



**January  
2024**



# THE TRYLON

**SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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*Happy New Year 2024*



**Our Theme for the New Year:  
“THE CHURCH OF SALT”**

The image above is of an abandoned salt mine turned Church,  
located in Zipaquirá, Colombia. A hidden Church?  
A Hidden Treasure!

*The Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá*

**EPIPHANY BRUNCH  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH**

## A Message from PASTOR JAE

### “The Church of Salt”

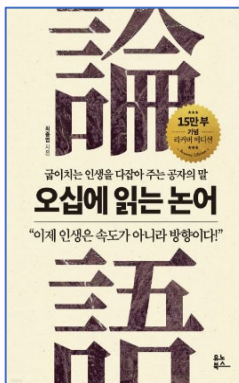


“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?” (Matthew 5:13). The church of salt is the theme for our ministries and mission in this new year 2024.

In our memories, the image of salt always comes with the image of light, and the light usually comes first with more weight and significance, saying, “Light and Salt.” In a sense, the salt is falling behind, being unrecognized on its own significance, while the light is easily recognized by anyone especially at night. We wonder what is the Biblical way in which Jesus mentioned the both in the Bible.

“You are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). “You are the light of the world A city on a hill cannot be hidden” (Matthew 5:14). **In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus first mentions the salt, and the light follows the salt.** What would you like to be first, the salt or the light? To awaken the value of others from within them, would you like to be the salt, melting yourself and disappearing into them? Or would you like to be the light, being recognized by others?

The year that I recognized the Biblical fact that salt comes first and light follows, was when I reached the age of fifty. In a sense, becoming fifty was one of the turning points for my personal journey of truth, understanding and practice. According to the teachings of Confucius, one of my ancient intellectual mentors, the age of fifty is set as the year that a person shall come to realize the Heavenly order and its holy calling (五十而知天命) for one’s life. In my time of reflections on my own journey



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and ministries, I discovered that I had been leaning more toward the light, even though I tried to stay with the salt, which was one of the fundamentals I found in the teachings of Jesus. I was able to discern that I had pursued recognition from others even though it was unconsciously. I had many times of conversation with Jesus on that issue, why salt had to come first. It was clear that what came first in Jesus' life and ministry was the ministry of the cross and compassion. **Jesus melted Himself in the lives of the people. Then came the life of resurrection, which is represented by light.** The image of melting inspired me. As I melt myself into the life of Jesus, Jesus melts his life into me.

In this new year 2024, what kind of Christian person would you like to build within you? What church would you like to build together? The theme and image of our church next year is the church of salt. I believe that as we melt ourselves into Jesus, Jesus will melt his life into us. Then Jesus will shine His light on us. I am grateful. **Are you ready for the journey this new year?** Why don't we all become salt first? Let's be the church of salt. Then God will make our church the church of His divine light.

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" (Matthew 5:13).*

Blessings,

Pastor Jae Lew

### AMATEUR TALENT SHOW and CAROL SING- December 17<sup>th</sup>



## **January Lectionary Readings:**

January 7	Epiphany Sunday - Isa. 60: 1-6; Eph. 3: 1-12; Matt. 2: 1-12 Baptism of the Lord – Gen. 1: 1-5; Acts 19: 1-7; Mark 1: 4-11
January 14	1 Samuel 2: 1-10 (11-20); 1 Cor. 6: 12-20; John 1: 43-51
January 21	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; 1 Cor. 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20
January 28	Deut. 18: 15-20; 1 Cor. 8: 1-13; Mark 1: 21-28

## **Weekly Psalms for January:**

January 7	Epiphany - Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14 Baptism of the Lord – Psalm 29
January 14	Psalm 136: 1-6, 13-18
January 21	Psalm 62: 5-12
January 28	Psalm 111



## **Pastor Jae's Sermon titles and Worship themes for January**

January 7	<b>Epiphany Sunday – Baptism of the Lord</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> <i>“What Treasures Will You Prepare”</i> <b>Matthew 2: 1-12</b>
January 14	<b>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <b>Special Offering – Human Relations Day</b> <i>“Listen to the Call”</i> <b>1 Samuel 3: 1-11</b>
January 21	<b>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <b>HYMN SING</b>
January 28	<b>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> <i>“Longing for a Spiritual Awakening”</i> <b>Matthew 1: 21-28</b>

# Advent Activities at SMUMC



Decorating  
the Church

Sunday,  
November  
26<sup>th</sup>

Getting  
Ready for  
Advent!



Children's Moment – Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

# SMUMC TURNS 70! – and hosts the ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR / BOUTIQUE / BAKE SALE

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>



Connie  
Wortham's  
Cards





O U T R E A C H



**BOUTIQUE and  
BAKE SALE**

From the Lay Leader:

Thanks to all who donated, sewed, baked or who were otherwise involved in our Alternative Gift Fair, Boutique and Bake Sale, held on the first two Sundays in December.

We raised \$ 2,203.00 in total:

\$ 1,545.00 from Alternative Gifts

\$ 658.00 from the Boutique and Bake Sale

The proceeds will be distributed to the local and global charities that SMUMC supports.

