



State of the Affairs....

I was almost four hours early for my flight. As I sat and waited, I was reading Marc Lamont Hill's book, *NOBODY: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond*. Mr. Hill notes that Blacks are arrested "at a disproportionately higher rate than Whites." He further argues, "Blacks receive more of the kind of policing that puts them behind bars and less of the kind of policing that protects them from danger."

Not far into my reading, luckily or unluckily, an unexpected drama I was least expecting occurred and time passed a little faster. Two TSA officers came and talked to me. Then, they moved on to do the same to other passengers who were also waiting for their flights. Finally, they went and talked to a young African American man, which I surmise was probably their ultimate intention for initiating conversations with other travelers. Just like most people, he was also sitting and browsing his smart phone. They talked to him longer than they did to any of us. After a while they left.

Shortly after, on my way to a rest room, I saw one of the same TSA agents on her cellphone. When I came out, to my utter surprise, there were three cops standing around the young man. Within no time he was handcuffed and taken away. I couldn't believe it, but I didn't know the details. So I went and talked to a White lady who was sitting next to the man during the entire time. She, too, was confused and incredulous that they arrested him. "He wasn't doing anything wrong. He was just sitting and using his cellphone like all of us. He was not rude or disrespectful to the police, but they arrested him," she said. I said to her, "Maybe we should have put our hands behind us and ask the cops to arrest us, too, because we are sitting here and waiting like this young man did." Our hearts were heavy, but we laughed and parted ways.

There is so much going on right now. Travel bans were issued earlier and are being reconsidered, causing fear, chaos, and hardships. Immigrants and refugees were stopped from entering the country; some are being deported, and families are being separated. Anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim expressions are on the raise. Jewish connected graveyards, mosques and synagogues are being vandalized. The construction of Dakota Access Pipeline is being allowed against the wishes of the Standing Rock Sioux people. Peaceful protestors are being arrested and jailed.

Standing in solidarity with the marginalized is hard and risky, but our current state of affairs requires us to stand for justice and equality for all God's children. This year, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the internment of more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans and others of Japanese descent, let us not forget those who stood in solidarity with the victims of bigotry and hatred during World War II. Also, let us stand in solidarity with those who are feeling threatened in any way because of the state of affairs. For standing in solidarity with the oppressed and marginalized is a part of Simpson's legacy. And it is also the core of the Christian faith and practice. "A servant church must have as its priority solidarity with the poor" - Claudio Hummes.

Shalom – Be Well Always!

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

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

March 5	Genesis 2:15-17; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
March 12	Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
March 19	Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 85; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
March 26	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

For your information: Articles are always welcome for the monthly newsletter. The newsletter is prepared the third week of the month and copied and then prepared for mailing on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Thanks to those of you that consistently send in articles.

TALENT SHOW AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Save the date and plan to attend what promises to be a fun-filled event, organized by youth and children. Sunday, March 19th right after church. More details on this event to follow! If you have questions, please talk to Scott Pelletier.

Simpson United Methodist Church

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

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

Japanese Language Instructor: Miwa Steuben

Church Pianist: Chen Wu Choir Director: Debbie Willeford

Administrative Assistant: Mari Welch Bookkeeper: Lilly Quirk

Director, Youth & Children: Scott Pelletier Children's Sunday School Teacher: Brenda Schroder



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>

VISION 2017-2019

SIMPSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The focus of our ministry for the next three years, 2017-2019, will be on youth and children. In a way, this is a continuing effort to rejuvenate our church, and we could call the proposed vision *Rejuvenation II*.

We often refer to our children as “the future of our church” or “future leaders.” If it is true, it is also obvious that we don’t have a viable future, because we do not have a sustainable number of children, youth and young parents in our church. Our future is now, and what we do now will determine the future existence of our church. An active and vibrant presence of children, youth and young families will ensure the continued existence of our church beyond us. If we want the church to continue and carry on our legacy, we need to invest in this particular area of ministry now. Therefore, it is with this ministerial concern and urgency, we will focus on engaging in ministry to the youth, children and their families for the next three years. Below you will find the details for 2017.

