

As I reflect on my childhood, I remember the many traditions my family celebrated at Christmas. Every year, we decorate every door and window in our house, bake and decorate sugar cookies, wrap presents with copious amounts of tape and ribbon, and gather together with family and friends on Christmas Eve to track Santa's progress across the world. Christmas is a wonderful time of the year and is the most anticipated time of the year.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." The season begins four Sundays before Christmas and reaching the pinnacle on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we prepare and anticipate the arrival of Christ in our world. Gary Lee Waller suggests that the challenge of Advent is to live in the present, to embrace the present, to celebrate the present but to also look forward to God's ultimate redemption.

We are not to wait for the coming of Christ but to rise up and actively participate in the building of the beloved Kingdom of God. We are challenged to prepare for the advent of Christ in our world, which not only happened over two millennia ago but also is happening daily. Consider the courage of Mary who was a young girl anticipating her future wedding. She became an active participant in God's plan and kingdom by proclaiming "I am the Lord's servant." She then nurtured, protected, loved and provided a safe place for our Savior to grow and fulfill God's plan. Consider the Magi who were foreigners that diligently studied the stars. They then traveled a far distance to worship Jesus after his birth. Consider Harriet Tubman who led slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Consider Desmond Doss, a World War II veteran who refused to carry a gun or threaten another human life and rescued 75 men trapped by enemy fire. Consider the congregation that gathered food for our local neighborhood.

Each and everyone one of us, with our unique gifts, are committed and called to rise to action to shape and influence our beloved community. Daily during this Advent season, repeat this phrase:

"God, I don't know what you are doing today but I want to be part of it!"

May you and your family and friends have a blessed Advent and Christmas Season. May God surprise you during this time of anticipation and may you have the courage to continue to respond to God's call in your life.

Pastor Leah





I want to start by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's hard to believe we have come to the end of the year already. The youth will be very busy this December.

On Sunday **Dec 1st**- we will be working with the Sunday school program to practice the Christmas pageant.

Dec 8th- The Christmas pageant.

Dec 15th- Devotions

Dec 22nd- Christmas party!

Dec 29th- Heritage Sunday. Christmas around the world.



Remember to slow down this busy part of the year and enjoy friends, family, and the season.

Scott

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year! I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

Here is the December Sunday school schedule.

Dec 1st- Christmas pageant practice

Dec 8th- Christmas Pageant

Dec 15th- A time of waiting

Dec 22nd- Jesus is born!

Dec 29th- Heritage Sunday. Christmas around the world.



Join us this December as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!



Come one...

Come all

To the Simpson Children's Program

"God's Gift to Us."

December 8th at 10:00 a.m.



Notes from the Choir Loft



There's a Song in the Air!

This Advent/Christmas Carol has always meant a lot to me. As opposed to hate, insecurity, loneliness, And Politics(!), This Carol is full of love & hope because of the birth of Jesus Christ. Every year and especially this Year we need more love and acceptance, and much less hate, fear and violence.

I think celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ would & could be what the world needs.

Christians, Jews, Muslims, all people of the world!

Love is love and peace is peace no matter the language.

In December, It is my hope that our Chancel Choir music will be meaningful & and remind us of Jesus' message to "Love One another as I have loved you.

The Christmas Cantata, "Tapestry of Light," will fill us with hope & promise. Hopefully, our congregation and our leaders will welcome the love & hope of a baby boy born in a manger.

As Pastor Leah says "Let it be so!"

Debbie Willeford

Conference News

As you may be aware, the special General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted in February 2019 to retain a non-affirming stance on same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy. Beginning on January 1, 2020, disciplinary actions and charges can now be brought against clergy who violate these new rules.

In November, the Bishops in the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church declared our jurisdiction to be a "safe harbor" for LGBTQ people and clergy. The Western Jurisdiction includes the eight westernmost states including Colorado. Through this declaration, our Bishop, Bishop Karen Oliveto, and the other Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction will not enforce mandatory suspensions for clerics who perform same-sex marriages. In addition, the Bishops will not withhold or challenge ordination based solely on a person's gender identity or sexual orientation. This is a bold declaration for our jurisdiction. I am so blessed to be part of this jurisdiction!

For me, my heart has ached over the last year as I witnessed how these new rules have been hurtful to our LGBTQ+ community, allies, and younger generations. These rules do not demonstrate John Wesley's principle of grace, do not foster a welcoming environment, and are not examples of unconditional love. Since unconditional love is the foundation of my theology, I have grieved how the church that I have been called to and serve has been forever changed.

The United Methodist Church is at a place of unrest and recognizes that there is a need for change. We have no idea how the church will be changed but we can be confident that there will be changes. Even though there is tension and impending adjustments, we must also remain confident that Simpson United Methodist Church will continue our missions and ministries in our local neighborhood. Even as new rules are enacted, Simpson United Methodist Church will remain steadfast to our vision of celebrating the Japanese American heritage and history

Church News

CHRISTMAS COOKIES: Simpson would like to celebrate Christmas by serving cookies and coffee after worship service on Sunday, December 22. We would like to encourage as many of you as possible to bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share with the congregation. Thank you.



