



Ideas inspiring people on the All Church Retreat

COMING ALIVE in the SPIRIT!

Rally Sunday and the ALL CHURCH RETREAT



A BIG THANK YOU TO THE RETREAT COMMITTEE:

Noelle & Ken Maynell, Tom Fujita,
John Hall, Joe Hayashi, Ann Kitayama,
Pat Hayashi, Bob & Jane Fujioka



Ruby steps forward to help and Charlotte's glad!



Thank you applause for Scott and Sheri for leading our youth and children on the Retreat!



Art projects admired at the Retreat



Julia, Karen, and Nancy receive a gift for prayer from Pastor Vivian at the



Tea and Conversation



I am the mother of two young men who gave meaning to the old rhyme, “snakes and snails and puppy dog tails - that’s what little boys are made of!” I love my sons, but sometimes they challenged my ability to keep my cool. When they were young teenagers, about 13 and 15 years old, they both experienced a growth spurt and began to eat everything in sight. It seemed like all I did was buy food and shoes for them.

Our family ate dinner together every night. Somehow, during this growing phase, my sons rarely finished their dinner. I couldn’t figure out why, since they were in the habit of coming home right after school and hanging out with their friends at our house. It turns out that they had made a habit of stopping by a convenience store on the way home, buying candy, and eating it all afternoon, right up until dinner time!

Well, that led to a new rule: no snacks after 4 pm. I thought I had it covered, but the next few nights they still didn’t finish their dinners. Finally, after a few days of this, I accused them of disobeying me and eating snacks.

“Oh, no, Mom,” they said indignantly. “We haven’t bought candy and snacks since you told us not to.” “Well, then,” I replied, “why aren’t you eating your dinner?” “Because we’re full,” they said. Now I was really puzzled. “How can you be full if you’re not eating any snacks or candy after 4 pm?”

“We don’t eat that junk. We buy burritos and hot dogs at the store and eat them later. Those aren’t snacks - they’re real food!” As I shook my head, I realized my boys were proud of themselves for obeying me while still managing to eat what they wanted!

Needless to say, we got this sorted out and my sons went back to eating a healthy dinner. But I realized that it isn’t as easy to communicate what I mean as I thought it was.

In every church I have ever served, communication has been a hot issue. We put things in the bulletin, the newsletter, send them out on email, put them on Facebook, put flyers on the walls, and hand out tickets during worship - and still people say they had no idea an event was happening or that a change had occurred. Now I know that people take in information in different ways. Some people need to hear it with their ears. Others need colorful images to draw their attention. Still others like words, carefully articulated in an article like this one.

I wonder if this is why we have four Gospels in our Bible. They all tell the same story, but each in its unique way. Mark gets right to the point - it’s the shortest Gospel and leads most directly to Jesus’ death and resurrection. Matthew was written for the Jewish Christians living in Jerusalem - it explains how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, providing crucial evidence that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah. Luke is writing for non-Jewish Christians throughout the Roman empire. He gives Greek and Roman names for geographical locations - Lake Gennesaret for Lake Galilee, for example - so his readers will understand where they are in the story. And John wrote his Gospel for a group of his followers who clearly thought in images and poetry - it is John who gives us all the “I Am” statements of Jesus: the bread of life, light of the world, the way, the truth, and the life, etc.

I suppose if God is willing to communicate in different ways so every kind of person can take in the message of salvation through Christ, I can learn how to communicate in different ways, too. Thank goodness our God is patient because I’m still learning!

Serving Jesus with Joy,
Pastor Vivian

Just what is “stewardship”? Is just all about the money? If it is, how in the world is that a spiritual topic?



aside a portion of our income for God’s work **before** we pay our bills, save for retirement, or have fun.

How we use money is an important spiritual value. Mature Christians have put God in charge of their money, just as they have given him Lordship over all the other aspects of their lives.

Stewardship is an attitude of gratitude. When a person realizes that every good thing they have is a gift from God’s grace, they are delighted to extend that grace to others through the work of the church. And that generosity changes lives.

From the beginning, God has asked us to give Him the “first fruits” of what we receive. This means that we set

The amount, which might be 1% or 10%, is less important than our faithfulness to doing God’s will, which is to take His love into the world.

Our primary means of serving God is through supporting the regular ministries of this church. We need your regular donations in order to support those ministries.

We need people to help us create a stewardship campaign that is meaningful and effective. We pray you will say “yes” when you are asked to serve on this important campaign.



I want to start out saying what an awesome time Sheri and I had with the youth and children at the Simpson UMC retreat. We had a chance to bond and grow. Thanks to all who came to the event!

