



The El Estero Echoes
El Estero Presbyterian Church
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Pastor Ted Esaki

March Vol. 2018. Issue 3

The Mission of the El Estero Presbyterian Church is to Glorify God
through a Grateful Commitment
to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Pastor Ted's Message

APRIL FOOL'S??



This year, Easter falls on April 1, 2018, April Fool's Day. April Fool's Day or as some have termed it, "All Fool's Day" is an annual celebration in some European and Western countries commemorated by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. Some newspapers, magazines and other published media report fake stories, which are usually explained the next day or below the news section in small letters.

At the time of the death and resurrection of Jesus, there were some religious and political leaders who sought to make the resurrection of Jesus out to be a great hoax. Some of the "fake news" reports at that time were:

- The disciples stole Jesus body
- The authorities hid the body
- The disciples lied about the resurrection
- The women went to the wrong tomb
- The disciples hallucinated and merely thought they saw Jesus

But, either the resurrection was the greatest hoax that has ever been perpetrated on the human race or it is the greatest Good news the world has ever known.

Within 200 years of the resurrection, Christianity had spread throughout the known world and today is the largest movement the world has ever known.

In just a few days, billions of people all over the world will pause to celebrate Easter. Easter is the most celebrated event in all of history. It is more than just a nice idea, it is an historical fact. Hundreds of people witnessed the resurrection of Jesus after He was crucified on the cross and placed in a tomb. Our whole calendar is based upon the life of Jesus. All of history is divided into B.C. and A.D. Before Christ and After Death. Every time you and I

write the days date on a piece of paper we remember the resurrection. April 1, 2018, Easter Sunday. 2018 from what? 2018 from the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection is the crux of everything that has ever happened.

But why is the resurrection so important? The apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 15:14 and 17, "If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe. If Christ has not been raised your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins." Paul says that the resurrection is the cornerstone of Christianity. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, we have nothing to believe, nothing to preach, and all the martyrs have died in vain, all the money spent on church buildings have been wasted, and anything called Christianity is a waste of time. Without the hope of the resurrection we are still lost in our sins.

But the truth of the matter is that Christ has been raised from the dead. That means that Christ is alive. Through Jesus' death and resurrection he has conquered sin and abolished death. Because Jesus is alive, our sins are forgiven and we can spend an eternity in God's Kingdom.

I invite you to come and join us on Easter Sunday, as we remember and celebrate the greatest Good News the world has ever known.

In the Name of the Resurrected Christ,

Pastor Ted

COME AND JOIN A BIBLE STUDY

*Magnify * Maturity * Membership * Ministry * Mission*

Please join us.



Let's learn together.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Prayer Meeting: Every Sunday, 8:30 – 9:15 am.

Adult Discipleship: Every Sunday morning, 9:30 – 10:15 am.

This Bible Study is structured as small group studies with 5, or 6 people in a group. The focus is on Discipleship with a study of the Book of Acts. There is a weekly study guide for your daily Bible reading at home and questions to guide your studies. Discussion follows in the small groups on Sunday morning. Everyone is welcome to join us at any time during our studies of the Book of Acts.

Wednesday Bible Study: Every Wednesday morning, 10:30 – 11:45 am.

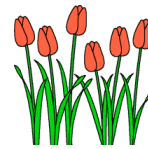
A follow up of Pastor Ted's Sunday Worship Service message. Discussion follows a review of Sunday's sermon with the Sunday worship study guide. This Bible study also reflects on the Discipleship reading of the previous week as Pastor Ted links his message to the Discipleship studies.

Evening Bible Study: Bible study at Pastor Ted's home will meet on the first and third Friday of each month, 6:00 pm. College students and young adults are welcome.

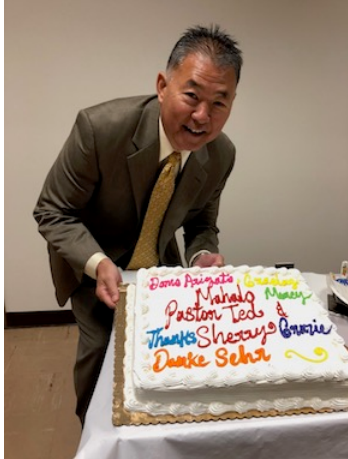


Joys and Concerns

Please continue to pray for



Sherry Esaki, Seon Hashimoto, Ralph and Ginny Heun, Reiko Kageyama, Kiku Kuwatani, Dorothy Maceira, Royal and Hiro Manaka, Susie Marquez, Marilyn and Mike Masatani, Franco and Renee Mola, Takeko Nishida, Joan and Val Ouye, Lyle and Meja Quock, Lily Uyeda, Nami Uyeda, Hisao and Setsuko Yamanishi, May Wong, George Wooding, the Ouye family with the passing of Bob .



Congratulations Pastor Ted Esaki for three wonderful years of being our pastor at El Estero Church!

Pastor Ted is opening his fourth year of leadership at El Estero with a full schedule. Worship service messages have been a time for prayer and learning. Discipleship and Bible studies have been established for learning together and have inspired many folks. Ukulele, art studio, and hiking ministries and fellowships are growing and evolving. And ... we have new friends joining our Sunday services.

