

# cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

## Worship the Lord with Us

### Sunday Mornings

- 9:00am Prayer Meeting
- 10:00am Adult Sunday School
- 11:30am Worship Service
- 12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

### Tuesdays

- 10:00am Women's Bible Study

### Wednesdays

- 10:00am New Life Fellowship - Seniors  
1st Wednesday of the month
- 7:30pm BASIC Fellowship for Young Adults  
1st & 3rd Wed of the month

### Friday Night Fellowship

- 7:30pm AMPM Youth Fellowship  
for Middle - High Schoolers
- 7:30pm EXTRA College/Career Group
- 7:45pm TGIF Adult Bible Journaling Class

Contact church office for meeting locations.  
Days and times are subject to change.

## Cornerstone UMC

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## Missions

Stacey Loy Wong

September's mission project and offering of \$614 benefitted Project Independence. On September 7th, fourteen Cornerstone volunteers met at TeWinkle Park in Costa Mesa to assist with the annual Project Independence Walk and to cheer on participants. Project Independence provides support for those living with various disabilities, ranging from autism, cerebral palsy, vision, speech or hearing impairment. The clients face many obstacles related to limited income, accessibility, and mobility. Project Independence helps them in many ways by coaching them with life skills, transporting them to doctors and jobs, and also provides vari-

ous services to help them accomplish and gain some independence.

In October, we collected \$466 for our mission offering, which will be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) International Disaster Response efforts in the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian. Funds have already been given by UMCOR that provide immediate, emergency short-term funding to address the basic human needs of those affected by this catastrophic storm. Our mission funds will continue the current work being done to support post-Dorian relief and recovery work. †

## National Japanese American UM Convocation Oct. 19, 2019

The evening of October 19, 2019, the Ministries of three Japanese American Bishops (Bishop Robert Hoshibata, Bishop Roy Sano, and Bishop Grant Hagiya) serving the United Methodist Church were celebrated in an epic event. Rev. John Wang serves as Vice Chair on the Executive Committee of the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus and was in charge of registering over 250 people for this three-day Convocation at Faith United Methodist Church and the Ken Miller Recreation Center in Torrance, CA. †



**Walk for Independence**

Sept. 8, 2019

The enthusiasm and energy of CUMC volunteers are so appreciated in the yearly Project Independence Walk at TeWinkle Park, Costa Mesa. This event is a celebration of the work that Project Independence does all year, supporting people with disabilities in their homes, at their jobs, and in the community. People with disabilities face obstacles related to low income, accessibility, and mobility. Project Independence services help them tackle and overcome these challenges. Thank you, Cornerstone volunteers, for a great community outreach and your contributions! †



**FROM THE PASTOR**

**Message from Pastor John Wang**

October 2019

Dear Beloved Church,

On October 26th, we completed the Trunk or Treat event led by Stacey & Benny Wong, Gary & Sheree Low, and many volunteers from our church, friends, and community. What an amazing and fun event! It was my second experience of the gifts and talents at work in our congregation through a community event, and another reminder of how wonderfully blessed we are by God to be able to share love in the world. I am inspired by the hard work and dedication of all in our community who make these events possible.

There were so many smiling families who visited our fun, decorated trunks – the games played were so creative and interactive, and the food was delicious! Every person I spoke with that evening was filled with joy, and I pray those families without a church home may visit us and become united in our love for God and neighbor. As the new pastor to our church, hospitality and welcoming neighbors will be a central focus of my mission. We all have the ability to impact lives for God and a simple invitation of welcome to any church gathering could make a life-changing difference.

During our event, I also learned a lot about our local police's K-9 unit – how the 'dog officer' only responds to his police trainer/handler and not even to other police officers. The police dog searches specifically for narcotics and chases down assailants for apprehending, while other trained dogs can detect explosives. It was

beneficial to learn from our local police department and also interview with them to advertise our annual event. The officers had a great time and also enjoyed some candy too! I am also thankful for our local fire department showing off their huge fire truck with all the bells and whistles. These men and women truly are real-life heroes putting their lives on the line to protect and serve us!

