



Simpson News

April
Volume 50
Number 4

The symbol of the Easter egg is not found in the Bible, and yet it is a perfect example of promised life. It is life sealed away for a time before new life literally burst forth. The shell can be compared to a tomb in which life is held captive. When the shell is broken, new life is free to enter into a new world.

I am also reminded of the annual celebration of Ground Hog's Day which is the perfect example of hope. As much as he tries, Punxsutawney Phil cannot stop spring. As the temperatures increase and the harsh Colorado winter ends, we begin to see signs of spring. Small blades of green begin to emerge in the unkept brown carpet covering our lawn. The stems of crocus and tulip flowers begin to push through the wood chip mulch and debris that have collected by our front steps. The trees form buds from which young waxy leaves unfold. Spring brings brilliant colors and signs of new life.

The Lenten season is a time where we examine the truths of our faith. Jesus' resurrection is the key. We are transformed from our past by Christ's death and the power that brought Jesus back to life is available to us to bring new life. During Lent, we examine our lives and realize that before we can walk in new life, we must leave our old behaviors behind. We can't know the Resurrection without personally applying the Crucifixion. When we break the shell that holds us captive, emerge through the brown carpet of mulch and debris, and grasp the hand of Jesus, then we experience the power of new life.

I appreciate the photo below and the image of Jesus' journey to the cross. How many different symbols of the Lenten season do you see? The image portrays the nails, the thorns, heads hung in reflective remembrance of our past behaviors.....then the cross and new life of Easter morning!

Often times, our lives are filled with many Lenten journeys and Easter awakenings. If we chose, each journey will lead us to the foot of the cross and new life. The question you have to ask yourself is this:

Are you willing to begin a new journey?

Have confidence that God offers us hope and new life....not just on Easter morning, but every day!

May it be so!

Pastor Leah

"The hosannas of the lilacs, can you hear them shout and sing?
The greening of the grass. The leafing of the trees. How could anyone not see what's happening, how could anyone miss it?
There is nothing subtle or cryptic about it. Who wouldn't be a believer, watching breathlessly in reverential awe, as unfathomable wonders, one after another, reveal themselves to us?"

Arthur T. Vanderbilt II,





The School year is rapidly coming to an end and I wanted to share some Easter news with you. Instead of doing the Easter egg hunt on the Saturday before Easter we will do it on Easter Sunday after the church service. We are doing this to involve our own Sunday school kids as well as the neighborhood kids. We still need Easter Candy and plastic eggs. You can drop these off at the church office between now and Easter.

We are also in need of nursery volunteers. We have a young lady that is in need of nursery coverage and this is a simple and enjoyable way to serve at Simpson UMC. If you are able to help in this capacity please notify me at shericpelle@gmail.com

In addition, we always need helpers on Sunday morning and for events like the Easter egg hunt. Please support this valuable ministry at Simpson UMC.

God Bless,

Sheri

April Sunday School Lessons

April 7th—Jesus Died for Our Sins

April 14th The Resurrection

April 21st Easter Celebration

April 28th Symbols of Easter



The school year is flying by. We have had a great year growing together. It's hard to believe the year is almost over. We have planned for the next couple of months leading up to the end of the School year.

April 7th- Discussion Topic and Parent's Meeting

April 14th- Group Building Activities

Sat April 20th- Lock In!!!

April 21st-No Youth Group - Happy Easter!

April 28th- Game Day

May 5th- Discussion Topic and Parent's Meeting

May 12th- Mother's Day Crafting

May 19th- Boondocks Trip (more details to come)

May 26th- No Youth Group - Happy Memorial Day!

If you can help with any of these activities, please notify me at aspell.901@hotmail.com

We are also looking for nursery volunteers on Sundays, here is a chance to serve Simpson UMC and get involved.

God Bless, Scott



THE SONG EVERLASTING

By

Joseph Martin

"Music has always been a strong metaphor to teach lessons about life and faith. The chanting of psalms was a foundational part of Hebrew worship. The Apostle Paul used song illustratively as he encouraged the early church to live in harmony. From the upper room, distant tones of our Savior's voice could be heard as He and His friends sang into the shadows and found their song in the night.

