

**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

**Matthew 28:19**

Jesus commands us to go into the world making disciples of all nations. Through the Holy Spirit, we are to model and teach others of Jesus' unconditional love. As we share this love with others, we and the world are transformed. Simpson UMC has been teaching and empowering disciples for generations through the ministries of the church.

In order to continue the ministries and legacy of our beloved Simpson UMC, we must have the courage to align the unique gifts and resources that God has given our church. For the last year, the 2019 Strategic Planning Team has been listening to the church members and, based upon this feedback, created a vision and mission for Simpson UMC. The planning team also created four goals that will help us live into our vision and mission.

Jesus had a bold and God-sized vision. We all know Jesus' vision by heart and repeat it frequently. Can you guess his vision?

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus' vision is to spread unconditional love throughout the earth—not just Simpson UMC, Arvada or the United States but the entire earth. Now that is a God-sized vision! Once Jesus created his vision, he shared it over and over again. In fact, the phrase Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven is used 105 different times in the Gospels.

Jesus knew that he could not accomplish his vision on his own so enlisted others. First, he recruited the twelve disciples and taught them about the God's love and grace. He also shared these lessons throughout the countryside. In time, people flocked to Jesus to hear him teach and share the Good News. I am so empowered by Mary's courage as she boldly stepped out of the kitchen, the place for women in Jesus' day, and sat at the feet of Jesus to learn from him. As she learned, Mary began to understand Jesus' vision and was transformed. Finally, Jesus began to implement his vision. He sent the disciples out into the community to preach the Good News, to heal the sick and oppressed, and baptize new believers of Jesus' vision of unconditional love.

A vision is a bold, imagined future in which God is the central point of focus. Simpson UMC's Vision is:

***The Vision of Simpson UMC is to be a vibrant spiritual community that honors our Japanese cultural heritage, welcomes involvement from a dynamic membership, and builds a sustainable legacy for future generations.***

This vision reminds us that Simpson UMC is a spiritual church that welcomes a diverse community of believers and honors the Japanese America culture. The vision also highlights that our ministries will continue for many generations.

A Mission Statement describes why we exist. The Mission of Simpson UMC is:

***The Mission of Simpson UMC is to share the joy of God through Christ's example of worship, community service and fellowship.***

***There's always room at the table for faith, love and diversity rooted in the Japanese and Japanese American culture and experience.***

Our Mission Statement reminds us that we are United Methodists who follow the teachings of Jesus, welcome all in faith and love, and honor our Japanese heritage.

On Rally Sunday, we once again shared the outcomes of the 2019 Strategic Planning Team. The team identified four goals (please see the Implementation Plan 2019-2020 Goals). These goals and suggested strategies are designed to help us live into our vision and mission.

Just as Jesus needed help to implement his vision, Simpson UMC needs your help! The 2019 Strategic Planning Team created Guiding Principles to define how we will work together as a Body of Christ to fulfill the church's vision and mission.

Please review the next few pages in the newsletter and if you have any questions, please contact me or a member of the Strategic Planning Team. As we keep our eyes on God, may we live into the vision of Simpson UMC.

Grace and Peace,

### ***Guiding Principles***

We are a Japanese American United Methodist Church. We will build on that legacy, while at the same time reaching out to and encouraging the involvement of the people and families we strive to serve.

We want to create and support a diverse and active congregation. We welcome people of all ages, genders and cultures, with an emphasis on embracing children, youth and families as vital church members. We will provide opportunities for meaningful involvement that include newcomers, past and current members.

We look forward to the future while honoring the past.

We believe in making a positive difference in others' lives through service.

We will connect members through communication, sharing, and mutual support.

In all our actions and decisions, we will be respectful, flexible and open to new ideas.

We will demonstrate respect for others by affording opportunities for all to be heard, listening carefully to others' opinions, and including everyone's voices in decision-making.

Our financial existence has been given to us by the grace and generosity of our current and past congregation. We will honor this gift by continuing to make fiscally prudent decisions and being honest and open in communicating our financial status.

We want to establish a strong presence in our communities, publicizing the church and its activities and establishing mutually-rewarding relationships with those around us.

We will share our love of God, our values, and fellowship through worship and community-wide celebrations.

## Implementation Plan 2019-2020

### Goals

#### **PRIORITY ONE-A (Start immediately)**

**Goal:** Honor, support and share our Japanese and Japanese American cultural legacy.

**Objective:** By the end of August, 2020, develop a plan and implement at least one new activity that will involve our membership in enriching the Japanese and Japanese American cultural community.

