

# The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ  
268 West 100 South (Japantown Street)  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
(801) 363-3251 [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net)

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Pastor Brad Kramer  
[info@jccslc.net](mailto:info@jccslc.net)

## Winter Schedule

Adult Bible Study and Sunday  
School at 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

## December Calendar of Events

11/29,  
12/6,  
13, 20,  
24  
**Advent Season**  
The Advent season is a time of preparation for the celebration of the Nativity. The advent wreath is adorned with 5 candles of which one is lit consecutive Sundays and Christmas Eve. (See page 3)

11/29,  
12/6,  
13  
**Culture Classes – Holiday  
Papercrafting**  
Noon. Karla Paige will show us how to create a card (11/29), holiday favor (12/6) and holiday treat (12/13). Make all 3 projects for \$5.00. (If you can't make it to all 3 weeks, you can still receive all projects.)

6  
**Agape Women Holiday Luncheon**  
Dim Sum House, 1158 South State, \$13.00 per person (tax/tip included), 12:30 p.m.

12, 19  
**Mochi-tsuki**  
Help us make mochi to sell for the New Year! Make it a family tradition; we can use the help of young and old! A signup sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall.

20  
**Christmas Service (Music Worship)**  
10:30 a.m. Join in worship service to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. The JCC and Tongan choirs will perform.

**Christmas Potluck and Program**  
5:00 p.m. Bring the family and a potluck dish and watch the annual Christmas program. There will also be a special guest (hint – he dresses in red).

24  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
6:00 p.m. A time to reflect on the reason we celebrate Christmas. Candle lighting and carols.



**The JCC Mission Statement**

To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and seek spiritual growth for the entire congregation through:

- Worship, prayer, and Bible study
- Outreach and evangelism
- Loving service to the Church and community
- Fellowship
- Cultural activities unique to our ethnic congregation

**THE HERALD**

A monthly publication of the Japanese Church of Christ, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Pastor Brad Kramer**  
**Clerk of Session: Greg Paige**

**Session**

Julee Mori, Finance  
 Lorraine Crouse, Worship  
 Hiro Iwasaki, Stewardship  
 Greg Paige, Personnel, Education  
 Lynne Aramaki, Building and Grounds  
 Karen Okawa, Membership  
 Alan Shino, Evangelism/Missions

**Deacons**

Jan Aramaki, Moderator  
  
 Misako Bowker, Miki Harada, Keiko Ikeda, Wilma Kimura, Lillian Nakamura, Karla Paige

Newsletter articles are due on the last Sunday of each month at **noon**. Send your articles to [klokawa@msn.com](mailto:klokawa@msn.com)

Website: [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net)

**Christmas Potluck and Program**

**Sunday, December 20, 2015, 5:00 p.m.**

Bring the whole family for potluck dinner (**bring a dish to share**) and to see the annual traditional Christmas play. A special guest dressed in red will make an appearance too!



**Guest Speaker – December 6**

On **Sunday, December 6**, Bob Nakaoka from the Ogden Japanese Church of Christ will be the guest speaker at our worship service. In turn, Pastor Brad will be taking the pulpit at the Ogden church service.

**Mochi Orders**

Remember to place your mochi orders by **December 6**. An order sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall. The mochi will be ready for pickup on two consecutive Saturdays in December (12/12 and 12/19).

**Condolences**

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to so many of our church family this month.

- To the family of Michael Darger, whose wife Margie passed away in November.
- To the family of Barry Nakamura, who passed away unexpectedly on November 6. A wake was held at the JCC on November 17.
- To the family of Joe Ota, who passed away suddenly on November 17.
- To the family of Danni Uyeda, who also passed away unexpectedly on November 18. A Celebration of Life will be held at the JCC on December 5.
- To the family of former Salt Lake County commissioner Randy Horiuchi, who passed away on November 19.

**In Appreciation**

A new microwave oven was donated to by **Tom Mori** to replace the old and faulty oven in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Thank you so much; your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

**Reminder**

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please submit it to the JCC office or place it in the weekly offering.

