



DECEMBER 2025



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Follow us on **FACEBOOK** at

www.facebook.com/UMCSierraMadre

WEBSITE: www.smumc.net



Stephanie Lan at the organ

**SMUMC Choir: Jill Schofield, Mina Yoon,
Yvonne Miller, Ann Dechairo-Marino,
Susan Ross and Pastor John
Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23rd**



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN

Thanksgiving Weekend is now behind us, and I trust you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with your loved ones. Now we turn our hearts toward Christmas. The day after Thanksgiving—known as Black Friday—has long been regarded as the beginning of America’s Christmas shopping season. Like many others, I went out to see if I could find some bargains and noticed that the parking lots at the Arcadia Mall and other stores were quite full. And here I am, in front of my computer on Monday morning—now known as Cyber Monday—searching for Cyber Monday deals...

Perhaps, and hopefully, this will be the year when we truly spend more time reflecting on what we have rather than what we want—focusing on the invaluable and intangible gifts of life—and giving thanks for them.

We have begun a sacred season called Advent. Advent is all about waiting and preparing—waiting for a miracle. But “Even miracles take a little time...” Do you know who said those words? Not a theologian, but the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*. Many of us have been waiting a long time for our own miracles: the miracle of cancer cured, the miracle of relief from chronic pain, the miracle of reconciliation in broken relationships. I wish I could tell you when your miracle will come. But if there is one thing we know about miracles, it is this: we have no idea when they will happen. So, we wait.

Jesus said in Mark 13:24–37, “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father...” So, what do we do when the future is unclear? Jesus tells us plainly: “Beware, keep alert... and keep awake; for you do not know when the time will come.” Waiting is not easy, but it is a spiritual activity. And what happens within us while we wait is just as important as what we are waiting for. The first Christmas came to Mary and Joseph while they were waiting in the face of the unknown.

God came to us in a time and place almost no one expected—in the most unexpected way, through the most unexpected couple. Today, if we had our way, we might wish for everything to run smoothly and for all our prayers to be answered quickly. But life rarely unfolds that neatly. Still, we

remain hopeful because God is with us—working in unexpected ways, in the ups and downs of our everyday lives. God comes to us while we wait, in our struggles and uncertainties.

Emmanuel—God with us—is one of the most cherished names of the One whose birth we wait for and celebrate.

Mina and I wish you the blessings and peace of Advent and Christmas. We pray that its wonders—and the promise that God is with us while we wait—will inspire and guide you and your loved ones. Borrowing from Maya Angelou, who wrote, “A bird doesn’t sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.” We Christians do not sing because we have all the answers. We sing while we wait because God is with us, and because God has given us a song in our Savior born in Bethlehem.

May the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Christmas bless you and keep you!

Pastor John



Weekly Prayer & Bible Study with Pastor John

When: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Library Lounge

Take a pause in the middle of your busy week to be refreshed in prayer and God’s Word. Join Pastor John for a time of reflection, study, and sharing prayers together. Come as you are—find encouragement, hope, and strength for the journey ahead. Please bring your own bible.



DECEMBER Lectionary Readings:

December 7 – **2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT/COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Isa 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

December 14 – **3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Isa 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11

December 21 – **4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Isa 7:10-16; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25

December 24 – **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Isa 9:2-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 25 – **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Isa 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-4; John 1:1-14

December 28 - **1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Isa 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-4; John 1:1-14

December 31 – **WATCHNIGHT/ NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Eccl 3:1-13; Rev 21:1-6a; Matt 25:31-46

PSALMS for DECEMBER:

December 7 Psalm 72

December 14 Psalm 146

December 21 Psalm 80

December 24 Psalm 96 – CHRISTMAS EVE

December 25 Psalm 98 - CHRISTMAS DAY

December 31 Psalm 8 – WATCHNIGHT/NEW YEAR'S EVE

ON SATURDAY, 11/8 THE BRIDGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL AND SMUMC HAD NEW ARTIFICIAL TURF INSTALLED IN THE PLAYGROUND AREAS!



We were honored to host the Sierra Madre Woman's Club's annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast in Hartzell Hall on Wednesday, November 19th. Clergy from several of the churches in town offered prayers of fellowship and thanksgiving, while representatives of local government, schools, non-profits and first responders enjoyed a delicious quiche breakfast from organizer Mary Carney's own recipe, dating back 49 years! Pastor John introduced himself as "the new guy in town" and delivered the opening invocation.





Woman's Club member Lynette Croan, who is the daughter of Marna Korell, reserved the hall for the event and they are already on the calendar for next year!





LITURGISTS WANTED!

Do you enjoy reading aloud? Do people tell you that you have a great voice? Are you a storyteller? Would you like to be more involved here at SMUMC? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then we may have a job for YOU! Pastor John is looking for willing candidates to be trained as liturgists and added to our revolving roster of readers. You'll be giving back to your community in a truly rewarding way. Please see Pastor John or email the church office if you are interested: sierramadreumc@gmail.com.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR,
BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE!
Sundays in Wesley Chapel
during coffee fellowship
11/30, 12/7, 12/14

* Handmade gifts from our talented crafters  

* Baked goods 

* Sign Christmas cards for our church family members unable
to worship in person 

* Alternative Gifts that you can give to family members
instead of "stuff".



This year we are focusing on 4 organizations:

- . San Gabriel Valley Family Promise
- . Habitat for Humanity of
San Gabriel Valley
- . Heifer Project
- . World Central Kitchen

See info. about each of these charities on the next page....

