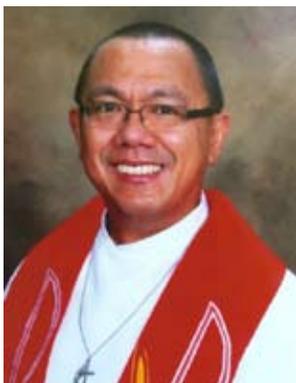


THE MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER



Pastor's Musings by Rev. Adiel DePano

On February 23, we received into the membership of FUMC Andy & Jennifer Miller who made the decision to transfer their membership from New Creation UMC in Durham, NC. Andy is an engineer by trade while Jennifer is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at USC. They are the newest members of FUMC and we welcome them warmly! Prior to their reception into FUMC, Andy and Jennifer attended an Inquirer's/New Member Class that I taught on February 16.

After this latest offering of the class, my wife Brenda and I talked about the class and critiqued its design and delivery. We both agreed that there ought to be a sharper focus on helping the inquiring person get answers to the question, "What does church membership mean?" Our conversation became a moment of revelation for me in that I have been given a key framing question in how to organize the material that is presented at these classes.

In the January/February 2014 issue of the Interpreter magazine, the award-winning ministry magazine for lay and clergy leaders in United Methodist churches across the United States, Rev. Dawn Chesser writes:

"Our membership vows include all of the vows of our baptismal covenant, beginning with [1] the call to reject the spiritual forces of wickedness and the evil powers of this world and to turn away from all sinful ways of living. In this spirit of repentance, we turn to Christ and [2] pledge to use the freedom and power Christ gives us to resist injustice and oppression in all forms. We then [3] confess our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord and promise to serve him as his disciples in the world. We now [4] affirm [as well] our loyalty to Christ through The United Methodist Church. We have also added [5] "witness" to the local church vows [to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, presence, gifts, and service] in order to emphasize witness as a key ministry of every Christian and every congregation."

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We are a Christian community seeking intentionally to welcome all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, and education, socio-economic or marital status.

We practice God's ministry of reconciliation through worship, devotion, compassion, and justice for all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination.

Our greatest challenge and only hope is to receive and share God's all-encompassing love.



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About The Messenger

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So, what does it mean to be a United Methodist Christian? It means one agreeing to:

1. Confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;
2. Live a Christ-like lifestyle;
3. Faithfully participate in the ministries of The United Methodist Church by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as part of a local congregation.

Some have proposed to use the terms **time, talent, and treasure** to encompass prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Whichever packs more meaning for you, clearly membership is more than about being on a list or more than being a part of a social club. It is about active discipleship! It is about becoming more and more fully-committed to Jesus Christ as his follower and being immersed in God's story, a story that goes back to Abraham, then passing through the exodus from Egypt and the giving of God's law for the people, the establishment of the kingdom under David in the Promised Land, the widespread injustice among the people that led to their warring with one another and their being exiled through war with Gentile empires, and then the coming of Jesus as Messiah to answer the hopes of the prophets: hopes for peace, justice, and healing that Jesus himself began to enact in his life and surprisingly in his death; hopes embodied in the resurrection of Jesus' body; hopes being fulfilled by the Spirit of Jesus' resurrection in and through the community of his disciples who are telling this story.

As part of the Inquirer's/New Member Class, I communicate to our candidates for membership these clear expectations:

- That they regularly attend weekly worship services;
- That they be a part of a small group – if none of FUMC's existing groups are to their liking, that they then form a new one;
- That they be a part of a "front-line ministry" of the church that impacts other people's lives in a practical positive manner; and
- That they faithfully give a proportional part of their income to support the ministries of the church.

By intentionally pursuing these spiritual and practical disciplines, one grows into a faithful, effective, and fruitful disciple of Jesus Christ! Imagine what such a band can do given the mission to make other disciples of Jesus Christ and transform the world!



Missions, Peace and Justice Mission Opportunity!

The Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker (ACAC) program is in need of several items.

- High school proms are coming up and there are young women in foster care that cannot afford to attend. You can help by donating any prom type gowns, shoes and accessories to this program. Dig in your closets and see what you can find. These will be needed by early April. Please turn these items in to Diane Harris (626) 665-6786, or the church office.

- Any baby clothes, cribs, toddler beds, strollers and high chairs. These items are used during emergency placement, when a child is removed from their home and taken to a foster family or other placement. Diapers are always needed.

