



# THE TRYLON

**SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**JANUARY 2025**

## CHRISTMAS SEASON AT SMUMC



We began on Thanksgiving Sunday, with a splendid potluck brunch before getting down to the serious business of decorating the Sanctuary!



*more pictures page 5*

A Message from **PASTOR JAE**

***“Happy New Year 2025”***



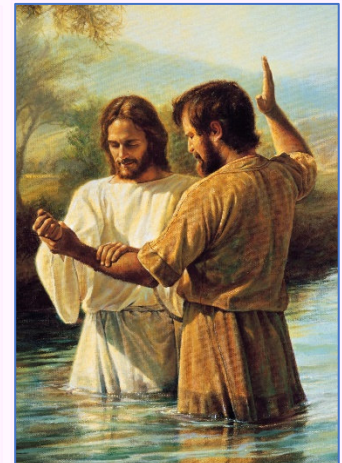
One of the unexpected joys I have found in life is cleaning the house and yard—dusting, mopping, resetting displays, pruning and blowing away fallen leaves. It may seem like a chore, but it always gives me a fresh start and renews my spirit for the next day.

When I first came to the United States for doctoral studies at Claremont Graduate University, I needed to find a way to support my family while balancing my studies and serving as a youth pastor. One day, a friend invited me to join him in his cleaning work. He said, "Jae, would you like to help me with my cleaning job? It's a Saturday morning job." I hesitated at first, unsure of what to expect.

The day arrived, and I went with him to a two-story house where he provided cleaning services. As a novice, my responsibility was to clean the second-floor rooms and dens, focusing on dusting furniture, washing windows, and vacuuming floors. However, it wasn't just about physical labor. It required delicate care for specific items, like displayed artifacts and a cosmetics set belonging to the housewife and her college-age daughter. The work typically took three hours, and though it was tiring, I often felt refreshed on the way home. It was as if my body and soul had been cleaned along with the house.

As I conclude 2024 and step into the new year of 2025, one Bible verse stands out to me: John the Baptist's words in Matthew 3:11, *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

The image of baptism with water and holy fire is an invitation from God to renewal and transformation.



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Baptism is not just about cleansing. It is about creating something new within us. In a similar way, I have found that the act of cleaning - whether dusting a room or tidying a yard - mirrors this spiritual process. It is not only about removing dirt and clutter. It is about bringing order and creating a fresh space. Just as John the Baptist prepared people's hearts for the coming of Christ, these small, simple acts of cleaning prepare my heart and mind for new beginnings.

My friends, how will you prepare yourself for the new year? What specific task will you take on to reset and renew your life for the days ahead in 2025? It doesn't have to be a grand gesture - a simple task can be enough to bring a sense of renewal and a new start.

This Christmas was truly special. The Hastings Ranch lights were like a choir of hymns and carols, brightening the hearts of our community. The City Candlelight Walk was like a joyful march to the sacred tradition, drawing us into the spirit of a holy community united by hope and love. And now, as the decorations come down, it may feel like Christmas is behind us. But as you all know, that's not Christmas is not just a one-day event. It is the enduring promise of God's love and faithfulness. It is a call to live in the spirit of hope, even when the journey feels long and the road uncertain.



Now, as the promise of Christmas continues in the glory of His little Son, Jesus, this is my prayer for the new year: May His power and light shape us for our days ahead. May His promise inspire and energize us to faithfully build His church and kingdom—a community of grace, love, and justice on earth. O Lord, grant us the vision of Your Son for the year to come. Give us the faith and courage to answer your holy calling for this new year.

As we step into 2025, how will you embrace the hope and promise of Christmas in your daily life? Friends, are you ready for the new year? May God bless you!

Best wishes, Pastor Jae Lew

## **JANUARY Lectionary Readings:**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 5  | Isa. 60: 1-6; Eph. 3: 1-12; Matt. 2: 1-12                    |
| January 12 | Isa. 43: 1-7; Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22            |
| January 19 | Isa. 62: 1-5; 1 Cor. 12: 1-11; John 2: 1-11                  |
| January 26 | Neh. 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 30; 1 Cor. 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21 |

## **PSALMS for January:**

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| January 5  | Psalm 72: 1-7  |
| January 12 | Psalm 29       |
| January 19 | Psalm 36: 6-10 |
| January 26 | Psalm 15       |

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

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 5  | Epiphany Sunday – Communion Sunday<br><i>“The Little King in You”</i><br>Matthew 2: 1-12                                   |
| January 12 | Baptism of the Lord<br><i>“Consecration”</i><br>Matthew 3: 13-17   |
| January 19 | Second Sunday after the Epiphany<br>Human Relations Day (Special Sunday)<br><i>“Anything Missing?”</i><br>John 2: 1-11     |
| January 26 | Third Sunday after the Epiphany<br>Ecumenical Sunday<br><i>“The Church as a Thriving Forest”</i><br>1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 |

## ***Epiphany Brunch***

***Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – after Worship – in the Fellowship Hall***

# SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB

The **January** meeting will be held on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. at the residence of Sally Follett.

We continued our Christmas preparation with the Choir singing carols at the British Home on December 10<sup>th</sup> and Arcadia Living on December 17<sup>th</sup>:



Yes, that is George Booth joining Stephanie, Jill, Yang, Yvonne and Pastor Jae at the British Home.



Sally Follett joined in at Arcadia Living



I think Lois Mackey had a great time!



