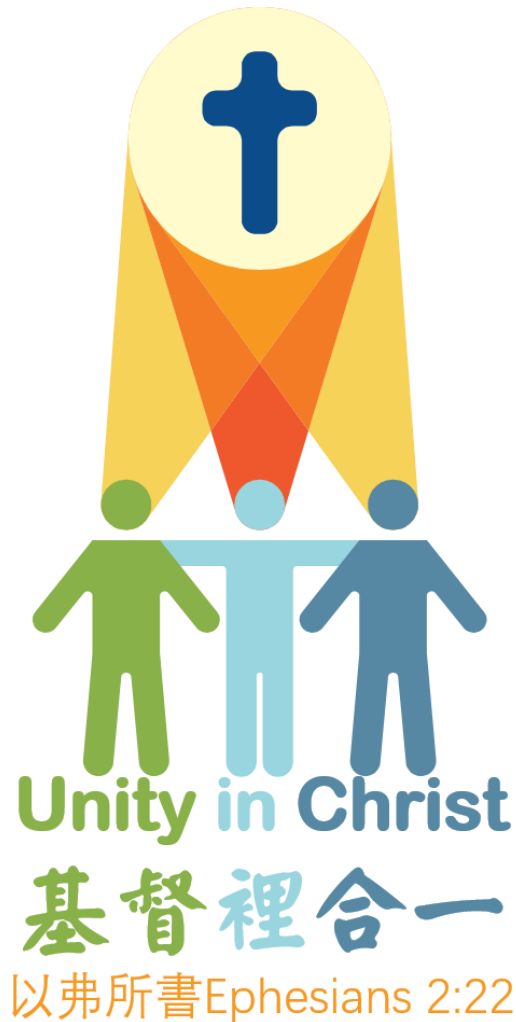


FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH  
Annual Report 2020



*And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God  
lives by his Spirit. -Ephesians 2:22*

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# UNITY IN CHRIST — 2020

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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## FIRST CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

## ANNUAL REPORTS

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## Senior Pastor

Rev. Sebastian Ong

*Whatever your hand finds to do, do with your might; for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.* Ecclesiastes 9:10

The verse above is the conclusion of a paragraph (Ecclesiastes 9:7-10) in which the author of Ecclesiastes propounds that the only appropriate response to the certainty of death is to enjoy life while one is able to do so. Specifically, the call to do so encompasses feasting (verse 7), wearing of fresh clothes (verse 8a), putting oil upon one's head (verse 8b), loving one's family (verse 9) and, as the verse 10 above makes clear, wholeheartedly doing whatever one is able to do. Be it our work, reflection upon life, or the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, we engage in them *in the moment* because no one knows when our Maker will come calling!

As I reflected upon the year 2020, what stands out the most is how we all at FCBC “do with our might what our hands find to do.” Our seamless transition from in-person to the online platform in almost all aspects of our ministries since the middle of March last year is due to the ingenuity and total dedication to our task at hand by the entire church body—staff, members and friends. Our attitude in the face of having to make the necessary adaptations is spot-on and our response immediate—exactly what the author of Ecclesiastes would have been proud of.

As a result, not only are we not much negatively impacted; we actually thrived in adversity. Our virtual worship has been vibrant and inspiring. Spurred on by our worshippers' desire to make obeisance to the Lord, the staff and lay leaders wholeheartedly do whatever they are able to: evaluate honestly, learn incessantly and improve continuously. What warms my heart is how many of our elderly members have taken upon themselves to learn the required technology so that they would be able to join worship. Actually, one of the boons of us going online is many seniors who previously could not physically make it to church are now able to worship with us again! Attendances at our regular and special services, such as Good Friday, Pledge Sunday, Anniversary and Christmas Eve have not gone down, they have gone up.

Our care for one another is so genuinely deep, the enforced Shelter-in-place does not conceal it, it exposes it. Brothers and sisters take it upon themselves to keep in touch with one another through cards, emailing, phone-calls, visitation (even if only staying outside the door) and drive-bys. When reports of well-being are made at gatherings, joy and relief are palpable (even on zoom!); when news of beloved friends is less encouraging, vows to pray, express love and support are renewed. As believers, we know death does not have the final word—our more than usual number of brothers and sisters who passed in the pandemic year are now with the Lord. Nonetheless, our hurt is profound; we have fellowshiped with one another in Christ for so many decades!

That our thirst for spiritual food is real is reflected in the number of zoom bible study groups that have sprung up since the lockdown. The ones that are already existing have also seen more participation. As reports by others reveal, our various Sunday school classes have also been going on using technology. By and large, our fellowship groups are still active. Our outreach ministries—Day camp, youth camp and Friday Night School—are adjusting well. In a time when many are prone to hold back, we continue to give in order to spread the good news in word and deed. Our gifts to members of our community in the form of food, presents and personal visits are testament to that!

Although their labor of love did not come to fruition, the members of the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee (Wendy Quan, Carolyn Hee, Becky Chen & Joseph Lee, Warren Tai Rodney Tom, and pastor

Sebastian) thoroughly enjoyed the time of exercising resourcefulness and getting to know one another at their meetings. It just goes to show the potential of our church when our diverse spiritual backgrounds and cultures complement one another.

Despite not knowing when that will be, we have been diligently laying the groundwork for preparing the church to reopen. Thanks to the staff, deacons, trustees and Jonathan Ng, we have been keeping abreast and making sure that all the official guidelines are adhered to as and when in-person gathering is permitted.

The church leadership has also been working on reconnecting with our region Growing Healthy Churches in an attempt to find out how the region has changed since the coming on board of the current Executive Minister, Rev. Dr. Tim Brown. To that end, we have met with a board member and Tim, and we aim to bring closure to the issue of our regional affiliation in the coming year.

I must also take this opportunity to thank the church staff for the work they carry out: Wendi Lin as our church administrator who conscientiously make sure things get done on time; Marian Hom, our Bookkeeper who is never late on paying an invoice, and all our pastors, Peter, Chris Otani and Lydia for going beyond the call of duty in serving as the hands and feet of Christ at FCBC in the year of the pandemic.

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## **Chinese-Speaking Ministries**

Rev. Dr. Peter Lee

2020 FCBC Church Theme Unity in Christ – Purity in Faith

We focused on the theme “Unity in Christ” in 2020. It helped us to be united in Christ, kept the one faith, no other faith, nor interfaith. We are one and united in Christ, not related to any other “gods”. We don’t have any relationship with other religions and heresies as they are false and leading people away from our Lord that described clearly in the Bible. More seriously, the behavior related is not pleasing God.

Workshops in both congregations - a baby step to Church Unity

We were blessed that we have kept unity in Christ to run ministries together. There were workshops for different language groups with same topic “Caring emotional health with love”. They were led by experienced clinical social worker, Meggy Lau on Feb 2nd. People used their preferred languages to communicate with the guest speaker and participants during Q&A. There was also fellowship luncheon for participants and guest speaker to communicate. We all learnt on the same topic and shared how to take action caring those around us. It was a good practice to keep us unity in Christ to learn the same topic in different languages.

Community Outreach Policy - to make disciples

To keep the unity serving in the community, we worked with the Christian Education Board to initiate and develop programs for new immigrant outreach ministries as required in the job descriptions of Pastor in Chinese Speaking Ministries. The Outreach Minister fostered and implemented the ministries with great achievement while we got the support from church leaders of the congregations. It was very important as we didn’t run social welfare events, we would like to make disciples in the ministries. Some people didn’t notice the church policy of new immigrant ministries practiced for decades. There might be different thoughts and we explained to people patiently. We worked with Deacons and they sent letters to related groups letting them understand the principle of discipleship and follow the policies in our church. We thank God and have confidence to keep the legacy of discipleship to serve our Lord in unity.

## Leaders Look Ahead

While Covid-19 surges, night school core-group leaders decided to shut down all classes. When some people were still eager to keep events on, we started to stream Service in order to keep people safe and stay at home. It proved that we made wise decision to protect the community at the right time. It helped to keep Chinatown safe, less confirmed cases compared to many other neighborhoods.

## Ministry Setbacks

Apart from pandemic, we suffered from painful miscommunications to the ministries. We all felt very sad and hurt. However, we followed Jesus' teaching to forgive and pray that it will not happen again. Though it was one of the most difficult time in our life, we took all our efforts to keep unity in Christ.

## Virtual Worship and Sunday School – a continuing challenge

With the help of committed leaders, we kept most of our ministries online during the pandemic. Though there were great challenges of technical issues and people were not familiar with virtual meetings, we met to worship our Lord every Sunday. We were blessed to have gifted leaders in music, streaming and technical support that helped us with fruitful worship experience. We provide various channels for people joining Services. Even few people needed to call in to "listen" the Service, we appreciated their loyalty to join us on time every Sunday.

We kept adult Sunday School on for the whole year. We also got many committed teachers in the ministry. Sunday School Committee coordinated all classes and they also assigned tutorial groups for discussion. It helped people to apply what they learnt in daily life. Leaders worked very hard and concerned the needs of different learning levels. They made a good decision to resume basic truth class as well as women & brother Bible Study group that helped more people to join Sunday School.

