



**Scout Sunday**

Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>  
10 AM in the Sanctuary

**Shrove Tuesday Dinner**

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
6 PM in Fellowship Hall

**Ash Wednesday:  
A Spiritual Labyrinth**

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
7 PM in Fellowship Hall

**North District  
Leadership Training**

Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>  
9 AM to 12 PM on Zoom

**A Disciple's Path**

**Sundays during Lent**

(Feb 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17 & 24)  
8:30 AM in the Church Library

**Financial Peace University**

Starts on Wednesday,  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, Ends on  
Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 PM in the Church Library

**Northridge  
United Methodist Church**

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Northridge, CA 91324  
(818) 886-1555

[www.northridgeumc.org](http://www.northridgeumc.org)

[office@northridgeumc.org](mailto:office@northridgeumc.org)

*To celebrate God's grace and love  
while inspiring disciples of Jesus Christ  
for ministry in our community and the world.*

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Michaela Metivier (Soprano)  
Jacob Stucki (Baritone)  
Timothy J. Simon (Tenor)  
Organist/Dir. of Handbells.....Dr. Joseph Lee  
Sound Technician.....Russ Pedigo  
Sunday School Teacher.....Kay Holmen  
Sunday Childcare..... Bonnie Sanchez  
Custodian.....Jorge Alvarado  
Sunday Custodian.....Salman Yates

**Sunday Worship**

10:00 AM (English)  
11:30 AM (Korean)

# Celebrations

**Jazz Vespers** on **February 11, 6 PM** in the Sanctuary

“Hear the Word of God through Music and Art.”

**Judy Wexler**



Videos of all services are archived on YouTube. <https://youtube.com/northridgeumc>

## Prayer

Rev. Kee Chul Nam,  
Kaitlyn Wright, Anita Ruiz,  
Carol Allen, Linda Kahmann,  
Christine Coons, Sue Fritsche,  
Ginny Johnson, Randy Wiafe,  
Margaret Thomas, Jack Kister,  
George Bilenjian, Wayne Aller,  
Saundra Blankenship,  
Cari Banke-Warder,  
Dr. Bruce Warder,  
Ardarita Konialian,  
Darlene Averetta

## Upcoming Sermons

**February 4 (Communion)**

“The Identity of Christians”

Acts 11:19-30

**February 11 (Scout Sunday)**

Mark 1:29-39

**February 18**

“Going Back to the Desert”

Luke 41:1-13

**February 25**

“Not a Rosy Picture”

Mark 8:31-38

# Pastor's Corner



Lent has always been a transformational time for me. The period of reflection and prayer combined with personal goals and a motivation to focus more closely on my habits and attitudes has always born the fruit of transformation. As I look forward to the coming of Lent this February, I'm reminded that some of those transformations are ephemeral while others last well beyond Lent.

I have a personal tradition when it comes to Lent. It begins with the New Year's celebrations and the typical resolutions that come to mind during that time of starting-over. I try my best to begin on January 1st with some of the habitual and life-style changes, leaving the changes in attitude and often the more , "spiritual" changes for Lent. I have a fairly simple reasoning behind my distinction—God calls us to change and transformation of our lives.

The early Church leader, Paul of Tarsus, wrote, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2 NRSV) In doing so, he reminds us that God redeems us, forgives us, and that God continues to shape us throughout our lives as the Spirit transforms us. "And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18 NRSV)

Lent tends to be a most effective time for transformation as we open ourselves up more fully to the Holy Spirit's working within us. It's more than chocolate and key lime pie that we seek to give up; our lives are transformed as we give up prejudices and old grievances, attitudes that cause harm to others, to ourselves, and even to God.

If you would like to start reflecting on what you can ask God to help change within you, I offer the following passages for you to look up and reflect upon:

- 1) 1 Corinthians 13
- 2) Colossians 3:1-17
- 3) Galatians 5:16-26

Consider what God would have you seek to change and find some way and someone to help make that change become a reality. Start with prayer. Submit yourself to God in humility. Meet your failed attempts not with self-scorn or shame, but with grace and forgiveness. Most of all...never give up. May God bless you all in this time of preparation, reflection, and change. Amen.

—**Douglas Dickson** (Senior Pastor)

# Pastor's Corner



## How Should We Observe Lent?

Lent will begin in a few days. Lent is a period of 40 days in the year when we contemplate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. While all religious observances are precious according to the church calendar, Lent, which reminds us of the suffering and love of the Lord on the cross, holds special value for us.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14) and ends on Holy Saturday. It lasts for 40 days, excluding Sundays. During Lent, Sundays are observed as holy days in anticipation of the Resurrection. Thus, Lenten Sundays are often referred to as "little Easters."

