



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY - March 25: *From Palms to Passion*

Join us as we re-enact the exciting parade that took place in Jerusalem that day so long ago. We'll join the children as they wave palm branches to greet Jesus, and sing happy songs. Then, when the children leave for Sunday school, we will continue the journey with Jesus as he is arrested, tried, convicted, and crucified. The story is challenging to our hearts and minds, maybe because it reveals human nature at its worst - and best. Rev. Vivian's sermon will remind us:

"No Cross - No Christ"



Tenebrae

Grieving Over Darkness.
Reflecting on Redemption.

Friday, March 30 - 7:00 pm

This traditional service of darkness will include Scripture, Holy Communion, and feature our choir's presentation of
"The Shadow of the Cross"



You are invited to join us for

EASTER MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, April 1 at 10:00 am

with

Trumpets! Processions! Singing! Praising! and a Message of JOY!



Tea and Conversation



My friends and I entered Anaheim stadium with the rest of the people, thousands upon thousands of us streaming into the venue that day to hear evangelist Billy Graham. I was a well behaved, church going teen back then, though I had recently stopped attending the Methodist church in which I had been confirmed just a couple of years earlier.

The church I attended in Southern California had stopped talking about Jesus. My youth director had casually said that it was silly to believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus, that all the smartest people had abandoned that idea. The pastor and other leaders were active and vocal in a number of political causes, from civil rights to anti-war protests. I heard sermons about justice and peace, but very little about God or Jesus. The Bible seemed to be irrelevant.

My friends and I attended the event in Anaheim more out of curiosity than interest. We were rehearsing for a play that required us to learn and use American Sign Language letters. We thought it would be good practice to sit in the stands and spell out the words being said as fast as we could. And, since the event was highly publicized and in all the news, we would also be where the action was. A “twofer”!

And so we walked in, got some refreshments, and settled into our seats. As the opening speakers and musicians warmed up the crowd, we happily alternated between practicing signing and enjoying our snacks. We were getting pretty good, and having a lot of fun.

But then Billy stepped to the pulpit and began to speak, and something in the air changed. Yes, Rev. Graham had a commanding voice and was certainly handsome - that was noticed even by teen girls who usually wouldn't give church a second thought. But it wasn't just his voice and face that drew us in; it was his message.

Here was a man who took Jesus seriously. Here was someone who seemed to know God personally, and who was filled with some sort of power by that God. Here was someone who found meaning in a book my church had left in the dust, and who heard God's voice speaking through those pages.

And that voice reached out to me. For the first time I heard someone saying that God not only loved me, but that God loved me even though God was well aware of all of my faults, all of my sins. For the first time I heard the message that if I gave my life to Christ, God would walk with me through all of my days and help me live a life that would be filled with meaning.

It isn't that I hadn't ever heard that message in the Methodist Church; it's that the people who delivered that message didn't seem to believe it themselves. Billy Graham did, and his deep belief in his message is what made it stand out from the average message I'd been hearing from the pulpit most of my life.

At the end of the message I went forward with hundreds if not thousands of others that night, singing “Just As I Am,” Graham's signature altar call hymn. And I was surprised at what happened next. We were met by people from hundreds of area churches. No one pressured me, no one argued with me. They just repeated Rev. Graham's message of repentance and forgiveness.

But then they added the critically important tag line: repentance must be followed up with a life long commitment to follow Jesus Christ, and that commitment must be lived within the Body of Christ, expressed through a local church. There I heard the basics of Christian life presented succinctly for the first time: get into a church that appeals to me, one that teaches the Bible, helps you pray, gives you ways to serve, and grow your love and knowledge of Jesus. Put Him first, and you will receive everything else that matters in life - and for all eternity.

It's been decades since that night in Anaheim, but I still follow Jesus. Some days I do better than others, but every day I remind myself that if I put Him first I will receive and know joy and love and have a deeply satisfying life. And that's because my worst day is not the day that defines me: the day I decided to follow Christ defines me.

I am sure that on his death Rev. Graham was greeted by his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and heard the words all Christians long to hear: well done, thou good and faithful servant. Rest in peace, Billy, and thank you.

Your sister in Christ,
Rev. Vivian

Some very exciting things are happening with our youth group!

We are well into Lent and our exciting look into the life of Christ! We are gearing up to Easter and the youth have been asked to participate in the Good Friday service.

