

"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalm 118:24.

2020 has been a series of trials. In addition to a world-wide pandemic, we have experienced wildfires, hurricanes, and the onslaught of Zoom meetings! Our daily schedules have been altered, and we are exhausted performing tasks that were once routine.

How we support each other and worship together has also changed. We are living the example of loving our neighbor by having on-line worship services. For our members and the community's safety, we will not return to in-person services until 2021. The battle with the coronavirus has been a long journey that is yet complete.

Our family, friends, and relationship with God nourish us for the long journey. During these uncertain times, we may not be able to see the blessings in our lives. Stress has a way of clouding the light in our world and refocusing our attention.

It has been said that "Gratitude is a heart tenderizer." It keeps our eyes focused on God, the source of all good gifts. It keeps our hearts open, and with open hearts, the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control—have ample room to grow.

As we approach the holiday season, I encourage you to take time to pause and notice the beauty of the world around you. Maybe you will see it in the crunch of the leaves under your footsteps or the crisp air on your face when you leave your house in the morning. You'll be surprised how gratitude can change your perspective on life and give you a reason to praise God.

Be a Blessing
to Others



Notes from the Choir Loft



This month I would like to talk about a piece I taught my students at Weld Central Middle School. The text of the piece is "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost and is set to music by Ruth Elaine Schram. It begins, "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood". It is sung by the sopranos and altos, who start on the same note. The sopranos sing the entire line of text on a "d" creating a straight, clear line that floats above the altos. The Altos sing the same text, starting on the same "d" and descending stepwise through the scale. Schram has written two "roads" of music so to speak, which share the same starting point but quickly diverge from one another.

The text of the poem then continues by describing the two paths, one being worn, and one where the grass had grown across the path for lack of use. However, the speaker in the text then quickly states that if he were to walk on the second path he will likely wear it to the same level as the first. Schram paints this slightly differentiated ambiguity beautifully in the music. She has now added the baritones and all three parts are singing their own individual line. However, when the speaker in the text uses the phrase, "Though as for that the passing there, had worn them, really about the same" the singers all sing an "a" on the word "same". This is important because, while all the singers are singing an "a" they are singing them in different octaves. This creates a sense of sameness, while still being varied.

The baritones then sing the line "I kept the first for another day" insinuating that the speaker may in fact return one day. They are answered by the altos and sopranos saying "but knowing how way leads on to way I doubted if I would ever come back". I like to think of these two separate groups of singers as the speaker's inner monologue. The way we try to convince ourselves of something knowing it can never be true. When the singers sing the word "back" they modulate the piece up a half step, changing the key. The key never returns to the original. Much the same way that the speaker will never return to the second path.



In the end the speaker states that; taking the road less traveled has made all the difference. On the last words of the text the singers create what is known as an "Imperfect Authentic Cadence", which is a type of harmony that returns to the tonic chord of the piece without the melody line using the tonic note. I think this represents the tone of the poem very well. While taking the road less traveled, my life has been changed, who can say if it is for the better, all I know is that in the end this is where I am meant to be. Each day Jesus took the road less traveled. He dined with tax collectors, he cured the sick, he fed the poor and hungry, and he shook off earthly possessions. He asks us to do the same. Can you take the path less traveled? It may be hard to discern which is which. It may be difficult to see the end. And sometimes, you may look back and wonder whether you made the right choice. In the end, however, it is the road less traveled that leads us to where we ought to be.

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!



Greetings Members and Friends of Simpson United Methodist Church!

2020 has been quite a year. With the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, the doors to our sanctuary have been closed to inperson services since March. With the compassionate leadership of Pastor Leah, we are blessed to meet online each Sunday for worship and recently held socially-distanced services in our church parking lot.

As the holiday season approaches, Simpson UMC offers a wonderful opportunity for you to spread cheer with a **beautiful handmade wreath** that incorporates our Japanese culture. With the generous support of congregation members and the artistry of Pam Shinto, *100% of your purchase price will go directly to supporting the church!*

We look forward to celebrating the holidays and ending the year on a positive note. We pray that you are in good health, in good company with loved ones and that you have a blessed Christmas season.



