

# 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**

**May 2020**

Bear Grylls is a force of nature. He is a former Special Forces soldier, an Everest mountaineer, and star of the Discovery TV series Man vs. Wild. He is also a committed follower of Jesus Christ. I stumbled across a book written by Bear entitled "Soul Fuel" that I have begun using during our Session meetings as a devotional help. This morning I came across his devotional entry on the subject of peace. He talks about "peace" with God, "peace" with others, and then finally "peace" with ourselves:

"A lot of us struggle with this one. Our minds can be anything but peaceful. But you and I can know a true and lasting peace through Christ's presence in our hearts: A calm and peaceful and tranquil heart is life and health to the body (Proverbs 14:30 AMP)."

We can all say "amen" to that scripture. There is great blessing when we experience this type of peace that only comes from knowing God. However, it can be an elusive quality; especially when we allow worry to crowd our lives. Peace seems to vanish as we get bogged down with the stress and concerns of day to day living. The antidote is found in the book of Philippians;

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

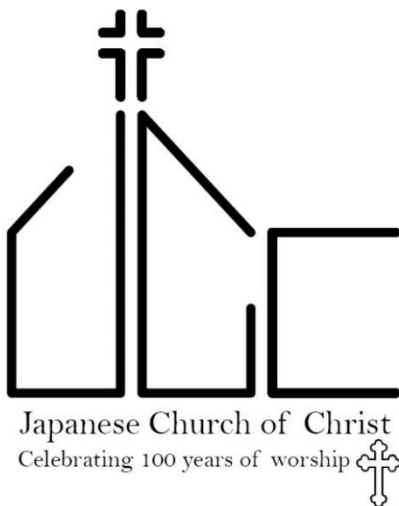
Prayer, petition, thanksgiving = peace. If it sounds too good to be true, I encourage you to give it a try and allow God to surprise you.

Praying for God's peace,  
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](http://www.jccslc.net)

**Update from Session**

Last month, it was reported that possibly a post office box could be set up, but it turns out that is not cost effective. Instead, the post office will hold the JCC mail at the post office for pick up by designated JCC personnel, rather than make deliveries to the empty church building.

Still remit your pledges by sending a check to the JCC mailing address, **268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101**. A system will be set up to have the mail picked up at the post office and deposits will continue to be made. Rest assured that your checks remain secure. Thank you for your pledges and offerings, there are still utilities, insurance and other monthly bills to be paid.

**As of this printing, worship services are canceled through the month of June. If the situation changes, we will keep you informed.**

**“Zoom” Bible Study**

Zoom Bible Study has been going well! The average attendance for April is 16 participants! Last week, Betty Morishita joined us from the East coast. It was great to see her!

It is not too late to join in. Just go to the JCC website, [jccslc.net](http://jccslc.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@gmail.com) to request an invitation to join the meeting. Also be sure to include your email address in the message. Before Sunday, Greg 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, enter the Meeting ID number found in Greg’s email and then you will join the bible study.

**Online Sermons**

Every Sunday, a new sermon is uploaded to the JCC website, **jccslc.net**. The latest sermon appears directly on the home page. To view past sermons, go to “Sermons” from the menu banner and click on the “Sermons from 2020” link. There you will find sermons for the months of March and April to view them at your convenience.

**Condolence**

Mimi Cox passed away on April 23, 2020 at the age of 86. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family.

**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 |
| Debbie Homma     | Sumiko Rosvall  | Betty Morishita |
| Cox family       |                 |                 |

**Fellowship Hall Remodel Update**

The Fellowship Hall remodel is complete in the main hall, kitchen, bathrooms and staircase. Work is approximately 75% complete to repair the water damage in the offices.

Throughout this crisis, God has plentifully supplied JCC with financial means and the construction team to complete the project. We look forward to the day when we can celebrate and dedicate our updated facilities.

**Mount Hermon/Lake Tahoe**

The Zephyr Point Lake Tahoe conference scheduled for the end of July has been officially canceled for this year. The conference will resume in July 2021.

As of this printing, JEMS Mount Hermon has not yet officially canceled its June/July conference. We will keep you informed on the status.

**Thank You!**

A big thank you to Paul DeRose for his dedication and hard work in keeping us all connected during this uncertain time. Each week Paul records the sermons, edits and coordinates getting them posted to the website. He also assisted in setting up the Zoom bible study log in and in mailing the Herald! We are so fortunate to have such great technical support.

**Deacons At Your Service**

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 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).

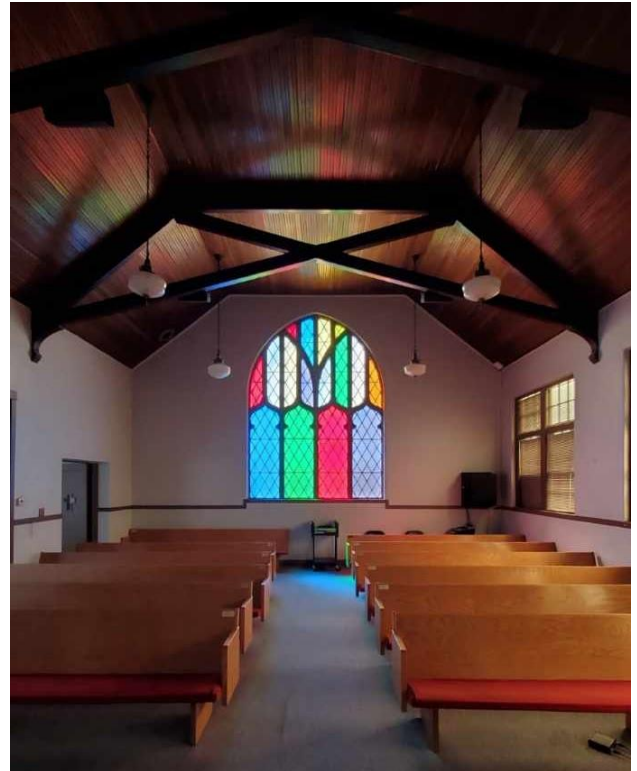
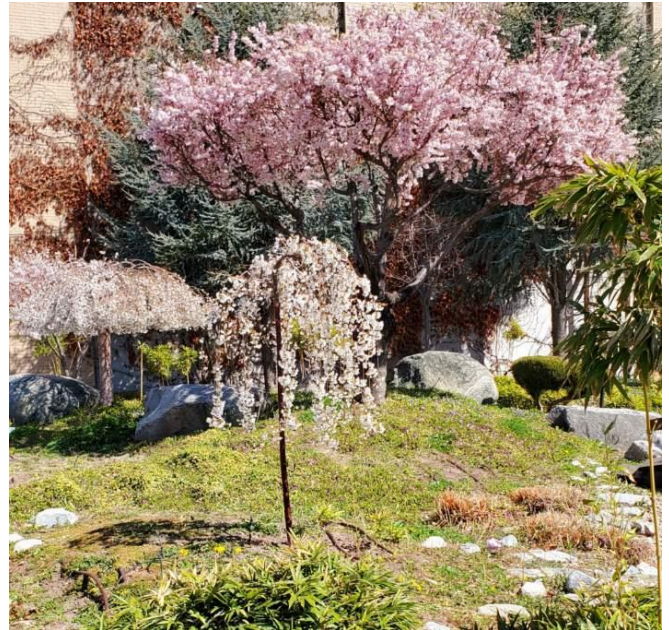
**Community Events Status**

The Nikkei Senior Center May Luncheon was scheduled for May 2, 2020; but has been canceled. Future Nikkei Senior Center luncheons are also on hold as long as large mass gatherings are prohibited. Stay tuned on the status.

At press time, the JA CL Memorial Day service at the Salt Lake City cemetery has not been officially canceled and is still on the schedule for Sunday, May 24 at 8:30 a.m. Check back for current status as the date draws closer for an update.

**It is Spring, Pandemic or Not**

The garden next to the JCC was in full bloom with spring blossoms while sunlight poured through the stained glass, illuminating the empty chapel on a quiet Easter Sunday 2020.



*Photos courtesy Suzanne Hata*

## Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month

While you are staying at home and looking for something to watch on public television, here is an offering.

The month of May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage month. In recognition of the month, PBS Utah (Channel 7) will air a two night series examining the significant role of Asian Americans in shaping American history and identity.

Part 1 will air on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. will examine how new immigrants from China, Japan and beyond, fought for equality; then had their loyalty tested during World War II.

Part 2 will air on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and explore the younger Asian American generation still fighting for equality and empowerment.

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## Ways You Can Help at This Time

During this pandemic, there are ways to volunteer:

- Sew face masks for the community. First responders need N95 quality masks, but a simple cloth covering is recommended for the general public. (See next article)
- Volunteer – Utah Food Bank, for one, needs volunteers. Check local listings; there will be a need somewhere.
- Donate money – to any number of causes; healthcare workers, community food banks, restaurant workers fund.
- Donate blood – blood drives across the country have been canceled, so supplies are short. Contact the local Red Cross office. Redcross.org

KSL published a list of local volunteer opportunities: <https://www.ksl.com/article/41038980/14-local-volunteer-opportunities-to-check-out>

## PC-USA Resources

The PC-USA website, <https://www.pcusa.org/> has links to many resources to help guide us through this pandemic.

Include in your daily prayers:

- Those on the front line – first responders and healthcare workers who willingly jeopardize their own lives to confront this disease; medical workers and staff
- Those who are sick and the caregivers tending to them
- Those who work in service industries such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and other services; keeping shelves stocked to provide us with food, prescriptions and other necessities

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## Face Mask Patterns

Face masks are recommended to be worn in public settings when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Even wearing a simple cloth covering over the nose and mouth possibly slows the spread of the virus and can be made from common materials.

The following link goes to the CDC website and has guidelines for wearing face masks and how to make your own – there are sewing instructions as well as steps on how to fold a no-sew version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>