



Cornerstone  
UMC  
2050 Valencia Ave.  
Placentia, CA  
92870

April— July  
Edition

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 Study
- 8:00 pm EXTRA  
College/Career &  
AM/PM Youth Group

Contact us for more info on  
Zoom/Discord

Cornerstone UMC  
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# CORNERSTONE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Message from our Pastor John Mark Wang

Dear Cornerstone UMC Family,



God bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! I pray that you're having a wonderful and cool summertime, and enjoying time with family, friends, and neighbors. I also pray you are filled with the Holy Spirit every day, for your relationship with God to continually be strengthened, and that all of us grow deeper in our faith in Jesus Christ to help bring heaven down to earth.

Since Easter, I have focused on the theme of discipleship and preaching on how the first disciples began the first church after Jesus ascended into heaven. In seeing what happened to the first disciples, we learn what it means to truly understand our commitment to being the followers of Jesus, to focus on God, and to follow God's calling first and foremost in our lives.

In this month's column, I continue sharing the highlights of the book, **"real-life discipleship: building churches that make disciples"** by Jim Putman. He provides the most practical ways for disciples of Jesus to master the discipleship process. Remember, once we take the first step of faith in believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior from sin and get baptized we are a disciple of Jesus Christ. As Jesus's disciples we are being changed by God and growing in Christ's likeness in our **heads, hearts, and hands**. We gain knowledge of God, our hearts are softened as we become more loving, empathetic, and kind like Jesus, and our hands (and feet) are helping others by giving and serving a broken world.

In chapter 7 pages 89 to 101, the book imparts knowledge on how to *share* our faith with those who become new Christians or those exploring Christianity. It's such good reading! This includes sharing our lives with spiritually younger people (people of all ages). We help them in several ways:

- Meet with them regularly and guide their next steps spiritually.
- Teach them about the spiritual battle that surrounds them.
- Teach them how spiritual transformation works in our lives.
  - Christians have the knowledge of the truth (the Bible and the Holy Spirit) and must learn to work and live in it. We are part of God's team, and we must battle against the deception and manipulation of God's enemies (Satan and deceivers of the spiritual realm).

## Pastor's Message (contd.)



- We are on a journey. We all need to change for God.
- The Holy Spirit assures us that we are saved and helps us become more like Jesus every day.
- Teach them what new habits they need to develop. What a Christian should look like and what habits to develop in order to grow. Christians:
  - Need a personal Bible study plan or method.
    - ◆ The Word changes and purifies us. The Word helps us know right from wrong, and through it we are able to defend ourselves spiritually.
  - Meet together and are part of the church.
    - ◆ Devoted to meeting together. The early church did this on the first day of the week and daily. Share what Sunday service is like (music/worship, communion, offering, etc.) and why we do it. Explain what church is all about.
  - Serve others.
    - ◆ We use our gifts and abilities (which God created us with) to serve individually and corporately for the glory of God.
  - Pray.
    - ◆ We pray for others, and they know it.
  - Give to others.
    - ◆ We want God's glory and the good of others more than we want the things of this world. We are people who tithe our income and resources and give even over and above.
  - Are in relationship.
    - ◆ We are committed to our marriages and families. Our marriages and kids are more important than our careers. If we are unmarried, we are committed to sexual purity. We are committed to other believers. We look past others' faults, we forgive, and we seek forgiveness.
  - Are humble.
    - ◆ We know that God created us with our abilities. We know that He also spiritually gifted us with ways we can serve. We are merely managers of those gifts, and we use them for His glory. We are sinners and it is only by the grace of God that we are saved. Therefore we want to give others the same grace that God has given us.

Share our faith with all who will listen.

We do this even if people persecute us for doing so. People are lost without Christ, and we love people best by giving them what they need.

In closing, this is not easy to do, and many Christians may feel like they are not as spiritually developed or prepared as they thought they were.

Everyone is encouraged to join a small group at church so we can encourage one another and be cared for by mature believers. We need to make sure that those who are new to the faith are protected and cared for by someone responsible and knowledgeable enough to guide them.

The Holy Spirit will guide us forward even when we make mistakes. Enjoy the adventure, people of God!

**To God be the glory,  
Pastor John**

## Wonderful News . . . Betty Loh-Chen



A big, exciting change is happening at Cornerstone UMC! Pastor John is now a married man! He has married **Reesy Tang**, a wonderful woman from Taiwan. Reesy grew up in Taipei and works as a first-grade English teacher at an international private school, leading an immersive English class where she and her students can only speak English. Pastor John's and Reesy's adventure started last August when Pastor Tom Tseng from Alhambra UMC introduced his close family relative, Reesy, to Pastor John. They began an overseas courtship, communicating online daily through the Marco Polo and Signal apps. (Isn't it wonderful that modern technology makes this possible!). As they got to know each other, they relied on God to guide their relationship and strengthen their faith. Their first in-person meeting happened in

January, when Reesy came to L.A. to visit for a couple of weeks.