Upcoming events to watch out for include:

- Further planning and fund raising for **Asian Camp**
- **A youth lock in** to be held on Friday, March 30th right after the Good Friday service. This will be *a night of fun and games*. Then we will help with the community Easter party on Saturday morning. Pack a sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, and a snack to share. Look for more details coming soon!
- **A monthly family mission opportunity.** A Simpson UMC member went on a tour of the facility at The Action Center. It looks like a great opportunity to serve and they will send someone to the church to describe what they do and how we can serve.

Keep praying for our youth and young people. Together we can do amazing things!

Scott Pelletier, Director of Youth Ministries



Simpson UMC Sunday School

My first couple of months on the job here at Simpson UMC have been wonderful and eye opening. I have really enjoyed working and building relationships with our kids here.

We are **gearing up for Easter** and planning our **community EASTER PARTY** which will be held here at church on Saturday March 31st, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The children will go on a **Treasure Hunt** to find prizes and candy filled eggs as the clues help them discover the meaning of Easter. Invite your friends and neighbors for a time of fun and **free food**, as we prepare for the rising of the Savior!



To participate, please bring one non-perishable item for the Arvada Food Bank.

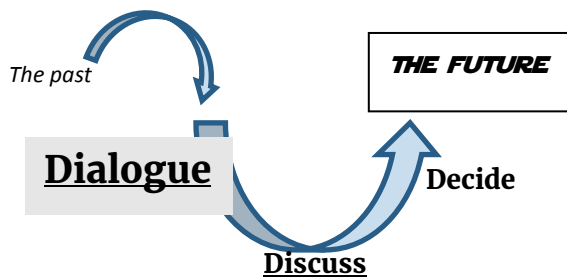
Also coming closer is that wonderful outreach opportunity - **VBS! Vacation Bible School** will be held July 16th through 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. In the mean time we need to assemble a VBS team. If you have a heart for service, like working with kids, or would be willing to help logistically, we need you!

Our first VBS team meeting will be Saturday, March 10th at 9:00 a.m. Please join us, we'd love your help!



God Bless,

Sheri Pelletier, Director of Children's Ministries



Report on *Dialogue-Discuss-Decide* Process

Three “Dialogue” opportunities were offered during February. Most had only three or four in attendance; this includes several people who attended more than one session.

This process is a part of the Transitional Intentional Interim Ministry work the church agreed to do when Rev. Vivian was appointed to Simpson UMC last July. The focus of TIIMS work is on the church and its mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The work of the church is done through worship, Sunday school for children and youth, prayer groups, classes and other faith strengthening/deepening experiences for adults, and hands-on service to people beyond the walls of the church.

The results of the September all church retreat were provided to those who attended the sessions.

The question asked was: how can we move into the future in new ways that serve Christ and build Christian faith?

Here are some of the ideas and opinions expressed during these sessions:

- Create opportunities for hands-on mission projects that families can do together.
- The daisy-chain method of communication needs to become more self-aware in order to be sure it is contributing to the renewal of the church and not its detriment.
- Learn how to market the church more effectively. These ideas included everything from hiring someone to help us be more effective in using social media to making sure we have a sign facing the new Park and Ride that lets commuters know that we are here, when worship occurs, and provide other information.
- How can we leverage the strength of our cultural activities to benefit the church - and have the church also benefit the cultural activities, as they are interwoven?
- Can we interface with cultural organizations, such as the Asian Pacific Development Center, more effectively to draw people to the church?
- Put a bulletin board at our primary entryway that gives information about events occurring in the church in the next 4 weeks.
- Create better methods for capturing the contact information of those who visit worship and cultural events.
- Have more coffee hour fellowships after worship - **and the O.N.E. Committee was highly praised for starting coffee hours again.**
- Have a different hands-on mission opportunity organized once a month for a year until the church has a sense of the one or two they feel most drawn to serve.
- Create the administrative and other infrastructure we need to have a second worship service that is more lively, modern, and different from our current worship service.
- Offer a joint Japanese language/English language book or Bible study, and market it to Japanese American college students in Denver, Boulder, and to area high schools.
- Make sure attractive printed invitations/fliers about the church’s worship and other spiritual activities are available at every event that occurs at the church.
- Have pot lucks and other community meals again - at least once a month - to build a sense of shared community.
- Create more effective, inviting ways to follow through with people who attend church a few times but are unclear about how they can become more involved.

