



## What We Need Right Now is to Encourage One Another

By Rev. Matt Snider

In the wake of the dramatic, unexpected conclusion to the recent presidential election, many are feeling anxious, frightened and dejected. The result certainly wasn't what was expected or predicted. The President-elect said things during the campaign that have left people wondering whether the United States is veering in the direction of nativism and fascism and on the path to civil war. Let me assure you, I don't think we're any closer to civil war under Trump than we are under Obama but I understand if you feel that way based on the incendiary campaign rhetoric. There are passionate political feelings on both sides of the partisan divide and the most important thing we have to do is to remain calm, sensible, vigilant and responsive – and most importantly – respectful of one another. Decent people have different points of view and come to different political conclusions based on looking at the same set of facts. The essence of a democracy is to engage in respectful debate and remain engaged, not distance ourselves from one another.

At the core of our faith is the principle that God is ultimately in control of civilizations, indeed, the world. It would be difficult to think of God as sovereign if we could not think of God as on the throne and reigning. It is through the force of divine love that God moves the world in the direction of renewal, rebirth and regeneration. We are called to be the instruments of God's divine will, exemplifying the holy traits of mercy, justice and unconditional love for one another in the form of service to one another. Being political is not a function of our faith but being present to each other to meet our practical and spiritual needs is. We are called to be the *Corpus Christi*, the Body of Christ, in service to the world, not a unitary body politic.

As we begin the Advent journey on November 27, we need to be reminded yet again, that in the midst of the totalitarian rule of the Roman Empire, God broke through the overlapping layers of empire building and strong political and religious affections long ago to make a fundamental declaration that the powers of the world are nothing compared to the power of God. That should encourage us. That should give us hope. Our faith and focus should always be on God because God will never let us down nor abandon us. If you're worried about our nation's political situation, do something faith-full: pray. And then be the kind of person to others whom God expects us to be in Christ as our character is conformed to his image. Act like you have faith and as God perfects that faith, you will have the strength to encourage others, be encouraged and have hope for the future.

Romans 8:35-39 is the strongest, most hopeful declaration of God's love for us that continuously engages us when everything else looks bleak by comparison. Reflect on these words and "be of good cheer" because God is with us.

"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? As the Scriptures say, 'For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.' No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

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



December 4 Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 11 Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 18 Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 25 Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

Thank you for all your continued support of our Sunday School fundraisers. To date the Sunday School has raised \$230 between the Arts and Crafts Showcase and Trunk-or-Treat. Half of this money will be donated to Ralston House along with the Noisy offering. After Thanksgiving we will be selling homemade hot cocoa kits for \$4 a jar.

We are so excited to present "Fit to be King" for this year's Christmas pageant. The pageant was written and designed by Simpson Sunday School and Youth.

### Simpson United Methodist Church

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Main Office Phone: 303-428-7963

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Tezenlo Thong Email: [PastorSUMC@gmail.com](mailto:PastorSUMC@gmail.com)

Assistant Pastor: Rev Matt Snider Email: [AssistantPastorSUMC@gmail.com](mailto:AssistantPastorSUMC@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



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#### Amazon Smile Link:

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You are  
Appreciated!

A big THANK YOU to our faithful volunteers Esther Hashiba, Julia Kamura and Mary Nishiyami for preparing the November Newsletter for mailing on October 25. Could NOT do it without your help!



**Christmas  
Morning Service**

Sunday, December 25, 2016  
10:00 am



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Mark your calendar! The Children's Christmas Pageant, "Fit to be King," is Sunday,

**December 11, 2016.**

You won't want to miss seeing our children perform at this year's program. They do such a good job every year!

**ALLEGIANCE**

George Takei's Allegiance comes to movie screens direct from its Broadway run. The show is about the concentration camp experience of the Japanese Americans in WWII. The Broadway show is now available through a movie format and will be shown one night only, December 13th. Allegiance explores the ties that bind us, the struggle to persevere and the overwhelming power of forgiveness and, most especially love. Tickets may be purchased online via [allegiancemusical.com/movie](http://allegiancemusical.com/movie) or at participating theater box offices.

# IT'S MOCHI TIME AGAIN!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 3, 2016. That's the date Mochi can be picked up after 2:00 pm—**NOT BEFORE**.

