



**The El Estero Echoes**  
**El Estero Presbyterian Church**  
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Pastor Ted Esaki

**July** Vol. 2022. Issue 7

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



**I Love To Tell The Story**

For our Wednesday and Thursday Bible Studies, I have been encouraging our classes to write out their testimony. I Peter 3:15 tells us to "*always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have in Christ.*"

On Sunday, June 17, 2022 we were pleased to welcome two new members into the El Estero Church family. I hope you find their testimonies to be an encouragement and blessings. Meet our New Members.

**Testimony of Jane Hoshiwara**

Some of you know that El Estero was the church that I grew up back in the 1950s and 60s. In fact, Lynn Gunter and I are the exact same age (yes, we have the same birthdate) and we went through the Monterey public schools and EE Sunday School together. Dave retired last summer and we decided to leave the San Jose area and live closer to Monterey. It looks like our Marina home will be ready sometime around July.

Back in the 50s and 60s, much of our life centered around this church. The church was bustling back in those days. We went to Sunday School, attended worship service and had youth group on Sunday evenings. We had wonderful Sunday School teachers like Giichi Kageyama, Yae Kuwatani and Mickey Ichiuji and Mr. Louie Manaka was our youth group leader. Among our group of Japanese American friends, we were either Buddhist or Christian, meaning you either went to the Buddhist church or El Estero, the Christian church.

When I went away to college, though, I never thought about where I would attend church. Sundays were for studying and relaxing, not for church. At UCLA there was a person named Wayne Ogimachi, who knocked on my dormitory door and said he was inviting all the people with Japanese surnames

to a campus Bible Study. One evening I went out of curiosity and I remember that everyone had brown covered Bibles, not the black covered ones with red pages like the ones I had always known. Of course, I took other books to college, but I did not take a Bible...so I went to Bible Study with NO Bible! All the students there were studying the Bible so earnestly. They quoted Scripture, they prayed out loud and sang choruses with a guitar. It was "church" like I had never seen before. Even though there was a warm atmosphere, I felt intimidated that they all knew so much about the Bible and it seemed almost foreign to me. I didn't go back very often because I felt out of place.

Meanwhile, my younger brother, Ted, was at Fresno State. I remember him telling my Mom that he had accepted Christ and had become a Christian. I thought that was weird. We had always gone to El Estero, so we were of course, already Christian! Long story short is that I had watched Ted's relationship with his first wife, Cheryl. They were committed Christians. They were like those people in the Bible Study at UCLA! They knew their Bible. They talked openly about the Lord. They prayed out loud. When Cheryl was suddenly killed in the car accident, it was an unbelievable time. All the family had just been in town a few days earlier for Ted and Cheryl's wedding! When we first heard about Cheryl's automobile crash, my Mom and oldest brother Ken, drove out to Fresno along with Cheryl's parents. They updated us by landline telephone to tell us that Cheryl was finally freed from the wreckage of the semi truck by the "jaws of life" equipment. Then they called again to tell us that her ambulance was in a second crash on the way to the trauma center. Then finally, we heard that Cheryl passed away with severe brain trauma as well as internal injuries. We had just celebrated their wedding and just two weeks later, we were having her memorial service at the same church in Salinas!

When I first saw Ted after Cheryl's death, he looked physically ill. He was vomiting and my Mom and I wondered how he could even attend Cheryl's memorial service. But the Lord was with him in a powerful way on the day of her service. At the end of the eulogy, Ted gave an invitation for people to accept Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives. He said that he was not sad or worried. He said that he knew exactly where Cheryl was - She was safe in Heaven with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! He said that if anyone wanted that assurance of where they would go after they died, they should accept Christ into their hearts. And so I did, on that day, August 27, 1978, invite Jesus into my heart - for the very first time. Others made that commitment too.

As they say, 'the rest is history'. I found a church, I attended Bible Study. I was disciplined by Emi Iwanaga, who later became a missionary and a Pastor's wife. I was introduced to Bible Study Fellowship which is an international Bible Study. I went through the Navigators topical memory verse system. And, I met my husband Dave who is a very steadfast Christian. He faithfully, everyday (365 days a year), wakes up before the sun rises to have his quiet time with the Lord. I thought that might change with retirement, but no, he still wakes up around 4:00 in the morning to do his reading and journaling. The only difference is now he comes back to bed and wakes up at a more normal hour! We have tried to make **Proverbs 3:5-6**, the focal point of our marriage and family. In every important decision or commitment we make we like to be sure that we have honored this verse: ***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.***

I think back and don't know how I ever managed to live life without Christ being at the center. In leaving San Jose, we said goodbye to a small group Bible Study that has met for over 30 years. I can't stress enough, that you can't know Christ if you don't know His Word. Going through the motions of "serving" in the church, can never replace developing a personal relationship with Christ through the reading and studying of His Word.