The month of October was truly special. I am grateful for planning and attending two special events this month, our church's Trunk or Treat Halloween and the convocation to celebrate three of our Japanese American United Methodist Bishops: Rev. Roy I. Sano, Rev. Robert Hoshibata, and Rev. Grant Hagiya. This past year, I served as the vice chair of the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus and worked with our board members to plan a four-day event from October 17 – 21 for our National Japanese American United Methodist Clergy Retreat and Convocation. This event took place at West Los Angeles United Methodist Church, Faith United Methodist Church, and the Ken Miller Recreation Center. In all of these activities, I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NRSV), "So, whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." In all things, may God be glorified. Amen.

God bless you,  
Pastor John †

**Praise to God!**

*Stacey Ying-lei Wong*

When my husband was seriously ill and lying in the bed of the nursing home, I went to the common kitchen area for a cup of water. There, I saw two ladies talking. The older of the two ladies appeared to be very exhausted and was talking about her long-suffering pain. The other lady was nodding her head and listening quietly. By the time I was leaving the area, I distinctly overheard the older lady expressing loudly about her desire to give up her life and wishing to shorten her life by all means, "What is the point to live, huh?" I thought she was just joking or expressing her frustration, and I left the room. I could not believe that she would dare treat her only life like a person throwing out their personal items, especially when I thought about my husband struggling desperately for survival in his critical situation.

However, several months ago, at the age of 81, I had fractured my backbone. About a month later, I fell in my backyard, which added more pain to my original problem. Ever since then, I have been experiencing severe pain every morning. The pain is unbearable; it is like being stabbed by a sharp knife. It is sad to say, but the pain never goes away. Therefore, painful mornings became a part of my daily life. Sadder still, I found myself not being able to move around as freely as I wanted. Everything even within my reach seemed to have an "impossible" tag on it, and I felt the doors were closing up on me. Facing these miserable situations, I came to realize that the older lady whom I saw at the nursing home was not joking after all. I believe she truly meant it when she said she did not want to live in that painful situation. I perfectly understand that deep down in her heart, she was feeling so miserable that she desired to shorten her life. I do not blame her now, as I am in the same boat and experiencing that agony. Truly, who would like to, and who can endure to, live in that painful condition?

More than a decade ago, I faced a life-threatening brain cancer and needed surgery. I begged to God, as King Hezekiah did in the Old Testament, not to take my life away but to live another 15 to 20 years. Thanks to God's mercy, my request was granted. Now at this time, coping with this difficult painful condition and heavily depending on all of my children, do I want to ask God to extend my life just as I had previously? I paused and hesitated a while. Then, I prayed to God, "Merciful God, if I am allowed to live without infirmity resulting in no burden to others, I would be very happy to serve. Otherwise, I would be a mere 'vegetable' and be meaningless." Before long, I realized I was in a dilemma. If I gave up the fight in getting better, my guilty conscience would be pounding on me because all of my children were sincerely working very hard to take care of me daily to aid in my recovery. Besides, I could not forget all of my relatives' and friends' constant concerns and encouragements. With all these blessings, how could I disappoint my children and others just

because I wanted an easy way out? Now, my physical struggle became my mental struggle. Shakespeare once said, "To be or not to be, that is the question." How real that is to me!

It is true that God never sleeps nor slumbers. Promptly, God showed me the answer in the CUMC Sunday service program. I do not usually pay attention to the title of the sermon. However, on this particular day, I noticed the title of the sermon indicated uniquely as "...It is not what you want to..." – YES, the answer is telling me exactly that I do not decide what I want for life. He is God. He is the One who makes things happen, so the choice is not mine. Just as it had happened in my previous writings, I still failed to learn. Here again, He reminded me that He has a plan for everyone including me. Truly, He holds my tomorrows. I bow down to give thanks to God for waking me up before making any mistakes. What a blessing to have God as my guide and protector. I hope that the older lady at the nursing home would find blessings as well.

