

**Executive Pastor Quarterly  
Congregational Report**  
April - June 2022  
Submitted by Pastor Jonathan Wu

***Perspective from the Second Chair***

The highlight of this quarter was the “Aging Well” Adult CLASS. Perhaps I am feeling its gravitational pull (though, we all are aging!), but reminded that God wants us to spiritually thrive and be fruitful – regardless of our age. Psalm 92:12-15 was our Scripture focus: “The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. In old age, they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.” I am convinced that God wants us to be “faithing” in every season of life. Our faith is never static. Our understanding of God, ourselves, and our world is constantly being impacted, de-formed, re-formed, and transformed. This is rarely comfortable, but I want to see my life, my work, my relationships, my witness preparing me well not only for the here-and-now, but with eternity in mind. I invite you to join me.

***Ministry Highlights***

We concluded our two-year commitment to provide food assistance to our neighbors through the Rosemead Churches Food Distribution Initiative. From a phone call from the City of Rosemead to me in late April 2020, God has led and guided us to love and serve our neighbors through seventeen drive-throughs. We received our first federal grant (July 2021) to underwrite some of our expenses. The City extended it for a second year (ending this June). We were able to receive reimbursements averaging 30% of our distribution costs from that grant. I am grateful for the members’ generosity to designate \$25,000 from our 2019 General Fund surplus to cover much of remaining costs. Overall, we served almost 5500 households during this time, many whose income levels fall in extremely low/very low categories. We also provided for many seniors in our community. I am grateful for the amazing turnout of volunteers from our sister churches and local service clubs, our Girl Scout (Jenny Leung adult leader) and Boy Scout (Ted Sakamoto Scoutmaster) troops to partner with us. Special thanks to Calvin Yoshitake (who anchored our traffic team), Allen Leung (who drove the rental truck to pick up the food items), Lester Cheng, Kathy Hubbard, and Kalia Young (who supported me with the logistics operations).



Assembling food box in Play Court



Boy Scouts with finished boxes in Chapel



Welcome to EBCLA



Amazing group of volunteers



Intake process



Kelly Tom traffic team



Distribution stations



Pastor Ryan loading food box

## Family Ministry Quarterly Congregational Report

April - June 2022

Prepared by Pastor Shirley Lew

**Personal Reflections:** The last 3 months seemed to have gone by so fast! The last week of April, I took a personal retreat in Malibu, with Alan and Gem Fadling, who have spoken about the unhurried life. This retreat gave me an opportunity to slow down, rest and listen. At the end of May, Virgil and I took a vacation to Central Europe, visiting Budapest, Vienna,



Prague, Oberammergau, and Munich.

The highlight of the trip was to see the Passion Play in the town of Oberammergau, Germany. It was on our bucket list and the timing was right because this play is performed only every 10 years. Another highlight was an opportunity to visit with one of the

International Missionaries,

Pieter and Nora Kalkman in Prague, and an Evergreen member living in Germany, Winnie Wang. It was great seeing and visiting with them. As wonderful the trip was, I came back with COVID.

### **Ministry Highlights:**

**Children's Ministry:** April 3 was the first Sunday for CW to meet on campus. We are no longer having CW via Zoom. The kids prepped for Easter service presentation. We had about 40 children participate in the service and in the Easter Celebration/Egg Hunt. Elza and I prepared for VBS, which is scheduled for 4 Sundays—July 10, 17, 24, and the Finale on July 31 at Church in the Park.

**Women's Ministry:** Women's Ministry hosted a Gathering/Lunch Break on May 11 after service. No Gatherings were held in April because of the Easter activities. They will take a break over the Summer and return in September.

**CBS (Caregiver Support Group):** Under the leadership of Judy Hao and Sandra Jung, this group continues to meet once a month. Sandra Jung has decided to step down from co-

facilitating the group. Wendy Lew Toda was invited to fill the co-facilitating role with Judy Hao and she has graciously accepted. She is a welcomed addition to the group.

## QUARTERLY REPORT | Ryan Granucci

Personal Reflections | Saki and I are settling in well to our new home with Haku. It's been a huge joy for us to have Haku and see him grow up so fast.

## YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Youth Group | Spring we went through our series on a general overview of the life of Jesus. Spring brings a shift in youth group attendance as usually students begin to hunker down in their extracurriculars and studies. We hosted two events in the spring a bowling night and a rock climbing trip (Hapik). We hosted our End of the Year Party with our student leadership team leading games and our graduating seniors sharing their experience and wisdom with the youth.

