

AUGUST 2025

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# SIMPSON NEWS

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SIMPSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## **ROOTED IN LOVE, RISING IN GRACE**

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Our culture often pressures us to be “special.” Many of us, especially those who grew up in the “self-esteem era,” heard messages like, “You’re extraordinary! You can change the world!” While well-meaning, that constant push can be exhausting. Ordinary life doesn’t always feel extraordinary, and social media only heightens the pressure, inviting constant comparison between our unfiltered lives and someone else’s highlight reel.

The gospel offers a freeing alternative: in God’s kingdom, you don’t have to be special to belong. Colossians reminds us, “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him.” We receive Christ purely by grace—not because we’ve earned or achieved it. There are no gatekeepers in Christ. We belong because God has already claimed us.

United Methodists call this justifying grace—the moment we trust that God, through Jesus, has made us beloved children. The theological term imputation means Christ takes what is ours and gives us what is His. But grace keeps working. Sanctifying grace shapes our hearts over time so that love, mercy, and justice become part of our everyday lives. This isn’t about trying harder—it’s about letting God’s Spirit set us free to love like Jesus.

Rooted in grace, we are freed from comparison, competition, and the need to impress. A grace-filled church becomes a refuge where people can breathe deeply and hear the truth: You are loved. You are welcome. You belong.

In a world weary from demands to “be more” and “do more,” the church is called to be a living witness to God’s radical welcome. Ordinary people, living out extraordinary grace together, show the world another way—a way rooted in love and rising in grace.



## ALL CHURCH PICNIC

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On July 13<sup>th</sup>, Simpson held our annual church picnic with Westminster UMC at Clear Creek Valley Park. It was a fun time with good food and Bingo fun. Both communities welcomed Westminster's pastor, Rev. Yo Han.





## **COLORADO HERITAGE FOR ALL**

Next year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 150<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Paul Sasa

### **Given by:**

Mae Ida

### **Newsletter**

Carol Yamamoto

A very special thank you to Jeff Osaka for donating sodas to Simpson.

## **SUPPORT SIMPSON UMC WITH ZEFFY**

You can give to Simpson electronically by visiting: [bit.ly/GivetoSimpsonUMC](https://bit.ly/GivetoSimpsonUMC)

Zeffy is a giving platform that ensures 100% of your gift goes directly to Simpson. As you provide your information to give to Simpson, you will be prompted to support the Zeffy platform. While Zeffy provides some suggested percentages, you can always select 'Other' and give whatever is comfortable for you. This support for Zeffy enables them to cover the transaction fees for nonprofits using Zeffy. If you would like to learn more about Zeffy, you can visit <https://www.zeffy.com/home/about-us>.

## **LET'S DANCE CLASS**

William and Kathy Murakami will be leading a lively afternoon of dance on Saturday, September 13, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They'll teach a variety of dance styles—no experience needed!

Wear comfortable clothing and please, no high heels. Couples and singles are equally welcome, so you don't need a partner to join the fun.

Sign up by calling the church office at 303-428-7963 or sign up in the Nichigo Sanctuary.

Come enjoy great music, good company, and a joyful workout!

## 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. They will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. on

- August 26th
- September 9th
- September 23rd
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The Zoom link to join the discussion is:

[https://zoom.us/j/91892110040?  
pwd=wC8ZVn94Ny8xwKTawFPlhyd9KF6WNI.1](https://zoom.us/j/91892110040?pwd=wC8ZVn94Ny8xwKTawFPlhyd9KF6WNI.1)

If you're interested in joining the group, you can contact Rev. Brian or join the Discord server at <https://discord.gg/fRrERQWF>.

## **WORSHIP AND PREACHING SCHEDULE**

Below is the worship and preaching schedule for August and September

- 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)
- August 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. (Rev. Yo Han)
- September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. (Rev. Brian)
- September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. (Rev. Yo Han)
- September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. (Rev. Brian)
- September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. (Rev. Yo Han)

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=VUZ1QkNMd2ZvSTZYVVd0eElUVZkQT09)  
[pwd=VUZ1QkNMd2ZvSTZYVVd0eElUVZkQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87520951862?pwd=VUZ1QkNMd2ZvSTZYVVd0eElUVZkQT09)

## **UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS**

- Fifth Sunday Potluck - August 31<sup>st</sup> following worship
  - Come join us after worship for the fifth Sunday potluck.
  - Bring a dish to share and a hearty appetite.
- Keiro no Hi Lunch - September 14<sup>th</sup> following worship
  - Come celebrate our community members who are over 80 years old.
  - If you are over 80 years old, please bring yourself and your appetite.
  - If you are under 80, please bring a salad or a side dish to share.
- Let's Dance! Class - September 13th from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
  - William and Kathy Murakami will be teaching various dance styles from ballroom, swing, and country western.
  - Come to Fellowship Hall comfortably dressed.
  - Sign up for this fun class by calling the church office at 303-428-7963 or signing up in the Nichigo Sanctuary.
- 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 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - Join us for Simpson's 39<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:events@simpsonumc.com)

## OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS



You can also volunteer at the Spirit of Japan event. They need help with prep work, set up/take down, entrance, vendor support, etc. Volunteers for prep/setup work must be at least 18 years old. Volunteers during the event must be at least 21 years old. Volunteers get 2 food tickets, free parking for the volunteer shift, and an event t-shirt to wear during your shift. Apply to volunteer at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA5AC28A13-57587009-2025#/>

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August 2025

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If you want to speak with Rev. Brian, call him at 720-381-4129 or email him at [revbrian@simpsonumc.com](mailto: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.

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](mailto:revbrian@simpsonumc.com) to be added to the list.