"40 days" in the Bible is a symbolic number related to a devout life. Jesus Christ fasted for 40 days in the wilderness, preparing for his ministry. Similarly, Moses went on a fast on Mount Sinai for 40 days, receiving the word of God. In this way, the number 40 represents the holiness of the people of God. Therefore, Christianity has traditionally observed Lent with a 40-day fast each year.

How will you observe Lent? We should spend it with forgiveness and Love. "and it is no longer **I** who live, but it is Christ who lives in **me**. And the life **I** now live in the flesh **I** live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved **me** and gave himself for **me**." (Galatians 2:20, NRSV)

Please look at "**I**" and "**Me**" in bold. Just as Jesus carried the cross for me; it was because of his love for me. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16, NRSV), "and having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." (John 13:1b, NRSV)

Therefore, Lent is a season that translates love into action. We must serve, bless, and pray for one another. In fact, although it is difficult to love and forgive like God until the end, it becomes possible when we look to Jesus Christ, who carried the cross for us.

Sometimes, there are moments when one may become tired after forgiving someone once or twice, and there are also instances where one forgives someone despite them continuously making mistakes. When that happens, we must remember the words of Jesus. Matthew 18:22 says, "...not seven times, but seventy-seven times..." These words do not mean to forgive 490 times. It means to continuously forgive. It also means to forgive until the end. Because God continues to do the same for us...

Brothers and sisters! During this Lenten season, it is important for us to read the Bible, pray, and fast. However, what is even more important is experiencing the forgiveness and love that Jesus showed us through His crucifixion. It means practicing forgiveness and love towards others, just as God has forgiven and loved us. May we be blessed with happiness by embracing this forgiveness and love within God.

—Ralph Kwon (Associate Pastor)





# Save the Date!

## Shrove Tuesday Dinner Is Coming!!!

**JOIN US FOR PANCAKES AND DONUTS— Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM**

Shrove Tuesday is a special celebration as we feast before the fasting of Lent. There are different traditions that you may be more familiar with such as: Mardi Gras and Carnival. They are all effectively the same tradition—you have a celebration before the reflective and fasting time of Lent, the forty days + Sundays before Easter. So come and celebrate with us! You can put as much chocolate on your pancake as you desire! We promise!



## Ash Wednesday: A Spiritual Labyrinth— Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**



*A Clean Heart Create For Me, GOD;  
Renew Within Me A Stradfast Spirit.*

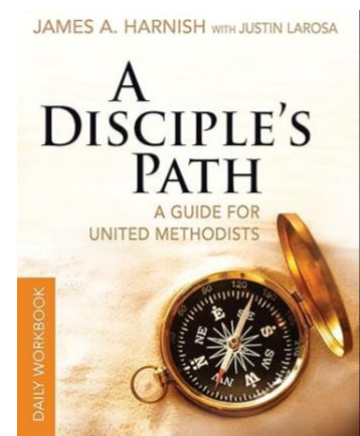


Every year, Christians around the world begin a season of reflection and transformation called, “Lent”. This time begins with a day of reflection on our own mortality and humility before God that is termed, “Ash Wednesday”. This year we will be offering a spiritual labyrinth following a brief reflection by Pastor Doug. During the service you will have the opportunity to reflect and pray as you begin the Lenten season with the imposition of ashes. The service will begin at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

## A New Lenten Group Just For You!!!

### A Disciples Path: Marks of a Christian Disciple from a Biblical and Wesleyan Perspective

Join us each Sunday during Lent in 2024 for “A Disciple’s Path” as we look at the Wesleyan perspective on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This class is for all persons and begins at 8:30 AM on Sundays and will continue through Lent. This class functions as a New Member Class as well so anyone interested in joining the church should try to attend. Don’t miss this ground-breaking perspective on God’s grace and Christian discipleship! Join us each Sunday during Lent! (Feb 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17 & 24)



[Amazon Link to Purchase:](#)

(Continued)

## February 11<sup>th</sup> Is Scout Sunday

Formerly Boy Scout Sunday, Scout Sunday celebrates the work of God in and through the ministry of the Scouting program here at NUMC. This year the service will be led by our Scouts Troop and Packs. In the United Methodist Church, we celebrate an inter-faith scout program and offer the day of celebration on the second Sunday of each February around the birthdate of scouting founder, Robert Baden-Powell who was born on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The early recognition allows us to celebrate the scouts prior to Lent beginning and also avoids an interfaith celebration on Communion Sunday. We would love to see you there to lift our scouts up in prayer and celebrate their work in our community!