Afterwards, days quickly passed, and I did not see any significant change in my condition. I became impatient. I wanted an assurance, so I asked God, "Gracious God, is the blessing of healing on the way soon?!?" A few days later, the words "Be patient" caught my attention when I opened the Bible. As I did not want those two words to be my answer from God, I tried to ignore it. Therefore, I did not even remember which chapter or which book I found the words. The following day, my son called and checked on my condition. Ironically, he said to me, "A bone fracture needs a long time to heal, especially at an older age. So be patient...patient, Mom!" Wow! I was astounded to hear the same words, "Be patient" from my son. It really confirmed that the words in the Bible were God's answer, which I tried to ignore. Evidently God is instructing me to learn to wait patiently, no matter what condition I am in. Then I thought to myself, "I still have to continue to endure this pain? How awful and sad!" Suddenly, Apostle Paul came to my mind. He had endured so much hardship. When he asked God's mercy to remove his thorn (suffering) on three occasions, God answered, "My grace is sufficient for you." Knowing this, how can I ask any more from God? In fact, Apostle Paul's endurance made me humble. No doubt he deserves the crown of victory at the end of his course as he fought the good fight of faith. What a great example Apostle Paul has shown. Just as people are in the waiting room waiting for a newborn baby, I am in the waiting room with the thought of Apostle Paul, patiently waiting for the blessing of recovery. After all these happenings, I came to be aware that God is really watching every step of my life. Now, although I am still waiting in the waiting room, I feel very blessed to know He is my lamp upon my feet and a light upon my path.

Thanks be to the Lord. †

**The Spirit of Friendship Tea - Food! Friendship! Fellowship!**

Sept. 28, 2019

In a short span of six weeks, a group of Cornerstone ladies, led by Pam Fitch, brainstormed, planned, and orchestrated the spectacular Spirit of Friendship Tea held on Saturday, Sept 28th. No event detail was overlooked as the planning committee meticulously considered all aspects, including the delectable menu, the gorgeous table decorations and teacups, and an eye-catching and mouth-watering buffet, to create a warm atmosphere in which to host friends and family. The purpose of the tea was to bring together friends so we could celebrate the relationships we have with one another, develop new friendships, as well as raise money for the Adopt-A-Family program. The Spirit of Friendship Tea brought 119 excited attendees to our fellowship hall. We could literally feel the love as a serenade of violins set the mood for the day. Our resident MC and comedian, Gary Low, guided us through a program of serious talk and lively chatter among friends, young and old.

While guests enjoyed their lunch, Pastor John presented a thoughtful message about friendship. In his talk, Pastor John shared about how we can become a better friend by supporting one another's burdens, by lifting each other up and helping one another (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10), and encouraging others (Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11). We can make each other better (Proverbs 27:17), love one another (Romans 12:10-11), and demonstrate the biblical marks of friend-

ship as described in Colossians 3:12-14. Pastor John concluded his message by sharing that although human friends can fail us, through faith in Jesus, God is always present in our lives. As described in John 15:13, Jesus showed us the purest form of friendship in laying down his life for us. As such, we ought to serve one another as friends, not for personal gain, but out of the immeasurable act of love God displayed in giving us Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior.

The Friendship Tea came to a close with the raffling off of a variety of prizes. Some lucky winners were able to take home Bobbi Brown makeup, a plush bathroom rug set, one of several gift cards, or a beautiful bromeliad plant. The Friendship Tea was a wonderful way to usher in the fall season! The icing on the cake was that all this festivity will bring an awesome Christmas for families in our community who otherwise may not have much to celebrate. The event raised \$3,126 that will be used to purchase Christmas presents for needy families through the Adopt-A-Family program. The Spirit of Friendship Tea would not have been possible without the hard work of our food preppers, kitchen assistants, behind-the-scenes helpers, musicians, tea party guests, table hostesses, decorating team, planning committee, MC Gary Low, Pastor John Wang, menu coordinators Celeste Wong and Stacey Wong, and Tea coordinator, Pam Fitch. Thank You ALL for your help! We praise God for such a wonderful event to help others. †



The Spirit of Friendship Tea

Sept. 28, 2019 - Cont'd



Rediscovering the Path of Chinese Railroad Workers

Oct. 11-13, 2019

Return to Gold Mountain with New Lifers



On October 11, 2019, several New Lifers enjoyed the walking tour of Locke, which is the only rural Chinese town left in the United States. We toured the boarding house, Joe Shoong School, Memorial Park, Gambling Hall and Chinese Garden. It was established in 1915 and inhabited almost exclusively by Chinese until recent years. In 1970, the town was placed on the Registry of National Historic Places. Locke still looks almost as it did 60 years ago. For more information, visit [www.lockeca.com](http://www.lockeca.com).

