

## The Vision of Simpson United Methodist Church is to create spiritual and cultural spaces for all.

Effectiveness has been defined as "producing a decided, decisive or desired effect." When I worked for the State of Wyoming, we were constantly reviewing our permitting process to ensure that the process was streamlined and effective. To evaluate our process, we utilized the Kaizen approach. Kaizen, meaning improvement, is a concept that strives to seek enhancement in all functions continuously. You may associate Kaizen with the Toyota Way.

Churches can fall into the trap of failure to adapt and change. The leadership structure of the United Methodist Church was created during a time when the church was centric in our daily lives. Now, churches compete with other priorities, including our grandchildren's sporting events, gardening, and other life events. Churches can also be distracted by the desire to seek consensus and lose sight of the church's vision. Churches must adapt their structure to be lean, accountable, effective, and efficient if we desire to minister and impact our community and world. The decision-making process must also be nimble and ultimately resulting in implementing the vision of the church.

The Ad Council is currently considering modifying Simpson's leadership structure to a Simplified Church Structure. The Simplified Church Structure restructures our leadership committees by creating a Leadership Board and Ministry Teams. The board and teams function similar to a bicycle. The Simplified Church Structure will also help create of culture of efficiency, alignment and accountability. Please participate in our Ad Council meetings as we continue to learn about this new structure and its advantages. Be part of the conversation as we evaluate if this leadership structure is right for Simpson. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Leah.

### Leadership Board & Ministry Teams

#### Handlebars

- steer
- set the direction
- where to go
- Leadership board



#### Pedals

- Locomotion to create the power that takes the bicycle where you are steering
- Ministry teams

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### Vision Focused

Why Does Simpson exist?

**SUMC exists to create spiritual and cultural spaces for all.**

Each space honors our Japanese cultural heritage

Each space includes our membership and community

Each space builds a sustainable legacy for future generations.

### Aligned and Accountable

Break down silos so everyone know what each team is doing

Being faithful to our vision not achieving consensus

Enable leaders to hold themselves and other accountable

Alignment of people, funding, facilities, programs and other

### Efficient

Leaders spend less time with administrative issues and more time working towards ministry

Allow and empower people to lead (instead of maintaining status quo)

Permission-given culture with less meetings and more leaders involved in direct ministry



# Notes from the Choir Loft



This month I am excited because the choir has officially started singing together in person again. Not only is it easier than trying to sing over zoom and record individual parts, it just feels great to be together again. One of the pieces we've been working on for May is titled *A Prayer for Healing*. It was written by Joseph M. Martin last year during the height of the pandemic. Now, as we look forward we are starting to see the light, feeling less alone and isolated, and seeing some of the joy come back into our lives that we had been missing. And even though we may be moving towards better times, the text is no less relevant to what we are experiencing.

The piece actually opens with the chords to the hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* to remind us that His help has seen us through difficult times before. Later in the piece, the text reads, "In the silence, help us hear words of hope and promise clear. Teach us not to live in fear. Lord of all, we pray to you." We have all been isolated and "in the silence" through this pandemic, but God's words of hope and promise help to lead us through. We trust that His hand is helping to lead the medical professionals and scientists in their efforts for recovery. Even though we hear so many voices through the news and social media we can trust in God to have the courage and the bravery to do what's right for our neighbors. We show love to our neighbors by continuing to persist in our efforts of mask wearing, social distance, and by receiving the vaccine. Look for this amazing piece at one of our Sunday services this month and lift *A Prayer for Healing* to the Lord above.

Kyle Snyder

## Trustees' Corner

To all our members and friends of SUMC. As all of you are aware, we have an aging building with mechanical systems well over their useful life. We were fortunate to have the funds to replace our original boiler but many of the related and supporting equipment require attention/replacement. The building is also suffering from Mother Nature's exposure from animals and weather. The building exterior and the 3 wood crosses also need some tender loving care. If and when you are able to give a donation to Simpson, it would be greatly appreciated if you donate directly to the Trustee maintenance expense account. Thank you so much in advance for your understanding and generous gifts!!

Trustees

P.S. You probably have noticed that the church van is not in its usual parking space. Vandals have taken the catalytic converter and we are now in the process of having it replaced.

# Message from our Lay Leaders

As your Lay Leaders, we realize that this has been a very challenging year.

Lay Leaders, Paula Matsumoto, and Owen FitzSimons, invite the congregation at SUMC reach out to us about any concerns, positive or negative, that they may have. As lay leaders, this is our function, for everyone at Simpson to reach out to us.