## Testimony Of Dave Hoshiwara

I am very fortunate to have grown up in a Christian family. My parents were very strong believers. I may not have always appreciated their faith growing up, but in retrospect, I am very thankful. I knew at an early age that I wanted to go to heaven and not to hell, so I can say that I made an initial decision to believe in Jesus, early in life, although my understanding was very shallow. My parent were conservative in our early years. They were committed Plymouth Brethren church goers, and some of the stereotypic right-winged rules were part of my and my sibling's lives. No dancing, no drinking, no reading the newspaper comics before church, etc.

Our family moved around a lot due to my father's work and after finishing 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we moved from New York City to Phoenix, Arizona and our lives changed significantly. My father became less conservative and many of the strict rules were loosened, although we continued to attend church and my mother stayed very steadfast.

It was during college that I had to make a decision whether I was going to make Jesus Lord in my life or follow another path. After all these years, I know without a doubt that the Lord was watching over my life. There is a verse in *Jeremiah 29:11* that states – *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* I can clearly see as I look back on my life how God has a plan for each of us. In college I got involved with Intersarsity Christian Fellowship and although I didn't complete a degree there, I spent four years and then moved to Berkeley, California to room with a friend from high school.

I believe this where my faith grew as I had no family around and my decisions were my own. I joined a small church and became involved in fellowship and could clearly see how God worked in my life.

Fast forward several years. I finished college and moved to San Jose to go to grad school. I decided to attend SCVJCC (Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church) and that is where the Lord had me meet my life partner in Jane. I recall the first time I saw Jane, she was giving a plug for the Missions Committee and I knew she was someone I wanted to meet. The rest is history and together we have seen how the Lord continued to have a plan for our lives together. A verse that has been part of our lives is *Proverbs 3:5,6* – *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path.* This verse continues to be so true in our lives to this day.

We went to China and adopted our daughter, Karissa, another experience where we saw God working in our lives.

We were privileged to be part of a small group Bible study where we shared the leadership and pretty much had the same group for over 25 years.

God worked in my career and opened doors and created opportunities that I should never have had and allowed me to retire recently. He always miraculously provided for our housing needs and even now to this point of moving here to the Monterey Peninsula. We feel like God answered prayers and opened doors for our current situation.

Submission to Jesus and His calling to us is so important, and something that I continually battle. I pray that I will be useful and add to the fellowship at EE. I know it's about what Jesus wants, and not what I want..

I'll close with a saying from the missionary, Jim Elliot, that Ted used as an example on a Thursday night Bible study and it is something I try to live by – "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot

## *Welcome New Members to El Estero Church*

Our new church members are Dave and Jane Hoshiwara. They are moving from San Jose to the Monterey Peninsula. Dave has been our piano player for worship services and Jane has been volunteering and hosting fellowship events. Both Dave and Jane participate in our Bible Studies. We are looking forward to getting to know them better over many years to come as they serve the Lord at El Estero.



Pastor Ted, Jane and Dave Hoshiwara

Dr. Patrick Zukeran  
was our guest speaker  
on Sunday, June 26, 2022.



Dr. Pat Zukeran and Pastor Ted



Ian and Randy Rogers led worship songs.



## Guest Speaker for Worship Service \* July 24, 2022

On Sunday, July 24, we will have Mark Hall as our guest speaker for worship service. Mark and Brenda Hall and their family have worked in ministry in Guadalajara, Mexico and Guatemala. Their ministry works to build faith communities among the young people. Currently they have young tech professionals from India living in Guadalajara and joining their church. We are looking forward to hearing about Mark and Brenda's work, as our church supports them with our Outreach Mission Giving. If you would like to give a "goodwill offering" to the Halls, you may write a check to Mark Hall, Missions Door. Thank you for welcoming the Halls.



## Joys and Concerns

Please continue to pray for



Anne Bevier, Bill Bevier, Don and Dori Chin, Pastor Ted and Sherry Esaki, Cary Gota, Rick Hattori, Nancy Hollingsworth, Wendy Ichiuji, Adele and Marian Kageyama, Mike Kelly, Kiku Kuwatani, Hiro Manaka, Helen Nakano, Bob McIntyre, Joan Ouye, Lyle and Meja Quock, Robert Suzuki, Jean Tanaka, Tomi Tanaka, Magdalena Thomas, Rev. Sam Tonomura, Nami Uyeda, Hedy Yamamoto, Setsuko Yamanishi, Pat and Shirley Wong, George Wooding.

