful joy in planting with prayers. It should not be a task of duty. ***“So neither she/he who plants nor she/he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”*** (1 Corinthians 3: 7). Our Christian life is about grace, trust and hope with God.

It has been really cold (at least to me). But we are happy to see hail and snow-capped mountains in Southern California. Let us remember, the Spring is soon with us. Again, my loving friends, **it is a good time to plant.** AMEN.

Blessings,
Pastor Jae Lew

March Lectionary Readings:

March 5	Gen 12: 1-4a; Rom. 4: 1-6, 13-17; John 3: 1-17
March 12	Exod. 17: 1-7; Rom. 5: 1-11; John 4: 5-42
March 19	1 Sam. 16: 1-13; Eph. 5: 8-14; John 9: 1-41
March 26	Ezek. 37: 1-14; Rom. 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

Weekly Psalms for March:

February 5	Psalm 121
February 12	Psalm 96
February 19	Psalm 23
February 26	Psalm 130

Pastor Jae's Sermon titles and Worship themes for March

March 5	Second Sunday in Lent – Communion Sunday <i>“Are You Taking a Journey?”</i> Genesis 12: 1-10
March 12	Third Sunday in Lent <i>“Are You Still Tempted?”</i> Exodus 17: 1-7
March 19	Fourth Sunday in Lent Children's Moment <i>“How Is Your Heart?”</i> 1 Samuel 16: 6-13
March 26	Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>“What Makes You Alive?”</i> Ezekiel 37: 9-14

Watch for Easter Lily Order Information – coming to your bulletins and midweek updates.

Hello Church Friends!

Last Sunday, I had the honor to share a little bit about the time I had together with Dale in Colombia. Following up on this, Pastor Jae has asked me to put the message in writing, which is my pleasure of course.



This picture shows most of the group involved in the ‘Come and See’ training. We had a wonderful time together and I really appreciated the friendships and warmth!

Before we get into the Colombia-time, I’d just like to share a little bit about the context of our visit, with the movement that Dale is leading. It is a global ministry called Kings Kids, focused on knowing God, bringing joy to His Heart and making him Known. We went down to Colombia to help initiate a new Training called “Come and See”. This training focuses on transitioning from teaching-based sharing of God’s love to a living-based approach. These covenantal, missional communities Inviting people to Come and See how they try to live the Kingdom of God, based on a set of biblical principles. So instead of teaching, the focus lies on sharing Gods love and values through a lifestyle, a community. In Cartagena, Colombia we had the honor to start this training with all generations combined and people from different parts of the world!

In preparation for this, we prayed a lot and took time to listen to the Father, to see what He had om His heart and to just rest in his presence. It is so important to not only go forward in our humanly made plans, but to really see what God’s plans are and joining in those, since those are the ones that will prevail and be fruitful. In this

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process of prayer and drawing closer to the heart of God, the love and joy that are set free are too much to handle for us.

When we draw closer to our Father, we cannot not keep His love and joy to ourselves. It is just impossible. We spark something that makes people ask questions and we answer those with a joyful heart. Or at least, that is the challenge! During our time with the community and in meeting many wonderful people, I really experienced the joy of the Lord and had many great conversations and prayer times. It always is an honor to meet new people, each with their own story, and to see how much God loves and is working with them!

The experience I had on my heart to share though, happened on our way back. On the plane we had the honor to small talk with a Coronel from the army. He was a nice guy, really open, and we shared some laughs. After showing me how He is living every boys' dream by flying helicopters and driving fast boats, we talked for a bit and enjoyed our flight afterwards in silence. At one point, he saw that Dale was reading a psalm and started asking questions. This resulted in the sharing of all our life stories, with his having one specific open end. He was raised in a Christian family and went to a lot of Christian activities, but never had that so often talked of experience with the Lord. Later, he became an agnostic, but over the years, several encounters with inspiring people and the support of his wife planted a seed of faith in him. Now, he was thinking of getting baptized again, but was not quite sure. Just before we landed, he asked if we could pray for him and during the prayer, tears started to come down his cheek. After the prayer, he thanked us royally and made a statement that stuck with me: "There is a whole army of Christians that subconsciously works together and brings people closer to God, step by step through big and small encounters. You guys are part of that team and I'm thankful that you took part in it actively." What an interesting thought!

