



**Cornerstone
UMC**
2050 Valencia
Ave.
Placentia, CA
92870

May/June 2022

**Worship the Lord
with Us**

- **Sundays: 11:30 am**
Worship in person /On-line Service
- **Tuesdays 10:00 am**
Women's Bible Study
- **Wednesdays 10:00 am**
New Life Fellowship - Seniors
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month
- **Thursdays 7:30pm**
BASIC Fellowship– Young Adults
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month
- **Friday Night Fellowship**
7:30pm TGIF Adult Bible
Journaling class
8:00 pm EXTRA College/Career &
AM/PM Youth Group

Contact us for more info on
Zoom/Discord
Meetings at this time
Days and time are subject to change

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CORNERSTONE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Message from our Pastor John Mark Wang

In this edition of the Pastor's Article, I share my genuine thoughts and concerns regarding gun violence in our country. I do not presume to have a simple answer to this complicated and polarizing crisis, but offer my genuine thoughts, concerns, and reflection in the wake of this violence. I humbly request your grace and invite your dialogue if my views offend you. We are fellow travelers, disciples of Jesus, and are always in the process of sanctification to become holy like Jesus Christ.



At the time of this article there have been 3 mass shootings that have rocked our country, two of which were based on racist hate and one which targeted children.

None of the victims were militant aggressors, but rather vulnerable, unsuspecting civilians and kids located in places which are supposed to be safe from violence.

A grocery store.
A church.
An elementary school.

Lord, have mercy on their souls and wipe away the families' tears, salve the painful overwhelming grief, and then give us the resolve to take actions to do our part in response to this unfathomable violence.

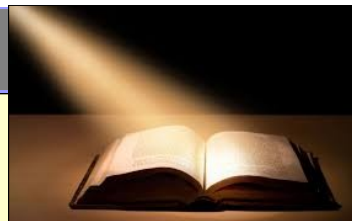
The questions I find myself asking is "What if this happened to someone I know?" "What should I do?" "What is the answer to the problem of violence perpetrated by racists, the mentally ill, and gun carrying people bent on murdering their neighbors?"

Initial reactions include voting for changes to be made but we should explore this further. In our current culture it's easy to buy a gun and it makes sense for those of us who buy guns for the purpose of self-defense or for recreational use. Proper training and care for a weapon is vital for handling and protecting oneself or one's family.

But what happens if a lawfully purchased weapon gets into the hands of the wrong person? An immature and curious child finds it, or an emotionally charged, reckless teenager going through the emotional swings of puberty. A victim of bullying who has had enough. A depressed teenager, young adult, or adult who cannot see the hope of a new day.

It is also reasonable to assume that if someone in this country wants a gun badly enough they will find a way to get one. Whether by going through a friend or family member, lying, stealing, buying online, under the table, or paying enough money to acquire one or several.

Message from Pastor John Mark Wang (contd.)



If our right to bear arms requires additional background checks, mental health testing, longer wait periods, and greater detailed assessments will this stop gun violence?

Does having armed security at grocery stores, churches, and schools make our country a safer place? Should we all carry guns to protect ourselves and our loved ones?

The answers to these questions are debatable and ongoing, and as your Pastor and fellow brother in Christ I must turn to Jesus and our Bible for my personal answers to these questions.

Important to note, I firmly believe if one goes into a line of work for protecting the public such as police work, military service, security, etc. and are properly trained to handle a firearm, then they're within their rights to defend themselves and the public when de-escalation does not calm down a situation.

In studying scripture I find that our Lord Jesus did not carry a weapon with him when he walked the earth. He did not live in fear but with a missional purpose to save all of us.

The Bible passages that come to mind from Jesus' teachings are to "love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you" (**Matthew 5:43-48**), "if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also" (**Matthew 5:38-39**), and the moment when Jesus was getting arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. When one of Jesus' disciples used a sword in the garden of Gethsemane to cut off the servant of the high priest's ear, Jesus rebuked him, and healed the servant's ear (**Luke 22:47-53**). In (**Matthew 26:52**) Jesus rebukes the disciple saying, "Put your sword back in its place for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."

Jesus did not inflict violence on others but endured it on himself knowing his fate. Instead of hurting others he healed people. Instead of mobilizing his disciples to fight he taught them to forgive, to heal, to be peace-makers (**Matthew 5:9**) and to share the message that those who believe in Jesus as their Lord and savior will not die but receive everlasting life.