**Remember in Your Prayers**

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

|                  |                   |                  |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Saeko Nakashima  | Shawna Johnson    | Chris Miya       |
| Susan Rosvall    | Joy Hashimoto     | Bernice Kida     |
| Miki Harada      | Betty Murakami    | Marie Matsukawa  |
| Yaeko Tomomatsu  | Grace Matsumura   | Grace Oshita     |
| Yoshiko Nakagama | Kristen Kobayashi | Cristal Aoki     |
| Jana Hansen      | Toshiko Marse     | Lillian Nakamura |
| Frank Imai       | Utako Aramaki     | Nakamura Family  |
| Wat Misaka       | Garin Harada      | Jessie Lamb      |
| Susan Fukushima  | Larry Harada      | Mr. "C"          |
| Uyeda Family     | Ota Family        | Finn Horve       |
| Kamaya Family    |                   |                  |

December 2015

I love the Christmas season. As long as I can remember, the weeks leading up to Christmas day have offered a special excitement unmatched by any other holiday. Of course, that special feeling was generated by the unique features of the season - holiday lights, festive carols, shopping for a tree; the anticipation of opening presents – every kid, as well as many adults can relate. And while these various yuletide experiences are wonderful, we as Christians realize, of course that the true power of Christmas comes from the actual Christmas story: Jesus the Son of God, taking on the form of a man, and coming to earth to sacrifice Himself so that mankind could be freed from sin and experience an eternal relationship with a loving God.



Unfortunately, I believe the impact of this event is too often lost on us. Take a moment, if you will and try to grasp the illogical idea of the incarnation and crucifixion of Jesus. Why would the God of the universe, send His own Son to die for people who naturally think only of themselves and have set their hearts against Him? The answer, I think, must begin with love: A love that is beyond our comprehension.

These past few weeks have been difficult for the JCC family. We have been shaken with the passing of 3 precious souls, and are struggling to cope with such painful loss. The one truth I keep coming back to in all of this pain and confusion is the love of God. Jesus' love for Barry Nakamura, Joe Ota, and Danni Uyeda was so great that He died for them – for all of us - so that we might repent of our sin, turn to Him and be freed from the chains of death. And it is that love that we must cling to in our time of grief. True, there is a sadness hanging over the Christmas season this year for us. But, let's also hold onto the hope that the Christmas story brings: a love that desires our eternal joy and freedom. If you do not know Jesus as Your Savior, make this your best Christmas of all and choose to accept His love.

May God bless you richly,

Pastor Brad Kramer

## Advent Season

The season of Advent is the four-week period before December 25th when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. During Advent we get ready to welcome Jesus into our lives by reading Scriptures, sharing special Advent readings, lighting the candles on our Advent Wreath and praying together.

Three candles are purple to represent royalty, because Jesus is our eternal King. One candle is pink to represent the joy we feel when Jesus comes to our world. The last candle, the Christ Candle, is white to represent the holiness and purity of Jesus, our Savior. We light the Christ candle on Christmas Eve as we read the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Luke.

### Advent Candle Lighting Participants

|             |                     |                       |                    |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| November 29 | 1st Week of Advent: | HOPE (Purple candle)  | Youth Group        |
| December 6  | 2nd Week of Advent: | PEACE (Purple candle) | The Aramaki Family |
| December 13 | 3rd Week of Advent: | JOY (Pink candle)     | Youth Group        |
| December 20 | 4th Week of Advent: | LOVE (Purple candle)  | Youth Group        |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve:      | CHRIST (White candle) | The Kramer Family  |