**Strategies:** The plan could include working with the Buddhist Temple and/or other Japanese American community organizations on shared programming, development of a Japanese American board to facilitate collaboration, and/or working together long-term to plan the future creation of a cultural center.

#### **PRIORITY ONE-B (Start immediately)**

**Goal:** Serve our local and broader community through programming and ministry.

**Objective:** By the end of August, 2020, develop a plan and implement at least one new activity that will involve our membership in serving the local and broader community.

**Strategies:** The plan could include activities aimed at the neighborhood surrounding SUMC (e.g., local school) or the broader community (e.g., focus on the environment). Pastor Leah will approach the conference's Good Neighbor program for assistance with this strategy.

#### **PRIORITY TWO (Start in early 2020)**

**Goal:** Expand the SUMC congregation by attracting new individuals and families, re-engaging past members, and continuing the active involvement of our current membership.

**Objective:** By the end of August, 2020, develop plans and implement at least two new activities that will involve our present and future membership in: 1) enriching the Japanese and Japanese American cultural community and 2) serving the local and broader community.

**Strategies:** This objective will be addressed by involving past, current and future members in the activities planned for Priorities One-A and One-B. This could include reconnecting with previous members and recruiting current and potential members to work on activities that interest them. Efforts will be made to develop projects that are attractive to families and/or use a multi-generational approach.

#### **PRIORITY THREE (First step in fall 2019, then summer 2020)**

**Goal:** Assure SUMC's continued viability through prudent fiscal management and responsible stewardship.

**Objective:** Conduct a stewardship campaign in fall, 2019, develop a plan to conduct a stewardship campaign in fall, 2020, and identify one additional new fund-raising activity to be conducted later in 2020-21.

**Strategies:** The stewardship campaigns will emphasize the strategic plan activities. The fall 2020 campaign and 2020-2021 fund-raising efforts will be aimed at supporting the planned activities and at beautifying the church.

## **Recommended Future Strategies for 2020-2022**

**Goal: *Build membership by attracting new, maintaining current, and re-engaging past members.***

### **Recommended Strategies:**

1. Reconnect with members who are no longer active but still support the church in some way.
2. Champion a cause to draw in young people and youth organizations.
3. Make our church family grow by appealing to all age groups, including young parents.
4. Create a social committee to plan fun family/adult activities
5. Develop activities that sustain and support the current, active members.
6. Develop training for greeting and outreach. Help members and potential members feel more welcome. Be cognizant of new visitors
7. Improve Sunday School: work with current teachers, have an advisory board, have parent leaders, find ways to be more effective with Sunday School children and youth by exploring curriculum options.
8. Aim to have about 150 people in average worship on Sunday mornings (now have about 50)
9. Inform Japanese-American community by letting them know how we have worked on healing
10. Create more beautiful, congenial area for coffee hour and other small social events.
11. Outreach, perhaps monthly bentos delivered to our aging congregation members; revive the homebound visitation and ministry.
12. Recruit more people for the choir and try to get them involved in the Music Department.

**Goal: *Share Japanese/Japanese American cultural legacy.***

### **Recommended Strategies:**

1. Work with other Japanese American organizations to develop a Japanese cultural center. The center could develop programming, events, exhibits, classes, curriculum and promotions to share our culture. The focus could include art, pottery, crafts, textiles, food & cooking, film and photography, language and many others.
2. Develop opportunities to share our Japanese culture for youth and young families, to join small groups, reach out to our neighborhood
3. Create "What's Your Story" program to capture some of the Japanese American stories in our congregation.
4. Increase membership and attendance by offering opportunities such as cultural classes
5. Consider rebranding the church with a new name to reflect our Japanese culture.
6. Place bronze plaques to remember those who have passed in church.
7. Preorder manju (Japanese food) or sushi three or four times a year. Offer fellowship in making traditional food for a fund raiser.
8. Develop social and cultural events that we can invite the Japanese language school families and Denver Buddhist Temple families to participate.
9. Promote sustainability by finding ways to teach younger generations about our culture.

## **Recommended Future Strategies for 2020-2022 (continued)**

**Communication Goal: Share activities and accomplishments with our membership and communities.**

### **Recommended Strategies:**

1. Demonstrate respect for all ideas and suggestions with kindness and open minds.
2. Improve communication between congregation and working/administrative committees.
3. Communicate on working projects like building projects, mission projects, and cultural events.
4. Communicate to current members and provide background for new members, visitors, and others.
5. Publicize our church through newspaper articles and other means about events & church history.
6. Engage, communicate and cooperate with other cultural, community, and spiritual efforts and organizations.

