



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

**April—July  
2025**

**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
- **Fridays 7:30pm**  
BASIC Fellowship— Young Adults  
1st and 3rd Fridays of the month
- **Friday Night Fellowship**  
7:30pm TGIF  
Adult Bible Study  
8:00 pm EXTRA College/Career  
2nd and 4th Fridays of the month
- **Saturday 11:30 am**  
Men Mentoring Men  
Last Saturday of the month

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

**Cornerstone UMC**  
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Placentia, CA 92870-2040  
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cornerstonesocal.org

Pastor: John Mark Wang  
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**CORNERSTONE**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Message from our Pastor John Mark Wang

Dear Cornerstone UMC Family,

One of my favorite parts of our Tuesday evening Summer Bible Study is the questions asked during our discussion time. There's something powerful about sitting together with the Psalms and curious hearts, asking, *"Lord, what does this mean?"* Those moments remind me that faith isn't afraid of questions—faith grows through them.



This summer we've had some rich discussions, and I wanted to share a few of the highlights with you.

### **"What exactly is Zion?"**

In studying Psalm 87 we wondered about the place called Zion. We discovered that Mount Zion was more than just a hill in Jerusalem. It was the earthly "capital" of God's kingdom. It was the place of the temple, the heart of worship. Psalm 9:11 put it beautifully:

*"Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done."*

But as we dug deeper, we realized Zion isn't only a location on a map. Ezekiel looked ahead to a day when the city would be so full of God's presence it would be called *"The Lord Is There"* (Ezekiel 48:35). And John, the beloved disciple, saw the New Jerusalem shining in the center of the new heavens and earth in Revelation 21–22.

What we came to see is that Zion is really a picture of God's people—of all nations and backgrounds—gathered under His loving reign. It points us forward to the day when we will worship Him together, face-to-face.

### **"Who were the Sons of Korah?"**

At the beginning of Psalm 87 the Psalm has a subtitle called: *Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. A song.* We wondered about who the Sons of Korah were, and this question led us into one of the most surprising redemption stories in Scripture. Korah, you may remember, was the Levite who led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16). God's judgment was swift, but in His mercy, Korah's sons were spared.



## Pastor's Message (contd.)

Fast forward a few generations, and those same sons became worship leaders in the temple, writing eleven of the Psalms we still treasure today. From rebellion to worship—it's a story that reminds us that no family line, no past failure, is beyond God's grace. He truly makes all things new.

### “Do we know who King David's mother was?”

In Psalm 86:16 it says, “Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength in behalf of your servant; save me, because I serve you just as my mother did.” We were curious about who exactly King David's mother was, and what her story was. This one sparked a fun discussion. The Bible never gives us her name, though later Jewish tradition calls her *Nitzevet*, *daughter of Adael*. We can't say for sure if that's correct, but what we do know is this: whoever she was, she raised a boy whose heart burned for God. That boy became a shepherd-king whose Psalms still draw us closer to the Lord today.

### Keep Asking, Keep Growing

What I love about these questions is how they draw us deeper into God's story and show us how our story connects to His.

If you've ever felt nervous about asking questions in Bible study, take this as your invitation: any and every question is welcome! They are a sign of a heart that wants to know God more. I can't wait to see what we'll discover together at next week's Summer Bible Study. Bring your Bible, bring a friend, and bring your quests.

May God bless you, your family, and our church family.

In Christ,  
**Pastor John**



### Children's Nursery and Church School



Our Little ones are growing and  
**You** are invited  
 to be a part of their lives!  
 If you would like to help in  
 nurturing our little ones,  
 please sign-up with **Celeste Wong**.

### Men Mentoring Men . . .Kevin Hasegawa

The Men's Group meets monthly, the last Saturday of each month in the Purple Room at 11:30 am. Drop in anytime!



## Missions . . . Stacey Loy Wong

April's mission offering collected \$635 in support of UMCOR's International Disaster Response and Recovery fund to assist with the relief efforts after a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28, 2025. According to UMCOR's Facebook page on April 10th, a solidarity grant was awarded to the Methodist Church of Lower Myanmar to help with the disaster relief efforts.



