



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

**Jan - Feb. 2024
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
2nd and 4th 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

Cornerstone UMC
2050 Valencia Ave.
Placentia, CA 92870-2040
Phone: 714-528-3069

Website:
cornerstonesocal.org

Pastor: John Mark Wang
pastorjohn@cornerstonesocal.org

Church Administrator
Wendy Yu
wendy@cornerstonesocal.org

Newsletter Editor
Wei-ling Louie
newsletter@cornerstonesocal.org



CORNERSTONE

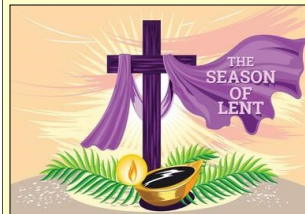
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Message from our Pastor John Mark Wang

Lenten Reflection

What are you giving up for Lent, and why?

This year I'm giving up watching LA Clippers basketball games and replacing the time with reading the Bible and praying. I know it sounds silly... why is it difficult to give up watching LA Clippers basketball games? For me, it's because I became a superfan of the team ever since I was living in Spokane, WA back in 2016. I loved watching the high-flying Blake Griffin ever since he was a rookie on the team. An Instagram post I made to support the LA Clippers, while wearing a red Blake Griffin team shirt, was recognized on a live TV game broadcast by announcer, Ralph Lawler! Then once the controversial owner, Donald Sterling, was ousted from the team in favor of Steve Ballmer my allegiance was solidified. I resonated with Steve Ballmer's crazy energy for the team, and it didn't hurt that he was then, and now, the wealthiest owner in the NBA. He has the unlimited resources to provide for this team to make it the best possible in pursuit of its first NBA championship.



The Lenten practice of sacrificing something you love to give more time to God has been challenging to say the least. The roller coaster of emotions from watching my team succeed and fail on a nightly basis is replaced with deafening quiet and Bible reading. It's a stark contrast. In learning to quiet the noise I find my flesh longing for the addictive highs and lows of watching my sports team. God is teaching me that I am too much in the world and need to be living more in the Holy Spirit.

I am reading the Bible through a 365-day plan in the Bible app from *YouVersion* on my smart phone. I'm currently on one chapter of Genesis, Mark, Job, and Romans. When I finished the chapter on Job I realized how far detached I am from the real life-threatening issues people face outside of my comfortable bubble in the U.S. Job was crying out to God wondering why he was ever born since he lost nearly all of his income and his adult children died suddenly in a natural disaster. The pain and loss was unbearable for him in that time of his life. I couldn't imagine what that must have felt like to be in his shoes as a father and husband. I thought about all the families in Ukraine and Russia, in Gaza and Israel, and countries all over the world dealing with incredible loss, suffering, and tragedy. God wants me to care for others and it's only in the quiet solitude, away from the noise, that He can speak to me. Otherwise, my face will be glued to a screen delighted by countless hours of entertainment.

Satan surely is happy to see me glued to my screen because it means I will be incapacitated to make a difference elsewhere. One less person to help a seemingly helpless cause in the world.

God reminds me in Lent that there is something greater for me to think about. I need to get more involved in God's mission to help my neighbor and share salvation in Jesus Christ with more people. It requires sacrificing the temporary roller coast of emotions for a greater cause. Where does the time go? It goes to whatever I set my mind to getting done. May God stoke the flames of passion toward a worthy cause in my life, and yours.

What are you giving up for Lent?

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



Pastor John and Reesy's Wedding

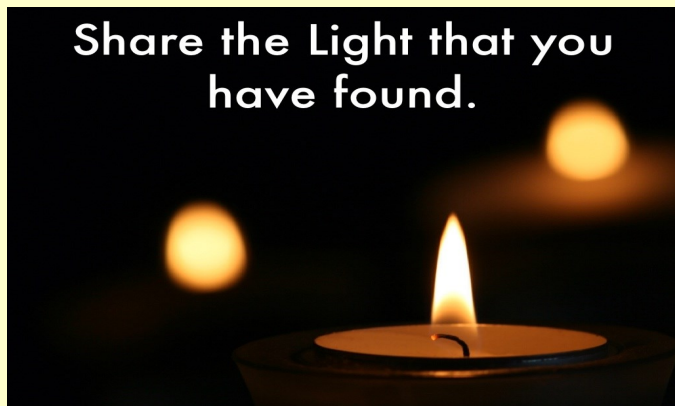


Pastor John and Reesy were married in Taiwan in a civil ceremony on May 8, 2023. Then on February 10, 2024 Pastor John's father, Pastor John Wang Sr. officiated at their beautiful wedding ceremony at Cornerstone UMC. Reesy's family from Taiwan and Australia were able to come to California to visit the U. S. for the first time and participate in the wedding !