- Twin beds, futons or small sofa beds are always needed for foster families and emancipated young adults starting out on their own.

If you are able to help with any of these items please contact Diane Harris, (626) 665-6786.





Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

For centuries, before Lent began, the church would gather for a feast in order to use up the sugar, milk and eggs they would be fasting from for the next 40 days. FUMC Pasadena will be continuing this tradition with a Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday, March 4, at 6:00pm. Invite your friends, neighbors, casual acquaintances and

strangers at the grocery store. We will be accepting free will donations in support of the No More Malaria project (details can be found here: www.imaginenomalaria.org).

Lenten Offerings and Opportunities

March 5, 7:30pm: Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel

March 12 - April 16: Wednesday Lenten Bible Study on "The Stations of the Cross" in the Fellowship Hall
6:00pm: Simple Dinner
7:00pm: Class

April 13, 10:00am: Palm Sunday Worship
12:00pm-2:00pm: Family Egg Hunt, (sponsored by Youth Ministries)

April 17, 7:30pm: Maundy Thursday Service & Requiem, 7:30pm (Sanctuary)

April 18, 7:30pm: Good Friday Stations of the Cross & Labyrinth Walk, gather in the Sanctuary

April 19: Holy Saturday Vigil & 30 Hour Famine
(Youth Activity, sponsored by Confirmation Class & Youth Ministries)

April 20, 6:00am: Mission Area Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast, Bishop Carcano preaching, at Holliston UMC.
10:00am: Easter Festival Celebration,



Lenten Study: Stations of the Cross

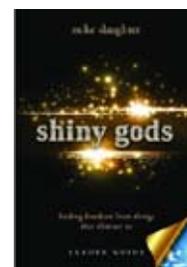
Wednesdays, March 12 - April 16 in the Fellowship Hall
6:00pm Simple Meal & Fellowship
7:00pm Class

Facilitated by Revs. Adiel DePano, Allison Mark, and Kirsten Oh

As we make our way through the journey of Lent to Holy Week, we will explore the Scriptural Stations of the Cross. Be a part of the study as we explore Christ's journey to the cross through scripture and praxis together as a class. The study will culminate in the preparation of Holy Week together in an interactive and reflective time to focus our hearts on Christ. All are welcome!

Shiny gods

After the Easter season FUMC Pasadena will be starting a new four week study called *First: Putting God first in Living and Giving* based on the book *Shiny gods* by Mike Slaughter. The FUMC Pasadena congregation is encouraged to get excited, start praying for its success, and plan your schedule to join the study in a church small group. More details to come.



Church Staff

Rev. N. Adiel A. DePano
lead pastor

Rev. Allison Mark
associate pastor

Rev. George Mann
pastor emeritus

Dr. Sébastien Vallée
music director

Ae-Kyong Kim
organist

Timothy Sun
business manager

Maggie Audley
office manager

Steven Vredenburgh
Communication Coordinator

Ruth MacPherson
librarian

Livingstone Zan
minister of welcome & sexton

Marcus Chone
maintenance staff

Ely Ramirez
camp manager



Janell Mithani Art Exhibit

During coffee hour on Sunday, March 30, from 11:00am to 12:00pm, FUMC Pasadena welcomes community artist Janell Mithani, showing both her fine art canvases and prints as well as her jewelry. Janell will donate one artwork to our growing gallery and will sell her jewelry with part of the proceeds to go to Friends In Deed. Mark your calendars and come see the artwork and meet the artist. Enjoy her jewelry just in time for Mother's Day gift-buying.



Clare Boothe Luce's *The Women*

On Thursday and Friday evenings, March 6-7, 7:30pm FUMC's Drama Committee presents a free staged reading of *The Women*. A freewill offering will be taken. *The Women* is a famed Broadway production with an all-female cast first produced in the 1930s and memorialized in the classic 1939 film starring Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, Joan Fontaine and many more stars of the era. Come for a fun-filled night that depicts the issues and mores of the time, but still resonates today. Things have changed in the last 70 years!

Before the Thursday night performance on March 6, at 6:30pm a free dinner will be provided (first come, first served) with a presentation by representatives of Friends In Deed's The Women's Room. Come and enjoy a fiesta feast and learn more about at-risk women in our community, how Friends In Deed helps and how you can get involved. Donations for Friends In Deed will be gratefully accepted.

