

Simpson United Methodist Church

Simpson News

March 2022 | Volume 53 | Number 3

Dear Friends:

On February 27th, Simpson had our first 2022 Town Hall Meeting. Town Hall Meetings help members be informed and engaged with the mission of Simpson, which is to **"Create a Cultural and Spiritual Space for All."**

Once the Christmas holidays are behind us, it is time to celebrate the many ways our ministries impacted our community and reflect on how to shape our ministries in 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of achieving the goals defined in the Strategic Plan, review church leadership's roles and responsibilities, and develop guidelines to help members communicate more effectively without "doing harm" to others.

During the meeting, we identified **"WHY"** Simpson exists. Once we identify the Why, it helps to guide what we do. The conversation was a powerful and beautiful reminder of how the church has supported individuals and the community. Below is a summary of the reasons Why Simpson exists as a church.

Simpson is a "Safe Haven" that allows people to be themselves.

Simpson is a space for future generations to gather.

Simpson is a space that allows people to consider their identity and be transformed into a stronger, healthier "whole person."

Simpson promotes the Japanese American culture in a Christian way.

Simpson helps to preserve Japanese American history.

Simpson is an extension of our family.

Simpson is a space where we can learn how to get along with others.

We also reviewed the Strategic Plan to evaluate our progress in achieving the plan's goals. We affirmed that we will maintain the existing goals but reprioritize the goals to help guide our energy and resources.

Updated Priorities for the Strategic Plan – February 2022

Goal #1: Expand the SUMC congregation by attracting new individuals and families, re-engaging past members, and continuing the active involvement of our current membership.

Objective: By December 2023, develop plans and implement at least two new activities that will involve our present and future membership in 1) enriching the Japanese and Japanese American cultural community and 2) serving the local and broader community.

Strategies: This objective will address involving past, current, and future members in the activities and ministries of the church. This could include recruiting current and potential members to work on activities that interest them and finding ways to nurture and care for our members and friends. Efforts will be made to develop attractive projects for families that utilize a multi-generational approach.

Goal #2: Honor, support, and share our Japanese and Japanese American cultural legacy.

Objective: By the end of December 2023, develop a plan and implement at least one new activity that will involve our membership in enriching the Japanese and Japanese American cultural community.

Strategies: The plan could include finding new ways to share existing annual events (e.g., bazaar and Hina Matsuri). It could also include working with the Buddhist Temple and other Japanese American community organizations on shared programming, developing a Japanese American board to facilitate collaboration, and planning the future creation of a cultural center.

Goal #3: Serve our local and broader community through programming and ministry.

Objective: By the end of December 2023, develop a plan and implement at least one new activity that will involve our membership in serving the local and broader community.

Strategies: Continue to work with the Good Neighbor Program to enhance communication and service with the local and broader community.

Goal #4: Assure SUMC's continued viability through prudent fiscal management and responsible stewardship.

Objective: Conduct a stewardship campaign, and identify one additional new fund-raising activity. Develop a plan to lease the building to create a new income stream for the church.

Strategies: The stewardship campaigns will emphasize the strategic plan activities.

As you can see, the purpose of the church remains clear, and we have defined strategies to help us maintain the vitality of Simpson United Methodist Church. Please join me in your blessings and support for this great church!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah

Simpson News and Events

Note from Rev. Tom English

Lil and I celebrate with you. After years of prayers and unyielding effort by you and others, Amache is to become a federal, historic site managed by the National Park Service. This will have many advantages, including financial support for perhaps restoring portions of the camp. It will enable the shameful Amache atrocity to be shared more widely.

Given the growing suppression of free speech, sharing the story could become difficult. There is a well-funded, well-organized movement of conservative activists who do not want what they consider the disturbing events of our history shared, especially anything that is racist. I know you will be strong and disciplined as in sharing the story.

Lil and I appreciate very much the time we spent at Simpson UMC. You, the people and experiences were life enriching. We will always cherish our time spent with you.