There is an Order Form on the Bulletin Board. Deadline to order Mochi is Sunday, November 27, 2016 for Bulletin Board Orders. Deadline for Mail in Order is Sunday, November 27, 2016.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ QUANTITY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ price: \$5.00 PER POUND

*Candlelight  
Service*



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00 PM

Followed by a time of fellowship.  
Remember to bring cookies to share.

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Ted Hada  
 Tom Ida  
 Kristine Motoyoshi  
 Hikara Carl Iwasaki  
 Julius Otsuki

Frank Gallo  
 Fred Okamura

**BY:**

Ruby Hada  
 Mary K. Ida  
 Paula Matsumoto  
 Fusako Okuno  
 Julia Kamura; M/M Chet Thayer;  
 Tom Bradley  
 Jennifer Lim  
 Mary Nishiyama

***THANK YOU!***

**Boiler Fund:** 1<sup>st</sup> UMC of Pueblo

**Christmas:** M/M Ken Namba

**Keiro no hi** – in appreciation for luncheon – Ruth French

**Newsletter:** Curtis Higuchi; Carolyn Takeshita; Carol Yamamoto

**Operation Christmas Child Postage:** Anonymous; Bess Joko; Roy Shibata; Grace Tochi-hara;

**Thanksgiving:** M/M Ken Namba

**UMCOR** – Haiti Disaster Donation – M/M Ken Namba

**Utilities:** Bridge Club

**World Communion Sunday:**

Anonymous; Mary Everitt; M/M Dan Goto; Harry Hishinuma; Julia Kamura; Jane Nakama; Mary Nishiyama; Alben Sakaguchi; Stacey Shigaya; Ruth Shinto; Nancy Shock; Calvin Yukihiro

**Thank you** to the anonymous angel that dropped off all the notepads for the office. I believe the same angel left a bag of pencils and notepads for Tennyson Knolls School.

***OUR CARE CORNER***

***Families Experiencing Loss:*** Julius Otsuki

***Experiencing Health Issues:***

Masa Nishimura, Miyoko Wells, & Helen Goto



Dear Simpson UMC and scholarship committee,

Thank you so much for allowing me to receive this scholarship and for making such an opportunity possible. This scholarship is one of the many, many blessings I have received since coming to Simpson and I am so thankful for the kindness and ~~great~~ generosity I have been shown. I hope to honor this scholarship by working hard and always persevering to make a positive difference in my future. Again, thank you so much for everything.

Love,



(Saye Han Thong  
class of 2016)



# Candles and Carols

*A service of hope, peace, joy and love*

On Sunday, December 18th, the Chancel Choir and instrumentalists will present this beautiful Christmas cantata. The considerable talents of Pamela Martin and Mark Hayes have created an intimate and participatory experience for choir and congregation.

Pam's insightful narrations relate both the wisdom of ancient scripture and its relevance to our lives as 21<sup>st</sup> century worshipers. Responding musically to her extraordinary narration are six beautiful carol settings by Mark Hayes that reflect his trademark of harmonies and elegant instrumental accompaniments. An Advent candle is lit before each carol is sung, providing a visual symbol of the journey from darkness to light.

Please join us on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, as our Chancel Choir and instrumentalists help us tell the story of Jesus' birth. What a great time and opportunity to bring friends and family to Simpson UMC!

## **GROCERY GIFT CARDS**

Christmas is just around the corner and what better time than now to buy grocery gift cards for Christmas gifts. We have gift "wrapping" and instructions on how to reload. 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.

Thank you.



## Angels, from the Realms of Glory

This Christmas hymn is one of James Montgomery's favorite compositions. Montgomery, one of the greatest of the Moravian hymn writers, wrote the hymn in 1816 and it is considered one of the most challenging hymns ever written. The tune going under the name "Regent Square" was written by Henry Smart, a blind composer of London, England. His physical vision may have been impaired, but Smart could see as few men are able to see. From the combined vision of these two men has come one of the immortal Christmas classics.

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth.  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King!

### ***JAPANESE ELDER WELLNESS GROUP***

The Japanese Elder Wellness Group will **not** meet in December, 2016. We will meet beginning on the 4th Wednesday of January in 2017 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!**

### 2016 Staff Parish Relations Committee Summary

Our previous SPRC Chair, John Hall, served graciously for 2.25 years and the end was not in sight. Therefore, I volunteered to serve effective March, 2016 and the following were our endeavors.