Visioning . . . Cheryl Hasegawa

Visioning for 2024 “Share the Light, one step (person) at a time!”



We are a very strong church community, with small groups that are thriving and growing in number!

Here are the goals we're working on as a church community:

Each small group will discuss how they will share the light they have found in God, with others. How can we be a beacon of light to family, friends, strangers. We are on fire for God, we want others to know the support they can receive in our community and how we can keep growing together!

Build more connection between age groups – Games or interviews during lunch? Learning to sew, crochet, knit, play golf together during/after lunch (Lydia, Arleen Hasegawa, Cheryl Hasegawa), 5th Sunday lunches out (Koinonia coordination Betty Loh-Chen), Hike & Dines, 2x/year (Sarah Eng, Betty Loh-Chen, Cheryl Hasegawa).

Support our seniors – Coordinating the needs of our seniors and letting our community know, to share the support (Betty Loh-Chen), Caregiver Support Group, ongoing monthly support (Byung Chinn, Anita Lee, Cheryl Hasegawa).

Build the Nursery & Sunday School – (Celeste Wong) It's growing!

Build more connection between PUMC & CUMC – (Anita Lee, Sheree Low, Pastor John, Cheryl Hasegawa, Stacey Wong) will discuss ways to do more with PUMC, to share missions, and invite them to our gatherings

Pickleball Ministry!



The biggest focus for this year will be on our **Pickleball Ministry!** You can bring your sneakers and learn some new skills! You can just come to cheer your friends on! You can invite friends, you'll be surprised how many people would like to learn how to play, or want to get more exercise! You can bring refreshments if you want to support our church's ministry!

Cheryl Hasegawa

Missions . . . Stacey Loy Wong



The mission offerings for January and February are being donated to Free Wheelchair Mission, a humanitarian, faith-based, nonprofit organization in Irvine. Founded in 2001, Free Wheelchair Mission provides wheelchairs for people living with disabilities in developing countries. It is estimated that there are 80 million people worldwide who have a disability and are in need of a wheelchair, but do not have access to one. Free Wheelchair Mission seeks to meet this tremendous need one wheelchair at a time. Each wheelchair transforms the life of the recipient by providing the gift of mobility. A wheelchair can open doors for education, employment and community that were not possible previously. Not

only is the life of the wheelchair recipient changed, but also the lives of the individual's family and friends who served as caregivers.

Since 2001, Free Wheelchair Mission has built 1.4 million wheelchairs that have been distributed in 95 countries. The wheelchairs utilize a simple, but rugged design meant to withstand the use and demands in a developing country. On February 18th, Cornerstone UMC was honored to host **Kecia Jones**, the Development Officer for Church Relations for the organization. Kecia shared about Free Wheelchair Mission and church members were able to view and try out the current "Generation 3" wheelchair. Each wheelchair costs \$96 to build, ship and deliver overseas. In January and February, our church family contributed \$3,044.51 for the mission offering. This amount will be rounded up, so that we will donate \$3,072 to Free Wheelchair Mission, which is the equivalent of 32 wheelchairs. When plans were made for the mission offering and speaker to come to our church, the missions committee was not aware of the matching donation opportunity for the month of March. With the matching opportunity, our gifts will provide 64 wheelchairs. Praise God!

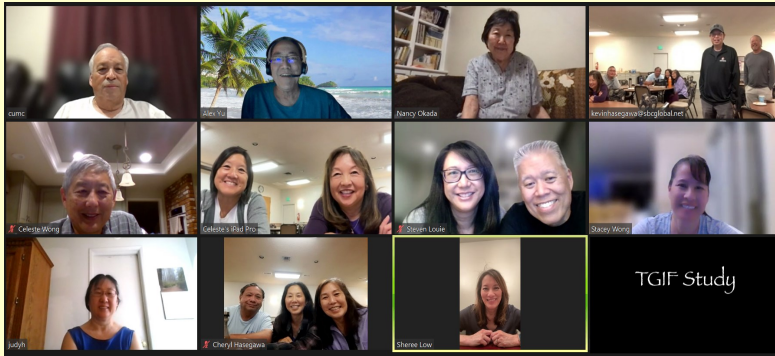


The Missions Committee is always looking for organizations to partner with and how we can make a difference for others in our local community and in the world. Credit goes to **Art Yee** who suggested that we research Free Wheelchair Mission as a missions partner. **Kristen Wakamoto** is the organization's Digital Marketing Manager and she is married to Art's grandson, Andrew Wakamoto.

Stacey Wong

HUGS . . . Cheryl Hasegawa

Our Friday night HUGS community has grown, we've welcomed new friends this year! We finished Seasons 1-3 of The Chosen Series on the Life of Christ, as seen by those who loved him. This series inspires us as we relate to the disciples who are finding their way and following Jesus. We see their fears, reliance on one another and Jesus, and the miracles they perform. We can't wait to start watching Season 4 together next week, March 22nd, 2024! Come in person or on zoom! We will watch and reflect on the scriptures. Let's keep building our faith. Anyone can come, you don't need to know what's going on before coming!



