



MAY 2025



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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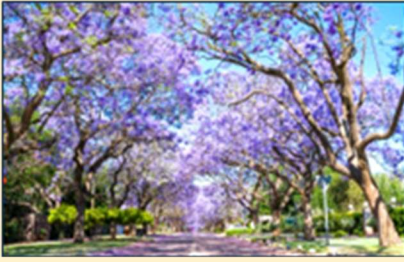
WEBSITE: www.smumc.net



THE NEW RAMP AND FRONT YARD LANDSCAPING WERE FINISHED JUST IN TIME FOR EASTER SUNDAY! WE WELCOMED OVER 75 NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS TO WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, EASTER EGG-HUNTING AND A DELICIOUS BRUNCH IN THE LIBRARY LOUNGE.

A Message from PASTOR JAE

“Love takes New Forms”



As I sit down to write this, my heart is full with many emotions all at once. Some of you have already heard the news that I will be moved from my current appointment and beginning a new pastoral role at Ridgecrest United Methodist Church. It is not an easy thing to say goodbye, especially when we love where we are. Yang and I have truly loved being a part of you. I am grateful that I could have grown roots in this community. We have walked through sacred seasons together, times of joy and sorrow, worship and service, laughter and tears.

That day, when I first walked onto our church campus for the introductory meeting with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, everything was new to me. I had just come from serving in Korean-American congregations for seventeen years. It was *a season of transition and healing* in my own life, following some health challenges. I remember stepping into the meeting with a mixture of nerves and hope. I wondered how much I could express myself with my second language. But the conversations that unfolded were warm, thoughtful, and full of grace. I felt *the compassionate presence of God* in that room, gently wrapping around the table, around your words, and around my spirit.

And then, as I walked out toward my car in the parking lot, something simple yet unforgettable met me. The Jacaranda trees were swaying above Montecito Avenue. In June, when I moved into the parsonage, they were in bloom with their violet blossoms fluttering like a quiet blessing in the breeze. It felt as though they were welcoming me, whispering, “You are where you need to be.”

Now, it’s hard to believe it’s already been three years. I know the announcement of my appointment change has come as a surprise to many of you. Some have expressed sadness, confusion, even a sense of loss. I feel those things too. And yet, as a pastor in the United Methodist Church, I also live in something I have committed to—something older and deeper than any one appointment. It’s a calling shaped not only by personal desire, but by our shared covenant as people called to serve wherever God sends us. In the United Methodist Church, we practice what is known as *the itinerant appointment system*.



John Wesley and the early Methodist preachers believed that the gospel was too important to be bound by place or comfort. They rode horseback through towns and villages, chapel to chapel, carrying the message of Christ wherever there was a need. Today, that spirit continues—not on horseback, but in the willingness of pastors to serve where they are sent. It is not a perfect system. But at its best, the itinerancy is a faithful reminder that the Church does

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not belong to any one person—not to the pastor, not to the laity—but to God. In this way, not only the laity and local churches, but also clergy, could experience *the gifts and the dynamic grace* God pours out to us all. So, this is my humble understanding: an appointment is more than a position. It is a calling. And the order is the covenant we share as clergy in connection. That doesn't mean it is easy. But it is faithful.

I believe the story we've shared does not end this June. Every June, when the Jacaranda trees begin to bloom with their soft violet blossoms, I will remember you. More importantly, we still have two more months to worship together. Love never leaves. It only takes new forms.

Faithfully,
Pastor Jae Lew



Timeline for Pastoral Changes at SMUMC

PASTOR JAE will continue to be our Pastor until June 30, 2025, and will then begin his appointment at Ridgecrest UMC. We will celebrate his three years of ministry with us at a farewell event in June. Details to be announced later.

REV. YOON will begin his ministry with us on July 1, 2025, and we will have a welcome reception for him in early July. Details to be announced later.

MAY Lectionary Readings:

May 4 – **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER/COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Acts 9: 1-6; Rev. 5: 11-14; John 21: 1-19

May 11 – **MOTHER’S DAY/GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

Acts 9: 36-43; Rev. 7: 9-17; John 10: 22-30

May 18 – **HERITAGE SUNDAY**

Acts 11: 1-18; Rev. 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35

May 25 Acts 16: 9-15; Rev. 21: 10, 22: 5; John 14: 23-29

May 29 – **ASCENSION THURSDAY**

Acts 1: 1-11; Eph. 1: 15-23; Luke 24: 44-53

PSALMS for MAY:

May 4 Psalm 30

May 11 Psalm 23

May 18 Psalm 148

May 25 Psalm 67

May 29 – **ASCENSION THURSDAY**

Psalm 47

Pastor Jae’s Sermon titles and Worship scripture for MAY

May 4

Third Sunday of Easter – Communion Sunday

“When God Breaks In...”

Acts 9: 1-10

May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter/ Mother’s Day

“Ears to Hear... and Never Perish”

John 10: 22-30

May 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter

“When God Knocks on Your Door...”

Acts 11: 11-18

May 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter

“God for Us or for All?”

Psalm 67: 1-7

SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB

The **MAY** meeting will be held on Friday, MAY 23rd, at 12:30 p.m.
at the residence of Sally Follett.

This month we are reading "*Outliers: The Story of Success*"
by Malcolm Gladwell.

The new ramp was designed and constructed by John Werthwein and Worth Engineering.

Plans approved by Pam Ferguson, P.E.