WREATH ORDER FORM

****** *QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED, SO ORDER TODAY!* ******

Mail your order form and payment no later than **November 15th** to
Simpson United Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff St, Arvada, CO 80003

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Number of wreaths* _____ x \$20 =	\$ _____
Additional optional donation to Simpson UMC	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

*Size is approximately 10"w x 14"h

*Wreaths will be ready for pick up on **Saturday, December 5th from 10am to 2pm** at Simpson United Methodist Church. We will contact you with pick-up details to ensure the safety of our volunteers and community.*

Please make checks payable to *Simpson UMC*. Payment must be included with order form.

Nikkei LGBTQ+, family and allies gather in an inclusive space to share, explore and learn from each other

Sunday, November 1, 4pm PDT/5pm MDT/6pm CDT/7pm EDT via ZOOM (90 minute event)

Our first event in Sept was so warmly received that we will gather again on Nov 1 and you are invited! This virtual space is intended for Nikkei LGBTQ+ community members and allies of all ages and backgrounds to connect and provide support, resources and information for one another. Since this space is online, people from all locations can join the conversation and share with the community.

The Nov 1 meeting will take place online via Zoom and will be centered on creating a safe space and window of time for you to explore the different sides of "you." It will include a small group breakout session, which will be randomly assigned with a facilitator to guide the discussion.

Simpson Gochiso Cookbook

A reprint of the 100th Anniversary Simpson Cookbook is now available! The cookbook contains the same recipes as the original but the cover is paper and sells for \$15.00/each. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we will have pick up dates on October 18, November 22, and December 13, between 12 to 2 p.m. at the church. Or, we can mail your order via the Post Office. Proceeds of the cookbook will go towards our general budget for church maintenance.



UPDATE: Cookbooks are going **very fast..** If you have not placed your order yet,, but are thinking about ordering, please contact Charlotte Namba at 303-425-7318 to make sure cookbooks are still available .

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Pick up or mail: _____

Quantity of cookbooks: _____

Cost: \$15.00 X no. of books _____

Shipping and Handling (If mailed) \$3.50/per book _____

Total cost: _____

Checks must be included with order and made out to Simpson United Methodist Church.

During this COVID-19 pandemic, the Strategic Plan Team Sponsors felt we should be in constant contact with our church family. Personal interviews are just one way of reaching out to you all. It is my personal goal to interview church leaders – some have been leaders, in different ways, for many years and some are new (and young). Today, I would like you to read about our Co-chairs of the Administrative Council – George Kawamura and Stacey Shigaya. Administrative Council is the committee which keeps Church Committees accountable. All church business must go through the Council, either to recommend an idea and/or get permission to proceed with new projects, expenses, etc.

George Kawamura has been around Simpson for many years. In the past his children and wife Ruth were familiar faces at church. It is great to have George as an active participant and leader again in the life of Simpson.

George and Ruth have two daughters, Kelly (married to Scott Hisamoto) and Jamie, (married to Scott Wasinger) and 5 grandchildren. Three grandchildren are in college and two are in high school. The Kawamura's are a very loving family and spend a lot of time together for which George is very thankful.

George's career as a public servant covers 33 years in state and local government. He worked in the field of social services and began as a caseworker in Adams County and serving as Director of the agency for his last 3 years before moving to State service. At the State he worked at the Associate Director level responsible for a myriad of human services divisions such as Child Welfare, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Treatment, Developmental Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation and the two State Psychiatric Hospitals in Denver and Pueblo. He has devoted his life in behalf of children and youth, individuals and families that are dealing with the challenges of poverty, family disruption and various disabilities. (George is featured in one of the chapters in the book, Beyond the Camps, by Denny Dressman and Dr. John Ellif.)

George has a love of golf, and in retirement finds more time to pursue his interests in reading, the stock market and politics. George says "I have not always been an active part of Simpson, but have always been a consistent supporter and I am thankful to be given the opportunity to serve in these recent years." He is committed to seeing Simpson grow and maintaining its proper place in our greater Denver area, as in Japanese American cultural and religious community. He has found being co-chair with Stacey Shigaya to be a wonderful experience and has gained so much respect and admiration for the talent and dedication of the Simpson family.

Stacey Shigaya, third generation (sansei) a native Coloradoan, and is the third child of Ruby and Doug Sagarra. Stacey has an older sister, Terri, and an older brother, Martin (our long time audio person at Simpson). Both parents are from the West Coast and experienced the WWII camps (Ruby at Tule Lake and Topaz and Doug at Heart Mountain). Her parents wanted their children to know of their camp experiences and this knowledge influenced how she lived her life. Her father was very involved in the transfer of one of the old barracks at Heart Mountain to the Japanese American Museum in Los Angeles, California in the 90's.