Back into Bible Journaling – early this year we started Bible Journaling together. God really is speaking to us and His word is really coming alive for us as we read, reflect, pray and share with friends on Fridays. What a blessing God gave us such good friends to support one another and grow together. Everyone needs a small group in life. This one is extra special.



HUGS Friday Night Dinners!

HUGS end of month Friday night dinners have been a blast. We like Mimi's & Sizzler for their large private rooms, and have also tried Hama Hippo Korean Kitchen, and Ruby's. Bring your ideas for restaurants you love. We'll meet at one of our member's homes the end of April for a potluck dinner!

SAVE the DATE: The last Friday of March, 3/29/24 — Good Friday, we'll gather at church for dinner then walk through the Prayer Walk, an experiential and thoughtful walk following Jesus' footsteps. put together by **EXTRA** and **HUGS!** All are welcome—please RSVP to me or Sarah Eng.

Cheryl Hasegawa

Hike & Dine . . . Cheryl Hasegawa

Last fall over 23 folks came out for our bi-annual Hike & Dine, to Carbon Canyon Regional Park in north Brea. Our destination was to see a large grove of over 200 Redwood trees, some nearly 100 feet tall! This grove was planted as seedlings back when the park was first opened in 1975. We all got to know each other better, there were guests and friends both older and younger. We had lunch at Stonefire Grill for more time of connecting.



Come on out to our next Hike & Dine at Irvine Regional Park, Saturday, April 13, 2024. Bring a friend! Irvine Park has paved trails and a small zoo we can visit. We plan to bring our own picnic lunches and sit together under the shade. We'll bring extra chairs if you need one!! Let us know!! Let's connect in God's creation!!

God You Reign, by Lincoln Brewster

You paint the night, You count the stars
And You call them by name
The skies proclaim, God, You reign

Your glory shines, You teach the sun
When to bring a new day
Creation sings, God, You reign

God, You reign, God, You reign
Forever and ever, God, You reign



Cheryl Hasegawa

New Life Fellowship . . . Betty Loh-Chen

New Lifers finished 2023 assembling quilts for the dialysis center where **Cheryl Hasegawa** works. The quilts provide warmth to the patients while they are receiving their dialysis treatment.



While some assembled quilts, others worked outside clearing up the overgrown plants on our church campus.



New Life Fellowship . . . Betty Loh-Chen

Over 30 New Lifers and guests celebrated Christmas at our luncheon at Teppanyaki Grill Supreme Buffet . Everyone enjoyed the All You Can Eat location with a wide variety of delectable selections and lively conversations.



New Lifers are fond of eating out! We feasted a couple of months later, celebrating Chinese New Year at Mas House in Anaheim. Again, over 30 New Lifers and guests enjoyed a gourmet banquet with a chocolate sweet for dessert in honor of Valentine's Day. We will miss our dear friend and sister-in-Christ, **Stacey Ying Lei Wong**. **Betty Loh-Chen**



BASIC . . . Jonathan Chen



As part of our ongoing commitment to spiritual growth and fellowship, the **BASIC** Fellowship has embarked on an inspiring journey into the red letters of Jesus – a journey that has brought us closer together and deepened our understanding of Christ's teachings.

Studying the red letters, the direct words of Jesus recorded in the Gospels, has been a transformative experience for our fellowship. Through thoughtful discussions, insightful reflections, and shared discoveries, we have delved into the timeless wisdom and profound truths found in the bible. Together, we have explored

themes of dependency, trust, forgiveness, and compassion, seeking to embody these principles in our daily lives.

But our journey has not been limited to studying alone. We have also come together in joyful celebration, fostering bonds of friendship and community through a series of memorable events. Recently, we had the pleasure of hosting a delightful Christmas cocktail party, where we celebrated the season of Christmas with tasty beverages and delightful snacks while we exchanged gifts themed around something we couldn't live without. It was a time of laughter and connection as we celebrated the reason for the season.



Additionally, we recently organized a special ballot party, gathering to practice and encourage every one of our civic responsibility and engage in informed dialogue about issues that matter to us as followers of Christ. In the spirit of love and unity, we discussed how to understand our ballots and explored different methods of developing healthy and sustainable habits to stay informed.

We will continue our journey through the red letters of Jesus and the bonds of fellowship and remain steadfast in our commitment to love God and love others. May we continue to grow in grace and wisdom, embodying the transformative power of Christ's teachings in all that we do.