Upcoming events:

- Corn maze at Anderson Farms on Oct 8th. Let's get lost and found in the maze!!
- Youth led service on Sunday October 29th. Join us as we delve into the world of super heroes and talk about the true super hero that saved the world.

It was inspiring to hear the adults on the All Church Retreat affirm again and again how important it is to them that we inspire our children and youth to believe in Christ, teach them how to use the Bible, and support them as they begin to explore what it means to believe in God, follow Christ, and love others.

Youth leaders can't do that alone - they need parents, grandparents, and other adults to show how important our children and youth are by being involved in our activities.

- We are still looking for some adventurous adults to join our **Youth and Children Council**.
- We'll meet about once a month to organize activities and teach discipleship.
- If you're interested in being a part of growing an amazing ministry email me at aspell.901@hotmail.com

God Bless, Scott Pelletier - Director of Youth Ministries

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Super heroes discovered at Simpson UMC! Several people have stepped up to teach Sunday school while we search for a new permanent Sunday school teacher. Jane Fujioka and Charlotte Namba first revealed their superpowers, teaching the children about loving by showing up. Sheri Pelletier flew to the rescue on September 24th to teach about grace. A new volunteer, Jane Ferris, will reveal her loving strengths during the month of October. ***Thank you to all our superheroes --***

Our children will thrive because you care enough to serve!



Due to problems with our computer systems, we cannot provide a financial update this month. We expect to be able to provide financial information in the November newsletter. We apologize.

Worship

Once a year, Christians around the world celebrate Holy Communion on the same day as we recognize that we are one body in Christ.



**WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 1, 2017**

We encourage you to wear an item that represents your heritage - a tie, socks, scarf, or other item. During coffee hour we'll have a good time learning more about one another's family history!

You are invited to worship with us on **World Communion Sunday, October 1st**, at 10:00 am.

EVERYONE is welcome at our communion table.



WANTED - Worship Tech People: Martin Sagara, who has faithfully served the church for years managing our slides and sound during worship, will not be able to serve as often due to the demands of his job. We need people willing to serve during worship. We'll teach you everything you need to know. Please contact John Hall (303-770-9661 or email at jwhall684@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up to serve.

Announcements: If you want to make an announcement before worship, please arrive at 9:45 am and let Pastor Vivian know you would like to make an announcement. Please sit in the front pew at the beginning of worship and come forward when you are called. The most effective announcements are both brief and interesting.

October Sermons and Scriptures

Oct. 1 — WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

“The New Covenant”

John 15: 1-5; John 15: 6-11

Oct. 8 — “The Power of Release”

Acts 12: 1-12; John 8: 28-32

Oct. 15 — “Balancing Act”

James 2: 14-17; Mark 7: 24-37

Oct. 22 — 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

“Here I Stand”

Romans 1: 16-17; Ephesians 2: 8-10

Oct. 29 — YOUTH SUNDAY

Our youth will design and lead worship

Scott Pelletier, our Youth Director, will preach.



Commemorating the Reformation • 1517-2017

We are grateful for the many ways people support our church with generous gifts. Sometimes the gifts are given in loving memory. Sometimes the gifts are given to honor someone. Sometimes the gifts are given to meet church needs. All gifts are appreciated and serve Christ.



Given By

Ben Ichikawa
Jennifer Lim



In Memory Of

Madge Ichikawa
Mary Critchlow

Gifts to the Church

A.S. Yamamoto	Boiler Fund
Sam Mayeda	Boiler Fund
Shoenberg Greens HOA	Boiler Fund
Tateyama Concert	Boiler Fund
Grace Tochiara	DenUM
Curtis Higuchi	Newsletter Donation
JAAC	Miscellaneous Donation



Thank You to Ken Namba for replacing the broken window in the church office.

In Sympathy...

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Susie Nagai on September 8, 2017. At Susie's request there will be no funeral services. Susie requested that everyone join the Inai, Noguchi, and Nagai families on October 8 from 10:00am—2:00 pm at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cherry Creek to celebrate Susie's life.

With sadness we announce the passing of Fumi Arai in Pacifica, CA on August 16, 2017.
A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Lee Ishida, Yoshie Tanita and Grace Tochiara for assembling the September Newsletter for mailing on August 22, 2017

We would NOT be able to do this without your help.
You are very much appreciated!



Masa Nishimura, Miyoko Wells, & Helen Goto



MUSIC TO LOOK FORWARD TO . . .

On Sunday, October 8th, The Jeffco Brass will be our guests in worship. They will join our Chancel Choir in the gospel hymn "Soon and Very Soon". The Brass will also join us on hymns and will provide "Special Music" throughout the service.

