



Simpson News

JANUARY
Volume 48
Number 1

(Below is a letter sent out to the clergy serving under Metro District by Rev. Paul Kottke, Metro DS, a week after the mass shooting in Paris. Since then, several shootings have taken place, including in our state. Hopefully this message will help you to process your theological struggle and help ease the tension you may have. My family and wish you a Blessed and Happy New Year! - Tezenlo Thong, Pastor)

One week ago senseless violence again raised its ugly, tragic head, both in Paris and in Beirut. We cry out for the innocent suffering by so many. We also acknowledge our own sense of vulnerability.

It is also important to boldly declare that these are not Islamic terrorists! They are simply terrorists, seeking a religious cloak to justify their pathological behavior. This is no different than the decades long conflict in Ireland between “Catholics and Protestants” - a conflict which had nothing to do with religion. Or the Jewish Holocaust in Germany, or the Rwandan genocide. Or the Serbian genocide. Or the Spanish Inquisition of the 1400s by “Christians”. Over 150 Islamic scholars world-wide have declared that ISIS is not Muslim. [Letter to Bagdad.com]

In his book, Deepening Community, Paul Born writes of three types of community: Shallow Community [participating with little to no commitment], Fear-based Community [creating an identify of the “stranger” as the enemy and the source of violence], and Deep Community [sharing our stories in the midst of our diversity, taking time for one another, taking care of one another, & working together for a better world].

It is important that as religious leaders, we find ways to intentionally invite our church members to “rise above the fear” with which these terrorists seek to poison the world. We are called to be a people grounded in a Gospel of Love & Hope, especially during this time of heightened vulnerability. We are called to be disciples grounded in Jesus Christ, who have the courage to transform the world through deep community – not communities that are fear-based.

I would invite you to find a way to share with your church members a message of hope and a call to discipleship that counters the culture of fear so many seem to be embracing. As we come upon this Season of Thanksgiving, we have a special opportunity to affirm goodness in our midst, the goodness of God that moves across the various religious traditions. May we claim our diverse religious teachings as sources of life, healing, and hope. Our leadership as grace-based disciples is more important than ever.

Paul J. Kottke
Metro District Superintendent
Rocky Mountain Conference

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY:

We invite you to read and study these passages in preparation for our Worship Services.

Jan 3

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12;
Matthew 2:1-12

Jan 10

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan 17

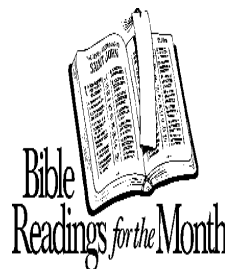
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Jan 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Jan 31

Jeremiah 1:4-10 ; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30



CENTERING PRAYER INTRODUCTION

Contemplative Outreach of Colorado will be offering an Introductory workshop for Centering Prayer on Saturday, January 16 and also a 12-step Introductory Workshop for Centering Prayer on Saturday, January 23. Both workshops will be held from 9am until 1 pm at the Center for Contemplative Living, 3650 Yates St., Denver. For information and registration call 303.698.7729, or register online at www.contemplativeoutreach-co.org. The cost is \$30.

Simpson United Methodist Church

6001 Wolff St., Arvada, CO 80003-6833

Main Office Phone: 303-428-7963

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net Website: www.simpsonumc.com

Senior Pastor: Rev. Tezenlo Thong Email: PastorSUMC@gmail.com

Assistant Pastor: Rev Matt Snider Email: AssistantPastorSUMC@gmail.com

Church Pianist: Chen Wu Choir Director: Debbie Willeford

Nichigo Pianist: Sadako Hasegawa Japanese Language Instructor: Miwa Steuben

Children's Sunday School Teacher: Brenda Schroder

Administrative Assistant: Mari Welch Bookkeeper: Lilly Quirk



Scan this QR code on left with a QR code reader on your smartphone or tablet and the device will take you right to our new website.

Amazon Smile Link:

Purchases through this link on Amazon benefit our church.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-0507792>



You are Appreciated!

Thanks to Esther Hashiba, Aki Kawakami, Chickie Yoshino and Joe Hayashi for volunteering to prepare the November Newsletter for mailing. You are appreciated more than you will ever know. Really could not do it without your help! A very big thanks to you all.