## Summer Retreat – Spiritual Renewal

Summer retreat was held online on November 1st. We invited Rev. Dr. Johann Lai as our guest speaker. He led two sessions about how to apply the truth of wisdom in our life. The retreat committee coordinated musical support, program planning and logistics. People committed to renew their life through worship and sermons. We also opened the church door on November 7th to greet those joined the retreat day and they got souvenir and 2021 church calendars. We took the chance to chat with each other as it was the first time we met in-person together in the pandemic.

## Passed away Brothers and Sisters

We lost faithful members while they passed away this year. When we lost people in our family, we were so grieved. We felt your pain as we lost Lydia's brother this year. Many families around the world lost their loved ones. We missed many we loved. However, it drew us to keep unity in Christ to share faith and help to save as many souls as we can. We would like to meet them again in Heaven.

## Appreciation to our Leaders

We appreciated our leaders' heart to the souls in the community even the church building was closed in the pandemic. They committed to meet every week to pray and plan for the ministries. Night School was held online with new and brilliant ideas. We kept outreach ministries to the community and met them in-person every month in order to care their needs. The building was closed but our church was still open to the community for soul winning.

"Jesus is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12) We hope that the church building will be reopened. More important, we are faithful to Jesus who is actually the Cornerstone, who is the only Name that Salvation is found.

“And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.” (Eph 2:22) Let’s keep unity in Christ and we build the one faith together in the guidance and renewal of the Holy Spirit!

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## Associate Pastor

Rev. Chris Otani

*“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

Many people when conducting an annual review are asked “How would you summarize this year in one word?” The first word that comes to mind for me: weird. But also strange, sad, crazy, insane, disturbing. Other words come to mind too: hopeful, encouraging, perseverance.

I started the year with much hope for our College/Young Adult ministry when we held a retreat at Koinonia Campgrounds in Mount Hermon in January with over 20 participants. I also started a mid-week college group that met every other Wednesday night at the Ungs for a time of dinner, prayer, and accountability.

We were all set with our day camp directors and youth camp directors for 2020 and well on our way to start registering day campers and interview counselors when the news regarding the COVID19 virus around the world started to get worse.

In fact, this year was going to be our largest attendance at the Women’s Retreat in a long time and we were busy preparing for it when it was wisely decided we need to cancel because of the pandemic. That weekend of March 13-15 was also when the church decided to cancel in-person service and did an impromptu live stream.

It’s hard to believe that since Mar 8 (our last in-person worship service at FCBC), many of us have not seen each other face to face. But thanks to the wonders of Zoom technology, we have been able to have worship every single Sunday this year.

I can’t thank Jonathan Ng enough for all the hours he has poured into making sure things run smoothly for our worship service every Sunday. Also, I have been amazed, blessed, and impressed by those who have stepped up to lead worship, arrange for virtual choirs, and maintain a level of musical excellence in our worship service. Special thank you’s to people like Nelson Wong, Joy Ng, Rick Wong, Andrew and Christine Ko, Alexandria Lee, and the Ung family as well as all the participants in the virtual choirs.

I am also eternally thankful for the Friday Night Youthtalk leaders who did not skip a beat in 2020. We went from meeting at church every Friday night to meeting virtually every Friday night, even when I told them they could take a break! Inevitably, they would be gathered with the youth playing games or watching a movie on the nights they weren’t providing excellent biblical content/teaching for the group. Kudos to Aaron Tom, Melanie Ng, Jackie Ma, and Rick Wong.

The youth Sunday school ministry took a hit when the church closed down and it wasn’t until the summer months that the Junior High Sunday School was back on track. But once started, the junior high leaders have been amazing! Thankful for Andrew & Christine Ko, Jackie & Josh Chou, Anita Yong and Joyce Ng for keeping the lights on for the junior high SS. We were able to start a senior high SS in September and thankful to Melanie Ng for her support in that.

Caitlin Ung, Ben Scales, and Kristen Wong filled the short gap before junior high SS re-started by leading a weekly junior high fellowship focused on the story of Joseph in Genesis. So thankful for their willingness to jump in and help! This team also helped to do a college summer study using the Alpha series.

One of the biggest achievements of the year was our Day Camp online. After much prayer and planning, it was decided we would not have any in-person day camp but have it go completely online for 5 weeks. This is a herculean task that involved much work and coordination and I hope you will read Curtis Ung and Eryn Lum's report! Because Day Camp Online was such a hit, I realized it would be good to have some kind of Youth Camp experience this year, since meeting at Redwood Glen would not work out.

Linda Park and Melanie Ng did a fantastic job, along with guest speaker Nate Lee and student speakers addressing issues of the pandemic as well as the racial injustice the nation faced this year. Again, I encourage you to read the Youth Camp report.

For me personally, one of the blessings of the pandemic was the Monday Bible study that Wendy Quan initiated. At first, she started it as an online Lenten series, but it was so successful, we turned it into a weekly Bible study. I am so grateful to all those who log in every Monday night. But what is also incredible about this year is I don't think we have ever had so many people involved in weekly Bible studies outside of lent and advent! A Thursday Bible study was started with wonderful studies and the Wednesday South Bay study kept going and was able to include new members since it was using the online format.

As this year comes to a close, I, along with all of you, look forward with hope to see each other again. Throughout this past year we have lost many dear brothers and sisters but it is in the resurrection power and promise of Christ we know we will see them again.

This past year has taught us perseverance and ingenuity, and I have been so encouraged by how our community of faith has reached out in love and thoughtfulness to those around them.

May we continue and grow in this spirit in 2021!

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## **Community Outreach Ministry**

Rev. Lydia Yeung

There was Friday Night School Core Group retreat January 10-11. We had training, planning and fellowship to foster team spirit in the ministry. We worked with church leaders to serve our Lord for the community. Thanks to our Lord provided enough numbers of teachers, kitchen crews and the brothers and sisters involved in the fellowship programs.

We ran the reception ministry to visit and share the gospel. We visited nearby residents for more than 60 households on Feb 2nd. We shared our faith with them and kept contact with them via other ministries.

"Life-saving project" helped the church to serve the Chinatown community through making cloth masks. There were three phases of the project and we concluded in mid-July. Our brothers and sisters were so talented, drawing beautiful patterns on the children's masks to express the love of God. Some masks were tailored made to large, medium, small and extra small size, fitting for people of different ages. The shape of the mask was also varied: the streamlined design was more affixed to the face shape, lining added for filter paper, the elastic design, some with extendable bands, and fabric was carefully selected to fit different ages and genders. These ingenious designs were filled with wisdom from God and hearts to souls. Brothers and sisters also involved with their families to serve in the project. Some even invited friends and merchants to participate.

The FNS core group met weekly to coordinate the ministries and prayed for the community. Details were organized and a timetable was set for people to follow how to complete the masks on time. The instructions to use and gospel leaflets were included in every package. Each mask was

personally delivered to the night school students, their family members and nearby residents. When they received the masks, they rejoiced, felt the church's care and love for them, and opened their heart to the gospel. We appreciated our brothers and sisters for their great support. Many people participated in all three phases. Some people didn't know how to make masks, but they donated to fund the materials or provided disposable masks for the community. The provision of God was beyond our expectation. We received 1110 cloth masks and 700 disposable masks in the project. We were blessed that some people donated the materials and Diana Lee coordinated to provide in-stock fabrics to those interested. It was very helpful since it is not easy for people to get materials quickly in the pandemic. Nancy Guan helped to arrange the procedures of delivery that were very effective.

We missed our beloved brother Bill Chin. He asked how to participate because he did not know how to make a mask. The last email we got from him was the one in which he told us that a check was sent out for the project. We were blessed to have committed leaders and volunteers to join together to serve our Lord for the community.

We kept Grace Point on for disciple training until there was the stay-at-home order. Though many of them has limited internet access, we kept in contact with them via phone and outdoor in-person gathering with social distances in Chinatown.

We worked with the Bay Area San Francisco Short Term Mission to run the programs of "Jesus Loves Chinatown". The online training courses and gospel sharing programs started from Jun 20 and lasted for three weeks. It helped to equip church people to share faith and applied in the daily life. They taught the participants how to hold zoom evangelical Bible Study and invited their friends to join. It was interesting and we shared our faith. "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." (2 Tim 4:2)

We kept on exploring the opportunity to serve our community. There was a communication with Chinese Christian Herald Crusades to co-work with churches in Chinatown in helping the residents with some daily necessities. Volunteers collected masks, sanitizers and cleaning pads that help to improve hygiene in their environment. We helped to deliver them to the residents in Chinatown in August. Residents were pleased when they got the gifts and liked to chat with us about the faith and our ministries.

FNS Core group met every week to pray and plan for the ministry throughout the year. We decided to resume night school and Joshua Fellowship via online virtual streaming facilities from September. More than 20 students join the lesson taught by Ben Man. They liked the teaching and we saw that some students took notes very carefully.

There was a celebration of Mid-Autumn Festival with students and their families in September and we delivered packages of gift included mooncakes to them before the event. Students were excited and joined the online celebration with what they received. Though we were in different locations, we celebrated together. More than 20 students joined the lesson every Friday taught by Ben Man. They enjoyed the teaching and we saw that some students took notes very carefully.