For a special treat, the Jeffco Brass will perform a "Mini Concert" BEFORE the worship service begins. **Don't miss this wonderful group on October 8th.**

Amazing Grace is a beautiful and favorite hymn. We all are familiar with the tune in our hymn books. However, did you know this meaningful text has many different melodies and arrangements? Chris Tomlin is a contemporary writer and composer whose work is exploding on K-Love (a Denver Christian radio station), and in many churches in many countries. His style, lyrics and contemporary setting of this hymn and many, many more has touched our young adults, children and congregations around the world.

RETREAT

WOW!! POW!!

What a retreat! Our first in 25 years!

The Buckhorn camp sits in a beautiful and serene valley. Absolutely "GOD'S country" - sights of wild turkey, deer, and Black Angus roam the grounds. Our city slicker kids were enthralled with the cows!

Our cabins were clean and comfortable and the food was super delicious.

We enjoyed prayer and meditation each day. Pastor Vivian led us in Bible study and she also led a stimulating and in-depth discussion on our retreat theme – **Rediscover, Reconnect, Reinvent**. We each got to choose nine areas which we thought were most important to Simpson's future. Pastor Vivian compiled the list and it was presented at the Ad Council for further discussion. A commitment to Simpson was made by all and placed in a gold box which has been placed on the altar.

FUN!! We had a WILD water fight with the kids! We were out numbered – 200 water balloons against 5 water shooters. We were thoroughly soaked! There was no respect or mercy for us adults!! Kids, we'll get you next year! The kids' camp fire and s'mores were terrific! The stars shone brightly in the night sky - again in "GOD'S" country!

Last but not least, getting to know our Simpson friends in such a beautiful and intimate setting is what will surely bring us back.

Thank you to Pastor Vivian and her husband, John; Scott our brave youth leader; his charming wife, Sheri; and the retreat committee for a truly GREAT weekend.

Greetings with Love from a Celestial Angel!

A couple of weeks ago I had a wonderful experience! I asked God, my Boss, if I could attend your Annual Retreat and He said yes, please go with my Blessing which I did. Of course you didn't see me but I sat next to you throughout the weekend and I felt an outpouring of Christian love from your congregation. The services and the workshops conducted by Reverend Hiestand were extraordinary! The sharing and collaboration of your congregation with incredible! God was so pleased that you as a group stated that you wanted to include more of His Teachings in your Church curriculum. He is so proud of you and He sends you His Love.

By the way, I saw a chipmunk kiss Alicia Swanberg's feet while she was asleep at night in her cabin; that was so cute.

Respectfully, The Angelic Guest

(Submitted by Joe Hayashi)



Every year, from children to seniors, millions of generous volunteers pack shoeboxes with gifts for children in need around the world.

Last year, in the sanctuary, it was wonderful to see the number of filled shoeboxes grow during the month of October ready to be shipped to children in other countries.

National Collection Week for the shoebox project is November 13-20. Please have your filled shoeboxes at the church by November 13. Be sure to put a large rubber band around the shoebox, and don't forget to tape the boy/girl label with the age checked on the outside of the shoebox. If you need extra labels, you can make black and white copies of the labels on a printer or copier.

You can pay for the shipping either on-line or put a check for the total shoeboxes in one of your boxes. When the boxes are inspected at the warehouse the volunteer will pull the check envelope out. An envelope for your check is in the "how to pack your shoebox gift" pamphlet that is included in each red/green shoebox.

If you donate your \$9 shipping online, you can follow your box to see where it will be delivered into the hands of a child in need.

You can find this and other inspiring information and stories online at samaritanspurse.org/occ

Grocery Cards for College Students

What a great idea! Your college student could use a little help right now - and those gift cards can be reloaded at any time! Don't forget - Simpson receives 5% of all purchases AND reloads, all of which will go towards helping those in need. We will be waiting in the foyer right after worship on the first Sunday of the month to sell 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.



UPDATING OUR FOOD DONATIONS

For a number of years we have been donating non-perishable food items to Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM). However, in August DenUM announced that it is undergoing major changes. The largest change is that it is merging with St. Francis Center in Denver. During the merging process they are somewhat limited regarding receiving and distributing non-perishable food.



The church - specifically the O.N.E. Committee, Scott Pelletier, and Pastor Vivian - took this opportunity to review this ministry. We talked about the various organizations to which we could give food. We talked about using this ministry to teach our youth about caring for the lost and the least.

As a result, the O.N.E. Committee decided to donate to a local food bank in Arvada. Once a month the Youth Group check all donated items to ensure they are not out of date or damaged, pack them up, and take them to the Arvada Food Bank.