The May and June mission offerings supported the Native American students at Sherman Indian High School. Cornerstone UMC has participated in this missions project for the past five years, which is a ministry sponsored by our California-Pacific UMC conference. This year, CUMC collected \$1,180, which was used to purchase art supplies such as sketch books, gel pens, and colored pencils. We also purchased 17 extra long comforters and 45 extra long beach towels for the students, who live in residential (dorm) style rooms at their school, which is one of four remaining off-reservation

boarding schools operated by the Bureau of Indian Education. Many students face significant financial and personal challenges and government funding often falls short, leaving gaps in essential supplies and personal care items. In their annual call for student supplies, Cal-Pac emphasized in their July newsletter that the collective support for the students truly makes a difference. Providing for the needs of the students "reminds (them) that they are seen, supported, and cherished by the wider community." *[Information shared from Cal-Pac Digest July 9, 2025]*

### July and August Mission Support

The mission offerings for July and August will support Lydia's upcoming overseas work in South Asia. On July 27th, we were privileged to have Lydia come and give us an update on what she has been up to as she prepares to leave for Tropicana (a pseudonym for the country) in mid-August. Last October, Lydia spent 2 ½ weeks in Tropicana, where she met her team. It was during this time that God confirmed His call for her.



## Missions . . . Cont'd

From February to June 2025, Lydia has been in training in San Diego. During this time, she learned more about being open when forming and developing relationships, she spent time getting to know others in the local community, and she practiced sharing how God is working in her life.



Lydia shared with us how she was able to strike up a friendship with “Nadia” over the course of multiple interactions for coffee and meetings at the park. Hearing Lydia’s first hand account, from getting to know one another, to praying for Nadia and her family, to eventually giving her a copy of the gospel of John in Nadia’s native language was inspiring and compelling.

Lydia’s testimony underscores the importance of prayer and developing connections with others when sharing our faith. When Lydia goes to South Asia, she will spend the next 18 months learning the local language and culture. After that, she plans to work in a hospital since she is professionally trained as a neonatal nurse. Tropicana is 99% Muslim with a population of 200 million people.

Please join us in praying for Lydia as she begins her 3 year commitment overseas.

**Stacey Loy Wong**

## HUGS . . . Cheryl Hasegawa

### HUGS Friday Nights TGIF

**Our HUGS Friday nights** are very grounding and directing for me. We've been on break 2 months and I miss how our community of friends uplifts and deepens my walk and my connection with God. I feel tossed by the waves of a busy life without our group. Come and sit in, anytime. We are casual, so you can join in whenever you are available.

**This week we return to Friday night TGIF with Al Wong giving us a different perspective of the Parable of the Prodigal Son.** It's so surprising and important! Come and see!

**We thank Lee Strobel (and Celeste) for "A Case for Heaven."** So many people we love have passed away, and it meant a lot to feel stronger about heaven being a REAL place. We studied scripture, listened to the videos and talked. We were really encouraged! "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" - the things God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9. It was the first time most of us exclaimed out loud that we believe God's promises in heaven.

**We continue to explore our spiritual gifts**, and we spin the wheel, to focus on each other and share how we see God working in each other. Being aware of my spiritual gifts confirmed how God wanted to use me in this life, it strengthened me, knowing I was living the purpose He had for me. I retired from my job in social work where I felt God's purpose, and now I need to redefine where He is leading me. Our spiritual gifts can change as we grow! My husband **Kevin's** spiritual gifts have evolved; he has grown confident in evangelism through leading the men's group and dedicated study. It's so fulfilling to know we are all special, and together we are a great team! Knowing our gifts, helps guide our decisions for our future.



# HUGS . . . Cont'd

## Ronnie Chavez initiated a “sharing time” in HUGS.

In his walk of faith, **Ronnie** desires to hear the voice of God in his life. He studies passages and key figures in the Bible, to help him see what we cannot yet see. He shared his practices to help build his faith right now: 1) Trusting God with all our heart, 2) Building confidence in what we hope for, 3) Remembering that our faith comes from hearing the good news, 4) Believing in our hearts that God assures our salvation, when we have faith, 5) Praying with faith and confidence that God hears us and answers us.

**We went on an outing to see the movie King of Kings**, a tale of Charles Dickens telling the story of Jesus to his young son.

