



Happy Easter!

This year, Easter Sunday comes early – March 27. So it is my pleasure to send early Easter greetings to you and all yours.

Each year when Easter comes, we know that spring is near. So signs of spring will be upon us sooner than we know. Very soon, we will be seeing seeds, plants and flowers beginning to germinate and bloom. Spring! What a great and fitting season to celebrate Easter, which is a celebration of resurrection and new life.

Easter is a celebration of hope. It is a time for hope. It is a time to feel hopeful, and spread the spirit of hope. Friedrich Nietzsche (a German philosopher sometime referred to as a philosophical pessimist) writes, “In reality, hope is the worst of all evils, because it prolongs man’s torments.” Could we be wrong to hope or be hopeful for something? Should we not nurture hope in life? Far from it. Another philosopher, François VI advocates for hope and encourages us to be hopeful when he said, “Hope, deceitful as it is, serves at least to lead us to the end of our lives by an agreeable route.”

Hope has sustained human beings for ages, especially the disenfranchised, the marginalized and the oppressed. Without hope, many would have perished in despair. Many who survived an unjust incarceration did so because of the hope of seeing a day of freedom one day. Those who are dehumanized and enslaved are sustained by the hope of attaining justice one day. Many who crossed the raging seas (and are doing so today) did because of hope – hoping to see a better future, if not for themselves, at least for their children.

One of the songs written by Eagles says, “When we are hungry, love will keep us alive.” I might say, hope has kept us alive, and hope will keep us alive. Let us continue to be hopeful and spread the spirit of hope, especially as we celebrate Easter.

Shalom – Be Well Always!
Tezenlo Thong, Pastor

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH:

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

March 6

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, k 11b-32

March 13

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 20

Luke 19:28-40; Psalm 118:1-2 19-29; Liturgy of the Passion

March 27

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-8



SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This year's special Sunday offering is March 6. Your generous offering gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing helps cover the operating expenses of UMCOR and allows 100% of your designated donations to get to those who need them most.

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>



Prayer Group

Join us immediately after church on Sunday, March 13th (11:15~ish) for prayer and card signing. We will spend 20 minutes in prayer for our extended Simpson family. Depending on how many people there are to pray for, we may pray as a group or divide and conquer by each taking a few cards to pray over and address. Kids are welcome! If you are participating in the knitting group, note that you will still have plenty of time to knit if you would like to come and pray with us first.

We look forward to lifting our hearts together in support of those we love. Contact Jenny Mahoney or Owen Fitzsimons with questions.

You are Appreciated!



A big THANK YOU to our faithful volunteers Nancy and Harry Miyahara and Grace Tochiara for coming together on January 26, 2016 to prepare the February Newsletter for mailing. Really could not do it without your help!

Sunday School News: February was a fun month. We are walking through the life of Jesus, practicing for Hina Matsuri and working on our chain of love. The children are very excited to be writing their own Christmas program. Sunday School Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 26 beginning at 9:00 am. We are very thankful to Seo's Martial Arts for donating 1000 eggs for our Easter egg hunt that day.

SPECIAL DATES

March 5th & 6th, 2016—Hina Matsuri

March 13, 2016—Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 16, 2016—50+ Meets for lunch & fellowship

March 17, 2016—St. Patrick's Day

March 20, 2016—Palm Sunday and first day of Spring

March 25, 2016—Good Friday

March 26, 2016—Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

March 27, 2016—Easter Day—Choir Easter Cantata

IN MEMORY OF:

Agnes Matsuda
 Kelly Dolezal, Charles Wiencek,
 Doris Matsumoto
 Steve & Jan Haruta
 Evelyn Hayashida
 Doug & Ruby Sagara
 James Phelps
 Pete Menda

BY:

David Dishaw
 Paula Matsumoto
 Miyako Smith
 Casey Hayashida
 Stacey, Evan, Cami Shigaya
 Bess & Joe Sakato
 Hatsuko & Banji Menda

**Special Contributions:**

Student Day: M/M Ken Namba

Human Relations Day: Grace Tochiara

Boiler: Fran Hamai, Sam Mayeda

After Hours Ministry: Mary Everitt

2016 Easter Cantata Instruments: Jennifer Lim

Thanksgiving: Chizuru Yoshino, Edward Yamaguchi, Pete Menda

Christmas: Chizuru Yoshino, Bruce Fukui, Edward Yamaguchi,
 Barbara Wong, Charles Yamaguchi, Pete Menda

Newsletter: Sam Mayeda, Chizuru Yoshino

Scholarship Fund: Keith Hora

**OUR CARE CORNER**

The families of: Nori Herder, George Tokunaga
 and Ken Miyoshi

Others to be Held in Prayer: Helen Goto, Masa Nishimura,
 Miyoko Wells and Ruth Yamauchi

It is with great pleasure that I introduce and reintroduce our bookkeeper, Lilly Quirk! As many of you know, she was with us before in the office. There truly are no words to describe how valuable her presence is and how we truly appreciate all that she is and does.