Youth Confirmation Class 2014

Confirmation refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment, publicly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation. During confirmation class, confirmands learn about the meaning of Christian faith; the history and teachings and The United Methodist Church; and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will be professing. This year, FUMC is opening up our Confirmation Class to **all** Youth grades 7-12 that have not yet been confirmed or Baptized. On June 8, we will be confirming all of our youth grades 8-12.



We will begin Confirmation classes on March 2 and will continue until Pentecost on June 8. We will meet weekly on Sunday afternoons, from 2:00-3:30pm, at First UMC. Occasional field trips, Service Projects, and 2 Confirmation Retreats will also be a part of the Confirmation class. Classes will be facilitated by Rev. Allison Mark with guest teachers, and other church, & community members. If you would like to be a part of this year's Confirmation Class, please sign-up with Rev. Mark at amark@fumcpasadena.org



Upcoming Concerts at FUMC

The Music Committee is organizing a series of 4 concerts on Saturdays at 4:00pm at FUMC in the first half of the new year. We've already had one concert this year and it was a huge success. Be on the lookout for further details as we approach these dates.

3/1 - Colburn Brass Quintet - American Music

3/29 - Jazz program anchored by Mark Goldstein and Rob Hayes

5/10 - David and Junko Ueno Garrett (aka The Belrose Duo) - "A Night at the Opera"

7/19 - Junko Ueno Garrett - "Summer Piano Concert: Chopin to Gershwin"



Message from our New Music Director

Greetings!

It's with great pleasure that I'm joining the Music Ministry team of FUMC Pasadena. I'm thrilled to becoming a part of a dynamic music program, and a church that values, supports and enjoys quality music making. It is my goal to make our church a vibrant musical space where people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds find spiritual inspiration through music. As Victor Hugo brilliantly wrote, "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent." I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks to discuss how you'd like to support and be active in our music ministry – Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Blessings,
Sébastien Vallée

Native from Québec, Canada, Sébastien Vallée is an active conductor, scholar, clinician, and adjudicator. Dr. Vallée is Director of Choral Studies at California State University, Los Angeles where he teaches conducting at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, directs the Three- Summer Master of Music in Choral Conducting program, and conducts the University's choral ensembles and opera productions. Prior to his appointment at Cal State L.A., Dr. Vallée was on the choral faculty of the University of Redlands. Dr. Vallée holds degrees from the Université Laval, the Université de Sherbrooke, the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sébastien is also founder and director of INSPIRAVI, a 20-voice professional chamber choir, Artistic Director of the Mountainside Master Chorale, and choral director at Glendale City Church.

Expressing Our Gratitude for Cynthia Crass

In our search for our new Director of Music Ministries, church member (and Alto Soloist, Youth Sounds of the Risen Son Director, AND former Summer Musical Director), Cynthia Crass graciously stepped forward to be our Interim Chancel Choir Director during our search. She worked tirelessly with the clergy and our top candidates to coordinate the worship service auditions and selected beautiful anthems for our Chancel Choir in the past two months. As we welcome Dr. Sébastien Vallée, we thank Cynthia for her stewardship and service to FUMC Pasadena.



As some of you might now, our new Music Director will begin leading our Youth Choir on March 9. Our Youth Ministries would also like to extend their appreciation for the 8 years of service that Cynthia has provided to our Sounds of the Risen Son Youth Choir (as well as her many years of directing our Youth Summer Musicals). After countless hours of rehearsals, Choir Tours, preparations for Cabaret, and Community Concerts, Cynthia has gone above and beyond in working with and mentoring our youth and sharing her love of young people in her ministries at FUMC. Our youth are *very* relieved that Cynthia will still be with us at church and can continue to seek her friendship and mentoring. We will celebrate her with a "thank you party" Sunday, March 2, during Youth Program.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you Cynthia!



Opera A La Carte

On Sunday, March 16, FUMC Pasadena is proud to host Opera A La Carte: A Victorian Concert and High Tea. A delicious repast will be served in fine style to tickle your taste buds and delight your senses. Afterward, we will please your ears and gratify your soul with a concert of Victorian vocal and instrumental selections. High Tea begins at 3:30pm, and the Concert begins at 5:00pm. Tickets are \$30 per person in advance or \$35 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at www.operaalacarte.org.



Lia Lohr Mission Report

Lia Lohr, a Young Adult member of the church, will be speaking about her second mission trip to the Philippines during the Friends and Family Luncheon Sunday, March 2! Come see vivid pictures and videos of her service to the Lumad tribes through singing songs, teaching English, and tarp surfing as she talks about her experience. All are invited and welcome to come!

