

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

Worship the Lord with Us

Sunday Mornings

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 Thursday 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



Blessing Box at Kraemer Park

As you know, Pastor John's Sunday messages have been based on the book, "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations" by Robert Schnase. Risk-taking missions and service is one of these practices. For Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matt 25:40) Our missions committee took this to heart in considering how we wanted to approach missions service this year. In the past, Cornerstone has collected mission offerings and sent them to various organizations locally and across the globe in support of the less fortunate. For 2020, we decided upon a theme of "Go and Do." Our goal is to make missions service and activities more personal by encouraging our congregation to go out and serve. First, we decided to have a more hands-on approach to missions in which our offerings and/or missions activities seek to help those in our local community. Second, we hope to build relationships within our congregation and in the community. Stay tuned to hear how we are looking to partner with our sister PUMC congregation on a missions project in May! Third, we will be incorporating a "personal reflection" as part of the missions moment during service, so that congregation members can share their experiences participating in service activities.

Our January offering collected \$823, which was used to buy non-perishable food for the Blessing Boxes in the city of Placentia. There are five boxes in Placentia in which people can come and take food if they are in need. The closest box to our church is located down the street in Koch Park (Valencia Ave & Golden Ave). May Quon and Stacey Wong bought non-perishable food such as pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruit, applesauce, canned soup, chili, canned chicken/tuna, Vienna sausages, and canned corn. During the month of February, Pastor John, May, and Stacey took turns filling the blessing boxes around the city. It can be an eye-opening experience to go into areas of our town and realize that there are people around us that need food. We encourage others to partner up or go as a group to donate some canned goods to one of the local blessing boxes. More information about blessing box locations can be found at <https://www.loveplacentia.com/blessing-boxes>.

In February, our missions offering collected \$755 for Pathways of Hope. Pathways of Hope is a non-profit organization in Fullerton which provides access to food, shelter, and housing to those experiencing hunger and homelessness in North Orange County. †

Message from Pastor John Wang

March 2020

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

-Proverbs 3:5-6 (NRSV)

Dear Beloved Church,

Thank you all for attending our mid-week events, Friday evening small groups, and Sunday worship and fellowship times. I am grateful for your love for God and your diligence in growing your faith relationship with God and one another. Though this is a fearful time in the world, be not afraid! God is with us and ever-present in times of distress. We simply need to trust God more fully with all of our lives, and be cautious in this current climate. By now, we have been warned about the Coronavirus pandemic that has grown and affected multiple countries including our own, but we ought not live in fear, rather with sober mind put our faith into action for the health and safety of ourselves and our families. As was shared in Sunday worship this past month, please remember to take these necessary precautions:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, and after making physical contact with others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Pray fervently for a cure and seek God for healing.

May God bless us in this difficult time, and may this season of Lent move us toward greater closeness and reflection with God. Since many of us will become more secluded in the coming days, use it as a time to pray for the victims and families of Covid-19, pray for a cure to be developed, and pray for God to transform more people into faith in Christ. God is good all the time!

We will continue our recent practice of giving friendly waves, elbow bumps, fist bumps, and leg/foot tap greetings instead of handshakes and hugs to minimize the spread of illnesses.

Please find below a helpful link from the Center of Disease Control regarding faith communities.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>

Beginning in the month of March, I have been preaching a series based on our church-wide book study of *The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase. Thus far, I focused on chapter one of the book, *The Practice of Radical Hospitality*. Here are several highlights and weekly challenges to consider as we seek to become more radically hospitable as brothers and sisters in Christ:

Authentic faith produces genuine love for others, an outward focus, and a grace that motivates people to openness and adaptability (Acts 10).

Take initiative to invite, welcome, and include newcomers and help them grow in faith as they become part of the Body of Christ (Fruitful Congregations, 18).

Radical Hospitality has us seeing people as Jesus sees them and seeing Jesus in the people God brings us into contact with (Matt. 18:5).

Who are your neighbors?

How can we practice radical hospitality toward our neighbors?

Hospitality means we pray, plan, prepare, and work toward the purpose of helping others receive what we have received in Christ (Five Practices, 30).

1 Timothy 6:18 – 19 (NRSV): “They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.”

Imagine how differently we would behave toward our neighbors and those we regularly encounter through our work, leisure activities, and hobbies if we viewed ourselves as being sent by Christ into these spaces and relationships (Five Practices, 45).

Challenge: List 5 people who do not yet know God and pray for them every day this week.

Happy Lent and see you at church soon!

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor John †

Sistine Exhibit at Christ Cathedral Church

Jan. 8, 2020

New Life started 2020 with an excursion to the Christ Cathedral (formerly Crystal Cathedral in Orange) to see the Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel Exhibition. It was a fascinating display of near-life-size, high-quality reproductions of the frescoes that adorn the 70-foot-high ceiling in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. These photos were taken after a ten-year effort to painstakingly clean the frescoes in order to restore the original brilliant colors. The exhibit can be seen through August 23 and is well worth seeing. The wonderful fellowship continued at the Market Broiler Restaurant in the nearby Outlets shopping center. †



Sistine Exhibit Cont'd on Page 4

Sistine Exhibit at Christ Cathedral Church

Jan. 8, 2020

Sistine Exhibit *Cont'd from Page 3*



Market Broiler Restaurant in the Orange Outlets Shopping Center

Hugs 'N Stitches Prayer Quilt Ministry

Feb. 15, 2020

The Hugs 'N Stitches group had a fun and productive day working on prayer quilts. Thanks to angel quilter Lydia! We also enjoyed a delicious potluck. Mahalo all! †



Lunar New Year Celebration - Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Jan. 26, 2020



Happy Year of the Rat! Our church family celebrated by wearing colorful traditional attire and sharing in a potluck feast of all our favorite ethnic dishes. After our delicious meal, we were entertained by a fun Year of the Rat trivia game led by Gary Low and by a Lion Dance where many of us were able to "feed" the lion lots of red money envelopes to donate to the dance troupe organized by Gerald of the Chinese Association of Orange County (CAOC). Many thanks to all who helped organize the food, decorations, and entertainment. †



New Life Chinese New Year Lunch

Feb. 5, 2020

New Lifers celebrated Chinese New Year at Kyoto Buffet & Grill, Brea. Everyone enjoyed the seemingly endless selection of delicious food and wonderful conversation. We were happy to have some HUGS folks join us who were accompanying their parents. †