Grace and Peace,

Tom and Lil English

To find more information about the Amache National Historic Site Act that passed by unanimous consent in the US Senate on February 14th and passed in the House on February 18th, you can visit:

- Amache Preservation Society - <https://amache.org/>
- House bill - <https://www.congress.gov/bills/117/congress/house-bills/2497>
- Colorado Sun Article about the bill - <https://coloradosun.com/2021/04/14/amache-internment-camp-national-park/>
- February 18th Virtual Roundtable with the Secretary of the Interior, members of Congress, and Amache survivors - <https://fb.watch/briqbRnQf5/>

Rev. Tom English served Simpson as an interim pastor from June 2000 to March 2001.

Church Email Update

Simpson is working to update the church's email list and we need your help! We would like to learn your most up-to-date email address and what kind of notifications you would like receive. Please visit

<https://forms.gle/dUhRtZDskqHnXFEQ9> and fill out the form. If you have questions or need assistance, please email Brian Lee at simpsonintern@gmail.com.



Simpson News and Events

Coffee Hour

Thank you to our intern, Brian Lee, and his father, Let Mon Lee, for providing and cooking the goodies to help us celebrate the Lunar New Year at our February Coffee Hour. The dim sum was really yummy! Thanks also to Karla Cornish, Carol FitzSimons, Charlotte Namba, and Jane Nakama for helping.

Thank you to Ann Kitayama for making her delicious tri-colored, soft mochi for the March Coffee Hour to help celebrate Hina Matsuri and Girls' Day! Thanks also to Stacey Shigaya for folding lots of little green leaves to decorate the tables (actually folded last year) and Karla Cornish for bringing some of her dolls.



Bowling League Bento Fundraiser



A huge thank you to all who helped with the Bowling League Bento fundraiser! You all worked so long and hard and we were able to make 140 bentos for Saturday and 120 sushi plates for Sunday. Also, a total of 150 Spam musubi were made and sold. We worked hard but I think we all enjoyed our first time of fellowship since the beginning of the pandemic.

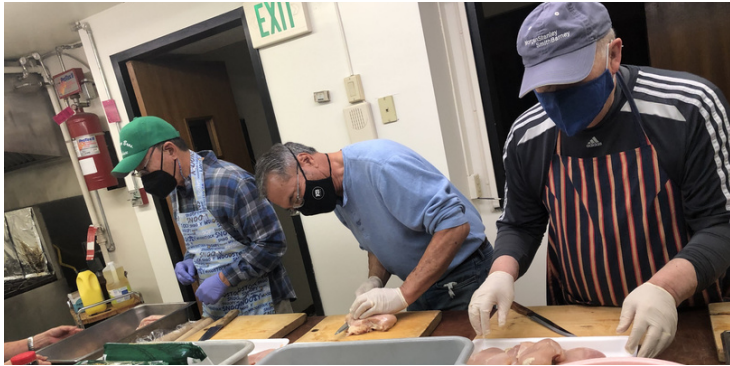
Thank you to the following: Naomi and Tad Asano, Tim Cleary, Carol and Owen FitzSimons, Tom and Betty Fujikawa, Bob and Jane Fujioka, Patty and Allyson Goto, Terry and John Hall, Julia Kamura, Dennis and Ann Kitayama, Cindy Kondo, Brian Lee, Paula Matsumoto, Eileen Mayeda, Robin Miyahara, William and Kathy Murakami, Jane Nakama, Ken Namba, Todd, Ellison and Elizabeth Namba, David Powell, Betsy Sato, Patty Sauter, Tim Schenkelberg, Stacey Shigaya, Tracey, Sarah and Emma Shigio, Cindy Shiohita, Pam Shinto, Tim Taga, Jill and Riley Takata, Christi Theis, Sharon and Jim Tingstrom, Carol and Dean Tsutsui, Bobbi Wong, Heather Yago, and Calvin Yukihiro. (If I have missed anyone, please forgive me and let me know.)

A special thanks to Kyle Nagai and Pacific Mercantile for their donation of rice, to Dean Tsutsui who sharpened all our knives, to Ann Kitayama for making breakfast burritos for the workers, Carol FitzSimons for gathering the workers, the Shigio girls who washed dishes and mopped the kitchen floor to get ready for the actual bento preparation, to Owen FitzSimons for overseeing the Spam musubi, and to Cindy Kondo for her donation of sushi ingredients and for manning the sale table at the bowling alley.

