



For the last two months during our worship services, we have been on a journey with Jesus. We have heard what it is like to be a witness to God and how to be an expression of God's love in everyday life. We have heard the many ways that Jesus loved those that others have labeled as "outcasts". We continue our journey with Christ but now our path changes as we begin to head towards the cross.



The season of Lent is a 40-day season of soul-searching and repentance. It is also a time of study and prayer. The traditions of Lent date back to the second century where the faithful rededicated themselves, repented and committed to a renewed relationship with God. This season was also when new "converts" were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. The 40 days of Lent is also a reminder of Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days. For centuries, Lent has been a journey to new beginnings.

Creating a Culture of Renewal defines a vision as a "Kingdom-oriented, imagined future condition in which a congregation serves God and reinvents the way it does ministry." A vision is a big picture idea that involves God. Our Pledge of Allegiance, "One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," is an example of a bold vision for our country.

A mission statement, by contrast, is the reason the church exists. The mission statement for the United Methodist church is: "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This is the current reason the United Methodist Church exists.

What is the God-oriented vision of Simpson United Methodist Church (UMC)? As we enter this Lenten season that brings new life, our church is in the process of dreaming about a vision statement for Simpson UMC. Arriving at a vision is a process and a journey. It requires that we create space for new thoughts and ideas, maintain the willingness to see things from a new perspective and requires steadfast reliance on God.

Over the years, Simpson UMC has engaged in various visioning processes. What is different about our 2019 dreaming and visioning is that we are being intentional about creating a vision and then developing a plan and team that will implement the vision. Over the next several months, we will be engaging in various conversations to help us dream of our "God-sized" vision. I encourage you to be part of the journey as we dream of new beginnings.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah

## Lay Leaders Report February 2019.

Dear Members of the Simpson United Methodist Church

Can you believe we are getting ready for Hina Matsuri Festival again? How time flies! The energy that goes into planning and executing this popular event is amazing. Well done to the Simpson congregation and all the members of the community that help with this event and support the festival with their attendance.

We are all excited to hear what the Strategic Planning Team will be planning to help us move forward with our rejuvenation. The first meeting was Monday night, February 11. Thanks to all that attended. This meeting was single focus on formulating the members of the Team. We had many nominations for possible members, but not all were regular attending members of SUMC. Many nominations were respected former regular attendees who we believed would have special talents and insight into revitalizing the church. Remember that your input and ideas are crucial to the success of the rejuvenation. Your help with implementing the goals and willingness to participate is also very important. There is a long road ahead and much hard work. There will be mistakes made so please be forgiving. We will learn from mistakes! Instant success would be welcome but a more likely scenario is that after much hard work we will finally see the light of day.

Welcome to our newest Choir member! Midori Takeuchi has a lovely soprano voice and plans on singing with the choir as often as her busy schedule as Consul-General of Japan in Denver will allow. Thank you Midori for sharing your beautiful voice! The Choir always welcomes new members, the only requirement is you love to sing! Please consider joining the Choir.

The Breaking Bread group continues to serve those in need. Thank you again to everyone that participated. Please contact Carol FitzSimons for more information if you would like to help with the set up for a free dinner for the community. This is a commitment of a few hours once a month for a worthy cause.

Please contact Carol FitzSimons for  
more information and the next volunteer day.

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  
Paula Matsumoto 303-908-8456

“In order to carry a positive action, we must develop here a positive vision.”

— Dalai Lama



The Children's Sunday school program has had a great year so far. We are working with our new curriculum that has led us through the life of Jesus with easy to understand lessons that include fun activities and crafts. In addition, I have taken on the Sunday morning Children's time. I hope you are finding that time informative and fun.

We have been working hard to make the downstairs area a more inviting area. This has included getting rid of and replacing toys and games that were broken and unsafe, with safer and more up to date toys. We are also in the need of Nursery Volunteers to help on Sunday mornings. If you would like to volunteer to be in the Nursery, please let me know.

Our Easter Egg Hunt will now happen on Easter Sunday after the service as opposed to the Saturday before. We still want to reach out to the neighborhood but want to be more accommodating to our own young people and their families. Please join us.

And we need Easter Candy. To donate, please bring Easter Candy to the church office through the month of March. Candy, Candy, Candy!!

Blessings,



Spring is on the way. It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over. We have worked hard to live our theme of Hearts, Hands, and Heaps O' fun. Our theme is designed to express our faith with social justice, community service, mission, and growth of faith.

It's a busy time of year as Lent is upon us and Spring Break is at the end of the month. We will pray for safe travel for all those going out of town. We will also continue our goal of making the downstairs area a more welcoming area for our young people by creating a game room, and meeting rooms with couches. Also, to develop the leadership skills and faith development of our youth, we would like our youth to lead or assist Sheri during Children's Time.

If you would like to be involved in helping with any of these projects or helping with the youth, please email me at

[simpsonumcyouth16@gmail.com](mailto:simpsonumcyouth16@gmail.com).