There was an online Thanksgiving celebration for night school students and residents in Chinatown on Nov 20. It was the first time we didn't have dinner during the celebration. However, we were so blessed to have Pat and Che-Chiu Yee to prepare lunch boxes for them on Nov 21. We opened the church door to welcome our people in the community and presented the lunch boxes and greeting card with message to them and their families.

There was also an online Christmas Celebration on Dec 18. We are blessed that over 100 gifts were donated for the participants. There were over sixty families that registered to join us to



celebrate. There were caroling, message and games in the celebration. Many of them were interested in the faith and night school classes. We kept contact with them for follow up.

Though we are still in the midst of the pandemic, we seized every moment to serve Jesus Christ in Chinatown!

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## Board of Deacons

Ben Man

The year 2020 started as usual and normal with our theme of “Unity in Christ”. We had our All-Church Leaders Day in January. Pastor Sebastian and Rodney Tom arranged a wonderful and beneficial deacons’ retreat in February. Then we felt the impact of this Pandemic. Still, with the help of brothers and sisters and our staff we carried on and achieved much this year.

- Updated the Family Leave Policy.
- Reviewed our whole Emergency Procedures with the deacons and pastoral staff.
- Proactively started to adjust and planned before March for the coming down of the Pandemic.
- As the Shelter-in-Place order was announced, switched our worship services to virtual as planned.
- Met weekly with the pastoral staff for almost a month after SIP to ensure the our basic function is operational and complies with the order.
- Started discussions and planning for re-opening with Pastoral Staff since May.
- Reviewed availability and channels of financial aids for members if needed, as well as taking action to assist other partners like YMCA and Redwood Glen.
- Celebrated our 140th Anniversary with the great work of the special Committee.
- Celebrated Pastor Lydia’s Ordination with the great work of a special Committee.
- Held all our Membership Meetings as scheduled virtually.
- Revised the Annual Staff Evaluation for the special situation of this year.
- Continued the review of our regional affiliation by meeting with Pastor Jerry Mann of Sunset Baptist and Dr. Tim Brown of GHC separately.
- Participated in the voting of Growing Healthy Churches.

Special thanks to all the brothers and sisters who helped individually and/or in committees that made all these works and achievements possible. Of course, the pandemic of 2020 had limitation and impacted us all. We have to postpone our baptism. Yet with God’s grace, we have learned and lived a special year together. We look forward to Thy continuous blessing on our “Renewal by the Holy Spirit” in 2021.

Respectfully,

Chair of Deacons

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## Board of Christian Education

Becky Lessler

2020 was maybe the most disruptive year for Christian Education in my lifetime, but our mission remains unchanged: As a church, we are committed to supporting each person’s awareness of God and path to discipleship.

With the 2020 focus on building unity, we ironically lost in March our ability to gather in classrooms. It took some number of months, but we are meeting pretty effectively in Zoom rooms now, and have “discovered” things we should maybe already have known:

- Virtual meetings have no geographic boundaries. We can gather with people who live 100 or 1000 miles away; we can learn directly from missionaries serving in Thailand.
- Sheltering in place gifts time – time we would have spent commuting, or getting dressed up, or packing food and diapers and changes of clothes.
- Time gifts reflection. Reflection gifts different priorities, different ways of supporting ourselves, serving others, caring for others. Members started phone ministries, regular visitations in their bubbles, volunteering in new ways.

We did have specific things that needed to be researched and implemented because of COVID-19:

- Zoom subscriptions were necessary to support CE and fellowship group programs.
- VCS/Day Camp leaders mounted a Herculean effort to convert/redesign our successful VCS/DC model into a free virtual experience. In like manner, Youth Camp and Family Camp leaders re-envisioned their ministries to make connection and Christian education happen under completely different rules.
- On a smaller scale, redesigns were happening everywhere – fellowship groups learning to continue meeting, Friday Night School leaders continuing connections with students, “Retreats” simplified, teachers planning virtually and on retreat, volunteers figuring out how to serve in the community and do visitation safely.
- On-line Sunday School curriculum subscriptions were purchased for Children’s, Junior and Senior High, Youth Talks, and Bible Study groups this year. The Gathering adopted online Bible Project resources for the year.

And what were some of the fruits of our discipleship journeys?

- Two additional Bible Study groups meeting weekly, one led by Wendy Quan, the other by Joy Shih Ng and me
- Weekly prayer meetings with the Pastors, for both CE and congregational prayer
- A library of on-demand Bible lessons and stories for little children created weekly by Chris and Carol Jensen
- A podcast on racism featuring Sierra and Phoenix Shackelford
- “Wild Hair Day” at VCS/Day Camp
- Cross-fellowship groups gathering for guest speakers on COVID-19, racism and social injustice
- Fellowship groups “adopting” fellowship groups to stay connected with people who did not have online devices
- Leaders comfortable with engaging people virtually – playing games, singing, acting, drawing, modeling, educating. Caitlin Ung is the Animation Academy master!
- People “gained” because of virtual connections – those who had been physically unable to attend in person, longtime members returning after years away, friends and neighbors, members joining in from hundreds of miles away
- A new Grief Support group beginning in December led by Brianne Fong

On a personal note, Wendy Quan and I have been attending a virtual 6-month discipleship class with people from across the nation. It’s not something we would likely have done in a normal year, but it has been an interesting way to meet other Christians and get a good look at other ways of helping people on their discipleship journey. More to come on that.

We did not make significant progress in cross-congregational unity over 2020, as we were challenged with just keeping existing classes, fellowships and programs connected. That said, many of the lessons we have learned over this past year – the no-boundaries aspect of virtual fellowships, the

ease of attending virtual events – have equipped us with tools that will also benefit cross-congregational unity. We look forward to continuing to strive for that sense of oneness as a whole church in mission.

Thanks to 2020 departing CE Board members Diana Lee, Betty Jin, and Jasmine Erickson, and returning members Lisa Chau, Mamie Zhu, and Rebecca Lee. We look forward to welcoming in January 2021 Wendy Quan, Leslie Chin, Sharon Wei, and Melanie Low!

## Nursery & Pre-K – Diana Lee, Becky Lessler

Nursery and Pre-K teachers are honored to provide childcare on the mezzanine level for the worshipping congregations. That said, we miss being with our charges and hope we recognize them when we come back together in 2021!

Auntie Carol's K-1 Sunday School video lessons were made available to Faith, Rhys and Jaxyn. Kate, Zoelle, Ada and Peter are living out their "terrible two's" without us, tapping into a video library of stories from Uncle Chris. Livia and Hazel, you won't be babies by the time we see you again, but watching your smiles and changes on Zoom at worship have been priceless.

Love is keeping our connections with each other. Each teacher "adopted" one of the families to make sure we stayed in touch. And every so often, we convened a Zoom meeting just to check in – see the picture from our birthday celebration Zoom! Maybe most treasured – the teachers started meeting every so often on Zoom also – to make sure EVERYONE was being touched and cared for.

Families, know that you are continuously in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to welcoming baby Kai in person, and Jaxyn's baby sister in January!

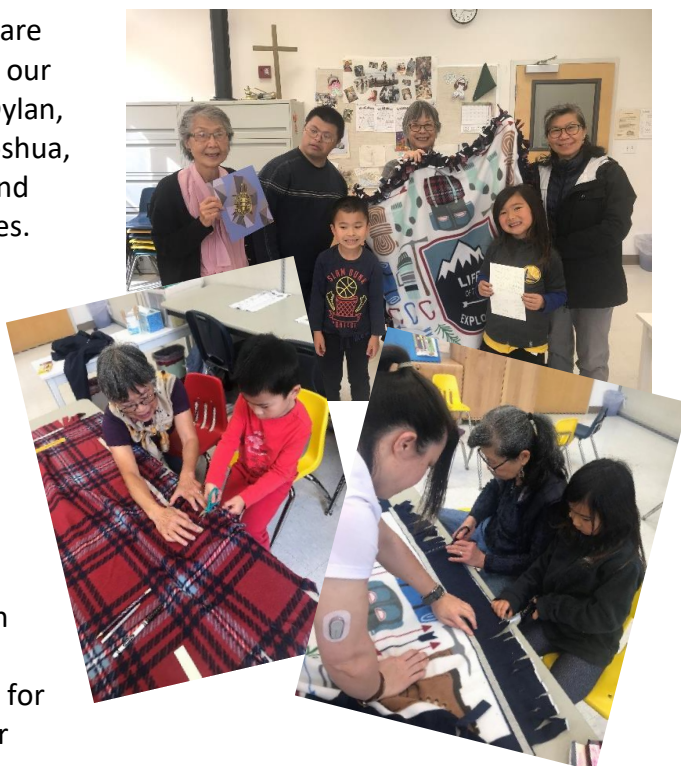
Debbie Chong, Maddie Dong, Chris Jensen, John Tom, Rosalie Jing, and friends Lea Wong, Jasmine Erickson, Marian Hom, your hearts we treasure for your love and ministry. Thank you.