**Goal: Community service through programming and ministry.**

### **Recommended Strategies:**

1. Inform our members and neighbors about our stand on lesbian/gay community.
2. Identify the needs of our local community.
3. Develop [programming \(i.e. parenting, social issues\) and ministry \(grief, prayer circles\) based on identified neighborhood and community needs.](#)
4. Expand mission work in our local community (e.g., Tennyson Knolls Elementary).
5. Provide awareness & training on teen issues for teens and parents, outreach to community
6. Partner with local schools in town to help meet their needs.
7. Buy electronic sign so neighborhood and train riders know what we offer.
8. Start a summer, tented food bazaar that attracts neighbors.
9. Free spaghetti dinner for neighborhood

# Lay Leader's Report

Dear Members of the Simpson United Methodist Church

The Strategic Planning Committee has 2 reports on Simpson's website found under the Strategic Planning area. A full report and a summary report. Please review these as you are able and contact one of the sponsors if you are interested in assisting with any of the projects described in the reports. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND IDEAS!** Simpson's future depends on volunteers and new and innovative ideas. Your energy, support and assistance is crucial. Sponsors: Pastor Leah, George Kawamura, Noelle Maynell and Charlotte Namba.

Asian and Youth Camp, the annual church picnic, and the annual peach sale were all successful. Thank you for your support and help with these important events at Simpson.

Coming up are the Keiro No Hi and the annual Craft Fair. We can use your help. Please let us know if you are available.

Liturgists, ushers and AV volunteers are needed, please consider these volunteer opportunities as you can let us know when you are available, no long term commitment necessary.

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

As always, please continue to reach out to us. We are here for you always. We realize that there are many critical issues facing SUMC at this time that could significantly affect our future, and we would appreciate congregational feedback on any and all of them.

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Owen FitzSimons 303-910-2664

Paula Matsumoto 303-908-8456

Psalm 46:1-3,10 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah. Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!"



# Notes from the Choir Loft



## WELCOME BACK

This title could mean church members back from summer break; or.....

The Chancel Choir will be back "in the Loft" on September 1st!!

We have enjoyed the different types of special music, but when our choir resumes singing anthems & leading hymns, our church & our hearts are filled with JOYFUL NOISE!


We always appreciate your thanks, pat on the back, etc.  
However, you may have noticed our choir is getting smaller (& older!).  
New blood is needed to keep the Chancel choir singing anthems & leading hymns.

We thank you for your support & appreciate how complimentary you are, but  
WE NEED YOU!

We will teach you everything you'll need to know. Our comradely is contagious!  
Help keep our fire burning .

A note from Debbie:

"There is a change in the air!"



Fall is probably my favorite season. You just can't beat that chill in the air and of course our beautiful golden aspen trees. Just like the aspens, all of us have changes in our lives.

If you were in service on August 18<sup>th</sup>, you saw a sick lady who kept on trying to sing. Yep, I was raised with "the show must go on" mentality! I was so embarrassed, yet you folks were just concerned about me.

I have not taken very well to aging and all it entails! The pastor and I have been talking a lot. I have come to the decision to change my status to part-time and job share with another part-time musician. I am looking forward to having our wonderful choir "back in the loft" September 1<sup>st</sup>. And as always, we need more choir members!

Debbie.

*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 Ota

**In Memory Of**

Gerri Ota



*In  
Loving  
Memory*

**Gifts to the Church**

**Bathroom Faucets:** Todd Namba; Stacey Shigaya

**Bazaar:** JAAC

**Newsletter:** Yasuko Nonaka

**O.N.E.—** George Kawamura; Yasuko Nonaka

**Roof:** Jacqueline Cornish; Dion Dishong; Paula Matsumoto

A big **THANK YOU** to our faithful volunteers Karen FremI, Ruthe Terada and Grace Tochiara, for assembling the August Newsletter for mailing on July 23, 2019.

