



**The FUTURE of  
this church  
is in the hands of**



**the PEOPLE  
of this church.**

This year marks the 110th anniversary of this congregation. For over a century people have come together to worship Christ, study Scripture, and fellowship together. This church has a rich history of Japanese culture, and proudly offers support to many events that nurture that heritage in this region.

**Despite its rich heritage, this congregation now faces the possibility that it may cease to exist in just a few years.**

However, just because something is possible doesn't mean it is inevitable. The secret to triumphing in the face of challenges is to see the opportunities hidden within the outcome we fear. Just think what previous congregations faced over the years. In the early 20th century they faced racism. That was augmented by the economic hardships of the Depression. And when things seemed at their lowest point, along came World War II, internment camps, and open hostility.

Still, the people of this church held fast to their faith and persevered. Through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit they fought every challenge that came against them, and triumphed over them all. It took hard work and complete dedication to Christ, but in the end they prevailed.

**Now this congregation is once again being challenged.** Each of us must look within our own souls and ask whether we are willing to do the hard work our parents and grandparents did to revitalize the church. It will mean setting aside our personal preferences and prayerfully seeking God's will. It will mean extra driving and more meetings. Most of all, it will mean putting aside our reluctance to talk about Christ and our problems so that God - the Divine Potter - can shape the clay of our church to His liking and purpose.

This doesn't mean we ignore our heritage. It means we come together to prayerfully ask: what are the essential truths and elements of our heritage? How is Christ revealed through the unique witness of our past? How can we offer this unique witness to the world so that it draws like minded people to us?

**All challenges are opportunities in disguise.** Our response will determine whether we become stronger or fade away. In September and October, the Staff Parish Relations Committee and Pastor Vivian will be offering times for the congregation to come together to pray and talk about these challenges and opportunities. Look for information about these events in bulletins and email announcements and plan to attend at least one.

## Tea and Conversation



In May, my husband and I had the joy of finally going on our dream vacation. We had saved for several years and worked with our churches so we could travel for three full weeks. We spent that time travelling in the British Isles, beginning in Ireland where our goddaughter, Kristi, lives with her family. Kristi took us to Trinity College in Dublin (where she and her family now live) where we viewed the Book of Kells, and Glendalough (believe me, I'm checking the spelling as I go along!), where there is a castle and an old brewery and a crumbling monastery.

From there we travelled to London, Cornwall, Basingstoke (a place of mirthful connections with our Gilbert and Sullivan days), Highclere Castle ("Downtown Abbey" fans eat your hearts out!), and Wales. We did all this in about 8 days, for the distances between these places are not far for people accustomed to the Western United States.

Then we embarked on that part of the journey that prompted the desire to take the journey in the first place: the ancient Christian communities of Lindisfarne and Iona. Lindisfarne is a tidal island, accessible only at low tide, in Northumbria which is on the northeastern coast of England. The monastery was established in the 7th century by St. Aidan, who drew the people of the region to follow Christ through his persistent, kind presence.

From Lindisfarne we travelled through Scotland to Iona, a remote island on the west coast (Inner Hebrides) of Scotland. St. Columba established the monastery there in the late 6th century, and from there drew the people of Scotland to follow Christ. We stayed on Iona for four days, soaking in the deep sense of Christ's presence as we walked the island and climbed Dun I.

I could write many pages about the spiritual impact this journey had on me, but I will limit this article to the deepest way my soul has been moved: the depth and strength and permanence of Jesus Christ in the world.

Each and every monastery has been destroyed multiple times over the ages. Lindisfarne was most recently deprived of the roof for the monastery in World War I—just barely a century ago. The Vikings destroyed both Lindisfarne and Iona, driving the monks and congregations into the surrounding hills and caves.

The response of Columba, Aidan, and their successors was to reach out to their conquerors with the Gospel of Christ. They converted the Vikings to the Christian faith. The Vikings joined with the Celtic church to take the Gospel back into Europe, where the faith was dying away, and revive Christianity there.

I think we, in America, have far too shallow an understanding and experience of the power of Christ. He has been attacked and vanquished many times. People have forgotten Him and found him irrelevant again and again. Yet He remains among us, working tirelessly to redeem the world from its ignorance and self-centeredness.

I don't know what the future holds for this church. What I do know is the One who holds the future in His hands. I see evidence all around me of His faithfulness, His strength, His beauty, and His love. Lindisfarne and Iona testify to God's faithfulness as they have risen again and again from destruction to nurture the faith of those who follow the Son of God. Surely Simpson United Methodist Church can become like them—rise above the challenges we face and triumph through the power of grace to become a beacon of hope in the world as we affirm the power of God's love to change the world for the better.

