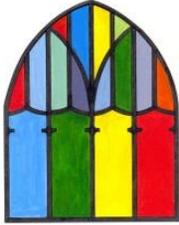


The HERALD Newsletter

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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

March 2021

I was talking with a young man recently who wanted to know how to better tap into God's power in order to live a better life. First of all, that's a good question; and one that should pop into all of our minds at one time or another – probably multiple times. I suggested to him a good place to start would be opening up the Bible and allowing God's word to "wash over" him.

I wasn't implying some mystical experience but rather just letting God speak to him and his problems through His inspired text. I think we often make the mistake of looking first to other sources of encouragement and peace, such as medicine or counseling, instead of going directly to the One Who can help us the most. This is not to demean in any way the benefits of other disciplines. My point is that when we find ourselves lost or hurting, our Lord wants us to come to Him and seek His counsel and comfort. Because it is when we go before God in this way, that we receive peace that is unavailable elsewhere.

Please consider my favorite Psalm; which happens to be the first one:

Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
2 But his delight is in the Law of the Lord,
And on His Law he meditates day and night.
3 He will be like a tree planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Let us be people who take time to meditate on the word of our God, and experience His blessings.

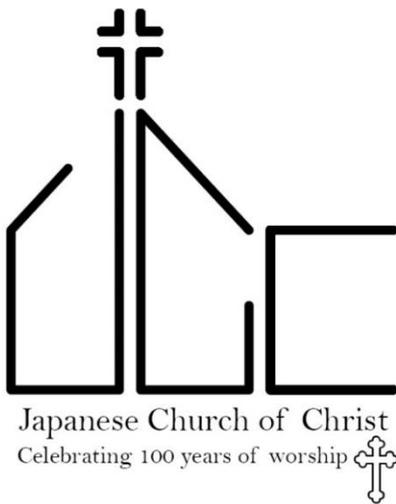
May God Bless You Richly,

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

- Lorraine Crouse
- Steve Fukumitsu
- Yoko DeRose
- Daniel Cheung
- Greg Paige
- Pauline Vosburgh

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 jcc Herald [at] gmail [dot] com.

Website: www.jccslc.net

2021 Congregational Meeting Recap

The Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 via Zoom due to the pandemic. Thanks to the Deacons for calling and delivering hardcopies of the Annual Report to those who wanted them.

The meeting was held immediately following the Adult Bible Study and Pastor Brad led the ecclesiastical portion of the meeting. A quorum of members was in attendance and the agenda approved.

The 2021 budget was presented by Pauline Vosburgh. For 2020, the budget reflected a profit of \$7,664.72, despite the pandemic; but the 2021 budget projection is a deficit of (-\$5,735.00). The JCC has applied for a PPP (Payroll Protection Program) loan.

New officers for Session, Deacons, Board of Trustees and Nominating committee were installed.

- Session: Greg Paige
- Deacons: Elaine Iwasaki, Laura Olson, Jan Aramaki
- Board of Trustees: Karla Paige, Victor Homma
- Nominating Committee: Yoko DeRose

Al Kubota, representing Cascade Corporation, presented the corporation report. Due to COVID, there were only two months of income from parking last year. Income for 2021 will also be limited depending on completion of construction on First South and other issues.

A big thank you to Paul DeRose for getting us all “connected” in order to attend this important meeting virtually.

Our Daily Bread Now Available

The quarterly issue (March, April and May 2021) of “Our Daily Bread,” the daily devotional booklet, is now available. If you would like a copy, please email jccslc.net or call Karen Okawa to have a copy mailed or delivered to you.



Our appreciation and thanks to Laura Olson for continuing to provide these booklets for so many years.

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 |
| Mary Tabata | Tomiko Ozaki | |

Task Force Update

Submitted by Paul DeRose

The Task Force continues to meet monthly to discuss JCC’s eventual reopening. We are keeping a close eye on vaccine development and distribution here in Utah and look forward to the day when we can all safely gather once again at church. Please stay tuned for updates in the coming months.