Thanks, and God bless,

Scott

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>       | Sunday school class and Hina Matsuri  |
| <b>March 9<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b> | Breaking Bread community service at Littleton UMC. We will be setting up for a free dinner for the homeless dinner. Rides are available to Littleton UMC. |
| <b>March 10<sup>th</sup></b>      | Sunday school class   |
| <b>March 17<sup>th</sup></b>      | Discussion Topic Sunday - "The Wall"  |
| <b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>      | Sunday school class and planning for  |



On Ash Wednesday, we begin our journey with Him from the Wilderness to the Cross. His baptism in the Jordan River, picking His disciples to join in His ministry and help teach the Word of God. His triumphant ride into Jerusalem; His Sermon on the Mount; the healing of the leper; the Last Supper; His betrayal by Judas and His trip to the Cross.

Through music, Our Chancel Choir will take us on this journey,. On Palm Sunday, our choir will present their Cantata.

Let us share our love.

Debbie Willeford  
Choir Director

A Note from Simpson's Scholarship Committee. . .



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](http://simpsonumc.com) under the "Forms" tab. 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!

Thank you for your help with the Youth "Soup"er Bowl Sunday! We gathered 77 canned food items to help those in Arvada who are struggling with food insecurities. These cans and others that have been previously collected were donated to Community Table (Arvada Food Bank). Eighty pounds of food was donated!!

The food bank is organized like a grocery store and offers client choice selection of food. Each client selects a supply of food based on household size. Families and individuals may use this program 12 times a year. The donations collected by the Youth Group helps to support our neighbors in Arvada.

Lenten Bible Study

*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**

Sachi (Lily) Goto  
 Evelyn and Greg Hayashida  
 Paula Matsumoto  
 Yasuko Nonaka  
 Louise Kawakami

*In Loving Memory*

**In Memory Of**

Larry Goto  
 Casey Hayashida  
 Kelly Dolezal, Doris Matsumoto  
 Miyako Smith  
 Charles Kawakami

**Gifts to the Church**

Church Choir -Music	Yasuko Nonaka; Nori Tsutsui
Newsletter	Isami Terada; Nori Tsutsui
Human Relations Day:	Julia Kamura, Charlotte & Ken Namba
Christmas	Masako Furuiye; Nancy Miyahara; Sandie Nakayama; James Shinto; Carolyn Takeshita
Boiler Donation	Dion Dishong; Friday Bridge Club; Calvin Yukihiro

In celebration of Uncle Yukio Furuiye's 97th Birthday by Carol Yamamoto

**A Big Thank You** to everyone that helped with the bento boxes fundraiser. It was a great success. The bowlers were very appreciative and we sold out!

Carol FitzSimons

A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Julia Kamura, Charlotte Namba and Eileen Mayeda for assembling the February Newsletter for mailing on January 29, 2019. Thank you also for preparing the contribution statements for mailing.

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

**You are very much appreciated!**

REMEMBER to set your clocks ahead one hour on **March 10th** as that is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time.



### Lenten Bible Study

Join us for a four-week Lenten Bible Study on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 (**March 26 – April 16**). The study will cover the last few days of Jesus' life through the Cross to the Resurrection, mainly using the texts from Matthew, Mark and Luke. If you would like to join the bible study, please contact Pastor Leah.

### Easter Lilies

Can you believe it? It's that time of year again! We decorate our Sanctuary with lilies donated to honor, celebrate and remember our loved ones. Order forms with all the needed information will be on the table in the hall, and in the newsletter.

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## 2019 Easter Lily ORDER FORM

Lilies will be in 6 inch pots and cost \$13.00 each. Lilies may be picked up at Simpson on Sunday, April 21. Profits from the sale will be used by the Music Committee to purchase worship music. Thank you.

**Deadline** to receive orders is Sunday, April 14 2019.

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER FORM.

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

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

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_ X \$13.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

List of donors will be published in the Sunday bulletin on April 21. 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**

# Church News

## *Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church* **DISTRICT GATHERING**

The event will take place from **9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 30**, at various locations throughout the conference. There will be at least one location per district. We will welcome keynote speaker, Diana Butler Bass, who has a doctorate from Duke University. Diana is an award-winning author, internationally known public speaker and thought leader on issues of spirituality, religion, culture and politics.

In *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, her latest of ten books, Bass offers suggestions for reclaiming gratitude that can lead to greater connection with God, our loved ones, our world and even our souls. These themes will provide a helpful message we look forward to hearing in this time of deep anxiety and division.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
9:30 a.m.	Gathering and Hospitality
10 a.m.	Welcome
10:30 a.m.	Gratitude keynote speaker Diana Butler Bass
12 p.m.	Lunch and district agenda
1:30 p.m.	Processing GC2019
2:30	Closing worship with Bishop Oliveto, event preacher

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### **Location:**

March 30th, Littleton UMC, 5894 S Datura St., Littleton, CO 80120

### **Registration:**

Please register for the District Gathering at the following URL:

<https://rmcumc-reg.brtaapp.com/DistrictGathering2019>



# Worship

## Season of Lent Worship Services



March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Transfiguration Sunday, Luke 9:28-36
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 p.m.
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	First Week of Lent, Luke 4:1-13
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 13:1-9
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Cantata, Sunday 10:00 a.m.
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m.
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday Service, 6:30 p.m.
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday Service, Sunday 10:00 a.m.