**We watched the documentary BOATLIFT – An Untold Tale of 9/11 Resilience**, narrated by Tom Hanks. We talked about miracles and acts of service and love. We saw how people felt called to help and had the courage to respond. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18lsxFcDrjo>

**We look forward to watching The Chosen Season 5 together, starting in October.**



# Extra . . . Sarah Eng

Here are some pictures of what **EXTRA** has been doing this quarter. We hosted Karaoke in the Blue Room, had a BBQ and pool party, celebrated July 4th, played board games, had dinner together in Downtown Brea, and celebrated birthdays. We also learned about what it means to care for ourself as Jesus did, hosted a worship and prayer night, and started a new series studying the Parables of Jesus.



EXTRA month at a glance

# August

8.1	BASIC 2.0 @ Jon & Cheryl's house
8.8	Guest Workshop: Conflict Management
8.15	BASIC 2.0 @ Jon & Cheryl's house
8.22	Game Night @ Eng Family House
8.29	BASIC 2.0 Dinner @ Brea Mall

# BASIC . . . Jonathan Chen



As we move through the heart of summer, we're taking a moment to reflect on the blessings and momentum God has brought to our community over the past few months.



We kicked off April with a fun and lighthearted **Taste Testing Night**, where everyone had a blast trying to guess the brands of different foods—let's just say the results were eye-opening and full of laughter! That same month, we were moved by a **powerful Good Friday Worship Night**, where we gathered in reverence to remember Christ's sacrifice through worship, Scripture, and reflection.



May marked a turning point in our efforts to engage families with young children. On **May 2nd**, we hosted our first **Park Day**, giving parents a chance to fellowship while kids played freely on the playground.



## Basic . . . Jonathan Chen



Later that month, on **May 30th**, the **Wangs** graciously opened their home for an intimate evening of testimony-sharing. **Tim Su** shared his personal story of faith, reminding us how powerfully God works in each of our lives.



The momentum continued into June with a relaxing **Summer Pool Party and Family Fellowship** on **June 21st**. It was a refreshing time to unwind, laugh, and deepen relationships under the sun.

Spiritually, we've been anchoring ourselves in the life and words of Jesus through our **ongoing study of the red letters of the Gospels**. Recent sessions have focused on the **holistic healings of Jesus**, unpacking the deeper spiritual truths behind each miracle. Cheryl also led a thought-provoking study on **cultivating a Christ-like mindset in our daily lives**, sparking meaningful discussion and personal reflection.

Looking back, we're grateful for the rich moments of community, worship, and growth that have marked this season. As we step into a busier third quarter, we look ahead with expectancy, knowing that God is continuing to shape our community for His purposes.



Let's keep building, growing, and walking together in faith.

**In Christ,  
The Basic Ministry Team**

## New Life . . . Betty Loh-Chen

Throughout the Spring, New Life met on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month providing interesting programs and fellowship for our seniors. Once a month we had meetings in the Fellowship Hall to play cards or board games that stimulate the brain and generate a lot of laughter, all very good for our well-being. Once a month we had a variety of other programs, such as watching some PBS history specials about ancient China. We are in awe of the rich heritage from which we come.



**Rebecca Louie** shared her talents with us again as New Lifers created greeting cards with colorful flowers and other adornments. Rebecca pre-cut flower shapes of various shades and sizes and provided other miscellaneous add-on jewels to create a 3-D effect. We all enjoyed getting involved in designing the festive cards, even the men!



## New Life . . . Cont'd



One week we joined **Pastor John and Kevin Hasegawa** at the Prayer Booth in front of the church. Only one person came by on his bike, but we enjoyed praying for each other and cooling off with some popsicles.



After each meeting, we enjoyed dining together at a different restaurant. Sharing a meal is a very Christian and Chinese thing to do!



New Life decided to take a summer break as most of the other small groups did. We will start meeting again in September. Upcoming meetings include visiting the Bowers Museum to view the Terracotta Warriors from Shaanxi, China, and visiting **May Lou** at Ivy Park for a sing-along.

### Bill Lee's Baptism



On Palm Sunday, April 13th, surrounded by his family and church friends, **Bill Lee** was baptized into the family of God.



### Bill Chan was honored by the City of Orange

**Orange SENIOR CENTER**  
 170 S. Olive St., Orange, 92866, (714) 538-9633  
[orangeseniorcenter.org](http://orangeseniorcenter.org)

**ANNUAL OSC SENIOR WELLNESS FAIR**  
**October 3, 2025 - Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon**  
 Join us for a special event dedicated to local health and senior well-being resources! Discover valuable support, connect with experts, and explore helpful services designed to enhance quality of life. We'd love to see you there!