Please continue to donate non-perishable items by placing them on the shelves opposite the elevator outside the Sanctuary. *Thank you for your continuing generosity!*

Church News

Silver and Gold

Make new friends, but keep the old....

This is the first in a 3 part series on building consistent habits easily shared by both long time members, and first time worshipers. See the September newsletter for the full introduction to this series.

Habit 1: Introduce yourself to a kid at church.

The question "Why make church a priority" came up at retreat. Pastor spoke to this in a recent sermon, reminding us that church builds people. It helps us become. Become a positive force in the world.

Part of that becoming is learning about our faith from each other. That happens when we make the time to know each other. We become comfortable in each other's space. Including the children and youth of the church.

Then, when we least expect it, a child or young person asks us a question. A question that may seem small to us, but whose answer will be part of defining who that child becomes. When we least expect it, we may get a hug. Or a smile, a laugh, a joke, a song, a bug (yes, I've unexpectedly received cool bugs from kids at church :^)). Reminding us of the joy we often forget as adults.

This ability to bless each other unexpectedly happens when we know each other. Knowing each other starts with an introduction. It continues every time we see each other with a friendly wave, smile, and "how are you?"

I challenge you to be part of this process of building people. Good people. Loving people. People who make the time to engage with each other. I challenge you to introduce yourself to a kid at church.

With love and respect from
Jennifer Mahoney



Discerning our Future by Discovering our Past

One of the most important tasks we can do as a congregation is to come together to review our shared history as a congregation. As each person speaks aloud their experience in the church, God's work among us is revealed. As we listen to one another in a spirit of loving acceptance, even the difficult times can be viewed through a lens of healing love.

On Sunday, October 8, we will begin the process of sharing our history so we may discern the future God is calling us to live into. After worship, after we enjoy the refreshments provided by the Nichigo congregation in the Memorial Lounge, we will fill in a timeline placed on the wall by Pastor Vivian. Together we will begin to explore our history, sharing memories of our lives in this church.

A second opportunity to share our history will be held on **Thursday, October 12th, at 2:00 pm**, in the Memorial Lounge. Pastor Vivian will provide tea and home made cookies (because cookies make everything better!).

Additional opportunities may be offered in November so that everyone can have the opportunity to share

**33rd Annual
Simpson United Methodist Church
Arts & Crafts Showcase
Sunday, October 22, 2017
11:00am to 3:00 pm**

Handcrafted Items ~ Holiday Gifts ~ Jewelry ~ Ceramics ~ Japanese Treats

Chibi No Gakko



Chibi No Gakko is a Denver community-based program that provides children the opportunity to explore the Japanese American experience in a fun, “hands on” way through a variety of activities:

- exploring personal family and Japanese American history
 - cooking
 - games, music and dance
 - arts and crafts
 - reading and writing in an experiential way
- **Family History**
Students learn the value of oral histories and their own history by interviewing family members and writing a personal journal.
 - **Reading & Writing**
Student read about the Japanese American internment through a variety of books ~ *Baseball Saved Us*, *Bluejay in the Desert*, *Journey Home....*
 - **Cooking**
Students learn the basics of cooking simple Japanese foods from udon and rice to SPAM musubi and chicken teriyaki. Learning to use a knife to slice, dice and chop is one of the biggest challenges!
 - **Songs, Dances & Games**
Tanko Bushi, Aka Tonbo and Speed Jan-Ken-Po are a sample of the folk dances, songs and games students learn as part of their Chibi experience. Traditionally they perform what they’ve learned at the end-of-session family potluck!
 - **Arts & Crafts**
Artistic creativity ranges from the traditional to wildly esoteric when students have made noren, taiko drums, ceramic sushi plates, ceramic tea cups, furoshikis, hagoitas, maneki nekos, darumas and more!

A Japanese American Heritage School

- Sessions are held every two years ~ next session 2018
- Students currently enrolled in grades 2-8 – see reverse side for application
- Teachers are certified through the Colorado Department of Education
- Youth mentors in grades 9-12 who were previous Chibi No Gakko students

Staffed and supported by the Japanese American community

Registration must be received by November 15, 2017. If space is available, applications will be accepted after December 1st. Registration priority is based on date application is received. Please see our website www.simpsonumc.com for more information.



SAKURA FOUNDATION

An Introduction from Sakura Foundation

Who We Are

Sakura Foundation, a nonprofit organization, was established in 2014 as a result of a re-organization within Sakura Square. True to its charitable mission, Sakura Foundation is committed to preserving the Japanese (J) and Japanese American (JA) culture, heritage and community through programs, events, grants, donations, scholarships and an emerging leaders program. The Foundation encourages and embraces community members of all walks of life to share in the J/JA experience in metro Denver.

