



Happy New Year!

Each New Year, we greet one another by saying, "Happy New Year!" I hope the New Year brings you true happiness as you exchange New Year wishes with your loved ones, church members, colleagues, friends, neighbors, and even strangers.

Does happiness take place spontaneously? Or does it happen because we prepare the ground for it to take place? Some people are naturally gifted with an easygoing and cheerful disposition. They don't take themselves seriously, and they live one day at a time. For most of us, happiness does not just happen. It does not occur out of the blue. At least in my life, I have come to realize that I have to create a space for happiness to take place. I have to prepare my mind, and even force myself sometimes to avoid negative thoughts or experiences that make me unhappy. No doubt, there are times when my happiness is determined by forces beyond my control, such as sickness, misfortune, or other external factors. Happiness, in other words, is a choice we can make. If we want to be happy, we need to create a condition that will make us happy. To a certain extent, we are masters of our own happiness.

We do not know what the future holds for us, but I sincerely hope and pray that the New Year would be a happy, a healthy and a good one for you and all your loved ones. My family and I wish you a blessed New Year! And we look forward to another year of service and ministry together with you. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and love for us.

"A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

Shalom – Be Well Always!

Tezenlo Thong, Pastor

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY

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



January 1	Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
January 8	Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
January 15	Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
January 22	Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23
January 29	Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12



THANK YOU FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE!

Thanks to all who ordered a poinsettia this year. The sanctuary looked beautiful and enhanced our Christmas Cantata. Also, to those who donated funds to our Music Contingency Fund we send our gratitude.

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

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”

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES FOR 2017:

DATE	EVENT/PROJECT	LEAD ORGANIZER
January 29, 2017 (2nd choice: 01/15, 2017)	AfterHours Ministries	Scott
February 12, 2017	Scout Sunday/Spread the Love Sunday	Brenda
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

Trustees Report 2016

The responsibilities of the Trustees seem to be "business as usual". We continue to maintain the property and monitor the financial accounts here at Simpson United Methodist Church. The boiler continues to provide the necessary heat for our winters and we continue to increase the boiler fund for its replacement. With the skill and knowledge of our senior member, Ken Namba, working with Tolin Mechanical, our boiler is and will be reliable for this upcoming winter.

We have begun to replace the shut-off valves under each of the sinks and hope to complete the plumbing work in the first quarter of 2017. We also have been working on the irrigation system, fixing leaks and sprinkler heads. We should have this completed before Thanksgiving and hopefully will have in-place a professional to maintain the system throughout the year.

In the Spring, the City of Arvada will be widening 60th Street to accommodate the increased traffic from the opening of the new Light-Rail station located across the street from the church. The through put of cars and people will present a great opportunity for Simpson's outreach. However, we will be exposed to the construction of new sidewalks, driveways and the changes in our grass areas.

This year, the ONE committee and the Trustees and the entire congregation got together and sponsored our first Golf Tournament. The proceeds went to the boiler fund. It was a lot of work, but it was also a lot of FUN. We hope to put together another tournament this coming year.

On a more positive note, our facility has been very busy with activities from various community groups. Not only have many Japanese-American groups used our facility for their events and meetings, but groups having musical recitals, health fairs, talent shows, cultural events and various celebrations from graduation events and even birthday parties, to mention a few. It is good to share our place with the community and to get people to know that we are here and we are also a place of worship.

Finally, the Early College of Arvada (ECA) (the school across the parking lot) is beginning to use our facility more often. There is much dialogue that occurs between us and the ECA. One item that we will come together on is the sharing of the parking lot. We are in the process of putting together rules and an agreement surrounding the usage and the maintenance of the parking lot. We will finalize this in 2017.

Again, we want to thank the Trustees, Ken Namba, Hondo Swanberg, Todd Namba, Harry Hishinuma, Dennis Kitayama and all of the regular volunteers that come out to our Work Days and give of their time and expertise to keep this church facility running smoothly for all of us.

Respectfully,

The Trustees



You are
Appreciated!

A big THANK
YOU to our faithful volunteers Esther Hashiba, Mary Nishiyama, Kaz Mizoue, and Yoshie Tanita for preparing the December Newsletter for mailing on November 22, 2016. Could NOT do it without your help!

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

The staff sends a very Big Thank you to the congregation for your generosity and the gifts of money for Christmas.

It's good to know that our talents and ministries to Simpson are appreciated. Thanks for making us feel appreciated and special.

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.

Thank you.



YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO DOWNTOWN DENVER

We are planning a mission trip to Civic Center Park (downtown) in partnership with *AfterHours* (Rev. Jerry Herships) on January 29, 2017, immediately after church. We would like to involve as many church members as possible, especially children and youth. Also, for this trip, we are in need of **scarves, gloves, socks, hats, towels and other hygiene kits** to hand out to the homeless members of the community. You can drop off your donations any time on or before the 4th Sunday, January 22, 2017. As always, thank you for your support.

