



You are invited to join us for

EASTER MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, April 1 at 10:00 am

with

Joyful Music! Praising! Message: "The Joke's On Us!"



SUNDAY, APRIL 8

You're invited to worship with us
as we embrace the ancient tradition
of celebrating laughter, humor,
and good will on the Sunday after Easter!

Kids - bring your best jokes to share!



Tea and Conversation



TIIMS—What happens next?

In one of my first articles for this newsletter, I used the image of giving birth to illustrate the TIIMS process: the people of the church do the work of creating a new way of life while I act as a spiritual mid-wife, guiding and helping the process along. Well, we have been working the TIIMS process for nine months now. Is the baby ready to be born?

As with all new life, only God knows when the time is ripe for birth. When churches are reborn, they often only see the moment of birth long after it has taken place. With that in mind, I can tell you what some of the next steps will be, and help you prepare for the work. It is my prayer that this information will inspire you to participate in the days and weeks ahead, supporting your leaders as they seek to serve God by serving you.

Strategic Planning

Former and current Council members attended a Leadership Seminar in February. Led by Drew DiGiovanni, they took a step back from the issues challenging the church so they could better understand how we function as an organization. This work is called a “Cultural Assessment” - but it has nothing to do with ethnicity. Instead, it is a way of gaining a more complex and deeper grasp of how the people in an organization interact—whether for good or ill.

Out of that experience as well as the retreat the leaders realized that the church needs a Strategic Plan. The world around us has changed dramatically over the past 35 years. The structure and activities that used to bring success are no longer effective. Who are we called to be in the next 20 years? What will we have to do to be successful?

For more information about the Strategic Plan, please see the article in this newsletter by Jennifer Lim.

Your Role

In any TIIMS setting, some people enthusiastically engage the process immediately, eager for new life to begin. Others feel unsettled and unsure, longing for the comfort of the well known and well loved way of doing church, but aware that things must change if the church is to survive. And, there are always a few who angrily blame the TIIMS pastor for the need for change, and work to undermine the process and the pastor in any way they can. It is time for us to put our feelings aside and come together to create a vibrant future for our church.

However you have felt about this work so far, I pray that you will embrace the work done by your leaders during the Strategic Planning day. I am sure that God has been at work among and within all of us throughout the past nine months. I trust that God will renew this church—but I also know that God will only work where He hears a “yes” to his invitation to new life. I invite you to trust God and say “yes,” and then give yourself into God’s hands.

I thank God for the opportunity he gave me to serve you. I pray for you every day, and my heart rejoices as I see the Holy Spirit moving among us, bringing hope and new life.

Yours in Christ’s grace,
Rev. Vivian



Masa Nishimura, Tori Ito, Esther Fujita



Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting *We need YOU!*

It's that time of year—time to get together and start making plans to welcome children into our church this summer! We need people to help plan, provide food, help shepherd the children from one activity to the next, teach, decorate, and even some to help our middle schoolers learn how to be helpers themselves!

On **SUNDAY, APRIL 8th** we will meet after worship in the Sunday school room to get started.

Vacation Bible School will be held July 16-20 (Monday—Friday)

Check in begins at 8:30 am, and the action ends at 11:30 am.

Worship on Sunday, July 22, will feature the children sharing the fun and music they enjoyed all week long. They'll show us all how to



“GET S'MORE OUT OF JESUS!”

I hope I'll see lots of people on April 8th!

Sheri Pelletier, Director of Children's Ministries

This APRIL in Worship

SERMONS

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| April 1 | EASTER SUNDAY <i>(see article on Page 1)</i> |
| April 8 | “From Cowardly to Courageous” The story of Peter's journey from fear and failure to courage and conquest shows us how the power of the Risen Christ transforms us from the inside out.
<i>Scripture readings: John 18: 15-27; John 21:4-17</i> |
| April 15 | Guest preacher |
| April 22 | “From Vengeance to Victory” - Paul was transformed from an angry, vindictive murderer into a passionate preacher for Christ. How did God use Paul to take the Gospel throughout the empire?
<i>Scripture readings: Acts 7: 51—8:1; Acts 9: 1-7; ; Romans 8: 31-39</i> |
| April 29 | YOUTH SUNDAY! |

CHURCH NEWS

HINA MATSURI

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, Interpreters, Hostesses, Calligraphy, Origami, Master of Ceremonies, the Singers, Children's Songs, Guitar, Ukulele, Taiko, Piano, tea Ceremony, Odori, Judo, Aikido, Karate, Security, Refreshment Preparers and Servers, Stage Crew, Set-up of tables, Clean-up crew, Bento Box Preparers, Telephone, Tea Servers and last but not least the Spam Sushi Makers.

All in all, without all of your HARD WORK we would not have been able to have a successful HINA MATSURI.

Thank you from the Hina Matsuri Committee

ASIAN FOOD BAZAAR

Our 68th Annual Asian Food Bazaar is happening soon. In preparation for this event we ask you for your generous donation to defray the cost of our supplies. A donation envelope is attached to this newsletter for your convenience.

We thank all of you in advance for your donations.

