



# SENIOR PASTOR BOARD REPORT

## EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOS ANGELES

■ QUARTER 1 - JAN - MAR 2022



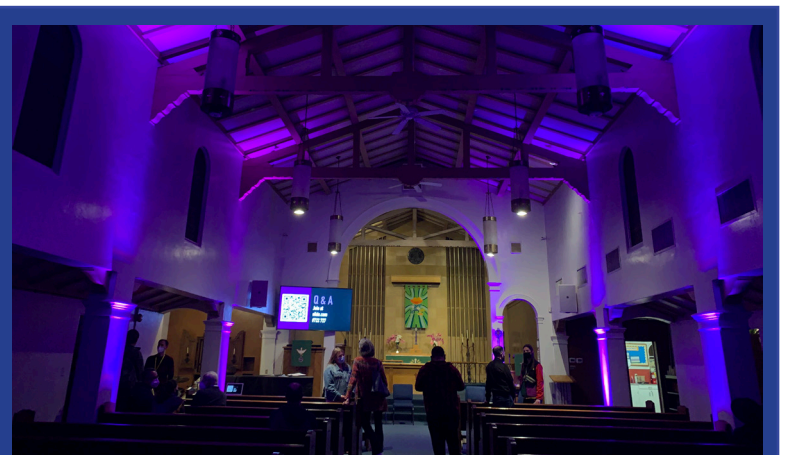
### 365 DAYS OF LOVE

As we finish our second full year in the pandemic, we look back on the string of chaos and disruption we've experienced and wonder "what does God think of all this?" My sense is that God is calling the Church to respond in love to all the division, enmity, and pain that we've seen. This year, we've developed an annual theme "Seasons of Love" where we will be exploring various ways God calls us to live out His love in our lives. Each sermon series will be anchored both in Scripture and a famous pop love song, as a fun way to help us engage these topics. I am excited to see how God uses these series to deepen our faith and connect our action.

Our first series was based off the Foreigner song from 1984, looking at how God shows us a foundational example of love through the person of Jesus Christ!



**(above)** Our annual theme "Seasons of Love" explores a call to godly love in today's world. The annual theme is musically inspired by the theme song from the musical "Rent"! **(below, left)** Our kick-off series was inspired by the big hair and big voice of Foreigner, grounding us in the example of live in Jesus. Our Lenten series explored enmity and enemies through the song Bad Blood by Taylor Swift!



### FISHBOWL DIALOGUE

Our journey of LGBTQ inclusion has been of interest to many outside Evergreen. We were connected to the organization Oriented to Love, who has put together many events facilitating open conversations about LGBTQ inclusion in the church. This quarter we sponsored a "fishbowl dialogue" with 2 other churches in Fullerton. These events are aimed at bringing this honest conversation into congregations without taking a defined stance.





## HELLO AND GOODBYE

We said both hello and goodbye over the past few months. Japan missionary family Sterling, Emi, Geneva, and Elise Miller spent the second half of their home assignment in LA, worshipping with us. Here they are sharing about their minstry work in Tokyo at the Prime Timer's breakfast (left). Sadly, we also said goodbye to a few of our Prime Timers. Services for both Gayook Wong and Yuki Ihara were held this quarter. At Yuki's service, it was impactful to see her legacy women's small group line up to pay their respects. Yuki's small group has met faithfully over the years and continues to be a vibrant community of Prime Timer women!



## FOOD DRIVE!

This year, we are planning to host 3 more Rosemead Food Distributions on our campus. Even though we are well past the initial phases of the pandemic, food insecurity is still an issue for many households. We continue to see our distributions as a vital service to our community. Many volunteers from Evergreen, our partner churches, and neighborhood organizations (e.g. local high school clubs) come out to serve on Friday (prep) or Saturday (distribute) morning. I encourage you to consider helping out in one of the 2 remaining food distributions! It's a great way to help out our neighbors and meet people from Evergreen!