With deepest gratitude,
Dennis and Charlotte – Co-Chairs

Simpson News and Events

Bowling League Bento Fundraiser Pictures



Photos by Paula Matsumoto

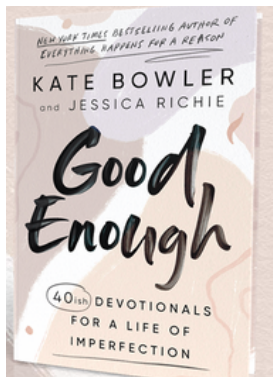
Simpson News and Events

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the Lenten Season. This year, Pastor Leah offered blessings and imposition of ashes on the heads of those in our local neighborhood.



Lenten Bible Study - Good Enough



Starting March 22nd, we will be doing a 4-week study based on Good Enough by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. You don't need to purchase a copy of the book to participate, but it would be a great addition to your library.

Each week over Zoom, we will begin at 7 PM and finish by 8 PM. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Leah.

Special Collection for Lent to Support UMCOR

During the Lenten Season, we will be collecting two offerings. One is for our general offering to support Simpson, and the other will support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Disaster Relief Fund (Advance # 901670). When responding to a disaster, UMCOR provides training and financial assistance. Please designate "Special Offering" on your check for those funds designated for UMCOR.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88488785147?pwd=cm8zVGpMUHMzWEk2SnNtc1NTTlo5Zz09>

Grace Ito

It is with a sad heart that we share the news of the death of Grace Ito. One of Grace's requests was that no formal service will be held. You may read her obituary here - <https://www.monarchsociety.com/obituary/grace-ito>.

Please continue to keep Grace's family in your prayers.

Doumo Arigatou Gozaimasu

We are grateful for the many ways people support our church with generous gifts. It is part of our tradition to publicly thank those who give special gifts. Please note that as some prefer to donate anonymously, this is not a complete list of donors.



Given by:

Dorothy Gorai
Chizuru Yoshino, Julia
Kamura, Bess Joko,
Charlotte and Ken
Namba, Mark Proper,
Ruth Shinto, Sumie Arai,
Grace Tochiara
Julia Kamura
Ken and Charlotte Namba
Patty and Allyson Goto
Grace Tochiara
Grace Tochiara

In Memory of:

Family and Friends
Grace Ito

Yasuko Nonaka
Bud and Chuckie Stark

School Supplies for Early College of Colorado

Noelle Maynell

Shoveling:

Jane Nakama in Gratitude for snow
shoveling by Kyle Snyder and Ken and
Charlotte Namba

UNCOR:

Carol FitzSimons
Pastor Leah Coleman

Kitchen:

Jacqueline Cornish
Karla Cornish
Pastor Leah Coleman

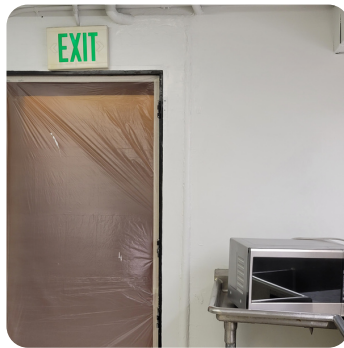
Simpson News and Events

Kitchen Repairs

Preparing and sharing food is one of the primary ministries at Simpson. Over a year ago, freezing temperatures caused several pipes in the kitchen to burst. There was extensive water damage that impacted both kitchens in the basement.

Church Leaders and Trustees have been working hard to repair the damage. The floor tile has been removed and water-damaged drywall replaced. New flooring and cabinetry have been selected and ordered. The youth are beginning to wash dishes in anticipation of the new cabinets.

We are grateful for the many leaders who have helped plan this restoration project. Please offer your appreciation to Karla Cornish who is the Project Coordinator for the church.