IN MEMORY OF:

Masako Furuiye's brother-in law
 Julius Otsuki
 Henry Ichikawa & Margaret Watada
 Reiko Hamai
 Joan Onodero

BY:

Masako Furuiye
 Wayne Otsuki; M/M Ken Namba
 Ben Ichikawa
 Mitchell Hamai
 M/M Ken Namba

***THANK YOU!*****Boiler:** M/M Ken Namba**Imagine No Malaria:** Grace Tochiara**Keiro no Hi:** Tamayo Terada**Music:** Jennifer Lim**Newsletter:** Mary K. Ida**Turkey /miscellaneous food items:** Jennifer Lim

Thanksgiving: Sue Arai, Ruth French, Masako Furuiye, Fusako Okuno; Dorothy Gorai, Sachi Goto, Ruby Hada, Clara Hashimoto, Evelyn Hayashida, Aki Kawakami, Mitch Kishiyama, Tay Kondo, Mae Ida, Kaz Mizoue, May Murakami, Thomas Nakai, Sandie Nakayama, Mary Nishiyama, Aiko Okubo, Dorothy Okita, Alben Sakaguchi, Janet Sasa, Ruth Shinto, Teddy Shiohita, M/M Stome Tanita, M/M Isami Terada, Ruthe Terada, Grace Tochiara, Barbara Wong, Minoru Yamamoto, Judy Yanaga, June Yokooji, Frank Yoritomo, Calvin Yukihiro,

Postage Operation Christmas Child: Anonymous, Julie Cleary, Jane Fujioka, Lorraine Hisamoto, Grace Ito, Julia Kamura, Paula Matsumoto, Noelle Maynell, M/M Ken Namba, Gary Orazio, Jim Reuteler, Tamayo Terada, Karen Wells, Debbie Willeford, Calvin Yukihiro

Scholarship: Bess Joko**Utilities:** Second Friday Bridge Club

United Methodist Student Day: Anonymous, Mary Everitt, Julia Kamura, Robin Miyahara, M/M Ken Namba, Calvin Yukihiro

All gifts, great and small are equally appreciated!

***OUR CARE CORNER******Those Experiencing Health Issues:***

Masa Nishimura, Miyoko Wells, & Helen Goto

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX)

We are thankful for our successful *Operation Christmas Child* outreach for 2016. This year we collected and delivered a record number of shoeboxes—**one hundred and sixty-seven (167)** shoeboxes. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, all postage costs were covered. A BIG “Thank You” to all who gladly and whole-heartedly supported by providing items or monetary gifts.

We also want to acknowledge and thank Jennifer Lim for her challenge to the congregation on this ministry. Thanks are also in order to Jennifer for providing the wonderful celebration lunch on December 11, 2016. We appreciated all of Santa’s elves who helped make the luncheon a fun event!

BOILER STATUS

The Trustees would like to offer a ***BIG THANK YOU*** to all donors who gave toward the Boiler Fund. As of the end of 2016 we have invested \$41,200, almost half way to our goal of \$100,000. A pump failure was our only significant problem this year which resulted in extensive water damage. The boiler room drywall and pipe insulation were completely water soaked but fortunately, all the damage repair costs have been covered by our insurance.

If you want to donate specifically to the Boiler Fund, please make note that your donation should be posted to the Trustees 148 account. Thanks in advance for your continued support and generosity.

- Trustees

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

United Methodist first Special Sunday of 2017 is Human Relations Day—January 15, 2017. Gifts to Human Relations Day Sunday support the Community Developers Program and community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services related to the General Board of Global Ministries and at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation program. General Board of Church and Society.

Over the years, on Human Relations Day, thousands of dollars have been collected that have gone toward making a real difference in communities across the United States.

JAPANESE ELDER WELLNESS GROUP

After not meeting in November and December, 2016, The Japanese Elder Wellness Group is eager to meet together again. We will meet beginning on the 4th Wednesday of January in 2017(January 25, 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 O.N.E. Committee Survey

The O.N.E. Committee maintains a solid group of dedicated individuals who work hard in various subcommittees as well as collectively to service members of our church community and beyond.

Earlier in 2016, we continued our outreach ministry through the Early College Prep School and Tennyson Elementary tutoring program. Our garage sale and Trunk-or-Treat also reached out to the surrounding church neighborhood. Our knitting group met monthly and will be donating their handiwork to various charities.

In our attempt to build stronger relations with our church community, the O.N.E. Committee sponsored a workshop, bringing in a facilitator for a multigenerational group dynamic activity in addition to occasional fun nights. We served monthly coffee hour, prepared lunches for the bowling league, Hina Matsuri, annual church picnic, Kiero no Hi, and the Arts and Craft Showcase. Our card ministry, visitation and funeral committees continued to support members and their families going through difficult times.

Our biggest project this year was our inaugural Golf Tournament to raise money for the church boiler. This event brought together people from many organizations, businesses and communities to support Simpson. We raised over \$5,000.

The O.N.E. Committee looks forward to continuing the above ministries and more in 2017.

未来

"mirai" = future

The **Mirai Generations Leadership Program** is pleased to announce it is currently accepting applications to its inaugural Class of Leaders for 2017.

CONNECT ❖ INSPIRE ❖ ACT

If you have any questions, please email us at MGLP@sakurafoundation.org.