Pastor John was a gracious host, showing Reesy various So. Cal. highlights, such as Newport Beach, the Hollywood sign and Walk of Fame, Griffith Observatory, and LA County Museum of Art (LACMA). They also had some more typical dates, such as hiking nearby trails, visiting downtown Brea, having dinner out with friends, and cooking together at home.

They got engaged at the end of her trip to California and continued their daily online communications. In April, Pastor John flew to Taiwan to meet her family and experience her life there. They signed a marriage certificate in Taiwan on May 8th, 2023, to expedite her U.S. visa process which typically takes at least 6 months. Reesy has remained in Taiwan working and completing her master's degree in education administration leadership. She hopes to finish at the end of July and move permanently to the U.S. Pastor John and Reesy are planning to have a wedding ceremony to be held at Cornerstone in the future. (Stay tuned.)

They are very happy to have met and start a life together. They ask that we continue praying for them as they navigate the U.S. immigration process. As you can imagine, there are lots of big life changes for them in the future and they are thankful for the Cornerstone United Methodist Church family providing them with prayers, love, and support.



## Missions . . . Stacey Loy Wong

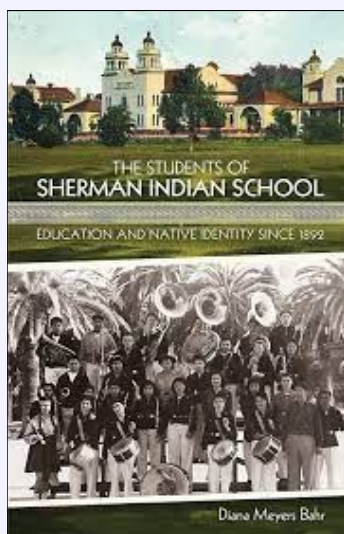
**Thanks for  
Donating!**

Our missions committee appreciates the generosity and faithfulness of our church family for your ongoing support of missions activities. Each month we try to raise awareness about a need in the community. When funds are donated for missions, the monies are either given directly to the organization to support their ministry or the funds are used to purchase necessary items to benefit those in need. Whether through monetary support or donations of needed goods, your giving makes a difference to others and is an expression of Christ's love for those who may feel forgotten or unseen. Here is how your missions funds have been used for the past several months..

**I Love Fullerton**

In April, we collected \$530 which was used to support the lunch and shower ministry that is run by **Marsha Grim**. The ministry hosted a project as part of the **Love Fullerton** community work day on April 22nd. Non-perishable lunch items such as peanut butter or cheese-filled crackers, fruit cups, granola bars, trail mix, and rice krispy treats were purchased at Costco and Smart and Final. About 60-75 sack lunches are provided for each ministry day, and we were able to provide one month's worth of sack lunches for the homeless. In addition, enough funds were left over so that we were able to give a \$100 Walmart gift card to enable the lunch and shower ministry to purchase ice and drinks for the warm summer months.

In honor of Mother's Day, the missions committee wanted to remember the women and children who seek safety and shelter at the Sheepfold ministry. The Sheepfold ministry provides refuge and support for victims of domestic violence. Their six-month program combines bible study, skills training, and resources to help women find employment and re-establish independent living. The missions offering of \$875 will support the valuable and compassionate work to help families begin anew.



The Committee on Native American Ministries is a program supported by the UMC California-Pacific conference. Every summer, they solicit school supplies from UMC churches for the students at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside. Last year, Cornerstone UMC and 25 other UMC churches answered the call. June's mission offering of \$496 will be used to purchase necessary school supplies for these students, such as backpacks, binders, notebooks, and college-ruled paper. Sherman Indian High School (formerly Sherman Indian Institute) is a US boarding school. It is one of four residential schools for Native American students that is operated under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Students at the school come from long distances, from various reservations and locations to live at the school and often arrive with little more than essential clothing items. The school budget is limited and donations play an important part for the students' education.

The goal of the ministry is to help students feel welcome, cared about, and that they are not alone.

# HUGS . . . Cheryl Hasegawa



We continue our monthly HUGS dinners, the last Friday of each month. All events are open to any age group, my mom Nancy, Stacey Sr. and Denise’s dad Rick joined us for many fellowship dinners. Gary reserves a private room and we catch up and blow off steam with friends!



