



Northridge United Methodist Church

December 2023

Volume 40, Issue 12



NEW YOU Christmas Party

Monday, December 4th
6 PM in Fellowship Hall

Christmas Around the World

Sundays, December 3rd & 10th
4:30-6 PM in the Fireside Room

Serving a Fellow Servant

Saturday, December 9th
5 PM in Fellowship Hall

Chancel Choir Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 16th, 6 PM
Sunday, December 17th, 2 PM
in the Sanctuary & YouTube

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 17th
5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall

Advent Study "All the Good"

Wednesdays
(December 6th, 13th & 20th)
7-8:30 PM at the Parsonage

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24th
5 PM in Fellowship Hall
7 & 11 PM in the Sanctuary

Northridge United Methodist Church

9650 Reseda Blvd.
Northridge, CA 91324
(818) 886-1555

www.northridgeumc.org

office@northridgeumc.org

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

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Douglas Dickson
Associate Pastor.....Rev. Ralph Kwon
Communication Ministry Coordinator
.....Suhyun Kwon
Office Administrator.....Peggy Walters
H.R. Coordinator.....Elizabeth Beckman
Treasurer.....Joyce Scanlin
Dir. of Preschool.....Debbie Goodman
Dir. of Music.....Dr. Garineh Avakian
Section Leaders.....Monika Bruckner (Alto)
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 **December 10, 6 PM** in the Sanctuary

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

Celebration of Holiday

No Tickets Necessary. Freewill offering.

Videos of all services are archived on YouTube.

<https://youtube.com/northridgeumc>

Prayer

Rev. Ed Goldson,
Rev. Kee Chul Nam,
Jack Kister, Wayne Aller,
Kaitlyn Wright, Anita Ruiz,
Carol Allen, Linda Kahmann,
Christine Coons, Shiny Angle,
Saundra Blankenship,
Vici & Bill Schenlau,
Cari Banke-Warder,
Dr. Bruce Warder,
George Bilenjian

The Celebration of Life service
for Martha and Charles
Mortensen will be held at noon,
December 16, in the Sanctuary
with a reception immediately
following in Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Sermons

December 3 (Communion Sunday)

“Don’t Just Sit There!!!”

Mark 1:1-8

December 10

“While We Wait...”

Isaiah 64

December 17

“I Hope They Make It!”

John 1:1-9, 14

December 24 at 11 AM

(Christmas Eve Combined Service)

“He’s On His Way!”

Matthew 1:18-25

December 31

Guest Preacher: Rev. Soomee Kim

Pastor's Corner



“What gift can we bring, what present, what token?”

You probably recall the opening line of this hymn of thanksgiving and praise from our hymnal (#87 if you'd like to read further). As we live through the Advent season and prepare for the coming Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus so long ago, we find ourselves on the shoulders of many who brought their gifts of faith, service, and praise! This is the last month of our congregation before it turns 100 years old. Imagine that! 100 years of ministry, service, and praise—changing the lives of others and being a become of love, justice, and healing for our community and the world. Imagine the lives that the people of Northridge UMC have touched as one transformed life brings joy and healing to another...and so on...

As we move into this new century of ministry and praise, let us consider what gift we indeed bring to God to convey the joy we find in Christ's forgiveness and love. As the song says, “When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, what song can we offer in honor and praise?” What are you grateful for? What memories, whether recent or past, has God given you that bring joy and reverie? Consider them for a moment. Was it a special celebration? A wedding? A baptism? Perhaps it was a simple moment when God reached into your heart to let you know that you were God's beloved. Or, maybe seeing the joy on the face of someone whose life you touched through the church ministries.

What abiding sense fills your heart as you look back on those moments and memories? What has God done in your life as you walked in God's path here at NUMC? The song continues, encouraging us to “give thanks for the past, for those who had vision, who planted and watered so dreams could come true.” Who are the people that you remember that helped shape and guide you in your faith and life? Who are the mentors and examples that walked alongside you bringing encouragement, comfort, challenge, camaraderie, companionship along the way?

Remember...and be thankful. And then ask yourself, “What gift can I bring to the Christ?” Not only this Christmas, but always and forever. How can I convey the joy of my heart? How can I plant or water for future generations? Who can I walk alongside to encourage and guide?

May your Advent and Christmas seasons be filled with the joy of the Lord as you offer yourselves to God.

