

COVID-19 and “flattening the curve” are terms we have never used but will never be forgotten. We will forever remember our life in quarantine as we follow the stay-at-home orders to show love to our neighbors and the health care community. We are experiencing unprecedented times where every aspect of our lives has changed. Some events in our lives have been altered, postponed, or eliminated. When all of life seems to be unsteady and unpredictable, you can count on God to remain the same.

God keeps showing up. God is entirely reliable. God’s love towards you remains constant. The changes of the seasons that God created is an example of God’s consistency. Spring reminds me of our beautiful Easter cross we created last year. The Easter cross retells the story that death, pain, and hopelessness is transformed into something beautiful, new, and alive as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Over and over, spring proclaims the way of God’s salvation; new shoots and vibrant leaves keep us in the company of the redemption story. During this unusual Easter season, I pray you will have that you have renewed hope and faith.

Grace and Peace,

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

Church News

Easter Lilies

Our annual Easter Lily sanctuary beautification and fund raising efforts began before the recent health concerns. We would like to continue our long standing tradition of honoring and celebrating those dear to us. And, we can With just a little change and creativity!

So, please consider still sending your lily orders in to the church office and receive a special Easter gift. Mari Welch will keep me posted as orders are received. And, orders will be acknowledged as always in our church newsletter.

Your continued commitment and support are needed.

Please stay safe and take care of yourselves.

Blessings to all,

Kathy Fujita



Strategic Planning Process

RESPECT FOR OUR PAST, A COMMITMENT TO OUR FUTURE

Strategic Plan Implementation Update

We are now 6 months into the implementation phase of the Simpson UMC Strategic Plan. Our Cultural Team [Stacey Shigaya (team lead), Betsy Sato, Allyson Goto, Pam Shinto, Jana Nakama, Cal Yukihiro, and Kaylin and Cyndy Shioshita] represented Simpson at the annual Arvada Winterfest on February 29th. This is a culturally driven event sponsored by the Arvada Festivals Commission which includes, food, art, and culture. Many children and adults stopped to fold origami, have their names written in calligraphy and obtain information about Simpson and Hina Matsuri. The team is looking into ways to incorporate our Japanese culture into the décor of our church, with possible updates to the front foyer and main hallways. Thank you Betsy and Galynn for dedicating your talents towards ideas proposals for the team to consider. The Cultural Team will work with the Trustees on this project.

The Community Outreach Team [Charlotte Namba (team lead), John and Terry Hall, Ann Kitayama, Patty Goto, Patty F. Sauter, Carol FitzSimmons, Jane Fujioka] are busy working on ideas to reach out to the neighborhoods surrounding Simpson. This team put together door hangers and festive treats, then distributed them to neighborhood homes for Christmas Eve service. We had several people come to worship who said they didn't know there was a church in the neighborhood. How exciting! Thanks to the efforts of this team and Simpson youth who helped provide assembly and foot power to distribute the hangers. For the upcoming Easter service, door hangers will be distributed to our neighbors. In April, a monthly speaker forum will begin. This first monthly will focus on gardening. The event will be advertised to the surrounding community in addition to the larger Simpson community.

The Membership Team had its first meeting in mid-February. This is a newly formed team that includes Lynnette Namba, Darryl Noda, Charlotte Namba, Noelle Maynell, George Kawamura, and Pastor Leah and Brian Lee. We also had four youth, Alex Nishida, Mason Maynell, Emma Shigio, and Sydney Mochizuki in attendance. The team will focus on attracting new individuals and families, continuing active involvement of our current membership, and re-engaging past members. During our time together we discussed what we value about our community, the challenges we've seen, and ideas we have for the future.

Offering is considered to be part of our worship experience. Please prayerfully consider sending your tithe via mail to the church office or consider defining Simpson as a payee at your bank to allow your tithe to be automatically transferred from your account to the church bank account.



TITHES &
OFFERINGS

Community News

A THOUSAND PAPER CRANES: HOW DENVER'S JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY EMERGED FROM INTERNMENT

Thanks you so much for joining us at the screening of I AM DENVER's documentary *A Thousand Paper Cranes: How Denver's Japanese American Community Emerged from Internment* at the Sie FilmCenter.