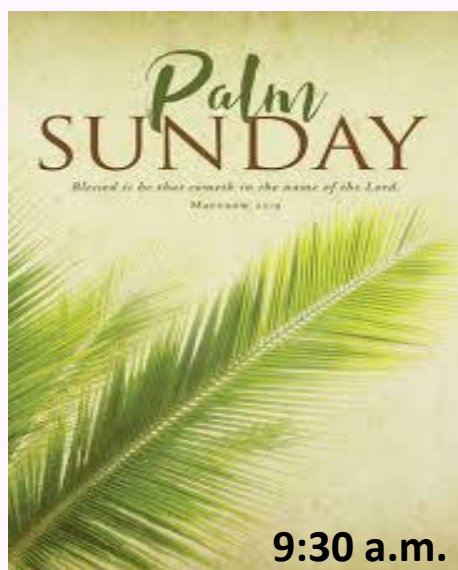
As we are all part of this one team, we need to draw closer to Jesus in order to have overflow and share His Love with the people around us. Tuning in to His Heart and asking Him to lead us is the key. We can say a lot of words, but it's the words that God puts in our hearts that make the difference. If we accept Jesus' Lord- and friendship, share that in our communities, strengthen one another and then go out, we will be part of a fruitful, dynamic and strong team.

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Important though, is to remember that it's not about getting on the team, but about winning together with the whole team. What is this supposed to mean? Well, we tend to be satisfied with having faith for ourselves, to just go to church and enjoy those moments, nothing more. It is the easiest way of having faith, because it is all about receiving; who doesn't want that? This is what I call getting on the team. The team's name is the Kingdom of God, and by being a Christian, you're part of that right? Though this seems nice and cozy, it is only part of what the Father asks us to do. He asks us to walk with him and make disciples of all the earth (Matthew 28). That requires us to be active and in touch with God. In order to do that, we need the moments of connection with others, moments of overflow. This requires courage and willingness to step up and be active within the team. It might seem like too big a challenge, or something weird and uncomfortable, but that is only the case if we try to win the world by ourselves. We have an excellent guide, Jesus. We tend to do things FOR God, but he invites us to do things WITH Him in order to make a lasting difference and bring joy to His heart. It is never about how much work we do for Gods Kingdom; it is about how much we do what God asks us to do: Gods plan will prevail in the end (Proverbs 19:21). He doesn't need our help, He invites us to become more like Him by getting to know Him better and share in His plans (we are friends, not servants as Jesus says in John 15:15). So, are we ready to be part of that Kingdom team, draw closer to the Father and win WITH Him?

David Ruiter





Anyone Interested in a Field Trip?

This photograph is of the Carrizo Plain National Monument – a less frequented flower peeper site than the Poppy Reserve.

Yang and Pastor Jae visited this location during the last Super Bloom. They were able to set up a roadside table and eat their lunch next to these beautiful wildflowers. I read that there are numerous birds and wildlife in this area – including California Condors and Pronghorn Antelope!

Pastor Jae would like to organize a field trip to this amazing site. Please contact him or the Church Office if you are interested.

CONFIRMATION & CHRISTIAN BASICS



- We are in the midst of Twelve Sessions of Confirmation Class at this time. Meetings are Thursdays at 4:30 p.m., in the Pastor's Study for one hour. If you are interested in future classes, contact Pastor Jae or the Church Office.
- 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.
- Final Session - presentation of the Liturgy



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.



O U T R E A C H

Sarah Circle Book of the Month:

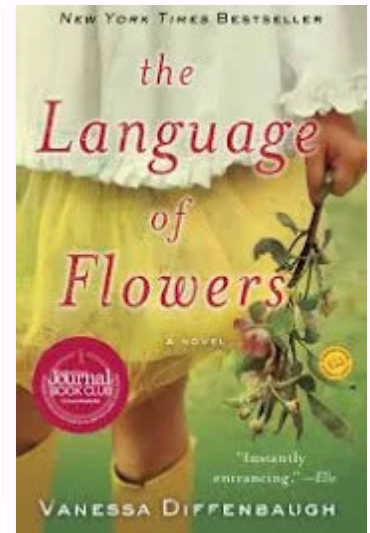
“The Language of Flowers”

by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Sarah Circle meets at **Connie Wortham’s** house on the **fourth Friday** of each month

(**March 24th** this month. The time is **12:30 p.m.**)

Contact Sally Follett for more information.



Outreach Opportunities:

***Friends In Deed* – SPECIAL COLLECTION – March 5th**

In addition to the food items we are collecting each First Sunday, there will be a special Collection for the Women’s Room at Friends in Deed as well. Items on the wish list include underwear, socks and individually sized toiletry items.

UMCOR SUNDAY – Special Offering March 19th for United Methodist Committee on Relief.



Ongoing Opportunity

We collect food donations on the first Sunday of every month, to be distributed to our local food banks. Donations may be left at the Fellowship Hall.





Only 9 months until THIS YEAR'S Boutique! Are you crafting???



Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 12, 2023



March Birthdays

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



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



Church
Office Hours

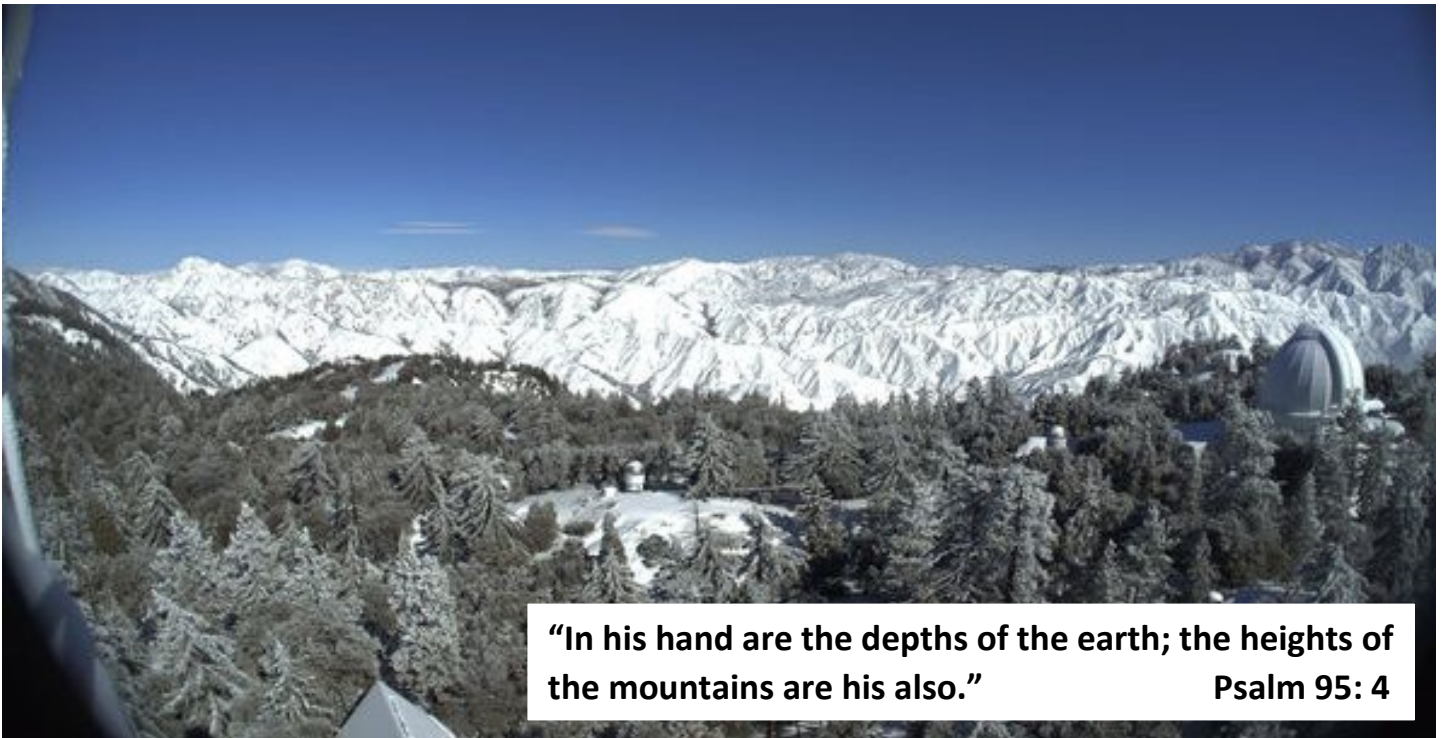
The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm. You can also contact us at our email addresses:

sm_umc@verizon.net
sierramadreumc@gmail.com *

* preferred email
Office Telephone:
(626) 355-0629



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



**“In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of
the mountains are his also.”**

Psalm 95: 4

March

2023

SUNDAY

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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

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MONDAY










TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Abbreviations LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = SH Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel	27	28 <div style="border: 2px dashed red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 2:30 p.m. - WC </div>	1 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00 p.m. - WC </div>	2  INTERNATIONAL RESCUE CAT DAT	3	4
5 Second Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	6  DOING THE MOST GOOD SALVATION ARMY FOUNDERS DAY	7 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 2:30 p.m. - WC </div>	8 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00 p.m. - WC </div>	9	10	11  Set Your Clocks Ahead One Hour!
12 Third Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship 	13	14 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 2:30 p.m. - WC </div>	15 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00 p.m. - WC </div>	16  Camp Fire Girls Day	17 	18
19 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	20  Vernal Equinox	21 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 2:30 p.m. - WC FINANCE COMM. 4:00 p.m. </div>	22 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00 p.m. - WC </div>	23	24 SARAH CIRCLE 12:30 p.m. Connie's House	25  National Medal of Honor Day
26 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	27	28 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 2:30 p.m. - WC </div>	29 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LENTEN BIBLE STUDY 6:00 p.m. - WC </div>	30	31  Eiffel Tower Day	1