



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

Fall 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 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 Study

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

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

-Matthew 28:18-20 NIV



The pandemic feels like it's finally behind us! (Even though recently some of us are testing positive for Covid.) As more and more of us are getting outside and resuming our pre-pandemic lives I've felt God calling me to connect with more people. In my devotional time with God I am being reminded of the Great Commission – to go out to the ends of the earth and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Since the pandemic and navigating our online presence the past couple years, now feels like the right time to form new relationships with others for the sake of the Gospel.

In studying books on evangelism, such as "Faith-Sharing: Dynamic Christian Witnessing by Invitation Revised & Expanded edition," the best approach to sharing the Gospel is by having a long-term mindset built on establishing relationships of trust and support. Other forms of sharing the Gospel like soliciting strangers with tracts or telling them they are doomed because of their sin does not yield genuine commitments to faith in Jesus Christ. Often these people live out faith like the person who builds their house on sand. When the first sign of trouble happens, their faith and trust in God falls out from under them. The most enduring faith in Jesus Christ is shared by intentional love, support, and care in ongoing relationships that last a lifetime.

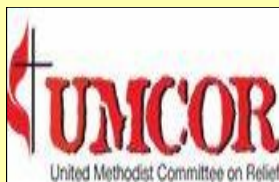
One of the ways I plan to form new relationships for the sake of the Gospel is through my pick-up basketball group I play in once a week. The group of guys that have been consistently attending the two-hour session each week has provided opportunities for me to get to know them better and learn more about their lives, accomplishments, and struggles. The more we get to know one another the better the chance a faith conversation can form, ultimately leading to an invitation to learning more about Jesus Christ through a church event. This form of faith sharing is a gradual process built on relationships of trust and affinity for one another. In our vastly secular society, people are craving for genuine relationships, and when disciples of Jesus are abiding in the Holy Spirit we can connect others with God. Our relationship with our neighbors is just a foretaste of the eternal relationship we have with our everlasting loving God.

To God be the glory!

Pastor John Mark Wang

Missions . . . Stacey Loy Wong

The last quarter of the year has been a busy one for Missions! In September, our missions offering (\$595) supported the **Women's Transitional Living Center**. This local nonprofit organization serves survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.



In honor of **World Communion Sunday**, the missions offering for October went to **UMCOR's US Disaster Response**. We collected \$685 to support the community recovery efforts after the devastation caused by Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico and Hurricane Ian in Florida.

For November, Missions held a renal-friendly food drive for the low-income dialysis patients at Satellite Healthcare in Orange. Our own **Cheryl Hasegawa** works there as a social worker, and sees how blessed her patients feel when receiving food bags. She was able to hand out several bags of food which contained cereal, cans of meat, canned vegetables and fruit, a bag of rice or pasta, a snack or treat item, and a bottle of oil. Other food items were placed on a table for patients to take as needed. Our missions committee greatly appreciates having Cheryl serve as our "community representative" as she shares our church's love with her patients.



As the weather turned cooler in December, missions opted to create winter kits for the homeless. We set a goal to create 60 winter kits that will be given to Project Phaino. Each kit will include an adult-sized hat or beanie, scarf, mittens or gloves, an umbrella, socks, hand sanitizer, face masks, shampoo/body wash, chap stick, band aids, and facial tissues. We are currently collecting donation items for this project and we plan to have an assembly party after the Almost-Christmas lunch on Sunday, December 11th.

Our missions committee is thankful for our church family who is always generous in supporting projects to help the needy in our community. We would not be able to bless others without your gift of time, energy and resources.

You are a blessing!

Church Celebrations



Molly Lew's 95th Birthday



Pastor Appreciation Sunday

All Saints' Day

Let's Crochet a Lei . . . Celeste Wong



We had about 30 people crocheting pikake leis in September. Some had experience with the crochet hook and others had none, but all were able to cobble together between the video and instructions to make a lei. It was fun to see how each person's lei was slightly different from one another, much like how God made us!



Thank you Sunday Lunch Coordinators . . . Pam Fitch



Prayer of Gratitude

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are filled with gratitude as we celebrated our Thanksgiving potluck feast and our Turkey Jook!

We come to church with great joy, work, and eagerness for we are truly grateful to you, our God. We thank everyone who has participated in various ways.

We are abundantly blessed by the love and support of family, friends, our health, doctors, caregivers, firefighters, paramedics and so much more! We thank you, Lord for your continued guidance and wisdom as we go through the challenges of life. We thank you, Lord for your healing hands for those with physical, mental or spiritual illness. We pray for your comfort, healing, and peace.

We thank you as every day is a gift of life to share and love. May we continue to spread your kindness to family, friends and the needy far and near.