## K-1 – Carol Jensen



We are grateful for our children - Dylan, Maddox, Joshua, and Zoe - and their families. Some of the older

Toddlers also joined in during the year – Rhys, Faith, and Jaxon. And we're grateful that Isaac continues to be part of our class. Our year started with Joshua telling the class about a homeless man that he sees in Chinatown on Sunday mornings. The class made him a blanket to show God's love -- we all tied the fleece blanket together and hope to give it to him when we return to church again. A special thank you to Aunties Melanie, Jennifer, and Jasmine for collecting all the materials for this project. When we closed the church to keep our



staff and members safe during the COVID pandemic, we continued to learn about God through weekly emailed videotaped bible stories and mailed packets of activity pages. The weekly videos included Bible stories, related picture book stories, games, and birthday and holiday celebrations. We had our first ever Zoom Promotion, sending Zoe Chin and Joshua Ng to the 2nd grade in August; thank you to our parents who presented certificates and bible storybooks to their graduates. A special shout out to Auntie Melanie, who sent birthday cards and kept tabs on the families; and Auntie Jennifer, who sent the children special activities and cards for Thanksgiving and Christmas.



## GOD LOVES

JOYFUL  
OBSERVANT  
SILLY  
HILARIOUS  
UNAFRAID  
ARTISTIC

NIMBLE  
GREGARIOUS



## GOD LOVES

ZANY  
ORIGINAL  
ENERGETIC

CREATIVE  
HAPPY  
INTELLIGENT  
NICE



## Other 2020 happenings:



- Joshua brought his neighbor, Piper, to a Sunday morning Zoom, and she and her twin brother joined in on the Sunday video lesson.
- Zoe posted a children's version of the Lord's prayer in her room, memorized it, and said the prayer before she went to sleep.
- Dylan works with his mom on weekly lessons, usually on a Sunday or Monday.
- Maddox and Rhys both receive weekly story papers - so nice that they've got each other so they can work



together.

- Isaac opens his weekly packet, and gets to work independently without being asked to do so.
- We found innovative ways to keep in contact with the kids. Auntie Melanie shared about her red belly parrot named Squeaky who sits and watches TV with her.
- Auntie Carol shared about her summer garden on a Sunday video; she grew tomatoes, string beans, zucchini, snap peas, and butternut squash.



God has supported our class in so many ways, especially by providing teamwork with our parents, who stepped up to become the in-person teachers for the kids. Some parents report delivering the lessons weekly, on Sunday or Monday, while others develop plans that fit into their family schedules. Parents gave us feedback via pictures of the kid's work, texts and emails with personal stories of how kids are responding, and favorite book picks from the weekly videos.

We continue to be thankful for the opportunity to share God's love with these wonderful children and to be part of a warm and loving church family.





## **Children's Ministries** – Charlene Fong

This year has been different in many ways but the Children's ministry has continued in the homes. Although we miss seeing them in person, we recognize each of the 17 children in the class. They are Brandon Chin, Zoe Chin, Naomi Chin, Quincy Chou, Elliott Ko, Gamaliel Kwan, Declan Lai, Paxton Louie, Devin Louie, Lianna Mok, Justin Mok, Joshua Ng, Jonas Ng, Michelia Tai, Anni Tan, Colby Ung, and Julianna Yeh. Each week, they receive the Go! Curriculum from Ms. Betty, an on-line elementary sequence of Sunday School lessons filled with big ideas, key Bible verses, and fun videos. As they hear these Gospel stories about the life changing encounters with Jesus, they still get the picture of the incredible love that Jesus has for us. We all look forward to returning to church soon.

### **Jr. High** – Christine Ko

2020 has been a very different year for our Jr. High group. We started the year going through Jerry Bridges' book called Respectable Sins -- discussing some of the subtler sins that we all struggle with (envy, pride, unthankfulness...) before taking a short break due to Covid while strategizing how to adapt to meeting virtually. We then kicked off our Zoom Sunday School classes in early May, and in addition to completing the Respectable Sins series also took the time to discuss the pandemic, race relations, and the Black Lives Matter movement. In the fall, we tackled the book of Galatians, going deeper into theology and learning what the true Gospel of Jesus is all about. We wrapped up the year with a Cookie Bake Sale after Thanksgiving and a thoughtful Advent study through the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John.

We have been encouraged to have 10-15 kids attend each week, with a few of our high school members moving up to the Sr. High group this fall. The students are generally very consistent in their attendance, and although are still reluctant to show themselves on video most of the time, are active on chat and provide thoughtful insights each week. It has been a pleasure to be able to spend time with them, playing fabulous ice breakers, learning about God, and praying for them and the events in this world. As 2021 begins, we look forward to broadening our vision to match God's with a January study on Goals and hopefully a series on what God is doing in missions around the world.

### **Sr. High** – Pastor Chris O

Like many people, it is difficult to remember before March 2020! The senior high SS class was led by Melanie Ng and doing a study on the book of James from January to March.

Once the church shut down because of COVID, the senior high SS class also stopped. However, we decided to double down on our Friday YouthTalks ministry and were able to keep that going every week this year! We also briefly had a mid-week youth prayer meeting when the pandemic first started. But once things calmed down and the youth started online school, the prayer meeting stopped.

Thanks to the junior high leaders, they resumed Sunday school classes in the summer. The newly graduated 8th graders remained in the junior high Sunday school class. It wasn't until September, when it was decided we would start a senior high Sunday school class.

The book of Revelation was chosen and we finished the study in December. It is always nice to go through a book like Revelation together with its vivid imagery and symbols. Pastor Chris O led the class with support from Melanie Ng.

### **Day Camp** – Eryn Lum & Curtis Ung

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers towards Day Camp 2020! We are happy to announce the completion of yet another wonderful, albeit different, year of camp! Despite the

circumstances, we were still able to provide a space to fellowship and meet both new and familiar faces amidst the pandemic.

Camp being online presented us with some challenges, as the online format was new territory for every single staff and camper. Games and teaching styles that worked well in a traditional in-person format were suddenly inaccessible due to the nature of online communication. Yet, despite these new challenges and trials, our campers and counselors were still able to form a community where they could laugh and share with one another. Through the magic of Zoom and the creative minds of the staff, campers were able to bond with their fellow brothers- and sisters-in-Christ through new opening games, song and dance, and online sleepovers.

We would like to thank all our staff and counselors for rising to the challenge of online Day Camp. We were amazed by their readiness and flexibility to transition from an in-person to online Day Camp. Through their hard work, campers and counselors alike were able to experience God's love during the time we all shared together.

We would also like to thank all the guest speakers who volunteered their time during our openings to further share about who Jesus is. Through their sharings, activities, and messages, we were able to experience even more perspectives of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. With their help, campers were able to learn more about Jesus, their peers, and themselves through small group discussion.

None of Camp would have been possible without the support of FCBC's pastoral staff and program supervisors. Their work behind-the-scenes as well as on the front lines are what enabled Day Camp to happen in the first place, and Camp would not have been what it was without all their help.

We are so glad to have been able to foster a Day Camp program to grow and serve the community that we love. And through all the hard work of all our staff and supporters, that is exactly what we were able to accomplish. Praise da Lawd.

### **Youth Camp 2020, Pandemic Edition — Melanie Ng**

This summer, we took a not-so-traditional dive into the digital world as we had our first ever virtual, completely distanced version of Youth Camp. We called it: Pandemic Edition! Because it was online, we couldn't do many of the typical activities we normally would, but we made sure one thing remained the same—that this would be a week dedicated to connecting our youth with each other and with God.

With over 80 campers registered, we still, of course, attempted to break the ice with fun and wacky, well-intentioned games, such as mingle mingle, scavenger hunt, and trivia! We focused our time on hearing stories from camper speakers, as they shared about their experiences with being in quarantine (Madison Chou from FCBC & Natalie Choy from CBC San Mateo), understanding and learning about racial injustice (Phillip Loo from GrX & Emogene Karas from CCC), and their outlook on and hope in the future (Naomi Ko & Desmond Zhu from FCBC). We also heard from our friend, Nate Lee, who helped as our guest speaker for the week! Nate shared some great insights about how God may be working in the midst of our current events and helped give some practical steps in moving forward through it all. Our campers were then able to break off into cabin groups to spend some quality time together with their leaders!

Although our main program consisted of three days—Monday, Wednesday, Friday—our amazing staff made sure the fun didn't stop there. A handful of leaders helped host some awesome free time activities that were sprinkled throughout the week for campers (and family members) to join! We did Blogilates (workout sessions) with Eryn Lum, Animation Academy (drawing lessons) with Caitlin

Ung, Body Worship (a mix of sign language and worship) as well as Hula with Eva and Hailey Ung, Dance Night with Curtis Ung, and an Epic Game Night with Terrence Wu and friends.

To say it was a full week would be an understatement, but it was well-worth it! Lastly, we topped it all off with an “after-party” to celebrate and view our pre-recorded talent show and slideshow! We could not have asked for a better week filled with love, excitement, and hope, and we’re looking forward to seeing more of God’s work in the near future!

