

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

June 2021

Even though "The Purpose Driven Life" is nearly 20 years old, Rick Warren's best-selling effort still has relevance for believers today. In this book, Pastor Warren takes a few pages to tackle the issue of surrendering to God. This form of "surrender" is really a matter of submitting myself daily to God's gracious guidance in my life. The Apostle Paul captures this idea in Romans 12:1 - I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

I agree with Warren that surrender, or "presenting ourselves to God" is best demonstrated by obedience and trust. This is not always easy of course. For example, consider the man who has just lost his job and still has to find a way to provide for his family. Or the young woman who is diagnosed with a serious disease and is forced to contemplate her promising life being cut short. And to be honest I have struggled with trusting God in some of the most trivial circumstances. Let's face it, surrendering to God can be very difficult. And during this past year, I'm confident many of us have been stretched in ways we never expected. I'd like you to consider the words of C.S.Lewis in describing what results when we learn to turn our troubles and ourselves over to God.

"The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become – because He has made us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be...It is when I turn to Christ, when I give myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."

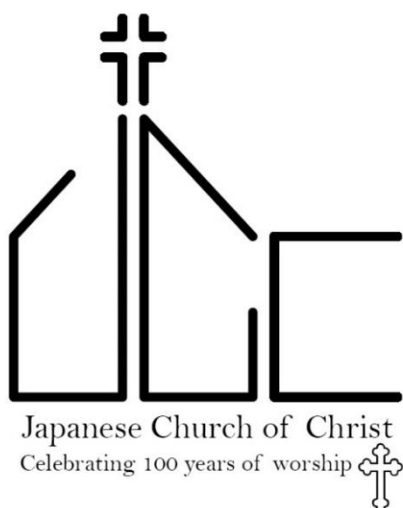
God bless you this month as we return to in-person worship,

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.

Website: www.jccslc.net

Father's Day Gathering (Don't forget your mask!)

Remember - **Sunday, June 20, 2021** is the annual Father's Day Picnic at the JCC. The worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m.

The worship service and picnic will be held outside in the church courtyard. Folding chairs will be arranged to allow for social distancing. Out of an abundance of caution, everyone will be required to wear a mask indoors, and masks will be recommended but optional while outdoors. After the worship service, please stay for the "picnic". In the previous Herald, participants were invited to bring their own bento, but this plan has changed - small, individually packaged snacks and water will now be provided. There will not be a potluck in order to refrain from handling the same serving utensils.

Unfortunately, there will not be any of the other traditional picnic activities, such as children's games or bingo. Tentatively, Sunday School classes will not resume until the fall. This event will serve as a "kickoff" for our return to in-person worship services, so it will be a simple gathering to visit with people that you haven't talked to in over a year - in person.

As you know, our church has sought to be as thoughtful and cautious as possible since the beginning of this pandemic. We recognize that this has been a challenging year for all of us in the JCC family, in our community, and in our world. In light of this, we want to continue to be gracious to one another as we make this transition. For those who are not yet ready to join us in person, we will continue to offer ways to worship with us from home until you feel comfortable returning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Pastor Brad or any member of the Session. We are looking forward to seeing you on June 20!



High School and College Graduates - Class of 2021

Congratulations to each graduate. You've made your church family proud!

**High School**

- **Alex Okawa** - Rowland Hall, attending the University of Utah in the fall.
- **Mei Mei Nagata-Brown** - Judge Memorial, attending the University of Utah in the fall.
- **Nichole Kramer** - Ogden High School (class of 2020*)

College/University

- **Grace Nakamura** - University of Utah, major Recreational Therapy. Hoping to attend graduate school in Occupational Therapy.
- **Abi Shino** - Weber State University (August 2021) in Respiratory Therapy.
- **Dr. Alison Yeh** - University of Utah, PhD in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Asian Media and Rhetoric.

Graduates will be honored at the Father's Day picnic on June 20.

*Due to COVID last year, graduates were not recognized in person.

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		

Go For Broke Commemorative Stamp

The US Postal Service is honoring the Nisei that served in the U.S. military during WWII with a commemorative stamp. This commemorative stamp is the culmination of over 15 years of efforts by the Stamp Our Story campaign founders.

The First Day of Issue Ceremony for the Go For Broke

Commemorative Forever stamp will be held on **Thursday, June 3, 2021**. A virtual ceremony will be carried on the USPS Facebook and Twitter channels at 9:00 a.m. MDT. Event participation instructions are found on the USPS website:

[Go For Broke Commemorative Forever® Stamp First Day of Issue Dedication Ceremony - Newsroom - About.usps.com](https://www.usps.com/go/for-broke)



Deacons' Donation Drive to Help the Homeless

The Deacons are collecting kitchen items, either new or gently used and clean. Items will be donated to the Road Home to help individuals who experienced homelessness and are moving into their own place at the Magnolia Apartments.

The Deacons signed up to assemble a kitchen kit from our church family to help our fellow community member(s). Drop off your items at the church on **Saturday, June 12** between 10 a.m. and noon.

Questions? Call Jan at (801) 718-2006.