Broomball: YOUth Overnighter

March 21-22, 2014
Friday, 8:00pm - Saturday, 2:00pm



YOUth! Are you ready to play BROOMBALL! Put on your ice-skating gear this weekend (except you won't need your skates!) for a joint Pasadena & Santa Monica FUMC Youth

Group event held at the Pasadena Ice Skating Center, followed by a lock-in at our church. The next day, the two youth groups will do a community mission project together. (YOUth: Take a nap on Friday afternoon--Broomball actually begins at 11:30pm!) For more information, please contact Rev. Allison Mark.



El Camino Del Mirante: Young Adult Border Immersion

March 28-March 30, 2014
Chula Vista UMC/Border Crossing Trip
Cost: \$25

Join the Cal-Pac Young Adult Ministries for our first Border Immersion experience designed especially for Young Adults. Participants will learn about the immigrant experience from young adults, explore Cal-Pac missions along the border, and learn ways to engage in border ministry in your own community. Space is limited to 25 participants and you will need a *valid* Passport.

Register ASAP at: www.calpacyoungpeople.org/events/young-adult-border-immersion

Update Your Contact Info

Have you moved? Did you get a new cell phone number? Update your information with the Church Office today! This will ensure that you are kept up to date on all that is going on in the church. New information can be sent to office@fumcpasadena.org or call 626.796.0157.



Heifer International



Every year, our entire church participates in fundraising for Heifer International, where families around the world are taught to raise sustainable agriculture to provide for themselves and to teach their communities how to be sustainable. Each week of Lent, participate with us in the following projects!

March 16: Heifer Project Kick-Off during Sunday School Chapel

March 23: Pre-K & Kindergarten - Children's Sermon & Bake Sale

March 30 - April 2: 4th Grade - Children's Sermon & Bake Sale

April 6 - 5: 6th Grade - Children's Sermon & Bake Sale

April 13: Questers Fellowship Group - Plant Sale

Throughout the month of March-April, YOUTH will have their annual LAWN COW fundraiser. Please contact Rev. Mark if you would like to special deliver a LAWN COW to a friend or loved one!

Visit www.Heifer.org for more information on how you can support Heifer International.



On the Horizon

March 1

Colburn Brass Quintet

March 4

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 6-7

The Women

March 16

Opera A La Carte

March 22

Angeles Chorale

Weekly Events

SUNDAYS

8:40 AM Breakfast & Bible Stories:
Family Worship
Chapel

8:55 AM SpiritSeekers
Church Lounge

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

MONDAYS

7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous
Great Hall

TUESDAYS

10:00 AM Social Ser vices
Great Hall

7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 27
Scout Room

FUMC Prayer List

for healing:

Margaret Bartlett, Virginia Beach, Cathy Boon, Juliet Borys, Juanita Bryant, Jerry Bullard, Nancy Bumb, Terry Burke, Jim Clark, Ed Carlson, Michelle Collins, Albert DePano, Nathanael DePano Jr., Cathleen Diminio, Pat Fisher, Joe Garrett, Daryl Gerwin, Joan Gigleone, Gabriela Godoy, Kristen Guzman, Thomas Harding, Diane Harris, Virginia Holmes, Eric Dean Hunter, Jon & Rebecca Huntley and family, Bill Larson, Pamela Loar, Jun Chao Lu, Carolyn Martin, Gene Martin, Hajime Miyasaka, Suzee Moran, Robyn Morse, Margie Myrne, Dylan Newsom, Steve Nott, Hannah Oh, Sharon Oliver, Donna Olson, Catharine Phillips, Ann Penn, Joseph Peron, Sue Prior, Ken Pritt, Mary Lou Rasmussen, Benny Reyes Jr., Alexis Rivas, Margarita Rivas, Rafael Rivas, Margo Rocconi, Christine Rodriguez, Byron Salmon, Milner Sosa, Wendy Stiver, Chet Tanaka, Germaine Wallenkamp, Frances Willard

For Safety:

Eric Danziger, Javier Godoy

in loving memory:

Dick Roether, Argie Taylor

for employment:

Mary Mallory, Alexis Rivas, Carla Rivas, Rick Schlee, Bruce White, Kris Youngstrom

for the community:

prayers for the poor, homeless, incarcerated, suffering from mental illness and addiction



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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