Serving Jesus with Joy,

Pastor Vivian



Masa Nishimura, Miyoko Wells, & Helen Goto



It is with great excitement that we **kick off the new church year - all aboard the Simpson UMC Express!** Exciting things are happening in youth ministry with Brenda and I working tirelessly to support the goal set by the church to prioritize children and youth ministries. **But we can't reach our goal alone. Here's how YOU can help:**



- 1. Volunteer to serve on the new Children and Youth Council.** This group will meet monthly to exchange ideas, offer supportive feedback so we can always be improving, and include others so that our special projects and off site activities are fun, safe, and popular. **We need parents AND others** to serve on the Council. If you are interested, please contact me at [aspell.901@hotmail.com](mailto:aspell.901@hotmail.com), or by phone at 720-690-4905.
- 2. Support the Old/New Time.** Years ago, when our Youth Group was successful, they met until 12 noon on Sundays. I would like to go back to that time frame. This gives young people the time they need to establish trust, grow relationships within the group, all while they study Scripture and discuss issues that challenge them within the context of what it means to follow Christ. Occasionally we may ask for more time in order to do a special activity. Such activities will be thoroughly addressed by the new Children and Youth Council in advance, so you will always have a way to have your voice be heard before an extra activity occurs.
- 3. Invest in the space.** We are in the process of sprucing up the downstairs ministry area. We need to make this a more inviting environment if we are serious about growing our outreach to youth. This may include: fresh paint, some repairs, and new equipment. While the church has approved a budget, I welcome your input as we make decisions.



- 4. Updates.** I plan to send out email updates on a regular basis - but I need your contact information before I begin. Please give me the email and phone contacts for **all ELIGIBLE AND POTENTIAL** youth and parents so I can be effective when I communicate. This is one way I will ask for help for projects and events.

**THANK YOU** so much for your continued support of our ministries to children and youth. Together we can and will grow our ministries and our church!

Yours in Christ,  
Scott Pelletier

*Sunday School news  
next page!*



## INTRODUCING A NEW FORMAT!

Beginning Sunday, September 17th, the children and youth will be studying the same lesson that Rev. Vivian preaches about in worship. The children will be using the Rotation Sunday School model to explore what God is teaching us through Scripture. The Rotation Model utilizes a variety of teaching styles and activities to help children engage God's Word. Here's what we'll be doing over the next few Sundays:

**Sept. 17—"Show Up"** We'll read and act out the story of Zacchaeus to learn how important it is to show up!

**Sept. 24 — "Grace"** We'll use science to explore the concept of God's grace and how it works in our lives.

**Oct. 1 — "Communion"** This is **World Communion Sunday**. We'll use food to see how God's love for us is everywhere—inseparable from the world around us, available to us wherever we are. Then we'll return to worship to receive Communion with the adults.

**Oct. 8 — "Salvation"** We'll play the game of "sardines" and learn how the power of Jesus' love frees us from our own weaknesses and sin, just as it saved Peter from chains!

In addition to the lessons learned during Sunday school, Brenda and Scott will be sending the children and youth home with "assignments" for the whole family. These will be suggestions for activities and questions to prompt further discussion so parents will be encouraged to take an active role in growing their children's and youths' faith in Christ.

*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.*



*In Loving Memory*

**Given By**

Jennifer Lim  
Dorothy Gorai  
Russell Ota  
Evelyn Hayashida

**In Memory Of**

Jory Coates  
Ruth Noda  
Gerri Ota  
Gerri Ota

**Gifts to the Church**



Calvin Yukihiro	Building Maintenance Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Namba	Boiler Fund
Plains Institute	Boiler Fund
Grace Tochihara	Imagine No Malaria and DenUM

Anonymous donations from the congregation for Pastor Thong's going away lunch.

## Card Signing and Prayer Group

Nancy Shock and Jenny Mahoney have agreed that card signing and knitting fit well together, so we will join the knitting group in the Memorial Lounge after worship on Sunday, September 17th. All are welcome. The only requirement is a desire to brighten someone's day on behalf of our church! See or email Jenny Mahoney to request a card for someone, or with questions: [jennym@spectrallogic.com](mailto:jennym@spectrallogic.com).

