

Simpson United Methodist Church

Simpson News

March 2023 | Volume 54 | Number 3



The events of Christ's Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus' life, often don't receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will "freeze-frame" moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

Join us for Lenten Worship Services on Sunday at 10:00.

February 26th - First Week of Lent, The Parade: Risking Reputation

March 5th - Second Week of Lent, The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger (Service of Communion)

March 12th - Third Week of Lent, The Teaching: Risking Challenge

March 19th - Fourth Week of Lent, The First Dinner: Risking Rejection

March 26th - Fifth Week of Lent, The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends (Service of Communion)

April 2nd - Sixth Week of Lent, The Garden: Risking Temptation

April 7th - Easter Morning. Celebrating the risen Christ (Service of Communion)

Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Although Ash Wednesday has ancient roots, it does not appear in the rituals of The United Methodist Church or our predecessor denominations until the 20th century.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: sinfulness before God and human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us realize that both have triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ashes are an ancient symbol. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. Throughout scripture, ashes are part of rituals when people seek forgiveness and mourn their sin (see Numbers 19:9, 17; Hebrews 9:13; Jonah 3:6; Matthew 11:21, and Luke 10:13, among others).

The imposition of ashes on the heads of Christians to mark the beginning of Lent can be traced at least to the 10th century. Marking the forehead with the sign of the cross is a more recent adaptation.

Since the tenth century, the observance of Ash Wednesday has become a general rite for all in the Western church. The Orthodox churches have never observed this rite.

United Methodists first adopted an official ritual for Ash Wednesday that involves the use of ashes in the 1992 Book of Worship. Prior to that time, Methodists either had no official service at all for this day (through 1964) or an "ashless" Ash Wednesday Service (1965 Book of Worship). The use of ashes remains optional in the current Book of Worship, and, indeed, in all rites for this day. Ashes are an "accessory" that demonstrates an awareness of mortality and an intent to repent. The actual awareness and the corporate and personal acts of repentance are the substance of services for the first day of Lent.

In many churches the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. As the ashes are placed on the forehead, words such as these are spoken: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," recalling God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19, or "Repent, and believe the gospel" recalling the message of both John the Baptist and Jesus (Mark 1:15).

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.



Simpson News and Events

Attention - Safeway Reloadable Gift Card Holders

For those of you who use a Safeway reloadable gift card, Safeway will be issuing new cards. If you have a balance on your current card, please zero it out and obtain a new card from Simpson. A supply of new cards will be available by March 1. The new gift cards will have a zero balance, so you will not have to purchase the card but must load the card before you can use it. Please contact the church office after March 1 to obtain a new card.

Thank you for supporting mission projects at Simpson through your grocery purchases!

ONE Team "

Thank you to all who helped with the
Simpson Bowling Tournament bento
(box lunch) fundraiser!!

From prepping the food on Friday, setting up workstations, cooking, and packing on Saturday, making Spam musubi on Sunday, and delivery and selling at the bowling alley – it was a satisfying experience in making Japanese foods and working with friends. Thanks to ALL who came to help. Our proceeds will go towards paying our huge Excel bill.

Domo arigato!!



Simpson News and Events

Ad Council Unofficial Summary

Simpson Ad Council Meeting – January 29, 2023

Condensed

Nomination Committee will report on additional leadership – Lay Leader, Trustee member and

Lay Leader to the Annual Conference at the February Ad Council.

Vision for Simpson – Contemporary worship style was suggested and studied.

Minister's Report - Donation reports have been mailed and results of the December survey will be presented at the February Ad Council meeting.

Finance – A \$15,000 deficit for December. Loss for 2022 - \$168,400. Looking into finding better

returns in our investments. Change in minister's job from full time to part time was discussed due to our yearly deficit. Funeral kitchen help line item will be added to Finance report. All committees are requested to study the financial report during their meetings.

Trustees – Committee working on new entry lock system, looking for new mechanical maintenance company, audio system fixed.

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

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



Conference News

Please watch this video as the Conference Co-Lay Leaders have a conversation with Bishop Karen Oliveto about church disaffiliation.



Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church



last Thursday

Our co-lay leaders sat down with our bishop to talk about some of the issues surrounding disaffiliation and the future of The United Methodist Church. Listen in on the conversation!



Barry Welliver

VIMEO.COM

Disaffiliation Questions

This is "Disaffiliation Questions" by Mountain Sky Conference | UMC on ...

Community Events



JARCC

Japanese American
Resource Center
of Colorado

Tuesday, March 7

JACL & JARCC Present: Social Security Administration (SSA) with Host:

Josh Weller, Public Affairs Specialist SSA / 7:00 - 8:00 pm / Webinar Invitation /
Meeting ID: 224 268 623 818 / Passcode: fBR6zt / (Audio only)
Phone ID: 911-485-133#

Educational webinar: Learning more about your future benefit options. Mr. Weller will be covering social security benefit questions such as how my benefits are calculated, benefit eligibility factors, application process, overview of all the different benefits social security administers and more. Bring your social security questions as Mr. Weller will answer your questions at the end of the presentation. /
more information: Josh Weller at josh.weller@ssa.gov

Thur. Fri. Sat., March 9-11

Center for Asian Pacific American Women Presents:
Women of Color Conference 2023 / Conference is open to all advocates!

Doubletree Greenway Plaza / 6 East Greenway Plaza / Houston, TX 77046
Information contact Donna Cole: donnac@cholechem.com

Saturday, March 25

Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado Fundraiser:
Casino Night at Bally's / Black Hawk, CO / information coming!

Weekend, June 17-18, 2023

Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival) / Sakura Square
Between 19th & 20th Street and Lawrence & Larimer

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 31, 2023, through February 23, 2023



Newsletter

Masako Furiye

Utilities

Proceeds from Bowling Bentos

Trustees

Paula Matsumoto

Hina Matsuri

Japanese Association of Colorado

In Memory of:

Mary Nishiyama by the Birthday Group

Loraine Chagon by Carol Yamamoto

Muneko Furuiye by Carol Yamamoto

MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Preparation for Hina Matsuri—all day entire church 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	4 9:00 am Taiko Hina Matsuri ¹ 1:30 am —4:00 pm 7-10 pm Pastor Leo
5 10:00 am Worship Service Holy Communion 11:30 am—4:00 pm Hina Matsuri 1-5 pm Pastor Leo	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 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	11 9:00 am Taiko 1:00—6:00 pm Pastor Leo
12 Daylight Saving Time Begins 0:00 Worship Service 1-5 pm Pastor Leo	13 10 am-noon Ukulele Memorial Lounge 7-10 pm Pastor Leo	14 3:30 pm ECA in Gym 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	15	16	17 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	18 9:00 am Taiko
19 10:00 Worship Service Knit & Crochet 1-5 pm Pastor Leo UMCOR Sunday	20 First Day of Spring 7-10 pm Pastor Leo	21 3:30 pm ECA in Gym 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	22	23	24 7-10 Pm Pastor Leo	25 9:00 am Taiko
26 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 am Ad Council 11:00 am Paula Matsumoto in Nichigo Sanctuary 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	29	30	31 7-10 pm Pastor Leo	

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

March 2023

Phone: 303 - 428 - 7963

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

<https://www.simpsonumc.com>

Or current resident

