



# THE TRYLON

**SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**DECEMBER 2024**

## FALL HARVEST OF BLESSINGS

Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024



I understand that our Choir was the only one that sang in parts!

A Message from **PASTOR JAE**

***“The Bell of Wonder:  
A Season of Adventure, Advent, and Christmas”***



As I mark two wonderful years in Sierra Madre, I feel deeply blessed to be part of this community. With my third Christmas here fast approaching, my heart is filled with gratitude.

For the last two years, along with my calling as Pastor Jae, I received a delightful new name from a special group of people—the preschool children. They call me 'Coffee Pastor.' Every Wednesday, I set

up a coffee station in our church parking lot, that we named **Free Coffee Sanctuary**.

The Free Coffee Sanctuary is my small way of supporting young parents and the broader community. Parenting is both a challenge and a sacred privilege. Offering a warm cup of coffee or matcha latte is my way of saying, "You're doing an amazing job, and you're not alone." But as I continued serving the parents, I began to wonder: what about the children? How could I bring a bit of joy to them as well?

The idea came to me last year during a trip to Vancouver, where my wife Yang found something delightful—a small bell. For preschoolers, starting the day early can be tough, so I decided to greet them with cheerful words: *'Welcome to school. Have a great day!'* Then I invite them to ring the bell. Whether hesitantly or curiously, they approach, and the sound of the bell brings smiles, laughter, and a moment of pure wonder. What began as a simple act has grown into a beloved ritual. Each ring feels like a celebration, a reminder that these children are seen, loved, and cherished.

Yet, the Bible gives us a vision of what the world can be when we embrace childlike faith and joy. Isaiah 11:6 paints this beautiful picture: *'The*



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*wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.”*

Who leads this harmonious world? A little child. Children are not just our future; they are our hope for today. What if we allowed their spirit of wonder and



amazement to guide us? What if we equipped ourselves with the humility and trust of a child, seeing the world through their eyes? Is there a way that we adults could be children again?

As we walk in this season of Advent and Christmas, I can't help but think about the little child who is coming—the baby

Jesus. Soon, we will celebrate the new season God brings through the birth of His only Son. The festive lights of Christmas will soon illuminate every corner of our community, from home to home. I am especially excited about the sparkling displays at Hastings Ranch, a beautiful tradition that fills the season with wonder and joy.

Like the preschoolers ringing the bell with delight, what if we prepared our hearts to welcome baby Jesus with that same joy, wonder, and amazement? What if we invited Him not only into our homes but into our hearts as well? This season, let us ring the joyful sound of the bell, proclaiming the good news to all!

Best wishes,

Pastor Jae Lew



## **DECEMBER Lectionary Readings:**

December 1	Jer. 33: 14-16; 1 Thess. 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 23-36
December 8	Mal. 3: 1-4; Phil. 1: 3-1; Luke 3: 1-6
December 15	Zeph. 3: 14-20; Phil. 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7--18
December 22	Mic. 5: 2-5a; Heb. 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45
December 29	1 Sam. 2: 18-20, 26; Col. 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52

## **PSALMS for December:**

December 1	Psalms 25: 1-10
December 8	Luke 1: 68-79
December 15	Isa. 12: 2-6
December 22	Luke 1: 46b-55
December 29	Psalms 148

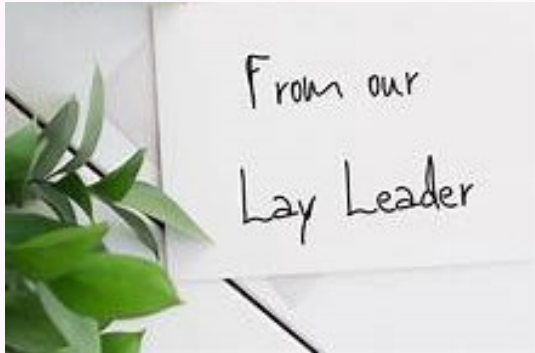
## **Pastor Jae's Sermon titles and Worship scripture for December**

December 1	First Sunday of Advent – Communion Sunday <i>“Preparation”</i> Jeremiah 33: 14-16
December 8	Second Sunday of Advent <i>“A Messenger”</i> Malachi 3: 1-4
December 15	Third Sunday of Advent <i>“The Wells of Salvation”</i> Isaiah 12: 1-6
December 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Sunday <i>“The Baby of Hope”</i> Micah 5: 1-5
December 24	Christmas Eve Service – 4:00 p.m. <i>“In the Field to Bethlehem”</i> Luke 2: 8-14
December 29	First Sunday after Christmas Day <i>“In the Temple”</i> Luke 2: 41-52

## SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB

There is **NO Book Club** meeting in the month of **December**

Look for information about the January meeting in next month's Trylon



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Because December is crowded with happenings here at SMUMC and around town, here's a summary of important dates coming up.

