

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

Worship the Lord with Us

No on-campus Sunday School, Worship Services, Fellowship or other meetings at this time. Join us online:

Sundays

11:30am Worship Online Service
1:00pm Zoom Lunch Fellowship Hour

Tuesdays

9:00am Zoom Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays

10:00am Zoom New Life Fellowship - Seniors
8:00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Thursdays

7:30pm Discord BASIC Fellowship
for Young Adults
1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month

Friday Night Fellowship

7:30pm Zoom TGIF Adult Bible Journaling Class
8:00pm Discord EXTRA College/Career &
AMPM Youth Group

Contact us for more info on Zoom/Discord meetings at this time.

Days and times are subject to change.

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Missions

Stacey Loy Wong

On March 17th, Missions hosted a special appreciation lunch for the healthcare workers at the Placentia-Linda Hospital. Led by Pastor John Wang and volunteers, Rebecca Louie and Stacey Wong, we served lunch starting at noon to the steady stream of healthcare workers. Doctors, nurses, and staff members were treated to foot-long ham, turkey, or veggie Subway sandwiches, a variety of chips, a chocolate chip cookie, and a water bottle. The hospital set up a pop-up tent and tables at the edge of the parking lot to assist with the lunch service. Celeste Wong created a special St. Patrick's Day banner that read, "You're a Blessing" signed with a heart and Cornerstone United Methodist Church, which we hung at the top of the pop-up. The weather was warm, and it was a beautiful, sunny day in which our church representatives could express our gratitude for the hospital workers who have provided daily and diligent care for the community during the pandemic. We had the opportunity to chat with many of the staff members who were very thankful to be recognized and appreciated for what they feel as "just doing their jobs." This time of Covid has brought many ups and downs, but on that day, it was a blessing to shine Christ's light at the Placentia-Linda Hospital and share his tremendous love with those who care for the sick and needy.

April's mission offering will be given to Pathways of Hope. As a non-profit community partner, Pathways of Hope can be counted on in their commitment to helping to rebuild the lives of the hungry and homeless in North Orange County. They have worked on behalf of the less fortunate in our community for 45 years by providing services in the areas of housing, outreach, prevention, and engagement. Case managers, counselors, and housing specialists work with clients to assist them in their return to a home of their own. Pathways of Hope offers a food pantry in which food-insecure clients can select food items which best meet their household needs. Although Cornerstone United Methodist Church does not have the resources to be able to directly reach out to the less fortunate, we appreciate the opportunity to partner with Pathways of Hope and support their endeavors for those in need. In addition to mission offerings, Cornerstone UMC has donated hygiene kits and home-sewn face masks to Pathways of Hope. When the pandemic is over, we hope to be able to coordinate volunteer opportunities as part of their food distribution program or in another outreach program. †



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Missions (Cont'd from pg. 1)



Message from Pastor John Wang

Mar-Apr 2021

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
 -1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

Dear beloved church family,

Our last couple of months was filled with joyous occasions where we celebrated Holy Week, Easter, and our sermon series on the Romans Road to Salvation. These events are highlighted moments of our continued time enduring the pandemic, while equipping our faith for sharing the Gospel. I praise God every time I'm able to get together with you and work together for faith projects, whether online or in-person.

I am grateful for everyone who participated in setting up and attending our Walk-Thru Prayer Stations during Holy Week. We contemplated and prayed for one another in a variety of ways, including breath prayer, acknowledging the faithful women of our lives, letting go of our failures and shortcomings, and reflecting on art projects created by fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. These unique forms of prayer help us to re-focus on God when our usual prayer routines get stagnant. Whenever we find ourselves in a rut with God, it's always a good idea to try something new!

Our Easter sunrise service was a wonderful symbol of re-birth, as it was our church's first outdoor in-person gathering to worship God since the pandemic. We safely gathered with Placentia UMC to celebrate our resurrected and living Lord Jesus, while outside in the fresh air. These new experiences, worshiping God outside the walls of our familiar sanctuary, brought a new perspective in the ways we are able to worship God and share the Gospel. We were able to welcome a family from the neighborhood, who neither congregation knew, as they saw us gather that Sunday morning. The opportunity to share our faith with our neighbors is always a holy moment to sow seeds of faith.

