

The Advent Open Studio welcomes everyone with a pure heart, seeking to explore art as a channel for the spiritual reflection of the inner life and relationship with God, for a time of preparing to welcome Christ with hope, joy, peace, and love, but also a season of personal spiritual renewal and growth. In the quietness of music, art, prayer, meditation, and contemplation, we encounter the miraculous gift of Christ, the light of the world.

FAQs

What is the Art and Faith Fellowship Group at New Bridges UMC?

With a vision to invite souls seeking God's presence through art-making, this Art and Faith Fellowship Group (also called the Art and Faith Ministry) began at the final phase of the churches' merger. During a transformative and challenging period when the atmosphere was relatively subdued, art and music naturally provided a gentle bridge between the two congregations with different church worship styles and age diversity. The group was formed in response to a personal calling from God, with a thankful heart, serving to give back to Twin Towers UMC and Embrace Church. The Art and Faith Fellowship Group remained active during the merger's final stage and continued into the early days of New Bridges UMC. In the three core values of Artful Worship, Spiritual Reflection, and Community Outreach, the fellowship group began small, with thorough preparation, and has offered various ongoing faith-based art projects for all ages. It welcomes both church and community participants who are willing to explore connecting with God through personal, creative art creation time at their own pace, as art and faith converge to foster personal well-being, spiritual growth, healing, and outreach. All events, workshops, and programs under the Art and Faith Fellowship Group are designed, initiated, taught, led, and launched by two teaching artists and musicians, Fan and Sam, who serve entirely as volunteers and receive no compensation or stipend. All donations to the Art and Faith Ministry are used solely for this group's activities within this church, and the funds are all tracked transparently—acquired, allocated, and used.

What materials are included in the mixed-media art supplies provided by the Art & Faith Fellowship Group?

The mixed-media art supply selection includes a variety of traditional dry and wet media, consisting of graphite pencils, charcoal pencils, coloured pencils, crayons, chalk pastels, oil pastels, ink, pens, watercolor, gouache, acrylic paints, and water-soluble oil paints. Additionally, essential tools such as brushes, different types of art paper, and small canvases are included.

Why combine Open Studio with Devotional Art?

The format naturally developed from the Art and Faith Fellowship Group, which has hosted 16 sessions at this church location. These include standalone events, themed seasonal workshops, and now, a festive series with 12 additional gatherings.

Who is suitable to participate?

We invite anyone ready to explore and experiment with an open, respectful heart. The Open Studio series welcomes church members and community participants of all ages. Please ensure that an adult accompanies children under 12.

Do participants need any art skills or experience?

Participants of all skill levels are welcome. The teaching artist/musician will be available to provide art support upon request.

What can participants expect at the Advent Open Studio?

Participants can read the Advent-related devotional materials or prompts, listen to the guided meditation recordings, or enjoy occasional live, soothing music featuring hymns or classical pieces performed on Western and Eastern instruments. All will be either a gentle introduction or a choice into a personal art-making journey, with each individual freely selecting preferred mixed-media materials and taking time to spiritually reflect on faith, inner life, or any other matters of inspiration.

How long can participants stay in the Advent Open Studio?

Participants may come and go at any time during scheduled open studio hours.

How many times can participants attend?

Participants are welcome to attend as many times as on the listed days.

Do participants need to complete a finished artwork during the Advent Open Studio?

Participants can work at their own pace: leave projects in the studio to continue later, or take them home to finish.

Is there a fee to participate in the Advent Open Studio?

Participation in the Advent Open Studio is free. Donations are appreciated, but entirely optional.

Do participants need to sign up?

Just walk in! Space is limited, so for large groups or special scheduling requests, contact us by email or text.

Notes:

- The New Bridges UMC is giving away copies of *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem* as a gift.
- The Advent Open studio is intentionally designed for a calm, meditative atmosphere. All provided art materials are for participants' use. Fewer than 12 participants create a quiet experience, while up to 22 can be more for a livelier session. The number of participants may vary each time so that the atmosphere can shift accordingly, depending on the attendees.



Twin Towers
UMC

EMBRACE
CHURCH

New Bridges UMC

FanLuArt | Art to inspire. Art for healing. Sow good seeds to the souls.

ART & FAITH

2025 SUMMER

WORKSHOP SERIES

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."
—Psalm 19:1

A FAITH-INSPIRED CREATIVE JOURNEY THROUGH NATURE & LIFE

WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE A DEEPER CONNECTION WITH GOD THROUGH ART-MAKING IN A SACRED SPACE. THIS FELLOWSHIP GROUP WELCOMES BOTH CHURCH MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS FOR FAITH-DRIVEN EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS FOCUSED ON NATURE AND LIFE, LED BY MS. FAN LU.

