



## What is Death?

One afternoon, I was lying down with my son in his bed. He was about five or six years old then. We were talking about whatever thoughts came to our minds. I don't know why, but suddenly I said to him, "You know, Channy, one day when you are older, you will get married and have your own children. And I will be a grandpa, and then I will die." As soon as I said that, there was a pin-drop silence, and he stopped moving. Normally, kids are always talking and moving unless they are sick or sleeping. I thought it was strange that he was not moving or talking. So I turned my head and looked at him. There he was, with tears running down his cheeks. Then, he turned towards me and hugged me tightly and said, "No, dad, we will always be together."

To this day, I wonder how or where my little boy got the idea of death, because he had never been exposed to the notion of death. He had never heard of any relatives or friends who passed away. We had never taken him to a funeral or memorial service. To the best of my knowledge, my wife and I had never discussed what dying means. Where, then, did he get the concept of death that he was touched to tears at the thought of it?

Death is natural and universal. Death belongs to the living, for only the living shall die. As grown-ups, we know what death means, and how the death of a loved one hurts deeply. Very soon, we will be entering into the holy week (April 9-15, 2017) in our Christian calendar when we will be reminded of our own death. But we will also be reminded of our resurrection, too, as we celebrate Easter Sunday on April 16th. Knowing that we will die sooner or later should help us to live well, but does it? James Shirley in his poem, *Death the Leveller*, rightly said that in death all are made equal and then concluded by saying,

“Only the actions of the just  
Smell sweet and blossom in their dust.”

Happy Easter to you and all yours!

Tezenlo Thong, Pastor

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL, 2017

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

April 2:	Ezekiel 32:1-4; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
April 9	Liturgy of the Palms—Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
April 16	Easter Sunday—Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
April 23	Acts 2:14, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
April 30	Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35



## CHANCEL CHOIR

Easter Cantata on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017. Come experience the joy of the Lord. I guarantee you will leave the service with the joy and love of Jesus Christ in your heart.

## 67 Annual Asian Food Bazaar

Monetary donations to defray the rising price of meat helps in keeping our Church Bazaar costs down. We appreciate your donation of \$10. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Kitayama, William Murakami, Mary Nishiyama or Tom Fujita.

Thank you from the Bazaar Committee

## Simpson United Methodist Church

6001 Wolff St., Arvada, CO 80003-6833

Main Office Phone: 303-428-7963

Email: [simpsonumc@comcast.net](mailto:simpsonumc@comcast.net) Website: [www.simpsonumc.com](http://www.simpsonumc.com)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Tezenlo Thong Email: [PastorSUMC@gmail.com](mailto: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
April 15, 2017	Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast	<b>Brenda</b>
May 7, 2017	May Day Basket	<b>Brenda</b>
June 10, 2017	Sushi Extravaganza!	<b>Scott</b>
July 17-20, 2017	Vacation Bible School	<b>Brenda</b>
August 6, 2017	UMC Water World	<b>Scott</b>
September 3, 2016	Rally Sunday	<b>Brenda</b>
October 27, 2017	Trunk-Or-Treat & Spooktacular!	<b>Brenda: Trunk-Or-Treat</b> <b>Scott: Spooktacular!</b>
November 19, 2017	Thanksgiving Mission Trip (DenUM)	<b>Scott</b>
December 10, 2017	Christmas Pageant	<b>Brenda</b>
Youth & Children Summer Lock-in		<b>Brenda &amp; Scott</b>

THANKS to Simpson members and friends for supporting and participating in the Life Screening health fair. The day was cold, wet with ice and snow but 96 folks turned out to make this a successful event. Thanks for your involvement and concerns for our community!

Trustees

### **CHANGE OF DATE**

**Friday, September 8, through  
Sunday, September 10, 2017 is  
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 April (April 26) 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. The food for lunch is always very good and it is fun to see old friends and to meet new ones, Please invite your friends to come join us. **Hope to see you there.**

### **“Reflections Calendar”**

We have had some great discussions on our study of “Believe: Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus.” Please join us either on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. or on Saturday at 12:30 p.m. Here is the schedule of upcoming gatherings through June 2017:

April 4 and April 8  
April 18 and April 22

May 9 and May 13  
May 23 and May 27

June 6 and June 10  
June 20 and June 24

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Gerri Ota  
Casey Hayashida  
Roy Terada  
Mr. K. Sato

**BY:**

Russell Ota  
Evelyn Hayashida  
M/M Isami Terada  
Teddy Shioshita

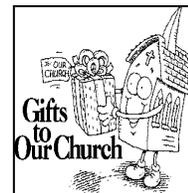
***THANK YOU!***

**Boiler Fund:** Karla Cornish; Dion Dishong; Lynette Namba Osaka

**Hina Matsuri Donations:** Tokiyo Imanaka; Martha Inouye; Gary Matsuda; Jim Nogami, Nancy Schweitzer; Kimiko Side; Yiro Ko Otsuka; Reiko Urano; Richard Yoshio

**Utilities:** Bridge Club

*All gifts great and small are appreciated!*



A big THANK YOU to our faithful volunteers Eileen Mayeda, Charlotte Namba and Julia Kamura for preparing the March Newsletter for mailing on February 28, 2017. Could NOT do it without your help!

