

Simpson News

February 2023 | Volume 54 | Number 2

Simpson's Mission Statement **"Create a Cultural and Spiritual Space for All"**

Since 2019, Simpson members have been focusing our ministries and resources on the goals define in our Strategic Plan to fulfill our mission to "Create a Cultural and Spiritual Space for All."

In the 2022 review of the Strategic Plan, members identified "WHY" Simpson exists.

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.

Remembering "Why" we exist helps to focus our time, energy, ministries, and resources on achieving the four primary goals of the Strategic Plan.

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.

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

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

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

Over the last year, Simpson worked to achieve the goals by continuing existing and creating new ministries to honor and share the Japanese American culture with the community. We also found new ways to serve the local community and support our youth. Let's celebrate how we focused our resources and energy to support the goals of the Strategic Plan.

- Completed the kitchen remodel to help support the church's primary ministry of celebrating Japanese American cuisine.
- Honored the Japanese American cultural legacy by planning and organizing the Multigeneration Japanese American Experience Webinar.
- Shared the art of making traditional Japanese treats with future generations during the Ohagi (Botomochi) Workshop.
- Served the local homeless community by making monthly breakfast casseroles (Mission Arvada).
- Supported our youth with bowling and community activities (Delores Project).
- Celebrated the return of the All Church BBQ, Mochi Making, and Honoring our Elders (Keiro No Hi) events.
- Participated in the Cherry Blossom Festival.
- Created a new drive-through Gochiso Food Festival.

The Strategic Plan is a guide to help our congregation fulfill our mission to "Create a Cultural and Spiritual Space for All."

May we continue to listen to the Holy Spirit as we look to the new year with new opportunities to serve God.

Please enjoy watching the Simpson 2022 Year In Review video to see all these exciting events and see how our members served our community:

<https://youtu.be/XzwPBCNIwDM>

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah

Simpson News and Events

Knit and Crochet Returns to Simpson!

The Knit and Crochet Group is meeting again at Simpson on the on the third Sunday of the month. Join the fun, conversation, and ministry of providing love and comfort for those in need!

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Matsumoto



O.N.E. Team

"THANK YOU"

Thanks to Lynnette Namba's family and Todd Namba's family for preparing the Mission Arvada breakfast casseroles in December and January. These are casseroles for the homeless in and around the city of Arvada. Also, thanks to all who donated socks for the homeless. This sock project was started by Jane Nakama during the Christmas season.

FYI these breakfast casseroles are financed with the rebates from King Soopers collected when you buy groceries and you dedicate your purchase costs to the Simpson UMC's account. We appreciate your help!

ONE Team"

Charlotte

Hina Matsuri is back!

Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th
from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Please share this with your friends and family
and come join the fun.

If you have any Japanese dolls or other
Japanese art that you would like to display
please call Karla at 303-808-5892 or leave a
message at the church.



Simpson News and Events

Dear charitable organization,

In 2013, we launched AmazonSmile to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. We were excited about the potential for the program and the impact it could have for many charitable organizations. We want to thank you for your partnership during all these years.

After almost a decade of running AmazonSmile, we learned that with so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

Over the past few years, we've seen that Amazon can have a more significant and lasting impact if we invest in specific areas and focus our philanthropic efforts in the communities where our employees live and work. We've started to see the benefits of a more focused approach with our investments in programs like Amazon Future Engineer and our \$2 billion investment in building affordable housing in our hometown communities through the Amazon Housing Equity Fund—and we will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change.

We are writing to let you know that we have made plans to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. Until this date, customer purchases made via AmazonSmile will continue to accrue funds for your charity as normal. To help nonprofits like you plan ahead, we will also provide you with a one-time payment equivalent to three months of payments based on what you accrued in 2022 through this program. The timing of this final payment will be approximately 60 to 90 days after February 20, 2023. We hope that this will help minimize the impact that this decision might have.

You will be able to continue asking for the support from Amazon customers in other ways, like creating your product lists.

We will keep supporting thousands of charities across the U.S. in many ways, and focus on the areas we believe can help create an even greater impact. Our long-term commitment to our communities remains the same: We are determined to help create a better world for our customers, our employees, and the communities we serve across the country.

Thank you,
AmazonSmile Team

Simpson News and Events

Scholarship Opportunities

The Simpson United Methodist Church Scholarship Committee would like to encourage you to apply for the scholarship available through the church for graduating high school students and continuing college students.

This year we will make available The Gene and Kimiko Side Scholarship. These scholarships will be awarded to continuing college students, and/or college graduates who are planning to further their education by entering one of the following: a business, trade, technical, or vocational school; an undergraduate college or university program; or a graduate program.

The application deadline is April 12, 2023.

For more information, please see the link below.

Forms | [SIMPSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH \(simpsonumc.com\)](https://simpsonumc.com)



NJAUMC

YOUTH CAMPING MINISTRIES!

Have you ever thought about serving as a summer camp youth counselor? We encourage you to check it out! Don't miss a great opportunity to make a powerful difference in the lives of youth through the community of our summer camp programs!

It's a great week of exploring faith, nurturing leadership, growing in friendship & fellowship and sharing life with campers-all in a context that is fun, accepting and meaningful!