This spring, **HUGS** began watching “**The Chosen**” together on Fridays. It is a **POWERFUL** and **MOVING** historical drama series about the life of Christ as seen through those who knew Him best, and loved Him, His disciples. Director Dallas Jenkins said “We believe that if you can see Jesus through the eyes of those who actually encountered Him, and can actually identify with these people, then you can perhaps be changed and impacted in the same way they were.” We do feel changed, as if we are on this journey together, from the first calling of each disciple, through their celebrations and trials with Jesus. The characters are so well portrayed by the actors; we can see depth and growth, we feel lost with them, laugh and cry with them. Hearing dialogue taken directly from Scripture is so comforting. It brings what we’ve learned to life, in very personal ways.



The series also brings artistic license based on true stories of the gospels; they add humor and back story. The series was created to help viewers love the Bible more. It feels like the first time in my life, I see Christ as human, not just divine, He is relatable. Last Friday we watched *The Chosen “Unfiltered”* with many friends who’ve been invited. It

shows the true impact the first season had on a group of 9 young people from all different backgrounds. My own faith feels more passionate. The Chosen has inspired us on our Friday nights along with millions of viewers around the world. It’s a global phenomenon, translated into 62+ languages, with 420 million episode views from around the world. “Follow Me”, “Come and See”, “If not now, when?”

**Everyone is welcome Friday nights.**

# Hike and Dine . . . Cheryl Hasegawa



## Oak Canyon Nature Center! Saturday, April 15, 2023

For our spring 2023 Hike n Dine event, about 18 members and friends enjoyed a leisurely hike through Oak Canyon Nature Center, a 58-acre natural park consisting of three adjoining canyons, nestled right here in Anaheim Hills. It is one of the few remaining preserves of oak woodland and coastal sage scrub in our region. They have a small Interpretive Center with local natural history exhibits and live animals (snakes, fish and frogs). We enjoyed following the meandering stream over bridges and discovering beautiful native California plants and trees. It was fun connecting with one another and meeting new friends who came along! More members joined us for lunch at Panera in Anaheim Hills. Look for notices about our next Hike n' Dine event this fall.



## New Life Fellowship . . . Betty Loh-Chen

New Life met for their usual monthly meetings in April and May. For April, Pastor John had an interactive presentation on Discipleship. In May, we had a fun, creative activity to make some sort of toy out of paper without any scissors. Most people made some sort of origami, but Dick Chu made a super paper airplane that flew across the room!



In June, New Life started meeting twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays, to watch Season 1 of *The Chosen*. Quite a few people are coming to watch in person, with some watching the particular episode at home, but joining us afterward on Zoom to participate in the discussion. Several people have watched multiple episodes multiple times, but gain something new each time. We will complete Season 1 of *The Chosen* in September and, depending upon consensus, most likely will begin viewing Season 2. Afterwards, we try out new restaurants for a tasty lunch.



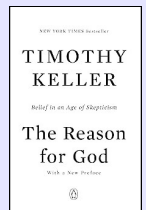
# EXTRA . . . Ryan Low



April through June have been busy months for us! We spent the first part celebrating Easter, doing a Hike and Dine event, and concluding April with our HUGS fellowship dinner. Once May hit, we leaders sat down and figured out what the latter half of the year would look like. We planned our Fall Retreat and met with the guest speaker, **Pastor Mark Kwong** of Chinese Baptist Church of Central Orange County. We also got word that **Paul McGill** is joining us for our retreat, where he will be giving mental health check ins each morning. Having Paul’s support as well as the other leaders’ have been really encouraging and we are continuously thankful for them.

As we continued through our study of **Tim Keller’s “The Reason for God,”** we found that each chapter highlighted tough, hot button topics but have been fruitful through our discussions. I have found the discussions being especially helpful, as I’m able to process the information out loud with the community as well as see different perspectives. With this approach, I’m able to retain the information more easily whereas it felt harder with longer, more theological messages.

We have found that **EXTRA** is a place for all to come. No matter if you’re seasoned in your faith or if you’re just searching. This logic has benefited us well, as Jesus has brought old faces to the group. Particularly those who have grown up in the church, but did their own thing in college and are now looking to get plugged in once again. For example, **Cassie** joins us through our weekly Discord stream and will be joining us for the fall retreat as well. In addition, some of our leaders (**Sarah, Jamie, and Katie**) have been looking to start a discipleship/mentorship program with some of our younger sisters. In short, it’s been a busy and hectic few months, but it’s been very worth it.



In May and June specifically, we had a Park/Sports day as well as a Game Night. We continued through our study series while **David, Samuel, Lydia, and Mary** took off to Kenya for a medical mission trip. We pray for continued Health, Safety, and good Experiences that can benefit them both in their profession as well as spiritually.





# Mother's Day and Grads' & Dads' Day Celebrations

Thank you to the Men and EXTRA Group for the delicious Mother's Day luncheon and special entertainment! Thank you to **Gary Low, Mr. MC! Jon Chen and Katie Chai** for the very entertaining Mother's Day game.

