



**JANUARY
2026**



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024-2288

PHONE: (626) 355-0629

E-MAIL: sierramadreumc@gmail.com

Follow us on **FACEBOOK** at

www.facebook.com/UMCSierraMadre

WEBSITE: www.smumc.net



**CHRISTMAS SEASON - DECEMBER 2025 AT
SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN

Are you enjoying the gifts you received for Christmas a few days ago? I certainly am. There is something special about receiving new things. After all, who doesn't enjoy that "new car smell" (no, I didn't get a new car), a new pair of golf shoes, or a new putter you're eager to try out?

We have just been given a new year—2026. And the first few days of a new year often carry that same "new car smell," at least for a moment. English poet Edith Lovejoy Pierce writes, "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

By the grace of God, we will indeed write words, stories, and new chapters on those blank pages. I am truly looking forward to putting together the stories of our calling, faith, and God's work with the wonderful and faithful people of Sierra Madre United Methodist Church in my first full year with you.

Last summer, as we began our journey together, I shared a few tips on traveling. I want to share them again, hoping you will find them helpful in your travels in 2026—literally, figuratively, and spiritually. They come from *The Art of Traveling* by Wilfred Peterson:

1. Travel lightly. You are not traveling for people to see you! (Remember Jesus always encouraged his disciples to travel light. In Mark 6:8-9, Jesus "charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics." In our culture that focuses on more and more material things, Jesus is helping us to focus on God's provisions and more important things of life.)
2. Travel hopefully. "To travel hopefully," wrote Robert Stevenson, "is better than to arrive."
3. Travel humbly. Visit people and places with reverence and respect for their traditions and ways of life.
4. Travel gratefully. Show appreciation for the many things that are being done by others for your enjoyment and comfort.
5. Travel with an open mind. Leave your prejudices at home.
6. Travel fearlessly. Banish worry and timidity; the world and its people belong to you just as you belong to the world.

(continues on next page...)

7. Travel patiently. It takes time to understand others, especially when there are barriers of language and custom; keep flexible and adaptable to all situations.

8. Travel with the spirit of a world citizen. You'll discover that people are basically much the same the world around. Be an ambassador of good will (God) to all people.

Every new year reminds us that God is more interested in where we are going than in where we have been. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

What a great gift a new year is—filled with opportunities for fresh beginnings and new chapters. May God bless you as you begin an exciting new journey in 2026.

See you at Church,

Pastor John

Pastor John offering a blessing
at the Sierra Madre Candlelight
Walk on 12/21/25. →



LITURGISTS WANTED!

Would you like to be more involved here at SMUMC? 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.

Weekly Prayer & Bible Study with Pastor John resumes on Jan. 15th

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.



JANUARY Lectionary Readings:

January 4 – **EPIPHANY SUNDAY/COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Jer 31:7-14; Eph 1:3-14; John 1:1-9, 10-18

January 11 – **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Isa 42:1-9; Acts 10:34-43; Matt 3:13-17

January 18 – **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

Isa 49:1-7; 1 Cor 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

January 25 – **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

Isa 9:1-4; 1 Cor 1:10-18; Matt 4:12-23

PSALMS for JANUARY:

January 4 Psalm 147

January 11 Psalm 29

January 18 Psalm 40

January 25 Psalm 27



On Saturday, December 6th, SMUMC participated in SIERRA MADRE'S HOLIDAY WINTER VILLAGE FESTIVAL. We had a booth on Baldwin Ave. and some of our members took shifts handing out goodies and info. and creating fellowship with all who came by. Thank you to Sally Follett for taking the lead on this!

← **Mina Yoon, Sally Follett, Elsa Yue and Pastor John working the booth.**

Tomika McElligott, Melanie Baker, Jill Schofield and Sally Follett take their turn spreading the word about SMUMC. ↓



PASTOR JOHN WAS INVITED TO BE A JUDGE IN THE UPPER HASTINGS RANCH ASSOCIATION'S 73rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LIGHT-UP, "WHICH SHOWCASES SOME OF THE MOST DAZZLING HOLIDAY DISPLAYS IN PASADENA, ATTRACTING VISITORS FROM NEAR AND FAR."



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING and CHILDREN'S MUSIC MOMENT



← Yvonne, Dwayne and Jaden Miller.

Stephanie Lan, Chloe Ku, Rachel Lee, and Ellie Thamprasert.



Jill Schofield and Mina Yoon.



← Pastor John, Rich and Laura Snyder.



Outreach Review 2025

One of the strengths of SMUMC is our commitment to working together to benefit others, both locally and globally.

