

Some have defined “life-changing moments” as events experienced by a person altering his/her life or circumstances substantially. Events such as World War II and landing on the moon are “life-changing moments.” I think it is safe to say that 2020 can be added to this list.

During this current “life-changing moment,” our nation and world is in pain. The world is experiencing grief as we collectively shed tears during this time of loss. Many families have lost loved ones, jobs, economic and food security, and connection with friends and family. This type of loss is overwhelming and exhausting.

We also witnessed the senseless death of George Floyd and heard his cry, “I can’t breathe.” His death once again highlighted the systematic racism that is woven into America’s history and culture, a pattern that began with the oppression of indigenous peoples. Many times, systematic racism is obscure but always results in or perpetuates the discrimination of people and reinforces racial inequalities in wealth, income, education, health care, and civil rights. The pattern of systematic racism is oppressive...”I can’t breathe.”

God created humans because God loved us. 1 John 4:19 reminds us that “we love because God first loved us.” God is attentive and caring for everything that was created. In Genesis, God surveyed each creation and then declared it to be good!

As Methodists, we are committed to dismantling systematic racism. We are called to stand in solidarity with all peoples of color. We are called to identify our own bias and teach others of the stifling and crippling power of systematic racism. We are called to raise our voices to demand the cessation of policies that condone injustices and the disadvantage of peoples of color. As Japanese American leaders, we are to share our experiences and stories to prevent reliving past oppressions. As leaders, we are called to demonstrate the unconditional love of all people.

God blew the breath of life into Adam’s nostrils.

May you be the breath of life.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah

How can we help?

There are many ways to stand in solidarity with black brothers and sisters. One way is to support businesses that are owned and operated in the black community. Below is a list of black-owned restaurants in the Denver area. This is not an inclusive list of restaurants. Additional restaurants and business can be found at:

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://303magazine.com/2020/06/black-owned-businesses-denver/&source=gmail&ust=1594871515917000&usg=AFQjCNGDpHPxUPMN8LPejeIXk93gl3e2zw>

[Welton Street Cafe](#) – soul food, Five Points.

[Genna Rae's](#) – Caribbean soul food, Whittier

[Whittier Cafe](#) – coffee, cafe fare, Whittier

[Bar Helix](#) – cocktail bar, RiNo

[Coffee at the Point](#) – coffee, beer, wine, cafe fare, Five Points

[Mojo Ethiopian Coffee & Grocery](#) – coffee, grocery, Aurora

[Endless Grind Coffee](#) – coffee, roaster, Aurora

[Kabod coffee](#) – Ethiopian coffee, Stapleton

[Coffee Etcetera](#) – coffee, Civic Center

[Federal Coffee](#) – coffee shop, Sloan's Lake

[Smith + Canon](#) – ice cream, City Park West

[Walia Creamery](#) – ice cream, Lowry

[Sweet Sweetz](#) – ice cream, Skyland

[MyKings Ice Cream](#) – ice cream, Skyland

[Le French](#) – French and Senegalese fare, DTC

[Novel Strand](#), brewery, Baker

[Hogshead Brewery](#) – brewery, West Highland

[Rising Sun Distillery](#) – distillery, Sun Valley

[Boney's BBQ](#) – Southern soul food and BBQ, 16th Street Mall

[Swirk Soul Food](#) – soul food, Aurora

[Hot Chick-a-Latté](#) – coffee, espresso (new ownership 2019), Hale

[Buzz Cafe](#) – drive-through coffee, dine-in cafe, Alamo Placita

[The Sojourners Coffee & Tea](#) – coffee, tea, (new ownership 2019), Virginia Village

[African Grill and Bar](#), Ghanaian, Nigerian, South African and Kenyan food, Green Valley Ranch

[Hungry Wolf BBQ](#)– barbecue, South Denver



Strategic Planning Process

Strategic Plan Update: Hello everyone. We continue to live with the challenges of the virus. We hope you are all adjusting and safe.