## Sierra Madre Candlelight Walk Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>



Here's Pastor Jae with carolers.  
Looks like they had a large crowd  
to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



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.



Here is a hodgepodge of pictures from our holiday preparations – no particular order.



Marna Korell and Sally Follett



I learned one thing upon arrival at SMUMC –  
Methodists do good food good!



Darrell and Jaden Miller. In the  
tree decorating business, tall is a  
distinct advantage!



Gotta Finish with FOOD!!!

## 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.



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

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

## EPIPHANY BRUNCH

**January 5, 2024**

## CARD

## CREATION

meetings will be announced.

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



- 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**



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) \*

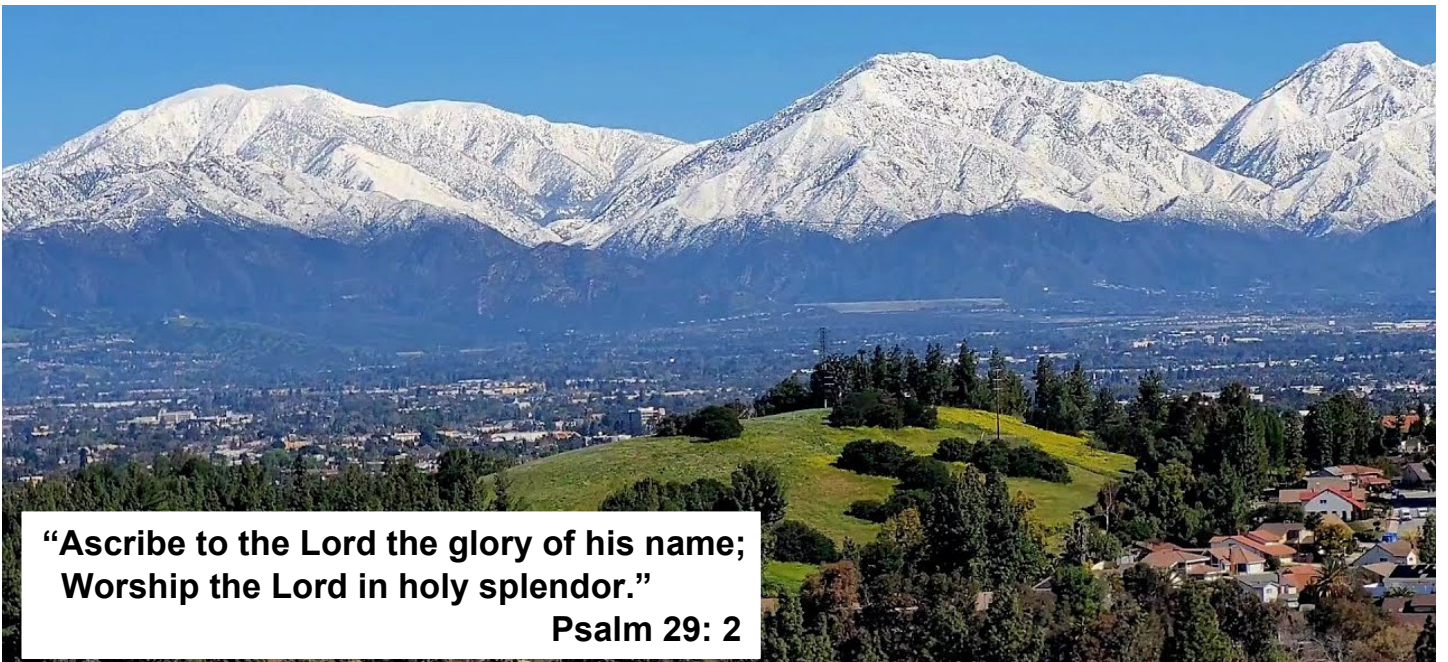
\* preferred email

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



**“Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;  
Worship the Lord in holy splendor.”  
Psalm 29: 2**

# January 2025 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

|  | 30   | 31   | 1  | 2   | 3  | 4  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Abbreviations</b><br>LL = Library Lounge<br>SH = Sierra House<br>SHCR = SH Conference Room<br>HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall<br>WC = Wesley Chapel                               |  |  | <b>1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>          |   |                 | <b>4 MEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST - LL - 7:30 a.m.</b>  |
| <b>5 Epiphany Sunday</b><br><b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b><br><b>11:00 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b><br><b>EPIPHANY BRUNCH</b><br><b>After Worship</b><br><b>In the Fellowship Hall</b> | <b>6</b><br>                                | <b>7</b><br>    | <b>8</b><br>                              |   |  | <b>11</b><br><b>CAF POTLUCK LL</b>   |
| <b>12 Baptism of the Lord</b><br><b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b><br><b>10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b>   | <b>13</b><br>                               | <b>14</b><br><b>FINANCE COMM.</b><br><b>4:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>15</b><br>                            | <b>16</b><br> |  | <b>18</b><br><b>CAF POTLUCK</b>  |
| <b>19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br><b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b><br><b>10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b>  | <b>20</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b><br> | <b>21</b><br> |  |   | <b>24</b><br><b>SARAH CIRCLE</b><br><b>12:30 p.m.</b><br><b>Sally's House</b>                      | <b>25</b><br> |
| <b>26 Third Sunday after the Epiphany</b><br><b>9:30 a.m. - Worship</b><br><b>10:30 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship</b>   |  |  | <b>29</b><br><b>Chinese New Year</b><br> |   | <b>31</b><br> |  |