In His name, Amen

Thanksgiving and Jook Sundays



New Life . . . Betty Loh-Chen



New Lifers took a break from contemplating Devotionals with a fun card game **Richard Fitch** played on his last cruise. He modified the game to better fit our group and it generated lots of laughter. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious meal at the Capital Noodle Bar. New Life meets the first Wednesday of each month.

If anyone is not officially part of New Life but would like to participate, please let **Betty Loh-Chen** know and she will send you the email announcements.



EXTRA . . . Jamie Yu

Hi Cornerstone family,

Happy fall! To recap what has been going on in EXTRA for the months of September and October, we have been continuing to go through our study of 1 John. We usually start out our time by hanging out and playing games (and playing with Todd), going into a time of worship and then doing a message.

Sarah, David, and I have been taking turns leading each week and we have had the pleasure of doing paired studies. A paired study is where we work together on the messages and read the passages we are going over with other members of our group! **David** has done two paired studies with **Sam and Marcus**, **Sarah** did a paired study with **Katrina**, and I did a paired study with **Jillian**. Excited to continue to see where God leads us as we continue going through 1 John together into 2023!



In terms of activities, we had a movie night where we watched the movie "Joshua" and a dinner fellowship and game night with HUGS in September. One of the games played was mah-jong! In October, we had the Hike and Dine event in Newport Back Bay and our annual Halloween Party at church. It's been a fun couple of months and excited for the activities to come as the year draws to an end. We're so thankful for all the opportunities to fellowship with each other and with other members of the church. Many blessings!



HUGS Cheryl Hasegawa

HUGS Friday Night Live, also known as TGIF

Our HUGS families continue to meet monthly for dinner fellowships, the last Friday of every month. Thanks, Gary for finding restaurants that will serve our large group! In this photo we are at Mimi's in Yorba Linda.

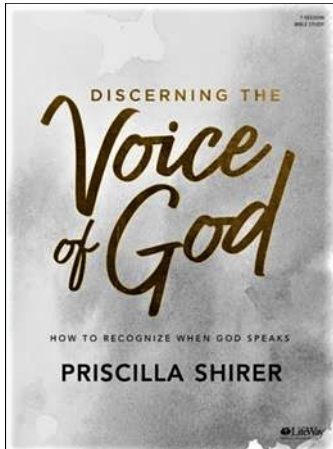


Many of our HUGS group are helping to care for an elder parent, and having the support of our church friends has been replenishing and strengthening. God is good!! Some are also coping with grief and loss at this season of life. We hope everyone can reach out for support and never feel alone. A large group of HUGS friends came to pray over **Kevin H's** health as he had a long pain spiral. **Sheree** was prompted by the Holy Spirit to suggest prayer, and some of us felt more free and open, with guidance from the Inner Healing book we studied, to put our hands on Kevin to pray. He felt very loved and cared about, and this was a turning point in his pain cycle. Everyone giving him hope and showing their love, was healing, as we are God's hands and feet.

We are now going through **C.S. Lewis' fictional book "The Great Divorce"**, where we ponder Heaven and Hell and various aspects of humanity that might cause us to miss God's call. The book surprises us each week, we never know what to expect. C.S. Lewis is a master at painting pictures of what could be, and helping us to imagine what Heaven might be like. He is also very funny, in how he weaves caricatures of people (and aspects of ourselves) through the story. We continue to grow in our own faith walk as we learn together. The book isn't about divorce, and you can jump in at any time if you wish to join us!



Wednesday Night Bible Study Group . . . Cheryl Hasegawa



DISCERNING THE VOICE OF GOD—by Priscilla Shirer Wednesday Night Book Study

It was really meaningful to connect mid-week with each other, brothers and sisters in our church family. We all wanted to hear God's voice more in our lives. Priscilla Shirer, the author is really dynamic and passionate when she speaks in the videos. She has a POWERFUL CONFIDENCE – there is NO QUESTION that God is speaking to us and we will hear Him when we step back from our busy schedule.



I, **Cheryl**, learned that my pride and ambition get in the way. I'm always trying to get so much done each day. When Kevin and I took time to read the book together, it was sooo rewarding, like the best way to share time together. **Kevin** said his pride and stubbornness keep him from being humbly open to God's voice. He said he keeps bonking his head and needs to learn patience. When he doesn't get an answer from God right away, he needs to wait and look for what God is saying to him. I loved learning that if we "yield" to God, if we open ourselves to His way, not ours, He gives us freedom and victory and adventure, more than we know!



Stacey loved learning to trust God, that we are on the right path. When we're looking for our purpose in life, we can feel confident that we are on a journey w/ Him, He is guiding us gradually in our daily lives. We can be doing dishes, service projects, and trust that we are where we need to be, instead of trying to second guess if we are in the right place. We can be here now.