For six weeks, I focused on the spiritually rich and abundant book of Romans, as we journeyed along the "Romans Road to Salvation." The road is summed up as follows:

Romans Road to Salvation

1. No one is perfect (except Jesus) (Rom. 3:9-19)
2. Everyone sins (Rom. 6:15-23)
3. Sin leads to death; Jesus leads to life (Rom. 5:1-11)
4. Jesus saves us from sin by crucifixion and resurrection (Rom. 10:9-13)
5. Confess, repent, and believe in Jesus to be saved (Rom. 8:1)

Additionally, for those who confess, repent, and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord, an outward expression of this commitment is encouraged through baptism to become part of Christian community for a life dedicated to faith with others (Matt. 28:19-20). These foundational aspects of our faith are meant to guide our Gospel-sowing conversations with friends, family, and neighbors who seek to understand why we have faith in Jesus Christ. May your lives be filled with holy conversations about God, as well as challenged by Jesus's command to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Best of all, God is with us!

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor John †

Our New Lenten Prayer Garden - A March Workday

We had a productive day of gardening with Pastor John, Pastor Broghan, and a group of New Lifers, who hoed, dug, rototilled, weeded, fertilized, and watered a plot of land before planting vegetables and flowers. Pastor Broghan's garden layout was devoted partially to 14 tomato plants and the seeds of round onions, watermelons, and zucchini. In a few days or weeks, it will be exciting to see the seeds germinate, with sprouts of veggies and flowers growing over time. Throughout the week, gardeners of PUMC and CUMC will nurture, water, and care for the garden. It will also be a nice place to sit and meditate alone or with friends. †



The Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Cheryl Hasegawa

Holy Week was very inspired this year. I enjoy how much Pastor John and Pastor Broghan work together. During our Lenten season, we were invited to participate in intimate Zoom Bible Study discussion groups twice a week. It was meaningful to get to know folks from PUMC better, to connect during the pandemic. One night, we shared our personal challenges of wanting to share our faith with close family members, our kids, or siblings. We realized we had a lot in common with one another. The topics helped us ready our hearts, through reading and discussion, as we approached Holy Week.

Coming back to the church campus for the Holy Week Interactive Walk-Thru Prayer Stations, was really moving. This was a contemplative activity. The 12 stations had bible verses and a chance to reflect, draw in sand, write names of those who had mentored you, express yourself, and sit in our pews listening to music playing in the background. There was artwork at each station. The stations led from our outdoor parish park, through the classrooms and courtyard, into the prayer room and fellowship hall, and finally into the narthex and our sanctuary. Sitting in the pews, we realized how much we had missed our church home, this entire year. It felt nice to be "home again" through this creative, heartfelt experience.

Easter Sunday, it was exciting arriving early for Sunrise service! We gathered together in the church parking lot facing the newly tilled garden. We caught up with friends we had not seen in months, and enjoyed a brief service with our friends from PUMC. We shared the ritual of communion, with individual wafers and juice. It was very special celebrating our risen Christ in the cool morning air, with music and God's word spoken by our pastors. Thank you, God!! †



Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday



Reflections During the Lent Season

Cheryl Hasegawa

Here are more reflections written by some of our members. These reflections are responses to select bible passages or to the question: "What would you give up for Lent to give more time to spend with God?"

Lenten Sharing from Kevin Hasegawa

Isaiah 30:18

"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"



My reflection for Lent is on how grateful I am that God was patient enough to wait for me to open my heart to be able to hear him. Opening my heart and humbling myself to God was similar to when Jesus healed the blind and deaf. When, all of a sudden, I could see and hear, I not only started to hear God speaking to me in prayer, but could feel his presence as well. What a joyous feeling this was, knowing that God was there, sometimes in prayer and sometimes through the Holy Spirit. I truly feel blessed and humbled in the presence of God. If God can patiently wait for me to come to him, then I can certainly be patient in waiting for a response from God to my prayers.

Lenten Sharing from Sheree Low

I'm giving up my iPhone for extra stuff like checking email, texting, binge watching TV right before falling asleep. Instead, I'm trying to set aside time with God first thing in the morning and last thing at night. If I'm not in the mood or I'm too tired or too busy, I'm doing it anyway.

Pastor John said to fake it till you make it, and that actually works!

I like to sit in complete darkness in my closet, sometimes talking out loud to God, other times reading the Bible or praying. But I don't rush it; I wait for Him to enter my thoughts. Time stands still in the quietness of his presence. A good book helps too. Reading about how I can love better, how Jesus can heal me and others, how the Holy Spirit can work through me.

