

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
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Pastor Brad Kramer
info@jccslc.net

Fall/Winter Schedule:
Nichigo, Adult, and Youth
Bible Study/Sunday School,
9:30 a.m.

Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor's Message

In my many months of preaching through the gospel of Luke, I have found chapter 9 to be one of the most challenging sections in all of the gospels. The reason being is that this particular chapter contains some of the strongest calls to discipleship in the Bible.

A Christian disciple is one simply one who follows Jesus. But as the reader discovers in the events of Luke 9, true discipleship is not as easy as one may think. The condition for being saved from sin and becoming a child of God is fairly straightforward – belief in Jesus as the Son of God Who took my place on the cross and paid the penalty for my sins. But once a person experiences that conversion, God issues a call to prioritize their life in such a way that Jesus takes first place in all things. Our Lord uses some pretty blunt language in describing what that means:

- A true disciple will “deny herself and take up her cross and daily and follow her Savior” (Luke 9:23).
- A true disciple will grow in humility and learn to joyfully put others first (Luke 9:48).
- A true disciple will not allow the temptations and distractions of the world to take his focus off of Jesus (Luke 9:62).

In all honesty, I wonder sometimes if I can ever be such a person. The good news is that God is patient with us as we struggle and stumble through life, and He is right there to continually give us the strength and desire to faithfully walk with Him. What He asks of us is that we make following Him a priority.

Pastor Brad

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
 Hiro Iwasaki, Stewardship
 Greg Paige, Personnel, Education
 Pauline Vosburgh, Worship
 Allyn Nakashima

Deacons

Misako Bowker, Miki Harada, Dorthie Conway, Lorraine Crouse, Toshiko Marse, Elaine Iwasaki

Newsletter articles are due on the last Sunday of each month at **noon**. Send your articles to klokawa@msn.com

Website: www.jccslc.net

Easter Photo Reprints

If you would like to order an 8 x 12 reprint of the annual group photograph taken on Easter Sunday, the 4 selections are posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board, along with an order form. The cost is **\$5** per print. Order deadline is **May 14**.

Thanks to Frank Ujifusa for taking the traditional photograph for us every year!

Mother's Day Brunch

Celebrate the day with mom and join us for continental breakfast of pastries, coffee and juice before adult bible study and worship service on **Sunday, May 14, 2017**. The brunch is once again hosted by the Men's group starting at **9:00 a.m.**



Slight Delay

The Herald deadline is the last Sunday of the month, but due to the Memorial Day holiday (and also the editor will be out of town), the June issue of the Herald will be delayed one week. You should receive the newsletter the week of June 7 or 8 next month only.

Memorial Day Services

The traditional Memorial Day candle lighting service will be held on **Sunday, May 28, 2016**. Light a candle in memory of a departed loved one during worship service.

The local JAACL chapters will hold a Veteran's Memorial Service at the Salt Lake City cemetery (Japanese section above 11th Avenue), also on Sunday, May 28. At press time, the start time was not confirmed, but may be 8:00 a.m. When the time is confirmed, an announcement will be made during upcoming worship services.

Condolences

Harry Ota passed away on April 1, 2017. Services were held at the JCC on Saturday, April 15, 2017. Our condolences go out to the Ota and Akagi families at this time.

Condolences to Frank Imai and his family upon the passing of his brother in law, Ken Nihei in San Francisco, CA; and to the Rosevall family for Susan Rosvall's father who passed away in Arizona.



Graduating in the Class of 2017?

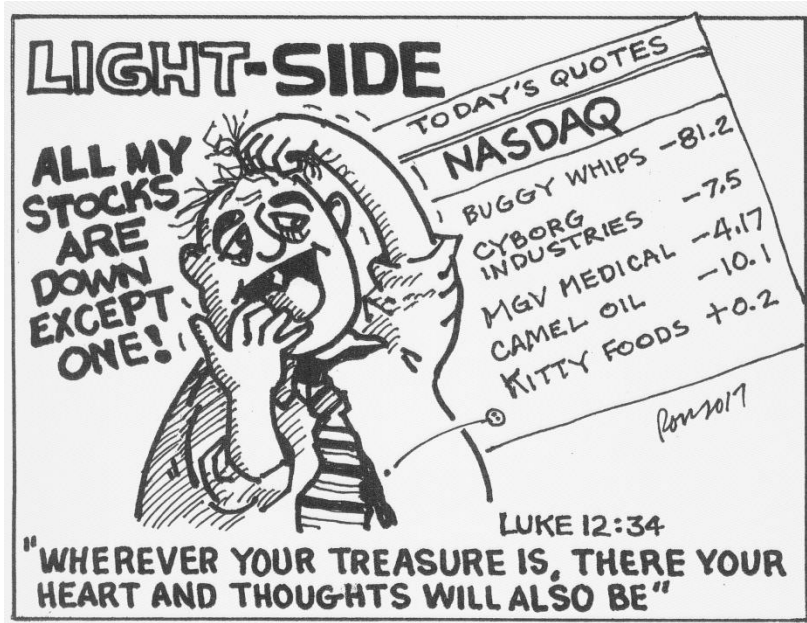
If you are or know of someone who is graduating from high school or college in the Class of 2017, contact **Greg Paige** (801) 277-2266 or gepaige@msn.com by Sunday, May 22. Graduates will be recognized during worship service on Sunday, June 11.



Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Jana Hansen | Utako Aramaki | Mas Horiuchi |
| Wat Misaka | Chris Miya | Grace Matsumura |
| Susan Fukushima | Cristal Aoki | Frank Yoshimura |
| Joy Hashimoto | Dan Crouse | Mr. "C" |
| Ota and Akagi Families | Diane Horve | Aramaki Family |
| Keiko Mori | | |



Thank You From Your Chibi Judoka

Submitted by Abi Shino

I'm finally back to Judo! As many of you may remember, about two years ago I had shoulder surgery after Gold Medaling in the Junior Judo Nationals. Due to my situation, I had to cancel my trip to the next level – the Pan-American Judo Tournament. At this time it was a turning point for me. I was no longer considered a junior in Judo and became a sensei at my Judo club. I also made the decision that I will no longer be competing in Shiai (fighting).

I never forgot those of you who helped fund me. I kept the money waiting for the right opportunity for me. It happened! I prepared for a not-so-well-known Judo competition: Kata. Kata is a detailed, choreographed performance displaying the fundamental techniques of judo. For the first time, the Senior National Championship Tournament was here in Salt Lake City on April 29-30. My partner, Tyler Chen, and I took Bronze! We are very happy with this rank considering we were the first and only team from Utah to compete in Kata, and the youngest and newest competitors.

So, thank you all for your prayers and support! My partner and I are looking forward to advancing further in these competitions!

(Editor's note: Congratulations Abi! What an achievement to compete and place among the best in the nation. Our prayers are with you for continued success!)

Church Women United May Friendship Day

When: Friday, May 5, 2017

Time: 9:30 a.m. registration; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Program and Lunch. Registration \$1.00, Lunch: \$5.00

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8575 So. 700 E

Theme: Kindling New Fires – Kindling New Fires of Love

Potential Speakers: Esther Williams Scholarship Recipients

RSVP Phyllis Allen, (801) 298-7197

End of an Era

The Campbell's Soup Labels for Education program will be discontinued on July 31, 2017. Agape has supported the Menaul school for many years and will send our last contribution on May 15, 2017. Please submit any remaining labels by May 14th or labels may be sent directly to Menaul School, 302 Menaul Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107, through June 30, 2017.

Please continue to collect box tops for Intermountain Christian School and pop tops for Ronald McDonald House.

May Softball Schedule

The JCC co-ed softball season for the month of May:

Friday, May 5: JCC vs. Life Church, Green Field, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 12: JCC vs. Freedom, Green Field, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 19: JCC vs. Sunrise, Yellow Field, 8:30 p.m.

Game Location: West Valley City Recreation Center, 5415 West 3100 South, West Valley City, UT

Be Cautious

Remember to lock your vehicles at all times and place personal possessions in the trunk of your car, out of sight. There have been vehicle break-ins in the area parking lots. Don't leave an invitation for thieves to target your car.

Also, please be cautious whenever accessing the church property and double check doors and gates are secured and locked when leaving the premises.

Come to Sunday School

In the past few weeks, the JCC has had an increase in the attendance of children on Sundays. A dedicated staff of teachers - Laura Olson, Karla Paige, Yoko DeRose, Elise Mori and Elizabeth Ward take turns in providing a Sunday School lesson and activity each week. Please bring your children and grandchildren to meet and gain new friendships and to know, love and serve God for life.

May 2017 - Worship Service Participants

| | May 7 | May 14 | May 21 | Memorial Service May 28 |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Liturgist | Steve Fukumitsu | Ron Nishijima | Hiro Iwasaki | Jan Aramaki |
| Scripture Readers | E) Karen Okawa J) Yeiko Homma | E) Zach Paige J) Shigeko Ota | E) Elise Mori J) Toshiko Marse | E) Betty Kubota J) Shigeko Ota |
| Greeter | Dorthie Conway | Karla Paige | Betty Morishita | Wilma Kimura |
| Ushers | Misako Bowker Motoko Lochner | Lorraine Crouse Al Kubota | Chris Lund Julee Mori | Mary Tabata Pauline Vosburgh |
| Songs of Praise | --- | --- | Brian Itliong | |
| Organist/Pianist | Allyn Nakashima | Greg Paige | Yas Iwamoto | Misako Bowker |
| Offeratory Music | Allyn Nakashima | Greg Paige | Yas Iwamoto | Nichigo Choir |
| Acolyte | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Communion Servers | Al Kubota Ron Nishijima Laura Olson | --- | --- | --- |
| Ed Bldg Monitor | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |

JCC May 2017 Events Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 -Taiko practice, 6pm | 6 |
| 7 -Communion, 10:30 am | 8 -Taiko practice, 6pm | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 -Taiko practice, 6pm | 13 |
| 14 -Mother's Day continental breakfast, 9 am | 15 -Taiko practice, 6pm | 16 -St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, 11:15 am | 17 | 18 | 19 -Taiko practice, 6pm | 20 |
| 21 | 22 -Taiko practice, 6pm | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 -Taiko practice, 6pm | 27 |
| 28 - Memorial Candle Lighting Service, 10:30am | 29 MEMORIAL DAY | 30 | 31 | | | |

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 4/30/17.

For up to date building use information, go to www.jccslc.net, Events/Activities tab, JCC Building Usage Schedule link

May Community Events

Saturday, May 6, 2017 – Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon, sponsored by the Dharma School at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, noon.

Special Senior Health Fair to be held right before the luncheon from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Local health care professionals will take blood pressure screenings, Occupational therapist, pain management and orthopedics, audiology, and a Medicare consultant will all be on hand to answer your questions.

Christian Church Basketball is Underway

Submitted by Dani Murakami

The JCC is fielding two teams in the local area Christian Church basketball league. The under 30 has 2 wins and 1 loss and features Zach Paige, who is averaging 20 points per game! Nick Aoki is a force to reckon with, and back from a busy school schedule is Nate Fukumitsu.

The over 30 team is 1 and 3, but starting to "gel" with Landon Kawabata icing 2 free-throws leading the team to a victory over Zion Lutheran Church.

By far the most popular player in the league is Raymond Uno. A player on the opposing team asked Coach Doug, "Who is that guy? He's my hero. Wow, he's amazing!" In another instance, Frank Mylar with Evangelical Free Church, a well-known attorney in his own right, said "Oh yes, I've appeared before the honorable Judge many times! It's so great to see him out here playing!" I think he's working the refs too, says Coach Doug. I see many of them stop after the game to shake his hand and sit and talk with him for a while. Raymond has made a lot of new friends...and he's getting the well-deserved "superstar" treatment from the refs as well!

After many years of use, our basketball team jerseys are being retired. Thanks to the JCC and Alex Aoyama's late grandfather Terry Aoyama's donation to help fund new team jerseys. Also, thanks to Midori Murakami for designing and ordering the jerseys. The new jerseys will sport the JCC logo along with the player's number. The team will look good out on the court!

All games are held at Southeast Christian Church, 1881 East Vine Street.

May game schedule:

Over 30:

- Tuesday, May 2 6:00 p.m. vs. Adventure
- Tuesday, May 16 6:00 p.m. vs. K2
- Tuesday, May 23 8:00 p.m. vs. MOPC
- Tuesday, May 30 8:00 p.m. vs. K2

Under 30:

- Thursday, May 4 8:00 p.m. vs. Capital Church 2
- Thursday, May 11 8:00 p.m. vs. Canyons
- Tuesday, May 16 7:00 p.m. vs. Canyons
- Thursday, May 25 7:00 p.m. vs. First Presbyterian

Sign Up for Kizuna

As reported last month, Kizuna, a non-profit group whose mission is to educate future Japanese American generations about their culture will be coming to Salt Lake City. Both workshops will be held at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple.



Friday, May 19: A *Cultural Values and Leadership Workshop* for ages 17 to 22; high school and college age students. **6 to 9:30 p.m.** Dinner provided.

Saturday, May 20: *Mochi Making Workshop* (ages 7 to junior high). Learn to make mochi (rice cakes) and learn the cultural lessons of this annual New Year's tradition. **11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Cost \$25 per child. Lunch provided.

It is a great opportunity for our youth and children to participate in. If you have questions, contact Julee or Elise Mori.

Chili Donburi Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who supported the annual Chili Donburi lunch on April 23 in memory of "Doc" Shig Matsukawa. Proceeds will go towards the Lake Tahoe Retreat at the end of July. Doc was a faithful proponent of the retreat. Thanks to Jan Aramaki for preparing Doc's recipe. Oishii!

Mini Matsuri Concert Wrap Up

Nihon Matsuri was postponed this year, but a "Mini Matsuri" program was held at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple on Saturday, April 29, 2017. The concert included our own Kenshin Taiko, as well as Ogden Buddhist Taiko Group, Okinawa Kenjinkai dancers, and koto groups.

Bento box dinners were co-sponsored by the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and JCC as a fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser and to those who helped as volunteers in the kitchen, cooking, grilling, and selling tickets. We appreciate all of your help and for giving time to serve the church.



Kenshin Taiko performs before a standing room only crowd. Photo courtesy: Jan Aramaki