Cassie said she wants to break down expectations of what God's plan is. We get stuck on what we want to do, or what we think we need to be doing, like for our careers. If we let it go, and are open to listening, we can see the bigger picture and feel the peace that God's plan is there. Breaking down the expectations in our minds, is the biggest lesson for her.

Wednesday Night Book Study Group . . . Cheryl Hasegawa

Pastor John is a very active person, and is a people person, an extrovert. He loves being with friends and family. He is working on the discipline of sitting still to hear from God. He wants to learn to be quiet and let God speak.

Judy is seeking a closer relationship with God and is learning to do this through more prayer time, reading the Bible, and quiet time. And having less distractions with TV and radio. She wants to be more patient and remember God has a plan for us in each situation. Whatever that situation is, God has a plan. We need to learn to wait for God's timing. The Holy Spirit is the one who reveals God's plan. Also we learned to be **READY**, with expectation that God will speak to us if we have focused listening, if we look for Him. We can anticipate with excitement and expectation.

Denise appreciated the reminders that God's Spirit is inside, that we already have access to all the fruits of the Spirit - joy, peace etc. She also liked how Priscilla reminded us that God is the God of today, our past is forgiven. Priscilla emphasized that God wants His wishes known—they're not meant to be hidden. She liked her analogies that hearing from God is often like a traffic signal—God's messages or nudges can feel like a **STOP**, or **PAUSE**, or **GO**—and like GPS; If we're on the right track, we won't hear from God, but we'll hear if we're veering in the wrong direction. We **CAN** experience many signs if we're going in the right direction. These examples really validated all those experiences in our lives when we feel God's nudges.

Jamie said "I was thankful to get to fellowship with this study group. I felt like I got to know everyone a lot better and it was wonderful to hear everyone's unique perspectives. Personally, one thing that stood out to me in the study was to not put our faith in circumstances, but in Christ who is unchanging. Circumstances and what happens in our everyday lives are always changing, so I want to make it a priority to practice dwelling on God's Word throughout the day to keep me centered. I want to make it more of a goal to read and remember the Word more consistently. Lastly, I learned that I need to lean into compassion, humility, and love in all that I do, just as Christ has shown by example. By aligning with Christ's actions and virtues, it will allow us to better hear God's voice.

Thank you, God for guiding us. Thank you for your wisdom and love, and the chance to learn from and with each other.



Hike and Dine . . . Betty Loh-Chen , Sarah Eng, and Cheryl Hasegawa



We took advantage of the cool weather in early fall, Oct. 22, 2022, to explore the Coastal Wetlands in our own Newport Ecological Nature Reserve. This 1,000 acre preserve includes a beautiful Interpretive Center, with artifacts, videos and gift store. Nineteen Cornerstone trekkers met to walk a stretch of the north end of the bay, sharing our journey with birders, joggers, bicyclists and horseback riders! We walked along some salt marsh, mudflats and a paved trail.

The bay is protected by high bluffs along the west side along Irvine Ave. The preserve is like a nursery for fish and migrating birds, where ocean salt water meets fresh water. We saw several turkey vultures overhead and discovered the beautiful Pepper tree, where crushed red pepper comes from? It smelled great. After our hike, we got to meet a resident gopher snake brought out by the park ranger at the center. The scaly skin was very smooth, and he was very tame!



We enjoyed a new eatery called Fishbonz Seafood Grill in Costa Mesa. Super delicious! Thanks, **Arleen** for introducing it to us! It was super fun chatting with friends and getting to know one another better. We were blessed to have several friends from EXTRA, even though they'd stayed up late the night before, and some New Lifers! We hope to see more HUGsters too in our next Nature Excursion.



For early spring (we'll keep to cool temperatures and easy walking treks), we are considering a walk to a Redwood Grove at Carbon Canyon Regional Park in Brea or spending time at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach. Let us know if you have other areas you'd like to explore!!

Get Ready, Get Set, Let's Golf! . . . Dick Chu



This past year we started our Golf Ministry for members and friends of Cornerstone United Methodist Church. We had a successful Introductory Class and a couple of outings to introduced the most important part of the game of Golf - PUTTING.

We will continue this Ministry in 2023 and will schedule introduction type outings at the Driving Range and Putting Courses. We will progress by playing on a regular golf course.

For the months of December and January, study Golf on YouTube.

A schedule for planned events will come out mid-January.

Join us if you like the outdoors and think it is easy to hit a golf ball 150 yards straight down the middle.

Birdie, Bogey, Double Bogey, Eagle, Fairway, Fore, Grip, Hazard, Hole-in- one, Hook, Draw, Slice, Fade, Fat, Lie, Mulligan, out of Bounds, pin or Flag, Ranger, Handicap, Match Play, Putt, Thin, Top, Shank, and Stroke play — learn these terms to help you understand the Golf game. Join us if you want to learn the terms and bring a friend. You will learn these terms as we continue our golf Ministry.