Stacey grew up at Simpson until her teen years when she and her family moved to Memphis, Tennessee. She felt some racial prejudice in Memphis and was treated a little like an immigrant. Her goal was always to return to Denver. After completing graduate school she moved back "home," married and had 2 children, Evan and Cami.

Simpson means a lot to Stacey and is a big part of her life. She has felt that during her teen years she missed out on the fun and cultural activities that happened at Simpson. She hopes that Simpson will thrive so others can have good memories of attending church. She feels the Japanese and Japanese-American culture is a wonderful draw for Simpson and bonds everyone together. "Simpson is a comfortable place to be." Her memories include being baptized by Rev. Paul Hagiya and she currently volunteers at Simpson on the Cultural Team with a couple of her church friends, Cindy Shiohita and Pam Shinto.

Stacey works as the Program Director for Sakura Foundation – an organization that celebrates Japanese and Japanese-American heritage and culture. Stacey is always visible doing her job at the Cherry Blossom Festival every June and at all events sponsored by Sakura Foundation.

During her free time Stacey likes to ski, work on arts and crafts projects and is a member of a book club.

Interviews by Charlotte Namba

How would you like to receive our monthly newsletter?

The Simpson News provides an update on the events in the life of our church. The newsletter is available on the church website (<http://www.simpsonumc.com/member-newsletter/>). We also can provide you a copy of the newsletter electronically or mail a hardcopy to your home.

As a way to stay connected with our members, we are like to know how you would like to receive the newsletter. Please contact Mari Welch with your preference (simpsonumc@comcast.net or 303-428-7963 or return the form below. Thank you for your help!

Simpson Newsletter Contact Update Form

Please send me a hard copy of the newsletter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please email me a pdf copy of the newsletter:

email address: _____

Additional Feedback:

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dear Father,
We humbly come before you
with grateful hearts,
Praising You with all our being,
For we know
that every good and perfect gift
Comes from You-
the One who never changes.
We recognize those good things,
both large and small,
With which You've blessed us.
But we also recognize our forgetfulness
In giving thanks each and every day.
Forgive us in our humanity, Lord.
May we learn to thank you for the good;
And may we trust the evil
to be made good by You.
For You alone are worthy
of our praise and thanksgiving.
Amen.

rachelwojo.com

HEARD
TOO MANY
**MICRO-
INSULTS?**



Let's talk about
how to **CALL OUT**
the **nonsense**
and **STAMP OUT**
the **ignorance**.

Discover how to
**CHAMPION
THE CAUSE
WITHOUT**
needing



Boxing
Gloves!

DEALING WITH MICRO-AGGRESSIONS TOWARD ASIAN-AMERICANS

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
7:00 PM**

ON ZOOM

Pre-registration required: <http://micro-aggressions-toward-asians.eventbrite.com>
The Zoom link will be emailed to you in advance of the Nov 19th event.

Helping our Local Neighborhood

Suggested Items
that you can donate to our
Blessing Box



Peanut butter
Hamburger Helper or similar
Noodles
Instant Lunch Cups (like Nissin Noodle Cups)
Spaghetti sauce
Individual puddings, fruit and apple sauce
Cereals and granola type bars
Canned tuna or chicken
Vienna sausages, the little cans
Peanuts
Shampoo
Toothpaste and brushes
Deodorant
Diaper wipes
Laundry soap (smaller packages from the dollar store
will fit in Blessing Box)
Dish soap and hand soap.
Sugar, flour, rice and beans (smaller packages)

We are pleased to announce that Simpson is offering an additional option for giving to the church. Online Giving will become available for those who would like to make donations online.

More information and training will be available in the weeks to come.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION	2	3 7:00 pm The Pastor Is In	4	5 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	6	7 Virtual Japanese Language Class
8 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	9	10 7:00 pm The Pastor Is In	11 Veterans Day	12 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	13	14 Virtual Japanese Language Class
15 8:30 am Trustees 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	16	17 7:00 pm O.N.E. Newsletter Deadline	18	19 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line 7:00 pm Micro-Aggression Presentation	20	21 Virtual Japanese Language Class
22 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Ad Council Noon-2pm—Pick up cookbooks	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 8:30 am S.P.R.C. 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Ad Council	30					

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November 2020

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Or Current Resident