Please reach out to us about ANYTHING that you want. As always, if you desire, we will keep your comments confidential.

Your Lay Leaders thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Simpson needs your help, energy and ideas. Simpson needs your input on moving forward.

Paula Matsumoto email: [paulaym@frieardt.com](mailto:paulaym@frieardt.com), phone: cell (303) 908-8456

Owen FitzSimons email: [owenf3@yahoo.com](mailto:owenf3@yahoo.com), phone (303) 910-2664 cell

## **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, 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

We would like to hear from you!

Please consider participating in the follow survey as we plan our worship services this summer.

**Are you comfortable having Parking Lot Worship Services this summer?**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

**Are you ready for face-to-face Worship Services in the sanctuary this summer, knowing that not everyone is vaccinated?**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

**Are you ready for face-to-face Worship Service in the sanctuary this fall, knowing that not everyone will be vaccinated?**

Strongly Agree

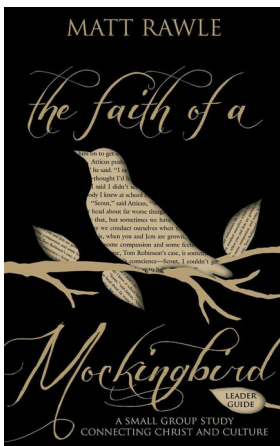
Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Please send or call Mari with your responses or go to the poll at the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJCzASJTiUdN0bp9ajdwge6VViSam44CrVjqP0gy4a1I4SxQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJCzASJTiUdN0bp9ajdwge6VViSam44CrVjqP0gy4a1I4SxQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)



Join Pastor Leah and Darryl Noda in a five-week Zoom bible study based on Harper Lee's novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Explore Christian faith, theology, and ethics through the eyes of Scout, Atticus Finch, Boo Radley, and Tom Robinson. Learn about God's world and what it all means.

**Sunday, May 16, 23, 30, Jun 6, 13 at 9:00 am—10:00 am -**  
Weekly study and conversation

Please contact Mari or Pastor Leah to register for the bible study. You can order the book on Amazon or contact Pastor or Mari.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84784185968?pwd=TzBaZ0xGRVNyYb1pleE4ycjFpQUtOUT09>

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

**Simpson United Methodist Church Ad Council Minutes**  
**April 25, 2021 | 11am via Zoom**

**In attendance:** George Kawamura, Stacey Shigaya, Charlotte Namba, Ken Namba, Karla Cornish, Owen FitzSimons, Dennis Kitayama, Pastor Leah Coleman

1. Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Leah for Dan Goto and his family.
2. Covid Update and SUMC Vaccine Clinic: Pastor Leah – Second dose clinic has been rescheduled for May 1 in the morning; the afternoon will be for 1<sup>st</sup> doses with the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose date TBD.

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### **a) Finance:**

March 2021 income was \$7700, which is \$5K less than in 2020. March 2021 expenses exceeded 2020 by \$1500.

Dennis applied for forgiveness of our first PPP Loan.

Dennis will submit a finance summary to be published in the next church newsletter.

#### **b) Trustees**

We need a new vendor to maintain our HVAC system. Having issues with our current vendor.

The catalytic converter was stolen from our van (model year 2000, not sure of current value). The trustees will discuss if we should keep/repair or sell the van.

There was a request to rent the church for a piano recital in June by a person who has rented the church in the past for recitals. The approval was made a few months ago and the request form was completed and submitted.

Still waiting for the adjuster to let us know about the replacement flooring regarding the pipes that burst in the downstairs kitchen on December 15, 2020.

**c) O.N.E. Committee/Missions and Programs:** The O.N.E. Committee is still on break. Gardening project is ongoing; invite/info will be resent to the congregation.

**d) SPRC:** Was not able to meet today, so they will reschedule their meeting.

**e) Membership:** No update.

**f) Lay Leaders:** Paula and Owen have not received feedback from the congregation after their article in the newsletter inviting people to contact them.

### **4. Strategic Plan Team Reports**

**a) Membership Team:** Bible Study group will occur in May, dates TBD.

**b) Cultural Team:** Game Night will be rescheduled to May 22 for Bingo. Calvin is organizing.

#### **c) Stewardship Team:**

Met with Maestro investment advisor; received several documents on our investments. Advisors' objectives for growth are 6-7% gains per year; we have asked him to look at a higher return and our risk tolerance.

