

JULY 2025

SIMPSON NEWS

SIMPSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GRACE THAT HOLDS US

Have you ever cooked with a wok—not just used one, but really cooked with it? A wok is not just a pan; it's a vessel shaped by heat, movement, and transformation. I believe it gives us a powerful metaphor for grace.

God's grace is not passive. It doesn't just comfort us in calm moments—it holds us through the fire. It stirs us, reshapes us, and brings new flavor to our lives, especially in times of change. As Paul writes in Romans, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Not suffering. Not transition. Not even death.

The wok, like grace, is shaped for motion. Its layered heat zones allow a cook to move ingredients in and out of the flame—to sear, steam, soften. Grace meets us in every zone of our lives—at the center of intensity, and at the edges of rest.

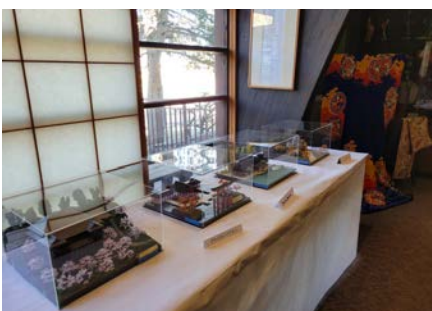
On Pentecost, the Spirit arrived like rushing wind and fire—forming community out of diversity, and igniting hearts across language and difference. That same Spirit is still moving. It's what carries us through change. And it's what assures us: we are not cooked apart from the fire, but transformed within it.

I hope you remember: you are being held. Not outside the heat, but within it. Not because you are strong, but because God's grace is. And nothing—nothing—can separate you from that love.



If you want to speak with Rev. Brian, call him at 720-381-4129 or email him at revbrian@simpsonumc.com. While you can always find him at the Simpson building on Sunday mornings, please get in touch with him if you want to meet him in person during the week.

HINA MATSURI 2025



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EASTER 2025

This year, Simpson along with Westminster UMC, partnered to host an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2025. A total of 13 children came to hear the story of the first Easter Bunny, hunt for eggs, make crafts with their families, and to enjoy snacks. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a fun family event.



ASIAN FOOD BAZAAR 2025

Thank you to all who helped with the Annual food Bazaar fundraiser which was held in May of this year. Thanks to all who came out to prep the groceries and to those who prepared and cooked the food for the Chow Mein bento boxes plus other goodies - sushi, Spam musubis, manju and ohagi. Also to our clean up crew who did a great job. It was a great time to reconnect with our "old" friends and make new friends. Thank you, thank you!!

-Dennis, William and Charlotte



ASIAN FOOD BAZAAR 2025



AMACHE PILGRIMAGE 2025



Photo: Amache Preservation Society

This year marks the 50th pilgrimage to Amache. On May 17th, Nikkeijin Kai continued the tradition of a Saturday bus for a one-day pilgrimage from Denver. As part of the memorial service this year, Amache survivors stamped the Ireichō, the Book of Names, which lists the names of the approximately 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated. In addition, the names of all those who were incarcerated at Amache and died there were read aloud.

If you would like to read an adapted version of the invocation that Rev. Brian gave for the memorial service, you may find it on History Colorado's website -

<https://www.historycolorado.org/story/2025/05/22/reverend-reflects>

If you would like to learn more about Amache and the work being done to tell the story of Amache, please visit the Amache Preservation Society's website at <https://amache.org/>

TAMAYO TERADA'S STORY ON CPR

On June 4th, the family and friends of Tamayo Terada gathered to celebrate her remarkable life of 98 years. On the same day, Colorado Public Radio aired a story about Tamayo on Colorado Matters. A few weeks before her death in May, Colorado Matters host, Ryan Warner, had visited Tamayo and her children to interview her because she survived the atomic attack on Hiroshima. This year marks 80 years after the bombing. You can listen the story here -

<https://www.cpr.org/show-segment/remembering-hiroshima-survivor-tamayo-terada-of-denver/>



Photo: Ryan Warner/CPR News

COLORADO JAPANESE AMERICAN WOMEN'S QUILT PROJECT

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Colorado Japanese American Women's Quilt Project. The Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado (JARCC) and the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum collaborated to present the 30th anniversary exhibit at the Rocky Mountain Quilt Museum. The 30th anniversary exhibit was made possible through the hard work and leadership of John and Terry Hall and Pati Sauter. For the exhibit, a new book was published that shares the stories of each quilt square by the quilter and oral histories were recorded. Below are links of stories about the exhibit, which will close on July 19th:

- Story on Colorado Public Radio - <https://www.cpr.org/2025/04/20/colorado-japanese-american-womens-quilt-project-exhibit/>
- Story on Rocky Mountain PBS - <https://www.rmpbs.org/blogs/history/colorado-japanese-womens-quilt-project>



Photo: Chase McCleary/Rocky Mountain PBS

COLORADO HERITAGE FOR ALL

Next year marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 150th anniversary of Colorado's statehood. As part of celebrating these two historic milestones, History Colorado started a new project called Colorado Heritage for All. The goal of this project is to identify 150 currently unrecognized spaces and places that tell the stories of communities of color, women, and LGBTQ+ Coloradans, and to add all of these sites to the state Register of Historic Places by the end of 2026. The Simpson building is one of these unrecognized spaces and places.

As part of this project, an intern with History Colorado will assemble the nomination packet with feedback and input from the Simpson community. The nomination packet will be submitted to the Colorado State Register Review Board for consideration.

Alesha Adolph is the History Colorado intern who will be assembling Simpson's nomination. To help her work, the following would be most appreciated:

- Historic pictures of the exterior of Simpson's building at its current location, especially pictures before the Memorial Lounge addition.
- Historic pictures of both sanctuaries from 1960s and 1970s
- Suggestions of individuals Alesha should speak to about congregational life in the building as she collects some oral history

If you have pictures, suggestions, or would like to give an oral history, don't hesitate to get in touch with Rev. Brian.

DOUMO ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU

We are grateful for the many ways people support our church with generous gifts. Our tradition is 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.

In Memory of:

Yukio Furuiye
Stome Tanita
Ruthe Terada
Sachi Goto
Ruth French
Daren Yokooji by
Sachi Goto by
Sachi and Larry Goto by
Sachi Goto by Cynthia Shioshita
Katherine Nakaori
Ruthe Terada
Richard Ida and Daren Yokooji
Steve King
Dargn Roronji
Ruthe Terada
Johnie and Miyako Smith by
Ruthe Terada

Toshie Furuiye
Jack J. & Ritsu Y. Ito
Yukio Furuiye

Rev. Dr. Hidemi Ito with gratitude
for his many years of ministry

Richard Kobayashi
Masaru Yoshimura
My Father, Nobuo Furuiye

Given by:

Masako Furuiye
Grace Tochiara
Grace Tochiara
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Goto and Shioshita Families
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Alan Suzuki
Carolyn Terada
Mae Ida
Alan Suzuki
Alan Suzuki
Alan Suzuki
Gloria and Catheryn Smith
Her daughters, Bev Giloy, Carolyn Terada, &
Vicki Strayer
Carol Yamamoto
Bob Ito
Carol Yamamoto

Shoko Ito, Ken, Lisa & Chase Ito
Miki, Neal, Madi and Jolie Miyake

Alan Suzuki
Alan Suzuki
Carol Yamamoto

DOUMO ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU

In Memory of:

John & Miyako Smith
Mas & Yasuko Nonaka
Mary & Massey Nishiyama
Ruth French
Debbie Willeford
Johnie & Miyako Smith
Mas & Yasuko Nonaka
Massey & Mary Nishiyama
Ruth French
Debbie Willeford

Given by:

Catheryn Smith
Catheryn Smith
Catheryn Smith
Catheryn Smith
Deborah Demuth & Patty Kline
Gloria Smith
Gloria Smith
Gloria Smith
Gloria Smith
Gloria Smith

Keiro no Hi 2024

Charlotte & Ken Namba
Ruth Shinto

Utilities

Catheryn Smith
Alan Suzuki
Terry and Barbara Wong
Pam Shinto
Jacqueline Cornish
Andy & Julie Cleary

Easter 2025

Catheryn Smith
Ken & Charlotte Namba
Carol Yamamoto
Masako Furuiye

Thanksgiving 2024

Masako Furuiye
Carol Yamamoto
Catheryn Smith

Hina Matsuri 2025

Ruth Shinto
Eileen Barela
Catheryn Smith
Forrest Trimbell

SPRC

Catheryn Smith

Scholarship Fund

Keith Hora

Music Ministry

Ron and Michiko Rigg

Christmas 2024

Ken & Charlotte Namba
Harry & Nancy Miyahara
Mary K. Ida
Carol Yamamoto
Midori Allmeyer
Tim Cleary
Masako Furuiye
Dan Hamai
Mae Ida
Beth & Martha Inouye
Alan Mochizuki
Karen Padrick
Ruth Shinto
Catheryn Smith
Gloria Smith
Calvin Yukihiro