A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Esther Hashiba, Kaz Mizoue, Yoshie Tanita and Flo Yamaguchi for assembling the August Newsletter for mailing on July 25, 2017

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



## STORIES OF CHRISTIAN HYMNS

### 1) Jesus Loves Me, This I Know

This hymn is an international favorite among children, written in 1859. It has been taught and sung in many tongues by missionaries the world over. The author, Anna Warner, wrote many hymns for her Bible class at West Point Military Academy. When she died, a military funeral was held in her honor by the cadets whom she loved and taught for many years. The composer of this hymn, William Bradbury, developed the "Sunday-School song" form, which was a single ballad style verse with a refrain. It may be said that this was a true American contribution to hymnody.

### 2) When Morning Gilds the Skies

A famous old German folk hymn was translated into English by Edward Caswall in 1863. One of the first churches to use this hymn was St. Paul's Episcopal Church in London, England, where leaflets were printed and distributed so all the congregation could share in the singing of this beautiful music. One of England's eminent ministers of the 19th century, Canon Lidden, considered this one of the greatest of all Church Hymns and requested that it be sung at his funeral service.

When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart awaking cries,  
May Jesus Christ be praised.

## WELCOME BACK CHANCEL CHOIR!

Our wonderful choir will be back "in the loft" on Sunday, September 17. Our volunteer choir has had a much deserved vacation this summer. Now we are ready to once again bless our worship services with anthems we hope will inspire you, touch you, comfort you and bless you with the teaching of Jesus.

You will notice we have several empty chairs in the choir loft. **They are waiting for you to join us.** It's easy to join our choir—just show up for a rehearsal (we rehearsal on Thursday nights at 6:30 pm) **and you're in!** You can also join us just for the special music presentations at Christmas and/or Easter. We are always looking for **MORE choir folk** to join in the praise of the Lord through music.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at [wdl12@comcast.net](mailto:wdl12@comcast.net) or call me at 303.550.5066

*Debbie Willeford*



# Church News

## Update from Your SPRC

Our Intentional Interim Pastor Vivian has now been with us over a month. Part of the work she is doing strives toward building consistent habits that are easily shared by both long time members, and first time worshipers. Adults and kids. Young and old. As part of that effort I'll be highlighting some of these habits in a series entitled "Silver & Gold" each month through December. The title and spirit of this effort come from the poem:



**SPPRC**  
Staff Pastor Parish  
Relations Committee

*Make new friends, but keep the old;  
Those are silver, these are gold.  
New-made friendships, like new wine,  
Age will mellow and refine.  
Friendships that have stood the test-  
Time and change-are surely best;  
Brow may wrinkle, hair grow gray;  
Friendship never knows decay.  
For 'mid old friends, tried and true,  
Once more we our youth renew.  
But old friends, alas! may die;  
New friends must their place supply.  
Cherish friendship in your breast-  
New is good, but old is best;  
Make new friends, but keep the old;  
Those are silver, these are gold.*

I hope you will join me in embracing this journey of discernment with Pastor Vivian. May we all grow together. In peace, Jenny Mahoney, 2017 SPRC Chair.

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www.glasbergen.com



**"If I send my prayer as a text message,  
will I get a faster reply?"**

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX PROJECT

I know we still think it's still summer, but you can look for shoebox items all year long to take advantage of sales at Hobby Lobby, Wal-Mart, Target, Michael's, Big Lots, JoAnn's. Right now school supplies are in abundance at the stores. Wal-Mart has Crazy-Art crayons for only 25 cents for a 3-row box. I recently found flip-flops for 50 cents at Michael's as well as jump ropes for 50 cents at Wal-Mart.

As a reminder, this is the first year you cannot include toothpaste or candy in the shoeboxes due to custom regulations. The following paragraph is an excerpt from the Samaritan's Purse website that lists items that are not acceptable to put in the shoeboxes. You can also use the Operation Christmas Child website for ideas on what to include in the shoeboxes.

### DO NOT INCLUDE:

Candy; food; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

You can use standard sized shoeboxes that have been wrapped in Christmas paper. Avoid using really small shoeboxes or extra large shoeboxes like boot boxes. The church will have a small supply of shoeboxes from Samaritan's Purse or you can purchase them yourself at the Samaritan's Purse website for 5 for \$1.00. You don't have to wrap these shoeboxes. You can also purchase Sterlite clear plastic shoeboxes and use those. For the first year, Samaritan's Purse is selling plastic shoeboxes that are red with the Operation Christmas Child logo printed on it. The boxes then become a gift. I buy bandanas and line the clear plastic shoeboxes with the bandanas. Look for the Sterlite brand plastic shoeboxes; generic plastic shoeboxes tend to be thinner and will often crack when stored in the warehouse here when the weather gets colder.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> week in November is collection week. Please make sure to bring your filled shoeboxes to the church at the beginning of that week or sooner.