## PARK IN THE CHURCH

As In order to take advantage of the cooler weather and to encourage people to come back on campus, we held our monthly park event at church! Park in the Church saw one of our largest crowds come to worship and enjoy lunch together



## Executive Pastor Quarterly Congregational Report

January – March 2022

Submitted by Pastor Jonathan Wu

### *Perspective from the Second Chair*

A word that has stimulated my thinking this quarter is “resonance”. I have been invited to participate in an ecumenical pastoral cohort hosted by Luther Seminary (MN). It is a three-year commitment with two gatherings this year and in 2024. One of the intriguing elements is that our church will receive \$10,000 to explore an engagement project. The focus is to intuit and imagine the future of the church. Resonance is an auditory word, describing the quality in a sound as being deep, full, and reverberating. I like this word because it conveys the essence of what is true, authentic, and embodied. This describes well our spiritual journey – we want to be in tune with God’s unique design in each of us individually and in our church family collectively. How do we detect this? We pause, give space for silence, and listen. We observe, notice, and pay attention. We learn by stepping out in faith. We find and feel what Paul says as “whatever is noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy.” (Philippians 4:8). I look forward to what music God is creating in and through us.

### *Ministry Highlights*

This quarter we witnessed the re-gathering of our church family, especially on campus. After a quieting period during the omnicron surge, we saw more and more return – Sunday worship, Prime Timers and men’s breakfasts, Park in the Church. With a full, yet safe opening beginning in April, it was wonderful to see our church brimming with energy and life on Resurrection Sunday. I hosted our Sunday morning Adult CLASS in a hybrid format – participants could join on Zoom or in person. I am always encouraged by the consistent 14-17 who begin their Sundays, reflecting on the Scriptures, engaging in thoughtful conversation, and connecting with each other. I utilized the inspiration of J.I. Packer’s *Knowing God* as our winter focus, followed by our Lenten “Bad Blood” journey. Our small groups and affinity groups continue to provide meaningful touch points for life-on-life contact. While our numbers remain small, I am hopeful that we will see growing interest and participation as we resume greater life together. Our monthly Church in the Park at Arcadia County Park has been a key to sustained resilience as a church family (great fun, good food).

I am grateful for our Missional Exec Team (Brian Chan, Rebecca Chan, Toby Chi, Tina Dunn, Caroline Freer, Rex Hamano, Bonnie Wan). They communicate regularly with our missional partners. It has been a delight to have some of them join our monthly meetings via Zoom. This year we are welcome some back for a time of rest and renewal. We enjoyed having the Miller family (Sterling, Emi, Geneva, Elisa) with us this quarter. This summer we look forward to receiving Albert/Emily Chen, Steve/Nilza Kawamura, and Christina/Eldwin Truong. We released title to our church van to Moise and Deliris Carrion-Joseph for their ministry use in

Tijuana. Family Promise SGV has been dormant as they have been searching for a case manager to work closely with prospective guest families. Finally, we hosted the first Rosemead Churches Food Distribution of 2022 in February. With an amazing team of volunteers from our Scout groups, local high school service clubs, and our partnering churches, we assembled and passed out 350 food boxes to our neighbors. We will organize two more distributions (April and June) as we conclude our present commitment to assist in addressing the food insecurities in our community. We are praying for God's leading about our presence, service, and witness in the future.

Our church is blessed by a strong administrative team. We have seen significant transitions in our financial team. Mark Shimaura and Sandy Velasco have been with us since last fall. With the guidance of Susan Chen (who was residing in Taiwan), they worked closely with our auditor to successfully complete our 2021 financial review. We continue to consider other means and resources to simplify our operations and strengthen our accountability and protocols. Kalia Young and Kathy Hubbard provide the backbone to our church office, handling a myriad of tasks and responsibilities (even as our office remains hybrid). Lester Cheng manages and oversees the extensive preparation for our on-campus activities. Please extend your appreciation to all of them.