**THE GATHERING**, - Barbara Lym    In person vs Zoom

An interesting and unexpected year for us all. We began our year with our usual lessons/fellowship at the YMCA; Meggy Lau, LCSW, shared her biblical and professional perspective as a social worker where she provided psychotherapy to children, adolescents, adults and families in Chinatown. Some of her stories were heartbreaking and inspirational. Wes Chan led our discussion from Colossians, Robert Mah spoke about Zacchaeus, the Tax Collector, Chris Chin led us in a discussion from 2 Thessalonians, Don Ng shared his ministry in India, Pastor Sebastian’s leadership and George Lai’s thought-provoking bible lessons also completed our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter until...Shelter in Place.



BibleProject.com quickly became our friend. We have been faithfully following weekly classes only made possible with our faithful leaders; Sebastian Ong, George Lai, Wendy Quan, Wes Chan, Sheryl Chan, Diana Lee, Becky Lessler, Tommy Lim, Barbara Chan, Joy Shih, Nelson Wong and Gina Chew. The pandemic has shown us how we can pull together and stay faithful in difficult times. Our leaders have shown courage and spirit and we are blessed to follow God together as we enter 2021. We feel so much gratitude by the support of our members, many thanks to those willing to Zoom and accept technical challenges and uncomfortable new ways of worshipping God. A true testament to everyone’s faith, we thank you. Well wishes to all in 2021! Continue to pray for each other.



Barb Lym



George Lai ~ Wendy Quan ~  
Diana Lee ~ Pastor Sebastian Ong

Becky Lessler ~ Nelson Wong ~  
Tommy Lim ~ Barbara Chan



Sheryl Chan ~ Gina Chew ~  
Joy Shih ~ Wes Chan

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## Board of Trustees

Steve Lessler

Well, 2020 was an unexpected year for all of us, especially in that we have not been able to visit our historic Church building since early in the Pandemic year. That does not mean we didn't do anything though.

In January we finished our Fire Alarm inspection and UL inspection report quote process. Ok, no big deal as we have to do this, but at least we got it done!

In March we completed the fire escape redesign and installation to prevent unauthorized people from climbing onto our roof. This was a "must do" for liability reasons. This was a major undertaking in 2019/2020 because of the City permit process and final inspections. Special thanks to Louis Buhler of Buhler Construction for taking us through the process and going the extra mile when needed. We could NOT have done this without his team. But we got it done! (picture attached) Because of Covid-19, we have not had a functional demonstration for staff yet, but that will happen when we are back on site.



Next, Wendi Lin and I negotiated a new and much more cost-effective copier lease for the Church. New equipment, better equipment and a much lower annual cost! A real win for FCBC.

In June, we received into stock the materials needed for a safe re-entry into Church, whenever that might be. Sanitizing materials, masks, gloves, etc. are all ready to go. PPE is hard to get so we are very fortunate that we have what we need.

Last, in December, we purchased a sanitizing fogger for use in the sanctuary for when we return, along with a stock of sanitizer for seating area cleansing between services.

The Trustees will enter the Church before we reopen for services to set up all equipment and mark off seating areas for safe distancing. Date to be determined.

Thank you to the FCBC Board of Trustees for getting through a difficult year. God will provide and bring us back together soon.

Lastly, for anyone reading this who has even thought about serving on the Board of Trustees, we would love to have you! You don't need to know anything about tools, repairs, etc., just a willingness to work with the other Trustees on getting stuff done! Please contact me if you have any interest or questions. Thank you.

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## Missions Committee

Sheryl Chan & Alan Fong, Co-Chairs

The Missions Committee was blessed to have at least 7 members of FCBC attending our meetings. These members included Alan Fong (Co-Chairperson), Sheryl Chan (Co-Chairperson), Chris Chin, Bonnie Lim, Wes Chan, Charlene Fong (Deacons Board Rep), and Pastor Sebastian Ong. By the end of the year, Barbara Chan and Caitlin Ung attended our meetings also, and agreed to be part of the 2021 Missions Committee. We have tried to meet every month or every other month. Fortunately, we have been able to meet via Zoom in spite of Covid-19.

One of the main points of discussion for 2020 was to determine, interpret, and clarify the role of the Missions Committee at FCBC. We reviewed the Constitution at FCBC which states that "Mission



is any ministry outside of the local congregation." The Committee agreed unanimously that mission includes "local" as well as "overseas" projects. There is no need to change the language of the constitution. The committee agreed that the mission field should focus on the community inside and outside of Chinatown. From a theological perspective, America has become so secularized that the Missions Committee needs to do more local outreach and expand its mission field and provide more opportunities to interact with different groups and cultures, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Because of the pandemic, the committee's attempts to organize any outreach projects has been limited. However, since October was Mission Month, we invited two missionary families that FCBC support to each give a testimony on two different October Sundays. Ivy and Emerson Wu presented a video testimony from Taiwan, and Mark and Alise Juanes gave their video testimony from Thailand. Their presentation was shared at both congregations. Mark and Alise's testimony was translated into Cantonese for the 10 AM service.



The Missions Committee was able to promote the SRO Gift Giving Outreach Ministry again, as we did in 2020, through the leadership of committee members Bonnie Lim and Barbara Chan. Many FCBC members signed up to buy gifts for boys and girls ages 3-12 years old. Some of the senior members of the Emmanuel Family Group were not able to physically go out to buy gifts, but instead partnered with Youth Talk group (Senior Highers) by providing the funds, while the youth did the buying and wrapping. Some FCBC members bought multiple gifts. When all the gifts were turned into church for pick up by Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) representatives, there were 109 gifts, which was 9 more than we originally committed to provide. Great job FCBC!!

The Missions Committee also organized another outreach ministry project, facilitated by Sheryl Chan and sponsored by SF City Impact, a



non-profit Christian organization that helps the 30,000 residents in the San Francisco Tenderloin District. On the morning of Saturday, December 12th, while wearing masks, face shields, gloves and staying socially distant, as much as possible,

twenty FCBC members, adults and children, helped to prepare meal boxes to be distributed to the residents of the Tenderloin, which include many homeless individuals. Some of us also brought clothing to be donated to their Thread for Therapy clothes closet. This outreach ministry is one that FCBC can participate throughout the year, providing opportunities for families to volunteer together. Thank you to all those who participated!!



The Missions Committee is hoping to explore more outreach ministry opportunities for our FCBC family in 2021. Such opportunities may include partnering with other Christian churches of a different ethnicity or sponsor a short-term Missions trip within the U.S. We may also be planning a Harvest Festival in 2021 outside of church to reach out to the SRO families of Chinatown. The Missions Committee is still committed to serving the Hill Tribes in Northern Thailand with their water projects. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, planning for the trip in 2021 has been cancelled. It is our hope that we will be able to plan a short-term mission trip to Thailand in 2022. The Missions Committee is excited to see what additional outreach ministry projects in and outside of Chinatown God has planned for us in 2021. Praise the Lord for how He continues to direct and work in our lives and do His will.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few! Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. Go!!" Luke 10:2

## **Serving Coffee That Makes A Difference—The Lanna Coffee Project**

Shirlene Leong Nakano

The Lanna Coffee Project, like everything else, experienced an unprecedented year!

- We met only twice, once in-person, in January and a second time, on Zoom, in November.
- We conducted our first on-line sale during the Christmas season and sold about 100 bags of delicious coffee to our customers all over the bay area.
- Committee member, Debbie, designed our first ever on-line order form.
- We reviewed our financial records and saw that more generous friends than ever have supported The Lanna Coffee Project through monthly donations, gifts in honor of celebrations and contributions in memory of loved ones.
- We asked our church bookkeeper to send \$5,000 each to our two beneficiary homes in Chiangmai, Thailand—the House of Love and the New Life Center.

Kit Ripley, Missionary at New Life Center, responded with “Your coffee sale support represents an essential part of our operating budget that covers residential expenses for our girls—school supplies, transportation, rent, residential staff, etc. Your support is deeply appreciated...Sending lots of love!”

- We look forward to the time when we can greet each other in person again with a cup of Lanna Coffee in hand!

Meanwhile, Every Sip Saves Lives!

Lanna Coffee Project Committee—Shirlene Nakano, chairperson, Debbie Chong, Wallace Choy, Carolyn Hee, Howard Lee, Bonnie Lim, Tommy Lim, Sebastian Ong, Pastor

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## **Music & Performing Arts Committee**

Andrew Ko

When FCBC transitioned to all on-line worship services in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Music and Performing Arts committee had to pivot and focus its attention on how best to accommodate a new way of worshipping corporately. Singing together in person, either as an entire congregation or as part of one of our church’s beloved choirs, has not been safely possible for most of the year. Although we have undoubtedly missed this special aspect of FCBC, we have made the best out of challenging circumstances. Through the technical wizardry and countless hours of behind-the-



scenes audiovisual support from Jonathan Ng; the amazing efforts of Nelson Wong and others to direct a number of beautiful small virtual ensembles (no easy feat to coordinate and assemble!); and the musical leadership of multiple talented and willing members from both the 10C and 11:20E congregations, our church has been blessed to still be able to enjoy a meaningful and uplifting time of praise and worship each week, as well as for special events such as Pastor Lydia's ordination, FCBC's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and the annual Christmas Eve service.