The Sponsors for the Strategic Plan continue to meet regularly to keep the momentum of moving forward towards the goals of creating a more vibrant church. The new normal created by the Covid-19 creates yet another trial for us to overcome. In June the Sponsors and Team Leaders convened a Zoom retreat to discuss and present a plan of action to the Ad Council with the goal of actively keeping the congregation engaged and involved in this time of isolation. We also want to solicit the input and ideas of the congregation and you will be hearing from us very soon. We are confident that in the coming months we will have some viable options for us to all keep in touch and continue to connect with each other. Please stay tuned.

As you may know the Strategic Plan called for the formation of four active teams to be created to carry out the vision of the plan. The four teams are the (1) Cultural Engagement Team, (2) Community Outreach and Connection Team, (3) Membership Enhancement Team and (4) Stewardship Team. The first three teams were formed quickly and we were having some difficulty in forming the fourth team, Stewardship (defined as creative financing and fund raising). We are pleased to announce that this team has now been formed with Owen Fitzsimmons as team leader and our Finance Chair on the Ad Council, Dennis Kitayama will be assisting him.

We are actively seeking additional members for all the teams and also a team leader for the Membership Team. Anyone that is interested in adding your energy to the Strategic Plan please contact Pastor Leah for more information.

Let us pray for all of us to be together soon.

Church News

Your health and safety are important to us. The O.N.E. Committee regrets the circumstances which has led us to decide to cancel the Keiro No Hi potluck luncheon this year but we would like you to send us a photo of yourself that we can use to honor you during our worship service on September 13th.

We would prefer that you email your photo to SimpsonUMC@comcast.net or if you feel more comfortable you can send your photo to Simpson United Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff Street Arvada, CO 80003 attn. Patty Goto by **August 21st.**

Please contact Mari at the office (303-428-7963) to let her know if you have moved in the past year so we have a current address for you.

You are special to us!!!

Members and Friends,

In April the peach trees on the Western Slope were full of blossoms and reflecting another year of great delicious crop but unfortunately, on April 13th. Mother Nature sent us a deep freeze which destroyed this year's entire crop. With great sadness we will not have any peaches to offer this year.

Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy again in 2021.



Momo Tau

“The Pastor Is In”

Virtual Style



Join Pastor Leah every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. for a time of conversation, laughter, and prayer.

Zoom Meeting Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85810476705?pwd=SHhWdy8zbDNUTjNNNTmhxUHh3ZQwvYQTO9>

Or

Use your phone to dial into the meeting

1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 858 1047 6705

Password: 530127

During this time of shelter in place, it is important to stay connected.

You can call Pastor Leah on her cell phone at any time (307-214-0871)

You can also join her **Tuesday Nights at 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom for “The Pastor is In—Virtual Style” (every Tuesday except the third Tuesday of the month)

and

the Simpson Chat Line Conference Call, every **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** (727-731-9806).

Conversation Topic for Tuesday, July 28th, 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, July 30th, 10:00 a.m.

Dismantling Racism

For the last week of July, our conversations will highlight systematic racism and ways to dismantle racism. If you are able, please watch this video in preparation for our discussion.

<https://youtu.be/51ZFz3-paOE>

Conversation Topic for Tuesday, August 4th, 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, August 6th, 1000 a.m.

The Dangers of the Single Story

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en



Simpson Chat Line Conference Call

Join us every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Just dial 727-731-9806



At a Sponsors' meeting (Strategic Planning project) we discussed how we might help build closer relationships with each other (especially during this COVID-19 crisis). One idea was to share stories about members. Even before COVID-19, many of us may have seen each other at church, but unless we made a special effort to get to know someone, we might have just said hi and gone home. Here's a jumpstart to making the effort.

Mary Hatasaka Nishiyama (aka Boss, General) by Charlotte Namba

Mary sits in the front row of the sanctuary in order to see and hear better. Mary always has a smile for you. Mary knows everyone. Mary, my good friend.