Pastor Jae participating in the Sierra Madre  
Candlelight Walk – Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>



## 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 for her rates and services.



**Sarah Circle**  
Book Club meets on  
Fourth Fridays  
—————  
Connie Wortham's  
house



- 8 **Brenda Walkiewicz**
- 18 **Bob Travis**
- 24 **Dawn Suzuki Elachi**
- 25 **Norma Nava**
- 28 **Joyce Kenyon**



- 4 **Laura and Rich Snyder**
- 7 **Millie and Dr. Richard Mittleman**
- 12 **Susan and Bob Ross**

## 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](mailto:sm_umc@verizon.net)  
[sierramadreumc@gmail.com](mailto:sierramadreumc@gmail.com) \*

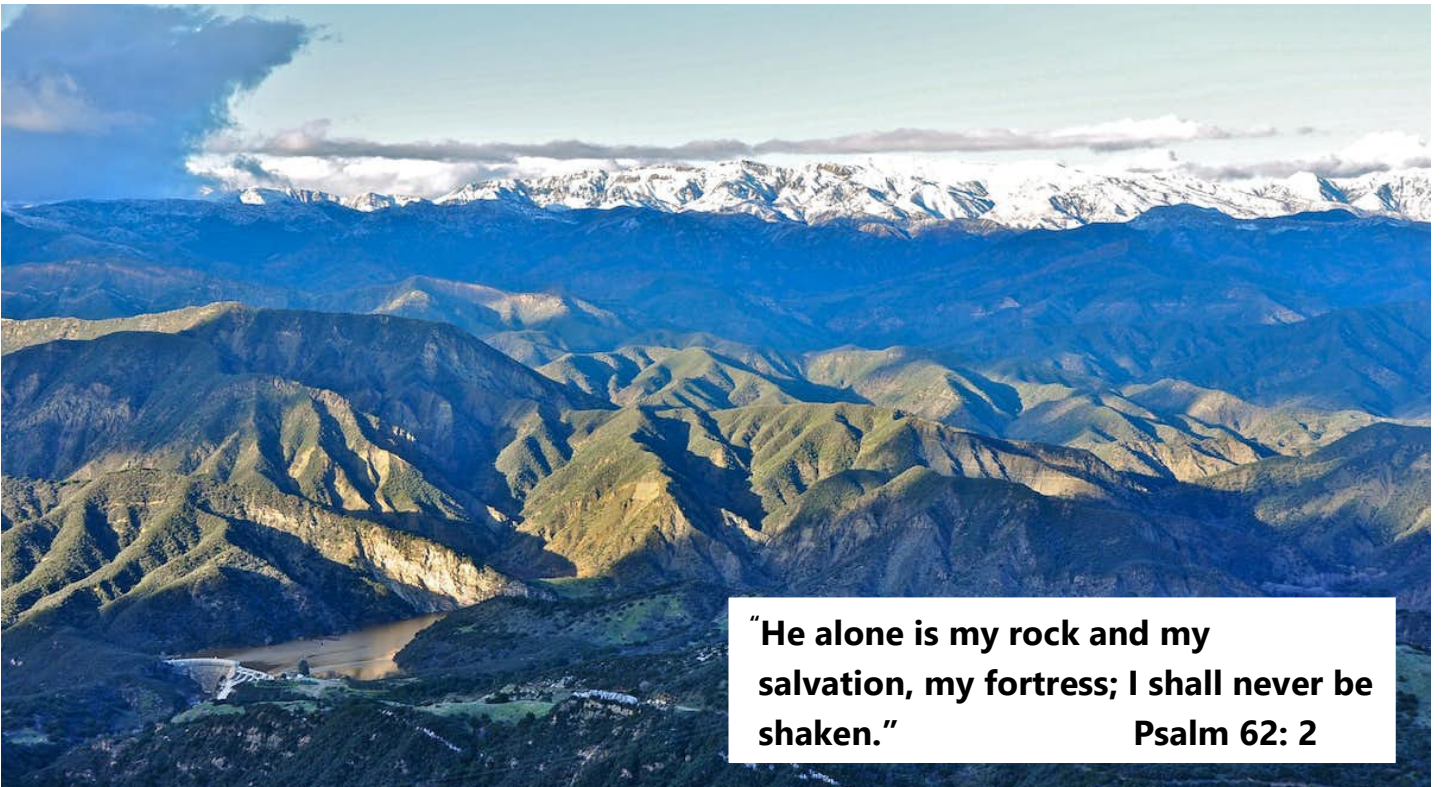
\* preferred email

Office Telephone:  
(626) 355-0629





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



**"He alone is my rock and my  
salvation, my fortress; I shall never be  
shaken."  
Psalm 62: 2**

January  
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

	1 Church Office Closed 	2	3  FESTIVAL OF SLEEP DAY		5	6  EPIPHANY
7 Epiphany Sunday / Baptism of the Lord 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Epiphany Brunch - HH	8	9  Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10  PECULIAR PEOPLE DAY	11	12	13  Korean American Day
14 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	15 Church Office Closed  MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY I HAVE A DREAM	16 FINANCE COMM. 4:00 p.m.,	17 P.M. RENTAL-HARTZELL FELLOWSHIP HALL	18	19	20  International Day of Acceptance
<b>YANG AND PASTOR JAE TAKE A BREAK!</b> January 16 <sup>th</sup> to January 23 <sup>rd</sup>						
21 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">HYMN SING WORSHIP</div>	22  INTERNATIONAL SWEATPANTS DAY JANUARY 22	23	24	25  NATIONAL OPPOSITE DAY	26 SARAH CIRCLE 12:30 p.m. Connie's House VERIFY DATE	27
28 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship	29	30	31  BACKWARDS DAY	1	2	<b>Abbreviations</b> LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = SH Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel