

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.

Easter Events (Virtual)

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we will not be able to celebrate Easter in our traditional manner for a second year in a row. But two annual services will still occur virtually – Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.

These services will be conducted in the same way as the weekly sermons. Go to the **JCC website**, jccslc.net, and simply click on the appropriate links on the home page.

Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, April 1, 2021

A short virtual service commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. Communion will also take place at this service, so have a little grape juice and cracker on hand to participate. Traditionally, following this service, participants would partake of the Seder Meal. (See the article on Page 4 that explains the components of the Seder Meal.)

Easter Sunday Service – Sunday, April 4, 2021

Join us for a virtual service celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ! We will miss the Sunday School pageant of placing flowers on the cross, but a festive service is planned with special music. Communion will be given, so again, have grape juice and crackers ready. Dress up in your Sunday best!

As the COVID vaccine becomes more widely available, we look forward to the not-so-distant time when we will be able to gather in person once again!

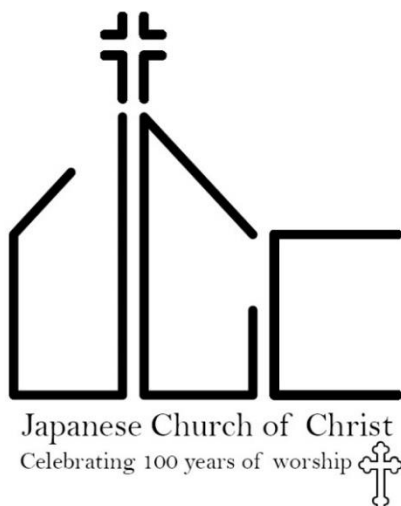
(See related story on Page 2 of this newsletter.)



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



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

Pastor Brad Kramer

Clerk of Session: Daniel Cheung

Session

- Lorraine Crouse - Worship
- Steve Fukumitsu - Stewardship
- Paul DeRose - Building and Grounds
- Yoko DeRose - Nichigo
- Allyn Nakashima - Membership
- Greg Paige - Education, Personnel
- Pauline Vosburgh - Finance

Deacons

Karen Okawa (moderator), Jan Aramaki, Akiko Oki, Julee Mori, Jean Kobayashi, Laura Olson, Elaine Iwasaki

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

Save the Date

This event is still two months away, but mark **Sunday, June 20, 2021** for the annual **Father's Day Picnic!** This event will be our kickoff in returning to in-person worship on June 27th. It will take place in the JCC courtyard which will allow us to social distance in an outdoor setting (weather permitting). (The courtyard also maintains a controlled environment, rather than in a public park/facility).



After worship service, please stay for the "picnic" if you choose. It will be BYOB (Bring Your Own Bento). (No potluck, to avoid sharing serving utensils.) But it will be a great time for fellowship and to visit with members of the JCC family in person rather than a face on Zoom!

This event, of course, will depend on the status of the pandemic at that date and state and local guidance. More details will be announced in the May and June Herald. Stay tuned!

Session Committee Assignments

The new Session committee assignments are as follows:

- Daniel Cheung - Clerk of Session
- Lorraine Crouse - Worship
- Steve Fukumitsu - Stewardship
- Paul DeRose - Building and Grounds
- Yoko DeRose - Nichigo
- Allyn Nakashima - Membership
- Greg Paige - Education, Personnel
- Pauline Vosburgh - Finance

In addition to these assignments, Daniel will serve as Commissioner to the Presbytery/UCC and Allyn will also serve on the Nominating Committee and as Herald liaison.

We are grateful to these members for their dedicated service to the JCC.

Remember in Your Prayers

Due to COVID-19 and the fact that we have not been able to be together in person, it has been difficult to keep this prayer list up to date. If you or know of someone that should be added or removed from this list, please email the JCC website, jccslc.net, and indicate what should be updated. Thank you!

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Toshiko Marse | Chris Miya | Kai Ronning |
| Kenta Naraoka | Saeko Nakashima | Dorthie Conway |
| Toy Shimizu | Susan Fukushima | Susan Rosvall |
| Betty Morishita | Steve Fukushima | Sumiko Rosvall |

Easter 2021

As we've been working through the book of Romans each week, I hope you have been struck by the immense importance of faith in coming to know God. And yet, the expectation of faith for the believer does not stop at the point of salvation. We see how people of God are encouraged to maintain a daily faith in the Lord and His character as a means of pleasing Him as well as dealing with life's struggles.

In our celebration of Easter, we come face to face with the One in whom we place our ongoing trust – Jesus Christ, the Son of God raised from the dead so people of all ethnicities could find true liberation, peace and a confidence to keep moving forward in spite of the many trials we face.