## December 2015 - Worship Service Participants

|                          | December 6                                | December 13                           | Christmas Service<br>Music Worship<br>December 20 | December 27                        |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>Guest Speaker</b>     | Pastor Bob Nakaoka                        |                                       |   |                                    |
| <b>Liturgist</b>         | Hiro Iwasaki                              | Ron Nishijima                         | Greg Paige  | Laura Olson                        |
| <b>Scripture Readers</b> | E) Alex Okawa<br>J) Yoko DeRose           | E) Pauline Vosburgh<br>J) Yeiko Homma | E) Zach Paige<br>J) Keiko Ikeda                   | E) Tyler Uyeda<br>J) Toshiko Marse |
| <b>Greeter</b>           | Dorthie Conway                            | Sadie Yoshimura                       | Karla Paige                                       | Betty Murakami                     |
| <b>Ushers</b>            | Misako Bowker<br>Motoko Lochner           | Karen Okawa<br>Julee Mori             | Lorraine Crouse<br>Doug Murakami<br>Al Kubota     | Al Kubota<br>Lorraine Crouse       |
| <b>Songs of Praise</b>   | ---                                       | Brian Itliong                         | Brian Itliong<br>JCC Worship Band                 | Brian Itliong                      |
| <b>Organist/Pianist</b>  | Yas Iwamoto                               | Allyn Nakashima                       | Yoko DeRose                                       | Keiko Ikeda                        |
| <b>Offeratory Music</b>  | Pauline Vosburgh<br>Yas Iwamoto           | Allyn Nakashima                       | JCC Choir<br>Tongan Choir                         | Nichigo Choir                      |
| <b>Acolyte</b>           | Alex Okawa                                | Alex Okawa                            | Nichole Kramer                                    | Tyler Uyeda                        |
| <b>Communion Servers</b> | Al Kubota<br>Ron Nishijima<br>Laura Olson | ---                                   | ---   | ---                                |
| <b>Ed Bldg Monitor</b>   | Tosh Nakaya                               | Lorraine Crouse                       | ---   | Tosh Nakaya                        |

## JCC December 2015 Events Calendar

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday                                       | Thursday                                     | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|  |   | 1  | 2   | 3<br>-Parking, Jazz game<br>Orlando, 7 pm    | 4<br>-Taiko practice, 6 pm   | 5<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>Indiana, 7 pm      |
| 6<br>-Guest speaker, Bob<br>Nakaoka<br>-Mini Culture Class,<br>noon<br>-Agape Holiday<br>Lunch, 12:30 pm | 7<br>-Taiko practice, 6 pm  | 8  | 9<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>New York, 7 pm     | 10   | 11<br>-Taiko practice, 6 pm<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>Okla City, 7 pm | 12<br>-Mochi Making, 9 to<br>5                  |
| 13<br>-Mini Culture Class,<br>noon   | 14<br>-Taiko practice, 6 pm   | 15<br>-St. Vincent DePaul<br>Soup Kitchen, 11:15<br>am | 16<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>New Orleans, 7 pm | 17   | 18<br>-Taiko practice, 6 pm<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>Denver, 7 pm    | 19<br>-Mochi Making, 9 to<br>5                  |
| 20<br>-Christmas Service,<br>10:30 am<br>-Christmas Potluck<br>and Program, 5 pm                         | 21<br>-Taiko practice, 6 pm<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>Phoenix, 7 pm      | 22   | 23  | 24<br>-Christmas Eve<br>Service, 6 pm        | 25<br>-CHRISTMAS DAY   | 26<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>LA Clippers, 7 pm |
| 27   | 28<br>-Taiko practice, 6 pm<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>Philadelphia, 7 pm | 29   | 30  | 31<br>-Parking, Jazz game,<br>Portland, 7 pm |  |   |

\*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 11/29/15.

**Youth Group**

*Submitted by Elise Mori*

After the sudden passing of Danni, we were all left in shock and were unsure if our participation in the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Holiday Boutique would go on. But after some thought, we decided that, if she were here, she would tell us to go on. Janice Oike graciously stepped in as our leader and set the tempo.

On behalf of the JCC youth group, we would like to thank all that helped in our success! From helping in prep of the bags, making the mochi candy, sitting at the table to sell, and buying our products. We are very thankful for all of the help and support of not only the congregation, but the Japanese Community of Utah. Thank You!

Yuri Uyeda hand made and donated two rice sack tote bags that were raffled off. Thank you Yuri!



Elise Mori and Elizabeth Ward selling mochi bits.