Continued on next page

CHURCH NEWS

Additional topics came up that require more complete information. One is the desire to have a formal process of creating a new vision for the church and a strategic plan for implementing that vision. Rev. Vivian and church leaders are working on just such a process.

Another interest expressed more than once in the Dialogue sessions was a desire to reach out to people who have stopped attending church over the years and invite them to return. While it is always good for people within the church to invite their friends and family to return to church, research has shown that a formal effort on the part of church leaders is not effective in accomplishing this task.

One person expressed a desire for the church do a healing process. She was asked to create a proposal that could be presented at a Church Council meeting so we could better understand her idea. She was asked to contact Rev. Vivian when she is ready so her proposal can be placed on the Council's agenda.

Finally, it became clear that many people are not aware of how the church communicates with its own people. Some people thought that they should receive a personal call about meetings and the new processes in which the church is engaged.

Most committee and ministry team meetings are open to everyone. People may attend, and the committees welcome input, with the understanding that there are time limits as they have scheduled business to complete.

The church communicates about its business in four primary ways: announcements from the pulpit, printed announcements distributed as part of worship, all-church emails, and the newsletter. Social media is reserved for events and positive news, publicity, and marketing.

If you would like to receive the newsletter or the all-church emails, please contact the church office and give Mari, our Church Secretary, your contact information.

Regularly scheduled open committee meetings include:

Youth Council - 1st Sunday, after worship, in the Youth Room

Trustees - 2nd Sunday, after worship, in the downstairs kitchen

Worship Design Team - 3rd Sunday, after worship, in the downstairs kitchen

Nancy's Angels (knitting ministry) - 3rd Sunday, after worship, in the Memorial Lounge

Finance - 4th Wednesday, 6:30 pm, in the Memorial Lounge

Church Council - 4th Wednesday, 7:00 pm, in the Memorial Lounge

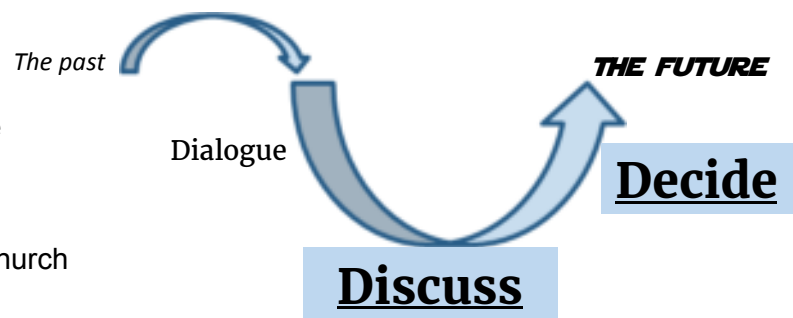
Outreach-Nurture-Evangelism (O.N.E.) - 5th Sunday, after worship, in the Memorial Lounge

TO RECAP: Over the past year, the people of the church have provided their input through three separate efforts: the town halls held in the spring of 2017 when they learned that Rev. Thong would be moving on; through the retreat held in September of 2017; and through the Dialogue sessions offered this year.

NEXT STEP: Rev. Vivian will work with church leaders to gather a team of people from the church to review all the information gathered from the congregation during the past year. This team will work with Drew DiGiovanni, who provided such excellent leadership at the recent training seminar, to articulate the vision for the church based on what they heard from the people, and create a strategic plan for successfully implementing that vision in the next few years. This is the "Discuss" phase of the process.

They will give their reports on their work to the Council, which will give them feedback and vote on any proposals presented to them. This is the "Decide" phase of the process.

The congregation will be kept informed on the work of the Leadership Team through the reports given to the Church Council (which will be posted as part of the minutes of that meeting), and through articles in this newsletter.



CHURCH NEWS

SINGLE BOARD GOVERNANCE - Update

The Church Council received information about the possibility of moving from its current form of church management to a simpler one. (Please see the article in the February newsletter for a more complete explanation of this issue.) Because of the length of the Special Charge Conference that took place immediately preceding the Council meeting, it was quite late in the evening when the information was presented. There was a consensus that all would take the information home to study and address this idea more fully at the February Council meeting (7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 28).

O.N.E. Alive and Well

The ONE committee has committed to helping charities in our neighborhood. We will use our funds collected from bento sales and Arts & Crafts food sales from the past couple of years. We have decided to help the Action Center and the Colorado Homeless Families both located in Arvada. To be exact, we will help the Grubb Club which is under the Action Center, a center that helps homeless teens who have been emancipated from their homes. We will not only help financially, but plan to physically help at the two organizations. Anyone interested in helping out at any of the charities would be most welcome – you don't have to be a ONE committee member. Please contact Charlotte Namba at 303-425-7318 for more information or if you would like to help.