**Mother's Day Celebration** Here are the links:

[Isn't She Lovely...She's My Mom](#) by The Consonants (**Jon, John, Jamie, Ryan, Katie and Matt**)

[Fly Me to the Moon](#) by Alex Yu (Chinese Frank Sinatra)



Some of Our Graduates



Thank you to the Women and the EXTRA group for the delicious Hawaiian themed **Grads' and Father's Day Lunch** and special thanks to **Aleen Hasagawa and Suzy Brackenridge** for the fun "Get to Know our Dads" Guessing Game!



# Class of 2023 Graduates



**Kiana Brackenridge**

**Kiana Brackenridge** - graduated from Boston College on May 22<sup>nd</sup> with a BA in Mathematics and Minor in Studio Arts and Finance.

**Matthew Chai** - finished at Concordia University on June 2<sup>nd</sup> earning his Teaching Credential in Special Education and plans to look for a job as a Special Education Teacher.

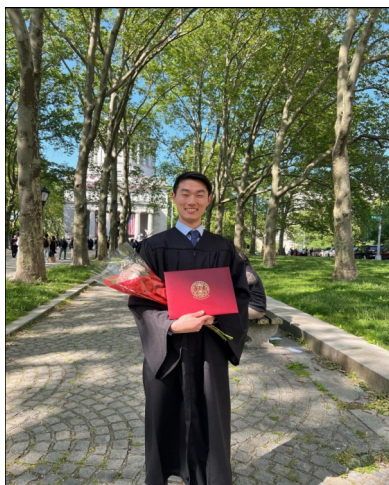


**Matthew Chai**

**William Chinn** - graduated from Manhattan School of Music on May 18<sup>th</sup> with a Bachelor of Music for Classical Percussion and will start his Masters in Music for Classical Percussion at Rice University in Houston this August.

**Andrew Fong** - graduated from Cal State University Fullerton on May 24<sup>th</sup> with a BA in Business Administration Finance and a Minor in Music.

**Scott Lee** - graduated from Syracuse University in April with an MS in Cyber security Engineering. He has been blessed with many wonderful opportunities in his new career journey.



**William Chinn**



**Andrew Fong**



**Scott Lee**

# Class of 2023 Graduates



Jack Lowe

**Jack Lowe** - graduated from Medical School in Chicago on May 6<sup>th</sup> and accepted a residency in Emergency Medicine at Kaiser in San Diego.

**Caris Park** - graduated from Vanguard University in May with a BS in Environmental Science. She plans to take a gap year in preparation for her graduate program.

**Joelle Wong** - graduated from El Dorado High School on June 14<sup>th</sup> and plans to attend the University of California, San Diego. She will major in Anthropology.

**Jamie Yu** - graduated from Biola University on May 5<sup>th</sup> with an MA in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). She plans to look for an ESL teaching job at a college/university.



Caris Park



Joelle Wong



Jamie Yu



# Cornerstone Photo Gallery



**Sunday School**  
 Thank you, Ed and Mabel Joe for your years of dedication in teaching God's Word.



**Tuesday Women's Bible Study**



**Play Pickleball on the first Sunday of the Month after Lunch!**



**EXTRA Karaoke Night**

**Pastor John at UMC Cal-Pac Annual Conference in June**





## Cornerstone United Methodist Church

2050 Valencia Avenue  
Placentia, CA 92870 -2040

Phone: 714-528-3068

Dated Material

Do Not Delay Delivery

Email and Address Service Requested

## August / September Calendar

DATE	
Saturday, Aug.5 	<b>Laundry shower &amp; Lunch Ministry</b> <b>At Fullerton First UMC 9—12 pm</b> <b>Contact Marsha Grim—mag4law@yahoo.com</b>
Sunday, Aug. 6 	<b>Play Pickleball after Lunch</b>
Sunday, Aug. 13 	<b>Spiritual Gifts Sunday</b> <b>During Lunch after service</b> <b>Contact Pastor John or Cheryl Chen for more information.</b>
Saturday, Aug. 19 	<b>Laundry shower &amp; Lunch Ministry</b> <b>At Fullerton First UMC 9—12 pm</b> <b>Contact Marsha Grim—mag4law@yahoo.com</b>
Sunday, Aug. 27 	<b>Sunday School Studies</b> <b>Resumes after Summer Break</b> <b>10:15 Purple Room</b> <b>Ed Joe</b>
Labor Day Weekend Sept. 1—4 	<b>3rd Annual EXTRA Fall Retreat</b> <b>Reserve your spot with Sarah Eng</b> <b>Contact Sarah Eng, Ryan Low or Jamie Yu for more information</b>