As much as we appreciate how Zoom and Facebook Live have allowed us to all come together virtually during this unprecedented time, we look forward even more to the day during this upcoming year when we will once again be able to gather together in person and hear one another's voices, in unison and in harmony, singing and lifting praises to the Lord.

*(Please see below for photo composite)*



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## Pastoral Relations Committee

Joel Jang

### Meeting in church library

On February 2, 2020 the Pastoral Relations Committee conducted a meeting in the church library. Listed below are our pastors along with their respective PRC contacts for 2020:

Pastor Sebastian Ong: Becky Lessler, Milton Dong, Joyce Ng

Pastor Peter Lee: Howard Lee, Joel Jang

Pastor Chris Otani: Diana Lee, Anita Yong

Pastor Lydia Yeung: Victor Low, Alvina Tai

For the meeting, Pastor Sebastian listed two topics: the roles of the PRC members and the working relationship of the pastoral staff. In conjunction with the topic, Becky Lessler graciously emailed the group with the Myers and Briggs' personality type assessment model INFP. Following the meeting, Pastor Sebastian emailed the group with a summary and his directions for the PRC members.

### Video chats with pastors throughout 2020

Because of the Covid-19 shelter in place requirement, the usual lunch chats with our pastors had been replaced with Zoom or other video chats. For example, Howard Lee and I met on Zoom on a couple of occasions with Pastor Peter. I am sure the other PRC members had also met with their pastors. We are all trying to adapt and keep in touch with our ministers and to offer suggestions and support.

### Hope is on the horizon

As 2020 comes to a close, we are all hopeful that with the vaccine and other safety measures that life in our church will return somewhat to normal. But we are also learning from the larger society, there probably will be a new normal. And with part of our membership advancing in age, the populace in our worshipping congregations will continue to be evolving. We are, nevertheless, remain thankful and joyful, for our hope is in our loving God.

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## Social Committee

Howard Lee & Sherry Pang

The Social Committee is responsible for church fellowship activities throughout the year. Some of the activities include serving refreshments before membership meetings, celebrations for baptisms, the annual picnic and Thanksgiving. We recruit volunteers from the current church members from both Chinese and English congregations and contact appropriate ministry or fellowship directors to assist with food preparation and service, set up facilities with decorations and cleanup.

2020 started as usual when the committee helped with leaders launch lunch on January 5, followed by Chinese New Year celebration luncheon after the annual meeting on February 9. Jimmy Yee ordered the lunch food for 150 people and the Senior Highs put up the decorations. February 9 was a very busy Sunday with the 10 am English worship service at the YMCA, Cantonese Worship in the sanctuary, Annual membership meeting at 11:30 am in the sanctuary and lunch at 12:30 pm. The rest of the year had been uneventful for the committee due to lockdown caused by Covid-19.

But we stand by patiently and faithfully for our calling, "To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."- Ephesians 4:12

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## Agape Cell Group

Alvina & Warren Tai

What is significant for you in 2020? Many events that happened in the year of 2020 have been described as unprecedented. But mask wearing, Coronavirus, social distancing, election, crimes, close of businesses due to the slow economy, etc. have happened before in the past. For me, the answer is zoom and practicing physical distancing.

Our life was shaken infinitely in March 2020 due to the pandemic, and Agape Fellowship's monthly gathering was turned into a question mark. Like an earthquake, we need to find a way to recoup from the shredded plan that we set at the beginning of the year. Our gathering finally took place via Zoom after months of waiting for healing (personal struggles with work, family, worship, etc.) from all the sudden changes. By seeing each other remotely, it brings joy in somewhat creative ways and bonding remains strong through games, sharing and praying for each other. It may sound simple, but it is vital retrieving the connection with family and God. We all miss seeing each other in person and enjoying the fellowship with actual food and drinks on the table on Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year we found a different way to personally celebrate in the spirit of God—if you know what I mean. The means of celebration was not the same as with the decoration of beautiful Christmas lights and the never-ending jingle bell sound in the malls where people are rushing for Christmas shopping, this year we simply focused on God alone during shelter-in-place. I would like to give special thanks to the brothers and sisters who circulated all the invitations to join the online bible study classes and seminars, such as Word of Life and messages offered by China Graduate School of Theology. Thank you for all the encouragements and sending the Word of God my way to remind me to stay as His vine.

With the experiences gained in 2020, I hope that the sparks for our spiritual growth will continue despite the difficult circumstances and that our relationship with Him will stay unprecedentedly strong and connected. We are all looking forward to what our next chapter will be in the year of 2021. May our revolution remain and succeed in God.

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## Ainesis Cell Group

Nancy Guan

It has been a challenging year in 2020. With God's grace, we have peace and strength to face whatever circumstances in our life. Since the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, we were not able to have group gathering physically. However, we keep in touch with each other by sending out our updates and prayers in our group message, so that we can pray for each other. During that time, some of the sisters in our group worked from home, some still have to work on site. We encourage each other to attend online Bible study, seminar, and online Sunday worship. Some sisters attended "Jesus Loves Chinatown" online evangelism training. We always prayed for our family members and people around us. Also, we were excited to welcome Fengyi and Lilian back to our group. Starting in July 2020, we have our online group gathering once a month. We share our updates, sing praise songs, and pray together.

Thanks to Pastor Lydia's constant encouragement to read the Bible and to be close with God. She always prays and walks with us when we have a difficult time. And she is always there for us and reminds us that God's grace is sufficient for every single one of us! Let's continue to encourage and support each other to follow the steps of Christ! God is faithful! As the Bible records "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ~Isaiah 41:10

We look forward to one day when we can meet together and worship at church physically in this coming year! May God continue to bless and give us strength to face obstacles!

We are so thankful that one of our sisters, Sherry has her sharing below:

"2020 is no doubt a tough year. Thanks and praise to the Lord for keeping me safe and healthy! Even with the high stress and close contact with patients as a nurse, I had not called in sick even for one day! COVID-19 pandemic has changed our life in various ways, and health care has no exception. I frequently asked for God's

mercy and help when I did not know what to do. The way we treat our patients has been changing and getting harder, but we are trying every effort in order to not compromising our quality of patient care. Thanks and praise to our Lord that we have the COVID-19 vaccine now! I know our Lord will continue walking with me and holding my hands no matter what I am facing in this coming year!" ~Sherry Zhang

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## Emmanuel Family Group

Dick & Anna Wong

Needless to say, 2020 has been a most turbulent year! Before the pandemic shut down, we participated in the annual CCU dinner, and FCBC Chinese New Year Celebration. Little did we know, that by March we would participate in the life of the church via ZOOM.



We EFG'ers had a steep learning curve. Gratitude to *everyone* who helped us adapt and zoom confidently! To the staff, and willing hands of many church members, FCBC is well equipped and ready for its 141st Anniversary!

EFG is ready for its 59th anniversary celebration! Our group established a new position: **Chief Technology Officer**, Victor Lee. He has enabled our get togethers in June, September, and December. During the first Zoom meeting, we clicked on and off 3 times to accommodate time limits, but we did not lose anyone!

We held our 58th Anniversary in September and 2020 WrapUp in December. In October we zoomed with the church family to celebrate the 140th. In November we zoomed three memorial services. This year, we are saddened to have seven of our long time EFG brothers pass away. We miss their physical presence, but will always remember the years of their participation in our fellowship.

*With Joy and Thanksgiving,*

Anna Q Wong,

and Quaranteam: Michael Wong, Victor Lee, Joel Jang, Magdalene Lee

2021 Officers: **CEO**, Danny Lee; **CFO**, Warren Lee, **MCO\***, David Louie

\*Mission Compliance Officer (Devotional Chairperson)

### In Memory of EFG Brothers

**Arnold Mew, Richard Tom, Bill Chin, Ken Jay, Gary Eng, James Wong, Gilbert Jing**

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## Joshua Fellowship & Friday Night School

Wallace Chu

We all will agree 2020 is an unprecedented year. Without exception, it's also a challenging year for the Friday Night School and Joshua Fellowship. However, God's work would never be stopped. He continues to help us to share His grace and good news to our neighbors under all circumstances.

Since the Covid-19 situation had been worsening, we had to shut down the in-person classes in March. During such a tough time, the most important thing is to keep our focus on our Lord. The core-group started weekly prayer meeting consistently on almost every Friday to keep our eyes upon our Lord. At the meantime, we still reached out to the community in many ways. We kept contacting the students over the phone. We also have ongoing events including face mask giveaways, distributions of gifts at the Moon festival and Thanksgiving so that we can keep in touch with our neighbors.

The pandemic has been lasting for months without signs of going away soon. After considering the situation, we started the online class and fellowship through Zoom. Thankfully we have a wonderful team putting things together. Also thanks to Ben Man—he has committed to teach for the entire fall semester. Although the situation was not ideal, we managed to kick off the online event with the students on Oct 1 to



celebrate the Moon Cake Festival. After this, the first online English class and Fellowship was launched on the following Friday. There were consistently over 20 students attending and the overall feedbacks have been very encouraging.