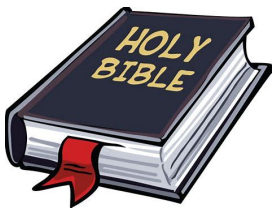
We are thankful and grateful for our loving Pastor Ted!



Mark and Brenda Hall **Missions Door, Totonicapan, Guatamala**

Mark and Brenda Hall and their children visited our church on Sunday, February 25. The Halls are missionaries living in Guatemala and serving Missions Door, an international organization building churches and reaching out to people for Christ.

Mark, Brenda and their children visited El Estero for the first time in 2008. Our church has and continues to support the Halls in their work with poor and troubled teens. As Mark says, they work with "rebels, rejects, and ragamuffins". Currently they are working in Totonicapan, Guatamala. Their work has been successful in reaching young people, who are often illiterate, saving them to discover the Lord. Mark and Benda are now looking to passing their work on in "Toto". They feel that some of the young adults in this small town that they have taught, counseled, and trained are ready to lead the young people without them. The Halls are ready to move on to Mexico and start anew. El Estero supports their missionary ministry and we will continue to pray for them as they take their work to Guadalajara, Mexico to work for the Lord with the poorest of the poor.



We are pleased to announce the beautiful new book carts for our newly purchased Bibles. There is a book cart upstairs in the sanctuary and one downstairs in the fellowship hall. The new Bibles are for everyone to use at any time during Bible study, discipleship, and worship service.


Please feel free to borrow a Bible and return it to the cart when you are finished. Again, grateful appreciation to all who supported our Pew Bible project.

Our **Open Art Studio** met at the Carmel Art Association on a rainy Friday morning to enjoy art with Bob McIntyre. Bob is our “in house” artist and teacher. He is also an award winning member of the Carmel Art Association and the American Watercolor Society. Bob led us through the Art Association and introduced to the work of local artists currently showing in the gallery. After our inspired morning of art we enjoyed lunch at Il Fornaio at the Pine Inn. Thank you Bob for sharing your talent with all of us.

All are welcome to join our Saturday morning classes. Please come and bring a friend.



Our Service Volunteers for March 2018

April	Leader	Greeters	Ushers	Coffee	Flowers
1 Easter	Pastor Ted	Greg M. Chihiro T.	Robert S. Taye S.	Dori C.	El Estero 
		Communion Servers Elders: Richard M. and Robert S. Deacons: Tom G. and Marilyn K.			
18	Pastor Ted	Marian K. Adele K.	Dick W. Dori C.	Joyce G.	
15	Pastor Ted	Myra M. Bob McL.	Lyle Q. Tom G.	Lynn G.	
22	Pastor Ted	Yae K. Hiroko K.	Yuri W. Junki K.	Nora S.	
29	Pastor Ted	Johnnie M. Emiko M.	Robert S. Taye S.	Jean T.	


VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO FILL WORSHIP TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

Please let Dori know in which position you may be called to serve. New greeters, ushers, and coffee volunteers are welcome. Please see the sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board. You may sign up with a relative or a friend. Please let Dori or the church office know in advance if you need to make a change or substitution.

Due to the cost of printing, paper, and postage, the Echoes “staff” would like to encourage our readers to choose email copies of our newsletter over USPS mailed copies. If you are receiving hard copies in the mail and would like to change to email copies, please email the church at elesteropc@gmail.com with your name and email address. Or please tell Marilyn K. or Don C. your email information. We will make the change to a digital Echoes for you. Thank you !



April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship Service starts at 10:30 am Communion will be on the first Sunday of this month.						
1 EASTER Communion Children's Sunday School	2 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	3 9:30 am Finance Meeting	4 10:30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	5	6 6:00 pm Bible Study at Pastor Ted's home	7 10:00 – noon Open Art Studio
8 8:30 – 9:15 am Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 10:15 am Adult Discipleship Children's Sunday School Noon: Session Meeting	9 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	10	11 10:30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	12	13	14
15 8:30 – 9:15 am Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 10:15 am Adult Discipleship Pastor Mark Hollingsworth to speak Children's Sunday School	16 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	17	18 10:30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	19 9:00 – Noon. Quarterly Session/ Deacons Meeting.	20 Echoes Articles Due 6:00 pm Bible Study at Pastor Ted's home	21 10:00 – noon Open Art Studio
22 8:30 – 9:15 am Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 10:15 am Adult Discipleship Children's Sunday School	23 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	24	25 10:30 – 11:45 Bible Study 12:15 Ukulele Practice	26 10:00 Fold and mail The Echoes	27	28 9:00 am Hiking Fellowship
29 8:30 – 9:15 am Prayer Meeting 9:30 – 10:15 am Adult Discipleship Children's Sunday School Ukulele Group to play at Worship Service	30 10:30 am Ukulele Practice	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Please join us for a Fellowship Hike on Saturday, April 28, 9:00 am. More information will be forth coming during Announcements in Worship Service.</p> </div>				

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²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11 : 25 - 26