In October of 2017, we donated to the Arvada Food Bank and United Methodist Committee on Relief for the Puerto Rico disaster from the kickback on reloadable grocery cards. **So a big THANK YOU to all for supporting us by reloading your grocery gift cards and purchasing our CA sushi bowls.**

On Saturday, February 24th, our committee will man an outdoor tent at the Arvada Winterfest where we will participate in a cultural event. Tom Fujita (and company?) will sing, Jane Nakama will demonstrate simple origami and also lead a hands-on class in origami, Kazuko Dishong will write names of interested people in Japanese calligraphy. We plan to advertise for the Hina Matsuri and the Food Bazaar which are coming up in March and in May. To entice people to our tent, we plan on giving out ribbon fish, butterflies and a small sample of rice crackers.

There is always an opportunity to reach out to those in need or are homebound. We plan to make and deliver meals to our homebound members and friends. If you know of someone who would like to be included in receiving meals, please let us know either through the church office or through a ONE committee member.

CHURCH FINANCES

FINANCE REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 2018



Our computer systems are down again.

We have hired a company to provide a permanent solution.

Financial information for January AND February will be in the April newsletter.

Staff Parish Relations Committee Update

Nancy Shock, SPRC Chair 2018

Ideas on leadership

I've been thinking a lot about leadership lately. What means to lead in a church, to lead volunteers, and to lead people of faith. When I came to Simpson about 5 years ago I was not looking to be a leader. I wanted to sing in the choir and later knit for the homeless and share fellowship time with some really good congregation members. When I was asked to be on the SPRC I thought this was another way I could serve this church.



Guidelines from the United Methodist Church on the SPRC state the following:

As a spiritual leader, a primary function you carry is to help those you lead to see as clearly as possible what God is calling your church to be and to do. Ideally, your church council first forms this vision and then forms plans and goals for how to fulfill that vision. As a leader, you will help your team remain focused and accountable to honor the vision and goals to which the church is committed.

The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is the administrative unit in a local church where staff and congregational interests come together to focus on the mission of the church. Every congregation must have a SPRC to build relationships among members of the congregation and the staff that are most effective for accomplishing the mission and purpose of the church. Historically, the church is most effective when leaders who are growing in faith come together for a common purpose. During times of church growth and revival, spiritual leaders—both lay and clergy—have served together as servants of God.

There are times when doing a Google search you find just what you are looking for. Those of you who know me and the journey we have all been on this year can understand why this passage really speaks to me.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

I challenge all of you to bring your Christian faith to Simpson UMC. Find your passion and use your love of God to do Christian works to grow this church. And most importantly to serve God.



Daylight Savings Time

begins on Sunday, March 11.

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour
before you go to bed on Saturday night!

WORSHIP

LENT



The Shadow of the Cross A Contemporary Tenebrae Service with Cantata March 30, 2018 7:00 pm

As people of God, on Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus riding on a donkey into the city. Crowds are cheering, throwing palm fronds at his feet. Then on Easter Sunday we celebrate the risen Christ. The stone has been rolled away! He is and for evermore our Lord and Savior!

But what about the week between these two glorious events? Jesus held his last supper with his 12 disciples. He broke the bread & shared the cup of the New Covenant. Jesus then went into the garden to pray. When he returned, he found his friends sleeping. "Could ye not wait for me to return?" Jesus said.

Judas returned with soldiers and they took Jesus away. Jesus was found guilty and sentenced to die on a cross. He suffered, called out to his Father, forgave those who judged him. Then He uttered three words, "It is finished" and died.

Of course we know that on the third day he arose!

This Holy Week, join pastor Vivian, our choir and musicians, and SUMC youth on Good Friday as we take a musical walk through Holy Week. Experience the last week of Jesus' life, His death, and Resurrection through the power of Scripture, symbols, candles, and the emotionally stirring music of "The Shadow of the Cross".

