

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

October 2020

I recently glanced at an article that began with a question prompted by the alarming spread of the coronavirus - "Are we witnessing the end of the world?" I have heard others ask the same question lately, and to be honest, I have wondered myself. No doubt, this year has been unlike any other in my memory. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, our country is experiencing massive political division that has resulted in journalism characterized by nasty and profane tirades, violent clashes and rioting in our cities, and the seeming inability of our politicians to find common ground on any issue. I even listened to a podcast where the host and his guest both suggested the possibility of civil war.

So does this all signal the "last days", when we will see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? The short answer is, I have no idea. Jesus Himself made it clear that no one can ever predict the date of His return - That is known only by His Father. The Bible does tell us however, that our Lord could return at any time. In fact, the Apostle James wrote in the first century that the coming of the Lord "is at hand" (James 5:8). The Christian church has been waiting 2000 years for Jesus' glorious return. The question then shouldn't be, "Are we witnessing the end of the world?" But rather, "What should I be doing until that time?" The Bible invites readers to be about the business of honoring God as if every day could be our last.

Warren Wiersbe tells a story of when he was a young man preaching on the last days with all the events of prophecy clearly laid out and perfectly planned. At the end of the service, an older gentleman came up to him and whispered in his ear, "I used to have the Lord's return planned out to the last detail, but years ago I moved from the planning committee to the welcoming committee."

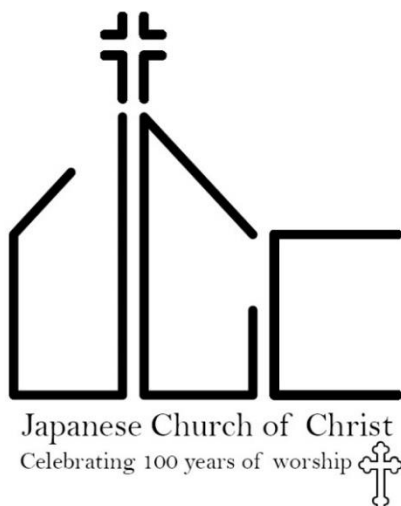
Let us all be a part of the welcoming committee.

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; 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

Task Force Update

The next JCC Task Force meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2020. Discussions will continue on how best to meet the needs of the JCC congregation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The task force presented its draft re-entry proposal to the Session at the September Session meeting to consider what an eventual return to JCC might look like; however, due to the lengthy nature of the proposal, the Session decided to take a couple of weeks to carefully review the document and discuss it at the next meeting which is scheduled for mid October.

The task force also recently created a survey to send out to church members, in the hopes that they might share their thoughts and concerns on when the time comes for JCC to reopen its doors. Be on the lookout for an electronic survey in your email in-box (if you receive the electronic version of the Herald)! For those of you who do not have the means to complete an electronic survey, you will have the option to conduct the survey over the phone with a Deacon. Stay tuned—stay safe!

New Post Office Box

Because the JCC is not open, a new P.O. box has been set up at the Salt Lake City U.S. Postal Service location on 200 South. All mail will be picked up by a church officer every two weeks. Please send pledges and other correspondence to the following:

Japanese Church of Christ
P. O. Box 1495
 Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Rest assured that your checks are received and safely deposited. Even though the church facilities are closed, there are still payroll and utilities to be paid each month, so your timeliness is greatly appreciated at this time!

Weekly Sermons

Remember that the weekly sermon is posted every Sunday through a YouTube link. It is easily accessed directly from the JCC website, jccslc.net and the current sermon is on the home page.

Condolences

Condolences go out to Mark and Lynne Crabb on the passing of Mark's mother, Irene Crabb on August 12, 2020. She most recently resided in Fountain Hills, AZ. Please keep the Crabb family in your prayers.

Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

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

Operation Christmas Child

For the past several years, the JCC has participated in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child program, filling shoeboxes with Christmas gift items to be distributed to children in need around the world. Because of the global pandemic, it is now more than ever that the shoeboxes donations are welcomed.



Even though the church is not open, if you would like to fill a shoebox, contact Karla Paige and she will drop off a box or boxes to you. The due date is **November 16**. Remember, DO NOT include toothpaste or candy of any kind. Please do not include used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figurines, food, liquid or lotions, breakable items, glass containers, or aerosol cans.

"Filling" suggestions include:

- Toys: small doll, toy truck, stuffed animal, kazoo, harmonica, yoyo, jump ropes
- School Supplies: pens, pencils/sharpener, crayons, markers, stamps and ink pad writing pads or paper, solar calculator, coloring and picture books
- Hygiene Items: toothbrush, soap (placed in plastic baggie), comb, washcloth
- Other: T-shirt, socks, ball cap, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, flashlights (with extra batteries)
- Personal note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself and your family.

Or if you would like to sponsor only the postage for a box, you may send a check for \$9, check payable to Samaritan's Purse and mail it to JCC. We will forward your check.

Another option is to make a donation online. For a **\$25** donation (credit card or PayPal), you can build a shoebox online! Go to: <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>

A Reminder



A flu shot is your best protection from getting and spreading the virus. Getting the shot can help you stay healthy and, if you do get sick with the flu, your symptoms likely won't be as bad or last as long.

Deacons at Your Service

If you or someone you know needs assistance and support during this pandemic, please do not hesitate to call one of the Deacons. We are at your service to run errands to the grocery store, pharmacy, or other places; provide food; or any other requests. The current Deacons are: Jan Aramaki, Misako Bowker, Jean Kobayashi, Julee Mori, Karen Okawa and Akiko Oki.

Jan recently took Frank Imai to get a haircut!



How do you like Frank's New Short Do?
(Photo credit: Jan Aramaki)

Zoom Bible Study

Zoom Bible Study is up and going again. Praise God! Encourage others to attend! Help older parents, grandparents, or other relatives and friends get set up and run Zoom on a PC, laptop, iPad or smart phone.

Go to the JCC website, 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@gmail.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. He also sends a list of biblical references to look up. 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. The class lasts one hour.

Currently, we are studying the book of Genesis. Starting at the beginning at the beginning of this new class season!



お知らせ

Hello Everyone,

In 2018, Japantown representatives participated in a facilitation process with property owners on Japantown Street and created a list of placemaking and amenities they'd like to see come to life for Japantown Street. To help get these ideas from list to design guideline phase, the Salt Lake City RDA hired a design consultant to work with the Japantown community and area stakeholders to create a set of design guidelines to provide direction for possible future improvements along the street. At the end of the process the community will have a vision and direction for how to:

- Acknowledge and celebrate the history of Japantown,
- Recognize the contributions of the Japanese American community to Salt Lake City and the region in the past and in the future,
- Improve the everyday pedestrian environment, and
- Enhance the staging of community events and festivals such as the Obon Festival, Aki Matsuri, and Nihon Matsuri and others.

The Design Consultant and a committee of Japantown community representatives have been working since the first of the year on the future of the street and have developed three options for how to reimagine 100 South between 200 West and 300 West within the vision of Japantown. The committee includes Alison Yeh Cheung, Daniel Cheung, Lorraine Crouse, Jean Irwin, Jani Iwamoto, Nathan Iwamoto-Fukumitsu, Al Kubota, Elise Mori, Judge Raymond Uno, and Elizabeth Ward.

The Japantown team asks you to attend a Community Event to review three preliminary street design concepts for Japantown Street and to provide your comments and ideas. This event will be held digitally on Zoom. Please reach out to team project manager Annaka Egan at aegan@gbsbsconsulting.com for more information and to RSVP.

WHEN: Saturday, October 17th at 10:00 am

WHERE: Zoom (zoom invitation will be sent to those who RSVP)