*Agape Holiday Luncheon*



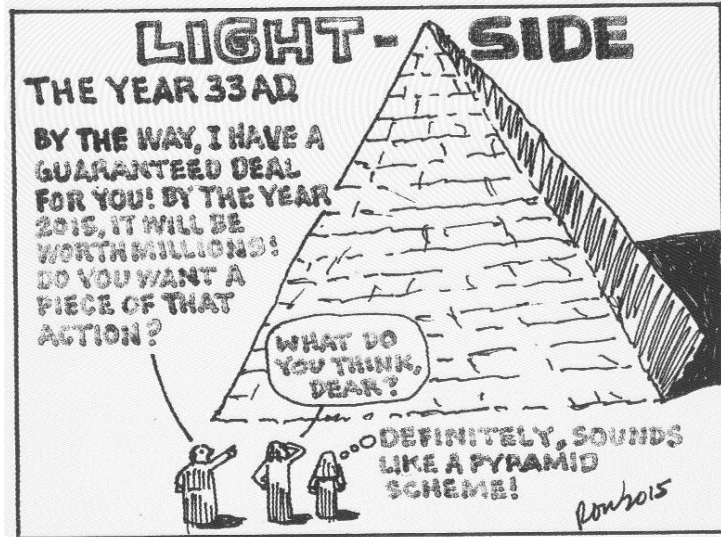
Sunday, December 6, 2015  
12:30 p.m.

Dim Sum House (1158 S State Street)  
\$13.00 per person (tax/tip included)

Set menu

Sign-up sheet posted in  
Fellowship Hall.

Also remember the Church Women United Advent Service and Tea on Friday, December 4, 2015 at Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church, 239 East 600 South at 1:00 p.m.



**Nominations**

Nominations are open for members to serve as an Elder on Session, Deacons, Board of Trustees, and the Nominating Committee. A Congregational Meeting will be held in January to present the nominees for the Class of 2018. If you would like to serve in any of these positions, contact Lynne Aramaki.

**Nichigo Wrap Up**

Photos taken during the Nichigo fellowship with Reverend Fujii this fall.



**Upcoming Community Events**

**Mount Olympus JACL Christmas Party** – Friday, December 4, 2015, 6:30 p.m. Big Cottonwood Stake Center, 1750 East Spring Lane. Bring a potluck dish to share; chapter will provide fried chicken and beverages. Contact Lynne Aramaki Crabb or Sadie Yoshimura for more information.

**Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon** - Saturday, December 12, 2015 at Red Maple Restaurant, 2882 West 4700 South. \$10 per person. Seniors 85+, free. Contact Penny Imamura to RSVP by Dec. 10 – (801) 265-0314.

**Congratulations Renee!**

Congratulations to Renee Morita Edwards who was recognized with a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Science on Friday, October 30, 2015. Renee was an adjunct professor and taught workshops and courses for the college and has held several human resources positions within the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

**Thankful for Thanksgiving**

Thank you to the Men’s Fellowship and everyone who helped put together the annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 22.



Turkey time! Alan Shino, Hiromi and John Page in the kitchen. (Nice apron, John!)



Jani stirs the pot as Steve Fukumitsu oversees. Photos courtesy: Keiko Ikeda

**Paper Crafting Culture Classes**

It is not too late to participate in the 3 week Holiday paper crafting series.

Because everyone is busy during the holiday season, our resident paper crafting specialist, Karla Paige, has put together some “mini” holiday craft classes for 3 consecutive Sundays: November 29, December 6, and December 13.

Each mini class will feature one make and take project that can be finished in minutes.

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| December 6  | Holiday Decoration |
| December 13 | Holiday Favor      |

All three kits are \$5. If you missed the November class (Christmas card) or are not able to make it to the two upcoming December classes, you will still receive the other kits to put together on your own.

**December Birthdays**

- 21 Wat Misaka
- 24 Chris Miya
- 26 Sadie Yoshimura
- 27 Kory Shino

**Newborn News**

Michael and Lauren Erlacher are blessed to announce the birth of their daughter, Hadley JeAnne Erlacher. Born November 25, weight 8 lbs 15 ozs, height 20.9". Big brother, Rowan is excited for his sister and describes her as "small"! Grandma Betty Murakami is excited for her 18th great grandchild! Doug and Dani are blessed with the two grandchildren! Hadley is beautiful and has kissable cheeks!

**Agape Scholarships**

Applications are available for Mount Hermon Scholarships sponsored by the Agape Women group. Contact Jean Kobayashi for more information.