

Ephesians 4 tells us that we are all called to the ministry of caring for others. We engage in this ministry in various ways, including a full-time role or as a volunteer. Ministering during a pandemic altered the ways we cared for others and expanded our understanding of tradition.

My favorite scripture comes from Matthew 14:22-33, which tells the story of Jesus walking on water. The disciples were on the lake when strong winds and waves battered their boat. Jesus came to the disciples, walking on water. When the disciples saw Jesus, they were terrified. Jesus recognized their fear and told them not to be frightened. The disciples were unable to recognize Jesus. In times of uncertainty, it is common to concentrate on our lives' tension, limiting our ability to dream new possibilities, preventing us from becoming the person and church God intended.

Simpson demonstrated resiliency as we developed and implemented plans to keep our members and community safe. Seemingly overnight, the church shifted from worshipping in-person to worshipping virtually and in our parking lot, requiring flexibility as we learned new technologies. The church also devised new and resurrected ways of the past to stay connected. A Communication Team was formed to share the responsibility of connecting with our members and community through phone calls and hand-written cards. People shared the joy of receiving a simple phone call, and I witnessed team members' growth as they engaged in conversations with people they have never met before. That is ministry!

There were many events that Simpson had to cancel for the protection of others. We canceled our Food Bazaar, Craft Sale, Peach Sale, and other events. These cancelations significantly reduced the church's income. The church has been operating in a deficit for many years. Our elders and current members have generously given financial gifts to the church in hopes of continuing our ministries for future generations. The Finance Committee, past and present, has been thoughtful stewards of these gifts; however, the church will consume our financial resources in seven to ten years at the current rate of spending.

Continuing the story from Matthew, we see that Peter does a courageous act by responding to Jesus' call to leave the boat's safety and walk on water with Jesus. Simpson followed Peter's example and forged a new path that we never imagined. We connected with our community by inviting them to see the light of love on Christmas Eve through the luminaries that lined our church. Some members created the luminaries, while others placed them on the church lawn. Simpson spread hope to our community in new ways. Simpson also crocheted hats for those receiving chemotherapy and offering food for those without permanent shelter.

Simpson has been called to minister to our community and world. Our congregation has many stories of past injustices that must be shared with future generations. Since 2019, the church leadership has been strategizing on enhancing and stabilizing the ministries of the church. I am proud to proclaim that Simpson chose not to hide in the boat out of fear but instead stepped boldly into a new future.

I invite you to be part of our new journey.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Leah Coleman



# Notes from the Choir Loft



I have finally gotten to the point where posts I made on facebook about the beginning of the pandemic have started to circle around into my “memories”. It has officially been over a year since I stood in front (actually in front) of a choir, held up my hands, and let the sounds of their voices wash over me. My students at the school make fun of me because it is often enough to bring me to tears, even during a regular weekday rehearsal. There is something so peaceful, so calming, so liberating, about making music with a group of people. About singing in a room with students, rehearsing a choir, or just singing hymns with a congregation. It’s something that has left a large hole in my life over the past year. Now, this month, as people get vaccinated and the light at the end of the tunnel starts to get a little bit brighter, Simpson is going to start holding in person choir rehearsals again. And, let me tell you, I cannot wait to stand in front of a choir again. It’s what I love. It’s why I got into this field.

As I look back to last year and reminisce about the concerts I missed and couldn’t present I think about what has changed. When you study music there is always this focus on getting better. It is a great goal to be sure. But, every once and a while, I feel like those of us who study music, who scrutinize, and nuance, and always strive to “be better” sometimes forget why we started in the first place. We forget that first performance we ever did, which was likely terrible, but we felt so accomplished by. We forget that feeling of simply being in the moment with the music. Those moments that make us laugh, cry, or shout out loud. So as we go forward I have one goal. Slow down, open my mind, and live in the music.

Kyle Snyder

## Message from our Lay Leaders

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.

Our main focus in the next year will be supporting Pastor Leah and focusing on helping the various committee’s rejuvenate and restart Simpson’s Missions.

Pastor Leah needs your help to be effective. If you have any message for Pastor Leah we are here to help you work with her. She needs your prayers and love but she also needs your input and ideas during these challenging times!

The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World. All the ways Simpson reaches out to our neighborhood community and Japanese community are a big part of Simpson’s Mission. We all have been struggling with the COVID restrictions placed on humanity to keep us as safe as possible. We have missed our weekly church services where we gather together to worship and gain strength from each other. While we are blessed to live in a time where technology allows us all to gather together virtually, it doesn’t produce the same effect as being physically in close proximity to one another. We have missed our important fundraising and community service fellowship events such as the Bazaar, Hina Matsuri, Kei-ro no Hi, Peach sale, Crafts Fair and Mochi making for the New Year! All of these things combined are what makes the Simpson congregation disciples of Jesus Christ.