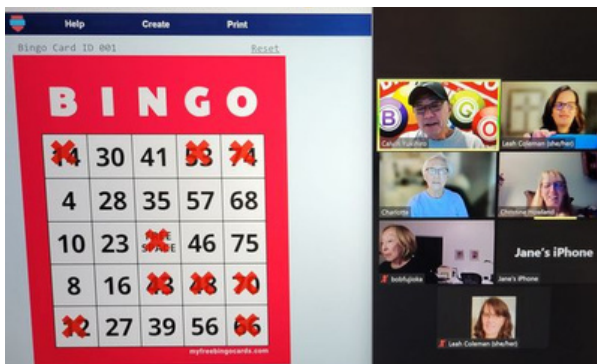


Leaders carefully selected the paint color



Installation of new flooring, shelving, doors, and cabinets

Virtual Bingo



Many thanks to Calvin Yukihiro for organizing February's Virtual Bingo event! Be on the lookout for information about the next Virtual Bingo in April!

Simpson United Methodist Church

Youth Group



Saturday, April 2
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Snacks, Lunch, Materials supplied.
Bring a Bible.

CONFIRMATION

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is engaging in the theology of our Christian beliefs. It is confirming our baptism – baptism is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Christianity and United Methodism are rooted in the love and grace of God.

BUT, I ALREADY BELIEVE IN GOD, WHY DO CONFIRMATION CLASSES?

As with all decisions we make in life, having the knowledge and being able to discuss our beliefs in community helps assure we have made an informed decision.

God's love is indeed mysterious and we want to engage in the mystery of theology, faith, facts, and belonging.

WHAT IF I HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS ABOUT GOD?

Confirmation gives you the information to formulate your faith with the beliefs of those through the centuries. By using Scripture, tradition, reason and experience you will be able to articulate your beliefs. And, we learn together in community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SERVICE PROJECTS FOR THIS SPRING INCLUDE:

Picking up trash in the Simpson UMC neighborhood.
Does anyone know the name of the neighborhood?

Extreme Community Makeover

We will clean up alleys in the Barnum Neighborhood. Please register as soon as possible at their website.

Casa De Paz

Casa De Paz is an organization that assists immigrants when they are released from the immigration Aurora Detention facility to aid in travel arrangements to reach their families or secure housing.

Our plans are in the works for helping Casa De Paz.



VOLUNTEER WITH EXTREME COMMUNITY MAKEOVER!

Date: Saturday, April 9
Location: 3501 West 1st Avenue,
Denver, CO 80219
Time: 9:00 am-3:00 pm



For more information, contact:
Name - Denise Bender
Email - revdenise19@gmail.com
Phone - 303.882.8641

www.extremecommunitymakeover.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE RSVP TO ALL EVENTS - REV DENISE@ME.COM, 303-882-8641

March 4 - 6:30 p.m. Youth Group at the Church

Games and Planning

March 12 - 10 a.m. to Noon

Trash Pick-up Around Simpson UMC

March 18 - 6:30 p.m.

Movies \$\$

Alamo Theater

April 1 - 6:30 p.m. Youth Group at the Church

Games and Planning

April 2 - Confirmation 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Church

April 9 - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Clean neighborhoods - 3501 W. 1st Ave, Denver

Extreme Community Makeover - Confirmed

May 6 - 6:30 p.m. Youth Group at the Church

Games and Planning

May 14 - 10:00 a.m.?

Casa De Paz? Sleep in Heavenly Peace?

May 20 - 6:30 p.m.

Roller Skating \$\$ TBD

June 3 -

July 11-15

Summer Mission Trip \$\$

**Last week of June
Junior High Asian Camp**

**First week of July
Senior High Asian Camp**

Serving Our Neighbors

Breakfast and Lunch Casseroles

We have an exciting opportunity to help support Mission Arvada (<https://arvadarising.com/about-us>) in their ministry of providing hot breakfast and lunch our homeless neighbors. Starting on April 10th, we will be preparing breakfast and lunch on the second Sunday of the month after worship. All are welcome to come downstairs to the kitchen to help!

If you have favorite recipes to share or have questions about Mission Arvada or other ways to help, please contact Simpson's pastoral intern, Brian Lee, at simpsonintern@gmail.com.