Pat Hayashi, SPRC Liaison

Lilly Quirk was born in Stafford, Kansas. I attended Pratt Junior College and moved to Colorado at age 20. Married to husband, Don, and we have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. We are very fortunate that they all live nearby in the Denver, Colorado area.

Lilly was a Bank Officer at formerly First National Bank of Golden, now Wells Fargo Bank of Golden for nearly twenty years. She graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, under a special three year program for Bank Officers.

Upon her first retirement, she and husband traveled for eight years in their RV. They covered all 48 contiguous states nearly three times. Although they only got to the New England states once.

Once upon a time, thinking they were going to settle down, she accepted a job at Simpson United Methodist Church in 2007 as combined secretary and bookkeeper. She worked for five years under Pastor Paul Murphy-Geiss and retired a second time in 2012. Due to changes in the office Administrative Assistants, she came back two times to train a new staff member. Last year (2015) SUMC worked out a job sharing agreement with Lilly and Mari, with Lilly working only as Bookkeeper and Mari Welch as Secretary.

Lilly and husband, Don, still love to travel. They have been going to the island of Saint Marriten in the Caribbean to their timeshare for over thirty years. Every January she will be MIA from the church office. January is a great month to get away from Colorado.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS—SPRING FORWARD

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 12.



**CELEBRATING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HINA MATSURI (DOLL FESTIVAL)
1968 – 2015**

Our annual Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival) is fast approaching! Please **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for Saturday, March 5^h and 6th

Please invite your friends, neighbors and family. This is a great way for everyone to get a sample of what the culture of Japan is all about. The event is **FREE** and as always, donations are always gratefully accepted.

We will have displays of Japanese Dolls, Kimekomi Dolls, Arts & Crafts, Origami, Kimonos, Ikebana, Bonsai and Calligraphy. Our program will include demonstrations of Judo, Karate, Kendo and Aikido. Tea Ceremony will be performed in our main Sanctuary. We will also have performers in Japanese Dance, Children's Songs, Shamisen and Ukulele. The *Denver Taiko* and the *Taiko with Toni* group will be performing.

A Note from Simpson's Scholarship Committee

Graduation time is rapidly approaching. Please note that the application forms for the Simpson Church scholarships for both 2016 high school graduates and continuing college students can be downloaded from the Simpson Church website or are available to pick up in the church office. Applications must be postmarked by Thursday, March 31, 2016. Thank you!

A prayer for Lent

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see more clearly the condition of my soul. If there is darkness, mean-spiritedness, egotistic pride ... or worse within, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Renew a right spirit within me and make me truly Christ-like in all my thoughts and actions. And when I begin to edge away from your will, please stir up my conscience until I am in harmony with you again. In Christ's name. Amen.

Simpson United Methodist Church
O.N.E. Committee Meeting
Sunday, February 14, 2016 – 11:15 a.m.

In attendance: Ann Kitayama, Julia Kamura, Jane Nakama, Alicia Swanberg, Patty Goto, Paula Matsumoto, Bob Fujioka, Cindy Kondo, Tay Kondo, Charlotte Namba

Co-chair, Ann Kitayama, called the meeting to order

Hina Matsuri - Jane Nakama reported a \$5 bento will be sold at the Hina Matsuri which will include 3 pieces of chicken wings, rice balls, and salad. 100 bentos will be made and sold each day. The ONE Committee has been asked to help prepare the bentos. Ann will send out an email to let the Committee know how much help is needed.

Card Ministry – Jenny Mahoney will continue to head this outreach project.

Visitation – Joe will continue visitation through April and Paula will take over in May.

Golf Tournament – Chen needs another point person for this event. The tournament will take place on Saturday, June 25 at the Indian Tree Golf Course with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Lunch will be provided at Simpson. Chen will put a registration form on the church website. Help is needed in registration and prizes. Proceeds from the Tournament will go toward the boiler fund.

Membership Nurture -Ann feels that it is time for congregation nurture and she has talked to Jennifer Lim about holding a team building workshop in early April or after the May food bazaar.