Family Ministry QCM Report  
First Quarter 2022  
Prepared by Pastor Shirley Lew

**Personal Reflections:** Even while the year began with the continued COVID protocols, the start of this year had a bit of more hopefulness. I have a trip planned at the end of May to travel to Oberammergau, Germany to see the Passion Play. I also had made a major decision to retire from full-time ministry at the end of 2022. After telling Pastor Jason my intention to retire, he made a counteroffer of returning as a part time pastor to the Prime Timer ministry. After praying about whether I'm called to continue in ministry, and with this particular age group, confirmation to continue to minister was made after a couple of conversations with my MRT. I'm excited for the possibilities of this new focus. In the meantime, I will spend the rest of the year setting up and restarting Children's Ministry after such a long time not meeting on campus.

**Ministry Reflections:**

**Children's Ministry:** Children's Worship was still meeting on Zoom for the first quarter of 2022. Pastor January continued to welcome and highlight CW every 3rd Sunday of the month with Elza leading, with the help of Leilani and Kai Wetterau, and Elizabeth Leung. We still averaged 10-15 children meeting on Zoom. Plans were being made for meeting in-person in April.

**Women's Ministry:** In January, to celebrate Lunar New Year, the Women's Ministry hosted a Lunar New Year Dumpling Making class, with Kitty Mak, who lives in San Francisco area. We had a great turn out for this class. Not only did Kitty teach us how to make the dumplings, but she gave a short history of how Christianity had always been in the Chinese culture.

Then in March, to celebrate the patron St. Patrick of Ireland for St. Patrick's Day, our very own Martin Au-Yeung demonstrated making Soda Bread, a traditional bread eaten on St. Patrick's Day. That was a fun baking class, too!  
No activity was planned for April because of the many Easter preparations. A Welcome Back Coffee Hour is being planned for May 15.

**CBS - Caregiver's Support Ministry:** Under the leadership of Judy Hao and Sandra Jung, this ministry continues to provide a space for caregivers to share their concerns and resources with one another. They have had Snoopy Fong as one of the guest speakers, along with Wendy Lew Toda sharing different ways to de-stress, and leading the group through an exercise of writing a prayer of lament.

## QUARTERLY (WINTER 2022) REPORT | Ryan Granucci

Personal Reflections | The beginning of the year was a filled with a lot of change. Saki and I purchased our first home together. Additionally, we added onto our family by adopting Haku, our dog. It's been such a meaningful season to go through so much excitement and change together.

### YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Youth Group | Our first series of the year was on reflecting on work and faith, as many of the students have expressed having a hard time thinking about what they want major in and the type of work they are considering doing. During this series, we hosted a few guest speakers from the congregation to share about their work and faith intersection. Our second series will be a general overview of the life of Jesus in various accounts found in the Gospels. We continue to have a consistent group attend on Friday nights.

Youth Retreat | We hosted Youth Retreat on campus from 2/19-2/20. Our theme of Gathered & Scattered, our guest speaking Ivan talked about God's movement of bringing people together and sending us out. Our games were based on the theme of Mario Kart which led up to the big race around the campus.



### THE OPEN DOOR | Ryan Granucci

The Open Door continues to meet twice a month. Currently the leadership team is leading devotional and from the book *Queer Virtue* by Reverend Elizabeth Edman. Additionally, the group has hosted social events including one with the TOD Parents groups.



EBCLA

# Worship Arts Tech Team

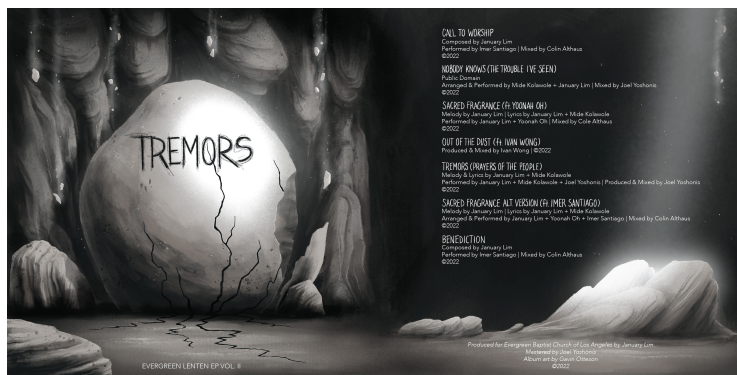
**2**022 has been an exceptional year thus far for our WATT ministry. The rhythm from Advent —> Christmas and then from Lent —> Easter can be brutal. It's a testament to our incredible lay volunteers and amazing pastoral staff that we have been able to produce such amazing creativity both seen and unseen so consistently in our first quarter of the year!