—**Douglas Dickson** (Senior Pastor)

If you would like to order Poinsettias for Christmas, please fill out the form provided in the bulletin, Narthex or Office and return to the Office by Sunday, December 17.

Pastor's Corner



A Redeemed Community That Is Valued by God

There was a Christian in the United States named Fiorello La Guardia (1933-1945), who was a judge in a New York court.

One day, he was judging an old man who had been caught stealing bread. Guardia asked the old man, "Sir, how did you end up stealing someone else's bread?" The old man, who was dressed in shabby clothes, replied, "I'm sorry. I know it's wrong to touch what belongs to others, but my young grandson was starving, so I did so without realizing it." Hearing that, the judge's heart broke, but he had no choice but to fulfill his responsibility as a judge: "Sir, your situation is unfortunate, but I have to make a judgment. According to the law, I sentence you to a fine of \$10." (In those days, a \$10 fine was worth about \$200 fine in today's dollars). The judge then took a \$10 bill out of his own pocket, handed it to the old man, and said, "This is your fine. Please pay it with this money." He then addresses the townspeople gathered in the courtroom. "I'm going to fine everybody in this courtroom 50 cents each, because you are neighbors of this old man who had to steal bread to feed his hungry grandson. You are all responsible for leaving the old man and his grandchild hungry." With that, the judge collected the fines from the audience and handed the \$47 to the old man. Amazingly, no one complained or protested the ruling. In fact, they elected Guardia as mayor of New York City three times. Guardia had done a small act of love, and the people of New York responded with a big act of love.

This is the kind of community of faith Jesus was talking about. And this kind of blessing is God's way of governing the world. When we share a little, God fills us up to share more.

Brothers and Sisters, there are many places that need our help right now. If we're going to help them, the church needs to be strong - not just financially, but in terms of dedicated volunteers.

Next year, Northridge Church will be 100 years old. As the year passes, I reflect on whether I have been an unashamed pastor to the countless ancestors of faith who have stood by this church. I have fervent hope that next year, our centennial year, we will be a happier church and a more joyful church going forward. Most of all, I pray every day that we will be a beautiful church in God's eyes, a gospel church, and a soul-saving church.

May we all work together to build this church that has been handed down to us by our ancestors into a beautiful church of love, and may we be an ancestor of faith that posterity will not be ashamed of.

May we, Northridge Church, be a beautiful church that is being built as a community of salvation that is treasured and used by God, in the name of the Lord.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need (Acts 2:44-45).

—Ralph Kwon (Associate Pastor)



Upcoming Events

All the Good: A Wesleyan Way of Christmas—Every Wed Evening from 7-8:30 PM

Come to Pastor Doug's home and enjoy relaxed fellowship, some tasty appetizers, and engaging discussion on the Advent and Christmas experience from a Wesleyan point of view! We will talk about four ways that we can get more out of the season as we focus on: 1) Practicing Advent: Preparing the Way, 2) Praying in Advent, 3) Practices of Mercy: Embodying God's Love for Others, and 4) Christmas is Only the Beginning: Sending Out the Church into the World. Contributing to the discussion are Wesleyan Scholars Laceye Warner, Rev. Amy Valdez Barker, Sangwoo Kim, and Jung Choi. You can come to any of the sessions whether you've signed up or not! All are invited and welcome to join us. Sign-up in the church office or show-up at the door! See you there!



Christmas Around the World Starts with Hanukkah!

Sunday, December 3rd, 4:30-6 PM in the Fireside Room



Come and join us as Rabbi Ahud Sela explains the meaning of Hanukkah and the celebrations that surround the Jewish Celebration which starts December 7th this year. We will feast on traditional Hanukkah food, crafts and games for the kids, and a wonderful discussion on the meaning and background surrounding this ancient tradition! Don't miss out as we learn more about how people celebrate the Festival of Lights!

Christmas Around the World: The Philippines!

Sunday, Dec 10th, 4:30-6 PM in the Fireside Room

Bring your kids and bring your friends to experience Christmas in the Philippines through our inaugural "Christmas Around the World" celebration! We will be meeting in the Fireside Room as we learn and experience Christmas as many celebrate it in the Philippines. With crafts, food, and engaging lessons on the history and traditions that make the holidays festive and bright! Come and join us as we celebrate with the stars of light and make them too! And then, when you're done—head on over to Jazz Vespers for an inspiring musical Advent!