HELP WANTED: Home caregiver who is familiar with Japanese cooking for elderly senior who is living independently but needs help between 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Hours may vary. Pay negotiable and dependent on experience. Please call Denise @ 720-291-0039 for details.

December Ministers Assisting with Worship

	<u>LITURGISTS</u>	GROCERY CERTIFICATES	USHERS	AV
December 01	Ruby Hada	Charlotte Namba	Dan Goto	John Hall
December 08	Carol FitzSimons		Dennis Kitayama	Todd Namba
December 15	Cantata		TBD	David Powell
December 22	Jane Nakama		TBD	David Powell
December 29	Alicia Swanberg		TBD	Dennis Kitayama

We are delighted to invite you to a very special Tao Calligraphy Blessing Event in Arvada!

Tao Calligraphy carries visible beauty and invisible power for transformation. The empowering messages of love, forgiveness, compassion, light and more can bring hope and harmony.

Tao Calligraphy is a love art field that carries high frequency and vibration that can empower you to renew your soul, heart, mind and body.

Experience relaxing, stress reducing, mind clearing, peaceful heart and more when you connect with these special Tao Calligraphy and the power of the messages of love, forgiveness, compassion, light and more.

Benefit from quiet meditation, learn gentle Tai Qi style movements to trace the path of each Calligraphy to bring calm, joy, hope and peace into your life.



Where: Simpson United Methodist Church
6001 Wolff St, Arvada, Colorado
When: Sunday, December 8, 2019
2:00-4:00 pm, doors open at 1:45 pm
Register: Adults \$45, children over 10 with parents \$20,
(SUMC members \$40) at the door,
or by contacting:
loveandlightsoulhealing@yahoo.com

Community Corner

The **Third Annual Mountain Sky Inclusiveness Conference** will be held on **Dec. 6, 2019** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the **St. Andrew UMC in Highlands Ranch, Colorado**.

Featured speakers include The Rev. Dr. Mark Holland, the Rev. Dr. Joretta Marshall and Bishop Karen Oliveto. There will be several "focused conversations" offered both in the morning and afternoon led by lay and clergy members of the Mountain Sky Annual Conference.

Some sessions include:

Exploring Various Plans Coming Before the 2020 General Conference

The West and the Rest: A Report from the Jurisdictional Summit

Congregations Dealing with the Stress and Storm of Schism

Helping with the 'Clobber passages' in the Bible

Registration is now available at www.UMARC.org with a complete listing of all the focus conversations. The cost is \$25 per person.

Worship

Worship during the Season of Advent



Dec. 1 Matthew 24:36-44

Dec. 8 Children and Youth Christmas Play

Dec. 15 Christmas Cantata

Dec. 22 Matthew 1:1-18

Dec. 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m.

Dec. 29 Matthew 2:13-23

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:

Mary K. Ida
Paula Matsumoto
Joe & Cathy Shioji
Marlene Sessions
Gloria Smith

In Memory of:

Tom Ida
Kristine Motoyoshi
Jane Hada
Jane Hada
Mas Nonaka



*In
Loving
Memory*

Gifts to the Church

Choir: Gloria Smith

O.N.E. Thanksgiving Ministry: Anonymous; Mr. & Mrs. George Kawamura

O.N.E. Committee Publicity: Ruby Mayeda; Charlotte Namba

Utilities: 3rd Monday Knit/Crochet; Paula Matsumoto

World Communion Sunday: Noelle Maynell; Grace Tochiara

November Newsletter Assemblers

Esther Hashiba, Lee Ishida and Grace Tochiara – REALLY could not get the Newsletters out in a timely manner without you.

You are very much appreciated!

Simpson United Methodist Church


Arvada CO 80003-6833

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www.simpsonumc.com

December 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 WORSHIP SERVICE COMMUNION	2 10:00 am— Staff Meeting	3 9:30 am— Assemble Newsletter 7:00 pm—Taiko	4	5 6:30 pm Choir	6 6:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm Ad Council	7 Mochi Making 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 a, Taolp Pick up Mochi after 2:00 pm
8 8:30 am—Bazaar Meeting 8:30 an—Cultural Team 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE/SS Youth Children's Pageant 11:15 Trustees 2:00 pm Tao Calligraphy Blessing	9 10:00am—Staff Meeting Ukulele	10	11	12 6:30 pm Choir	13	14 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
15 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth Cantata 1:00 pm—Charge Confer- ence @ Lakewood UMC	16 Newsletter Articles due to Office today 	17 10:30 am Yoga	18	19 6:30 pm Choir	20	21 9:30am – Taiko 9:30 am—12:45 pm Japanese Language in Kitchen downstairs making okono Mayaki
22 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth	23 10:00 am Ukulele	24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE SS/Youth O.N.E. Committee Party for Debbie Willeford	30	31 New Year's Eve				

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

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

December 2019

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Or Current Resident