Organizations supported by our AGF & Boutique

We held our first Alternative Gift Fair in 2007. The goal was to provide opportunities to give meaningful gifts rather than more "stuff" to friends and family while also helping others in our community and around the world. This year we are focusing on the following four organizations. Please give generously!

Family Promise of San Gabriel Valley

Sierra Madre UMC was a founder member of the San Gabriel Valley Family Promise and for 9 years we hosted homeless families 4 times a year for a week at a time as they worked to rebuild their lives. We continue to be a supporting congregation. All the proceeds from our Boutique and Bake Sale go to Family Promise.

Heifer International

Heifer is always a popular choice for alternative giving. You can buy half a pig, a flock of chicks, honeybees, or even part of a water buffalo! "Heifer International works with partners to support farmers in sustainably addressing hunger and poverty in their communities while caring for the Earth"

San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity

"Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope." Over the years some SMUMC volunteers have helped build homes and others have supported the builds by delivering meals to the construction workers. This year Habitat is focusing on rebuilding homes lost in the Eaton Fire with the first house currently under construction. Habitat has committed to rebuilding at least 25 homes, and with community support, up to 100.

World Central Kitchen (WCK)

WCK has developed a model for serving freshly made meals to people affected by disaster using local resources. We became aware of this amazing organization when we hosted a WCK food truck in our parking lot for several weeks after the Eaton Fire. So far in 2025 they have served 1.6 million meals to people affected by wildfires throughout Southern California. WCK is responding in many other areas of the world too: Haiti, Jamaica, Gaza, Ukraine, Philippines.....

ARCADIA PUBLIC LIBRARY & FRIENDS OF ARCADIA PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENT

Classical Kaleidoscope



Paul Stein Stephanie Lan Alex Russell

Wednesday
December 10, 2025
7:00 PM
Doors open 6:30 PM
Cay Mortenson Auditorium

FREE CONCERT

The Amazing Harmonies and Melodies of Liszt, Moszkowski, and Mozart

Three of the most energetic composers of the Classical and Romantic eras will be featured. Many musical surprises are in store for the audience. Violinist Paul Stein, pianist Stephanie Lan, and violinist Alex Russell will be performing.

For music lovers ages 12+. Seating is limited to the first 112 patrons. Stay to meet the musicians. Reservations are not necessary.

Friends of Arcadia Public Library will sponsor a silent auction fundraiser at the concert.

ARCADIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
20 West Duarte Road
Arcadia, CA 91709
(909) 441-1800
www.ArcadiaCA.gov/library

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Participants in Library programs may be photographed or recorded for promotional purposes. Library staff if you prefer, will be photographed or recorded.

SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB

No Book Club meeting or book selection this month. See you in January, 2026! New members are welcome – please see Sally Follett or Jill Schofield for more details.

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
- 9 Josh Yoon
- 12 Dwayne Miller
- 24 Yvonne Miller
- 28 Chandler Guzman
- 29 Geoffrey Basinger
- 29 Elsa Yue
- 31 Richard Mittleman



10 Patricia & Jonathan Nieto

If you would like to add a birthday or anniversary to an upcoming Trylon, please email Sue:
sierramadreumc@gmail.com



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

Sue Behrens, Administrative Assistant and Editor of *The Trylon*



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



*merry
christmas*

Wishing you a season filled with God's relentless favor,
His unending love and perfect peace!

December

2025 SUNDAY

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

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

(626) 355-0629 * E-mail: sierramadreumc@gmail.com * www.smumc.net Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY – December 7th</p>	<p>UHRA/PPD mtg. in SHCR 2:00-3:00 p.m.</p>			<p>BIBLE STUDY w/PASTOR JOHN 10:30AM – LL BYOBible!</p>		<p>Sierra Madre WINTER FESTIVAL 12:00-8:00 p.m.</p>
<p>7 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m.-Coffee Fellowship-LL ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR & BOUTIQUE - WC</p>	<p>8 S.M.F.D Annual Inspection 11:00 a.m.</p>	9	<p>10 Stephanie Lan's Piano Trio Concert 7:00 p.m. Arcadia Public Library</p>	<p>11 BIBLE STUDY w/PASTOR JOHN 10:30AM – LL BYOBible!</p>	12	<p>13 CHOIR REHEARSAL 11:00 a.m. - WC</p>
<p>14 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:45 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship-LL ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR & BOUTIQUE - WC</p>	<p>15 *Alverno rehearsal 10-12 Sanctuary</p>	<p>16 *Alverno rehearsal 10-12 Sanctuary FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 2:30 p.m. - SHCR</p>	<p>17 *Alverno Heights Academy Xmas Program 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary</p>	<p>18 BIBLE STUDY w/PASTOR JOHN 10:30AM – LL BYOBible!</p>	19	<p>20 CAF POTLUCK HH till 3:30p.m.</p>
<p>21 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m.– Coffee Fellowship-LL Candlelight Walk – 6:00 p.m. Gather at St. Rita's Church</p>	22	23	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED December 25 – 26 and January 1 - 2</p>	<p>26 HAPPY KWANZAA </p>	27
<p>28 9:30 a.m. – Worship 10:45 a.m.– Coffee Fellowship- LL</p>	29	30	<p>31 </p>	<p>Abbreviations LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = SH Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel</p>		