*A SMALL GROUP FOR ALL AGES
*CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
*ATTEND ONCE OR MULTIPLE TIMES — EACH SESSION IS UNIQUE
*DONATIONS ARE WELCOME BUT NOT REQUIRED
*ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL SUPPORT THIS ART PROJECT IN THE CHURCH

FANLUART.COM

TO SIGN UP, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO: FANLU.ART@GMAIL.COM

ARTFUL WORSHIP • SPIRITUAL REFLECTION • COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2025 JULY

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July 9 | Week1 Holy Trees
July 16 | Week2 Living Water
July 23 | Week3 Flowers the Bloom
July 30 | Week4 The Mountain Spirit

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 2025
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
1411 OAK ST. ALAMEDA CA 94501
(TWIN TOWERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH + EMBRACE CHURCH)

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ART & FAITH

2025 SUMMER

-OPEN STUDIO-

WHERE A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS

Sketch Your Sacred Place Stories
Drawing and Painting as Prayers

ARTFUL WORSHIP • SPIRITUAL REFLECTION • COMMUNITY OUTREACH

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM | SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

1411 OAK ST. ALAMEDA CA 94501
(TWIN TOWERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH + EMBRACE CHURCH)

ALL ARE WELCOME!

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT MS. FAN LU
FANLU.ART@GMAIL.COM

FANLUART.COM

2025 AUGUST

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ART & FAITH

2025 AUTUMN

WORKSHOP SERIES

"Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power."
—Proverbs 24:5

A FAITH-INSPIRED CREATIVE JOURNEY THROUGH LITERATURE AND ART

WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE A DEEPER CONNECTION WITH GOD THROUGH ART DEVOTIONALS IN A SACRED SPACE. THIS FELLOWSHIP GROUP WELCOMES BOTH CHURCH MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS FOR FAITH-DRIVEN EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS FOCUSED ON LITERATURE AND ART, LED BY MS. FAN LU.

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ARTFUL WORSHIP • SPIRITUAL REFLECTION • COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2025 SEPTEMBER

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September | *Anne of Green Gables*
October | *The Secret Garden*
November | *Little Women*

2ND & 4TH MONDAYS OF THE MONTH
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM
1411 OAK ST. ALAMEDA CA 94501
(NEW BRIDGES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

Special Journey of Life

Music, Faith, Alzheimer's Disease, and Care

Participate in this one-time lecture on Alzheimer's disease, covering its causes and progression while providing valuable information for caregivers. Dr. Ge Bai (Samuel) will also share insights about advancements in research and his personal experiences during his PhD studies. Additionally, Ms. Fan Lu will lead visual art exercises focused on emotional well-being, accompanied by a time of devotional music. Together, through music, psalms, art, and reflection, we will explore themes of memory, identity, and God's faithfulness in every season of life.

Sunday, August 17, 2025 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
1411 Oak St. Alameda CA 94501
(Twin Towers United Methodist Church + Embrace Church)



Dr. Ge Bai (Samuel)
Musician • Composer • Songwriter • Music & Science Educator
PhD in Biochemistry
BS in Biomedical Engineering



Ms. Fan Lu
Painter • Illustrator • Educator
MA in Fine Art
MSc in Management and Organisational Innovation

*I will remember the deeds of the Lord:
yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.*
—Psalm 77:11

FGMusicArt.com

*At about that same time he climbed a mountain to pray.
He was there all night in prayer before God.*
—Luke 6:12

Bilingual Storytime Music and Art

with Dr. Samuel Bai and Ms. Fan Lu

Interdisciplinary Learning

- Natural Science Topics -

Mountain

Creative Arts & Education | Science • Music • Art • Poetry

Artwork by Fan Lu & FanLuArt

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
1411 OAK ST. ALAMEDA CA 94501
(NEW BRIDGES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

Join us for a creative arts worship event that combines natural science picture books, live music, and art experiments. Dr. Ge Bai (Samuel) and Ms. Fan Lu design and teach this event together for children aged 6 to 12. It is a delightful time to explore the beauty and wonder of the natural world, discover the science behind it, and express our awe and gratitude for God's amazing creation through science, music, art, and literature. All art materials provided at church.