Have you checked out Pastor Brad’s new devotionals yet? If not, you can easily access them by visiting JCC’s website home page and clicking on the devotional playlist link provided in the center of the page, which will direct you to JCC’s YouTube channel devotional playlist. Pastor Brad’s new messages run about 7 to 8 minutes in length and will be posted every other Wednesday—the first devotional posted on February 3rd.

Go to - jccslc.net
 Click - NEW:Biweekly Devotional Playlist
 Click - Devotional #1, #2, or #3

Stay connected! Stay safe!

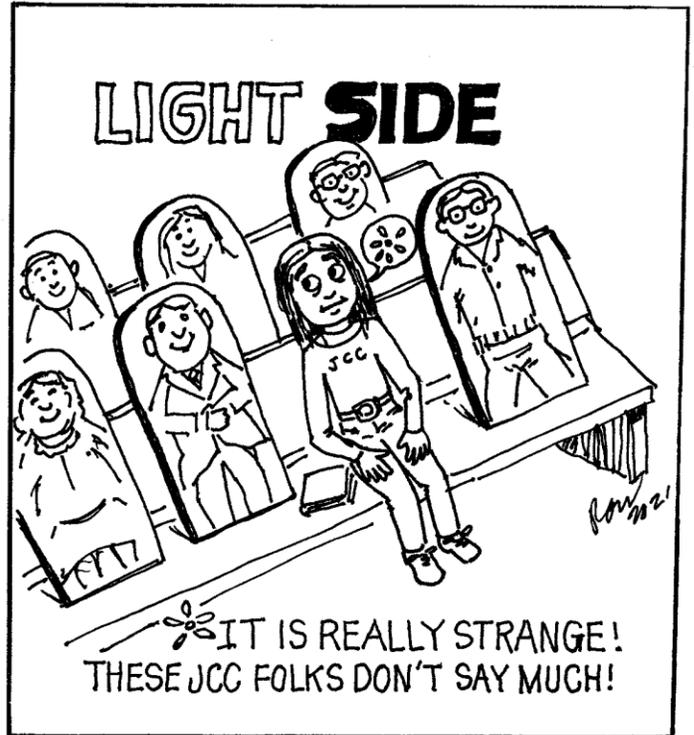
Annual Report Art

Many thanks to Elizabeth Ward for creating the beautiful cover for this year’s Annual Report. We are blessed to have such talent in our congregation!



Feed Utah

The Feed Utah food drive, sponsored by the Utah Food Bank, will be held during the month of March. The goal is to provide food for Utahns this year, facing hunger due to economic fallout resulting from COVID-19. Go to <https://feedutah2021.org> for information on how you can support this food drive. Food can be dropped off at many grocery locations: Dan’s Foods, Macey’s and Fresh Market. A list of participating locations is also found on that website.



Living with COVID-19: Vaccine Update

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

Vaccine supplies are increasing daily. A third vaccine, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was approved this week for emergency use by the FDA so roll out of this vaccine can begin. It is important to keep checking back with your vaccine provider regularly for availability. Currently, Utah is working toward vaccinating everyone over the age of 65 years. The most reliable source to keep checking with is your county health department; do this on-line if possible. However, we anticipate that pharmacies will soon start receiving vaccine supplies as well. Vaccine delivery is also improving. Initially, lines were long and second dose appointments could not be made at the point the first dose was given. That has all changed, and if you have an appointment, you should be able to get your vaccine close to the appointment time. The second dose appointment will be given to you before you leave.

Side effects appear to be more common with the second dose of vaccine than the first dose. This is normal because your immune system was primed by the first dose so you can have a fairly significant immune response to the second dose which accounts for symptoms. Common symptoms include soreness at the injection site, low-grade fever (usually <100 oF), and body aches and pains. Tylenol or another antipyretic usually improves the symptoms and they usually only last 1-3 days.