Please be generous with your time and ideas this year so we can get back on track.

Owen FitzSimons 303-910-2664 & owenf3@yahoo.com  
Paula Matsumoto 303-908-8456 & paulaym@frieardt.com

# Financial Forecast

We are starting 2021 with our monthly financial report, January turned out to be very similar to January 2020, before COVID-19.

The Mission Shares payment to the Conference is a catch up on the 2020 apportionment. So we are caught up to date.

SPRC is primarily the salaries paid to the Pastor and staff as well as other payroll related expenses.  
Trustees is primarily the utilities and up keep of the facility.

The net results are a loss of \$12, 042 for January.

Thanks, Finance

Simpson UMC Income Statement January 2021		
Income:		\$12,040
Expenses:		
Mission Shares	8,173	
Church Office	541	
SPRC	9,022	
Trustees	7,261	
Other	-20	
Total Expenses	24,977	
Other Inc. (Exp)	895	
Net Income (Loss)	(\$12,042)	



## 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 & Apple Sauce  
Cereals and Granola type bars  
Canned Tuna or Chicken  
Vienna Sausages, the little cans  
Peanuts  
Shampoo, Toothpaste, 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

# Simpson Ministries

## Vaccine

Vaccination Clinic **May 1st** 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

at

**Simpson United Methodist Church**

6001 Wolff Street, Arvada, CO

**First dose clinic – with Pfizer**

Call **720-902-5054** to register  
or [vaccines@benefitsinaction.org](mailto:vaccines@benefitsinaction.org).

This clinic is sponsored by CDPHE (State Health Department),  
*Benefits In Action*, and the Asian Chamber of Commerce

We would like to recognize all college and high school graduating seniors in our newsletter. If you would like to celebrate your senior, please send Mari an email with details about your senior such as:

the name of your senior,

the name of the high school or college they graduated from,

a description of their future plans,

a photo,

and any other information you would like to share.



## A star-shaped cookie with a face, representing the letter 'S'. The cookie is golden-brown and has a simple face drawn on it with two large eyes and a wide, open mouth. It is set against a solid blue background.

**What do I need to do to join in on this activity? Simply email Calvin Yukihiro [yukihcal@yahoo.com](mailto:yukihcal@yahoo.com) that you would like to participate. I will send you a link that will assign you a Bingo card. That's all you have to do!**

MATT RAWLE

*The Faith of a*

him on to get  
Atticus push  
he said. "I ne  
thought I'd h  
said I didn't  
sly I knew at school  
"Scout," said Atticus, "no  
head about far worse things  
that, but sometimes we have  
we conduct ourselves when the  
s, when you and Jem are growin  
some compassion and some feelin  
case, Tom Robinson's case, is somethin  
conscience—Scout, I couldn't giv  
to help—"

*Mockingbird*

A SMALL GROUP STUDY  
CONNECTING CHRIST AND CULTURE

LEADER GUIDE

(this is the same Zoom link as our Sunday Worship Service)



## Happy Spring to the Members and Friends of Simpson United Methodist Church!

We are blessed to continue meeting online each Sunday with the guidance and leadership of Pastor Leah. As you know, the pandemic has delayed or cancelled our regular in-person gatherings and fundraisers since this time last year.

The gifted and dedicated volunteers of Simpson UMC have worked hard to create **colorful origami floral bouquets with vases** which you can purchase for Mother's Day (May 9), special gifts, or to brighten up your home! The proceeds will support our operating fund.

With the generous support of our volunteers, *100% of your purchase price will go directly to supporting the church!*

We can see a light on the horizon for the day we can once again gather in our blessed Simpson sanctuary, give each other a hug, and catch up on life! *Until then stay safe and wear your mask!*



*Bouquets will be ready for pick up on **Saturday, May 8th from 10am to noon** at Simpson United Methodist Church.*



### BOUQUET ORDER FORM

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

Mail your order form and payment no later than **MAY 3** to  
Simpson United Methodist Church, 6001 Wolff St, Arvada, CO 80003

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bouquets with vases _____ x \$15 =	\$ _____
Additional optional donation to Simpson UMC	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