Music reaches deep into our hearts and calls us to reflection. It surrounds us with sound and invites our spirits to soar in celebration. When shared with sincerity, song transcends the walls that separate us and builds bridges of understanding among all people. On the wings of music, we can express the deepest emotions of our lives and explore the victories and mysteries of our faith. In this cantata I have incorporated hymns, spirituals, and folksongs, and intersected these musical moments with the story of Christ's ministry among us. This exalted theme reverberates through the ages in echoes of assurance and its resounding glory is a magnificent never-ending alleluia that awakens in the believer the voice of praise".

These words from Joseph Martin gives us assurance that inspired the early poet to write:

...no storm can shake my inmost calm while to this Hope I'm clinging. Since Christ the Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing. These words and thoughts from the composer of "The Song Everlasting" invite you to reach deep in your mind and soul as you hear "The Song Everlasting." Our cantata is divided into 3 sections: MINISTRY, HUMILITY and VICTORY. On Palm Sunday you will hear sections 1 & 2. On Easter you will hear the final section as we celebrate Christ's resurrection!

*Christ
is
Risen!*

Dear Members of the Simpson United Methodist Church

Thank you to all who attended, participated in various ways and supported the Hina Matsuri Festival. Even with the stormy weather we had a great Festival. These community activities are so important to keeping Simpson vital.

If you can help out with the Bazaar and haven't been contacted, please call the church office or one of your lay leaders to offer your support.

The Strategic Planning Team is up and running. They can use your ideas and energy. If you would like to be part of implementing some of their ideas please contact the church office or one of your lay leaders. Your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. You do not need to be a regular attendee in order to participate. SUMC is counting on everyone's input to move us forward into our promising future.

The Ad Council is hoping to move their monthly meetings to the last Sunday of each month after service. This is in hopes that it will encourage the congregation to be a part of the meeting and share their thoughts and concerns. Please keep an eye out for this important change as it is the Ad Council's intent to hear from the congregation!

As always, please continue to reach out to us. We would love to hear from you. What do you think should happen with Simpson next? What is working? What is not working. We are interested in you and your ideas!

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Owen FitzSimons 303-910-2664

Paula Matsumoto 303-908-8456

Simpson UMC Asian Food Bazaar

May 4, 2019

Yes, it is that time of the year again and we need your yummy homemade donations for the Bazaar bake sale. This is an amazing way to earn donations for Simpson. As always, all donations are appreciated and enjoyed by those who support the bake sale. Especially appreciated are those little breads, cookies, cupcakes, brownies, and small items. If you have a special comment about your donation, please share when dropping off your goodies. The homemade pies and cakes are always a hit and our supporters enjoy having a piece of something delicious after their meal. Please don't forget to put your name on the donation sheet as we would love to be able to thank you and acknowledge your contributions!

Also, consider giving monetary donations to defray the rising price of meat. It helps to keep our Church Bazaar costs down. We appreciate your donation of \$10.00.

Thank you from the Bazaar Committee

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dennis Kitayama, William Murakami, Mary Nishiyama or Tom Fujita.

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

Wayne Fujioka
Yasuko Nonaka
Aiko Okubo

*In
Loving
Memory*

In Memory Of

Helen Goto
Mas Nonaka
Henry Okubo

Gifts to the Church

Asian Camp
Boiler Fund

Hina Matsuri

Miscellaneous
Newsletter

Tim Cleary, Tom Fujikawa
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Fujioka; Paula Matsumoto;
Calvin Yukihiro
Michael Bricks; Mr. and Mrs. Dion Dishong;
Tokio Imanaka; Japanese American Association of
Colorado; Nancy Schweitzer; Naoki Tanimase;
Reiko Urano and Richard Yoshida
Friday Bridge Club
Yasuko Nonaka

A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Julia Kamura, Carol Nishimoto and Eileen Mayeda for assembling the March Newsletter for mailing on February 26, 2019.

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

You are very much appreciated!

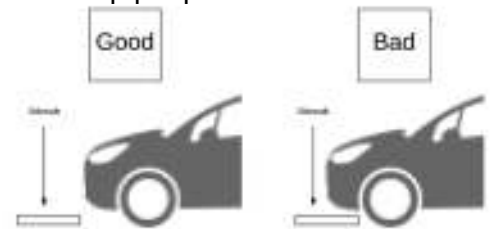
Church News

Notes from the Trustees:

The blizzard has passed, Spring is upon us and the Trustees are ready for the next cold snap by having the lower level kitchen HVAC system back in operation. The system is currently in the "off" position and to turn "on" please go to the small electrical panel located just above the microwave. Depress the button which will provide your needs, (i.e. vent, heat, cool, etc) If the heat is desired depress the correct button (diamond shape) and use the small gray knob to select temperature. Please use the black temperature mark near the dial for desired temperature setting. Upon leaving, please depress selected button and "off" button again to turn off system. All panel lights should go off. Thanks for your cooperation regarding this inconvenience.

