



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

**February** Vol. 2022. Issue 2

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



**WHAT THE WINTER OLYMPICS TEACH US ABOUT  
THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

The Beijing Winter Olympics are about to conclude and soon the iconic torch will be extinguished for four years until the 2026 games in Italy. The past 16 days have seen amazing courage, soaring victories, missed opportunities, and inspiring acts of nobility. In a way, that could be a metaphor for the Christian life. If you had the opportunity to watch the Olympic games, maybe you can see how they can provide a way for us to become better Christians.

The first thing that we can learn is that you can't do it alone. Proverbs 27:17 says, "*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*" One of the things that I heard over and over again were the Olympians giving thanks to family, friends, coaches, and fellow competitors for helping them become the athletes they are.

All of these athletes had coaches to train them, teammates to encourage them, and families to support them throughout their journey. Regardless of the sport, nearly all of them declare they could never have gotten this far on their own. The same rules apply to Christians. We need each other for leadership, fellowship, and inspiration. We can only do so much alone, but together, we have the ability to become so much more! The acronym TEAM stands for **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore! Or as Steve Kerr of the Golden State Warriors might say, there is "Strength In Numbers."

A second lesson we can learn is that failure is inevitable. Proverbs 24:16 says, "*For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of calamity.*" If the Olympics teach us anything, it's that even the best athletes don't always win. Two time Gold Medalist Mikaela Shiffrin didn't have the Olympics she had hoped after falling and "failing" to win a medal in one of her specialty events.

Shawn White who previously won three gold medals “failed” to win a medal. It teaches us that no matter how good you are, nobody wins every time. It’s a hard lesson many Christians still struggle to accept. The truth is that we all fall and “fail” as Christians. Romans 3:23 says, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* There is going to come a day when you fail as a Christian. When that day comes, what’s important is that we accept our mistakes and learn from it. True Olympic winners remember their faults and use them to get better. As Christians we should learn to do likewise.

For Christians, every day is our Olympic event. Just as the “world” has been watching the Winter Games. The world is watching how we live. I have said it often, non-Christians don’t read the bible but they do read us. If Christianity is to have any credibility to them, it will be determined by how we live.

We may never see an Olympic podium, but by seeking to live for Jesus, the world will see His victory in our lives.

In Christ,

Pastor Ted



### **Joys and Concerns**

Please continue to pray for



Anne Bevier, Bill Bevier, Don and Dori Chin, Pastor Ted and Sherry Esaki, Cary Gota,  
Wendy Ichijji, 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.  
the Wong family with the passing of May.

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 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 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.



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Please join our Thursday evening Bible Study on February 24, 7:00 pm on ZOOM to hear Danny Yamashiro, a clergyman from Hawaii. He is a motivational speaker with an inspired testimony of his life threatening fall 400 feet off of the Pali ridge in Honolulu. Danny Yamashiro spoke at El Estero Church several years ago. It will be good to hear him again. If you can join us, please let Pastor Ted know so that you can receive the ZOOM invitation.



## Coach Ken's Corner

Welcome to 2022. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. As we start a new year, it looks as though we are bringing COVID with us. It has not left us yet! With Covid still lurking out there, please remember to mask up; avoid large crowds; keep washing your hands; and they say vaccinations has proven to be helpful in fighting the virus. Good health will also help fight the virus. Daily exercise should be part of everyone's routine. A good morning stretch, a brisk walk, some light lifting, getting your heart rate elevated, a deep breathing routine will help to keep you healthy. If anyone would like help in developing a personal fitness routine, please let me know, I'd be glad to help you. Start the year off by developing good healthy habits.

Make 2022 a great year! Coach Ken





## ART and HIKING FELLOWSHIP

Our ART and Hiking Fellowship will meet on February 26, 2022, 9:30 am at the Palo Corona Regional Park, formerly Rancho Canada. It will be a 2 mile walk. Bring a “brown bag” picnic lunch and we will enjoy a picnic fellowship at the parking area picnic tables.

See you all for an invigorating morning walk and a picnic.



HAPPY 99<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TOMI !!!



A birthday toast and a song .... “Ain’t She Sweet?” ... and a bento lunch.







HAPPY 99<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TOMI !



As time with our church activities has been suspended, let us know how you have been staying busy.

# Open ART Studio

Join us for an art class led by Bob McIntyre. We meet on Saturdays at 10:00 am on ZOOM. Our class is sponsored by the El Estero Church.



Sundance. KC



Rooster and Poppies. Tim



Overpass.





