

Westview Chimes – May/June 2026

Growing Food, Growing Community, Growing Love!

The Good Growth Garden Project -Veronica Ota, San Jose Presbytery, Candidate for Ministry PCUSA

Westview was the first church I visited after moving to the Monterey area last fall. As a yonsei Japanese American of mixed descent, I was drawn to the church because of its history, but when I saw HOPE Village under construction, I grew more interested in Westview's future.

In January, I joined the Presbytery of San José as the Peacemaking and Justice Advocate and connected with Pastor Dan. While showing me around the church, he opened a door in the kitchen that led to an area once used for barbecuing teriyaki chicken. One cinderblock barbecue remained, but the space had been taken over by weeds and a massive aloe. Pastor Dan shared his dream for this space—that it would become a community garden where food could be grown by, with, and for HOPE Village residents, the church, and the neighborhood. The fresh produce could be prepared into healthy meals in the church's commercial-grade kitchen. The only thing missing was someone to lead the project. *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?..." And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' (Isaiah 6:8).*

Was it a coincidence that my passion is the intersection of sustainability and spirituality? God's answers prayers. I received my Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary with a certificate in Theology, Ecology, and Spiritual Formation in 2024. During my years at Princeton, I also worked at the seminary's farm, "The Farminary," overseeing the compost program. At seminary, I discerned a calling to the ministry of cultivating sustainable communities. Sustainability and community begin in the soil. Pastor Dan invited me to join a new community with the soil behind the church, and with HOPE Village residents, Westview members, friends, and locals interested in organic gardening.

Thus, The Good Growth Garden project began! There was immediate excitement with HOPE Village. HOPE neighbor Roy showed up ready to start working, so we did. Roy and his friend José cleared out all the weeds in one day. The next week, HOPE neighbor Pablo showed up with a rototiller, and he and Allen broke up the weed roots in the ground, reduced the gargantuan aloe, and loaded up the yard waste. Local friend Don Yoshimura brought us over a big truck and had assistants haul it to the dump. A Community Action Board staff member donated tomato plants, a friend of a friend of a friend offered manure. Everyone I have talked to about this project is sincerely supportive. The Spirit is giving life to our garden.

Growing organic food locally and caring for the soil is healing and restorative for all, and it is a way for us to live out our faith in action, while growing in our community life together. All are welcome to help out with The Good Growth Garden, in whatever way you feel God calling you to participate. Contact Veronica at veronica@sanjosepby.org

Good Growth Garden Wish List:

Financial Donations Appreciated (Please write "Community Garden" in the memo of your check)

Garden Tools (Used of New) Wheelbarrow, Garden Rake, Leaf Rake, Shovels, Hand Tools, Garden Gloves, Watering Can

Organic Garden Soil/Potting Soil, Seeds or Plant Starts, Wood Mulch, Aged Manure, Boot Scrubber

2026 Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Scholarships

The W-SC JACL Scholarship Committee Members (Victor Kimura, Kenny Kusumoto and Marcia Hashimoto) announce that **Information** about and an application form for our Ray and Louise Sako, Frank Mito and Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarships are available on our website: <http://www.watsonvillesantacruzjacl.com>. The **filing deadline is Saturday, June 13, 2026**. For clarification, you may contact Marcia Hashimoto at hashi79@sbcglobal.net or (831) 722-6859 (please leave a message with your telephone number)

Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

Live and Zoom Online Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church **Sunday at 10 am.!!**

To join Westview for **Live Zoom Sunday Online Worship Service** please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com so you can be added/accepted to our Zoom live recordings and can receive an automatic email reminding you of our upcoming live services. **If you are in need of any assistance with Zoom call Westview at (831) 724-6222 and leave a message.** Someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Rev. Hoffman will not be available for Worship Service May 24, 2026 through June 21, 2026.

Guest Speakers: Pastor Mick Erickson - May 24 and June 21, Pastor Dan Myers – June 28
(Rev. Hoffman will co-preside)

**Special Guest Preaching Series: May 31 – Diane Mio and Margo Loehr, June 7 – Rachel Clark,
June 14 – Mary Lou Hoffman and Emilie Holder**

Live and Zoom Worship Services at Westview!!

Live and Zoom Online Worship Services are being held at Westview Presbyterian Church Sunday at 10 am.!!
Masks are now optional for those attending the Live Worship Service.

To join Westview for **Live Zoom Sunday Online Worship Service** please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com so you can be added/accepted to our Zoom live recordings and can receive an automatic email reminding you of our upcoming live services. **If you are in need of any assistance with Zoom call Westview at (831) 724-6222 and leave a message.** Someone will call you back as soon as possible.

Guest Speaker: Pastor Julie Center Porras (with Rev. Hoffman) – July 6th
Pastor Mick Erickson – July 27th

Wednesday Zoom Scripture Reflection & Mid-Week Check-In: Wednesdays at 4 pm. The link is emailed out weekly. **Please send Westview an email at westviewpc@gmail.com if you would like to automatically be sent a link/reminder on a weekly basis about our Wednesday Mid-Week Check-Ins.**

Margo's Closet...

Our clothing closet has been a hit! Many of the HOPE Village residents and others that Community Action Board and SonRise Kitchen care for have been able to come and get nice clothing when they needed it. Some have been able to be outfitted for a job interview or to look good as they go to a doctor or social service visit. The people walk out of Margo's closet with a glimmer in their eyes and a skip in their step! **If you would like to donate gently used clothing or other items, please contact Margo.**

HOPE Village update:

HOPE Village (Tiny Homes) opened in early February and now has about 30 residents, almost at their capacity of 34 residents! As Rev. Dan, Margo, and Veronica all go and visit the residents we have had many opportunities to support and pray for them. They all seem so positive about their lives and definitely exuded hope. Thank you for, and we cherish, your continued prayers! **You can also continue to make donations to help make Hope Village a hospitable, loving and healing place** through your support of Westview Presbyterian Church and through support to Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County (**just make sure you note or put in the memo that it is for HOPE Village or for SonRise Kitchen** if you prefer it to go there).

Photos



**Easter Sunday Photos (first 2 photos from left):
Albert Rojas brought a cake, Westview members & friends in the dining area
Roy in the Good Growth Garden Area (third photo from left)
Jolly's 80th Birthday (photo on right)**