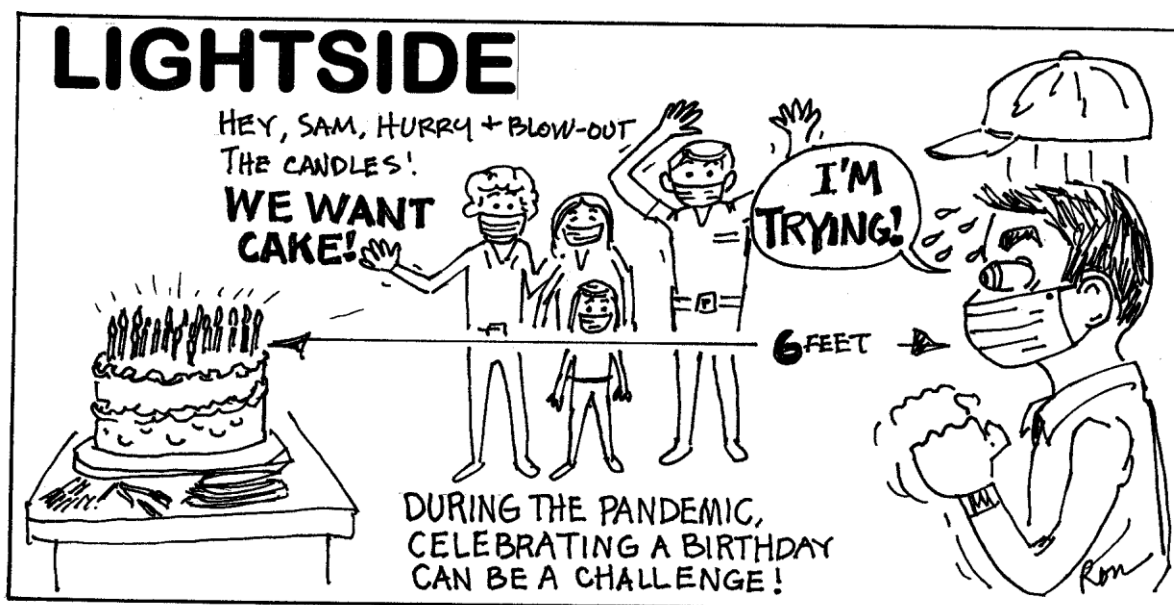
Items such as:

- Eating utensils
- Pots/pans
- Dishes/cups/mugs
- Cooking utensils
- Oven mitts/hot pads
- Coffee pot
- Dish drainer
- Anything that can be used in the kitchen!

Hebrews 13:16 *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Community Events

- **May 30, Sunday:** Memorial Service at Salt Lake City Cemetery, sponsored by the Wasatch Front North, Salt Lake and Mount Olympus chapters of the JACL. SLC Cemetery, 955 East 11th Avenue, 9:00 a.m.
- **June 5, Saturday:** JACL Scholarship Luncheon, Asian Star Restaurant, 7588 South Union Park Avenue, Midvale, UT at 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. RSVP Reid Tateoka (801) 875-1702.



Living with COVID-19: Updated recommendations for resuming pre-COVID activities

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

As vaccination of the population across the country has increased, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has sent out updated recommendations for resuming pre-COVID activities. These recommendations are also based on newer information on the level of protection that vaccination provides against acquiring COVID-19 or transmitting the virus. However, there are great differences between the states on uptake of vaccination and decline in the number new COVID-19 cases. These differences must be considered when implementing recommendations locally.

As of this week, just over 40% of Utah's population has received at least one dose of vaccine. Nearly 60% of people over the age of 65 are fully vaccinated. The average number of COVID cases in the past week in Utah was about 300 cases per day, which translates to 72 cases per 100,000 persons for the past week. At this rate, CDC classifies Utah to be at substantial risk for transmission. By way of comparison, California is considered a moderate risk state with 29 cases per 100,000 persons in the past week. To become a low risk state, we need to have an average of <50 cases per day in Utah. Trends are improving as vaccination levels increase and warmer weather encourages outdoor activities.

Based on our current situation, most outdoor activities can be considered low risk without masking. The exception would be in very crowded settings, for example a sold-out concert in an outdoor stadium. Eating out-of-doors with social distancing is safe. Although many stores and restaurants are opening for business, in indoor settings, there is still substantial risk for acquiring and transmitting the disease for those who are not vaccinated. These folks should continue to wear masks until the daily case count falls below 50 cases per day in Utah.

Recently published studies on vaccinated healthcare workers have shown substantial protection against acquiring the disease. And, for those who become infected, they had mild illness and did not transmit to others. Based on this information, for fully vaccinated persons*, CDC is recommending that they can safely carry out indoor activities without masking except in very crowded settings, e.g., sold-out Jazz games, concerts, church services, etc. Eating indoors in restaurants is considered a safe activity for fully vaccinated persons. However, persons at increased risk due to their immune status (e.g., elderly persons, persons with chronic diseases like diabetes, those with autoimmune diseases and persons taking

(Living with COVID-19 continued)

immunosuppressant drugs, etc.), should continue to mask in indoor settings until the average cases per day falls below 50 in Utah.

In the summer months, we hope to get to <50 cases per day so that nearly all activities can return to normal. However, as cooler weather comes in the fall and winter months, we anticipate that case counts will go up again, and masking will have to resume. Re-vaccination is likely to be needed to maintain levels of protective antibodies, especially against the new variants that are spreading throughout the world.

*"Fully vaccinated" means two weeks after the second dose of vaccine for vaccines requiring two doses (e.g., Moderna and Pfizer) or two weeks after the first dose for single-dose vaccines (e.g., Johnson and Johnson).

AAPI Resolution

State Senator Jani Iwamoto sponsored SCR 101 Concurrent Resolution Honoring Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Communities which passed unanimously through the senate and house, and concurred by the Governor. The AAPI community includes more than 60 ethnic groups and over 100 languages, and like the nation, is the fastest growing minority population in the state. We celebrated AAPI Heritage during the month of May, while knowing that it is a bit different, more meaningful and more urgent this year.

This resolution holds an important message - that:

- We see and know our diverse peoples and communities;
- We acknowledge the cultural and economic contributions to Utah;
- We stand in solidarity against acts of anti-Asian hate;
- We encourage education and empathy to combat anti-Asian hate.