Debbie Willeford, Choir Director

SERMONS - Continuing our series *"From Ordinary to Extraordinary: God's Plan For Your Life"*

- March 4** Sermon: "Broken" - We will celebrate **Holy Communion**.
Scripture readings: Galatians 2: 15-21; John 3: 16-21
- March 11** "The Great Escape"
Scripture readings: Luke 5: 27-32; Ephesians 2: 1-10
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Sunday - please give to support the work of UMCOR
- March 18** Sermon: "The Power to Fly!"
Scripture readings: Acts 19: 1-6a; John 14: 15-18
- March 25** **PALM SUNDAY - including children's procession of palms and praise**
Sermon: "No Cross, No Christ"
Scripture readings: Mark 11: 1-11; Mark 14: 1-11; Mark 14: 12-26
- Mar. 30** **GOOD FRIDAY - Worship Service of Darkness ("Tenebrae")**
7:00 pm - Featuring Chancel Choir and Musicians

**PLEASE NOTE: HOLY COMMUNION WILL NOT BE CELEBRATED ON EASTER (APRIL 1)
WE WILL CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION ON APRIL 8**

THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP TO SERVE

Jane Nakama, and **Dan and Patty Goto** will be our Communion Stewards for 2018.

Kathy Fujita will be taking over as Liturgist Coordinator for 2018.

Thank you all for serving Christ by serving us - we are grateful for your faithfulness.

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.



In Memory of

Larry Goto
Doris Matsumoto & Kelly Dolezal
Helen Goto

Given By

Sachi (Lily Goto)
Paula Matsumoto
Carol Valentine & Wayne Fujioka
Rick & Raita Jergensen

Gifts to the Church (as of January 31, 2018)

Boiler Fund: Brighton Japanese American Association; Vicki Obermeier; and Calvin Yukihiro

Christmas: Frances Hamai; Grace Ito; Julia Kamura

Seminar Donation: Jennifer Lim

Other Gifts: Shinnenkai

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL

to everyone who helped on the Hina Matsuri Cleanup Day
and all those who worked so hard
to prepare for this special event.

Names could not be received in time to be included in this issue;
we will thank you by name in the April issue of our newsletter.



A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Esther Hashiba, Lee Ishida and Grace Tochiara for assembling the February Newsletter for mailing on January 30, 2018.

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

You are very much appreciated!



Masa Nishimura, Tori Ito, & Esther Fujita



Deadline to receive orders is Sunday, March 25, 2018.

2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2

You may mail or drop your order off at the office or place it in the offering plate.

Simpson United Methodist Church
Arvada CO 80003-6833
Telephone: 303/428-7963

MARCH 2018

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
 Children & Youth Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
 Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

www.simpsonumc.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00am Staff Meeting	2	3 11:30—4:00 pm Hina Matsuri
4 8:45 Bible Study-Mem. Lnge. 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Holy Communion 10:15 SS & Youth 11:15 Youth Council 11:30—4:00 Hina Matsuri	5	6 9:30 am Reflections Class	7	8 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Staff Meeting	9	10 9:00 am – Taiko and Japanese Language Class 9:00 am—VBS organizational meeting 11-12:30—Choir Cantata Rehrs.
11 8:45 Bible Study-Mem. Lnge. 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 SS/Youth 11:15 am Trustees	12 10:00 am Ukulele	13	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due 10:00am Staff Meeting 6 pm Choir Sectional 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 9:00 am – Taiko and Japanese Language Class 9:30-11:00 am—Choir Cantata Rehearsal
18 8:45 Bible Study-Mem. Lnge. 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 SS & Youth 11:00 Knit & Crochet Worship Design Team	19	20 9:30 am Reflections Class	21	22 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 9:00 am – Taiko and Japanese Language Class 11:00-am—12:30 pm Choir Cantata Rehearsal
25 8:45 Bible Study-Mem. Lnge. 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 SS/Youth 11:15 SPRC	26 10:00 am Ukulele	27 9am Assemble Newsltr	28 11:00 am – 1:00 pm APDC Wellness 6:30 pm – Finance Committee 7:00 pm – Church Council	29 10:00 am—Staff Meeting	30 GOOD FRIDAY 5 pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm—TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE w/ CANTATA 8:00 pm Youth Lock-in	31 9:00-11:00 AM Children's EASTER PARTY

LITURGISTS

March 4 Kathy Fujita
March 11 Carol FitzSimons
March 18 David Powell
March 25 John Hall

GROCERY CERTIFICATES

Charlotte Namba

USHERS

David Powell

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

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

MARCH 2018

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

Or Current Resident



He gave His all -
please give a little extra.

Please support our ministries by using the enclosed envelope
to give an extra donation during the Easter season.

Thank you