

**There is an old French proverb** that says to believe a thing impossible is to make it so. What do you think about your capacity for change? What do you find yourself saying when you hear the question, do you believe change is possible?

Gandhi said that if I keep saying to myself that I cannot do a certain thing, I may become incapable of doing it. This principle does not just apply to someone hoping to change a Nation's path as he did. It applies to everything and everyone, including you and me.

Life is similar to a glass cup or vase. After repeated use, it can be discolored, chipped, or even shattered. What events in your life have changed your cup or vase?

Lent is a time of self-reflection and transformation. Romans 12:2 is a reminder to not conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Focusing on God and confident in God's unconditional love is an alternate message than that offered in social media or the news. Easter is a demonstration that change is possible and hope that God's love will overcome darkness. God can restore your chipped or shattered cup or vase by offering hope for transformation in your life and world.

Transformation takes time and energy. Altering even the tiniest habits in your life and world is part of the transformation process. On your journey as a disciple, you take small steps, repeated regularly, over time. The transformation process is not a race. Lent is celebrated yearly as a way for your journey to expand and grow.

I pray that you answered, "Yes, I do believe change is possible for me." The sheer fact that you have committed to being on this Lenten Journey demonstrates your willingness to be transformed. You may as well see yourself as someone capable of change because, in truth, you have already started.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah



# Financial Forecast

## 2020 in Review

Total Income for 2020 was \$107k, of which \$106k was from donations and pledges. This was 20% less than our budget of \$134k, what we hoped would come in.

Our largest use of funds was payroll, as expected, in the amount of \$119k. The next largest use of funds was to keep the heat and lights on in the building in the amount of \$48k. We also were able to give \$14k to our youth through our scholarship program; thanks to our scholarship committee. The remainder use of funds was to re-pair our heating system and install our new boiler.

The resulting loss for the year was \$115,057, which we were fortunate to cover with the generous past donations from gifts and bequests.

Hopefully in 2021, we can safely resume some of our fund raising activities to help meet our 2021 budget. It is sad to say that our past gifts and bequests are limited and will not last indefinitely.

We did make it through 2020; however, 2021 will probably be similar to 2020, at least through the first 3 quarters. Hold on tight!

Dennis Kitayama  
February 15, 2021

### Simpson UMC Income Statement Year 2020

<b>Total Income</b>		<u>\$107,107</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Church Office	\$5,664	
Staff Parish	\$122,379	
Trustees (building)	\$78,339	
Cultural (scholarship)	\$16,700	
Other Expenses	<u>\$3,048</u>	<u>\$226,130</u>
<b>Other Income</b>		<u>\$3,966</u>
<b>Net Loss</b>		\$115,057



## Easter Lilies

Unfortunately, the Simpson Choir will not be selling Easter lilies this year. Because of the pandemic, Simpson has had to have zoom worship services. Thus we felt that it would be very inconvenient for most of you to pick up your lilies at church. We hope that we will be able to have a different activity later in the year. Thank you for all your support with the Easter lilies (and poinsettias) in past years.

We want to encourage you to be generous in your Easter offerings to Simpson this year. Even though we are not meeting in person, our church still needs and will appreciate your love and support.

**Hi to all wanna be gardeners, experienced gardeners,  
fresh vegetable lovers or to anyone just curious**

Want to hone your gardening skills, but would like to have some Church friends to talk with about it along the way?

The Missions and Program Team of the Strategic Plan wanted to hold a Zoom presentation on how to start a vegetable garden this spring. We couldn't find a presenter, but realized there are plenty of resources online. But that's a lonely search by yourself!

So... we came up with an idea to sign up for some **"Simpson Garden Buddies"**. Joining with two or three or four other people to each grow some vegetables; compare notes; and at harvest time exchange some recipes! We created a list on SignUpGenius at the web address below *(just click on the link below and type in our access code, "7963" when it asks for that)*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EADAA2EABFFC07-simpson>

You'll see a page that asks for an **"access code"** which is: **7963**

You might recognize that access code as the last four digits in the good old Simpson phone number. Oh, and you'll see a few random ads on that page since this sign-up service was free.



On the SignUpGenius page, you'll see listings for Tomatoes, Zucchini, Peppers, Corn, Cabbage, Daikon, Peas, Eggplant, Potatoes, Broccoli, Cucumbers, and Melons (we could add more if you have ideas). Each vegetable has five slots open. So to join in the fun, take the following steps:

1. Choose one, two or three vegetables you would like to grow this Spring and Summer, and sign up for one slot in your choice of any vegetable(s).
2. You'll sign up with your name and email, so we'll send you a notice at that email and you can get in touch with your four Garden Buddies by email and compare notes, make plans, and share resources via email.
3. As the season goes on, check your planting and growing progress together. Share your progress by phone, photos or email. And later, make plans for some recipes for your vegetable.
4. At harvest time, share a phone call, face time, or Zoom call to cook your recipe. And share a photo or two with Simpson. OR... maybe by that time we could have a distanced potluck in the parking lot or something like that!