You are very much appreciated!

***OUR CARE CORNER***

**Prayers for Those Experiencing Grief:**  
The families of Mas Nonaka and Min Yamamoto

***Those Experiencing Health Issues:***  
Masa Nishimura, Miyoko Wells, & Helen Goto

The ***HINA MATSURI*** was a tremendous success. Special thanks go to the publicity Chairpersons, Consul General and his Staff, beautiful displays of Ikebana, Bonsai, the Doll Display Room and Interpreters, Hostesses, Calligraphy, Origami, Master of Ceremony, the Singers, Children's song, Guitar, Ukulele, Taiko, Tea Ceremony, Odori, Judo, Aikido Karate, Security, Refreshment Makers and Servers, Stage Crew, Set up of Tables, Clean-up Crew, Bento Box Makers, Telephone, Tea Servers and last but not least the Spam and Sushi Makers. All in all, without all of your HARD WORK— we would not have been able to have a successful HINA MATSURI.

HINA MATSURI COMMITTEE

### ***SUSHI 101***

In preparation of our annual Asian Food Bazaar, we would like to hold a workshop on making maki sushi, California sushi and inari sushi. Since we will sell our sushi to the public we would like to practice making consistent sized rolls and age pockets. If you would like to help in the sushi department during the Food Bazaar, please attend our workshop which will be held on **Sunday, April 23**, right after worship service. Please call the church office to sign up for the workshop. We need to know attendance numbers in order to buy sufficient sushi ingredients.

### ***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!

### ***67th Annual Asian Food Bazaar***

***May 6***

***11:00 a.m. —3:00 p.m***

Please join the people of Simpson United Methodist Church for our 67th Annual Asian Food Bazaar. The bazaar includes a chow mein and beef teriyaki dinner plate (suggested donation \$10-adult and \$6 children) as well as sushi, omanju, home baked desserts and various gift items. Volunteers are always appreciated.

## 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.**

### S.P.R.C.

(Staff Parish Relations Committee)

As with every year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has spent our first meetings thanking departing members, welcoming new members, reviewing annual responsibilities, and determining staff liaisons. We thank Pat Hayashi and John Hall for their commitment to this group, and wish them "meeting free" Sundays for a while : ) We welcome Ken and Noelle Maynell, and Jane Fujioka this year, and look forward to their contributions in the coming years.

Our focus is on empowering others to be in ministry. We will strive throughout this year to keep that focus as we work through the usual administrative responsibilities of the committee. Don't hesitate to let us know if you see ways that we can empower your ministry in this church. For your reference, the current list of staff-sprc liaisons is below.

In Peace,  
Jenny Mahoney  
SPRC Chair, 2017

<b>SPRC Member</b>	<b>Last Year of Term</b>	<b>Liaison For...</b>	
Jenny Mahoney	2017	Senior Pastor	Tezenlo Thong
Ken & Noelle Maynell	2019	Director of Youth & Childrens Ministry / Youth Sunday School Teacher	Scott Pelletier
Joel Nishida	2018	Children's Sunday School Teacher K-5	Brenda Schroeder-Morris
Nancy Shock	2018	Pianist	Chen Wu
Dave Powell	2018	Choir Director	Debbie Willeford
Joe Hayashi	2017	Administrative Assistant	Mari Welch
Jane Fujioka	2019	Bookkeeper	Lilly Quirk

## *NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY 2017*

We invite all friends of Simpson to take a professional photograph at no cost by Bettinger Photography. This photograph of you and your family along with your current contact information will be included in Simpson's new directory. If you have your photograph taken, you will receive a free 5 x 7 portrait along with a free church directory. If you choose not to have your photograph taken, you will have to purchase a directory. Photographs will be taken at Simpson on May 19, 20, 21 and 22. We will have sign up sheets at Simpson near the middle of April.

If you would like to have your portrait taken now or in the near future, you may call Bettinger Photography for an appointment at their studio or make an appointment online. These photographs will be taken at their studio indoors or outdoors. For those of you who live in the southern part of the city or will have students home for Spring break before May, this may be more convenient for you.