As a single man who loves Jesus and wants to be more like him, I do not plan to own a gun. But I understand why someone else would. Those who own them to protect their family, neighbors, and are willing to be responsible for the power they wield are free to do so. I will keep praying that the worst-case scenario does not happen and that our faith is secured in Christ above all.

Many of these violent attackers have been radicalized by hateful ideologies and have blocked out love and kindness to guide them. I wonder if there may have been a moment where a disciple of Jesus spoke into their lives to try to intervene. Would they have stopped their hateful plan if they had someone loving and understanding talking to them and praying for them?

I've always thought mentoring and tutoring was a good answer to help people as they develop and grow in life. Many of these violent offenders are young men. When we are in relationship with people we can prevent someone from feeling alone and isolated, speak Godly wisdom and love into their lives instead of having them fill themselves up with hate.

On a local and national level it is our civic duty to vote on what each of us thinks is best for our neighborhood to make us safe. Whether we agree or disagree, (which, let's face it, is always going to happen) may we do so with love.

In Christ's love, Pastor John

Our Praise Bands Cheryl Hasegawa Worship Co-chair



We are so blessed to have six live praise bands now, with the exciting return of **Alex Yu** leading in April, his debut at Easter. It was a tearful happy day to hear Alex's voice praising God with fullness, like old times. During Alex's absence from service, he blessed us with recorded songs we played during service and live streamed, so we always felt his presence with us.



We also welcome **Alec Hasegawa** who is alternating first Sundays with **Katie Chai**. We appreciate the talent shared and dedication invested by our band leaders, musicians and singers. We are excited to have new talent joining in on all levels.

Second Sundays **Ryan Low** leads worship, Third Sundays **Alex Yu**, Fourth Sundays **Cheryl Chen** and Fifth Sundays **Brad Chinn**.

Thank you one and all!

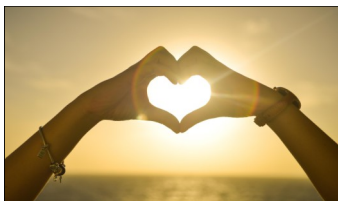
"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing." **Psalm 100: 1, 2.**



Missions . . . Stacey Loy Wong

Missions has been busy this year! Take a look at the table below that describes our activities and how we've been outreaching within our community and out in the world.

Month	Missions Funds	Missions Outreach & Activities
January	\$430	Global Ministries/UMCOR's Covid-19 Response fund This initiative seeks to strengthen the response of health care facilities, provide medical supplies, increase access to clean water and hygiene facilities and address food insecurity and other economic challenges facing communities, particularly those in underdeveloped countries. These funds will give much needed assistance for struggling areas affected by the pandemic.
February	\$660	Pathways of Hope to help with the hungry and homeless in our community.
March	\$1,830	Global Ministries/UMCOR's Ukraine Response Funds will provide humanitarian assistance to those in Ukraine, as well as assistance for Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.
April	\$430	The mission offering of \$430 will be used to purchase supplies to create 50 Blessing Bags for cancer patients through the Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (VACF). Missions activity - Congregation members donated Easter basket items which allowed us to create 50 Easter Baskets for the Friendly Center.
May	On-going	Nick Cota shared about his volunteer work to provide medical casualty training to Ukrainian groups in July. The mission offering will be used to purchase first responder medical trauma kits. See article on pg. 6 Missions activity - New Life members gathered to assemble the Blessing Bags for VACF. See the article by Pam Fitch on pg. 7
June	TBD	CUMC will be partnering with PUMC to learn more about the RV shower ministry for the homeless that is being conducted by Kathleen Lu and her husband. On June 12, the RV shower will be parked in front of the church for our churches to take a tour inside. We hope that Kathleen can come speak to our congregation about her ministry work.



Missions (contd.) Easter Baskets Assembly



Special Thanks to **May Quon** who did much of the shopping for the Easter Baskets, hygiene supplies, toys, candies and chocolate bunnies! She set up the items in the Fellowship Hall so that volunteers from our congregation could each prepare, fill and wrap an Easter Basket. Thank you to everyone who made donations to the Missions offering and also to those who donated needed items. We were able to donate 50 Baskets to the children at the Friendly Center in Orange for the Easter Basket Outreach program.

Missions . . . Stacey Loy Wong

Mission offering for the month of May

Nick Cota is a member of our young adult "EXTRA" group and he's been very involved with activities in Ukraine for the past couple months. He has multiple friends from his time in the service and he's working with several volunteer groups. In July, Nick plans to return to Ukraine to provide combat casualty training to the Ukrainians. Currently, what is needed is First Responder Medical Trauma Kits that contain tourniquets, pressure bandages, gauze rolls, medical tape, first aid medications, and a variety of other medical items needed by first responders volunteers. Cornerstone's May missions offering will be used to purchase these desperately needed medical kits which cost about \$330 per kit. For a full listing of the trauma kit's contents, please refer to: https://gearbags.com/shop/stocked-kits/first-responder-kits/lxmb35 skf/?attribute_pa_color=black.



Nick is attending a Deployed Medical Combat Lifesavers course on Sundays, so he is unable to come speak to our congregation in person. Instead, we asked him to create a short video, which was played during our service in May. If anyone would like to view the video again, the link is listed here: <https://youtu.be/ijzePn3UHmk>.

Our missions committee felt this is a unique opportunity in which we can support the volunteer efforts of a member of our congregation and also for our church to make a difference in the world. Thank you to **Nick** for sharing this missions opportunity with us!

If you have any suggestions for missions projects or missions offerings, please contact **Pastor John** or **Stacey Loy Wong**.



Blessing Bags for the Homeless



Caring and Missions . . . Pam Fitch

In the last several weeks, Caring and Mission committees have coordinated with the Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation as to the patients' needs during their chemo or radiation treatments. **Lydia Chu, Pam and Richard Fitch** purchased supplies to fill 50 Blessing Bags for the patients.

On May 18th New Lifers assembled the requested items (chapsticks, moisturizer, Vaseline, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, wipes, knitted/crocheted caps and shawls) to help the cancer patients.

We thank **Dick Chu, Bosuck Choung (Byung's mother), Selina Yee, Joyce Wong, Helene Chan and Wei-ling Louie** who made crocheted or knitted caps and shawls. Thank you also to **Celeste Wong** for creating beautiful bookmarks with the scripture "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight." **Proverbs 3:5-6**. Bookmarks were included in the blessing bags, quilts, hats and shawls donations.

Ed and Mabel Joe graciously offered to deliver the blessing bags to the Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation in Fountain Valley. Thank you **Betty Loh-Chen** for organizing a wonderful lunch at King's Teriyaki Grill in Placentia.



The Missions and Caring committees are thankful for the generous donations of \$430 from the April missions offering. You all make a difference in other people's lives — You are a blessing!

Mother's Day Luncheon . . . Betty Loh Chen



What a wonderful Mother's Day celebration, thanks to Chief Planner **Gary Low** and the **CUMC men** and **EXTRA group!** Mothers were welcomed into the Fellowship Hall with a pink rose and seated at beautifully decorated tables, thanks to **John Lee** and his crew. Then we were served a delicious Asian fusion meal, prepared and served by **Al Wong** and his crew.

(Some of the ladies are interested in getting the Musubi recipe!) Master of Ceremonies Extraordinaire **Gary Low** introduced the entertainment, an up and coming music group (more on them later). Lastly, the ladies participated in "The Price is Right" and "Family Feud" games, expertly hosted by **Gary**, with assistants **Katie Chai**, **Sarah Eng** and **Andrew Fong**. The contestants were laughing so much, the game show host had to keep reminding them to pay attention and cheer on their teammates. All contestants received a prize of a gift card or coupon for a free church lunch.



The highlight of the afternoon was the debut performance of **JAR**, featuring "**J**"ohn Park (and Pastor "**J**"ohn, who unfortunately missed this performance), "**A**"lec Hasegawa, and "**R**"yan Low. We expect to see more of this promising new group in the future! Thanks to everyone who helped behind the scenes! It was a really fun and memorable day!



Mother's Day Luncheon



EXTRA . . . Sarah Eng

What has EXTRA been up to for 2022?

As we look back at the 1st half of 2022, the **EXTRA** community has been growing together in faith with its members and trying new approaches to studies and outings!