The singed barrel cactus came from a home lost in the Eaton Fire. As it comes back to life, so will our community.

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.



A message from Jill Schofield, SPRC:

Why do United Methodist pastors change churches?

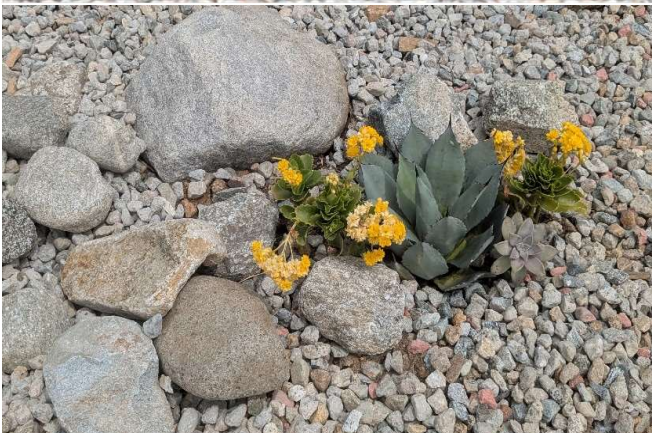
This is a question I've been asked repeatedly in the past two weeks! Here are some answers adapted from an article on the UMC website: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-why-do-united-methodist-pastors-change-churches>

The movement of pastors, known as "itinerancy," is a cornerstone of the Methodist Church's structure. John Wesley, our founder, believed that pastors who moved periodically would bring fresh perspectives and diverse talents to congregations.

The authority to appoint pastors lies with the bishop. Clergy within the United Methodist Church commit to serve wherever their bishop assigns them. All pastors and congregations overseen by the bishop are considered part of an interdependent connectional system.

Appointments are generally made for one year at a time. As pastors retire and the needs of congregations change, new opportunities for ministry arise within the connection. The appointment process aims to align the unique gifts and strengths of a pastor with the specific needs of a congregation or ministry setting.

Each year, the District Superintendent consults separately with the pastor and the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) of the congregation to assess whether the pastoral match is effective. While this feedback is considered, the bishop ultimately decides what best serves the mission of the Church as a whole.



**MAY FLOWERS ABOUND IN OUR GARDEN –
WHAT A GLORIOUS SIGHT!**

**CONGRATS TO
YANG AND
PASTOR JAE'S
DAUGHTER
SHIRLEY
WHO
GRADUATES
ON MAY 16th
WITH A
MASTER'S
DEGREE IN
SOCIAL WORK!**



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP MOVE THINGS FROM THE RUMMAGE STORAGE ROOM TO HARTZELL HALL ON SUNDAY, 5/18, STARTING AT 7:30 A.M., AND ALSO TO WORK AT THE SALE ON SATURDAY, 5/31. PLEASE SEE CINDY CRISMER IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE.

DONATIONS OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE HALL BETWEEN 5/18 AND 5/29. THANK YOU, ALL!



RUMMAGE MOVING DAY:

SUNDAY, MAY 18th

RUMMAGE SALE DAY:

SATURDAY, MAY 31st

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



**WELCOME RECEPTION FOR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
“SIERRA MADRE SUE” BEHRENS ON APRIL 6, 2025.**

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 the Church Office to get in touch with Maria for her rates and services.



Sarah Circle
Book Club meets
on Fourth Fridays

12:30 p.m.

Sally Follett's
house

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY,
MAY 26th IN OBSERVANCE OF
MEMORIAL DAY.**

CARD CREATION

meetings will be
announced.

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



*Celebrate
May Birthdays*



- 3 Yvonne Johnson
- 6 Chloe Ku
- 17 Leticia Bridal
- 21 Molly Kidd
- 22 Katie Janzen
- 24 Cindy Crismer
- 24 Jennifer Schofield
- 28 Elise Hernandez
- 30 Liz Mackey-Peterson

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

25 Ning & Scott Basinger



The Church
Office is open
Monday through
Friday 9:00 a.m.
to 1:00 p.m.
You can also
contact us at our
email address.

sierramadreumc@gmail.com

Website: www.smumc.net

Office Telephone:
(626) 355-0629

May
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

Abbreviations

LL = Library Lounge
SH = Sierra House
SHCR = SH Conference Room
HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall
WC = Wesley Chapel

28

29

30

1

2

3



4 Third Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. - Worship

10:45 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship

FOOD COLLECTION
SUNDAY

5



6



7

8

1:15 p.m. - Choir
Rehearsal - Wesley
Chapel

9

10



11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. - Worship

10:45 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship



12

13

14



15

16



SHIRLEY LEW
GRADUATES
TODAY!

17

UHRA PANCAKE
BREAKFAST-HH
9:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. - Worship

10:45 a.m. - Coffee Fellowship

MTAC PASADENA RENTAL
1:00-4:00 p.m. - Sanctuary

19

20

FINANCE COMM.
2:30 p.m. - SHCR

21

22

1:15 p.m. - Choir
Rehearsal - Wesley
Chapel

23

SARAH CIRCLE
12:30 p.m.
Sally's House

24

YANG AND PASTOR JAE ON VACATION - May 19th to May 24th

25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. - Worship

Joshua Locatell Baptism

10:45 a.m. -

Reception/Coffee

Fellowship

26

CHURCH
OFFICE CLOSED



27

28

29

30

31

RUMMAGE SALE
8:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.