Dr. Ge Bai (Samuel)
Musician • Music & Science Educator
PhD in Biochemistry

Ms. Fan Lu
Artist • Educator
MA in Fine Art

Please scan the QR code to RSVP

VISIT WWW.FGMUSICART.COM TO REGISTER

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Sketching Home

WHERE YOUR SOUL BELONGS

with Ms. Fan Lu

SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 28 AND OCTOBER 26, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
1411 OAK ST. ALAMEDA CA 94501 (NEW BRIDGES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

Everyone has a different definition of Home. It could be your birthplace, the place where you grew up, a city that has become a second or third hometown, or even a temporary residence. Ideally, Home is a sanctuary where you find true peace and comfort. Every Home holds unique stories waiting to be discovered. Some call it a "sweet Home," but not everyone's memories of Home are positive; after all, we are all sojourners on earth. Still, capturing the essence of Home through creative arts can be deeply self-healing. Emotions and memories flow effortlessly from your pen and brush, with tears or laughter, while colors can convey your complex feelings hard to express in words. Both beautiful and inspiring and fuel also the very hues of life. It all transforms them. It's as if you stand firm where you are now, or you can travel back to that special corner of the world—the true Home where your soul belongs.

MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
—ROMANS 15:13

Artwork by Fan Lu & FanLuArt

To sign up please scan the QR code or visit FanLuArt.com

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT MS. FAN LU
FANLU.ART@GMAIL.COM

FanLuArt

ART AND FAITH FELLOWSHIP GROUP WORKSHOPS/EVENTS HOSTED BY FANLUART AND F.G. MUSICART AT TWIN TOWERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH + EMBRACE CHURCH + NEW BRIDGES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2025 SUMMER WORKSHOP SERIES: "ENJOY GOD'S HANDIWORK"
DATES: JULY 9, JULY 16, JULY 23, AND JULY 30

2025 SUMMER OPEN STUDIO: SKETCH YOUR SACRED PLACE STORIES
DATES: AUGUST 10 AND AUGUST 20

2025 AUGUST: LECTURE ON "A SPECIAL JOURNEY OF LIFE: MUSIC, FAITH, ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, AND CARE"
DATE: AUGUST 17

2025 SEPTEMBER: BILINGUAL STORYTIME: MUSIC AND ART WITH NATURAL SCIENCE TOPICS ON MOUNTAINS
DATE: SEPTEMBER 7

2025 SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER: "SKETCHING HOME" DURING SUNDAY PRE-SERVICE TIME AND THE SERMON
DATES: SEPTEMBER 28 AND OCTOBER 26

2025 AUTUMN WORKSHOP SERIES: "ENJOY LIVING BOOKS" LITERATURE AND ART DEVOTIONALS
DATES: SEPTEMBER 8, SEPTEMBER 22, OCTOBER 13, OCTOBER 27, NOVEMBER 10, AND NOVEMBER 24

ALL IS CALM. ALL IS BRIGHT. LET THE THRILL OF HOPE ARRIVE.

Advent Open Studio

DEVOTIONAL ART GATHERING

WALK IN. CREATE. REFLECT. ALL ARE WELCOME!

DECEMBER 3–16, 2025

DAILY (MONDAY–SATURDAY), 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM



Hosted by FanLuArt + F.G.MusicArt + New Bridges UMC

at 1411 OAK ST, ALAMEDA, CA 94501

*All Mixed-media Art Materials provided by Art & Faith Fellowship Group
Free Gift Book for the First 20 Participants – While Supplies Last
Guided Meditation and Prompts, with Occasional Live Music
For questions, please contact Fan Lu: FanLu.Art@gmail.com or (415)676-1442*

FANLUART + F.G.MUSICART

ART & FAITH

FAMILY CREATIVE ARTS MINISTRY: MUSIC, ART & INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

SERVING ALL AGES: CHILDREN • TEENS • ADULTS • SENIORS

CURRENTLY HOSTED AT

NEW BRIDGES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1411 OAK ST, ALAMEDA, CA 94501, USA

AND LET THE BEAUTY AND DELIGHTFULNESS
AND FAVOR OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON
US; CONFIRM AND ESTABLISH THE WORK OF
OUR HANDS—YES, THE WORK OF OUR HANDS,
CONFIRM AND ESTABLISH IT.

- PSALM 90:17

愿主我们的神的恩慈临到我们身上，
愿你为我们的缘故，
坚立我们手所作的工，
我们手所作的工，愿你坚立。
—诗篇90:17



INITIATED, DESIGNED, TAUGHT, LED, AND LAUNCHED
BY MS.FAN LU AND DR.SAMUEL BAI



TAKE THE SURVEY
SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

ARTFUL WORSHIP • SPIRITUAL REFLECTION • COMMUNITY OUTREACH