2016 POINSETTIA DONATIONS

FROM

M/M Bob Fujioka
M/M Tom Fujita

M/M Dan Goto, Helen Goto
Ruby Hada
Hiroko Hansen

Jim Hardman
Marsha Hasegawa, John & Sue Hasegawa,
Aaron Chikuma
Clara Hashimoto
Pat Hayashi

Harry T. Hishinuma
Mary K. Ida
Julia Kamura, Bess Joko
Paula Matsumoto

John Miyahara

Robin Miyahara

Jennifer Mahoney
Ritsuko Munn
May Murakami
Don Nakama
Jane Nakama
Lynette Namba
M/M Ken Namba

IN MEMORY OF

M/M Bert Sueda, M/M Joe Fujioka
Rev. Jonathan Fujita, Sumjiko Fujita
Haynes, Ichiro Fujita, Jean Ward
George Goto
Ted Hada
Roy & Sumi Takeno, D/M Konai
Miyamoto, M/M Yozun Tsubokawa
Margie Hardman
Willie & Sadako Hasegawa

Norman Hashimoto, Waldie Woelk
Kantaro & Kimiyo Mayeda, Tom &
Kotono Hayashi, Ted & Kay Hayashi-
Phyllis Hishinuma
Tom Ida
Tom & Ruth Kamura, Richard Joko
Sam & Doris Matsumoto, Kristine
Motoyoshi, Kelly Dolezal
Drs. Ben & Florence Miyahara,
M/M Mitsutaro Miyahara
Saburo & Dorothy Tanaka,
Wilbur Tanaka, Roy Tanaka,
Betty Kawano
Beloved pet kitten
Denny, Terry and Eugene Munn
Leo Murakami, Mrs. Y. Yasumura
Edna Nakama, Jimmy Nakama
Mary & Naoye Suzuki
Mahi
Ken Miyoshi, Wes Miyoshi,
M/M Charles Miyoshi
M/M Seichii Namba

2016 POINSETTIA DONATIONS (continued)

FROM

Mary Nishiyama
Aiko Okubo
M/M David Powell

Betsy Sato
The Schroder Family
Mark Shimoda
M/M James Shinto
M/M Stome Tanita

M/M Don Terasaki
M/M Jim Tingstrom, M/M Dan Goto
M/M Studebaker
Debbie Willeford
Chen Wu

FROM

Pat Hayashi
Robin Miyahara
Mark Shimoda
M/M Don Terasaki

IN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Karla Cornish
Grace Ito
Nancy Shock

IN MEMORY OF

Rose Nishiyama, Alice Hatasaka
Henry Okubo, Candace Okubo
William Powell, Joyce & Dan Stenson,
Nick Stenson, Betty Stenson
Dick Sato
Lost Loved Ones
Rev. Robert K. Shimoda
Shinto and Fukui Families
Mari Kodama, John Mizoue,
Sadako Hasegawa
Terasaki Family, Herder Family
Jess & Mary Masunaga

Marilyn Willeford
Charles Wiencek, Ted Hada,
Kelly Dolezal

IN HONOR OF

Sam Mayeda
Ava Miyahara
Fumiko Shimoda
Engel Family

CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL SUNDAYS 2017

UMCOR SUNDAY (FORMERLY ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING)

MARCH 26, 2017

Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the costs of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100 percent to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

APRIL 30, 2017

Gifts to Native American Ministries Sunday fund scholarships for Native American seminarians and strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities and annual conference Native American ministries.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

JUNE 11, 2017

Gifts on Peace with Justice Sunday fund programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God's children globally.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 1, 2017

Gifts to World Communion Sunday fund graduate racial ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

NOVEMBER 26, 2017

Gifts to United Methodist Student Day Sunday help deserving United Methodist students continue their education and faith journeys as they strive to make a difference in the world and discern what God has called them do.

JANUARY

2017

Simpson United Methodist Church
 Arwada 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 HAPPY NEW YEAR! 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth	2 Office Closed	3	4	5 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	7 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Takko
8 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth Trustees	9	10	11	12 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00 am Staff Mtg. 10:00 am-3pm Bridge Game Day	14 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Takko
15 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS 11:00 am - Knit & Crochet Retreat Cmte. in Sanctuary	16	17	18	19 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	21 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Takko
22 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Sp R.C.	23	24 9:00 am - Assemblie Newsletter	25 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Japanese Elder Wellness Committee 6:00 pm - Finance 7:30 pm - Ad Council	26 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	28 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Takko 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Celio Recital Both Sanctuaries/Memorial Lounge
29 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS After Hours Ministries Civic Center Park, Denver, CO	28	30	31			

January 1 Debbie Williford
 January 8 Cindy Kondo

LITURGISTS
 January 15 Joe Hayashi
 January 22 Todd Namba

January 29 Owen FitzSimons

GROCERY CERTIFICATES
 Bob Fujioka

USHERS
 Tim Cleary

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

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

JANUARY 2017

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email: simpsonumc@comcast.net
WWW.SIMPSONUMC.COM

Or Current Resident

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2017