For more information and to apply to be a camp counselor go to
njaumccamps.org

Jr High Camp
(entering 5-8th grade)
June 25-30, 2023
Camp Lodestar

Asian Camp
(entering 9th grade-college sophmores)
July 23-28, 2023
Camp Lodestar



Community Events



KODO
February 18-19

SAT FEBRUARY 18 6:30 pm
SUN FEBRUARY 19 2:00 pm

June Swaner Gates Concert Hall
2344 East Iliff Ave, Denver

TICKET INFORMATION:
newmancenterpresents.com/events/

performance sponsor: **SAKURA** FOUNDATION



**APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN
FOR THE CLASS OF 2023!**

Deadline to apply is Feb 4, 2023

In the MGLP you will:

- Grow your leadership skills & personal development
- Learn about the Japanese American community
- Meet and engage with community leaders
- Create lifelong friendships & meaningful connections with peers

More information and application available at
<https://sakurafoundation.org/services/mglp/>
or use this QR code:



Presented by

SAKURA
FOUNDATION



Kodo

Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 7:30 pm

KODO Taiko Performing Arts Ensemble will also be performing on Sunday, February 19 at 2pm.

Feel the reverberations of heaven and earth in harmony with this all-new performance

newmancenterpresents.com

Celebrating the LGBTQ Community

Understanding Pronouns (Free to Be! by Maya and Matthew)

Below is an excerpt from the book "Free to Be!"



"When you were born, you were given a name, and a pronoun, probably he or she.

As you get older and know yourself more and more on the inside, some of the ideas of she and he may fit you, and some of them may not.

Ideas about he and she are very strong right now.

Many people believe HE means ONLY certain things, and SHE means ONLY certain things.

These ideas affect what people think about everything. How you dress, how you wear your hair, or how you express the spirit of who you are, even what colors you like.

People can think they know what your pronouns is based on their idea about she and he.

This is a way of only looking at the outside of a person and not the inside of a person.

On the inside, you may not feel like he or she at all, maybe they feel the most free, or you may feel like both she and he.

But mostly, you probably just feel like yourself.

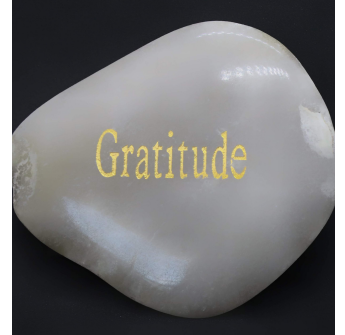
This inside part is the most important part because there is no one else like you in the world. This is why everyone should be free to be exactly who they are on the inside!

Who you are is not always something you can put into words or explain. You just know who you are because you are!

Pronouns can be a way to share how you feel on the inside. Because this inside part is the most important part of you, it cannot be about outside ideas of how people think she or he is "supposed" to act. It has to be about how you feel."

Thank You Very Much

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. Donations posted January 3, 2023, through January 24, 2023



Christmas

Daniel Hamai

Curtis Higuchi

Mae Ida

Joel Nishida

Ruth and George Kawamura

David Powell

Ruthe Terada

Tamayo Terada

Carol Yamamoto

Calvin Yukihiro

O.N.E

Ruth Shinto

Christmas donation to O.N.E.

Ken and Charlotte Namba

Trustee Account

Tad and Naomi Asano

Daniel Hamai

Ken and Charlotte Namba

Thanksgiving

Ruth and George Kawamura

Alben Sakaguchi

Catheryn Smith

Ruthe Terada

Tamayo Terada

Scholarship Fund

Keith Hora

Utilities

Carolyn Nishimoto

In Memory of:

Yoko Ichikawa by the Aoki Family, Shin Aoki , Fred, Chiyeko, Michi, Midori, Eric & Rex
to go toward the Nichigo Fund

Toshie Furuiye by Carol Yamamoto

Reiko Y. Hamai by Dan Hamai

Tamiye Furuiye by Carol Yamamoto

Jack J. & Ritsu Y. Ito by Bob Ito

Ito Family by Alan Ito

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 9:00 am Taiko 1:30 pm Teddy Shiohita Celebration of Life 7-10 pm Pastor Leo
5 10:00 am Worship Service Holy Communion 1-5 pm Pastor Leo 5-7 pm Pastor Leo In Fellowship Hall	6 7-10 pm Pastor Leo	7 3:30 pm ECA in Gym 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	8 7:00 pm Trustees	9 5:30 pm Finance and Stewardship	10 Kitchen—Prep for Bowling Bentos 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	11 9:00 am Taiko Kitchen—Prep for Bowling Bentos
12 10:00 Worship Service Kitchen—Prep Bowling Bentos 11am Knit & Crochet Memorial Lounge. 1-5 pm Pastor Leo	13 10 am-noon Ukulele Memorial Lounge 7-10 pm Pastor Leo	14 Valentines Day 3:30 pm ECA in Gym 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	15	16 10am—4 pm Pastor Leo in Fellow- ship Hall to serve lunch.	17 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	18 9:00 am Taiko
19 10:00 Worship Service 1-5 pm Pastor Leo	20 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed 7-10 pm Pastor Leo	21 3:30 pm ECA in Gym 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	25 9:00 am Taiko
26 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 am Ad Council 1-5 pm Pastor Leo	27 Ukulele 10-Noon Memorial Lounge 7-10 pm Pastor Leo	28 3:30 pm ECA in Gym 7-10 pm Pastor Leo				

Simpson United Methodist Church
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February 2023

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Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

<https://www.simpsonumc.com>

Or current resident

