

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
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Pastor Brad Kramer
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Worship Schedule:

Canceled until further notice
due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Pastor's Message

June 2020

In preaching through the book of Galatians this past month, I have been struck by the urgency by which Paul communicates his message. Man O' Man, he unloads his heart upon his listeners. In some way, it must be a hard letter for his readers to stomach. At one point Paul actually calls the Galatians "fools", because of their abandoning one of the most important tenets of the gospel, which is the work of God's Holy Spirit to sustain His people throughout our Christian life. The reasoning of the Galatians went something like this: "Okay people, we've have placed our faith in Jesus, good for us. But we need to make sure we maintain that right standing before God, and the way we do it is to get busy with a performance program."

Implicit in this argument is that the Spirit of God, which dwells within you, is not enough to bring you to spiritual completion. You have to do this on your own.

Of course this type of thinking runs contrary to scripture. In fact Paul, in his letter to the church in Philippi makes this very clear – "I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

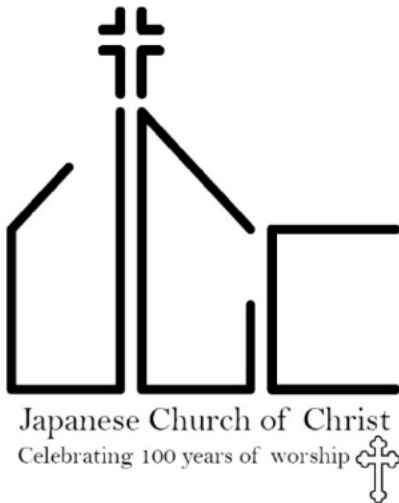
I'm sure you agree with me that there is great reward in growing towards maturity in Jesus. I dearly want to please God in the remaining years of my journey. But to fully do that, I need to realize the critical role that God's Spirit plays in my life. I need to yield to His wise and gracious guidance each and every day. I love the words of the old hymn – "Trust and obey; for there's no other way. To be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey".

May God Bless You Richly,
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: Allyn Nakashima

Session

- Pauline Vosburgh, Finance
- Lorraine Crouse, Worship
- Keiko Ikeda, Nichigo
- Patricia Arakaki Price, Membership
- Steve Fukumitsu, Building
- Yoko DeRose, Nichigo
- Daniel Cheung, Personnel

Deacons

Jan Aramaki, Moderator; Wilma Kimura, Karen Okawa, Akiko Oki, Misako Bowker, Julee Mori, Jean Kobayashi

Newsletter articles are due on the last Saturday of each month at **noon**. Send your articles to [jccherald \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com)

Website: www.jccslc.net

Update from Session

The Session met on May 20 to discuss resuming in-person worship services. The State of Utah has recently moved many of the counties to the "yellow" stage, but Salt Lake City and County remain "orange" in reopening the economy, including gatherings of faith communities.

Unfortunately with the size of the chapel and the number of at-risk members in our congregation, it is not feasible to safely allow live worship services at this time. Session will revisit this plan at the June meeting as they look for guidance from the Presbytery of Utah, state health department and Center for Disease Control (CDC).

So for now, continue to access the weekly online worship service from the JCC website, jccslc.net. A new sermon can be found on the home page. We realize many of our older members may not have a way to view the website. This is a good opportunity for younger family members or friends to bring over a laptop, iPad or smart phone to allow seniors to view and listen to the sermons. The sermons are accessible at any time and can be viewed at your convenience.

As always, thank you for continuing to remit your pledges and offering to the JCC mailing address, **268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101**.

Call for Graduates 2020

Last month we neglected to run an article for a call for graduates in the Class of 2020. If you are or know of someone who graduated from high school or college/university this year, please send the name(s) to Greg Paige at [gpaige\[at\]msn\[dot\]com](mailto:gepaige[at]msn[dot]com) by June 27 for the next Herald publication deadline. Please include the name of the graduate and the name of the school graduated from.



We will list the graduates in the July Herald.

Fellowship Hall Update

Both the Fellowship Hall remodel and repairs to the Pastor's office have been completed. There were small touch ups to be done at the time of printing. Something to look forward to when we can return!

Condolence

Steve Ryerson passed away on March 7, 2020. He was the husband of Linda Aoyama Ryerson. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Aoyama and Ryerson families.

Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Toshiko Marse | Chris Miya | Kai Ronning |
| Yolie LaFontaine | Susan Fukushima | Marie Matsukawa |
| Kenta Naraoka | Steve Fukushima | Tracy Barnes |
| Toy Shimizu | Susan Rosvall | Saeko Nakashima |
| Ryerson family | Sumiko Rosvall | Betty Morishita |

“Zoom” Bible Study

Zoom Bible Study is ongoing. The past two Sundays have had 22 and 21 attendees. Even New York, Virginia and California have been represented, along with Utah! Praise God! Encourage others to attend if they would like to. Help older parents, grandparents, or other relatives get set up and run Zoom.

It is easy to join! Go to the JCC website, jcslc.net and click on “Online Bible Studies Instructions” from the home page. There you will find installation instructions for various devices (iPad, iPhone, Android, etc.) and browsers. Then email [jccherald\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:jccherald[at]gmail[dot]com) to request an invitation to join the meeting. Also be sure to include your email address in the message.

Before Sunday, Greg Paige will send an “invitation” to you via email to join the meeting. On Sunday morning at **9:30 a.m.**, click the link in the invitation or enter the Meeting ID number found in Greg’s email and then you will join the bible study.



Betty Murakami attends bible study via Zoom.
Photo courtesy Lorraine Crouse.

Second Navajo Nation Collection

On Saturday, May 9, the Deacons collected donations for Angel Flight. Thanks to everyone for your generous donations. The following items were collected:

- 6 cases of bottled water
- 2 6-packs of bottled water
- 2 boxes of water bottles
- 4 boxes for packing
- Cash donation
- Homemade face masks

Another collection is scheduled for **Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. to noon**. Bring your donations to the church and it will be taken from your trunk. No physical contact necessary!

Request for donations include: bottled water, plastic bottles for storing water, any Personal Protective Equipment (face masks can be either disposable or homemade), packing boxes and there are two new additions: **toothbrushes and toothpaste**.

Deacon Contacts

If you or if you know of someone that needs food, grocery or necessity errands, or even words of comfort during this time of “stay at home”, please contact one of the Deacons: Jan Aramaki, Misako Bowker, Wilma Kimura, Jean Kobayashi, Julee Mori, Karen Okawa or Akiko Oki.

Contact information can be found in the JCC directory; or email the JCC website, [jccherald\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:jccherald[at]gmail[dot]com).



Mount Hermon Canceled

The JEMS Mount Hermon camp has officially been canceled based upon the coronavirus restrictions for Santa Cruz County to cancel summer programs. An update is found here:

<https://www.jems.org/mount-hermon-update/>