On October 12-13, with the collaboration of various organizations (The 1882 Foundation, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and The Chinese Historical Society of

America), we had an educational and fascinating tour of the history of *Rediscovering the Path of the Chinese Railroad Workers*. We were fortunate to have seven representatives from various organizations, including the two tour docents, educate us about the history of the various sites of the Chinese railroad workers. The first day, we toured Bloomer Cut, Secret Town, Summit Tunnel, and China Wall by bus. The next day, we traveled leisurely by train through beautiful Tahoe National Forest and several small towns. Our trip ended at the amazing *California State Railroad Museum* in Sacramento. We encourage you to take this tour to educate your children, family, and friends on the rich history of our ancestors. We thank Bock and Wei-ling Louie for informing us of this tour.

The tour occurs only once a year. This was the 3rd tour of the historical and fascinating history of the thousands of Chinese immigrants who completed the first railroad 150 years ago, who are finally receiving recognition and honor for their amazing achievement. For more information contact John Kusano (571)236-4454, [jkusano@yahoo.com](mailto:jkusano@yahoo.com) or Wei Zhang (530)867-1373, <https://1882foundation.org>. †



**What is the BEST part of Trunk or Treat?**

Oct. 26, 2019

If you've never gone to a Trunk or Treat event before, I would recommend coming to Cornerstone's annual event to really experience it. This year's event was attended by 380 people, of which 303 people were guests. If you post it, they will come. And come they did! Participants came to Trunk or Treat after seeing our festive street banner, viewing a social media post (FB/Instagram/website), receiving a flier, or just by word of mouth. We were glad to welcome so many neighbors to our church! But what is the best part of Trunk or Treat? Some people might say that dressing up is the most fun. This year, we met princesses, dancers, superheroes, vampires, Fortnite characters, jack-o'-lanterns, policemen, lady bugs, ninjas, and their families. Our very own Gloria Chen was a Gryffindor student riding her Nimbus 2000 broomstick (thanks to her dad, Jon).

If you thought our trick-or-treating guests had some clever costumes, you should have seen Batman & Robin (Brad & Byung Chinn), the Rubik's cube (Kevin Okada), the Dragon rider (Pastor John), Dorothy & the Scarecrow from Oz (Brooke & Paige Hasegawa), Charlie Brown (Cece Villalvazo), Link from Super Smash Brothers (Steven Farren), Jake from State Farm (Jon Kwalk), Soy sauce & Sushi (Matt Chai & Katie Low), Soy sauce and Sriracha sauce (John & Anita Lee), Mike and Sully from Monsters Inc. (Andrew & Linda Fong), the Very Hungry Caterpillar (Mary Lynn O'Boyle), and Japanese Samurai Bear (James Lowe). Wizardly greeter, Sheree Low, brought her talking chicken, Chester Cornerstone and his magic wand.

Other sights to take in included all the creative trunks and games that families custom-designed to entertain guests. There were TWO Candyland SUVs, the Land of Oz with a yellow brick road to follow for treats, a gumball machine car, a Monopoly car, and a Pacman car with the vintage video game set up for guests to play. You couldn't miss the Batmobile with its "Knock Down the Cans" game, the Frozen trivia car, the Very Hungry Caterpillar car, a Match 2 bean bag toss, a Halloween motorbike and sidecar, an Everything Steelers car,

a Monsters Inc. car, the Star Wars (May the Lord be with You) car & candy guessing game, a special Treasure Chest car, and many more! How exciting it was to see all kinds of themed trunks and activities!

Was that all??? Of course not! Besides trunk-or-treating, guests could indulge their imaginations at the craft table by getting festive tattoos, making a fabric pumpkin, or decorating their very own spooky Halloween critter out of painted cups. Kids were invited to make their own ghost, monster, pumpkin, Frankenstein, or creepy spider. The crafts station was incredibly popular as shown by the steady stream of transfixed guests. Other activities included snacking on barbecued hot dogs, chips, and cuties, and taking pictures at the photo wall.

We were lucky to have eleven Boy Scouts on hand for the evening. They helped with readying the church campus for the trunk-or-treat event, and they provided much needed scout-power by manning trunks. Community VIPs included the local firemen, with their ladder truck and firetruck, and Placentia police officers with their K-9 police dog. What a treat for guests to climb aboard the fire engines and have a chance to pet Ace, the police dog.

