

One of the pictures that I cherish of my daughter is when she was a toddler and was gazing into her Great-Grandma's mirror. What I appreciate about this picture is that Kayleigh, even at a young age, was deep in thought. She wasn't distracted by the cartoons on the television, the toys on the floor or the roar of laughter as the adults engaged in conversation.

Lent is the Christian season of spiritual preparation before Easter. The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ—to consider his suffering, his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.



Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is also a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period for baptism of new Christians pledging to follow Jesus' teachings. Today, Christians focus on our relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to add something to our daily routines by volunteering and giving of ourselves for others.

I hope during this Lenten season, you have an opportunity to depart from the worries and distractions of your life. I hope you find a moment of peace and a moment to look into a mirror to ponder your own life journey. I hope you consider the abundance that God has provided and discern how God has called you to live your life.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Leah

Season of Lent Worship Services

- March 1st - Bill Moore will be our Guest Speaker
- March 8th - Temptation of Christ
- March 15th - The Woman at the Well
- March 22nd - Raising of Lazarus
- March 29th - Simpson's Musical Easter Program
- April 5th - Palm Sunday
- April 12th - Easter Morning! He has Risen!

Church News

Easter Lilies

It is that time of year! We decorate our beautiful sanctuary with lilies donated by people of the church. The Order Form is on the church's website and will be available on the table outside the church office.

Thank you in advance for your support in beautifying our Easter service!

Kathy Fujita

Attention All College Students

The Simpson United Methodist Church Scholarship Committee would like to encourage you to apply for the scholarship available through the church for continuing college students. This year we will make available The Gene and Kimiko Side Scholarship.

These scholarships will be awarded to continuing college students, and/or college graduates who are planning to further their education by entering into one of the following: a business, trade, technical, or vocational school; an undergraduate college or university program; or a graduate program. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate that they have been accepted into their selected program at an accredited educational institution. If you receive an award and are unable to pursue your education immediately after graduation, you are expected to return the scholarship funds and Simpson United Methodist Church will hold your scholarship funds in your name for up to five years.

Active participation in and support of Simpson United Methodist Church and Christian values is mandatory for scholarship consideration along with other factors such as involvement in the Japanese American community, grade point average, community service, and school activities. Eligibility for The Gene and Kimiko Side Scholarship requires an affiliation and involvement with Simpson United Methodist Church.

All participants are required to do community service at Simpson. For continuing college students a minimum of 5 hours must be completed prior to scholarship application due date.

The scholarship application form as well as the volunteer attestation form may be downloaded from the church website located at www.simpsonumc.com. The deadline for application is **April 2, 2020** and will not be extended. **All applications must be postmarked by this date for consideration. Also, please email your application to sumcscholarship@gmail.com.**

Scholarship recipients are also expected to be present in worship on **Sunday, June 14**, at 10:00 a.m., for recognition and will be asked to speak briefly about their educational plans and how the received scholarship will help them achieve their educational goals. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to email us at sumcscholarship@gmail.com or call Bobbi Wong at 303-741-2660, Julie Cleary at 303-477-8509, or Cindy Kon-do at 303-433-8957.

Correction

In last month's "Bento for Shut-in Ministry" article Midori Takeuchi's title was misrepresented. Her title is Consul-General. Her office is Consulate-General.

Apologies offered for any confusion.

2020 Amache Pilgrimage

Saturday, May 16th, 2020

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 (NKC)
Hoji & Oshoko: Reverend Diana Thompson (TSDBT)
Benediction: Reverend Leah Coleman (SUMC)
Floral Offerings: JA Community Organizations

12:30pm 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)

**CONTACT: Frank Miyazawa 720 625-1193
Hiroko Hung 303 979-4127**



NIKKEIJIN KAI
日系人会

The Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado
with the Amache Preservation Society
and the Friends of Amache.



We appreciate you!!

The youth would like to thank everyone who supported them and their fundraiser on February 9. A special thanks to Dan Goto, Alex Nishida, and Kevin Shigio for making the different chilis. \$200 was raised toward summer camps.



We recently submitted an article to Asian Avenue Magazine celebrating the history and ministry of Simpson. The article is also included in this month's news letter. Please grab a copy of the magazine today!



"Our church is at a crossroads that presents us with a unique and exciting challenge. The challenge is to pledge our many talents and energy to the survival of our beloved church. We are so fortunate to have so many devoted and faithful members that are unwavering in their support for our existence and our place in the greater Japanese American community."
 - George Kawamura, Simpson Ad Council Co-Chair

Simpson United Methodist Church: 113 Years of History, Fellowship and Community

Simpson United Methodist Church (Simpson) has a long history of fellowship and worship within the Japanese American community in Colorado. The church began in a small boarding house for Japanese immigrants in 1907 and has expanded to be a multicultural congregation deeply rooted in the Japanese American culture and experience. As a church, Simpson believes in a loving God who is near to everyone, and that God's love comes through one's personal encounters each day.

Simpson has always served as a safe haven for those who face racial prejudice. Church leaders recognized the importance of the Japanese American community to gather in support of each other, develop leadership skills and create networks. During and after WWII, church leaders supported and heralded Governor Ralph Carr's efforts to allow Japanese and Japanese Americans to find refuge in Colorado.

Ministries at the church have enabled its members to forge lifelong friendships and relationships over the decades. In the late 1940's, a basketball team was formed that played in the Colorado Nisei Basketball League. A Little League baseball team was then formed, followed by the Simpson Bowling Team which continues to this day. Celebrating Japanese culture is also a critical and meaningful component of Simpson. Many cultural events presented by the congregants are still thriving.

