



**MARCH
2026**



THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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STATIONS *of the* CROSS

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31st, THERE WILL BE A FIELD TRIP TO MATER DOLOROSA PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER AT THE TOP OF SUNNYSIDE IN SIERRA MADRE, TO WALK *THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS* AT 5:30 P.M.. A SIGN-UP SHEET WILL BE ON THE BOARD IN THE NARTHEX, AND WE WILL MEET HERE IN THE PARKING LOT AT 5:15 P.M. TO CARPOOL.



WE WILL MEMORIALIZE THE DEATH OF CHRIST WITH WORSHIP AT 12:00 P.M. HERE AT SMUMC ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3rd.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN

A Few Lenten Thoughts

We find ourselves in the midst of our Lenten journey as we begin the month of March. How is your Lenten journey going?

One thing we know from experience is that Lent is different from Advent. We tend to rush through Advent and the Christmas season, but Lent is not something to be dashed through like a 100-yard sprint. The pace of Lent is not for sprinters, but for those who are willing to pause along the path and contemplate the journey.

Lent is a time for spiritual introspection—for asking honest questions about God, our faith, and the Church. It is about faithfulness, mercy, sacrifice, prayer, priorities, death, and what comes next. We may not find answers to all our questions about God and faith during this season. Yet sometimes simply wrestling with difficult questions helps us grow in ways that easy answers never could.

On the First Sunday in Lent, we reflected on the story of Jesus' temptation. When He was most vulnerable—hungry and physically weak—He was tempted by the devil with quick and easy solutions. “Turn these stones into bread.” Avoid the struggle. Take the easy way.

Today, we may not be tempted to turn stones into bread, but we are tempted from every direction. Why struggle when an easier path is available? The good news is that Jesus struggled—and He resisted. He became the example and our Savior.

He answered every temptation with the Word of God. He refused to redefine His identity apart from His Father's voice.

Friends, our struggle in the wilderness is not the end of the story. Lent is not the end of the story. Resurrection waits on the other side of faithfulness—when we resist the easy way, not in our own strength, but in the strength of Christ.

When the tempter whispers, when the easy ways look attractive, may we remember:

We do not live by bread alone.

We will not test the Lord our God.

We worship and serve God alone.

And we follow Jesus—not the easy way, but the faithful way.

Lenten blessings be with you,

Pastor John

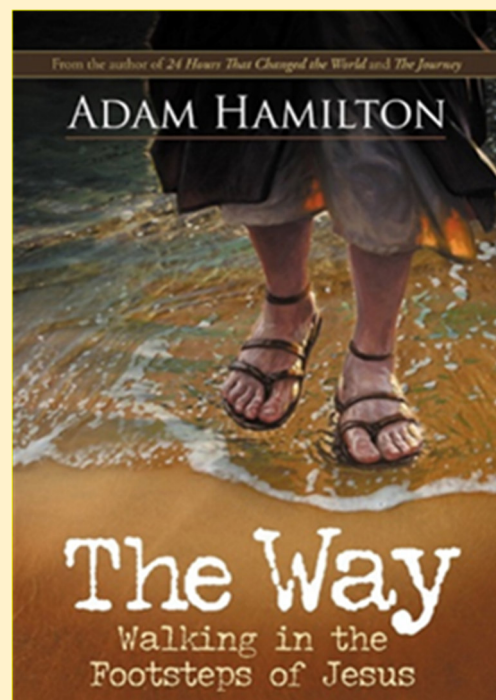
Weekly Lenten Bible Study with Pastor John

Join us during this Lenten Season on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Library Lounge, as Rev. Adam Hamilton takes us to the Holy Land, to explore the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Using videos shot on location, Hamilton takes us to the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized and the wilderness where he was tempted. You'll see the ruins of ancient Capernaum, where Jesus healed the sick, and ascend the mountain where he gave his most famous sermon. You'll travel across the Sea of Galilee, where he calmed the wind and waves, and you'll visit the last remaining community of Samaritans in the world. Then you'll visit Jerusalem, where Jesus spent his final days.

March 5: Proclaiming the Kingdom
March 12: Calming the Storm
March 19: Sinners, Outcast, and the Poor
March 26: The Final Week

The book recommended for this study is *"The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus"* by Adam Hamilton, which you may purchase on-line or call the office and we'll order one for you.