Here are a few resources we found to get the conversations started:

- Colorado State University Extension - videos, free printable guides
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Denver Botanical Gardens
- Denver Urban Gardens - workshop on February 27
- Your local garden centers websites - O'Tooles, Eichters, Tagawa Garden, and many more
- local Garden Centers in your area

So, sign up soon! It's not too early to plant indoors right now! Have some fun! Benefit from some group encouragement and accountability. See who can grow the most, the largest, the smallest, the funniest-looking, or the best looking among your vegetables.

Sign up! Plant seeds! Make friends! Garden on!



# ***Helping our Local Neighborhood***

## **Simpson Blessing Box**

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)  
Socks

The Co-Lay Leaders will continue to work together to carry out the duties of Co-Lay Leaders for Simpson United Methodist Church in 2021.

We will continue to support the needs of the congregation, staff and the greater community of Simpson as we become aware of those needs. We continue to encourage the congregation to provide ideas and feedback. We are here to help you find the help or answers you need!

During 2020 the duties of the Co-Lay Leaders has been a strange journey with the church and congregation struggling with COVID and we hope to see an end to the pandemic in 2021 so we can all move forward with the revitalization of Simpson.

Don't lose faith, we are here for you and if you ever need to talk please call one of us. Please don't hesitate to leave a message if we are unable to pick up, we will call you back as soon as we can.

The Co-Lay Leaders will continue to serve Simpson in 2021 and look forward to hearing from the congregation for any reason, positive or critical.

**Owen FitzSimons 303-910-2664 and Paula Matsumoto 303-908-8456**

## COVID Updates

**The information below is related to the COVID –19 Vaccinations**  
**This information was compiled by Simpson members.**

**For complete information, please contact the CDC (see link below)**  
**and your local physician.**

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## COVID-19 vaccine information

Updates on Colorado's COVID-19 response is available at this website: [covid19.colorado.gov](https://covid19.colorado.gov).

If you are age 70 or over, you can click on this link <https://click.ngpvan.com/k/24100679/269650708/-493193078?nvep=ew0KICAiVGvUyYW50VXJpJjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhb9OR1AvTkdQMDYvMS84Njc5MilsDQogICJEaXN0cmli dXRpb25VbmlxdWVJZC16ICJjZjJiYjAyYy1kZDVjLWViMTETtYTYwNy0wMDE1NWQ0M2M5OTIiLA0KICAiRW1ha WxBZGRyZXNzljogImthd2FnazQ5QG1zbi5jb20iDQp9&hmac=3TEauhGgXuJiXW-PftluQIY2Mcp2hoTEenre7tfQEHLa=&emci=b3dda5ff-d95c-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&emdi=cf2bb02c-dd5c-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=7754685> for information on where you can get vaccinated and how to sign up. Resources are listed by counties. Find your county to get information on where you should register and the process to be contacted to schedule an appointment. You can call the following numbers for assistance:

Direct phone numbers for different hospitals:

Denver Health - 303-436-7000

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE COVID-19 VACCINE, PLEASE CALL:**

**COHELP**

303-389-1687 or 877-462-2911

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.


Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Answers available in multiple languages.

## 2-1-1 Colorado

Call 211 or (866) 760-6489 or Text your ZIP CODE to 898-211

Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 pm Special O.N.E. Meeting	3	4 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	5	6 Virtual Japanese Language Class
7 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION Liturgist: Stacey Shigaya 5:30 pm “Just Love”	8 6:30 pm Mission and Program Team	9	10	11 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	12	13 Virtual Japanese Language Class 11:00am Membership Meeting
14 Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Trustees 5:30 pm “Just Love”	15 Newsletter Deadline 	16 7:00 pm O.N.E.	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	19	20 Virtual Japanese Language Class First Day of Spring
21 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am—Finance 5:30 pm “Just Love”	22	23	24	25 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	26	27 Virtual Japanese Language Class
28 PALM SUNDAY/PASSOVER 8:30 am S.P.R.C. 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE Liturgist: Dan Goto 11:00 am Ad Council 5:30 pm “Just Love”	29	30	31			



**Simpson United Methodist Church**  
**6001 Wolff St**  
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## ***March 2021***

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[WWW.sipsonumc.com](http://WWW.sipsonumc.com)

Or Current Resident

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