THANK YOU TO SPRC

The staff would like to thank the SPRC for the great meal and time of fellowship provided on Friday, December 11. It was a great time to reconnect with those we don't see on a daily basis. Thanks again to SPRC members: Jane Fujioka, Carol FitzSimons, Charlotte Namba, Pat Hayashi, John Hall, Jennifer Mahoney and Joe Hayashi.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO DOWNTOWN DENVER

We are planning a mission trip to Civic Center Park (downtown) in partnership with *AfterHours* (Rev. Jerry Herships) on January 17, 2016, immediately after church. We would like to involve as many church members as possible, especially children and youth. Also, for this trip, we are in need of **scarves, gloves, hats, towels and other hygiene kits** to hand out to the homeless members of the community. You can drop off your donations any time on or before the 3rd Sunday. As always, thank you for your support.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX)

We are thankful for our successful *Operation Christmas Child* outreach for 2015. This year we collected eighty-six shoeboxes and delivered them on December 1, 2015. We also covered most of the shipping cost. A BIG "Thank You" to all who gladly and whole-heartedly supported by providing items or monetary gifts.

IN MEMORY OF

Albert Wells
 Reiko Hamai
 Meach & Yukiye Hogami
 Geri Ota
 Thelma Ward
 John Mizoue, Wes Miyoshi, Shizu Sera
 Brian Owada, Ted & Kay Wienbarg,
 Miyako Smith, John Mizoue, Sam & Miki Owada
 Bruce Lim
 M/M Mitsutaro Miyahara
 Drs. Ben and Florence Miyahara

BY

Karen Wells
 Mitchell Hamai
 William Tanaka
 James R. Ota
 Julia Kamura, Charlotte Namba
 Pat Hayashi
 Sam Owada

 Jennifer Lim
 Pastor John Miyahara & family

**MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS**

Boiler Donation: Dion Dishong

Facebook page marketing: M/M Ken Namba, Jennifer Mahoney

Choir Donation: Jennifer Lim, Melissa Lee

Donation for Syrian Family: Jennifer Mahoney

Operation Christmas Child Donation: Clara Hashimoto, Marguerite Stark, Mary Everitt, Robin Miyahara, Ruth Shinto, anonymous giver

Thanksgiving: Aki Kawakami, Sachi Goto, Sue Arai, Nancy Miyahara, M/M Ken Namba, Ruthe Terada, Grace Tochihara, Catheryn Smith

Christmas: Sumiko Osuga, Aiko Okubo, Mary K. Ida, May Murakami, Ninomiya Nobuko

Utilities: Bridge Club

Scholarship Fund: Sam Owada

United Methodist Student Day: Mary Everitt, Harry Hishinuma, Roy Shibata, Dion Dishong

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE APPRECIATED!

OUR CARE CORNER

The families of: Ed Herring, Emily Mori, George Sakato
Others to be Held in Prayer: Ken Miyoshi, Helen Goto,
 Agnes and Irv Matsuda, Emily Mori,
 Ruth Yamauchi

50+

The 50+ group will meet the third Wednesday in January (January 20th). Be sure to join us for a *surprise* luncheon!

Stories of the Christian Hymns
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
 Charles Wesley 1707-1788

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn on the first anniversary of his conversion to God, which occurred on Sunday, May 21, 1738. It is said that the opening lines came as a result of a conversation between Wesley and Peter Bohler, a Moravian. On the subject of praising Christ Bohler has said "Had I a thousand tongues I would praise Him with them all," From this chance remark Wesley conceived the idea for his hymn.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
 My great Redeemer's praise,
 The glories of my God and King,
 The triumphs of His Grace.
 My gracious Master and my God,
 Assist me to proclaim,
 To spread thro' all the earth abroad
 The honors of Thy name.



THANK YOU SIMPSON!

Once again, the congregation and friends of SUMC were a wonderful audience for the Christmas cantata, *Tapestry of Light!* I also want to thank our choir members who attended MANY extra rehearsals to learn the cantata. They are a dedicated group of musicians who never cease to surprise me. I hope they touched you with their beautiful music.

Of course, I want to give special thanks to Jennifer Lim, our choir angel. Jennifer has worked tirelessly to raise funds to support our Christmas and Easter cantata musicians. Our SUMC staff are some of our biggest supporters and cheerleaders! It is a personal privilege for me to work with such a wonderful group of people. And last, but most important, I thank God for the talent he has bestowed on me. I LOVE what I do and give God the Glory.

Easter is coming early this year — March 27, 2016. Right after Christmas, our Chancel choir begins rehearsals on the Easter cantata! I suggest you put the date on your calendar NOW!