We hope you will join Pastor John and the friends of SMUMC as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus together this Lent: *The Way*.



HELPING HANDS WANTED!

The Rummage Room is overflowing and we have a lot of work to do! Workdays will be announced soon. Watch the Midweek Update emails and Bulletin announcements for specifics. Contact Cindy Crismer if you have questions about donations. *Thank you!*

MARCH Lectionary Readings:

March 1 – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Gen 12:1-4a; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 8 – THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Exod 17:1-7; Rom 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 15 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

1 Sam 16:1-13; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

March 22 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Ezek 37:1-14; Rom 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

March 29 – PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Matt 21:1-11

March 30 – MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Isa 42:1-9; Heb 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

March 31 – TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

Isa 49:1-7; 1 Cor 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

PSALMS for MARCH:

March 1 Psalm 121

March 8 Psalm 95

March 15 Psalm 23

March 22 Psalm 130

March 29 Psalm 118

March 30 Psalm 36

March 31 Psalm 71

GOOD FRIDAY

WORSHIP

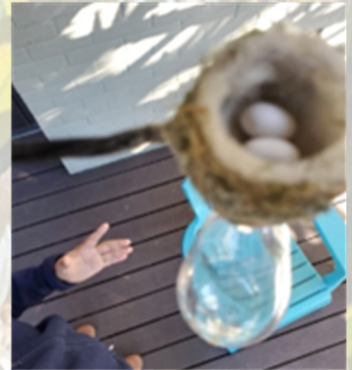
12:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3rd



On January 28th, Pastor John participated in the annual Interfaith Prayer Service at Alverno Heights Academy, along with local clergy representing Judaism, Islam, Episcopal, First African Methodist Episcopal, and Catholicism. The theme was “*One World, Many Voices.*”

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog Day, predicting 6 more weeks of winter, but our side of the country has been experiencing an early spring, if not summer! The plants and trees don't know what season it is. Glorious signs of spring are all around us, including a pair of hummingbirds who have taken up residence at the parsonage and have 2 eggs in their nest!





Stephanie Lan's piano quartet performed the romantic music of Beethoven and Brahms at the Arcadia Public Library on Wednesday, February 11th. The City's events calendar can be accessed at <https://www.arcadiaca.gov/calendar/>

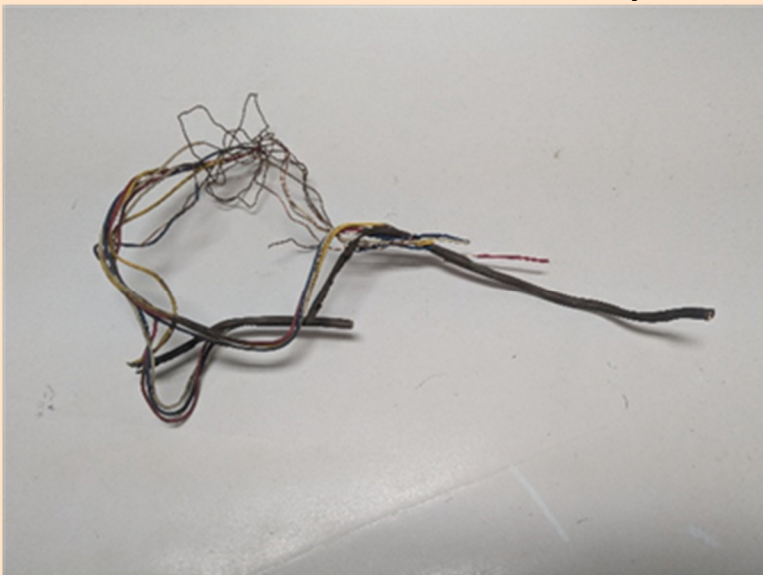


If you attend a house ← concert at the home of Sally Follett, this → is an example of the sumptuous potluck spread you will be treated to! House concerts provide an intimate setting for local musicians to connect with appreciative audiences without the noise and distractions of public venues. Many of our local artists lost their homes and musical instruments and equipment in the Eaton Fire last year.



RATS!!