This is a great way to keep in contact with your Simpson friends and a great way to have a professional portrait of you, your family, and you may even want to include your pet.

BETTINGER PHOTOGRAPHY  
Scheduling: 303.400.6023  
Toll Free Scheduling: 866.912.9067  
Www.Pictorial Services.com  
2431 South University Boulevard  
Denver, CO 80210

Thanks,

The Directory Committee



### OFFICE SCHEDULE CHANGES:

For your information:

Beginning the week of March 27, 2017 the following schedule will be effective:

Monday, Tuesday:	8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Mari will be in the office
Wednesday:	9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.	Lilly will be in the office
Thursday:	8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.	Mari will be in the office
Friday:	8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	Mari/Lilly will be in the office

## 2017 Easter Lily ORDER FORM

Lilies will be in 6 inch pots and cost \$12.00 each. Lilies may be picked up at Simpson on Sunday, April 16. Profits from the sale will be used by the Music Committee to purchase worship music. Thank you.

**Deadline** to receive orders is Sunday, April 9, 2017 .

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER FORM.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to purchase a total of \_\_\_\_\_ Lily plants.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

List of donors will be published in the Sunday bulletin on April 16. Please indicate if your plant (s) is given:

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OR CELEBRATION OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this order form along with your check (payable to Simpson UMC) for payment in full to:**

Simpson United Methodist Church  
6001 Wolff Street  
Arvada, CO 80003  
Attention: Music Committee



PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
**MEMORY CIRCLE:**  
 THE JA COMMUNITY REMEMBERS

**SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2017**

**1 PM – 4 PM**

**SAKURA SQUARE MEZZANINE, LARIMER ST, DENVER, CO**

Memory Circle is a program where the JA community can share memories and experiences of Colorado pre-, during, and post-WWII. Visual aids will be available to help us remember.

Manuel High School Historian, Jim McNally (Class of '57) will bring and sign his book, *Denver's Manual High School 1876 - Bricklayers to Thunderbolts -2016*.

Light refreshments served.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

CAROLYN TAKESHITA 303-618-0488 [CTAK2@COMCAST.NET](mailto:CTAK2@COMCAST.NET);

MARIE VON HAAS 720-231-6108 [MARIE.VONHAAS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MARIE.VONHAAS@GMAIL.COM);

MARGE TANIWAKI 303-333-2130 [MARGETANIWAKI@AOL.COM](mailto:MARGETANIWAKI@AOL.COM)

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 www.simpsonumc.com

**APRIL**

**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
						<b>1</b> 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko 11:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>2</b> 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/ Communion SS/Youth 11:10 am All Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 am - Reflections	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko 12:30 pm Reflections
<b>9</b> 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/ Youth Deadline for Lily orders	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Ukulele	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm JACGP/Dennis	<b>13</b> 3:00 pm Memorial Service for Mas Nonaka Cantata Rehearsal 5:30 pm - Band 6:40 pm - Choir 7:15 All instruments	<b>14</b> Church office closed in observance of <b>Good Friday</b> 10:00 am Bridge Game Day	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Easter Pancake Breakfast/Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko
<b>16</b> Easter Sunday 9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Cantata - SS/Youth 11:00 am - Knit & Crochet Refresh Com. in Sanctuary	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 am - Reflections	<b>19</b> Articles for Newsletter to office by noon.	<b>20</b> 9:00 am - Pack Set Ups for Bazaar 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko 12:30 pm - Reflections Earth Day
<b>23</b> 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS S.P.R.C. - Sushi 101 <b>30</b> 9:00 Choir Rehearsal SS/Youth Talent Show & Crockpot off	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Ukulele	<b>25</b> 9:00 am - Assemble Newsletter	<b>26</b> 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Japanese Elder Wellness 6:00 pm - Finance Committee 7:30 pm - Ad Council	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Staff Mtg.	<b>29</b> 7:00 am - Make Yaki Manju 9:00 am Japanese Language Class Talko

**LITURGISTS**  
 April 2: Terry Hall; April 9: Patty Goto; April 16: Easter; April 23: Charlotte Namba; April 30: Dan Goto

**GROCERY CERTIFICATES**  
 Charlotte Namba

**USHERS**  
 Tim Cleary

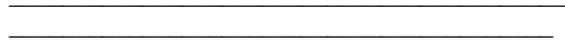
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***APRIL 2017***

Phone: 303 428 7963  
email: simpsonumc@comcast.net  
WWW.SIMPSONUMC.COM

Or Current Resident



***APRIL***



***FUN AND FANCY FREE  
EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST***

SATURDAY, April 15, 2017  
9-11:00 a.m.

Free breakfast, raffles and Easter  
egg hunt