As God changes me, I find myself looking forward to the next time when I can be still, away from distractions. My iPhone was close to becoming my i-dol, so I'm glad that Lent is reminding me to choose what's better...a lasting relationship with my Heavenly Father.



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Reflections During the Lent Season

Cheryl Hasegawa

(Cont'd from pg. 5)

Lenten Sharing by Cheryl Hasegawa

One of my favorite verses is:

Isaiah 40:31

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

I get energy reading this verse. I believe it is true, that HOPE in God renews us. This past year, I noticed how tired and weary I'd become. My heart was heavy over the immense stresses of the pandemic and social political conflicts. For Lent, I decided to go to bed earlier and avoid the news. I wanted to renew my spirit and wake refreshed.

What I also really needed was to fill myself up again, with the hope and joy and confidence in God's plan. God is so rock solid. When I listen to music like **God You Reign** in the mornings getting ready for work, I get filled up. God can lift me above the fray like on eagle's wings, to see the world through His eyes. No matter



Lenten Sharing by Stacey Ying-lei Wong



Ever since I was a little child, I love to eat chocolate. As I grow older, my craving for chocolate, especially dark chocolate, is just like how an alcoholic craves the bottle. I feel that something is missing during the day if I fail to reach and satiate my hunger for chocolate. No doubt, I am a chocoholic. Now for this Lent season, I proudly decided to give up my very favorite dark chocolates. Then, when I realized it is 40 long days without my favorite snack, I thought to myself, "Wow! What a big sacrifice I am making!" Instantly, a scripture woke me up. I recalled Jesus' question to James and John in Mark 10:38, "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" Surely, no one can. How shameful I was to think that my sacrifice for the Lent season was so great while Jesus had suffered so much and laid down His life to take away my sins. Absolutely, there is no comparison. Now, I belong to God's family, which is only possible because of His grace and compassion for us all. I should never cease to thank His grace as we all tend to take it for granted. Thanks be to the Lord.

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(Cont'd from pg. 6)

Lenten Sharing by Jamie Yu

I Peter 5:6

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."

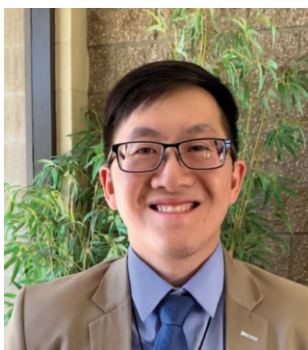
This past month or so leading up to Easter has been a challenging one for me. I'm currently preparing to return to California, so I'm starting to reflect more on my time in Japan as a whole and what this time has meant to me. There are a lot of uncertainties in the future ahead, but I've been learning to continue to put my trust in the Lord through the many changes and seasons in life. Humbling oneself is definitely easier said than done. It's so easy to focus solely on what is best for myself and what I want instead of what I can do for the Lord and for others. Instead of giving up something for Lent this season, I've been trying as much as I can to think outwardly, whether it's setting aside more time to pray for others or going a bit more out of my way to reach out to people both locally and back home. Although in this current season I have been feeling a bit lost and down, I trust and have faith that the Lord's timing is perfect, and that He is using each moment and interaction for a purpose. I pray that we would all be lifted up and encouraged in due time.



Lenten Sharing by Pastor John Wang

Lamentations 3:25

"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him."



During this season of Lent, there has been much solitude and reflection each day, created by the pandemic. This verse is a daily prayer in my life, that my hope is in the Lord from the moment I wake up in the morning until I lay down at night. One of the practices I include each morning to prioritize my hope in the Lord is to open my Bible app on my phone and open the devotional story. Each day, there is a new verse of scripture, an opening prayer, a quick video message, a short devotion, and a closing prayer. It serves as my spiritual vitamin at the start of each day seeking the Lord. The more I remember Jesus loves me and cares for me, the less concerns I have for the busy-ness of each day. When I look back on my life, I realize God is so good to me – He loves me, and all of us, more than we can ever imagine.

Thank you, God!
Thank you, Jesus!
Thank you, Holy Spirit!