Graduations! | This year we have a large graduating class of 7!



From Left to Right: Emilio Teran, Alex Eng, Robinson Lee, Brenton Dunn, Lauren Taylor, Jessa Yau, and Leilani Wetterau

## THE OPEN DOOR |

The Open Door went on our overnight camping trip in Carpinteria. We had 10 sleep overnight and 2 drive up to spend the day with us. We enjoyed fellowship time together of a short hike, cooking meals, and chatting around the campfire. For the month of June we hosted our yearly Pride Pool Party!

## FILLING IN FOR PASTOR JASON |

I was excited to be able to create the general outline for the Freedom series alongside of Pastor Jason and Pastor January. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to preach in the month of June.

# EBCLA

## Worship Arts Tech Ministry



Spring 2022 has truly been a lovely season for our Worship Arts/Tech Ministry. That is...post Easter frenzy. :) With our Lenten EP, *Tremors*, Motif:Sketchbook (Iss. 1), and our Easter service in the can, it has been very fulfilling and even restful (relatively speaking) to have focused solely on providing a rich Sunday worshipping experience for our Evergreen family. Pastor Jason and I met extensively before we finally “released” him on his sabbatical to plan and design for the three months that he would be gone. I am glad to say the our past two sermon series: “Sowing the Seeds of Love” and “Freedom” have been some of my favorite Sundays at Evergreen. Not only were we able to focus on creation care as an enactment of God’s love and Sabbath as an act of liberation, but we were able to bring some very special guests onto our platform.



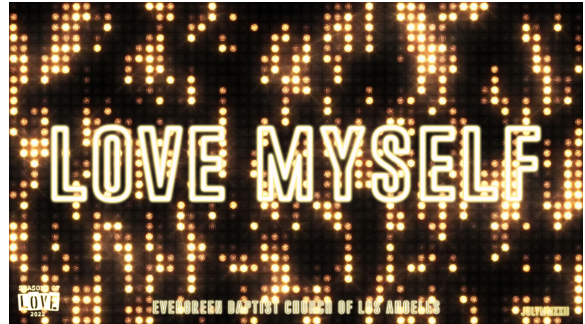
Our Evergreen Family Guest Panel: Mide Kolawole, Toby & Monica Chi & Blake Thomsen



Our own Dr. Jessica ChenFang

Our June sermon series, “Freedom,” in particular, feels very sweet. We were able to celebrate our LGBTQIA+ siblings through a special TOD member led service. Additionally, we were able to host a conversation with guest scholars, Dr. Tamisha Tyler and Dr. Joyce Del Rosario in regards to Juneteenth and the layered issue of Black and AAPI solidarity. If you haven’t had the chance to catch this conversation, I strongly encourage you to do so through our YouTube page!

**Currently**, we are in a new sermon series, “**Love Myself.**” This month, we are focusing on what it means to fully receive and embrace ourselves as objects of God’s love. I am excited to see all the ways that God will bring healing and wholeness into our identities.



## Looking Forward...

The Worship Arts Ministry is slowly gearing up for our second Motif: Sketchbook issue! We are currently recruiting creatives for what promises to be another rich collection of story telling, poetry, visual art, spirit-filled devotionals, etc. I am excited to see in what ways our magazine initiative will continue to evolve and involve the artisan souls inside and outside of our community. Additionally, I have a few ideas for the next EPs that we will be releasing. More on that soon! On that note...



### MIDE KOLAWOLE...

our very popular worship leader is officially on board as a ministry staff member. Please welcome our newly minted *Worship Arts Coordinator*! Mide’s presence and incredible gifts have already served our Evergreen body in amazing ways, and I am confident that God will be ushering in even more greatness this upcoming season. Welcome to the madness—I mean **family**, Mide!

And last but not least,

## on Pastor January’s radar...

As many of you may already know, I was recently able to officially COMMENCE at Fuller Seminary. It was a joy to be able to celebrate in person with some of my



closest friends and to completely the sometimes insane journey we've been on together. With the closure of my official time at Fuller as a *Chapel Worship Assistant*, I have some spare and sacred bandwidth that I am carefully considering and holding close to me. I sense a wave of newness about to breakthrough into my life, and I am excited to see how God continues to usher me into different

environments and people

groups that propel me into more expansive and deeper spaces of the Kingdom. I invite you all to join me as I discern what the Spirit is leading me towards next. Please, dear Lord, may it be FUN!

Additionally, please do continue to pray for my overall wellness, and a healthy rhythm of work and play. I appreciate and love you, my Evergreen family!