Prayers for our church family, for members who are ill, those away from their loved ones, and those who are concerned for family and friends.

Prayers for the citizens of our world that we may defeat this Coronavirus.

Prayers for our medical professionals, first responders, emergency workers, caregivers, grocery clerks., teachers

Prayers for those who have been laid off or are without income.

Prayers for our research and medical scientists as they work for vaccines and a cure for COVID19.

Prayers for our world leaders as they deal with the complex issues facing their nations and our world community.

Prayers for the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Prayers for our state and local leaders as they work to keep our communities safe.

Prayers for social justice, racial equality, and peace.

While we have worship services on ZOOM, please let Pastor Ted know via email or a phone call if you have any prayer requests.

## **COME AND JOIN A BIBLE STUDY**

*Magnify \* Maturity \* Membership \* Ministry \* Mission*

Please join us.



Let's learn together.

### **Sunday Morning Adult Study**

**Daily Devotional:** Everyday Pastor Ted writes a Daily Devotional that you can receive online through our church webpage: [elesteropc.org](http://elesteropc.org) and click on This Week

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Every Wednesday morning, 10:30 – 11:45 am, online through ZOOM.

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. Please watch for Pastor Ted's invitation to join each Wednesday's Bible Study on ZOOM. If you would like to join a ZOOM online Bible study, please contact Pastor Ted for more information.

**Thursday Evening Q&A:** Every Thursday evening, 7:00 pm, Pastor Ted will host a session of questions and answers about Christianity and the Bible. You may submit your questions to Pastor Ted via email and he will respond to your thoughts on Thursday evening. All are welcome to join the group for discussion and in depth learning. Please contact or email Pastor Ted if you are interested and your questions.

**Friday Evening Prayer and Fellowship Meeting:** Every Friday evening, 7:00 pm, Pastor Ted will host a prayer meeting. All are welcome to join the prayer session for fellowship, joys and concerns, personal prayer and prayers for those on the weekly Prayer Fuel. This is a ZOOM meeting. Please email Pastor Ted for the ZOOM invitation.

[pted.eepc@gmail.com](mailto:pted.eepc@gmail.com)

# Happy Father's Day



**A beautiful day for a Father' Day lunch at church.**

Thank you to Jane, Helen, and Richard for a great celebration for our fathers.



## **The OFFERING BOX**



As we have reopened our church, we have a couple of procedures that are different from before. You may have noticed that the ushers are not passing our offering plates during worship service. Instead we have an **OFFERING BOX** on a small table behind the pews next to the center aisle. Thank you for continuing to support our church with your tithes and offerings. Your offering helps to run the church, pay the bills, and to provide support for our church community and activities.

We are very blessed to have a generous and loving church family. **THANK YOU !**



## HIKING FELLOWSHIP

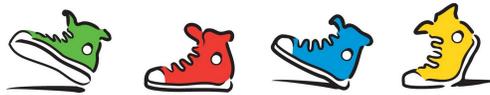
Hello Fellow Hikers,

We will meet next Saturday, July 23rd at the Crossroads Shopping Center across from CVS at 9:30 a.m. We will carpool to the Bay School for an approximately 2 mile walk. This can be an out and back or a loop. If you remember, there is one slightly steep slippery section on the loop. After the walk we will return to the Crossroad for Coffee and pastry, my treat.

Please RSVP so that we won't leave without you.

God Bless,  
Ted

See you all for an invigorating morning walk



## Open ART Studio

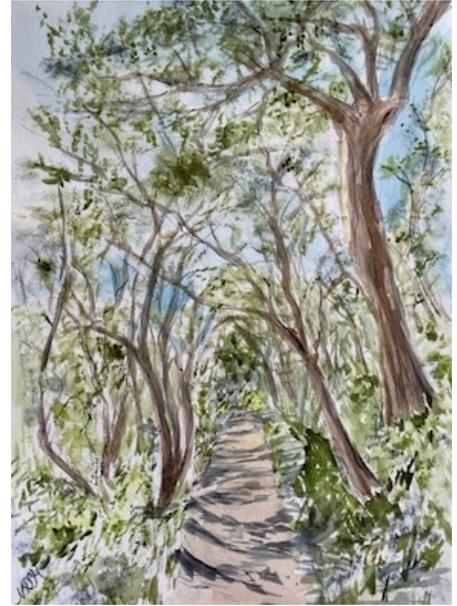
Join us for art classes led by Bob McIntyre. We meet on Saturdays at 10:00 am on ZOOM. Our class is sponsored by the El Estero Church. Everyone is welcome to sit in and listen or join in with sketching and painting. Please let Bob or Lynn know if you would like a ZOOM invitation.