The eight burner stove/oven is now in good working order. It is no longer necessary to contact a Trustee person before use. Thank you to all for your patience, however, should one feel an adjustment is required, please contact a Trustee.

Finally, the Trustees would like to request that when parking your car, please try not to park the front (or back) of the car over the sidewalk. This will make the sidewalks more usable, and keep people safe. Thanks for your cooperation!



I have witnessed the many amazing ministries of Simpson UMC, including sharing the history and heritage of the Japanese-American culture. During our Meet and Greet Sessions, it became clear that this Body of Christ has passion to continue the ministries of this church for future generations. There have been many exercises in the past designed to articulate the values of our congregation. It is through this continued dedication that we have arrived at this new juncture.

Through the Ad Council, Simpson UMC will build from the lessons of the past as we dream of a big and bold future. We will use this dreaming process to define who we are and how we share our love with others. After many prayers and careful consideration, the Ad Council has gathered the 2019 Strategic Planning Team. This team will combine your input and their experiences to define a vision for our church. Then, a plan will be developed and implemented to achieve our vision. The first meeting for the team will be in April.

I am excited to see how the Holy Spirit continues to work through Simpson UMC. The Easter Season is a time of new life and beginnings! It is fitting that we begin our visioning process now!

We will keep you informed of this process and welcome any feedback you may have.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Leah

2019 Strategic Planning Team

Andy Cleary, Betsy Satorbj, Charlotte Namba, George Kawamura, Jane Fujioka, John Hall, Kathy Fujita, Pastor Leah Coleman, Lynnette Namba, Noelle Maynell, Stacey Shigaya.

Team Facilitators

Chris Engleby and Diana Huerta



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.

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.

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**

Worship

Season of Lent Worship Services



April 7 th	John 12:1-8
April 14 th	Palm Sunday Cantata, Sunday 10:00 a.m.
April 18 th	Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m.
April 19 th	Good Friday Service, 6:30 p.m.
April 21 st	Easter Sunday Service, Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Conference News

As many have already heard, the United Methodist Church's special General Conference voted to retain a non-affirming stance on same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy. This decision saddens me greatly as it excludes many of God's Brothers and Sisters and has hurt many people in our community and around the world.

Please know that the theology of exclusion is not a notation that is fully accepted across the global United Methodist Church. The ruling only received 55% of the votes, most of which originated in Africa, Asia and Europe. My theology is based upon unconditional love that God modeled through creation, Jesus' crucifixion, and God's unending passion to be in relationship with all of humanity.

Bishop Karen Oliveto and the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, the jurisdiction that includes the State of Colorado, has always embraced the theology that ministry is to be with all persons including the LGBTQ+ community. Below is a statement released by the Western Jurisdiction which clearly defines their position associated with the actions of the Special General Conference.

How will Simpson UMC respond to these actions? I hope you will prayerfully consider your personal opinions and share them with me. How can Simpson UMC continue to live into our belief that

There's Always Room At the Table

With the Love and Grace of God, Pastor Leah

A Statement by the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team

*Trusting in the Author of Life who understands the blessings of diversity we fail to comprehend,
Inspired by the nonconforming Christ who teaches us to defy oppression in all its forms, and,
Guided by the Holy Spirit who continually leads us by grace into abundant life,*

We, laity and clergy, of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, as one body, deeply saddened and greatly harmed by the rending actions of the 2019 General Conference, reaffirm our commitment to a radically hospitable church in two converging ways.

As United Methodists, we must resist injustice and insist that the Church repent of the exclusionary principles of the Traditional Plan.

Grounded in our Wesleyan heritage, we will foster a new movement to gather the energy of inclusive United Methodists throughout our global connection.