So, have you determined the BEST part of Trunk or Treat? Although all of these aspects of Trunk or Treat were amazing, the BEST part was seeing our church congregation working together to share God's love with the community. Everyone's contribution was needed, whether it was donating candy, decorating a car, passing out candy, preparing and serving food, helping with crafts, playing music, or serving as a greeter or parking assistant. Putting on a Trunk or Treat event requires a village of people, and I can't think of anything more special than being a part of Cornerstone's effort to serve others. †



Trunk or Treat

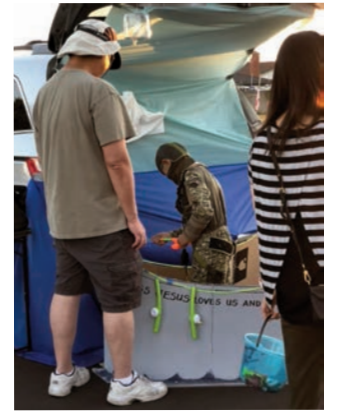
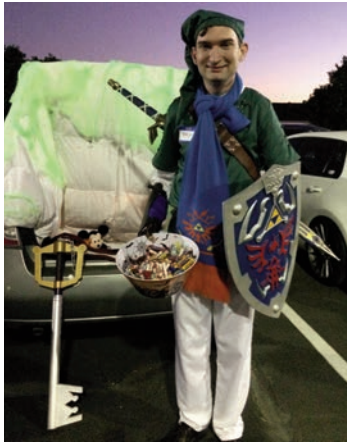
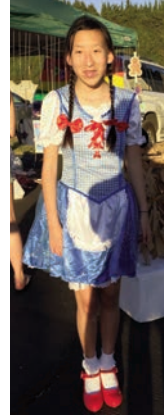
Oct. 26, 2019 - Cont'd





Trunk or Treat

Oct. 26, 2019 - Cont'd



EXTRA

September and October were very eventful for EXTRA! In September, we had three special "EXTRA Fridays" where we broke up into three teams, with each team in charge of running one of the nights. The first group (Ryan, Jillian, Steven, and Josh) spoke about LGBT issues, the second group (Jon Chen, Nick, Cece, and Marcus) spoke about servanthood and prepared an entire five-course meal for the group, and the third group (Amy Kubo, Jon Kwalk, Sarah Eng, Alina, and Katie) spoke about following God's direction in our lives, complete with a blindfolded obstacle course! It was a really neat month of getting to discuss very relevant topics and hear unique perspectives from people in the group, and we were happy to have AMPM join us for those weeks as well. We ended the month by

having a joint AMPM/EXTRA lock-in.

In October, we covered Spiritual Warfare and how to combat it using God's armor. We ended the month with one of our most ambitious Halloween parties yet – two homemade escape rooms! One escape room was a 10-20 minute Baby Shark room, and the other was a 45-60 minute Magnolia room – complete with invisible ink and lots of combination locks to solve. We had thirty people in attendance at our Halloween party, with many new friends! A bunch of us also volunteered at Trunk or Treat the next day, helping with the crafts, security, or passing out candy. On Halloween, we went out to dinner, then came back to church and watched the Charlie Brown Halloween special. It's been a fun month! †



All Saints' Day

November 3, 2019



**November 3, 2019**

*Absent from the body...present with the Lord!*

Florence Fukushima (Mother-in-law of Teri Fukushima)  
Entry to Earth: October 8, 1927 • Homegoing: February 9, 2019

Celeste Lee (Sister of Richard Chow)  
Entry to Earth: July 23, 1921 • Homegoing: January 30, 2019

Yuk Jin Lee (Mother of Teri Fukushima & Shirley Tanaka)  
Entry to Earth: August 29, 1923 • Homegoing: September 27, 2019

Sen Lew (Husband of Clarice Lew)  
(Father of Arleen Hasegawa & Celeste Wong)  
Entry to Earth: September 9, 1932 • Homegoing: June 1, 2019

Yuk Wan Ma (Grandmother of Selina Yee)  
Entry to Earth: August 26, 1920 • Homegoing: July 2, 2019

Joseph Yee (Brother-in-law of Audrey Yee)  
Entry to Earth: January 8, 1932 • Homegoing: August 12, 2019

Arnold Yuen (Brother of Virginia Quon)  
Entry to Earth: March 2, 1944 • Homegoing: October 4, 2019

Ellen Yuen (Sister of Myrna Chow)  
Entry to Earth: October 28, 1929 • Homegoing: September 12, 2019



*...and all whom we name in our hearts and now rest in God's glory. †*