Joe has called a **Retreat planning meeting** on February 21, after service.

Coffee Hour – First Sunday of the month will begin in April – plan for 50 friends and members, with pastries and coffee. Julia and Charlotte will do July coffee hour. No coffee hour in March due to Hina Matsuri and none in May due to food bazaar. Sign-up sheet for coffee hour volunteers will be posted on the board just outside of the double sanctuary doors.

Noisy Offering - Sunday School will decide on where proceeds go from the Noisy Offering collection.

Church Directory – Ann will send out request for someone to head up this project.

Grocery Gift Cards – Alicia volunteered to help. Charlotte will ask Ad Council or Finance if the church could buy a card in order to buy miscellaneous items for church use. Might have to have a couple of cards. Card sellers will have a rotating schedule to sell cards once a month. Charlotte will work on the list and send to Ann. Also a suggestion was made to write up suggested use of cards when given as a gift. Only the loaded amounts are counted towards the 5% rebate.

Bob closed the meeting with a short prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Namba



SAKURA
FOUNDATION

TOHOKU TODAY:

A Celebration of Japan's Food, Culture and Recovery after 3.11.2011

Friday, March 11, 2016 at 5:30pm, RSVP required

1373 Grant Street, Denver 80203, banquet room at the First Baptist Church of Denver

March 11, 2011 was a devastating day for the people of Japan. The earthquake and tsunami they experienced forever changed their lives. As we approach the fifth anniversary of this tragic event, it is important to honor those whose lives were lost and support those who continue to re-build their communities.

In the spirit of community, the Sakura Foundation and its community partners invite you to attend a very important event on March 11, 2016: **Tohoku Today – A Celebration of Japan's Food, Culture and Recovery After 3.11.2011**. 100% of the \$15 per person fee will be donated to relief organizations in Japan. The evening will include the following:

A special presentation by Mio Yamamoto, co-founder and Managing Director of **WIT World in Tohoku**, who will share **stories of relief organizations** in the areas affected by the tsunami.

A cash bar and **Japanese cuisine** featuring **Tohoku recipes** will be prepared by a local Japanese chef.

Hand crafted jewelry from the **Nozomi Project** will be available for purchase www.nozomiproject.com.

Easter Cantata On Easter Sunday

Our celebration of Easter comes early again this year. March 27, 2016 is Easter Sunday! Our Chancel Choir is working hard to learn all the music. This year, we are combining old and new. You will hear traditional songs, classical pieces, spirituals and newer contemporary songs. We also will feature a small orchestra. Come experience "Ride On King Jesus" to the "Hallelujah Chorus"! I guarantee you will leave the service with the joy and love of Jesus Christ in your heart!

MARCH 2016

Simpson United Methodist Church
Arvada CO 80003-6833
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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
6 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS COMMUNION/Special Offering 11:00 am – Knit & Crochet 11:30am – 4pm Hina Matsuri	7 3:30 pm Tutorial	8 7:00pm Yoga	9 3:30 pm Tutorial	10 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 10am-3pm Game Day	12 9:00 Japanese Language Class, Talko Yoga
13 9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am – Bazaar pre-meeting 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS 11:00 am – O.N.E. 11:00 am Trustees Meet	14 10:00 am Ukulele 3:30 pm Tutorial	15 7:00pm Yoga	16 3:30 pm Tutorial Last day to order Lilies	17 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19 9:00 Japanese Language Class Talko Yoga
20 Palm Sunday 9:00 am – Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS Bridge to future Sunday 11:00 am – Knit & Crochet	21	22 8:00 am – Assembly Newsletter 7:00pm Yoga	23 6:00pm Finance 7:00pm Ad Council	24 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 Good Friday Easter Lilies delivered Church office closed	26 9:00 am Pancake Breakfast & Easter egg hunt 9:00 Japanese Language Class Talko Yoga
27 Easter 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS Easter Cantata SPRC	28 10:00am Ukulele 3:30 pm Tutorial	29 7:00pm Yoga	30 3:30 pm Tutorial	31 10:00 am staff mtg 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Scholarship Postmark date		

LITURGISTS

March 6 Jenny Mahoney
 March 13 Owen FitzSimons

March 20 Palm Sunday
 March 27 Easter

GROCERY CERTIFICATES

Chuckie Stark

USHERS

Tim Cleary

Simpson United Methodist Church
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Arvada. Co. 80003-6833

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ARVADA, COLORADO
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MARCH 2016

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Or Current Resident