That's who to blame for the air conditioner breakdown on Saturday, 1/31/26. But who knew that we would be running the heater that morning and then needing the A/C that January afternoon? Francisco discovered the problem and replaced all the wiring and encased it in conduit to protect it from little teeth and now it works fine. *Thank you, Francisco!*





Spring is in the air and the plants are blooming after the recent rains. Hopefully our Guinness Book of World Records-designated Wistaria Vine will have a “super bloom”, delighting the visitors that come from far and wide to see it! We will have a booth at the Wistaria Festival on Saturday, 3/28 and will need volunteers to work various shifts. *(See Sally Follett.)*



Elsa Yue provided the orchid planter above for the altar on Sunday, 2/22/26. This beautiful tribute was in memory of the 3-year passing of her husband Charles. The gorgeous arrangement below was in honor of Mina and Pastor John’s wedding anniversary, 2/17/26, and is made of all organic materials, dried and preserved and supposed to last 2 years!

SAVE THE DATE!



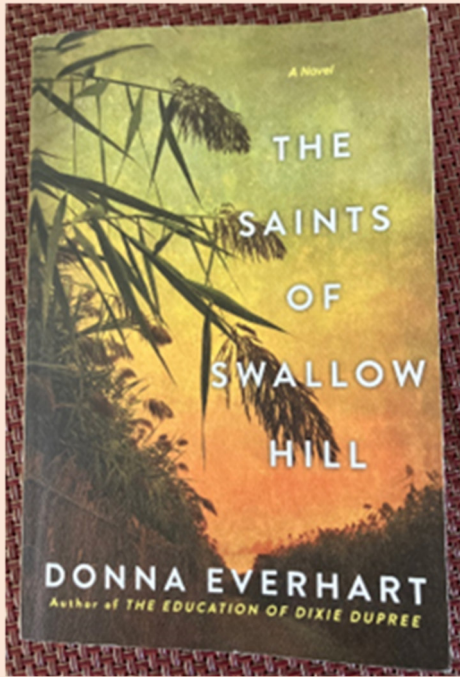
ANNUAL WISTARIA FESTIVAL

March 28, 2026, Saturday 9am- 5pm

Celebrate The Guinness Book of World Records Wistaria Vine TOUR, more than 100 Crafters, food vendors, and the AUTO SHOW (until 2 pm). Vendor Applications coming soon. Shuttle ticket sales begin in February.



The book selection for March is ***"The Saints of Swallow Hill"*** by Donna Everhart. This book weaves a poignant tale of struggle and hope set in the harsh realities of the Great Depression. Along the way, Rae Lynn Cobb discovers friendship, resilience, and a path towards redemption.



SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB

The March meeting will be held on Friday, March 27th 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.



- 3/6 Roz Towler, Jr.
- 3/8 Reverend Jae Lew
- 3/14 Lois Mackey
- 3/17 John Baier
- 3/18 Marna Korell
- 3/27 A.J. Hernandez
- 3/29 David Baier

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.

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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!



March

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

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship/Communion 10:45 a.m.-Coffee Fellowship-LL</p> <p>FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> <p>CHOIR REHEARSAL 1:00 p.m. Wesley Chapel</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> <p>LENTEN BIBLE STUDY with Pastor John – 10:30 a.m. Library Lounge</p> | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p> <p>CAF Potluck – LL Till 2:00 p.m.</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship/Communion 10:45 a.m.-Coffee Fellowship-LL</p>  | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p>  | <p>12</p> <p>LENTEN BIBLE STUDY with Pastor John – 10:30 a.m. Library Lounge</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p>  |
| <p>15</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:45 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship-LL</p> <p>UMCOR SUNDAY</p> | <p>16</p> |  <p>FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 2:30 p.m. - SHCR</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> <p>LENTEN BIBLE STUDY with Pastor John – 10:30 a.m. Library Lounge</p> |  | <p>21</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:45 a.m.-Coffee Fellowship-LL</p> | <p>23</p>  | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> <p>LENTEN BIBLE STUDY with Pastor John – 10:30 a.m. Library Lounge</p> | <p>27</p> <p>SARAH CIRCLE BOOK CLUB 12:30 p.m. Sally Follett's Home</p> | <p>28</p> <p>WISTARIA FESTIVAL Downtown Sierra Madre 9:00am – 5:00pm</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Worship 10:45 a.m.- Coffee Fellowship- LL</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> <p>STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT MATER DOLOROSA 5:30 p.m. Meet here at 5:15 p.m.</p> | <p>1</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Abbreviations LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = SH Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel</p> | |