

**Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for 03 January—09 January 2010**

**This week we pray for Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab, Emirates, Oman, Yeman, Iran, Iraq**



**INTERCESSIONS**

**Give thanks for:**

- Christians who practise their faith in countries where they are a small minority; those who meet in house churches and those who provide links to Christians worldwide.
- Muslims who live up to the ideals of their faith and advocate tolerance and peace.
- Those who work for democracy and human rights.
- The graceful architecture of minarets and the sounds of the oud.
- The preservation of the art of these ancient cultures.

**Pray for:**

- Peaceful relationships between different tribes, religions and ethnic groups.
- Those who come from other countries to work, and are separated from their families.
- Clean water for those who thirst in the desert.
- Women, who have far fewer opportunities for education and employment than do men.
- Those who are persecuted for their faith.
- Healing for wounded bodies and crushed spirits caused by conflict and strife.
- Muslims who make the pilgrimage to Mecca, that they might be safe during their devotion.
- The grieving, the families torn apart, the homes destroyed, the businesses no longer functioning.
- An end to terrorism, lawlessness, and state oppression.
- International peace-keepers and monitors of treaty obligations.

**Special Thanks...**



The start of a New Year is a good time to reflect upon and to be thankful for the year we just completed. Thanks to all of you for your stewardship: your participation in projects including KUMI, AHS Toy Drive, Alameda County Food Bank Lenten and Thanksgiving Food Drives, StreetFest, ESL, Entertainment Book, and many other efforts that we embarked upon has aided many in our community as well as globally!

**THANK YOU!!!!**



# THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

January 3, 2010

**Rev. George Martzen**

**Guest Speaker**

**Text: Jeremiah 31:7-14  
and John 1:10-18**

**Usher/Greeter: Brenda and Jane**

**Prayer: Peggy**

**Scripture: Burt**

**Music: George, Aeri**

**Acolyte: Michael**

**Hospitality:**

**Altar Flowers: Linda Woo**



**Worship with Us Next Week: January 10, 2010**

**Preacher: Pastor Emily**

**Focus Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

**Usher/Greeter: Donna and Steve**

**Prayer: Charlie**

**Scriptures: Jessica**

**Music: Matthew**

**Acolyte: Wendy**

**Altar Flowers: Linda Woo**



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**View from the EMC Chair**  
**By Derek Lang**



The term “word” seems so simple, yet it is so fundamental to our human existence. In the Miriam-Webster online dictionary, the first of eleven main definitions is “something that is said.” But digging deeper, word is a means of describing. It is a way of communicating. It represents the process of conceptualizing, understanding, discerning, and presenting literally everything. This concept that is so basic, so much at the root of the way we perceive and interact with existence is highlighted at the start of the Book of John, as “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” The Word is a metaphor for Jesus, the incarnation of God in human form.

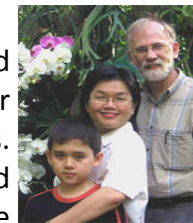
This is a pretty heavy way to start the beginning of a text. But in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer points out that before we do anything in our Christian lives, before we can be in ministry, we have to start with the Word. Another way of thinking about this is that we have to go back to our roots and be grounded in our faith in Jesus. We have to make sure that whatever we do ties back to, and is directed by, our hearing of God’s call for us. It seems so simple and obvious, but sometimes we get busy with the things we do – the things we think we are supposed to do either because we always did them or they felt like the “right” thing to do. And, we forget why we are doing what we do and/or forget to consider the question, “Is this God’s Will for me at this point in time?”

The beginning of the New Year is when many of us start filling in our calendars and make new plans. We think about things we want to accomplish and things we want to experience. We as a congregation will be discerning ministries for this year and individuals will be able to sign up to be part of different ministries. May we always remember where our beginnings to help direct us to our future.

Happy New Year!



**The Martzen Family**



Our church has been blessed with having the Reverend George Martzen, his wife Rev. Dr. Chin Cheak Yu, and their son Walter join our church family for the past few months. Global Ministers, George and Chin Cheak have traveled and spread God’s word to many countries. You can read more about their missionary work from the website :

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/advance/missionaries/biographies/index.cfm?action=results&key=2&criteria=Martzen&Submit=Go>

Chin Cheak and Walter returned to Singapore last week, and George will follow in another month. We wish them special blessings for the New Year!

**Upcoming Notes & News –**

- **Jan. 10th** - We will recognize, pray for and bless all those who serve this church as officers!
- **Jan. 17th** - We will observe **Human Relations Day**, a special Sunday in the United Methodist Church that lifts up our interconnected relationships and call to justice. A special offering will be taken to further the connection work of the national Community Developers Program.
- **Jan. 24th** - We will observe **Pledge Sunday**. You are invited to prayerfully discern your financial support of the ministries and mission of CCUMC. Please connect with Pastor Emily should you have any questions.
- **Congratulations** to Richard and Adrienne Fong, proud grandparents of Noah Loy Fong, born on December 26th, 2009. 7 lbs 7 ozs.
- Offering (pledge) envelopes are available from Helena for \$2.50/box.
- If you would like to be an **Altar Flower** contributor, please connect with Helena to sign up for your preferred Sunday. Suggested donation is \$10.
- Share your gift of **Hospitality** by signing up with Laura to provide refreshments (and clean up) during our fellowship time after service.
- **Lunar New Year Pot Luck** will be on February 14th. The Chinese and English congregation will welcome in the Lunar New Year together!