



Simpson News

FEBRUARY

Volume 50

Number 2



It is easy to think of life as a journey. We each have various experiences that have shaped our lives and motivate how we respond to situations. Some experiences are joyful while others are challenging. As we travel on our life journey, we tend to carry baggage along the way. The baggage represents our beliefs about ourselves, others and the world. Our baggage can also represent the titles and positions that we have chosen or have been given to us. Sometimes this baggage can weigh us down, prevent us from experiencing joy and cloud our eyes so we can no longer see God working in our lives.

Bill Crowder tells the story of how General Robert E. Lee of the Confederate armies attended a church service after the end of the war. At the conclusion

of the sermon, Lee went forward to pray about things in his life that he had been convicted about during the message. As the great Confederate general knelt praying, a former slave likewise stepped forward and knelt beside him – praying for his own spiritual needs. Once he had finished praying, Lee rose to leave and was stopped by a former slave-owner who bemoaned the fact that a black man would be allowed to kneel beside the great general. Lee, however, would have none of it and responded, “The ground is always level at the foot of the cross.”

The ground is level as we are all beloved children of God. There is no need to carry the baggage with us. There is no need to allow others to define who we are. There is no need to harbor the guilt, fear, control, bitterness or any others emotions from the past. Give that baggage to God and then fall on the level ground at the foot of the cross to embrace the Christ who died for us!

You are loved!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah



A Note from Simpson's Scholarship Committee

Attention high school seniors and college students,

The scholarship application time is rapidly approaching. Please note that the application forms for the Simpson Church scholarships for both 2019 high school graduates and continuing college students can be downloaded from the Simpson Church website, simpsonumc.com. There you will also find more information about criteria for each scholarship and the required attestation forms for volunteer hours.

Applications must be postmarked by Wednesday April 3, 2019.

Thank you!



Simpson UMC youth news

We are off and running in 2019. We had an exciting and fun January, and we look to continue that trend in February. Here is a list of youth activities for the month.

- ♦ 2/3 “Soup”er bowl Sunday. Collecting can goods for area food banks.
- ♦ 2/10 a Valentine’s Day celebration with cookies and crafts.
- ♦ 2/17 a visit to civic center park to pass out toiletries to the homeless
- ♦ 2/24 Discussion Sunday. Topic will be current events, i.e. immigration.

We will also be doing several fundraisers for Asian camp coming soon. Please keep an eye out for information and ways you can support this ministry.

God Bless,

Scott Pelletier

A Sunday School Moment . . .

We are off to an exciting start to 2019. In February we will continue to explore the life and times of Jesus as we explore the Instant Bible lessons for Elementary curriculum. The topics for February are:

2/3 Jesus feeds the 5000

2/10 Jesus calms the storm

2/17 Mary and Martha

2/24 Lazarus



These are important Bible lessons leading us to Lent. They include Bible stories, games, and crafts that highlight the lesson.

I am very excited to explore this curriculum with our young people. The goal is to grow our kid’s faith and Bible history in a fun and exciting way.

Simpson UMC family, if you have not ventured downstairs in a while please come check out our Sunday school rooms and new game room. We have put a lot of work into providing an improved environment for our young people. Please stop by and check us out.

God Bless,

Sheri Pelletier

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

Daniel Hamai
Alan Ito
Bob Ito
Pete Menda
James Ota
Aster Oye
Randy Shioshita
Teddy Shioshita
Catheryn and Gloria Smith

*In
Loving
Memory*

In Memory Of

Reiko Y. Hamai
Ito Family Members
Jack J. Ito & Ritsu Y. Ito
Hatsuko & Banji Menda
Gerri Ota, Marge Ota, Casey Hayashida
George Oye
Larry Goto, Jane Shioshita and Lani
Mr. George Shioshita
Miyako Smith