- With 5 returning SPRC members and 3 serving their final year, the prospect of 1 and possibly 2 returnees in 2017 appeared daunting. Therefore, with 8 staff members, 3 additional new members were recruited to serve (bringing full committee to 8), allowing each staff member to have an SPRC liaison.



- Jenny Mahoney agreed to serve as Vice Chair & will be the Chair for 2017. This designation and this step early in the calendar year should aid in a smooth transition from year to year & also assure better communications from the Conference office to the church for relative and pertinent matters.
- This committee's members provided input to the Conference office regarding a pastoral evaluation in the spring.
- A guideline for the suggested duties and responsibilities of an SPRC liaison was written, approved, and adopted by the committee.
- Due to comments regarding a general lack of information regarding the staff shared with the congregation, a questionnaire was developed and given to the congregation to provide confidential input if they so chose. The committee agreed this form was to be shared with the congregation once each staff person was able to see/read the comments pertaining to their position.
- Shortly thereafter, an SPRC evaluation form was established, all committee members asked to provide input, the summary for each position then shared with the staff person by the assigned liaison person. A signed copy is in the SPRC notebook.
- In an effort to establish continuity and information to SPRC members, new and old on the committee, a "general information" loose leaf notebook has been established. The four notebooks are to be used by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Sr. Pastor and hopefully kept current and passed to the respective individuals in years to follow. The notebook will have general SPRC guidelines, staff positions and date of hire, rate of pay, vacation/sick days if applicable, and job description to name a few.
- Also stemming from the liaison to staff contact, a pay scale and hours worked update was done. An SPRC budget analysis was done to also ensure adequate monies allocated for all positions to allow for the extra hours worked and not be scrambling to find a source to fund this extra cost.
- To open doors of communication, the chair person made a visit to a Church Staff meeting. I would like to suggest a continuation of these visitations.
- There is a computer program for sharing confidential information for this committee that Rev. Matt helped to set up. It was not implemented this year and in all probability will occur in 2017 under Jenny's guidance. Only SPRC members will have access to this program and the participants can be changed from year to year as needed.
- As in previous years, an SPRC Appreciation Holiday Dinner for the staff and their family will be held early in December.
- The liaisons for 2016 have been as follows: Pastor Tezenlo Thong—Pat Hayashi; Assistant Pastor Matt Snider—Jenny Mahoney; Mari Welch—Joe Hayashi; Lilly Quirk—Charlotte Namba; Chen Wu—Nancy Shock; Debbie Willeford—Dave Powell; Brenda Morris—Joel Nishida; Scott Pelletier—John Hall.

This has been a busy and productive year! It is with sincere appreciation that I have had the opportunity to serve on this committee with Tezenlo, Jenny, Joe, Charlotte, Nancy, Dave, Joel, and John.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Hayashi, 2016 SPRC Chairperson

**DECEMBER****2016***Simpson United Methodist Church**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 Mochi Making all day FH and Kitchen 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 Mochi Making all day FH and Kitchen 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	3 8:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko 2:00 pm - Pick up Mochi 2:00-10:00pm SPARC 5:30 pm - Staff Dinner
4 9:30 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE COMMUNION/SS/youth 11:00 am - Knit & Crochet	5	6	7	8	9 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 10:00 am-3pm Game Day	10 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko	
11 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS/youth Children: Puppets Adopt-a-family 1:00-6:00 pm Poinsettia Orders Due	12 10:00 am Ukulele	13	14	15 Adopt-a-Family 8:30 am - 5:30pm 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 Adopt-a-Family 8:30 am - 5:30pm	17 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko Adopt-a-Family Clean-up day 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	
18 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00am WORSHIP SERVICE Christmas Cantata	19	20	21	22 8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 4:00 pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 10:00am WORSHIP SERVICE SS/YOUTH	26 Church Office Closed	27	28 9:00 am - Assembly Newsletter	29	30	31	

LITURGISTS

December 4 Patty Goto

GROCERY CERTIFICATES

Charlotte Namba

USHER

Tim Cleary

Simpson United Methodist Church  
6001 Wolff St  
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***DECEMBER 2016***

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Or Current Resident