Hina Matsuri is a doll festival and celebration of Japanese culture, including a tea ceremony, ikebana display (floral arrangements), martial arts demonstrations and musical entertainment. It occurs the first weekend in March – this year on March 7 and 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. The Annual Asian Food Bazaar will take place on May 2, 2020 and the Arts and Crafts Showcase be in October. All of these events proudly share Japanese and Japanese American traditions with the community. Pastor Leah

Coleman and church leaders recognize the congregation's passion for honoring and embracing its rich Japanese heritage and culture.

Pastor Leah says, "The Japanese American culture and history are relevant to today's society and the stories of the past must never be forgotten."

As Simpson celebrates its 113-year history, the congregation has reflected on the many changes that have occurred in the life of the church. In 2019, the church faced the reality that has befallen many churches in the nation; namely, a multitude of competing priorities in people's lives. Simpson was faced with a choice: be the stewards of a declining church or take action and embark on a committed, proactive plan to sustain and grow the church. Simpson congregants and Pastor Leah chose to be proactive.

After much self-examination, the church volunteers developed and implemented a comprehensive strategic plan for the revital-



Traditional Japanese dolls are on display for Hina Matsuri: Doll's Day in Japan



Pastor Leah Coleman blesses a new member of the church at a baptism.

ization of Simpson. A planning team of 12 church members was brought together along with two volunteer consultants to develop the strategic plan, which is rooted in Simpson's vision statement: "to be a vibrant spiritual community that honors our Japanese American cultural heritage, welcomes involvement from a dynamic membership and builds a sustainable legacy for future generations."

Priorities of the plan include expanding the church's presence and outreach to the neighborhood and the broader Japanese American community, and enhancing the Japanese culture within the church

Address: 6001 Wolff Street
Arvada, CO 80003
10AM Sunday worship;
Japanese-language service in
the Nichigo Chapel
Holy Communion is celebrated
on the first Sunday of each month
and all are welcome.




The Strategic Planning Committee are now implementing their plan to expand the church's presence and community outreach.

and the larger Japanese American community.


Dedicated and enthusiastic congregants have brought energy and grace to the hard work of implementing the strategic plan. Due to the generous and gracious gifts of past and present members of the congregation, the financial future of the church is secure for the near future.

Simpson United Methodist Church has many gifts to offer its congregants and the Colorado community. It has embarked upon a sacred journey and welcomes all who wish to join them.

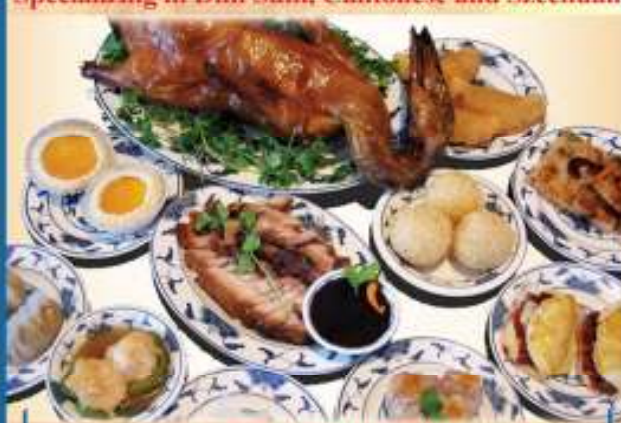
"There is always room at the table."



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and best Chinese
restaurant in
Colorado
multiple times
since 1993*



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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:

Paula Matsumoto
Pete Menda
Carol Yamamoto

In Memory of:

Robert Gillham, Kelly Dolezal
Hatsuko and Banji Menda
Her Mother, Toshie Furuiye



*In
Loving
Memory*

Carol Yamamoto: In Celebration of Uncle Yukio Furuiye's 98th birthday

Other gifts to the church:

Asian Youth Camp: Pat Hayashi, Cindy Kondo

Christmas: Hiroko Hansen, Pat Hayashi, George Kawamura, Pete Menda, Asako Oka, Charles Yamaguchi,

Human Relations Day: Anonymous, Pat Hayashi, Jane Nakama, Charlotte & Ken Namba, Ruth Shinto, Grace Tochiara,

Roof Fund: Jacqueline Cornish, Robin Miyahara

Scholarship Fund: Keith Hora

Thanksgiving: Pete Menda

Utilities: Bridge Club

February Newsletter Assemblers

On January 28, 2020 Julia Kamura, Eileen Mayeda and Carol Nishimoto assembled the February Newsletter for mailing. They also stayed after and stuffed and stamped all the contribution statements for mailing. You are very appreciated. Really could not have done it without you!

Thank you to Tim Cleary for taking the church van to get the emissions test and for also getting the license and putting it on the van.

March Liturgists

March 01	Dan Hamai
March 08	Allyson Goto
March 15	David Powell
March 22	Max Maynell
March 29	Cindy Kondo

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE Coffee Hour	2	3 7:00 pm Taiko	4 6:00 pm—NVHF In Memorial Lounge	5	6	7 11:30 am—4:00 pm Hina Matsuri
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:30 am—Trustees 10:00 am—WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30am—4:00 pm Hina Matsuri	9 10:00 am Ukulele	10	11	12	13 10:00 am Game Day	14 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
15 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 am Knit & Crochet Strategic Planning Development Team	16 Newsletter Deadline	17 St. Patrick's Day 10:30 am Taiko	18 7:00 pm Finance	19	20 First Day of Spring	21 9:00 am –Japanese Language Class 9:30am – Taiko
22 8:30 am—SPRC 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 am—Ad Council	23 10:00 am Ukulele	24 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter	25 11:00 am Asian Pacific Development Center Lunch	26	27	28 9:00 am –Japanese Language Class 9:30am – Taiko
29 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE	30	31				

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

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March 2020

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Or Current Resident