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

**You are very much appreciated!**



# Church News

## **Ad Council Minutes (Condensed) – July 28, 2019**

- Strategic Planning Committee presented their finalized copy of plans for approval by the Ad Council. Plans were approved to move on into the implementation stage. Copies were sent out to Committee Chairs who will discuss the plans with their committee. A brief summary of plans are currently being worked on for distribution to the entire Simpson congregation.
- The website will be updated, upgraded and backed up.
- Boiler project delayed due to problems with thermostats and compressors. Trustees hope to start installation in approximately 1 month.
- Water damage from leaking pipes have been fixed and new drywall will be painted soon.
- Trustees are looking to replace hallway carpeting due to water damage.
- Easement sale – waiting to hear from the city.
- Finance Committee reports a \$90,000 deficit operating costs through the month of June.
- ONE working on shut-in bentos and Keiro-no-hi. T-shirt sale (\$10) in the works.
- Nominations Committee asking for nominations for church leaders for 2020.

## **King Soopers Community Benefits**

The ONE Committee is working towards monetary rewards from King Soopers to help with our mission projects. If you have not yet signed up for this project and you would like to help, our youth will be available on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> to get you included in this program. Please bring your King Sooper's loyalty card on that day and a youth will get you signed up on the internet. Thank you for your support.

## **Trustees**

In order to save energy and keep our expenses to what is necessary, the Trustees have elected to turn off the pilot light system for the 8-burner lower level kitchen stove/oven. Please use flint starter whenever necessary. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter. ~ The Trustees

## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee has updated procedures and reporting processes to ensure that we are being good stewards of the financial gifts that have been given to Simpson UMC. Our budget continues to show that expenses are greater than income resulting in a consistent monthly deficit of \$15,000.

This monthly deficit is a pattern that has formed over many years. In the 2019 Strategic Plan (see above), a goal was created to ensure that we maintain prudent and responsible fiscal stability so the church can continue to share its ministries, heritage and culture for future generations. As we work to implement the goals of the Strategic Plan, we will be asking you to prayerfully consider how you can help. Thank you for your support and contributions to our church. Pastor Leah and the Finance Committee

## **Operation Christmas Child, Please Read**

This is to inform the shoebox participants that I am no longer able to coordinate the shoebox project activities. If anyone would like to take my place, please contact me and I can contact Elizabeth Vaught with your name.

You can continue to participate as an individual filling your own shoeboxes, but you would have to deliver your filled shoeboxes to a consolidation center in November. You would also have to use your own shoeboxes or buy plastic shoeboxes since no one would be able to pick up the pre-printed shoeboxes.

The shoebox gathering locations won't be known until October. If you go to the OCC (Operation Christmas Child) site online, you will be able to locate the consolidation location closest to you. Thank you to all the participants in the past, and hope you can continue to fill shoeboxes for the future. Janice Abo

# Community Corner



SAKURA  
FOUNDATION

## 5th Anniversary Celebration

Supporting Japanese/Japanese American heritage, culture and community

Thurs Sept 12, 2019  
6:30 - 8:30pm



11-piece Japanese dinner crafted by  
TOKIO chef MIKI HASHIMOTO



Special collaborative taiko / hip-hop performance by ONE WORLD TAIKO and bboys AKATSUKI

### Space ANNEX Gallery

95 S. Cherokee Street (NOT the Sante Fe location)

**Tickets available ONLINE ONLY until Sept 4**  
**\$38 each, includes 2 FREE drinks**

Go to [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com), search "Sakura Foundation"

Questions: [info@sakurafoundation.org](mailto:info@sakurafoundation.org)

*Many thanks to our generous sponsors:*


Allstate Insurance Shelley Misaki, agent	Asahi Foods	Misaki Superior on Broadway at Stanley Marketplace	Pacific Mercantile
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To become a sponsor contact us at [info@sakurafoundation.org](mailto:info@sakurafoundation.org)

Nisei Veterans Luncheon

Saturday, September 14th, 11:00 am

Arvada Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE <b>Holy Communion</b> Coffee Hour	<b>2</b> Labor Day Church Office Closed	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 am—Japanese Language Class 9:30 am Taiko
<b>8</b> 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE Keiro no hi	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Ukulele	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Taiko	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Game Day	<b>14</b> 9:00 am—Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
<b>15</b> 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 am Knit & Crochet 11:15 am Arts & Crafts Registration Meeting	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Finance Committee	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:30 am—Trustees Work Day, followed by meeting. 9:00 am Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
<b>22</b> 8:30 am—SPRC 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15—Ad Council	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Ukulele	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter 10:00 am- Taiko	<b>25</b> 11:00 am—APDC Luncheon	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
<b>29</b> 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 am O.N.E.	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting					

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

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ARVADA, COLORADO  
PERMIT NO. 11

***September 2019***

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Or Current Resident

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