Jonathan Chen



EXTRA . . . Sarah Eng

Since our last edition of the newsletter, we finished out 2023, strong continuing off the momentum from our Labor Day Retreat in San Diego. On our retreat, we learned what it means to "Radiate" the love of Jesus in our workplaces, schools, and social circles. It was a very blessed time of discussion, learning from our guest speaker - Pastor Mark Kwong, enjoying good food, and getting to know one another better. After we returned, we got to continue putting in to practice what we learned by supporting the Missions Committee's efforts through packing sack lunches for the Laundry Shower Ministry, writing cards for veterans and active military, and donating food for the Renal Friendly Food Drive.



Towards the end of 2023, as leaders we also spent some time in self-reflection to evaluate our goals and vision for EXTRA. As leaders, Ryan, David, and I, all perceived that our personal lives were continuing to become busier as we become more established in our careers and find ourselves entering new chapters in our lives. As a result of this and a very insightful survey with feedback from our members, we began 2024 with a renewed vision and goal of creating opportunities within EXTRA for the members of our group to assist in various roles in a less intimidating way. We also wanted to continue the vision of EXTRA being a place where we can easily welcome newcomers and be a place where strong friendships and community can be built through times of fellowship. Change is never easy but we have been encouraged by the positive feedback and patience of our members as we all adjust and grow.



EXTRA . . . Sarah Eng



Some of the changes that we started implementing is beginning our bible study and worship times on Fridays promptly at 8:15 pm so that we can have fruitful times of discussion before 10 pm. We also included more opportunities each month for more interactive activities and fellowship. Each of us leaders also created serving teams where we can involve members of EXTRA in various aspects of the group. Ryan is currently leading the Worship team, and Marketing Team. Sarah is leading the Events and Activities team, and David is leading the Message team. It has

been encouraging to see God bring the right people to join our teams, and to watch them grow as they take on these roles of serving. It has also been exciting to see how different members can bring different interests and strengths to the group.

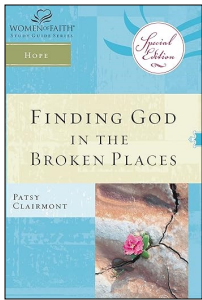
In the last couple months, we have had Bible Studies on the Fruits of the Spirit, How to Evaluate a Good Church, and an Overview of World Cults. We were able to incorporate activities such as a workshop on Love Languages and an Easter Game and Craft night. We also continued our fellowship activities such as a Dinner Fellowship at Irvine Spectrum and separate girls/guys Galentines and Palentines events. As we continue in 2024, we are excited to see how God will continue to use EXTRA to be a source of encouragement, fellowship, and discipleship. Some events that we have upcoming are a **Dinner and Hangout at Chipotle and Round 1 at Main Place Mall on Fri. March 22** and a **Good Friday Prayer Walk on Fri. March 29.**

If you know of any high school students, college students, or young adults who may be interested in joining us, feel free to contact us or give us their contact information and we would be happy to contact them.

Sarah Eng



Tuesday Women's Study . . . Celeste Wong and Wendy Yu



The Tuesday Women's Study group has been slowly working their way through the book, "Finding God in the Broken Places" by Patsy Clairmont. Heartfelt conversations and discussions happen each week.

We began the year in a big way as we threw an all church wedding shower for Pastor John and Reesy on Sunday, January 7th. We had a delicious lunch followed by a hilarious game of "He Said, She Said," fun date night gift opening and cake, showering them with our love and blessings! We're excited as there will soon be a baby shower!



We are planning to do some service projects as well to benefit mothers and families. Going out to lunch every quarter and an occasional tea is a fun way to reconnect in person as some members mostly zoom meet. We went to Reunion Kitchen for lunch in February to celebrate birthdays and for a gals day out! Tuesday Morning Ladies group is an encouraging time for all whether on zoom or in person.

Celeste Wong and Wendy Yu



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

March—April Calendar

DATE	
Saturday, March 2 & 16 Saturday, April 6 & 20 	Laundry shower & Lunch Ministry At Fullerton First UMC 9—12 pm Contact Marsha Grim—mag4law@yahoo.com
Sunday, March 3 & 17 Sunday, April 7 & 21 	Play Pickleball after Lunch
Wednesday, March 13 & 27 Wednesday, April 10 & 24	New Life Fellowship 10 am Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, March 13 Wednesday, April 10 	Lean On Me Caregiver Support Group Via Zoom 7 – 8:30 pm RSVP: cumc.secretary@gmail.com for link
Friday, March 22 	HUGS Season 4 of The Chosen Contact Cheryl Hasegawa EXTRA Dinner at Main Place Mall Contact Sarah Eng or Ryan Low
Friday, March 29 	EXTRA and HUGS Dinner and Good Friday Prayer Walk All Groups are Invited - Please RSVP to EXTRA or HUGS
Sunday, March 31 	EASTER SUNDAY Sunday Service, Potluck Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 13	Hike & Dine Irvine Regional Park