Sunrise Seascape. Taye



Hummingbird. Nancy



Get Well Flowers. Nancy



Eastern Blue Bird. Mike





Lost Edge #1. Lynn



Lost Edge #2. Lynn



Hard Edge. Lynn



Flowers in Blue Vase. Rose



Still Life Study. Mar





PG Beach House.  
Mark



Sunflowers.  
Mark



Old Farm Truck. Mar





Still Life. Lynn



Warm Colors Study. Tim



Softening Edges #1. Rose



Softening Edges #2. Rose



Kalaupapa. Taye





Stone Fruit. Nancy



Del Monte Beach Walk. Nancy



Hot Tea. Linda



Apples. KC



Lemons. KC

Rialto Fish Market,  
Venice.  
Mar







Kelp Forest. Mark



Robin Waiting for Spring. Tim



Lemons and Blue Vase. Rose



Cold Winter Day. Rose

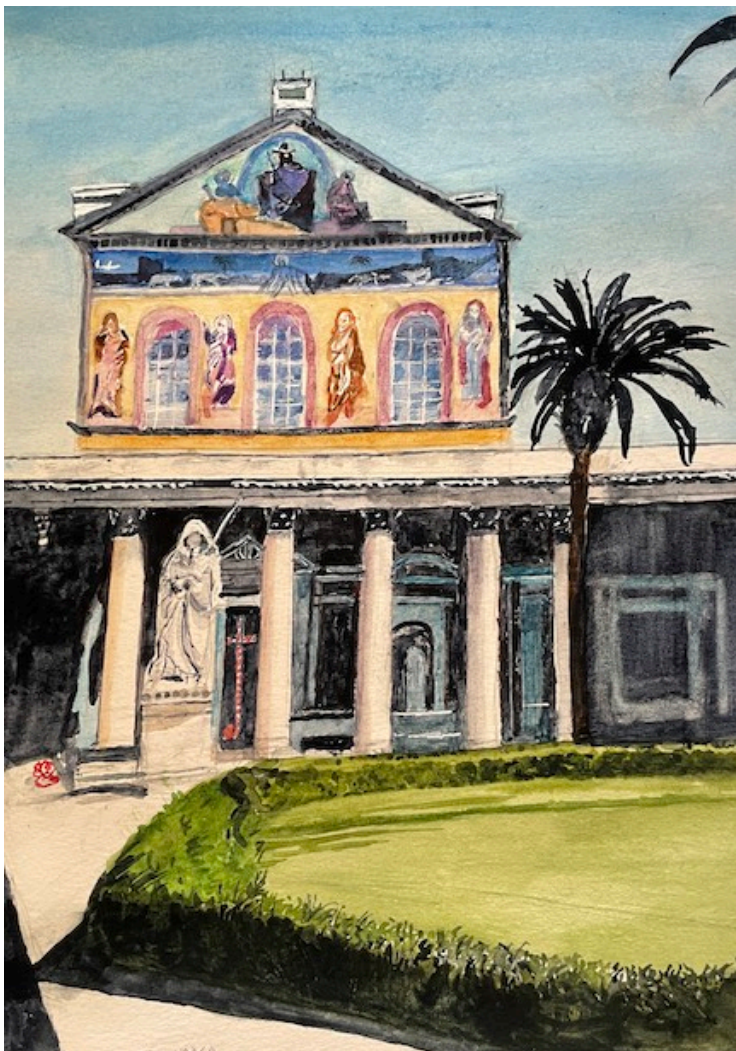




Cardinal. KC



Dog Sketches. Mili



Lunar New Year Cookies. Ellie

Spanish Cathedral.  
Tomi



## March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship Service on ZOOM starts at 10:30 am. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.						
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Bible Study on ZOOM	<b>3</b> 1:00 pm Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 pm Q & A on Christianity and the Bible on ZOOM	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Mtg on ZOOM	<b>5</b> 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
<b>6 LENT</b> 10:30 am Worship Service on ZOOM Communion	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Bible Study on ZOOM	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Q & A on Christianity and the Bible on ZOOM	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Mtg on ZOOM	<b>12</b> 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
<b>13 LENT</b> 10:30 am Worship Service on ZOOM Session Mtg.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:30 am Bible Study on ZOOM	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Q & A on Christianity and the Bible on ZOOM	<b>18</b> Echoes Articles Due 7:00 pm Prayer Mtg on ZOOM	<b>19</b> 10:00 am ART on ZOOM
<b>20 LENT</b> 10:30 am Worship Service on ZOOM	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:30 am Bible Study on ZOOM 7:00 pm Spiritual Growth Mtg.	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Q & A on Christianity and the Bible on ZOOM	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Mtg on ZOOM	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Art and Hiking Fellowship
<b>27 LENT</b> 10:30 am Worship Service on ZOOM	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:30 am Bible Study on ZOOM	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm Q & A on Christianity and the Bible on ZOOM		



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

## **El Estero Presbyterian Church**

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*Greater love has no one than this,  
that someone lay down his life for his friends.  
John 15 : 13*