Youth Christmas Party!!! Sunday December 17th: 5-7 PM in Fellowship Hall



Come one and all in Middle-School and High School! Come and join us as we celebrate Christmas and talk about some of our hopes and dreams for the future! Bring a "White Elephant" gift \$20 and under (no gift cards please!) as we exchange gifts, eat, and play some fun Christmas games. Who knows what surprises may be found as we gather for fellowship and fun!

(Continued)

Serving a Fellow Servant– Saturday, December 9th at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall

Time flies! It's already December. This year has been a blessing as we've come together to create beautiful memories and strengthen our faith, building the kingdom of God hand in hand. We are grateful for the moments of joy, the encouragement we've shared, and the deepening of our faith through God's grace and love.

We joyfully invite the Congregation to join us in expressing gratitude and encouragement for those who have faithfully served NUMC throughout the past year. **Serving a Fellow Servant will take place on Saturday, December 9th at 5 PM in Fellowship Hall. This gathering will be a Potluck, providing an opportunity for everyone to bring their favorite dishes to share.**



In addition to our fellowship and feasting, there will be special performances sponsored by Hiza Yoo, the Korean Dance Institute, featuring Fan dance, Nanta, K-pop Dance, singing, and more. We encourage you to sign up in the Church Office or through the Church Center App to contribute food and share in this special celebration. Let's come together in love and thanksgiving for the blessings of the past year.

Christmas Eve Services!!! (Times and Themes)

As you may be aware, Christmas Eve, December 24th, takes place on a Sunday. That means some changes for us on Sunday morning! Christmas Eve morning services will be combined and meet at 11 AM in the sanctuary. The Christmas Eve Services are as follows:

5:00 PM Children's Christmas Service in Fellowship Hall

This service is geared especially for children and includes crafts, snacks, music, and even some Christmas games! Surely a wonderful, memory-creating experience for kids and their families as we remember the birth of Jesus!



7:00 PM Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary & YouTube Livestream

For a more traditional style service featuring the reading of the Christmas Story combined with Christmas Carols and a candle-light closing, come to our 7 PM service and hear the Gospel of Christ's birth in a new way!

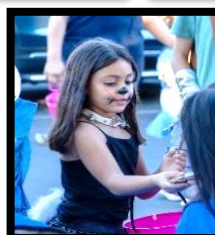
11:00 PM Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary & YouTube Livestream

A reflective and meditative service recalling the story of Christ's birth and reflecting on its impact in our lives. Sing carols, reflect in prayer, and close with the candlelight service and story as we move into Christmas Morning.

Snippets of Campus Activity

Holy Win – Trunk or Treat...

Even if you weren't at Trunk or Treat, which was celebrated in our parking lot on the Saturday before Halloween, you're sure to enjoy these photos of the goings on. There was merriment and candy and music and candy and costumes and candy and some candy. Lots of folks made it happen: the Boy Scouts had games, the Girl Scouts had crafts, Jenny and Suhyun handled the Snack Table, Robert and Oscar and Ralph set up the parking lot, Theo was the MC, music was provided by Debbie at Preschool, and Dusty set up sound. John Lucas Pascua and Jeri Barriclow and Judy Ko selected the winning decorated trunks. First Place was Marilyn Ewing and family and granddaughters with "Alice in Wonderland." Second Place was Hanna Barlis with "In and Out Burgers." Third Place was Susan Shields as "The Grinch." There were Very Clever Trunks and Very Cute Kids and lots of Halloween Happiness. I'd have more to say about the fun and companionship, but I gotta leave room for the pictures. –**Dusty Stiles** (Chair of Trustees)



Welcome!



Monika Bruckner, Alto Section Leader



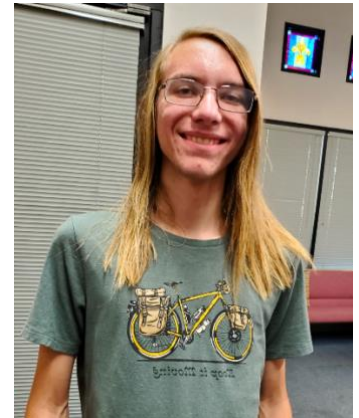
Staff Parish Relations Committee welcomed October 1st to our NUMC staff, Mezzo-Soprano, Monika Bruckner as NUMC's Alto Chancel Choir Section Leader/Soloist. Monika is originally from Munich, Germany. She moved to Paris, where she earned her degree in vocal performance at the Conservatory of Boulogne-Billancourt. Shortly after she became a permanent member of the Radio France Choir and sang many under the baton of conductors such as Seiji Ozawa, Jeffrey Tate and Myun-Whun Chung.