Photo by Mission Arvada

Blessing Box Donations

Below is a suggested list of items for the Blessing Box. Many of these items can be purchased at dollar stores and are the ideal size for the Blessing Box.

- Peanut butter (small jars)
- Hamburger Helper or similar
- Dry pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Individual puddings, fruit cups, and apple sauce
- Cereal and granola bars
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Vienna sausages (little cans)
- Canned instant foods like Spaghetti O's
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Tooth brushes
- Deodorant
- Diaper Wipes
- Laundry soap (small packages)
- Dish Soap
- Hand Soap



Your donated items may be left in the church hallway or the outer office and we will be glad to place them in the storage area for distribution. Thank you so much for your help.

Serving Our Neighbors

CarePortal: Serving a Child in need

RESPOND

CENTER

CLOSE

Map

Satellite

Request ID #

79478

Created

December 13, 2021 1:48:58pm

Agency

Denver Human Services

Zip

80204

Purpose

Help Improve a Child's Well-being

Urgency

Normal: Within 7-10 days

Children Served

1

Estimated Value

\$Primarily goods & services - see detailed description of need

Responses

0

Description

We are requesting support for a Kinship provider who is an elderly Grandmother who has serious health issues and is caring for eight children. The youngest is a one year old and is in need of a high chair and two baby gates.

What's Needed

High Chair, Baby Gate

Map

Satellite



Simpson UMC

6001 Wolff St, Arvada, Colorado 80003

Contact Church Point Person

Submit a Need

Volunteer your time: Complete Tier 2 Application

Open your home: Complete Tier 3 Application

Open Requests & Church Needs

What are you looking for?

County Name

Only Fundraise

Only Unmet Needs

SEARCH

Showing 1-20 of 20

Logged in as brianlee9@gmail.com

Church Stats

Responders

1

Responses

2

Requests met

0

Children served

0

Through the Colorado Council of Churches, Simpson has joined CarePortal. CarePortal is an online platform that brings the needs of hurting children and families in our community to the attention of participating congregations. Caseworkers from county Departments of Human Services uncover and vet these needs. CarePortal makes local churches and community members aware, giving them a real-time opportunity to respond. Depending on the needs, there are variety of ways for an individual and the congregation to respond - from providing grocery gift cards to giving lightly used furniture like dressers and beds.

If you would like more information, please contact Brian Lee at simpsonintern@gmail.com. You can also visit Simpson's CarePortal page at <https://www.careportal.org/church/simpson-umc/97269/> to see the needs being posted by case workers.

Missions - Soles4Souls

Soles4Souls is a 4-star charity that collects new and slightly used shoes. They send them to impoverished countries and locations that distribute them and start micro-enterprise programs to help people sustain themselves. We are collecting shoes to help this charity during this holiday season. There will be a donation box located inside the church. They collect any type of shoes. Please contact Carol FitzSimons at carol80127@gmail.com with any questions.



Grocery Rebate for Simpson

For those of you who shop at King Soopers for your weekly groceries, please consider signing up for the Community Rewards Program. All you need to do is get a loyalty card at any King Soopers store and then enroll in their program. Please visit <http://www.kingsoopers.com> to set up an account. Once you have enrolled in the program, search for Simpson United Methodist Church either by name or N1444 and then click on enroll. Purchases will not count until you have registered your loyalty card. Every time you shop and use your loyalty card, Simpson will receive a percentage of your purchases, no matter how small. If you need help in enrolling, please call Charlotte Namba at 303-425-7318. Thank you for your time and participation in this program.

Community Events

2022 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage



The Heart Mountain Pilgrimage will be in-person and taking place on July 28-30, 2022. The 2022 event will feature a screening of Kishi Bashi's new documentary Omoiyari: A Songfilm, tours of the Heart Mountain historic site, educational sessions about exciting new projects, and much more. To learn more about the schedule and to register, please visit <https://www.heartmountain.org/visit/events/pilgrimage/>.