- **The choir meet at 8:50 a.m. on Sunday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Card making at Sally's – Dec 3**
- **Potential Trustees meeting, Tuesday Dec 3**
- **Men's breakfast – Dec 7**
- **Dec 8 - Gift Fair Sunday – in the Wesley Chapel**
  - **Alternative Gift Forms available (purchase gifts in honor of friends or family that go directly to charitable organisations)**
  - **Boutique items for sale**
  - **Bake Sale**
  - **Sign cards for our homebound members**
  - **Bring back your Angel Project toys**
- **Dec 10 – Tuesday – Choir sing at British Home or Arcadia Living?**
- **Dec 15 - Carol singalong and talent show? Boutique continues.**
- **Dec 17 – Choir sing at British Home or Arcadia Living?**
- **Dec 22 - Christmas potluck?**
- **Dec 24 – Christmas Eve service**
- **Dec 29 – Potential CC meeting to pass budget?**
- **Jan 5 – Epiphany brunch**



## **The Church of Childlike Awe**

### **2024-25 Stewardship Campaign**

**At the outset of our pledge drive, Pastor Jae posed two questions to prospective speakers:**

- 1. What does the church mean to you?**
- 2. What are you hoping for in the Church's future, and how would you be part of that hope?**

**In coming months we will present all of the stewardship addresses, this month we begin with the testimonies of Cindy Crismer and Jaden Miller:**

In this season of our annual Stewardship campaign, Pastor Jae has challenged a few of us a chance to share some thoughts with the Congregation on what this church means to us and what our hopes are for the church in the future.

My immediate response was that I had time traveled back to high school and college when essay prompts were every day occurrences. But these two topics have led me to really consider what this church means to me and have validated that my hopes for this church have been and still are the same.

I hope to see this church grow – I love to see the young families in church and at fellowship and sleeping overnight in tents on our campus. I love that Brian and Yogin are committed to making this church their home and that they find comfort, faith and connection with us old folks. I applaud their commitment to be the spark that starts our children's ministry and offer my support to make it grow.

I have my own memories of Sunday School – starting with earning pins for regular attendance. And receiving a pocket size New Testament for Easter one year. One of my most favorite memories was the practice my parents initiated when I started Sunday School and it is only fitting to share this in this season of stewardship. You see, my allowance was

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We collect food donations on the first Sunday of every month, to be distributed to local food banks.

### **Please Note:**

The food banks to which we send your donations **will not accept** food in opened containers or with expired 'use by' dates. Please just throw them away rather than bringing them to First Sunday.



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25 cents a week. The rule was 10 cents went in my piggy bank (actually it was a rabbit, not a pig), 10 cents went into the collection plate at Sunday School and a nickel was mine to spend. Sure wouldn't go very far in today's economy but I felt rich at the time. And it instilled in me the discipline to make giving to the church a life long practice.

While I hope to see the church grow, it isn't about the numbers as much as it is about providing a place where each of us can grow in our faith. For some it is the sermon message, for others the hymns we sing or listening to Stephanie's amazing music. For others, it is knowing that there are others on this journey with us and just being among other believers is enough. For me, it is a place of welcome, of forgiveness, of joy, of awe in Jesus and in awe of God's creation in which we live.

But it's a little more personal as the people in this church are members of my extended family and some of my closest friends are members of this congregation. I grieve for the many members who have served this church and have now passed – many of their names you may not recognize: Midge Morash, Virginia Elliot, Phyllis Jenkins, Fran Garbaccio, Elva and Dick Johnson, Jane and Larry Bevington, my Mom. I have witnessed their stewardship and learned from their faith and service. I hope to be that role model for the next generation.

Thank you.

***and from Jaden Miller:***

To me, this church is the place that has really helped me grow as a person and strengthen my faith. It feels like a landmark in my life because all the experiences I've had here will always stay in my heart. One of my favorite memories is the rummage sale—it was the first big event I took part in, and it made me feel so proud to be involved. I loved working with everyone.

In the future, I hope to see our church continue to grow and thrive! Since 2016, I've seen it change and expand in so many awesome ways, and it makes me really happy. I love how the members of this church come together to help each other and support one another. It would be great to see even more kids and families come to this church and join in on our church services and activities. I really believe that together, we can make our church an even more amazing place for everyone.

## HOME CARE AVAILABLE

**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.

## Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24th  
4:00 p.m. – Sanctuary



## DECEMBER birthdays



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



- 10 **Patricia and Jonathan Nieto**



**Sarah Circle**  
**Book Club meets**  
**on Fourth Fridays**

**Sally Follett's**  
**house**

## CARD CREATION

meetings will be announced.

Call Sally Follett if you want to meet her individually to make cards.



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**



**“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” Matthew 4:16**

# December

# Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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## 2024

### SUNDAY

### MONDAY

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

### SATURDAY

<p><b>1</b> First Sunday of Advent  <b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b>  <b>11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>CARD-MAKING</b>  <b>1:00 p.m. SHCR</b></p> <p><b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>  <b>4:00 p.m. SHCR</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> 	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>MEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST - LL - 7:30 a.m.</b></p> <p><b>Set-up for AGF HH - 2:00 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>8</b> Second Sunday of Advent  <b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b>  <b>11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b></p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> 	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> 	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>CAF POTLUCK LL</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> Third Sunday of Advent  <b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b>  <b>10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>FINANCE COMM.</b>  <b>4:00 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>  <p><b>Flake Appreciation Day</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day</p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>CAF POTLUCK</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent  <b>Christmas Sunday</b>  <b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b>  <b>10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b></p> <p><b>Sierra Madre Candlelight Walk - 6:00 p.m. - St. Rita Church</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>  <p><b>4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> 	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Yang and Pastor Jae on Break 12/26 -12/27</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>SARAH CIRCLE</b>  <b>12:30 p.m.</b>  <b>Sally's House</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> First Sunday after Christmas Day  <b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b>  <b>10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> 	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> 	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Abbreviations</b></p> <p>LL = Library Lounge  SH = Sierra House  SHCR = SH Conference Room  HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall  WC = Wesley Chapel</p>	