In Paris she was also member of the experimental vocal octet, "Oct'opus" and the Renaissance music ensemble "Il Sonnetto Musicale." In 2002, she relocated to Los Angeles, and has since been performing, among others, with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Los Angeles Opera Chorus, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Monika's solo performances include works such as Handel's Messiah, the Mozart Requiem, and Bach's Mass in B-Minor. Monika is also an accomplished voice teacher, offering her expertise to vocalists of all musical styles at her private studio as well as online.

Salman Yates, Sunday Custodian

Wishing Grayson Mosley well in moving on, Staff Parish Relations Committee welcomed Salman Yates as NUMC's new Sunday Custodian. Between academic sessions, Salman, a B.M.- Music, Commercial and Media Writing major at Cal State, Northridge, resides with his family in Redding California. Salman's bicycle is his preferred mode of transportation. The proximity of Northridge UMC to campus caught Salman's attention (as did our handbell choir, which he joined); he volunteers with his Church when home. The Yates family had the opportunity to live abroad, in Yemen, a few years, when Salman and his three siblings were children. When you have the opportunity, please welcome Salman.

–Elizabeth Beckman (H.R. Coordinator)



From the NUMC Video Library...

Looking again into the video archives, we look this month to 2007, June 10, the dedication of the Memorial Garden; Rev. Dr. Paula Ferris, Mike Shields, Nancy Easterly, Tandy Wilson, Bim & Norm Wendler and Ric Wilson on the camera.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGwGWSV8Kk>

–Dusty Stiles (Chair of Trustees)





Outreach



Christmas Mart

Christmas and the spirit of giving is in the air! Our annual Children's Christmas Mart is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at North Valley Caring Services (NVCS) 15453 Rayen St, North Hills, CA 91343. We have children come to pick out a gift for their mom or dad. Please drop your gifts off in the church library. The gifts are things that children would pick for their parents. Bring new items please.

A few examples for men are socks, tools, sweaters, hats, gloves, aftershave and calendars. Examples for women are: socks, sweaters, jewelry, lotion, and calendars. There are many more items that make appropriate gifts.

We also need wrapping paper, tape, ribbon and gift tags. You can also donate money if you don't have time to shop.



Volunteers Are Needed to:

- 1) Transport donated items from the church to NVCS at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday morning.
- 2) Help with set-up at NVCS at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.
- 3) Help the children select gifts for their parents and help wrap gifts anytime from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- 4) Help transport items back to Northridge United Methodist Church.

Please contact Amybeth Lake through the Church Office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your generosity! Merry Christmas!

—Amybeth Lake

NUMC Saturday Night Farmer's Market

We are the ONLY nighttime Farmer's Market in the Valley! Each week, we see more vendors and more improvements. The father and son team who run the market are on site from 3:30 (set up) until way after 10:00 PM (clean up). They provide a porta-potty and washing sanitation station for the use and comfort of visitors, they haul away their own trash, and have increased the number of tables and chairs each week. Plus, we now have bright overhead lighting and signage both on Reseda Blvd. and Superior St. The fresh produce stand has outstanding offerings and great prices and everyone has raved about the food booths! We even have freshly baked, on site, pizza available. The market is growing and flourishing and attracting more and more people each week. Keep coming for Saturday night dinner or snack and a night stroll through the market. Hint: Christmas gift ideas abound at this market!

Thank you for your support and please continue to spread the word and enjoy our unique marketplace. We have over 2000 IG (Instagram) hits [@goodtimes farmersmarket!](https://www.instagram.com/goodtimesfarmersmarket/)

—Peggy Walters (Office Administrator)





하나님께 소중한 쓰임을 받는 구원의 공동체

미국에 피오렐로 갈디아 (Fiorello La Guardia, 1933~1945) 라는 그리스도인이 있었습니다. 그는 뉴욕 법정의 판사였습니다.