New Life Zoom Speaker Series

Recently, New Life watched a PBS documentary on the history of Asian Americans in the US and a Youtube conversation between journalist Joie Chen and politician Chris Liu, which prompted us to consider that we personally know Asian Americans who have interesting, non-traditional careers. So that idea spurred us to invite some of these friends and relatives to join us on Zoom.

Some interesting highlights we discovered: Journalist and documentarian Mimi Gan, Wei-ling's sister, interviews people she believes have made a difference in society. Mabel Yawata, Lydia's cousin, developed a yogurt flavor based on a family member's lemon curd recipe. Several members of our church are part of Gary Low's advertising company. Judge Curtis Kin's, Marietta and Bob's son, outside interests including singing in a chorus of jurists as well as his church choir. Jerry Wong, a professor of piano performance in Melbourne, Australia, credits his parents, Rosalie and Jerry Senior, for supporting his dream from childhood. Joe Chan, Wei-ling's cousin, gave us an interesting virtual tour of the Music Instrument Museum in Phoenix, where he and his wife are docents. And Randall Chu will show some of his work as editor at IMDb (Internet Movie Database).

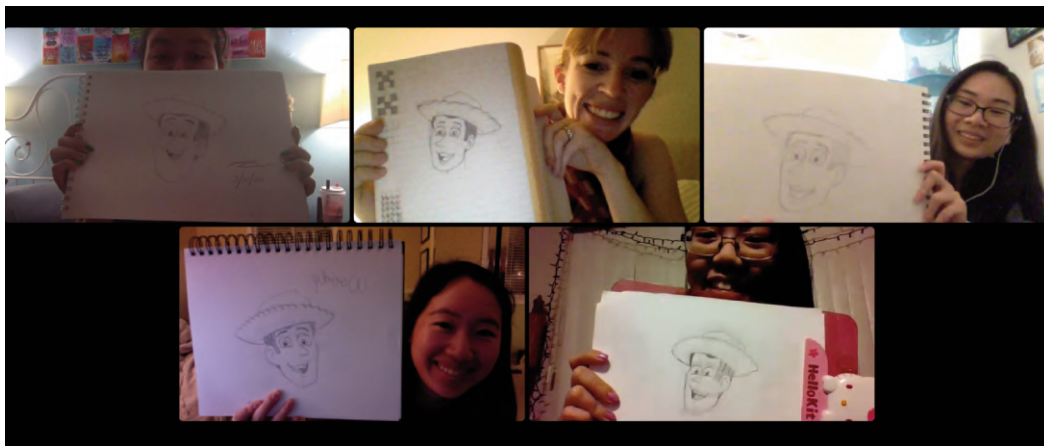
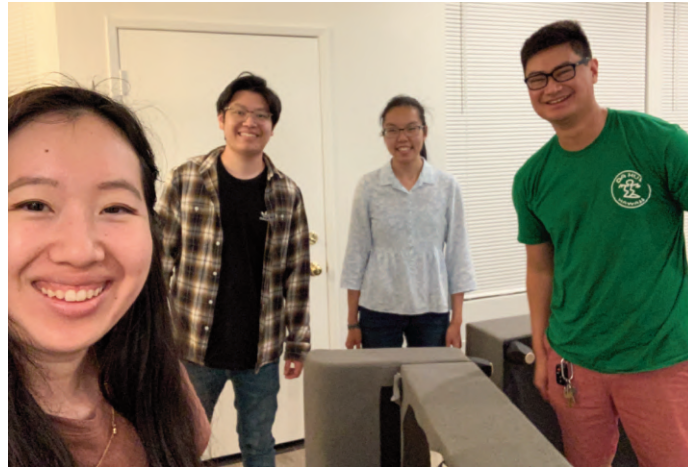
We're pleased and proud of these folks' contributions to our greater society, and that they took the time to Zoom with us. †



EXTRA

By Katie Low

In March and April, we continued watching The Chosen series, a drama based on the life of Jesus. We also had a few game nights, playing on online platforms such as Board Game Arena and Jackbox. Besides that, the current leaders (Steven Farren, Jon Chen, Jon Kwalk, and Katie Low) began training the new leaders (Marcus Phung, Ryan Low, Sarah Eng, and Paul McGill). We will be going through a leadership transition in June and are excited to see where the Lord takes the group. We also continued our Among Us game nights on Tuesdays and Girls' Night on Wednesdays. †



First night back at church!

TGIF Bible Study

March 12, 2021



Easter Sunday Fellowship

April 4, 2021