What We Do

Sakura Foundation has established a community grant program, provides scholarships for high school seniors through the Japanese American Community Graduation Program (JACGP), makes donations to worthy causes in the community and presents and sponsors a variety of events throughout the year. A few of our most recent events include the Kodo taiko concerts at the Newman Center, screenings of Japanese movies at the Colorado Dragon Film Festival and Denver Jewish Film Festival, and sponsorship of Day of Remembrance at History Colorado presented by Mile High JACL. The Foundation is also dedicated to sustaining the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple through its scholarship program and co-presentation of the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival at Sakura Square. The dates for the 46th year of the festival are June 23 and 24, 2018.

The Foundation's Mirai Generations Leadership Program nurtures, connects and supports emerging leaders who are passionate about and dedicated to the J/JA community and its culture. It is our hope that these participants will serve as leaders and mentors to ensure that our culture and community thrives into the future. Application details and requirements can be found at www.SakuraFoundation.org. Applicants of any ethnicity who are dedicated to the J/JA community are welcome to apply. The applications for the 2018 session will be available online in the fall of 2017.

How to Reach Us

Please explore www.SakuraFoundation.org for detailed information about the Foundation, its board members and programming. Executive Director Gary Yamashita and Program Director Stacey Shigaya welcome your inquiries: garry@sakurafoundation.org and staceys@sakurafoundation.org. To stay up to date on Foundation events and activities, please check our website and "Like" us on Facebook by searching "Sakura Foundation."

Sakura Foundation looks forward to working with Simpson United Methodist Church to support and grow the J/JA community into the future.

Simpson United Methodist Church

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Children and Youth Sunday School at 10:15 am

OCTOBER 2017

Telephone: 303-428-7963

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

www.simpsonumc.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 World Communion Sunday 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10 am WORSHIP SERVICE with Holy Communion 10:15 am SS/Youth 11:15 am O.N.E. Comm. Mtg	2 10 am Ukulele	3 9:30 am—Reflections Class	4	5 10 am—Staff Mtg. 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 11:30 am Wedding	7 9:00 am – Taiko 9:00 am Japanese Language Class
8 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 am SS/Youth Nichigo hosts Coffee Hour 11 am Discerning our Future by Viewing our Past	9 10 am Ukulele	10 6 pm Trustees	11	12 10 am—Staff Mtg. 2 pm Discerning our Future by Viewing our Past 6:30 pm— Choir Rehearsal	13 10 am Gameday in Memorial Lounge	14 9 am – Taiko 9 am Japanese Language Class
15 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 am SS/Youth 11:15 am – Knit & Crochet - Worship Design Team	16	17 9:30 am—Reflections Class	18	19 6:30 pm— Choir Rehearsal	20	21 9 am – Taiko 9 am Japanese Language Class Set-up for Arts & Crafts
22 9 am Choir Rehearsal 10 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 am SS/Youth 11:15 am—SPRC 11:00 am—3:00 pm Arts & Crafts Showcase	23 10 am Ukulele	24 9 am Assemble Newsletter	25 11 am – 1 pm APDC Luncheon 6:00 pm – Finance Committee 7:00 pm – Ad Council	26 10 am—Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm— Choir Rehearsal	27	28 9 am – Taiko 9 am Japanese Language Class
29 Youth Sunday 10 am WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 am Sun. School 11:15 am Refreshments	30	31				

GROCERY CERTIFICATES

Charlotte Namba

USHERS

Dan Goto

LITURGISTS

David Powell
 Paula Matsumoto
 Dan Goto
 Jenny Mahoney
 YOUTH

YOUTH

October 1
 October 8
 October 15
 October 22
 October 29

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ARVADA, COLORADO
PERMIT NO. 11

OCTOBER 2017

Phone: 303 428 7963

Or Current Resident

email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

October is a busy time of year for pastors. Our pastor will be busier than usual because she is in the process of becoming a Lead Trainer in her field (Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry Specialist). She will be out of town on the following week days during October:

October 2-4 (Monday - Wednesday) - for TIIMS training

October 16-19 (Monday - Thursday) - for TIIMS training

In addition to these days, Pastor Vivian is required to attend an annual meeting for appointed clergy (called "Orders Retreat"):

October 24 - 26 (Tuesday - Thursday)

When she is in town, she will keep her regular office hours (10am-1pm, Mon-Th).

She plans to attend the monthly Finance and Ad Council meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 25th, then return to Orders Retreat.