The Bazaar Committee

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The Bake Sale Committee needs your donations for the bake sale. We appreciate all the yummy treats the ladies provide each year. We especially need donations of smaller items. If you are able to help provide these items, our wish list includes: Cookies, small dessert bars, brownies, candies, those cute little sweet breads, and other small desserts. Your homemade pies, cakes and cream puffs are always a bit hit too!

Thank you from the bake sale ladies.

CHURCH FINANCES

FINANCE REPORT FEBRUARY 1 — 28, 2018

TOTAL INCOME Jan-Feb. 2018	\$ 28,436.85
TOTAL EXPENSES Jan-Feb 2018	48,138.64
NET OVERAGE/(Loss)	(19,701.79)

Total taken from restricted funds: \$0.00



Please note: Not all income may be used to offset the expense of running the church.

CHURCH NEWS

LIFE LINE SCREENING “Let’s Be Healthy Together”

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Simpson United Methodist Church on May 18, 2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with the member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

More information about Life Line Screening will be provided by way of bulletin notices and emails as we get closer to the event.

Strategic Plan



On February 11, 2018 an All Congregation SPRC Meeting was held. During this meeting a recommendation was presented to consider a Strategic Planning meeting which would strive to integrate themes, goals and objectives. This recommendation was presented to the Council who endorsed and agreed to sponsor a facilitator to lead the initial stages of this process. The "Vision" for the strategic plan has been incorporated and developed from feedback from the fall Church Retreat (Sept. 7,8,9, 2017) which was held at Buckhorn Camp and from the ongoing dialogue sessions held at the church.

The three phases are as follows:

- A. Initial phase: Explore several key issues
- B. Phase Two: Planning Stages
- C. Phase Three: Implementation Phase

On April 21 a small group will convene and explore several themes, goals and objectives. The process is designed to cascade into "Phase Two: Planning Stages" which will allow a larger group to participate in the strategic plan. A report will be delivered to Counsel regarding ongoing progress. Ultimately this will assist the church in formulating both short and long term measurable goals.

Respectfully submitted
Jennifer Lim

We are grateful for the many ways people support our church with generous gifts.

It is part of our tradition to publicly thank those who give special gifts. However, as some prefer to donate anonymously, this is not a complete list of donors.



Given By

Russell Murata
Charles Yamaguchi
Jennifer Lim
Evelyn Hayashida
Aiko Okubo
Isami Terada

In Memory Of

Helen Goto
Helen Goto and Lily Masamori
Mary Critchlow and Bruce Lim
Casey Hayashida, Suzie Nagai and Marge Ota
Hank Okubo and Candace Okubo
Helen Goto

Gifts to the Church (as of February 28, 2018)

Hina Matsuri: Johnny Barela; Japanese American Association

Music Contingency: John Miyahara

Newsletter Donation: Evelyn Hayashida; Mayrene Kiyota

Scholarship Fund: Gary Orazio - in celebration of Mary Nishiyama's birthday

Carol Yamamoto in Celebration of Uncle Yukio Furuiye's 96th Birthday.

Thank you to the workers that cleaned for Hina Matsuri

Karla Cornish
Julie Cornish
Kazuko Dishong
Owen Fitzsimons
John & Terry Hall
Dan Hamai

William & Kathy Murakami
Ken Namba
Todd Namba
Nobuko Ninomiya
Mary Nishimura
Grace Tochiara



A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Janice Abo, Kazuko Dishong, Julia Kamura, Eileen Mayeda, Carol Nishimoto and Mary Nishiyama. for assembling the March Newsletter for mailing on **February 27, 2018.**

We would NOT be able to do this without your help.

You are very much appreciated!

Simpson United Methodist Church

Telephone: 303/428-7963

www.simpsonumc.com

April 2018

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Youth & Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 SS and Youth 11:15 Youth Council	2 Church Office Closed	3 9:30 am Reflections Class	4	5 10:00am Staff Meeting	6	7 9:00 am— Taiko and Japanese Language Class
8 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Holy Communion 10:15 SS & Youth No Choir in the loft 11:15—Trustees	9 10:00 am Ukulele	10	11	12 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 9:00 am – Taiko and Japanese Language Class
15 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 SS/Youth 11:00 Knit & Crochet Worship Design Team	16	17 9:30 am Reflections Class	18	19 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 9:00 am – Taiko and Japanese Language Class Strategic Meeting (off-site)
22 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 SS & Youth	23 10:00 am Ukulele	24 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter	25 11:30 am APDC Lunch 6:30 pm—Finance Comm. 7:00 pm—Church Council	26 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28 9:00 am – Taiko and Japanese Language Class
29 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 SPRC	30					

LITURGISTS

April 01 Jenny Mahoney
April 08 Noelle Maynell
April 15 Terry Hall
April 22 Dan Goto
April 29 Ruby Hada

GROCERY CERTIFICATES

Bob Fujiota

USHERS

David Powell

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Arvada, CO 80003-6833

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APRIL 2018

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Or Current Resident



Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, April 15, 2018
Newsletter Mailing Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2018