It was 1960 and I had just moved to Denver after spending time in California. I met Mary at Simpson when it was located on High Street in North Denver. She befriended me that very first time we were both at church. We began our church life together by serving as Youth Advisors. I don't remember how many years we led the group, but we had the wonderful experience of getting to know a great group of youth (John Hasegawa, Mark Hagiya, Patty Fujisaki, Russ Ota, to name a few). We still reminisce about a youth trip to Glenwood Springs where the youth kept us busy and laughing all the time. This was also the time I learned to always go to sleep before Mary as she is a snorer!! Mary could chop a cord of firewood in one night.

Mary was born and raised in the very small town of Lone, Colorado (near Ft. Lupton). Mary is the second child of Teizo and Tsuyu Hatasaka. There were 5 girls and 5 boys in this family. Her parents immigrated to the U.S. from Kumamoto, Japan in the early 1900's and farmed in the Ft. Lupton area until they retired and moved to Denver.

Mary remembers attending the Young Peoples Christian Conferences during WWII years where she felt a little out of place among the city dwellers. After completing high school, she left the farm, moved in with the Grossman family in Denver and became a "School Girl", a young woman who attends school while living with and helping to care for a host family's children. Mary attended business college and after she graduated, Mr. Grossman hired her to work for him at Western Merchants in the accounting department. She worked there and retired from this job after 25 years. Mary learned from Mr. Grossman how to be very, very thorough in her work and she has maintained this trait through her life.

Did you know that Mary was a golfer? We played with the Cathay Post Golf Club on Sundays – we would sneak out of worship service after the sermon and, boy, did we get noticed. During the week, we would plan on meeting at a golf course at 6 a.m. but she would be there at 5:30 a.m. and when I arrived, she would look at me like "I've been waiting!" Mary was always early for anything she did.

Mary married Massey Nishiyama in 1965 and they raised Julie. Julie married Andy Cleary and they have two sons. Cody, first born, is married to Ari and they have a daughter, Ruby. Second son, Conor, is a gifted musician who sings and plays the guitar. They are a close, loving family.

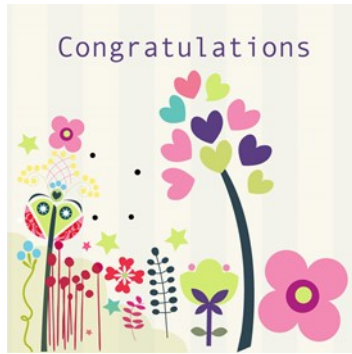
When I asked her what does Simpson mean to her, she replied that it was the place she learned about God and she particularly cherishes her friendships with the Nichigo families. She loved and admired Reverend Paul Hagiya who was the pastor at Simpson when she started attending. Besides serving as a Youth Advisor for many years, she took care of finances as Church Treasurer. Her "handles" of Boss and General were earned because of her knowledge of all the missions, fundraisers and outreach programs that she led and her ability to mobilize people to help her (can't say no to Mary!). She knows how to make new friends feel a part of Simpson by getting them involved in church projects and programs.

I have always admired her . . . and have you ever noticed her beautiful eyes?! I've treasured my friendship with her.

When you see Mary, give her a hug (after COVID-19) and let her know how much she is appreciated.

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If you would like to interview and introduce someone to us, nominate someone to be interviewed by a Sponsor, or volunteer yourself to be interviewed, please contact Mari Welch, Church Secretary, at 303-428-7963 or on the church's email: simpsonumc@comcast.net. We welcome getting to know everyone in our church community better!



Congratulations to Stephanie Mariko Fukui, who graduated in May 2020 from the University of Colorado School of Medicine with a doctor of medicine degree.

Laura and Bill Fukui are proud of her accomplishments!

Additional Mother's Day Photos



Belva Freml
Karen Freml's Mom



Owen FitzSimons'
Mom

There are many ways that you can support Simpson by shopping at Amazon, Safeway and King Soopers. If you shop at these stores, you can support Simpson at the same time you purchase your items at no extra cost to you. Consider using:

smile.amazon.com

and

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Thank you!