Our first major study series allowed members of our group to provide joint testimonies with **EXTRA's** leaders called **Paired Studies!** We heard from a wide range of members: those who had been with us for many years all the way to those who joined **EXTRA** recently. To listen to how God has impacted their lives and experiences was an eye-opening revelation and puts into perspective what is written in (**Jeremiah 29:11**), “‘For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”



Of course, we had plenty of outings and fun events planned for **EXTRA**; building and fostering a safe and Christ-centered community takes dedication and planning. Some of our fun events this year have included visits to the **Aquarium of the Pacific**, game nights to build teamwork and collaboration, and loud **amusing karaoke nights**.



EXTRA (contd.)



One of the more memorable events of the first half of 2022 included a **Galentines and Palentines** event; with female and male members of **EXTRA** meeting up to partake in separate activities devoted to building stronger relationships amongst members. The ladies participated in a delightful flower pot decoration event while the gentlemen had a fun game night filled with Mario Kart and Poker.



Some of the new approaches we have taken in providing a diverse experience include the implementation of **intentional prayer activities**, **self-care check ins**, and **guided meditations**, all created by the incredible **EXTRA** Leadership team!



So, what is in store for EXTRA for the second half of 2022?

We have started our next major study series based on the book **How Not to Read the Bible** by Dan Kimball to help our members understand the historical and cultural perspectives taken in Scripture and how to engage with peers and others when they come with questions that deal with the Bible's supposed sexism, pro-slavery, and anti-science stances, just to name a few. We are looking forward to and always willing to collaborate with other communities within the church to plan more outings and events that can bridge the gap between our communities and strengthen our bonds through Christ.

In addition to these important studies, **EXTRA** will also be getting ready for summer! This includes dinner fellowships to unique dining experiences around Orange County, a 4th of July celebration, beach trips, and a special day trip! We hope to keep you updated on these amazing events! (with lots of pictures!)

THANK YOU!

Finally, we at **EXTRA** would like to thank the larger church community for their support and prayers. The past two years of our community has seen a slow growth back to where we used to be member-wise before the pandemic. Even in 2020, when we were all in the middle of COVID-19, the **EXTRA** community continued to meet weekly through Discord to share our lives, our struggles, and to hold strong arms around our members who were in need. We would like to continue this mission of inclusivity and hospitality as we continue to pray for the end of the pandemic. If you know anyone who is interested in joining **EXTRA**, college students up to young adults, please feel free to invite them to our meetings on Fridays at 8 PM in the Blue Room or reach out to **Sarah Eng** or **Ryan Low** via social media.

~Paul McGill on behalf of the EXTRA leaders (Paul McGill, Ryan Low, Sarah Eng, and Marcus Phung)

SUMMER . 2022

<p>JUNE</p> <p>17 FRI • Game Night 24 FRI • Finance Q&A 25 SAT • Hike & Dine</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>04 MON • 4th Party 23 SAT • Day Trip 29 FRI • Dinner Fellowship</p>
<p>AUGUST</p> <p>05 FRI • Pool Party 13 SAT • Beach Trip 26 FRI • Game Night</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>09 FRI • Movie Night 10 SAT • Adventure Lagoon 23 FRI • Dinner Fellowship</p>

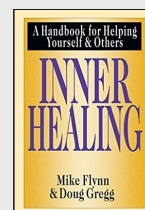
EXTRA

HUGS Cheryl Hasegawa

HUGS Friday Night Live also known as TGIF

Many of our HUGS families have returned **LIVE** to Sunday services, as members of praise bands, mission outreach, lunch preparers, Sunday school teaching. We also gather on Friday nights for our journaling class where we study a chapter from New and Old Testaments, apply it to our lives, and share with each other for a very lively and meaningful personal sharing and growing.

Recently we embarked on another path of learning to pray for others to provide **INNER HEALING**. We're learning about Jesus' Healing Authority, and how to share God's Love when we pray for people. We're reading "**Inner Healing**" by **Mike Flynn & Doug Gregg**. A new friend **Ronnie** joined our group and has added so much wisdom and perspective. He was invited by **Sheree Low** when they met at a supermarket.



God works in wondrous ways! Together we are learning how to support one another and finding we are more in touch with our feelings too. The power of Love when we find ways to share it, or are brave enough to risk it is limitless. The authors write "Love never fails." Love always finds a way . . . only love is tough enough stretched out enough, resourceful enough and capable enough to surmount every obstacle. Love never fails. "We are learning so much. You can pop in any time when you are free via Zoom or in person.