As usual, we have the Christmas celebration in December, but we did it online this time. We encouraged the students to invite their friends to join us. Almost 100 people attended. Pastor Peter made use of the opportunity to share the message of gospel and call for accepting Christ. Due the limitations of virtual meeting, we were not able to know exactly who has received Christ in such situation, and hopefully the Holy Spirit will continue working on their hearts. We will also follow up on these. After this event, some of the new attendees have registered for the classes starting the next semester already.

Certainly, it is not easy to foresee how 2021 will go. But God is faithful, and we all trust that He will continue to bless the ministry and keep it growing as long as we seek His guidance. We will commit to keep serving the community and sharing the good news with them. We are so thankful more brothers and sisters have committed to serve and help teach in the coming semester.

God's plan is always amazing. 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.' Let us be humbly seeking for His will and serve faithful together for His Kingdom.

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## Men's Fellowship

Alan Fong

The Men's Fellowship was chaired by Alan Fong, assisted by a planning committee of Wes Chan, John Tom and Nelson Wong. Our goals are to encourage fellowship among the men of FCBC, participate



in service projects, and nurture our spiritual growth. In February, John Tom, Nelson Wong and Alan Fong met with Belinda Sullivan, Volunteer Coordinator for the Bay Area Habitat For Humanity Organization. The purpose of the meeting was to see how the Men's Fellowship could partner with them in their ministry, but these plans were waylaid by the pandemic. However, we were able to participate in a limited way by raising funds

to purchase a welcome gift basket of bedding, sheets, blankets, bathroom items and a gift card for a family moving into their new Habitat home. Members were also able to participate in two other worthwhile service projects. John Tom, Nelson Wong, and Pastor Don Ng helped in the clean-up of debris from the fire that damaged Redwood Glen earlier this year. In addition, we participated with food distribution at Sunset Ministry, with assistance from Diana Lee and Sheryl Chan. The pandemic has caused us to cancel our other planned activities. We would like to thank all the men (and women) who participated in the various activities and ministries.



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## Mary Cell Group & Basic Truth Sunday School Class

Mei Ng Cheng, translated by Wendi Lin

We have not been able to meet at church due to COVID-19.

Thank God for the Zoom meeting.

We have been meeting via Zoom for Basic Truth class, Christian Circle fellowship, Friday Night School, Sunday Worship, and Sunday School. We can learn English, pray for brothers and sisters more often, and get to know the Bible more.

We remain very healthy, thanks to God's caring and blessings.

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## OYYA (Older Youth /Young Adults)

Victor & Melanie Low

In January we met at Carolyn Hee's home to share our 2019 accomplishments, joys, and challenges.

We didn't meet in February and March because we were all celebrating Chinese New Year at different times.

Then the virus hit and shelter in place was enforced. We couldn't cook for FNS, meet with other fellowship groups, or participate in the FCBC picnic.

In September we met on zoom to share how we managed for our new normal. Most of us kept in touch with others by calling, emailing, or sending cards. We were happy to be connected with FCBC with zoom for our worship services, Bible studies, etc. We could actually see and discuss with each other.

For the last 2 months of the year, because we are septuagenarians and octogenarians, our meetings centered on our life experiences with Black Americans and our awe and wonder of life and the Christ child. The sharing of our personal encounters and our deepest feelings of faith are ways of keeping our group bonded. We're still a "fun" group laughing and serving whenever and wherever we sense God's call.

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## Semanon 2020 ~ oh what a year!

Kathy Mar & Barbara Lym

Semanon (*nonameS*, spelled backward) formed 50 years ago under the leadership of Chris and Jadine Nielsen, fast forward to 30+ years of leadership with Mic and Pungo Fong. Praises up for their 30+ dedicated tireless years. How fortunate to have had two "in-person" fellowship meetings in 2020; January and February and the balance of the year via Zoom.

Fortunate to have had our 2019 reflections in January! Even though this is an annual event, this seems particularly special now that Covid has changed the way we spend time together. We miss our monthly "in-person" get-togethers and know how vital it is to be there for each other. Reflections were hosted by Mic and Pongo as we were surrounded by delicious food, laughter, a good conversation including positive experiences, celebrations, grief, and challenges, and time to pray for each other.

In February, Chris and Carol Jensen invited us to their lovely home for a wonderful lunch and provided a thought-provoking program led by Chris O about communication. Chris helped us reveal what kind of a communicator we were and demonstrated strategies to help us become better listeners. We look forward to part 2 in 2021.

Many of us are entering retirement, experiencing grand-parenthood, managing the aging process, and caring for an aging, and passing parents. Suppose these are not quite the Golden Years, but perhaps a glimpse of what's to come...the rest of the crew are managing young adults, have become empty nesters, and are able to prioritize health and wellness, some

"working out" more than ever as the doors of self-care have opened. :-)



Overall, we are in a good place. Don't think anyone would trade it in for anything else. Thanks to Becky Lessler for organizing our monthly Zoom Check In's. Semanon also packed up food for the SF/Marin Food bank and a few took a beautiful socially distanced walk in the Presidio. Others supported Sunset Ministry, City Impact, visited church members by dropping food and making phone calls to other fellowship groups and individuals. We closed out the year with a fantastic Zoom Game led by Liane Wong laced with fun and laughter! So much fun!

As we enter our 50th year together, we have much to be grateful for. We move into 2021 optimistically and pray for a vaccine and a way back to normalcy. What will that look like? What will change? Silver lining? What new ministries are ahead? We think our faith journey together will be mightier than ever. God bless us all.

Peace.



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## Senior Adult/Young Folks Fellowship

George Lai

It goes without saying 2020 is a most unusual and rarest year. Nevertheless, we were able to accomplish some things even during shelter-in-place.

Before the lockdown we met at Shirlene's for our annual Lunar New Year lunch and wrote greeting cards for some of the "shut-in" members of FCBC. We helped put together food bags at the SF-Marin Food Bank. We also put together without congregating as a group our annual ditty bags for Seafarer's Ministry, purchasing many of the items online. Even our annual Christmas program with gift exchanges was done virtually. We continued our monthly meetings via zoom.

We thank God for continuing to be our guiding light and comfort through the COVID 19 crisis.



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## Senior Center

Alan Fong

The Senior Center was created over 17 years ago to be a place where senior members of our church and their friends are welcome to gather for food, fellowship, and outreach. It was a place where one could celebrate birthdays, catch up with friends, and listen to speakers who spoke on a wide range of topics. The pandemic, which started in March, has caused us to postpone any meetings until at least early next year. The church staff will be discussing the future of the senior center at a later date. I would like to thank Jimmy and Nancy Yee, Susana Szeto, and Linda Yee, among others who have contributed to the success of the senior center.

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## Sojourners

Tommy & Bonnie Lim

2020 was a year that proved challenging for the Sojourners, as well as the rest of the FCBC community and the world. We had our annual Retrospect meeting in January and the Sojourners shared their joys and tribulations. In February, Arlen Ung shared his experience on his short term mission to Thailand. Because of COVID, our activities were entirely on Zoom since March 2020. In May, we had a session which included "what is the one thing you are thankful for" and "what have you been doing during shelter-in-place" which helped everyone catch up on each other's lives. In June, shortly after George Floyd's death and the Black Lives Matter movement, we had an eye opening session on Black Lives Matter, presented by Mr. Andre Chapman, Founder and CEO of Unity Care and one of the leaders of the black community in the Bay Area. Andre gave us a perspective on the challenges that Black Americans face, on a daily basis. Another highlight Zoom meeting was a special presentation to the Sojourners by Dr. Peter Chin-Hong, one of the leading experts in the world on infectious disease. This meeting was shared with the rest of the FCBC community. Dr. Chin-Hong gave us the basics and more about the Coronavirus, what to do and what not to do. In September, we helped with the on-going Sunset Ministry Food Pantry distribution. Calendar planning for 2021 was executed perfectly by our new chairs for 2021, Gina Chew and Maureen Wong. We are on course for 2021. Our Christmas party was full of laughter as well as an eye opening perspective on the lowly Shepherds and how that relates to us. The final part of the program was filled with intense listening as we tried to "name that Christmas tune", only hearing the first 2 to 3 musical piano notes! 2020 was a year that we could never have imagined but through God's grace, we met the challenge. Thank you, Sojourners, for all that you continue to do!



2020 also saw our brothers, Bill Chin and Don Fong return to the Lord after a prolonged illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

We look forward to 2021 with hope for a church, community, country and world filled with peace and love. God is good.

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## **Women & Brothers' Society**

Helen Poon, translated by Wendi Lin

Four sisters started Women's Society in September, 1922. They were Mrs. J.S. Chu, Mrs. P.L. Lee, Mrs. Yuen & Mrs. Sing Sum. At first, they met every Sunday with prayers, hymn singing, message shared by the pastor, Bible study and lunch. They also supported Gospel missions overseas.

In 1980, Dr. James Chuck suggested they should welcome brothers too, and that was approved by all members. A few members' husbands joined right away, and the fellowship then changed the name to Women & Brother's Society. They changed to meet on the second Sundays of the month with prayers, Bible study, devotion, hymn singing and lunch, etc.