*Bill is a veteran who recently turned 102. Happy birthday, Bill!*

### Tuesday Women's Study . . . Wendy Yu

**TWS** (Tuesday Women's Study) met during the year to encourage one another and others through the Women of Faith book, "Encouraging One Another," by Nicole Johnson. Our last gathering was on May 20<sup>th</sup> where we were able to do one more ministry project making blankets for those in need and had a nice lunch out at Urban Plates before taking a summer break. We will resume in September! Join us on Tuesdays from 10-12pm in the Purple Room or on Zoom.



# Mother's Day Celebration . . . Wendy Yu



We were blessed with an insightful message on “The Sanctification of Kingdom Work” for Mother’s Day by **Cheryl Chen**. Then the Women of Cornerstone were pampered with beautiful daisies thanks to **John Lee** and a delicious pasta lunch with salad, watermelon, and ice cream and cake for dessert led by chef, **Al Wong, EXTRA, and the Men of Cornerstone**. The women were serenaded by **Alex Yu and Ken Wong** singing, “You are the Sunshine of my life,” followed by a rousing game of “Mother’s Day Family Feud” led by **Jon Chen and Katie Chai** and our always entertaining MC, Mr. **Gary Low!**

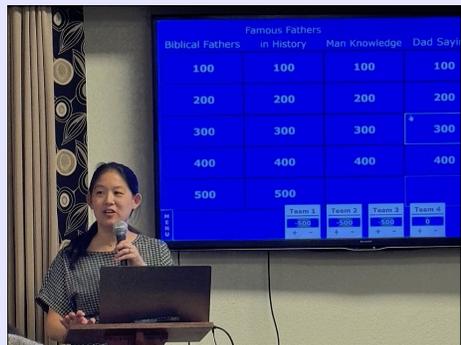


# Father's Day Celebration . . . Arlene Hasegawa

Cornerstone celebrated our dads and men during our annual Father's Day celebration. **Jon Chen** shared his message "The Rock on which He builds" about how Jesus transforms Peter to be the Rock on which he build His church. A delicious meal was prepared by **Celeste Wong, Stacey Wong, Jr.** and their helpers. The décor was done by **Anita Lee**. There were two games during lunch. **Arlen Hasegawa** presented the first game where teams were asked to identify baby pictures with pieces of the baby photo being revealed a little at a time. It was fun to see our guys when they were young (or babies) — so very long ago! And **Cheryl Chen** created a clever Father's Day Jeopardy game filled with fun facts and trivia! We learned fun facts, like how **Dick Chu** was one of 11 children in his family! Everyone had a good time celebrating our men! **Happy Father's Day!**



**Who's that Guy??**



**JEOPARDY!**



# Graduates



## Caleb Wong



Valencia High School  
 Attending  
 University California, Irvine  
 Major: Computer Science



## Alison Fong



Bachelor of Science:  
 Marketing  
 Working as a Marketing Intern at  
 Disney in Glendale



## Elizabeth Louie



Bachelor of Science:  
 Business Administration  
 General Business  
 Fowler College of Business  
 cum laude



## William Chinn



Master of Music  
 Percussion  
 Pursue Post Graduate Degree:  
 Professional Performance at the  
 Manhattan School of Music



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## Upcoming Schedule

DATE	
Sunday Studies (weekly)	In the Purple Room 10:15 am
Pastor John will be at a Clergy Convocation in Indian Wells from Aug. 11– 14.	
Tuesday Summer Bible Study with Pastor John August 19	On Zoom 7:00 pm
Friday, August 8	EXTRA Guest Workshop Conflict Management
Wednesday, August 13 	Lean On Me Caregiver Support Meeting 7—8 pm on Zoom
Friday, August 15	BASIC at the Chen's Home
Friday, August 22	EXTRA Game Night at Eng Family Home
Friday, August 29	BASIC Dinner at Brea Mall
Saturday, August 30 Meets Monthly on the last Saturday of each month	Men Mentoring Men Group 11:30am Purple Room
Pickleball and Puzzles 1st and 3rd Sundays 	After lunch in the Parish Park
Tuesdays Women's Studies will resume in September	
New Life Meetings on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays will resume in September.	