The shipping cost of the shoeboxes has increased to \$9/box. You should put your check for shipping in an envelope for the total shoeboxes you fill, not a check for each shoebox. You can also pay for your shipping online. If you don't want to fill a shoebox, you can donate money to subsidize shipping. If you send a check to Simpson, make sure you annotate that your donation should go to shipping shoeboxes.

If you have any other questions, check the Samaritan's Purse website. They have detailed information on what to put in the shoeboxes, where to get your own supplies like labels, shoeboxes, etc. Or you can contact myself at 303-216-2712 or e-mail me at [shoegirl.ja@gmail.com](mailto:shoegirl.ja@gmail.com)



Janice Abo



# Worship



Worship  
Design

**You're invited:** We are working to make our worship service as engaging and inspiring as possible. We gather on the third Sunday of the month after worship to share a pot luck lunch and brainstorm ideas about how to bring Scripture and the pastor's message to life - through art, music, and illustrations. We would love to hear your ideas. Call Rev. Vivian if you're interested in becoming part of the team.

**Announcements:** If you want to make an announcement before worship, please arrive at 9:45 am and speak with Pastor Vivian. Please write out what you would like to say, and sit in the front pew at the beginning of worship. You can join your family after you have made your announcement.

**Ushers:** We need more people to serve as ushers. If three or four people sign up to serve, each would only need to serve about once a month. Please contact Dan Goto, our Head Usher, if you are willing to serve. You can call him at 303-420-8516.

## This Train is Bound for Glory!

*A Sermon series about  
some essential elements of our faith*

**Sept. 10 — We take the Bible seriously** (*Guest Preacher*)

**Sept. 17 — "Belong, Behave, Believe"**  
Matthew 1: 18-23; John 6: 60-69

**Sept. 24 — "Amazing Grace"**  
Ephesians 2: 8-10; John 1: 14-17

**Oct. 1 — "The New Covenant"** *World Communion Sunday*  
John 15: 1-5; John 15: 6-11

**Oct. 8 — "The Power of Release"**  
Acts 12: 1-12; John 8: 28-32



On Rally Sunday we supported our Children and Youth Ministries by boarding the "Simpson Express." This sermon series is designed to help us teach our children some of the basics of our faith. While the adults explore these concepts during worship, our children and youth will engage them during Sunday School and Youth Group activities and lessons. We encourage you to attend worship so you'll be prepared to talk with our young people about what it means to you to follow Jesus.

**33rd Annual  
Simpson United Methodist Church  
Arts and Crafts Showcase**

**Sunday, October 22, 2017  
11:00am to 3:00pm**

Made by members of Simpson Church,  
their families and members of  
the Japanese Community

**Handcrafted Items**



**Holiday Gifts**



**Jewelry**



**Ceramics**



**Japanese Treats**

6001 Wolff Street Arvada  
(303) 428-7963 (East of Sheridan Blvd at 60th Ave.)

**Simpson United Methodist Church**  
**Telephone: 303/428-7963, Fax: 303/427-1577**  
[www.simpsonumc.com](http://www.simpsonumc.com)

# SEPTEMBER 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	2 9:00 am – Taiko 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class
3 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE/Communion No SS/Youth Coffee Hour	4 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	5	6	7 10 am—Staff Mtg	8 10am—Game Day in ML ALL CHURCH RETREAT	9 9:00 am – Taiko 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class
10 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am—Arts & Crafts Registration Meeting in ML ALL CHURCH RETREAT	11 10 am -Ukulele	12	13	14 10am—Staff Mtg 1-2:30 pm—Clergy Circuit Meeting 6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal	15 Articles for Newsletter due to office	16 9:00 am – Taiko 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class ALL CHURCH RETREAT
17 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am – Knit & Crochet - Worship Design Team	18	19 9:30 am— Reflections Bible Study	20	21 10am—Staff Mtg 6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal	22	23 9:00 am – Taiko 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class
24 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth 11:15 am—SPRC Mtg	25 10 am -Ukulele	26 9:00 am Assemble Newsletter	27 11:00 am – 1:00 pm APDC Lunch 6:00 pm – Finance Committee 7:00 pm – Ad Council	28 10am—Staff Mtg 6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal	29	30 9:00 am – Taiko 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class

**LITURGISTS**

September 3 Tom Fujita  
 September 10 Nancy Shock  
 September 17 Robin Miyahara  
 September 24 Emily Lundberg (formerly Hall)

**GROCERY CERTIFICATES**

Bob Fujioka

**USHERS**

Dan Goto

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

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**ARVADA, COLORADO**

***SEPTEMBER 2017***

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Or Current Resident

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