Boatworks Monterey.  
Mark





Full Moon Over The Bay.  
Nancy



Sunny Path With Swaying Oaks. Nanc

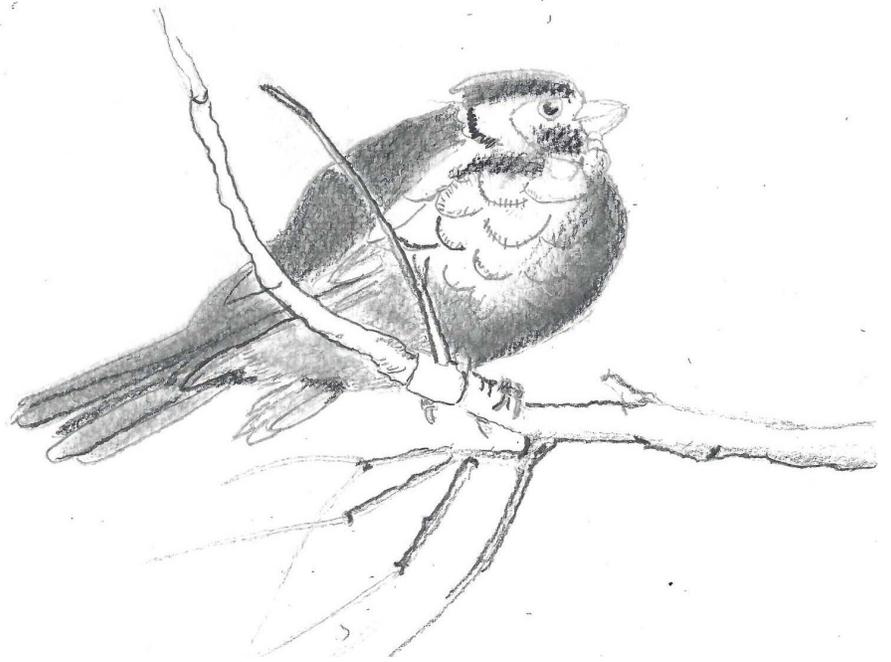


Lighthouse Preliminary and Final Painting. Mike



Seascape. Lynn

Bird On A Branch.  
Mike



Land Sea Lesson.  
Mike

Cornwall's Kyrane Cove. Suzette





Night Studies.  
Lynn





Hood River. KC



Where's My Glasses? Suzette

Cornish Cow. KC





Paintings by Michelle



Jukka.  
Suzette

## AUGUST 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship Service in church and on ZOOM starts at 10:30 am. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Finance Mtg	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:00 pm Deacons' Mtg.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
<b>7</b> 10:30 am Worship Service  Guest Speaker: Pastor Mark Hollingsworth  Communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
<b>14</b> 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Session/Deacons Meeting on ZOOM	<b>19</b> Echoes Articles Due	<b>20</b> 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
<b>21</b> 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Spiritual Growth Mtg.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:30 am Worship Service  Guest Speaker: Troy Gardner, Samaritan's Purse	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			



El Estero Church's ZOOM worship service on Sundays, 10:30 am,  
 please contact Pastor Ted Esaki and watch for his email invitation. To access the "Sermon Outline" and the "Worship  
 Bulletin" for Sunday's worship service, go to our website [elesteropc.org](http://elesteropc.org) and click on Messages.

To join our Wednesday morning Bible Study 10:30 am on ZOOM, please contact Pastor Ted and watch for his email  
 invitation.

To join our Thursday evening Q & A session 7:00 – 8:00 pm on ZOOM, please contact Pastor Ted and watch for his  
 email invitation.

To join our Friday evening Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm on ZOOM, please contact Pastor Ted and watch for his email  
 invitation.

To join our Open Art Studio on Saturday, 10:00 am on ZOOM, please contact Bob McIntyre and watch for Lynn's email  
 invitation.

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*But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,  
always being prepared to make a defense to anyone  
who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;  
yet do it with gentleness and respect,*

*1 Peter 3:15*