Gifts to the Church

Boiler Fund: Tad Asano; Dion Dishong; Hiroko Hansen; Calvin Yukihiro

Christmas: Sue Arai; Janeal Bailey; Bill Boyer; Leah Coleman; Dion Dishong; Karen Freml; Bill Fukui; Lily Goto; Ruby Hada; Hiroko Hansen; Clara Hashimoto; Ben Ichikawa; Mae Ida; Mary K. Ida; Grace Ito; Julia Kamura; Akira Kasahara; George Kawamura; Mitch Kishiyama; Dennis Kitayama; Cindy Kondo; Pete Menda; Kazuko Mizoue; Ritsuko Munn; William Murakami; Donald Nakama; Jane Nakama; Thomas Nakai; Ken & Charlotte Namba; Joel Nishida; Mary Nishiyama; Yasuko Nonaka; Asako Oka; Dorothy Okita; Aiko Okubo; Julie Onsager; Bette Orazio; James Ota; Aster Oye; Christine; Roger Pearce; Christine Proper; Alben Sakaguchi; Toshiko Sakamoto; Janet Sasa; Stacey Shigaya; Ruth Shinto; Josephine Shioji; Julie Shioshita; Randy Shioshita; Teddy Shioshita; Catheryn Smith; Gloria Smith Stome Tanita; Grace Tochiara; Forrest Trimbell; Terry Wong; Charles Yamaguchi; Carol Yamamoto; Chizuru Yoshino; Calvin Yukihiro

Easter: June Yokooji

Keiro no Hi: Isami Terada;

Music Fund: Karla Cornish; Tom & Kathy Fujita; Tom Fujikawa; Paula Matsumoto; Robin Miyahara; Catheryn Smith

Newsletter: Mae Ida; Aster Oye; Gloria Smith; Marge Taniwaki

Operational Use Donation: Friday Bridge Club

Scholarship: Keith Hora

Television: Bob Fujioka

Thanksgiving: Mae Ida

Utilities: Tom Fujikawa

YMYF: Tim Cleary

A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Lee Ishida, Soy Han Thong, Grace Tochiara and Sherril Burgess for assembling the January Newsletter for mailing on January 8, 2019

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

You are very much appreciated!



"Praising God Through Music"

Around the world, Methodists are known for singing loud and full!

In the beginning of the Methodist hymnal, page vii you will find John Wesley's "Directions for Singers"

1. Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.
2. Sing then exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.
3. Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find it a blessing.
4. SING LUSTILY and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep but lift your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed if it being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.
5. Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
6. Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep up with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive out from us, and sing all our tunes as quick as we did at first.
7. Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when He cometh in the clouds of heaven.

From John Wesley's Select Hymns, 1761

Submitted by:

*Debbie Willeford
Choir Director*

ONE Committee

Fifty hygiene kits were assembled and are now ready to be delivered. We had an intergenerational crew working fast and efficiently to get the hygiene kits ready for use by victims of disasters. Pastor Leah has worked on similar kits and she led our crew. Thank you to all who donated special items for these kits and thank you to all who helped on Sunday.

We will continue to collect items for the hygiene kits – please don't feel you need to donate a complete kit as UMCOR will need items to complete kits at their assembly center in Utah. We had extra items and will send them along with the completed kits.

Thank you to Pastor Leah for getting the kits to our Northern Colorado drop off HUB in Johnstown, Colorado.

Church News

Lay Leaders Report January 2019.

Dear Members of the Simpson United Methodist Church

HAPPY NEW YEAR! OMEDETO GOZAIMASU!

The congregation enjoyed the Mochi recently made by Simpson Volunteers on January 6th as we appreciated the Ozoni prepared by the ONE Committee. Good luck and health to you all in 2019!

As we continue to move forward this coming year please welcome all the new leaders that will be stepping into their positions this month. Thank you again to all of those willing to take on these important responsibilities. Thank you for those leaders who continue to serve. Thank you to leaders who have stepped into new positions created to reach out to the community and keep the congregation aware of community events. We have a lot of hard work ahead but with all this new energy success is guaranteed.

Thanks to all that helped put away the Christmas ornaments and decorations. We even did it without falling off of the ladders, although we had a couple of close calls.

The last Breaking Bread group was the largest yet! Thanks to everyone that participated. Please contact Carol FitzSimons for more information if you would like to help with the free dinner for the community.

As always, please continue to reach out to us. We love the faith and trust you have placed in us and want to continue to be there if you need us. Please contact us at any time with any questions, concerns, and your ideas for the future.