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



**Thank you!**



**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!

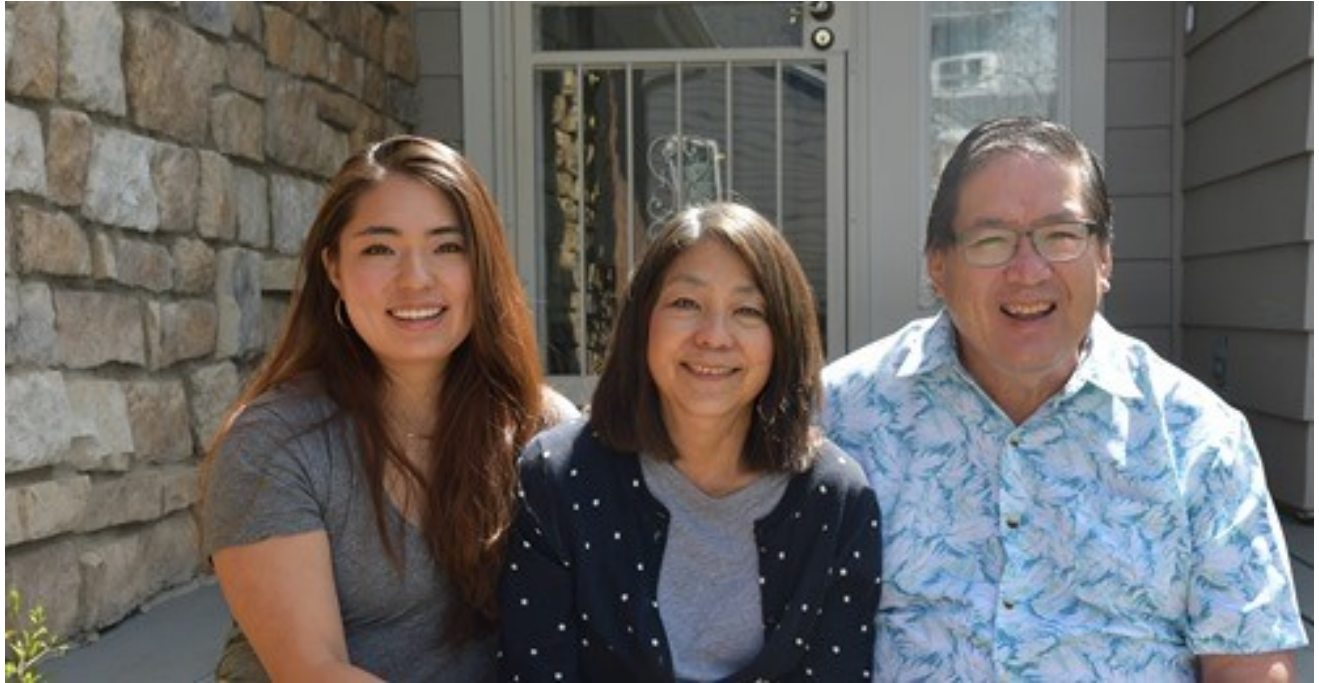
Here are a few resources we found to get the conversations started:

- 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!





We continue to offer prayers of peace and love to the Gotos. May the family recover and heal in God's time from the heartbreaking loss of Dan.

You can support the family by participating in a meal train or donate to their GoFund ME Page. You can also continue to offer prayers for the family!

**Mail Train:**

Sign up for the day and meal that they you would like to bring to the family. There's also a list of suggestions that the family likes too. And people can also buy them restaurant/grocery gift cards too.

<https://mealtrain.com/5ezl27>

Alyssa Noguchi  
[alyssanoguchi153@gmail.com](mailto:alyssanoguchi153@gmail.com)  
(303)295-293  
Pacific Mercantile Co.

**GoFund ME Page:**

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/goto-family-healing-and-memorial-fund?  
utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=sms&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/goto-family-healing-and-memorial-fund?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=sms&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)



# May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Vaccine Clinic
2 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION	3 Last day to order Bouquets	4	5	6 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731- 9806	7	8 10:00am Pick up Origami Bouquets 11:00am Membership Meeting
9 MOTHERS' DAY 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Trustees	10	11	12	13 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731- 9806	14	15 Newsletter Deadline  7:00 pm Movie Night to Begin Bible Study
16 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am—Finance	17	18	19	20 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731- 9806	21	22 7:00 pm Game Night
23 8:30 am S.P.R.C. 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Ad Council	24	25	26	27 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731- 9806	28	29
30 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	31 Memorial Day Observed					

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

***May 2021***

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Or Current Resident

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