Parsonage account is draining faster than the monthly withdrawal.

Need to look at our 1) restricted funds and how they can be used (with Bob Fujioka's assistance), 2) funds with the UMC, and 3) Nichigo funds and informing those members of the church's financial situation.

### **5. One Board Concept:**

A One Board concept looks at reorganizing decision-making and the structure of the church leadership by creating One Board that makes the primary decisions and has committees that allows

people to work on tasks. It uplifts leaders to be in the center of the decision-making process for the church. The decision to move to One Board needs to be discussed and voted on by the entire congregation and conference.

How does SPRC fall into the One Board plan?

It was suggested that the team leaders of the Strategic plan and committee chairs be included in the conversation to explore this One Board proposition.

This plan can decrease redundancy of committees.

The Strategic Plan should be considered in this process.

A One Board plan works from the top down (ie the board members), rather than the bottom up (ie the committees).

A One Board plan also brings accountability to decision making because the board would have the authority to make decisions. .

The Book of Discipline allows us to form a One Board structure

Putting this plan together will also allow us to put structure, knowledge, processes, etc. on paper for future leadership.

**At Next Ad Council Meeting:** Determine who should be involved in this preliminary process as well as research needed to start discussing the plan.

## **6. Tree Planting in Memory of Dan Goto**

The landscaping project from several months ago started with a way to save money by Xeriscaping around the church. This project was then tied into Charlotte's suggestion that we create a garden. Planting a tree in memory of Dan should be thoughtful both with the location and timing.

## **7. Other Business**

Stacey will send pdf of Ad Council minutes to Paula for posting on the website, and will ask Mari to draft a summary that will be approved by Ad Council and then posted in newsletter.

Volunteers have been working on the origami flowers for the Mother's Day fundraiser

Update on approaching conference on assistance with what we can do to grow our church, etc

## **8. Closing Prayer by Pastor Leah**

**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!





**Pastor Leah's Potato Box. Send Pastor Leah a picture of your plants for our next newsletter.**



### **A Blooming Success!**

Many thanks and blessings to our dedicated volunteers who folded and created the beautiful origami floral bouquets! This fundraiser was a great success and showed once again what happens when our community supports each other. We are also so grateful to those who purchased the bouquets and hope they serve as a reminder of God's love.

Thank you to all who ordered our origami flower bouquets for Mother's Day. The bouquets were beautiful and we hope all mothers/ladies who received them appreciated the beauty and the intricate folding that went into the making of the flowers. Thanks to the following for their time, talents and donations for this Simpson fundraiser: Jane Nakama, our origami guru; Julia Kamura, Eileen Mayeda, Betsy Sato, Stacey Shigaya, Pam Shinto, Karen Freml, Carol FitzSimons, Wendy Joko, Paula Matsumoto, Ellison and Elizabeth Namba and Rosemary McFate-Regan. . . . . Charlotte Namba  
Oh, by the way, we made approximately \$2,000 from the sale of the bouquets. Thanks.

*There are still a few more bouquets for purchase at Pacific Mercantile, but they are selling fast!*

## **Community Corner**

### **Voice Your Thoughts for Amache!**

In 2019, Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a Special Resource Study to determine whether Amache meets the criteria to become a new unit of the National Park System. This is the first step to determine whether Amache qualifies for such a designation.

Please go to <https://amache.org/site-planning/> for more information. Comments must be received by June 30, 2021 to be considered part of the study.

In addition, you can learn more about the Amache National Historic Site Act (H.R. 2497/S. 1284) that would designate Amache as a new unit of the National Park System at <https://amache.org/current-activity-news/>.





**Simpson United Methodist Church**  
**Arvada CO 80003-6833**  
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[www.simpsonumc.com](http://www.simpsonumc.com)

**June 2021**

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	3 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	4	5
6 9:00 am—Bible Study 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION	7	8	9	10 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	11	12 11:00am Membership Meeting
13 Graduation Sunday 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Trustees	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16	17 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	18	19
20 Father's Day First Day of Summer 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am—Finance	21	22	23	24 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line (727) 731-9806	25	26
27 8:30 am S.P.R.C. 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Ad Council	28	29	30			

**Simpson United Methodist Church**  
**6001 Wolff St**  
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***June 2021***

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Or Current Resident

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Celebrating Simpson Seniors:

Mayson Maynell  
Sydney Mochizuki  
Emma Shigio

**Congratulations!!!**