Mountain Sky Conference's Book Study

NextGen & Inclusiveness Ministries is offering a Spring 2022 Book Study on "Heavy Burdens: Seven Ways LGBTQ Christians Experience Harm in the Church" by Bridget Eileen Rivera. This book study will take place for five weeks on March 21st-April 18th at 6:30 pm (MST) on Zoom. Read more about this study - <https://www.mtnskyumc.org/newsdetail/16163258>.

You can register for this book study here - <https://mtnskyumc-org.zoom.us/join/register/tJlIf-mppj8sGNLTxSognDWDLo0Z2GHSs-yO>



NAVIGATING WITH(OUT) INSTRUMENTS: THE WORKSHOP

featuring
traci kato-kiriyama

Sat, April 16, 2022 5 to 7pm

Tickets - \$15

Includes light snacks, journal, and pen

Jewish Community Center - Social Hall
350 S Dahlia St, Denver, CO 80246 **FREE Parking**

Presented by  **SAKURA**
FOUNDATION

Scholarship Opportunities

Simpson Scholarship Applications

Attention Graduating High School Students and Continuing College Students, the Simpson United Methodist Church Scholarship Committee would like to encourage you to apply for the scholarships available through the church.

Download the Application!

Graduating High School Students

<https://bit.ly/34vEaj6>

Continuing College Students

<https://bit.ly/3gKc6Lj>

Important Dates

- April 12, 2022: Application deadline
- Late April - Late May: Personal Interviews
- June 12, 2022: Worship to celebrate Scholarship recipients

Questions or Concerns?

Please email sumcscholarship@gmail.com.



If you are a high school senior graduating in 2022, the JACGP application is due on **March 25th, 2022**. Be sure you have your volunteer hours and Letters of Attestation uploaded in your account. Visit <https://jacgp.com/> for more information.

The general application for the scholarships from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) is due **March 24th, 2022**. Visit <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-scholarships/scholarships/apply/> for more information.

Be sure to check the Financial Aid Office of colleges and universities to confirm their FAFSA deadlines so that you don't miss out on financial aid opportunities!

1. Keep track of the application deadlines.
2. Read all the application instructions.
3. Gather application materials early.
4. Don't ignore small awards. They add up.
5. Request letters of recommendation early and send friendly reminders.
6. Think carefully about the prompts and tell your story!
7. Be clear and concise.
8. Proof-read your application.
9. Ask someone else to proof-read your application
10. Ask for help if you need it.
11. Submit your applications by the deadline
12. Keep trying!

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 3:30 pm ECA -Gym	2 Ash Wednesday 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	3 3:30 p ECA-Gym	4 6:30 pm Youth at Simpson	5 9:00 am – Taiko Japanese Class
6 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE Holy Communion	7 Office Open 11 –2 3:30 pm ECA- Gym	8 3:30 pm ECA -Gym	9 3:30 pm ECA—Gym	10 Office Open 11-2 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	11 9:30 am –Bridge Memorial Lounge	12 9:00 am – Taiko Japanese Class 10 am—Noon Youth Trash Pick-up - SUMC
13 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 Trustees Daylight Savings Time Begins	14 10—12 noon Ukulele Group in Memorial Lounge 11-2 Office Open 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	15 Newsletter Articles due today for April Newsletter 3:30 pm ECA –Gym	16 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	17 St. Patrick's Day Office Open 11-2 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	18 11:00 am Celebration of Life Bud & Chuckie Stark 6:30 pm—Youth Movies \$\$ Alamo Theater	19 9:00 am – Taiko Japanese Class
20 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 Finance Spring Begins	21 Office Open 11-2 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	22 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study based on the book "Good Enough" begins via Zoom 3:30 pm ECA –Gym	23 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	24 Office Open 11-2 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	25	26 9:00 am – Taiko Japanese Class
27 8:30 am S.P.R.C. 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00 am Ad Council	28 Office Open 11-2 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	29 7:00 pm Lenten Bible Study based on the book "Good Enough" via Zoom 3:30 pm ECA—Gym	30 3:30 pm ECA-Gym	31 Office Open 11-2 3:30 pm ECA in Gym		

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

March 2022

Phone: 303 - 428 - 7963

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

<https://www.simpsonumc.com>

