Simpson News

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"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." -Habakkuk 3:17-19

When I think about 2020, I am amazed that it is only June! These last six months seem like an eternity filled with pain, uncertainty, and loss. We have experienced COVID-19, the death of George Floyd, and protests demanding justice. Over these months, the systematic inequities in our society and health care systems are highlighted yet again. Many of these inequalities are rooted in racism and require a life-long commitment to seek justice and change. Often this requires the courage to raise our voices and share our stories.

During these months, I am reminded of the Book of Habakkuk. Habakkuk is a short book, only three chapters long, in the Old Testament that is often skipped over when you thumb through your bible. God's Word provides many examples of the kind of faith we need in uncertain times. The prophet Habakkuk, in an intimate conversation with God, questions God about what is going on in the world. He has many questions, just as we may have today. As God answers him, Habakkuk changes his tone to hope as he boldly proclaims, "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."

Simpson, and the world, is in a liminal space. We are in the doorway between what church used to look like before COVID-19 and what church will look in the future. In reality, we will not have traditional face-to-face worship services for several months. Experts in the community and the United Methodist Church have offered guidance to ensure the safe gathering of our beloved members. The church will be forming a leadership team to help implement appropriate safety guidelines. As an example, forceful speaking, such as preaching and singing, requires a 25-foot distance rather than 6 feet. The leadership team will begin looking at creative ways to keep our church community connected and continue the mission and ministries of the church. Until this team meets and the new boiler is installed, the church building will remain closed.

Even though the physical building is closed, Simpson and our ministries are not stopping! God has deployed us to the community and our homes. We will continue to be examples of God's grace and love. We will continue to demonstrate God's love by being a voice of peace and sharing our God-given gifts with others. We will continue to be a voice of experience as we share our stories of oppression in hopes of diverting the repetition of his-

tory and demand change. I imagine that we have many questions, just as Habakkuk. We can also follow Habakkuk's example of praising God and following God's example of unconditional love.

May it be so.

Pastor Leah



Celebrating our Seniors



Danielle "Dani" Powell

Graduating From:Standley Lake High School

Dani plans on continuing her education at DU or ASU with a major in Business Law and Sports Business with the pursuit of a law degree to fulfill her dream of working with a major league sports team.

Ben Takata

Graduating From: Ralston Valley High School



Ben will be attending Colorado School of Mines this fall where he will be playing football as a defensive back.. Ben had many fun times, but some of the most memorable are of traveling and competing in summer camp tournaments/games for football, basketball and club lacrosse.



Cami Shigaya

Graduating From: University of California at Santa Cruz

With a double major in Community Studies and Legal Studies, Cami plans to make the world a better place. Cami loved seeing deer, turkey and of course Banana Slugs (the university mascot) roaming the campus with the students.

Josh Yago

Graduating From:

Arvada West High School

Josh will be attending Air Force Academy Prep School in Colorado Springs. He plans to play lacrosse and pursue an engineering degree.



Church News

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.



For your safety, we will be cancelling the 2020 Church Picnic. See you for the

2021 Church Picnic!!



We have talked about it for years! We have saved and donated money for the cause and now it is here.....

The new boiler will be installed during the month of June!

Thank you to Ken Namba and all of the Trustees for their dedication!

Strategic Planning Process

Strategic Plan Update

We hope this message finds you all safe and well. In these unusual and challenging times we wanted you to know that the Sponsors and Team Leaders continue our commitment to the work of the Strategic Plan. We continue to meet regularly, albeit in the virtual world of the present reality in which we are living.

The Team activities that require actual group contact are of course on pause but the Sponsors, Team Leaders and the Membership Teams are meeting via the Internet because we are committed to moving the church forward even in these unprecedented times.

We will continue to keep in touch with the congregation and hopefully we can come together soon in our beloved House of Worship. Until then, take good care and know that you are all in our prayers.

MOUNTAIN SKY CONFERENCE

2020 Digital Annual Conference Session

REGISTER & COMPLETE PAYMENT

https://www.mtnskyumc.org/ac20-registration

All voting members must register to receive voting credentials by June 5th



Every voting member will receive online voting credentials approximately 1 week prior to Annual Conference.

Print these for use at AC!

ETHICAL EDUCATION

All clergy and some laity leaders are required to complete ethical education each quadrennium.

Instructions will be on the AC webpage by June 1st. The deadline has been extended until Sept 1st, 2020 to complete this requirement.





4 sessions of training will be available between May 26-June 19.

Attend one or more sessions to learn the Zoom webinar and GNTV voting platform.

STAY UP TO DATE

https://www.mtnskyumc.org/ac20-registration

Beginning June 1, you will find Session Rules, Petitions, and more.

Attend the AC orientation on June 19 if you are a new attendee



JUST LOVE - MISSION FOCUS

Take part in one of the mission-focus efforts:

- Mask ON
- Virtual Tug-O-Love

Contact Janet Mulroy for more information.

Community Corner

Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation

74th Annual Memorial Service at the Nisei Veterans Memorial

When: CANCELLED DUE to CoronaVirus

We hope everyone will be safe and healthy

as we go through these challenging times.

Where: Fairmount Cemetery (2 blks South of Alameda)

430 S Quebec St, Denver, CO 80247

Purpose: To show respect to the Nisei Veterans of

Colorado for their contribution to the Freedom

of all Americans and the acceptance of Japanese

Americans at home. To acknowledge the special

debt of gratitude we owe the JA Veterans for

protecting our freedoms and demonstrating the

loyalty of all Japanese Americans.

Organizers: Simpson United Methodist Church, Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple, Nisei Veterans Heritage Foundation

Helen Keller: "Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it."

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021.



Congratulations 2020 Graduates!

The Japanese American
Community Graduation Program Committee
will virtually host the

65th Annual Graduation Banquet



The Virtual Banquet will be held to honor the Class of 2020 and will take place

Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 6:30pm

If you would like details for attending, please reach out to jacgp.contactus@gmail.com

Cancellations Due to Covid-19 Coronavirus:

Saturday - Sunday, July 25 - 26 / Colorado Dragon Boat Festival 2020 / Sloans Lake

Friday, August 14 / "Go For Broke" 2020 Golf Tournament / Thorncreek Golf Course



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June 2020

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