

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
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Pastor Brad Kramer
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Worship Schedule:
Service
10:30 a.m.

Pastor's Message

August 2021

You may know that I am in the midst of a new sermon series entitled, "Old Testament Influencers", I will be finishing a three part look at Jonah this coming Sunday. Most of us recognize Jonah as the disaffected prophet who ran from the Lord and ended up being swallowed by a very large fish. I'm afraid though; if that is all we know then we are missing some critical lessons from this small book.

I would like to summarize the primary lessons which I believe emerge from this study and encourage you to read the four chapters of Jonah and allow God to work on your heart.

Lesson #1 – Don't run from God. If you believe that God is prompting you to do something that may be difficult (such as forgiving someone, or possibly even attending church again), do not ignore His call. Jonah ran from God's will and yet in the end after much trauma, he ended up doing what he was called to do. If we belong to God, He will accomplish His will in our lives; the question is; how long will we fight Him?

Lesson #2 – Repent of your sin. The people, to whom Jonah was called, the Assyrians, were particularly wicked. Yet after hearing God' word proclaimed by Jonah, the people of Nineveh repented of their sins. And God had mercy on them. Now you and I are not nearly as bad as the Assyrians, but we are certainly in need of God's forgiveness. Take time to reflect on your sin and humbly bring it before God. No sin is too great for God to forgive.

Lesson #3 – Learn to love unlovable people. Jonah hated the people from Nineveh, and with good reason. One of the things Jonah had to learn is that God loved them in spite of their evil behavior. If there are people whom I find difficult to love, I need to ask God's Holy Spirit to work a change within me so that I would learn to love all of His people.

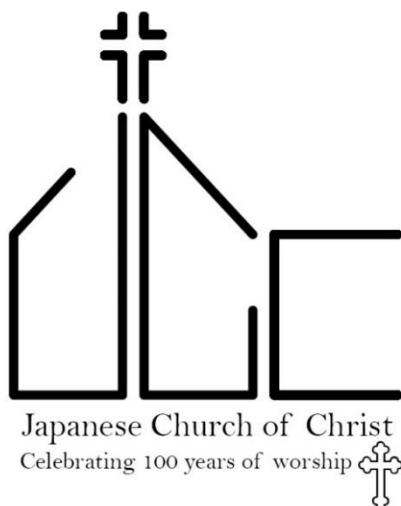
May God Bless You Richly,

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: 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

Address Change - Again

Last year during the pandemic shut down, there were not many people physically going to the JCC buildings on a regular basis. So in order to receive mail - especially pledges - safely, Session made the decision to rent a post office box at the downtown location, which JCC personnel have been collecting from for the past year.

However, now that we have returned to in-person worship services and there are more people physically at the church during the week, it was decided to end rental of the P.O. Box, effective July 17, 2021.

Thus if you have been sending offering and other correspondence to the P. O. Box 1495, please do not send anything to that address from now on. Address any correspondence to our regular street address:

Japanese Church of Christ
268 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

If you have automatic deductions set up for pledges with your financial institution, you will need to alert that institution to change the address back to our physical street address. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Worship Service Protocol

See page 4 for the list of worship service participants for the month of August 2021. Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall which allows chairs to be placed apart for physical distancing.

When inside the Fellowship Hall, please wear a face mask at all times. If you forget to bring your mask, there are a few disposable masks at the entrance.

Singing of hymns is allowed during service, as long as you are wearing a face mask. An offering box is found at the entrance to deposit donations.

Coffee Fellowship will be held outside on the deck until further notice. Grab your chair after worship service and take it outdoors. Bottled water and pre-packaged snacks will be available. (Or bring your own water bottle and try out the new water fountain.)



Remember in Your Prayers

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 | Sumi Arakaki | |

Our Daily Bread – Fall Issue

Copies of Our Daily Bread covering September through November 2021 will soon be available. If you would like a copy sent to you, please email JCC at jccherald@gmail.com. Copies will also be available at church in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee Fellowship Volunteers

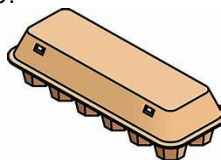
Coffee Fellowship has resumed, now that in-person worship is taking place. We are seeking additional and new volunteers to bring some goodies or treats to share. (By the way, bringing a coffee fellowship treat is not gender exclusive!) In addition to sharing a treat, other tasks include helping with set up, serving coffee and treats, and clean up.

If you would like to volunteer, please email jccherald@gmail.com and note which week of the month you would like to participate on. (If you previously were on a team, but wish to “retire” now, that is ok too; just let us know! We appreciate your contributions through the years.)

Wanted: Egg Cartons

Tomoko Moses is working on a project that requires egg cartons. Any type – cardboard or styrofoam, tray quantities of half dozen, dozen or 18. If you can save your cartons, please bring them to church and leave them in the labeled box in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

Write your name on the carton, and you may receive a prize from Tomoko!