Anecdotally, people who received the Moderna vaccine seem to have more symptoms with the second dose than the Pfizer vaccine. (Continued on Page 4)

Living with COVID-19: Vaccine Update:

(Continued from Page 3)

Teachers and others who are working may want to schedule their second dose on a Thursday or Friday so they have the weekend to recover. Concerns about side effects should be discussed with your doctor and should not be a reason to avoid getting the vaccine.Q&A

How effective are vaccines in preventing COVID-19 infection?

The currently available vaccines have efficacies of between 70-90% on a population basis. Individual factors such as the ability to mount a strong immune response can impact the ability of vaccine to protect an individual. Certain conditions, e.g., older age, diabetes, underlying illnesses, can predispose to a weaker immune response. Public health estimates that 80% of a population needs to be vaccinated to get to "herd immunity" where community transmission will cease. We are still at <10% of the U.S. population vaccinated, but we hope that this will improve greatly in the next several months.

Should I still wear a mask after I get vaccinated?

While we have continue to have a large number of cases reported daily, it is important to continue the prevention measures of mask wearing, social distancing, and regular handwashing. Utah currently has about 700 cases being diagnosed daily. Until this number drastically goes down, everyone should continue the prevention measures. This will also encourage others who are not yet vaccinated to continue these measures.

My Faith Journey

Submitted by Alison Y eh C heung

Although I did not grow up with a Christian family, a childhood friend and her family faithfully brought me to church every week throughout primary and secondary school (she is still one of my closest friends today!). I realized later on that the church was, in fact, my Christian family that ate with me, celebrated major life events with me, comforted me in times of need, nurtured my faith, and loved on me throughout my journey. Though my journey would inevitably face life's ups and downs, this love would always remind me of God's love and faithfulness and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ

As an only child with divorced parents, I was a latchkey kid who felt that I had a broken family. However, I knew that my church family who had adopted me into their lives was a glimpse of what God intended families and churches to be.

(My Faith Journey Continued)

This led me to join Christian student ministries at my high school and in my community. I became a leader for the Christian club at my high school, and for Campus Heart, a network of seven different Christian clubs from schools in neighboring cities. These ministries also became part of my family in Christ, and even gave me lasting friendships, including the mutual friend who introduced me to my husband, Daniel! Although I was a leader for these groups, it took me a while to realize what it truly meant to be Christian. It was only by watching those around me practice their faith that I learned that I was to do everything I do for the glory of God, and that was what it meant to be a follower of Christ. Since then, Colossians 3:17 has served as a guiding verse for my journey: And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A dramatically difficult season of my life began in my second year of college. In one of my visits back home to Los Angeles, to my horror, I found my dad at home right after he had already passed. I was in shock and in disbelief, and hyperventilating to the point where I was losing blood flow and could not feel my hands. While paramedics attended to me and the situation, a friend who was with me had called to let my church family know. A loving neighbor brought me into their home and the next thing I knew, I was crying into the arms of members from my church family who dropped what they were doing to drive over to be with me. I truly do not know what I would have done without the love, warmth, and guidance they provided during such a hard time, and also during a series of difficult events that I faced after that day as a very young student. Although there were many traumatic events that happened during that time, one thing that I remember was never feeling for one moment that I wasn't loved, no matter how low or lonely I felt. By God's grace, I felt and knew that I was loved, and I think that was what gave me hope that He would deliver me through this time and give me the strength to keep my eyes toward the light at the end of the tunnel. It was also during that time that I met Daniel, which I felt was another reminder of God's love. That particularly challenging season truly gave me a confidence in God's faithfulness; I know that it is only through Him that I had the strength to survive (which I continue to rely on to get through my PhD program)!

I continue to be reminded of and experience God's love today, especially through the JCC community. I am so grateful to have met the members of JCC who have welcomed Daniel and me into the family and regularly demonstrate God's love to us throughout the time we have been in SLC. As I move forward in my journey, I hope to continue to learn from our church family and share the love I've received in Christ.