## Financial Peace University Starts February 21<sup>st</sup>!!!



Are you looking to get a handle on your debt and spending habits! Perhaps becoming a better steward of your financial resources is part of your Lenten journey. This Lent, Pastor Doug is leading a class on debt management and elimination as well as discussion on how we care for the financial blessing God has showered upon us. The cost of the course is \$80 and includes an electronic workbook (\$20 more for a physical copy), access to financial resources and books, an annual

subscription to financial apps to aid your journey, and 9 classes that include: budgeting, debt elimination steps, basic investment, and stewardship! Don't miss this opportunity to take control of your financial future and help yourself release the stresses of financial management. You can purchase your books and your subscription codes from the church office or sign up online at <https://www.fpu.com/A761B3>.

- 2024 flower calendar is in the office. Sign up for a special occasion or person.
- For those who would like to send an article for a monthly Newsletter, please send it to Suhyun at [suhyun@northridgeumc.org](mailto:suhyun@northridgeumc.org) by the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month.





# Missions



## A Letter from Zimbabwe

To: Michael Easterly

Subject: 2024 Greetings from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Greetings in the wonderful name of our soon returning Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We love the start of a New Year. It seems like everything is possible and it's a great chance to leave the past in the past and start over.

To celebrate the end of 2023, we had a large group of families at the Community Centre that came and joined us for a joint celebration of our Third-Year anniversary as well as Christmas Eve. We enjoyed the Fellowship, we contributed some Traditional Food as a Church, Cooked and ate together. We bought Oranges and sweets for our Children, we decided to all put on Red T-shirts that unifies us, these are usually second hand or used plain Clothes we usually buy from Zambia at a cheaper cost, and they make us all look the same including those who do not have clothes to look and feel comfortable together with those who have, a strategy we use to fight discrimination and stigmatization.



As I get ready to write the end of year Newsletter which will be published and shared with you in the next few weeks, I found a great quote from one of the Local Magazines I have been reading which speaks about the Power of Thanksgiving and Gratitude.

I am therefore inspired to share with you that we make 2024 the year of Thanksgiving and Gratitude, ending each day, week and month thinking about things we are grateful for especially during tough times such as sickness, death of a loved one, hunger, lacking water for both drinking, cooking, bathing and washing, by being grateful that helps make each day better.

It was indeed good working with NUMC in 2023 and we look forward to learning more things, share with you how God is helping and how he is being faithful to our lives and Ministry.

Wishing you all the best in 2024.

Isaac Dube  
Reach out Trust  
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

(Missions Continued)



## A Letter from Madagascar



Greetings from Madagascar!

I trust this letter finds you in good health and high spirit. I hope your Christmas celebration was joyous and filled with love. Edmond and I are currently in Madagascar, where Edmond has been since July. During his time here, he has dedicated himself to leadership development and caring for his mother. Edmond traveled more than 10,000 kilometers (6,200 miles) on predominantly dirt roads, speaking at church conferences in 20 locations and teaching intensive courses at 4 seminaries. Since my arrival on December 7th, Edmond and I have been together, celebrating his remarkable achievement—the release of his first album featuring 10 songs. We marked this milestone with a splendid praise celebration, joined by friends, family, and the Riampeo choir of Ambatobe FJKM church.

Edmond's connection with the Riampeo choir goes back 33 years when he interned at that church during his seminary years. We also spent three days teaching at the FJKM seminary in Fianarantsoa, attended a celebration of a pastor friend's achievement, and mourned the loss of a relative. On Christmas Eve morning, we led a worship service at Antoby FJKM church, where resilient and dedicated attendees gathered. [This church had suffered damage from Cyclone Freddy the previous year, and the congregation could not afford repairs. Burglars seized the opportunity, stealing all the pews]. Later that day, we attended a service led by children and youth at another church, Ivato FJKM church. On Christmas Day, Edmond and I along with another pastor led a worship service attended by over 400 people from five small churches, including the one from the previous day. The service was followed by a captivating Christmas pageant show. This lasted three hours but the attendees remained joyful and peaceful until the end. As our time in Madagascar draws to a close, we extend our warm wishes to you for a joyous New Year celebration. May God shower your life with abundant blessings in 2024!



Warm regards,  
Arlette Razafimanantsoa





# Announcement



## Northridge UMC Library

Do you like books??? The church is looking for someone to be their librarian. The books are already categorized but a volunteer is needed to help keep them organized and neatly arranged. If this is something you would like to do, please contact the church office for more information. This activity can be done anytime during church office hours when the library is not in use.