COVID-19 Reminders

There has been a recent uptick in COVID cases. Let us be prudent and continue to:

- wear a face mask while inside the church buildings
- use hand sanitizer
- practice physical distancing
- If you don't feel well or have symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and contact your physician

Nihongo Gakko Classes to Begin

Japanese language classes will start on **Sunday, August 15, 2021** in the JCC Fellowship Hall:

- 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. - Advanced conversation/reading/writing for those who want to brush up on their Japanese.
- 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. - Basic Japanese. Lessons on the Japanese alphabet, greetings, basic grammar and useful expressions.

The instructor for the classes is Tomoko Moses, a native speaker with teaching credentials from the Utah State Board of Education.

Since the class will be held indoors, face masks will be required at all times.

Deacons Upcoming Project

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

Helping those experiencing homelessness to get vaccinated.

Salt Lake City is setting up vaccination sites to encourage those experiencing homelessness to get vaccinated. As an approach to entice people to attend, the City is reaching out to faith-based organizations to make 100 sack lunches to hand out to people who show up to get vaccinated.

The JCC Deacons are partnering with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple to help with this project. The Buddhist Temple plans to make the sack lunches for August and the Deacons plan to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the 100 sack lunches to serve to people on **Monday, September 27, 2021**.

Through the month of August and September, there will be a box at church to collect donations of:

- Jars of peanut butter
- Jars of jam
- Small bottles of Gatorade
- Bottled water
- Individual bags of chips
- Individually wrapped snacks that aren't perishable from heat

HEBREWS 13:16

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Upcoming Community Events

- Mount Olympus JAACL August Outing – Saturday, August 14, 2021, noon. High Point Park, 7800 South and 1000 East. Potluck, chapter providing fried chicken. Bingo, children's games.

August 2021 - Worship Service Participants

	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
Liturgist	Greg Paige	Ron Nishijima	Julee Mori	Steve Fukumitsu	Jan Aramaki
Scripture Readers	E) Alison Cheung J) Akiko Oki	E) Zach Paige J) Tomiko Osaki	E) Elise Mori J) Misako Bowker	E) Pauline Vosburgh J) Yoko DeRose	E) Lorraine Crouse J) Mike Flemming
Greeter	Garin Harada	Karla Paige	Lorraine Crouse	Betty Kubota	Lorraine Crouse
Organist/Pianist	Daniel Cheung	Greg Paige	Yoko DeRose	Allyn Nakashima	Allyn Nakashima

Deacon’s meeting – second Sunday of the month (8/8), immediately following worship service in Pastor Brad’s office.

Living with COVID-19: Delta Variant and Break-through Infections

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

The SARS CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19 mutates as do all viruses. The rate of mutation depends on the number of people infected and the viral replication rate. These are both very high for SARS CoV-2 so it is not surprising that there are many new mutant variants emerging. The delta variant which was first detected in India is important because this mutation allows the virus to infect others more efficiently; It is estimated that transmission efficiency is 50-100% greater than for other variants. In the United States, this variant has rapidly become the predominant variant, and it is estimated that more than 80% of new cases are infected with this variant. This has resulted in increasing trends of COVID-19 across the country, and some areas, e.g., Los Angeles County, have reinstated their shut down policies. Utah has not currently done this, but cases are on the rise, and we are currently at about 650 cases per day. Because of the increased transmission efficiency of the delta variant, >80% of persons need to be fully vaccinated for Utah to reach the desired <50 cases per day. Currently, we are at about 50% of the population fully vaccinated.

The good news is that most of the current vaccines used in the U.S. (e.g., Pfizer and Moderna) are very effective in preventing infection with the delta variant. The one exception is the Johnson and Johnson single dose vaccine, which does not protect as well against delta variant infection. There will likely be new recommendations soon for revaccination or a booster for those persons who received this vaccine. Consult your primary care physician on what is recommended if you received the J&J vaccine.

(Living with COVID-19 continued)

Break-through infections are infections that occur in previously vaccinated individuals. These infections remain uncommon in the United States. In addition, break-through infections tend to be milder and not require hospitalization. Currently, 97% of emergency room visits due to COVID-19 requiring hospitalization are among unvaccinated persons.

The increased transmissibility of the delta variant makes it important for all persons to get vaccinated unless there are medical reasons for not doing so. Vaccinated persons can safely return to most pre-COVID-19 activities as long as they are not in large, densely packed crowds where vaccination rates are unknown. Most businesses, e.g., grocery stores, take out restaurants, beauty salons, etc., no longer require masking, although many businesses ask unvaccinated people to continue to wear masks. Elderly persons and those who are immunocompromised should continue to avoid crowded indoor situations where people are unmasked. Unfortunately, this includes eating indoors in crowded restaurants and going to group entertainment events (e.g., Utah Jazz games, movies, concerts, etc.) if masking is not required.

If you are not vaccinated, please consider getting vaccinated for your own safety and the safety of others!