하루는 빵을 훔치다가 잡혀 온 한 노인을 심판하게 되었습니다. 갈디아는 노인에게 “어르신, 어찌다가 남의 빵을 훔치게 되었습니까?” 라고 질문을 했습니다. 그러자, 허름한 옷을 입고 있던 노인이 “죄송합니다. 남의 것에 손을 대는 것이 잘못된 줄은 알지만, 어린 손자가 굶고 있어서 저도 모르게 그런 짓을 저질렀습니다” 라고 말했습니다. 그 말을 들은 판사는 마음이 아팠지만, 판사로서 책임을 다할 수 밖에 없었습니다. “어르신, 어르신의 사정은 딱하지만 저는 판결을 내려야만 합니다. 법에 따라 10 달러의 벌금형을 선고합니다.” (그 때에 10 달러는 지금 가치로 보면 200 달러 정도 되는 벌금입니다.) 그리고는 그 판사는 자기 주머니에서 10 달러짜리 지폐를 꺼내 그 노인에게 드리며, “이 돈은 어르신이 낼 벌금입니다. 이 돈으로 벌금을 내십시오.” 그리고 법정에 모인 마을 사람들에게도 판결을 내립니다. “이 법정에 참석한 모든 방청객들에게 벌금 50 센트씩 부과하겠습니다. 그 이유는 배고픈 손자를 먹이기 위해 빵을 훔쳐야만 했던 이 어르신의 이웃이기 때문입니다. 어르신과 아이를 배고르게 방치한 여러분에게도 책임이 있습니다” 그 말과 함께 판사는 방청객들에게 벌금을 거두었고, 47 달러의 벌금을 노인에게 전달했다고 했습니다. 그런데 놀라운 것은 어느 누구도 그 판결에 불평하거나 항의하는 사람이 없었습니다. 오히려 그들은 그 갈디아 판사를 뉴욕시장으로 세 번이나 당선시켜 주었습니다. 갈디아는 작은 사랑을 베풀었을 뿐인데, 뉴욕 시민들은 큰 사랑으로 보답한 것입니다. 이것이 바로 예수님이 말씀하신 믿음의 공동체의 모습입니다. 또한, 이러한 축복은 세상을 다스리시는 하나님의 섭리입니다. 작은 것을 나눌 때, 더 많은 것을 나눌 수 있도록 채워 주시는 하나님이십니다.

여러분, 지금 많은 곳에서 우리의 도움의 손길을 기다리고 있습니다. 우리가 그들에게 도움을 주려면 교회가 튼튼해야 합니다. 재정 뿐만 아니라, 헌신하시는 봉사자도 필요합니다.

내년이면, Northridge 교회가 100 살이 되는 뜻 깊은 해입니다. 저는 한해를 지나면서 이 교회를 지켜온 무수한 믿음의 선조들에게 부끄러움이 없는 목사였는지 제 자신을 돌아 봅니다. 저는 100 주년이 되는 내년에는 지금보다 더 행복한 교회, 기쁨이 넘치는 교회가 되기를 간절히 소망하고 있습니다. 무엇보다, 하나님께서 보시기에 아름다운 복음의 교회, 영혼을 살리는 교회가 되기를 매일 기도합니다.

우리 모두 힘을 합쳐 믿음의 선조들이 우리에게 물려 준 이 교회를 아름다운 사랑의 교회로 세워 나가며 후손들에게 부끄럽지 않는 믿음의 선조가 되기를 소망합니다.

바라옵기는, 우리 노스리지 교회가 하나님께 소중히 쓰임을 받는 구원의 공동체로 세워져 나가는 아름다운 교회가 되기를 주님의 이름으로 축복합니다.

“믿는 사람이 다 함께 있어 모든 물건을 서로 통용하고 또 재산과 소유를 팔아 각 사람의 필요를 따라 나눠 주며.” (사도행전 2 장 44 절-45 절) (주일 설교 중에서)

-한국 회중 담임목사, 권현섭



The NUMC Chancel Choir presents a

Christmas Concert

Program includes:

Amahl and the Night Visitors, G.C. Menotti

Ceremony of Carols, B. Britten

Celebration Ringers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 @ 6PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 @ 2PM

Free Admission

Donations Welcomed

Dr. Garineh Avakian-Director of Music

Dr. Joseph Lee-Pianist, Organist, Handbell Director



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Northridge UMC, Northridge, CA

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