It was the reality of a risen Savior that forever changed Simon Peter the brash and impetuous fisherman into the Apostle Peter, leader of a new religious group known as Christians. We get a glimpse of Peter's unwavering faith in Acts 5 as he faces down the religious elite of his day. After being put in prison for proclaiming the risen Christ, Peter and the Apostle are sprung from captivity by an angel of the Lord. They then return to the temple to continue teaching "the whole message of this life" (Acts 5:20). Of course the religious leaders are not happy about this and demand an explanation. Peter steps up – the man who had previously denied knowing Jesus – and says simply, "We must obey God rather than men." Peter no longer feared people or circumstances. Why? Because he had seen the resurrected Messiah, and happily submitted himself to His good and perfect will. He discovered that we are at our most secure when we look past our fears and place our focus on the goodness of Jesus.

It is my prayer for our JCC family that much like Peter, we move forward in a spirit of faith in the One Who conquered death so that we may live the abundant life that He intended for us.

God Bless You Richly,

Pastor Brad



The Seder Meal

The Seder Meal is the traditional meal of the Passover on Maundy Thursday. Maundy Thursday remembers how Jesus taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. The day also celebrates the Lord’s Supper, remembering the meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his death.

The Seder Meal consists of the following six symbolic foods:

- **Karpas** (parsley or celery), represents hope and redemption. It is dipped in a bowl of salt water to represent tears shed by the Israelites.
- **Maror** (horseradish), is a bitter herb used to symbolize the bitterness of slavery.
- **Chazeret** (romaine lettuce or endive) is a second bitter herb.
- **Charoset** (mixture of apples or fruit and nuts and cinnamon) is a reminder of the mortar used by the Jews in construction.
- **Beitzah** (hard-boiled egg) symbolizes life and the perpetuation of existence.
- **Zeroah** (roasted lamb) symbolizes the Paschal sacrificial offering and the outstretched arm of God.

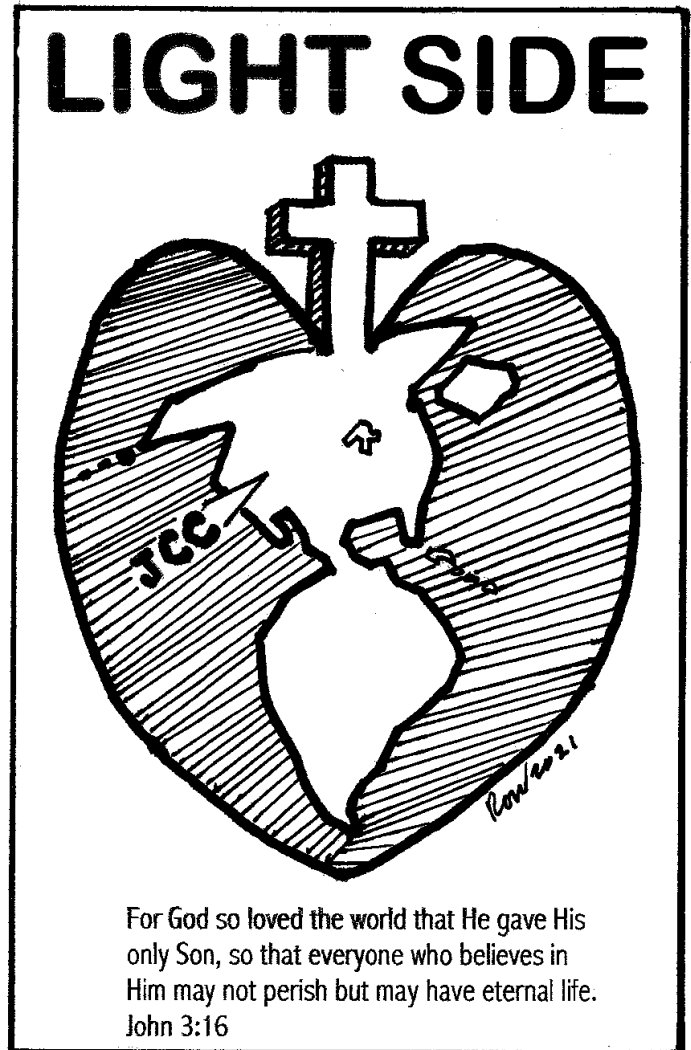
Presbyterian Women in Utah Virtual Spring Gathering

“Me and White Supremacy” - this virtual presentation is an introduction to the work of Layla Saad as we learn together how we can personally make a difference in the work of anti-racism. What do you benefit from? What do you create and sustain? And how can you change those things individually and together?

The presentation is facilitated by Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks.

The event is **on Saturday, April 17, 2021, 9:40 a.m. to Noon.**

Contact carolanneday@gmail.com to register by April 14.



For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.
John 3:16