POINSETTIAS**Given By**

Kazuko Dishong
 Esther, Tom & Kathy Fujita

 Dan, Patty, Allyson & Helen Goto
 Ruby Hada
 Hiroko Hansen

 Mary Ida
 Julia Kamura & Bessie Joko

 Paula Matsumoto

 Harry & Nancy Miyahara
 Robin Miyahara

 Ritsuko Munn
 May Murakami

 Don Nakama
 Ken & Charlotte Namba
 Mary Nishiyama
 Mas & Yasuko Nonaka

 Aiko Okubo
 Betsy Sato

 Gloria & Catheryn Smith
 Children of The Studebaker Family
 The Tingstrom Family, The Goto Family
 Yoshie Tanita

 Moss & Mari Welch

 Debbie Willeford
 Chen Wu

In Memory of

Rev. Jonathan Fujita, Sumiko
 Sumiko Fujita Haynes, Erik Haynes
 & Ichiro Fujita
 George Goto, Marge Ota
 Ted Hada
 Sumi & Roy Takeno
 Dr. & Mrs. Konai Miyamoto
 M/M Toshiro Tsubokawa
 Tom Ida
 Tom & Ruth Kamura
 Richard Joko
 Sam & Doris Matsumoto
 Kristine Motoyoshi
 Gene & Kelly Dolezal
 Saburo & Dorothy Tanaka
 Wilbur Tanaka, Roy Tanaka,
 Betty Kawano
 Denny L. Munn, Terry A. Munn
 Mr. Yu Yasumura
 Leo Murakami
 Edna Nakama, Jimmy Nakama
 Marge Morishige, Wes Miyoshi
 Massey Nishiyama
 M/M Teizo & Ted Nonaka
 Miyako Smith, Setsu Fuller
 Hank Okubo, Candace Okubo
 Dick Sato, Margaret Komuro
 Teruko & Tsuyoshi Sato
 Miyako Smith, Johnie Smith, Jr.
 Jess & Mary Masunaga

 M/M K. Mizoue, John Mizoue
 Mari Mizoue Kodama
 M/M E.C. Jewell
 M/M Norman Welch
 Marilyn Willeford, Ethel McKee
 Charles Wiencek

Note from Carol FitzSimons

I have the pleasure of being Mari Welch's liaison. I recently sat down and had a great visit with her.

Mari was born in Columbus, Ohio the youngest of six children. She and her sister; Judi Miyoshi, are the only siblings living here in Colorado. Mari met her husband Moss in Ohio. They moved to Bozeman, Montana for adventure and love of the outdoors. She sang with the competitive group Sweet Adeline's while in Montana.

Everyone knows that Colorado has the best mix of outdoors and city living, so Mari, Moss and their son, Matthew moved to Arvada when Matthew was fifteen months old. Matthew is a graphic designer working in Boulder.

While in Ohio, Mari mostly worked in the legal field at places such as Domestic Relations Court as a court stenographer and the Ohio Adult Parole Authority. In Montana Mari was a freelance secretary/administrative assistant. She then moved to the spiritual side of life in Colorado and recently worked for the Rocky Mountain Conference of the Free Methodist Church for the superintendent and now Simpson.

Mari and Moss enjoy visiting their high altitude property, camping, hiking, reading and travel. You can hear the compassion in her voice when you speak with her on the phone. If you haven't had the chance to meet Mari, stop by the church and say hi. She is a wonderful addition to Simpson.

THANK YOU O.N.E. COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone that prepared the delicious Holiday Lunch on Sunday December 13. If you missed the lunch, you missed a great time. There was entertainment, fellowship and a really great meal. Thanks to everyone that participated and made the event such a churchwide success. Thank you.

Simpson United Methodist Church**January 2016****Arvada CO 80003-6833****Telephone: 303/428-7963, Fax: 303/427-1577****www.simpsonumc.com**

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Children Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS COMMUNION 11:00 am – Knit & Crochet	4 3:30 pm Tutorial	5 7:00pm Yoga	6 3:30 pm Tutorial 6:30 pm Nisei Veterans	7 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 10am-3pm Game Day	9 9:00 Japanese Language Class Taiko Yoga
10 9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS Trustees Meet	11 10:00 am Ukulele 3:30 pm Tutorial	12 7:00pm Yoga	13 3:30 pm Tutorial 8:00pm Finance 7:00pm Ad Council	14 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16 9:00 Japanese Language Class Taiko Yoga
17 9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS Bridge to Future Sunday 11:00 am – Knit & Crochet	18 3:30 pm Tutorial	19 7:00pm Yoga	20 3:30 pm Tutorial	21 10:00 am staff mtg	22	23 9:00 Japanese Language Class Taiko Yoga
24 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS SPRC	25 10:00am Ukulele 3:30 pm Tutorial	26 9:00 am – Assemble Newsletter 7:00pm Yoga	27 3:30 pm Tutorial	28 10:00 am staff mtg	29	30 9:00 Japanese Language Class Taiko Yoga
31 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal WORSHIP SERVICE/SS						

LITURGISTS
 Jan 3 Joe Hayashi
 Jan 10 Pat Hayashi
 Jan 17 No Liturgist today
 Jan 24 Todd Namba
 Jan 31 Cindy Kondo

GROCERY CERTIFICATES
 Charlotte Namba

USHERS
 Tim Cleary

Simpson United Methodist Church
6001 Wolff St
Arvada. Co. 80003-6833

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JANUARY 2016

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Or Current Resident

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2016