Community Corner

Join Pastor Leah on the 2019 Amache Pilgrimage! Saturday, May 18th, 2019

Schedule of Events

6:00 Pickup - Simpson United Methodist Church

6:30 Pickup - Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple

8:00 Break - Limon Refreshment Stop

11:00 Arrival at Amache

Memorial Ceremony

Welcome: Frank Miyazawa (JAAC)

Hoji & Oshoko: Reverend Douei Fujii (TSDBT)

Benediction: Reverend Leah Coleman (SUMC)

Floral Offerings: JA Community Organizations

12:30 pm Arrival at Granada High School

Potluck Lunch

All Participants Bring Your Favorite Dish

Refreshments Will Be Provided by The JAAC

1:30pm Amache Museum Tour or Amache Site Tour

2:30pm Return to Denver

6:30pm Denver Arrival

COST: \$30.00 per Person (non-refundable)



Do you want to be a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, dentist, physician assistant, physical therapist, or other health care professional? Or are you interested in a mental health career?

The Kaiser Permanente Diversity Scholarship Program can help you achieve your goals.

We offer scholarships to students of underrepresented populations who want to pursue a degree in health care. Apply by **May 10, 2019**.

We want to help aspiring health care professionals earn a degree, so they can make a positive impact on the community and assist people in need.

Who's eligible?

Colorado residents, with a minimum high school or post-secondary GPA of 2.7 or a GED score of 520, and who are either:

- U.S. Veteran or full-time student currently enrolled or preparing to enroll in a post-secondary publicly funded school
- Full-time graduate or doctoral level students (e.g., graduate school, pharmacy school, or medical school)

The application can be found at the following website: https://webportalapp.com/sp/2019_kpdiversityscholarship

Please email us at kp-diversityscholarships@kp.org if you have any questions about this opportunity.



We have a new monthly schedule for Committee Meetings!

We encourage everyone to come to our Ad Council Meetings to be informed as we work on developing and implementing the vision for Simpson's Ministries.

First Sunday: Coffee Hour and Fellowship (11:15 a.m.)

Second Sunday: Trustee Meeting (11:15 a.m.)

Third Sunday: Knit and Crochet

Fourth Sunday: SPRC Meeting (8:30 a.m.)

Ad Council (11:15 a.m.)

Fifth Sunday: O.N.E. Committee

Last Wednesday of the Month: Finance Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Inviting All Children to the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Morning!

Come to the Simpson Easter Egg hunt and search for the "Golden Egg" for a special Prize!



The Trustees are developing a new process to request the use of our building. As part of this change, requests from internal groups, such as the SPRC Committee or Toni's Taiko, do not have to complete a Building Use Form but rather can coordinate the date, time and location with Mari. She will then put the event on the Church Calendar.

Simpson United Methodist Church


Arvada CO 80003-6833

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

www.simpsonumc.com

APRIL 2019

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 am Staff Meeting	2 9:30 am Lenten Bible Study 7:00 pm—Taiko	3	4	5	6 9:00 am Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko 11:00 am—12:30 pm Choir rehearsal
7 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Holy Communion SS/Youth 11:00 am Youth/Parent Mtg. 11:15 am—Choir Rehearsal	8 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am—Ukulele	9 9:30 am Lenten Bible Study	10	11 5:15 pm—8:30 pm Choir Rehearsal with instrumentalists Sanctuary & Memorial Lounge	12 Bridge Game Day Memorial Lounge	13 9:00 am Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko 2:30pm-4:00 pm Break Bread Littleton UMC
14 Palm Sunday Choir Cantata 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth 11:15 Trustee Meeting	15 10:00 am Staff Meeting 	16 9:30 am Lenten Bible Study 10:00 am—Taiko	17	18 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service	19 6:30 pm Good Friday Service	20 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
21 Easter Day 9:00 am—Choir Rehearsal 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Easter Egg Hunt	22 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am—Ukulele	23	24 11:00 am APDC Luncheon 6:00 pm Finance Committee	25	26	27 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
28 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth 8:30 am—S.P.R.C. 11:15 am—Ad Council Choir on Break	29 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am—Ukulele	30 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter 6:00 pm Finance Meeting				

LITURGISTS

April 07 Jane Nakama
April 14 No Liturgist—Cantata
April 21 Scott Pelletier
April 28 Paula Matsumoto

GROCERY CERTIFICATES

Charlotte Namba

USHERS

Dan Goto
Owen FitzSimons
David Powell
Tim Cleary

AV Tech

John Hall
Todd Namba
TBD
TBD

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ARVADA, COLORADO
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April 2019

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

Or Current Resident