### Transportation Ministry

We are in the process of evaluating the need to resume and ability to support our Transportation Ministry.



If you are homebound or need help getting to church on Sunday and would be interested in utilizing the Transportation Ministry **OR** if you are willing to drive people, please contact Mari Welch at 303-428-7963.

The Early College of Arvada utilizes Simpson's gymnasium every afternoon for their fifth hour physical education class. Since the gymnasium is a shared space, please remember to pick up any chairs and tables after any event that is scheduled in the gymnasium. Thank you for your help!

### Jomon Potters Workshop, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Jomon pottery is one of the oldest types of pottery in Japan. The Studio Arts Boulder is bringing this opportunity to Simpson and the Japanese American community to learn about this ancient art of pottery. Scholarships are available to cover the cost of the workshop. Please contact Charlotte Namba for more information.





STUDIO ARTS BOULDER  
1010 AURORA AVE.  
BOULDER, CO 80305

# THE ARTS OF JOMON

MASTER POTTERS IFURAI, GENYA MURAKAMI, AND RYUJIRO OYABU

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019



Free Artist Talk from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Potluck Lunch from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Hands-on Workshop 1:00pm - 4:00pm

\$25/per person, ages 12+

10% discount for families

Simpson United Methodist Church  
6001 Wolff Street  
Arvada, CO 80003



Sponsored by Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation  
and the Japan Foundation



Visit [www.studioartsboulder.org](http://www.studioartsboulder.org) for more information and to register

## Community Corner

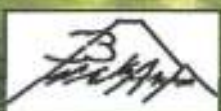
# *Chow Mein and Shrimp Dinner*

Sunday, March 24, 2019  
11am - 3pm

While Supplies Last

Riverdale Regional Park  
(Formerly Adams County  
Regional Park)  
9755 Henderson Rd. Brighton, CO

Tickets \$12 each  
Take Out Available



*Brighton Japanese American Association*

# Simpson United Methodist Church

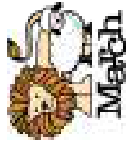



Arvada CO 80003-6833

Telephone: 303/428-7963, Fax: 303/427-1577

[www.simpsonumc.com](http://www.simpsonumc.com)

## March 2019

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
Children Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Email: [simpsonumc@comcast.net](mailto:simpsonumc@comcast.net)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>3</b> 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Holy Communion SS/Youth 11:00 am Youth/Parent Mtg. 11:30am—4:00 pm Hina Matsuri	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm—Taiko	<b>6</b>  6:30 pm Imposition of Ashes	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> World Day of Prayer	<b>2</b> 11:30 AM—4:00 PM Hina Matsuri
<b>10 1st Sunday in Lent</b> 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am—Ukulele	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
<b>17</b> 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 Trustees, Knit & Crochet, St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting	<b>19</b> 10:00 am—Taiko	<b>20</b> Noon—6:30 pm ECA Spring Concert First Day of Spring 	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00a m—4:30 pm Jomon Pottery FH/kitchen Nichigo Sanctuary for Lecture 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
<b>24</b> 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth "	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am—Ukulele	<b>26</b> 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter Bible Study	<b>27</b> 11:00 am APDC Lunch 6:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm Ad Council	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 am—3:00 pm. District Meeting
<b>31</b> 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth <b>UMCOR Sunday</b>						

### LITURGISTS

**March 03** Jane Nakama  
**March 10** Robin Miyahara  
**March 17** Patty Goto  
**March 24** Terry Hall  
**March 31** Todd Namba

### GROCERY CERTIFICATES

Bob Fujioka

### USHERS

Dan Goto  
 Tim Cleary  
 Tim Cleary  
 Owen FitzSimons  
 TBD

### AV Tech

David Powell  
 Todd Namba  
 Dennis Kitayama  
 John Hall  
 John Hall

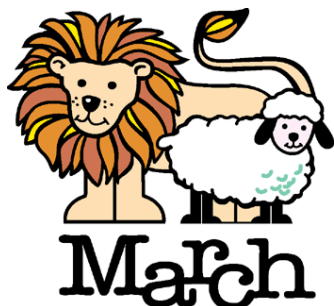
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6001 Wolff St  
Arvada. CO. 80003-6833

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ARVADA, COLORADO  
PERMIT NO. 11

***March 2019***

Phone: 303 428 7963  
email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

Or Current Resident



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*A Journey Through Lent*