THEME “The Future Begins Today”

DATE	EVENT/ PROJECT	LEAD ORGANIZER
March 19, 2017	Talent Show and Crockpot Cook-off	Scott
April 15, 2017	Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast	Brenda
May 7, 2017	May Day Basket	Brenda
June 10, 2017	Sushi Extravaganza!	Scott
July 17-20, 2017	Vacation Bible School	Brenda
August 6, 2017	UMC Water World	Scott
September 3, 2016	Rally Sunday	Brenda
October 27, 2017	Trunk-Or-Treat & Spooktacular!	Brenda: Trunk-Or-Treat Scott: Spooktacular!
November 19, 2017	Thanksgiving Mission Trip (DenUM)	Scott
December 10, 2017	Christmas Pageant	Brenda
Youth & Children Summer Lock-in		Brenda & Scott



You are Appreciated!

A big THANK YOU to our faithful volunteers Esther Hashiba, Kaz Mizoue, Yoshie Tanita and Grace Tochihara for preparing the February Newsletter for mailing on January 24, 2017. Could NOT do it without your help!

You are very much appreciated!

SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday, September 16th and
Sunday September 17th, 2017.
Simpson's All Church Retreat**

**“Reconnect,
Reinvent,
Rediscover”**

GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Don't forget to purchase new cards or reload your already existing cards! Simpson receives 5% of all reloads which will go towards helping those in need. We will be waiting in the foyer right after worship on the 1st Sunday of the month to sell these gift cards. If you need a gift card any other time of the month, please call Bob Fujioka at 303-233-8179 or Charlotte Namba at 303-425-7318.

JAPANESE ELDER WELLNESS GROUP

We will meet on the 4th Wednesday of March (March 22) at Simpson from 11:00 am –1:00 pm. Our time together consists of a light lunch, exercise, music, games and a time for community. It is always fun to see old friends and to meet new ones, Please invite your friends to come join us. **Hope to see you there.**

“Reflections”

Following our first meeting, the newly named study group, “Reflections” which is sponsored by the O.N.E. Committee put together a calendar for the next few months (see the church calendar). We will be meeting twice a month, every other week on Tuesdays at 9:30 am and Saturdays at 12:30 pm beginning March 7. We will be studying “Believe: Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus” by Randy Frazee, with study guide and DVD. The book we will be reading is “The Shack” by William Paul Young (on your own), and we plan to see a movie, time and movie to be determined by the group. The O.N.E. Committee will provide all the materials.

If you haven't already, please contact one of us (Charlotte-masami_namba@msn.com or Ann—ann@ppsicolorado.com) if you are interested so we can place the order for the book.

IN MEMORY OF:

Jane Okubo
 Joan Onodera
 Larry Goto
 Doris Matsumoto, Kelly Dolezal
 Charles Weincek, Bruce Lim
 Bruce Lim

BY:

Aiko Jane Okubo
 Will/Cordie Kagohara
 Lily Goto
 Paula Matsumoto
 Jennifer Lim

***THANK YOU!***

Boiler: Dion Dishong; Jennifer Lim (from Boiler Boutique)

Christmas: Sue Arai, George Tomomitsu, M/M Stome Tanita, M/M Edward Yamaguchi

Human Relations Day: Sarah Broderick, M/M Dan Goto, Pat Hayashi, Julia Kamura, M/M Ken Namba, Paula Matsumoto, M/M Maynell, Alben Sakaguchi, Ruth Shinto, and Grace Tochihara,

Light box and candle: Nancy Shock

Thanksgiving: M/M Edward Yamaguchi

Utilities: Friday Bridge Club

All gifts, great and small are equally appreciated!

***OUR CARE CORNER*****Prayers for Those Experiencing Grief:**

The family of Min Yamamoto

Those Experiencing Health Issues:

Masa Nishimura, Miyoko Wells, & Helen Goto



**CELEBRATING THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HINA MATSURI DOLL FESTIVAL
1968—2017**

Our annual Hina Matsuri, the Doll Festival is fast approaching! Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th.

Make certain you invite your relatives, friends and neighbors—especially if they know nothing about Japanese Culture. This is a great way for them to get a sample of what the culture of Japan is all about. The event is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.

We will have a display of Dolls, Arts & Craft, Origami, demonstrations, Kimono Exhibit, Ikebana, Bonsai, Calligraphy, Judo, Karate, Kendo and Aikido. Tea Ceremony will be performed and explained. We will have performances in Japanese Dance, Children's Songs, Koto, Samishen, Violin, Sakahachi, Ukulele and Taiko (Japanese Drum & Percussion). Box lunch will be sold.