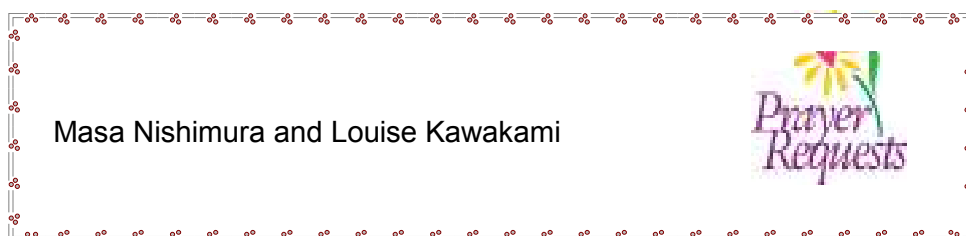
May grace and blessings be in your path,

Owen FitzSimons 303-910-2664

and

Paula Matsumoto 303-908-8456

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. **Isaiah 43:18-19**



Thanks to Ruth Shinto, Grace Tochiara, Ann and Denise Kitayama, Alicia Swanberg, Paula Matsumoto, Karla Cornish and Jane Fujioka for helping with the Ozoni "Coffee Hour" in January. It was a good and appropriate way to start the New Year!
Your help was much appreciated.
Jane Nakama

Fire Safety Fun at Simpson UMC

According to the National Fire Protection Association, there are more than 1.6 million reported fires each year. Thousands of these fires occur at worship centers causing millions of dollars of damage. There are many things that the Trustees at Simpson UMC do to promote safety at our church. This includes trimming and removing shrubbery, maintaining doors that open outward, keeping exits free from obstruction, and conducting routine inspections of boilers, fire extinguisher and elevators. Another important factor is to define and practice an evacuation plan.

During our Fire Safety Worship Service, the trustees informed the congregation of fire safety and our evacuation plan. A map was created that clearly defined the exits and "Rendezvous Point" to gather once the building is evacuated. Each person who attended service was given a map and asked to go to each exit, The Oreo Exit, The Fudge Exit, The Gummy Exit, to have their map stamped and receive a small treat! After each exit was found, they went to the Rendezvous Point for hot coca and donuts!

The trustees found a fun way to highlight this important topic and practice the evacuation plan. This exercise also sparked conversations on how to continue to improve safety at our church. We thank all of our existing and past trustees who work to maintain our church and keep us safe!

ATTENTION—ATTENTION

We would like to make all aware we have found the gas leak with 8 burner gas stove pilot assemblies. The main gas supply has been turned off but the stove can be used when needed. Please contact any Trustee to make a request to use the stove with as much notice as possible. We hoped to have this condition corrected soon.

Thanks for your cooperation regarding this matter.

Trustee's

2019 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENTS HOSTED BY MILE HIGH JACL

Sunday, Feb. 17 will pay homage to the women of the Japanese American experience; the weekend will feature other events about WWII Japanese American incarceration, including Japanese American National Museum traveling exhibit of artifacts from Colorado's Amache concentration camp.

WHAT: Mile High JACL's Day of Remembrance

WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 17, 1-3 pm (additional events Friday, Feb. 15 and Saturday, Feb. 16)

WHERE: History Colorado Center, 1200 N. Broadway, Denver (<https://www.historycolorado.org>)

COST: Contested Histories and JACL events are free to the public; museum admission is required to view additional exhibit galleries.

CONTACT: Gil Asakawa, gil@nikkeiview.com, 720-232-3509

INFORMATION: info@milehighjacl.org

For more information, please see the flying on the bulletin board in the church hallway!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 am Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
3 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Holy Communion SS/Youth 11:00 am Youth/Parent Mtg. O.N.E.	4 10:00 am Staff Meeting	5 7:00 pm—Taiko	6	7 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 9:00 am—Bento Preparation 10:00 am Bridge Game Day	9 7:00 am—Bento Preparation 9:00 am Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
10 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth “	11 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am—Ukulele	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16 9:00 am—noon All Church Cleanup 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
17 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 Trustees, Knit & Crochet,	18 <i>President's Day</i>	19 10:00 am—Taiko	20	21 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 8:00 am—Hina Matsuri Making manju—both kitchens & Fellowship Hall 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
24 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth “	25 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am—Ukulele	26 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter	27 11:00 am APDC Lunch 6:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm Ad Council	28 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		
LITURGISTS		GROCERY CERTIFICATES		USHERS		AV Tech
February 03	Allyson Goto	Charlotte Namba		Dan Goto		TBD
February 10	Noelle Maynell			Danny Hamai		TBD
February 17	Cindy Kondo			Tim Cleary		TBD
February 24	Dan Hamai			Tim Cleary		TBD

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ARVADA, COLORADO
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Or Current Resident