When the church finished the retrofit and returned in October 2000, because of the limitation of the facility we stopped having lunch in fellowship, but we still have great snacks.

Brothers and sisters continue to be good steward of God's home, helping others and spreading the Gospel.

Women & Brother's Society is a place to study the Bible, care for each other and spread the Gospel.

We welcome all to bring your friends and join us on Sundays at church and join our fellowship to study and share together. We have Bible study every Sunday to learn together for all ages.

We used to donate to Gospel ministries overseas like: Chinese Christian Mission, Gospel Operation international for Chinese Christian, International Ministries ABC/USA Hong Kong, American Baptist Mission & Trang World Radio. We also donate to short term mission trips of the church, like Thailand mission trip and wheel chairs to China, etc.

Our resource comes from offering of our members, our love gifts keep God's home provided, so we can help spread the Gospel and glorify God's name.

We are thankful for WBS' 98 years walking with God.

We had been having 10+ people regularly attending the fellowship, it has not been stable lately, mainly because of age. Now that we have fewer attendees, may God lead our way, so we have the wisdom to proclaim the Good News, lead others to the God who is glorified.

2020 was hard. We were not able to worship in church because of COVID-19. Luckily, we can see each other online. We pray that the pandemic will be over soon so we can go back to normal, and people can glorify God's Holy Name, our Father.

We miss our sister Luen Oi Ng Lai who rested in God's arms on July 11. May God's peace always be with her family. We also remember a few brothers and sisters who rested in peace, may God's peace always be with their families.

We are limited in what we can do in the world, so to be able to depend on our Father God is most precious.

The Women & Brothers Society has been depending on God for ninety-eight years, may God the Father continue to lead our way ahead, let us take the path according to God's will, rely on God with all our heart, and do appropriate things.

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## Women's Fellowship

Lea Wong & Becky Lessler

The Women's Fellowship ministry is an outreach to women of all age groups. Active participation in setting the yearly agenda is encouraged. We met on several occasions in 2020 to learn, fellowship and to share with one another. We customarily share a delicious potluck brunch before the program.

- Twenty women were in attendance at Christine Ko's home on February 1. Christine hosted and led a discussion on ***The Wisdom Among Us***. Key questions to ponder were: What am I learning and what should I be learning during this season of life? What am I enjoying during this current season? Who can I help during this season of life? What is the most important thing during this season? To seek answers to these questions, one must have TEA: time, energy and attention.
- Women's Retreat at San Damiano, March 13-15, 2020: Unfortunately, this event was cancelled from an abundance of caution at the onset of the COVID 19 Pandemic.
- For the remainder of the year 2020, the threat of the COVID 19 virus reshaped our lives. People wore protective face masks and practiced social distancing. Non-essential businesses and establishments where many people could meet and spread the virus were closed. Our church and fellowship groups were forced to find a new way to connect. The Women's Fellowship group was able to meet in our "Zoom Room" with the support of Pastor Chris Otani for the remaining 2 events.
- On September 26, over 30 women listened intently as financial planning experts, invited by Wendy Quan spoke on the topic of ***Financial Wellness for Women***. Three financial advisors from Bell Investments spoke extensively covering information vital to our financial health and future. How do women take charge of their financial futures? What financial planning strategies should women focus on at different stages of their lives? What are the common mistakes women made? The Bell advisors generously allowed their presentation to be recorded and distributed to the attendees. They also sent the pdf version of their prepared slides and resource pages for distribution.
- In preparation for the Christmas season, Joy Ng led an Advent Zoom edition of **JEOPARTY** on December 5. Prizes were distributed to the top 3 scoring contestants who answered questions in the categories of Food, Traditions, Xmas Carols, Gifts, Movies and Popular Songs. Following the game, Joy led devotion on all the names that referred to Jesus. Bible verses were read for each of the names such as Alpha and Omega, Immanuel, King of Kings, and Messiah. In our breakout rooms, we shared which name resonated with each of us. This time together provided us with much needed fellowship as well as preparation for the birth of Jesus.

We look forward to the New Year with much hope for peace, justice and continued caution until everyone can receive their vaccination against the COVID 19 virus.

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## XO Fellowship

Caitlin Ung

This past year has been both challenging and encouraging, and we thank God that we were able to stay connected through these months of uncertainty. After starting off 2020 with wonderful fellowship events such as karaoke and experiencing a drive-in movie in the cold, XO Fellowship moved online with the rest of the world. We had amazing mentors both inside and outside of the church who helped guide us through these crazy times. We began our online journey with a video series led by Chris O that brought us back to the fundamentals of Christianity. As the coming of fall marked the end of our Bible studies, our members walked away with a new perspective of our faith. We followed up our thought-provoking sessions with Chris O with two discussions led by Sarah Akutagawa, a diversity leader with InterVarsity Fellowship. Sarah helped us understand the way was changing around us by providing a space where we could discuss topics such as racism and generational differences. Later that year our very own Becky and Steve Lessler helped prepare us young adults for the next stage of our lives. Though we were nervous for the faux interviews they had prepared for us, they somehow made us feel comfortable and capable, reassuring us that adulting isn't as scary as it may seem. We are so

blessed to have so many people who care about our XO Fellowship. Thank you for supporting and loving us so well!

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## Xplorers

Jackie Chou & Leslie Chin

The 2020 year has not been the expected calendar full of boisterous in-person meetings with lots of food and fellowship, but we have continued to meet consistently each month during shelter in place. We were forced to slow down and set aside our usual busy fellowship calendar of events to have more low-key meetings but equally meaningful times of sharing. One of the silver linings of our zoom meetings has been becoming more connected to one another during our sharing.

### Some highlights include:

- \*A joint fellowship meeting with Agape fellowship sharing hot pot and lots of conversation and laughs pre-COVID.
- \*Virtual monthly meetings starting in June consisting of sharing questions and online games.
- \*Annual Thanksgiving celebration with a drive by pick up of to-go packages of food so we could celebrate separate, but together.

We look forward to meeting in person again when it is safe to do so, but in the meantime, we are thankful for our members' good health and for the flexibility of our fellowship as we support one other during these challenging times. We pray that we will continue to draw close to God and be able to look back at this unique time with thanksgiving and gladness in our hearts.

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## YouthTalks

Mel Ng & Aaron Tom

In the beginning of 2020, love poured over from the previous year as YouthTalks continued to received a huge blessing—while we were still able to meet in person, a handful of amazing volunteers decided to help provide dinner weekly to the youth who attended our Friday night fellowship! During MLK weekend, we hosted our annual winter retreat north of Sacramento, where we fit over 20 bodies into a 3-story house, which included a billiards table and an enormous backyard. We learned how to set life goals, sang lots of worship songs, and cooked some delicious meals together! Suddenly, a world pandemic hit, and we had to switch things up and adjust (like many others) to an online platform. The transition to Zoom hangouts was fairly quick and smooth, but we unfortunately lost a few of our regular attendees due to Zoom fatigue or connectivity issues, among other things. Although we counted a few losses, Zoom meetings provided a blessing in disguise- friends of friends were invited and able to connect through the comfort of their own homes, and those who were too far away to attend in person started coming on a regular basis! We've even been able to connect to a friend all the way in Washington! Because Zoom has its limitations, we got creative and started our very own interactive YouTube series where we invited "guests" to come onto Zoom and catch up with us! We streamed the call onto YouTube so that people could follow along and even utilize the chat feature to be a part of the conversation! Among our guests were old friends of FCBC like Ian Heung, Nate Lee, and Linda Bergeon, as well as some church members like Phoenix and Sierra Shackelford. For now we've taken a pause on the YouTube series, but we still continue to meet on a regular basis!

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## Koinonia Fellowship

Mamie Zhu

The key is willing. If you are willing God can transform you, if you willing God can use for His Kingdom to glorify Him. If you are not willing, I have nothing to say.

If we come to our Lord Jesus and live out the reality of Romans 12:1-2 we will grow stronger in faith and align with our Father's heart!

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Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2 NIV)

Don't look down and don't give up. What does your help come from?

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD , the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalms 121:1-2 NIV)

Lift up your head, lift up your voice. This is not the time to be silent. Pick up the sword the Word of GOD for spiritual warfare. In Christ we already have the victory, don't be afraid!

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7 NIV)

Keep our faith strong in God. Help us Lord! Help us to be awake in You to fight the good spiritual warfare.

Do not let your heart turn cold! Continue to build your intimacy and loving relationship with our Lord!

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.(Revelations 3:14-16 NIV)

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” (Revelations 3:19-22 NIV)

Be strong in the Lord! Let us become victors!

Love in the Lord!

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## Membership Statistics

### Receiving the Right Hand of Fellowship

No new members this year due to COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place order.

### Returning to the Lord

Thirteen (13) members rested in peace:

Bill Chin	Gary Eng
Don Fong	Helen Fong
Gilbert Jing	Luen Oi Ng Lai
Lisa Lee	Arnold Mew
Richard Tom	James Wong
Walter & Stella Yim	San San Yue

### The 2021 Church Directory lists:

563 Baptized Members

129 Friends

692 Church Family Members and Friends