The last Friday of each month we celebrate **Friendship and Fridays** with dinner at a local restaurant. **Gary Low** reserves a private room, so we can sit together, catch up and connect with each other. It's a lot of fun, like old times! Come and join us sometime!



TGIF HUGS Friendship Night Dinners

Invitation to Romans Bible Study . . . Cheryl Hasegawa

In February and March 2022 **Pastor John** led an intensive study of the book of Romans - Wednesday nights via Zoom. It was a challenging “heady” study, wrestling with and discussing core beliefs in theology. The video segments were enlightening and entertaining, with theological debates put forth by Origen, St. Augustine, Martin Luther and John Wesley and present-day commentators.



Pastor John started each week with ice breakers: we had fun learning about one another (favorite movies, books, vacations, snacks, hobbies, life lessons) and had folks of all ages in our group, New Lifers to EXTRA! **Cassie** zoomed in from San Francisco, and my sister and mom joined too!

We learned more about the intent and background of Paul when he was writing Romans, and we wrestled together with him, weighing different perspectives. Our ultimate take-away everyone has mentioned was getting to know each other better. It’s like we went on a journey together, with self-reflection and self-revelations, wrestling, as all scripture becomes alive in us. In the end we learned that our faith is a gradual transformation “The assurance of grace for us is that even though our struggle with sin will not be over, we will be facing in the right direction.” We are all walking together on the same road. We celebrated the completion of the study, with dinner at the Anaheim Packing House. Thanks be to God.



Lunch is Served Again!



Starting in January, four lunch teams are now taking turns serving lunch after service in the Fellowship Hall. Some lunch teams enjoy preparing their favorites or serving Chinese dishes ordered from the Oriental Cuisine Restaurant in Placentia. Please come and join us.

New Life . . . Betty Loh Chen

New Life has continued meeting monthly on Zoom for sharing, learning, and fellowship. Most recently we have been reflecting on stories and verses from the Upper Room and contemplating how they apply in our own lives. With everyone vaccinated and boosted, New Lifers have also started meeting at church on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, for different types of activities. Thus far we've had an iPhone tutorial, played word games, and assembled Blessing Bags for the Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation.



Everyone has enjoyed getting together in person and then having lunch outdoors at a local restaurant.



Quilt Ministry . . . Lydia Chu

Prayer quilts are available for relatives and friends who have been hospitalized, have serious illnesses, or have recently lost a loved one. .

Contact **Lydia Chu** or the church if you are interested in requesting a prayer quilt for someone.



Bing Wong, Robert and May Quon helping Lydia tie the beautiful quilts!

Church Campus Update . . . Trustees

A water leak was discovered around April 12, 2022 that damaged a part of the Education Wing on the church campus. A restoration company, **Restoration Pro** came out and removed most of the water and set up drying machines. The company informed Parish Covenant Board of Trustees that the affected asbestos containing materials needed to be removed to completely dry the area of damage and that mold growth could start if the area was not cleared and dried.



During the week of June 1, the restoration company returned to remove all mold growth in the damaged area of the men's restroom and the Red Room. The repair site will continue to be closed until such time complete restoration occurs and the rooms can be returned to full usage.

Both **CUMC** and **PUMC** and the **Parish Board of Trustees** are monitoring the cost of repairs and facility insurance details. The Parish trustees will provide future updates to keep everyone informed.

Coming Soon!



It's Back! A very special day to celebrate the Dads at Cornerstone. A Special Lunch will be served following our in-person service with fun entertainment! Please come and join the celebration.

All Church Hike and Dine . . . June 25th



Mark your calendar! June 25, 10– noon + lunch

Enjoy a hike or leisurely walk through the
Cal State Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Rd., Fullerton,

then relax (and recover?) at Sizzlers for lunch at noon, Hike/walk begins at 10 am but feel free to arrive at any time. **Group photo at 11:30 am** in front of the Arboretum. Park in the dirt parking lot outside of the Arboretum. **(The paved Parking Lot G requires a parking permit which can be purchased at the lot.)**

Remember to bring water.

We will go to **Sizzlers, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton** around noon, if anyone wants to dine only!
Questions: Contact **Sarah Eng, John Park, Cheryl Hasegawa or Betty Loh-Chen.**