Here are some of the ways we helped in 2025:

- Eaton Fire in January 2025. Under Pastor Jae's leadership we hosted a World Central Kitchen truck in the parking lot and set up a booth to provide much needed supplies to local residents. We lent a compassionate ear while they told their stories. Later, we sent home-made cards and a letter of support from Pastor Jae to all residents who lost homes in Sierra Madre and Upper Hastings Ranch.
- Our Easter Offering was designated for fire relief. Our Thanksgiving Offering went to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.
- We had two very successful rummage sales in Spring and the Fall. Proceeds from these sales will go to a number of local organizations and for the support of our students.
- In July we helped collect School supplies for Friends In Deed & Foothill Unity Center and we continue to have a monthly food collection for the Food Banks at these two organizations.
- In October several of us helped pack food bags for "Rise against Hunger" at First UMC Pasadena.
- As Christmas approached, we sponsored more than 30 angels through Foothill Unity's gift program for low-income families.
- During Advent we held a successful Alternative Gift Fair, Boutique and Bake Sale (pictured here) in support of the following organizations
 - Family Promise of SGV
 - Habitat for Humanity of SGV
 - World Central Kitchen
 - Heifer Project

Thank you for your participation and generosity!



The Joy of Epiphany!

**Greater San Gabriel Mission Area Gathering
January 11, 2026 (Sunday 4:00-6:00pm)**

**Let us gather together and celebrate the guiding light
that brings hope, wisdom, and new beginnings!**

Program with a Reflection by DS Rev. Lee

Assemble UMCOR Hygiene Kits;

Potluck Soup & Salad Dinner

and music by The Rhythm Ducks

w/Stephanie Lan on Piano

at Sierra Madre UMC

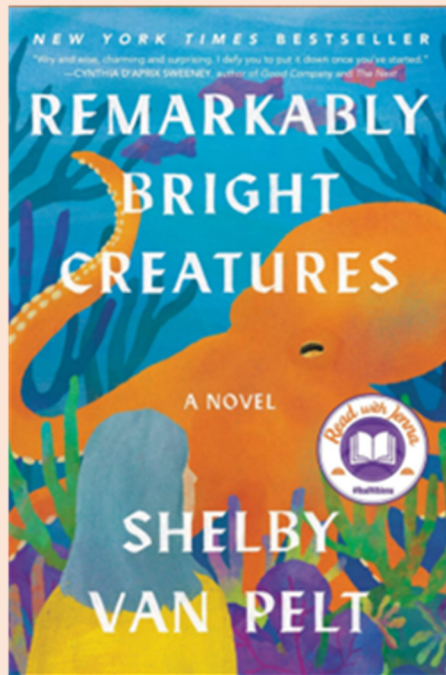
695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., S.M., CA 91024

Churches have been assigned potluck items and UMCOR hygiene kit materials to bring to the gathering.

We are assigned DRINKS AND CUPS, and WASH CLOTHS. Please bring these items to Hartzell Hall after worship on Sunday or when you arrive at 4:00 p.m.

Scott Basinger is also part of The Rhythm Ducks and we know the music will be fabulous!

We will also take a free-will offering to cover any missing items and any shipping costs that may occur. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



January's book selection is "a charming, witty and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus."

SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB

The January meeting will be held on Friday, January 30th at 12:30 p.m. at the home of Sally Follett. New members are welcome – please see Sally 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.



- 3 Sheila Carr
- 8 Brenda Walkiewicz
- 18 Bob Travis (in memoriam)
- 24 Dawn Suzuki Elachi
- 25 Norma Nava
- 28 Joyce Kenyon



- 4 Laura & Rich Snyder
- 7 Millie & Richard Mittleman
- 12 Susan & Bob Ross

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**

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. Thank you very much!



January 2026 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

	29	30	31	1	2	3
Abbreviations LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = SH Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel						
				CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY		
4 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9:30 a.m. - Worship/Communion 10:45 a.m.-Coffee Fellowship-LL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY	5	6	7	8	9	10
						
11 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:45 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship-LL Greater S.G. Mission Area Meeting/Potluck 4-6 p.m. Hartzell Hall	12	13	14	15	16	17
				BIBLE STUDY w/PASTOR JOHN 10:30AM – LL BYOBible!		
18 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:45 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship-LL	19 Church Office Closed	20	21	22	23	24
		FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 2:30 p.m. - SHCR		BIBLE STUDY w/PASTOR JOHN 10:30AM – LL BYOBible!		
25 9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:45 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship- LL	26	27	28	29	30	31
				BIBLE STUDY w/PASTOR JOHN 10:30AM – LL BYOBible!	SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB 12:30 p.m. Sally Follett's Home	