## From the NUMC Video Library...



Looking again into the video archives, we look this month to 2008, July 6, Ric Wilson, "Midfaith Crisis," Benito Galindo (soloist), Nelson Leverage, Matt Brown (soloist), Dr. Joseph Lee. Ric presents a message that seems still appropriate 16 years later.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqvinavKCDg>

–Dusty Stiles (Chair of Trustees)

## Book Presentation–Three Coins

Sat, Feb 17, 1 PM in Fellowship Hall: Book presentation "Three Coins" a true story of a 9-year-old girl transported from mainland China to San Francisco in the late 1800's and her story in the New World. Hear great grandson, Russell Low, tell the true adventures and hardships of his great grandmother as she adapts to her new life in SF. She manages to overcome extreme hardships as a child servant; being rescued to live in the Chinese Presbyterian home for girls; and ultimately leaving to marry a former Chinese railroad worker, raising a family and the future accomplished generations of Californians. "3 Coins" will be a video presentation along with questions and answers afterwards. Dr. Low will have available copies of his book, for \$15 with the entire proceeds going to Calif State University San Marcos Nursing Scholarships. Other books written by the author: "The All-American Crew"; and "Avengers, Wildcats & Crickets" are about his family legacy and contributions during World War II.

–Janis Perez

# 5 WAYS TO GIVE



## Giving via Our Website

NUMC can receive one-time or recurring gifts through the E-Giving services provided by our servicer – Vanco. The current DONATE option on NUMC's [www.northridgeumc.org](http://www.northridgeumc.org) website home page. Gifts can be one-time or recurring from credit card, debit card, checking or savings. You will be asked if you want to add 2.75% to help offset processing fees.



## Giving via Text Message

NUMC also has a text option using the 10-digit Vanco Text # **833-906-1867**. Text 'Funds' to receive a list of NUMC's Give by Text Funds.

## Giving via In-Person

Drop your gift into the offering basket on Sunday morning.

## Giving via Mail

You can also support our ministry by sending a check via mail. Please mail it to us:

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## 2 월 교회 소식지

**1 장-** 2 월 교회 행사를 소개하는 장입니다. (오른쪽: 사역자 명단)

**2 장-** Jazz Vespers 연주가 2 월 11 일 (주일) 오후 6 시 예배당에서 있습니다. / 2 월 설교 제목, 성경 본문 / 중보 기도 명단

**3 장-** 담임목사님의 목회 칼럼입니다. 이번 사순절 동안 하나님께서 우리가 어떻게 변화되고, 어떤 길을 가기를 원하시는 지 묵상하는 시간이 되시기 바라며, 기도와 순종으로 사순절을 보내시기 바랍니다.

**4 장-** 부목사님의 목회 칼럼입니다. "사순절을 어떻게 보낼 것인가?" 라는 제목으로 40 일 동안 우리가 성경 읽기, 기도와 금식으로 보내는 것도 중요하지만, 더욱 중요한 것은 예수님의 십자가를 통해 보여주신 용서와 사랑을 체험하기를 소원합니다. 하나님께서 우리를 용서하시고 사랑하신 것처럼 다른 사람에게 용서와 사랑을 실천하는 것, 그 용서와 사랑을 통해 하나님 안에서 행복해지기를 축복합니다.

**5 장-** 참회 화요일, 팬케익 & 도넛 데이가 2 월 13 일 화요일 오후 6 시 친교실에서 열립니다. / 재의 수요일 Labyrinth 예배가 2 월 14 일 수요일 오후 7 시 친교실에서 있습니다. / 사순절 성경 공부 주일이 오전 8 시 30 분, 도서실에서 있습니다.

**6 장-** 2 월 11 일은 보이 스카웃 주일로 지킵니다. / 2 월 21 일 수요일 오후 6:30 분부터 시작되는 재정 (빚/지출) 관련 수업을 수강하기를 원하시는 분은 아래 링크를 클릭하여 신청해 주시기 바랍니다. <https://www.fpu.com/0BC6A0>.

**7 장-** 우리 교회가 해외 선교로 돕고 있는 짐바브웨 Isaac 선교사님의 감사 편지입니다. 2023 년 우리 교회의 선교 자금 후원에 감사를 전하며 힘들고 어려운 일이 있더라도 항상 감사하는 마음으로 2024 년을 함께하기를 소원합니다.

**8 장-** 우리 교회가 해외 선교로 돕고 있는 마다가스카르 Arlette 선교사님의 감사 편지입니다.

**9 장-** 헌금할 수 있는 방법을 소개하는 장입니다. (웹사이트, 문자 메시지, 우편, 모바일 앱 Vanco, 예배 헌금)

**10 장-** 우리 교회 도서실에서 봉사 하실 분은 사무실로 연락해 주시기 바랍니다. / 2008 년 우리 교인 Ric Wilson 이 인도하는 예배 동영상입니다/ "Three Coins" 책 설명회가 2 월 17 일 토요일 오후 1-3 시까지 친교실에서 있습니다.





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