This is one of the few opportunities and an especially fun time to wear your beautiful Kimono Yukata or Hoppi Coat you have packed away and we would like to have lots of people wearing them! We can have someone dress you in the kimono if you have forgotten how or never knew.

Please call Kazuko Dishong (303.234. 0555) or Jacqueline Cornish (303.594.3501) if you have something you would like to exhibit or volunteer to help! Thank you.

CHURCH BAZAAR REQUEST FROM BAKE SALE LADIES

The Church Bazaar is May 6, 2017. The bake sale needs your donations. We appreciate all the yummy treats the ladies provide each year. We especially need donations of smaller items. If you are able to help out with these items our wish list includes: cookies, small dessert bars, brownies, candies, those cute little sweet breads and other small desserts.

Thank you from the bake sale ladies!

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 2017 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 as well as emailed by Wednesday April 5, 2017.**

THANKS For Your Help!

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped make the bowling bento sale a success! We sold everything we made and cleared a little over \$1,000 which will be used by the ONE committee for some new activities for all members and friends of Simpson. Thank you to all who helped with the preparation of the food on Friday; cooking chicken, making sushi, packing and transporting boxes to the bowling alley, selling of bentos and cleaning up of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall on Saturday. The bowlers were thankful for the bentos as the bowling alley had a kitchen fire prior to the tournament and they would have had to eat only doughnuts! A big thanks to the Trustees who discarded the teriyaki chicken sauce and then cleaned the pans for us. We are very grateful for all the help we received.

ONE Committee"

Church Directory Coming!

Plans are in the works for a new church directory in May 2017. Watch for more information in the newsletters and church bulletins. If you have any pictures of church activities that you would like to have printed in the new directory, please submit them to the Directory Committee by the end of April. Identify them on the back of each picture with your name and if possible, the date of the activity. Thank you,

Directory Committee—Ruby Hada, Julia Kamura and Charlotte Namba

Ad Council

Condensed Ad Council Minutes—January 25, 2017.

Complete minutes are posted on the Church Bulletin Board.

The Ad Council met on January 25, 2017 to cover church administrative business.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee reported -

- All staff job descriptions are completed.
- Jennifer Mahoney is chair, David Powell is vice-chair.
- Rev. Thong will continue with Facebook responsibilities.
- Liaisons to staff will be published.



Worship Committee, Co-chairs Dan and Patty Goto, plan to involve children and youth in worship.

Trustees are planning a workday on January 28 to fix the shut-off valves under sinks. Also, an all-church cleanup is planned for February 25 to get ready for the Hina Matsuri.

Simpson United Methodist Church
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MARCH

2017
 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 Ash Wednesday	2 Hina Matsuri Committee Prepare Manju 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	4 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko 11:30 am - 4:00 pm Hina Matsuri
5 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/ Communion SS/Youth 11:30 am - 4:00 pm Hina Matsuri	6	7 9:30 am - Reflections	8	9 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 10:00 am-3pm Bridge Game Day	11 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko 12:30 pm Reflections O.N.E. Committee
12 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Youth Daylight Savings Time Begins	13 10:00 am Ukulele	14	15	16 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	18 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko
19 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am - Knit & Crochet Retreat Com. in Sanctuary Talent Show & Chili Cook-off	20	21 9:30 am - Reflections	22 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Japanese Elder Wellness 6:00 pm - Finances Committee 7:00 pm - Ad Council	23 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	25 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko 12:30 pm - Reflections
26 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE S.P.R.C.	27 10:00 am Ukulele	28 9:00 am - Assemble Newsletter	29	30 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	

LITURGISTS
 March 5 Pat Hayashi
 March 12 Dan Goto
 March 19 Paula Matsumoto
 March 26 Robin Miyahara

GROCERY CERTIFICATES
 Bob Fujioka

USHERS
 Tim Cleary

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MARCH 2017

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Or Current Resident



MARCH



March 1—Ash Wednesday

March 4,5—Hina Matsuri

March 12—Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17—St. Patrick's Day



March 20—Spring Equinox

