

CLARION

Bridging the Centuries through Faith
1913 – 2020



Communion Sunday
January 9, 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Volume LXXIV, Number I

OUR CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Communion Sunday

In Person Worship Service

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, January 2, 2022, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Dorothy Kirkland; Scripture, Sue Morris (Luke 2: 2-38); music, Kenny Elliott, Ann Kiriyama, Greg Middleton, Ron Ota, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Ron Ota, Nick Tomoyasu, and Kathy Uchida; and the Pastor Pete Morris for his sermon "**Authoritative Messengers**".

We are live streaming our 10:30 worship service via YouTube. The link is sent out by email the day before service, or search "First Presbyterian Church Altadena" on YouTube. Service is simultaneously recorded, and can be viewed at a later time.

WHO'S MAILING

January 10	Volunteers
January 17	Volunteers
January 24	Volunteers
January 31	Volunteers

STAFF DECEMBER 27

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Printer and Mailing Crew:	
	Gini Ishida, Dorothy Kirkland, Eva Ramirez, Bob and Mae Uchida, and Wade Utsunomiya
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CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Minute for Missions

Reaching for the Stars

For Sarah Valentina Hernandez Solache (SO-LA-CHAY), the colorful city of Zitácuaro (ZEE-TA-QUARO) in the highlands of Mexico — where millions of Monarch butterflies bathe the fields and forests in a sea of orange during their annual migration — was, and always will be, home. But, despite its beauty, Valentina readily admits that it simply wasn't a safe environment for her.

"I had an amazing childhood there," said Valentina, who was raised Presbyterian in her local church. "Mexico is beautiful, with the best climate and the best food ever. But it is also a really dangerous country."

The ongoing violence against young girls that terrorized her community while she was growing up was one of the primary reasons her parents decided to send her, like her older sister before her, to pursue her education in the U.S. at the Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas. Established in 1911, the school is an international, college-preparatory, boarding school related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that motivates and equips young people for lives of Christian leadership in the global community.

"We met the school thanks to our church, which has a relationship with Pan Am," Valentina said, referring to her alma mater by its common nickname. "They send scholarship award letters to people all over Mexico."

The experience was life-changing and transformative. Both sisters are now distinguished graduates of Pan Am. Valentina is a pre-med student on a full scholarship at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, and her sister is a Houston-based architect.

"Coming to Pan Am and to this Christian community is where I actually found myself and my faith, and where I knew that I loved God," she said. "I found my blessing here."

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, like Pan Am, prepare young people to become leaders in the Church and the world.

"The generous people who give to Christmas Joy give us scholarships and the opportunity to continue our education in the United States," she said. "I will always be grateful for that. But beyond that, they have also given us a lot of hope. All of the things I always dreamed about, thanks to them, they are making me feel like it can actually happen."

The president of Pan Am, Dr. Gordon A. Govens, states, "Through the sharing of the Christmas Joy Offering — and prayers — every student receives the gift of reaching his or her full potential." In other words, with our gifts to this offering, hope turns into dreams. Dreams turn into reality. And all of a sudden, those stars are within reach.

Please give generously. When we all do a little, it can add up to a lot. Our congregation will dedicate the Christmas Joy Offering on January 16. You may make checks payable to: FPCA with Christmas Joy in the memo line.

January 5, 2022

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from December 30, 2021 thru January 4, 2022

Christmas

- Pete and Sylvia Domoto (Camano Island, WA)
- Edina Driskill (LaPuente)
- Richard and Jennifer Fukutaki (Bellevue, WA)
- Katharine Inouye
- Jerry and Marilyn Nakagawa, in memory of Jim and Ruth Ishii
- June Ogawa
- Dr. Robbin and Arlene Okamoto
- Dorothy and Joshua Potter
- Becky Roberts
- JoAnn SooHoo
- David and Lorraine Woody

Christmas Joy Offering

- Richard and Jennifer Fukutaki
- Wilbur and Patrice Gin
- Katharine Inouye
- Bill and LuAnn Lane
- Larry and Carol Tomoyasu

In Memory

- Laura Sugano-Braud, in memory of her parents, Masao and Jessie Sugano

To Welcome the New Year

- Tom and Tsuru Miyasaki

COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Please join us for Communion on the second Sunday of January -- January 9 at 10:30 am at our IN-PERSON worship service in the church sanctuary. Alternatively, you may join us via livestream on Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am. The livestream link will be sent to everyone closer to January 9. (If you miss the livestream at 10:30 am, a recording will be available for viewing later that day.)

Nozomi Project Sends Greetings

It has been ten years since God called the Takamoto family to Ishinomake, Japan, an area that suffered devastating loss from the 2011 triple disaster of a 9.0 earthquake that triggered a tsunami and caused a nuclear power plant meltdown. One year later the Nozomi Project was launched by Sue and Eric Takamoto to help provide a way for women to rebuild a livelihood for their families. Nozomi is a Japanese word for hope, so this was a project of hope, as well as a beauty birthed during a time of brokenness. They gathered local women and collected broken pottery which was littered everywhere from the tsunami, and they learned together how to cut and grind and form those pieces into new stunning pieces of jewelry that could be sold. Not only did the sales lift their economic situation, the process of making beauty from brokenness lifted their souls. Today, Nozomi jewelry is sold online to over 40 countries and has sold more than 60,000 pieces of "hope" around the world.

Through this creative ministry, God has made something something beautiful out of brokenness.

FPCA got involved with the Nozomi Project when it was first initiated. We have had several showings of their jewelry for sale at our church. We continue to support the Takamoto's with a financial donation each month. Let us continue to pray for them and for the people of Japan.



MISCELLANY

Happy New Year! We thank everyone who was able to donate non-perishable food items and toys for our December food and toy drive. But the new year and new month brings a new Flavor of the Month..... **cereal!** Hot or cold, we want it. Sweet and crunchy, or smooth and creamy, or whole wheat, it's fun to eat! Drop your donations off in the marked boy in the sanctuary foyer. Our Deacons will be delivering to the Friends In Deed food pantry.

And just a reminder to all church entities, your **annual reports** for 2021 are due! Please drop them off to the church office, along with your



financial statements (if you have one). Thank you in advance.

With this first issue of 2022, we begin the 74th year of Clarion publication. I thank God for the life he has given me, for family and friends, and a wonderful church family. It is our hope to continue to bring news of church and community to our readers. And as with Ted Tajima's words and feelings, "it is you the readership, that allows us to continue". Thank you for allowing us into your homes, and for your continued support.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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