The film is now available on YouTube, so if you want to see it again or if you registered for tickets to the screening but weren't able to make it, you can watch it here: https://youtu.be/n_anMUDecbM. You can also find more stories from Denver's Japanese American community at our website: iamdenver.org.



SAKURA SQUARE LLC - VACANT POSITIONS

Sakura Square LLC currently has two job opportunities. Here are brief descriptions:

Administrative Coordinator - part-time position

Seeking a team member with the skills to contribute to Sakura Square's role as the cultural center of the Japanese American community. Sakura Square LLC's sole owner is Sakura Foundation and the Administrative Coordinator will primarily assist with fulfilling the Foundation's mission to celebrate and support the Japanese/Japanese American heritage, culture and community through programming, events, grants, scholarships and its signature leadership program. This is a part-time position of approximately 15-20 hours per week.

Operations Coordinator - full-time position

Seeking a team member with the business, administrative and interpersonal skills to contribute to Sakura Square's role as the cultural center of the Japanese American community. The Operations Coordinator will be responsible for implementing tasks for business operations functions. This is a nonexempt, full-time position.

Many in our congregation are busy making masks for our community to comply with Gov. Polis' request and to help show our love for our neighbors! Thank you to those who are sewing the masks! If you need a mask or need help getting out for groceries, please contact the church at 303-428-7963.



Fill out your census form at www.2020census.gov. It takes less than a minute per person living in your house.

For each person listed in this year's census, up to \$2,300, is allocated for federal funding each year. Funding for infrastructure, healthcare, education, school lunch programs, low income housing, utility assistance (LEAP), mental health care, children health insurance plans (CHIP), and childcare and development.

Last year Colorado received \$13B in federal funds based on the census count in 2010. That's right, this year's census numbers will be used over the next ten years to allocate federal funds to Colorado. This means a family of four that is not counted will cost Colorado \$92,000 in federal funds over the next ten years.

If you live in a multiracial home, the person listed as Person 1 on the census form should take care to accurately describe the racial composition of the other persons living in the household. This impacts demographic studies for political, economic, and social policies decisions.

Each person living in your house should be listed in the census form, regardless of blood relations, citizenship, immigration or refugee status, including babies. This information is protected by Law, Title 13, and cannot be shared, not even through Executive Orders. Failure to comply with Title 13 is punishable by fines up to \$250,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment. Individual home census information WILL NOT be used or shared with local municipalities or landlords if more than the allowable code or rental agreement allows are listed on the census forms.

The 2020 census is especially important for Asian Americans. The AAPI population is the fastest growing demographic in the US but are the census group least likely to participate in the Census (Hard-to-count). Hard-to-count groups are "racial and ethnic minorities, persons who do not speak English fluently, lower income persons, undocumented immigrants, and persons who distrust the government." About 32 percent of Asians living in the United States are noncitizens and account for 14 percent of the undocumented population. Roughly 35 percent have high rates of limited English proficiency, and about one in five Asian households rely on children under 13 to interpret for the household and at least two-thirds of the over 22 million AAPI immigrants in the US arrived within the last ten years. Inaccurate counts Asian communities make it difficult to measure and address their needs and directly affect their access to government services (e.g., health services, human services, education and training, and housing). Organizations that aim to serve communities with undercounted data often go underfunded, and areas where these groups live receive less investment to be counted.

2020 Census

Simpson United Methodist Church

Arvada CO 80003-6833

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

www.simpsonumc.com

April 2020

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 9:00 am—Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
5 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 am HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE Coffee Hour	6	7 7:00 pm Taiko	8	9	10 10:00 am Game Day	11 9:00 am – Japanese Language Class 9:30 am—Taiko
12 EASTER 8:00 am—Trustees 10:00 am WORSHIP SERVICE	13 10:00 am Ukulele	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 First Day of Spring	18 9:00 am –Japanese Language Class 9:30am – Taiko
19 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 am Knit & Crochet Strategic Planning Development Team	20	21 9:30 am Assemble Newsletter 10:30 am Taiko	22 11:00 am Asian Pacific Development Center Lunch 7:00 pm—Finance	23	24	25 9:00 am –Japanese Language Class 9:30am – Taiko
26 8:30 am –S.P.R.C. 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 am—Ad Council	27 10:00 am Ukulele	28	29	30		

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

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Phone: 303 428 7963
email: simpsonumc@comcast.net
WWW.sipsonumc.com

Or Current Resident