*Palm Sunday 2022 - Photo by Bruce M. Chow*

## Bad Blood

Lent is probably my favorite time of the liturgical calendar — this season permits us time and space to sit in our struggles and wrestling. Lent gives us agency as believers to be as authentic and sincere about our pain and lament. As a Worship Arts Pastor, it means dreaming and designing more relevant and tangible ways for our congregation to connect with God. Our “Bad Blood” series explored all the brokenness within and between ourselves... AND it encouraged us to name and acknowledge the enmity that still exists between ourselves and God. What an incredible season of going deep into our personal wells of hurt, vulnerability and grief. Every Sunday felt like an overwhelming challenge to land on a congregational moment of reflection and prayer — and our pastors did an incredible job of offering themselves and their personal lives up as priestly offerings. I’m so grateful for their participation and generosity of spirit. I will also never forget our meaningfully provocative Good Friday service.



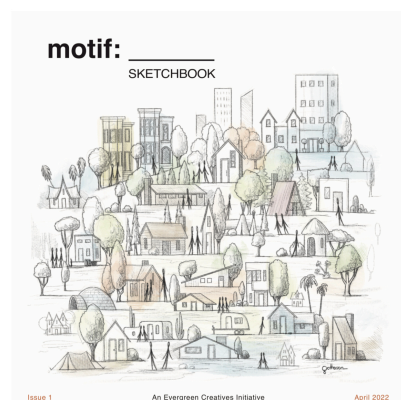
**Additionally**, our team produced our second Lenten EP, “Tremors.” This worship EP is a complete worship set — starting with a Call to Worship, concluding with a Benediction. Though our current Lenten season is over, I pray that this EP will continue to reverberate throughout our spiritual lives, causing holy shakes of hope to break into our lives.

## EASTER

Maxed out indoor, overflow and parking capacity and zero Broaster’s Chicken left! Our Tech and Worship leaders put in extra hours to ensure that our Hybrid service would run smoothly, and it was a joyful, bump-less occasion indeed! We even had our special VIP Children worship leaders lead us in song — and it was reminiscent of pre-pandemic days... except, we have been changed — and our church has evolved through our reconstruction of what it means to gather, sing, pray, and worship together. I pray looking forward, that we will not grow complacent and fall into familiar rhythms of the past; rather, may we continue to break new grounds and explore what it means to dance together God on a weekly basis.



## motif:SKETCHBOOK



“How can we continue to curate space for our Evergreen creatives? A space where they can tell their own stories, share their art, stand witness to God’s activity in their lives? A space where seeds and origins of ideas are welcome without pressure to be made whole or complete?” From such questions, our magazine project, “Motif:Sketchbook” came to fruition. Our first issue is now online and a limited edition 200 hard copies have been printed! Please congratulate our completely in-house creatives who have spear-headed this new initiative!



## Moving Forward...

As the dust settles on a very very busy and fruitful season, I continue to steep myself in our year-long series, “Seasons of Love.” I continue to hope to foster a deeper sense of community within our WATT ministry. This hopefully looks like more “FUN” trainings, more creative outlets, and FOOD. MORE FOOD!

Some personal prayer requests:

I pray for continued inspiration for new artistic forms of worship. (I’ve got a few ideas in mind ;D) As we prepare for P. Jason’s sabbatical, I also pray for a miraculous season of “restfulness” for our ministry in the midst of our continued weekly rhythm. I pray for continued growth as a musician, storyteller and preacher. Finally, I pray for my continued pursuit of health and wholeness — over my existing medical conditions and the wellness of Spirit and mind.

I’m so grateful for my Evergreen family. Thank you thank you thank you for sojourning with me!