UMCOR - California Fire Relief

Jane Nakama
Ken & Charlotte Namba

Building Fund

Dion Dishong

Newsletter

Francis Ogawa
Grace Tochihara
Mayrene Kyota

BENKYOU BOOK CLUB



In the spring, Rev. Dr. John Miyahara and Rev. Brian started the Benkyou Book Club (BBC). Benkyou is the Japanese word “to study.” The purpose of the BBC is to gather a group of curious people to read a variety of books to discover themes of spirituality, culture, historical significance, political, socioeconomic, emotional health, civil rights, social justice, artistic, and other expressive genres found in literature. So far, BBC has read *Unassimilable: An Asian Diasporic Manifesto for the Twenty-First Century* by Bianca Mabute-Louie and *The Millennial Narrative: Sharing a Good Life with the Next Generation* by Jaco Hamman.

BBC's next book will be *Man's Search for Meaning* by Viktor Frankl. If you're interested in joining the group, you can contact Rev. Brian or join the Discord server at <https://discord.gg/fRrERQWF>.

WANTED - KITCHEN PITCHER



Simpson's one and only kitchen pitcher has truly served its time — it's been well-used, melted, dropped, and is now ready for retirement. The kitchen managers are hoping for a replacement (or two!) that's similar to the one pictured. If you happen to have a gently used pitcher you'd be willing to donate, please let the church office know by emailing office@simpsonumc.com or calling 303-428-7963.

WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE

Below is the worship and preaching schedule for July and August

- July 6th at 10 a.m. (Rev. Yo Han)
- July 13th at 10 a.m. (Rev. Brian)
- July 20th at 10 a.m. (Rev. Yo Han)
- July 27th at 10 a.m. (Rev. Brian)
- August 3rd at 10 a.m. (Rev. Yo Han)
- August 10th at 10 a.m. (Rev. Brian)
- August 17th at 10 a.m. (Rev. Yo Han)
- August 24th at 10 a.m. (Rev. Brian)

You can come to worship in-person or virtually by using the following link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87520951862?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87520951862?pwd=VUZ1QkNMd2ZvSTZYVWd0eEIUVZkQT09)
[pwd=VUZ1QkNMd2ZvSTZYVWd0eEIUVZkQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87520951862?pwd=VUZ1QkNMd2ZvSTZYVWd0eEIUVZkQT09)

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

- All Church Picnic - July 13th following worship to 2:30 p.m.
 - Hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, and drinks will be provided. Everyone is invited to bring a side dish to share!
 - The picnic will be at Clear Creek Valley Park (3700 W 58th Pl, Arvada, CO 80002). Please be sure to look for us under one of the large pavilions.
- Simpson's Annual Peach Sale - September
 - Tentatively, the peach sale is scheduled for September, pending confirmation from the farm from which we purchase.
 - Be on the lookout for email announcements about the final date and order forms.
- Gochiso Japanese Food Festival - October 4th
 - Simpson will be hosting the Gochiso Japanese Food Festival again. Be on the lookout for order forms
- Simpson Arts and Crafts Showcase - October 19th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Join us for Simpson's 39th Annual Arts and Crafts Showcase, featuring handcrafted items, holiday gifts, jewelry, ceramics, and Japanese treats made by Simpson members and members of the Japanese American community in Colorado.

You can always find out what's happening at Simpson by checking the calendar at <https://www.simpsonumc.com/calendar/>. If you would like to have an event put on the calendar, please email events@simpsonumc.com

Simpson United Methodist Church
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Arvada, CO 80003-6833

July 2025

Phone: 303 - 428 - 7963

Email: simpsonumc@comcast.net

<https://www.simpsonumc.com>

You can receive the weekly email from Rev. Brian to learn what's happening at Simpson and in the larger community. If you would like to receive the weekly email, please fill out this form at <https://bit.ly/SimpsonEmailList> or email Rev. Brian at revbrian@simpsonumc.com to be added to the list.