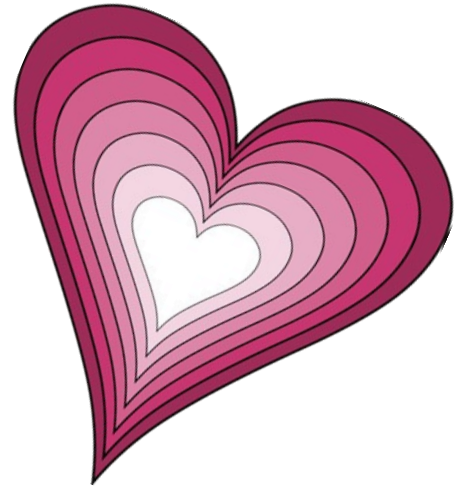
To our loyal and beloved Congregation:

It is a joy in these challenging times to celebrate good news. We have been so pleased to note that in June, the gifts and donations to our precious church experienced a significant increase and we are so thankful for your generosity. This increase in needed income will help so much in meeting the critical shortfalls we have been experiencing since the beginning of the pandemic and the need to shutter our church.

Yet, we must also note that our income is still well below our budgeted projections to meet our payroll, maintenance and utility costs to keep our church viable for the day we can open again. Know that we are working hard to economize as much as possible to keep our expenses down.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Pastor Leah



Notes from the Choir Loft



Hello Simpson United Methodist Church. My name is Kyle Snyder and I am happy to be a new part of the Simpson family as the church's choir director. I was born in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. While there, I was a member of the Glenwood Springs First United Methodist Church. I began my musical studies with the pianist there when I was in second grade. Before long she had me playing a prelude here or a special music there and eventually, I was filling in for her when she was away. I knew early on that I would like music to be my profession. I applied and auditioned to study Music Education at the University of Northern Colorado and was accepted as a voice major. While there I completed my degree and began my teaching career. My first position was at Weld Central Middle School in Keenesburg, Colorado where I taught both band and choir. After that I moved to Everitt Middle School in Wheat Ridge, Colorado where I currently teach choir. I also work as the audition coordinator for the Colorado Middle School All State organization, which auditions 1,200 students and accepts around 300 every year. When I am not working with choirs, I love to spend my time outdoors. I love to ski, run, cycle, camp, and skateboard. I am so excited to be a part of the Simpson family and to get to know all of you and learn and grow in my faith with you as well.

Community Corner

Over the next 10 years, data from the 2020 Census will inform the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds each year that support education, health care, emergency services, housing and food assistance, and more.

In August 2020, census workers will begin visiting households that have not responded to the census to help ensure that everyone is counted. Simpson members can minimize the need for census takers to follow up in person by responding to the census now—online, by phone, or by mail.

It is not too late to respond to the 2020 Census! You can complete the census online or over the phone: in English (844-330-2020) or 12 other languages.



Tsuru for Solidarity is excited to present the first of four sessions in our educational/discussion series: [Tsuru Rising! Community Conversations](https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-rising-community-conversations/?link_id=1&can_id=1eaaf5a1774d46d4d1f1ef60776ac697&source=email-tsuru-rising-)

The series will provide an opportunity for deeper community conversation around identity and intergenerational trauma, anti-Black racism in our own community, and an exploration of what it means to be in solidarity with other communities historically targeted by racism and state violence.

https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-rising-community-conversations/?link_id=1&can_id=1eaaf5a1774d46d4d1f1ef60776ac697&source=email-tsuru-rising-

Simpson United Methodist Church

Arvada, CO 80003-6833

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

www.simpsonumc.com

August 2020

Virtual Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

All Meetings are Virtual until further notice

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	3	4 7:00 pm The Pastor Is In	5	6 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	7	8
9 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	10	11 7:00 pm The Pastor Is In	12	13 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	14	15 Virtual Japanese Language Class Newsletter Deadline
16 8:30 am—Trustees 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	17	18 7:00 pm The Pastor Is In 7:00 pm O.N.E.	19 Finance Meeting	20 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	21	22 Virtual Japanese Language Class
23 8:30 am S.P.R.C. 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Ad Council	24	25 7:00 pm The Pastor Is In	26	27 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	28	29 Virtual Japanese Language Class
30 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	31					

Simpson United Methodist Church
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Arvada. CO. 80003-6833

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August 2020

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Or Current Resident

