

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
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Pastor Brad Kramer
info@jccslc.net

Worship Schedule:

10:30 a.m.

Pastor's Message

July 2021

After the reopening of JCC last Father's Day, I began to think about a biblical story that would be analogous to the 15 month period when we were essentially without a church building. The first thing that came to mind was the story of the 40 year experience of the Israelites in the wilderness prior to their entering the promised land of Canaan. Now, I realized almost immediately that the analogy breaks down in several places. But there certainly was a feeling of joy mixed with relief as our time in the "wilderness" came to an end when we held our first in-person service in over a year. So I will stick with my first attempt at finding a biblical parallel for our difficult season. It's good to be back in the "promised land". Amen?

Something else occurred to me though as I thought on all of this; JCC - the people of God, never really shut down at all. Sure our doors may have been closed, but our people were still busy at work. Those who helped us put together our on line services each week; the church members who continued to retrieve the mail and take care of church finances; the dear souls who wrote letters and made phone calls to our older members who spent most of the last year homebound. These folks and many others brought honor to God and our community by serving one another; quietly and humbly.

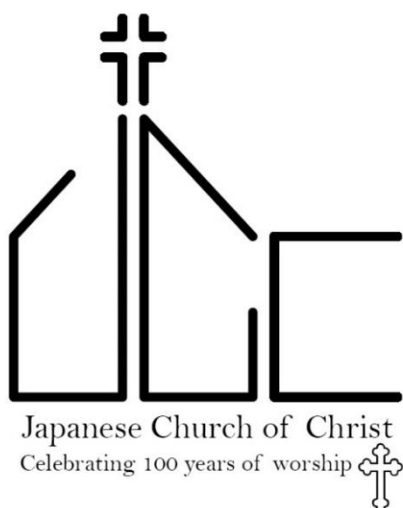
So in the coming weeks when you take time to thank God for helping us to weather the pandemic and bringing us back together to worship Him; take a moment also to thank Him for those He raised up to keep JCC alive and prospering.

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[at]gmail[dot]com).

Website: www.jccslc.net

In-Person Worship Returns

The JCC returned to in-person worship services on Sunday, June 27. For now, services will be held inside the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. The hall will allow for more physical distancing than the sanctuary and chairs will be spaced accordingly. While indoors, please wear a face mask at all times. There will be no singing of hymns for the time being.

Coffee Fellowship for the time being will consist of pre-packaged individual snack items.

Whether one person, three people, or a group of 50 people are in one of the two church buildings, masks are required while inside. This is the case whether an individual or group of people are in the building for 1 minute or 8 hours.

Children's Sunday School will not resume until September, but families are welcome to attend regular worship services.

If you cannot make it to church or feel more comfortable with at-home worship, weekly sermons will be available for viewing on the JCC website, www.jccslc.net, by clicking on the link "Weekly Sermon Playlist."



Let us protect each other by following a few rules:

- Practice physical distancing – Please stay at least 3 feet apart from others not in your household
- Use hand sanitizer – Hand sanitizer stations are set up around the church
- Wash your hands – Wash with soap and water regularly
- If you don't feel well or have symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and contact your physician

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		

Ice Cream Sunday Grad Recognition

The traditional recognition of high school and college graduates was held at the Father's Day service. Attendees enjoyed individually packaged ice cream treats which were welcomed on such a warm day!

Congratulations to all of the graduates noted in the June issue of the Herald. Also, one omission - a belated congratulations to Maxwell Sueoka, who received his Master's Degree in Finance from Santa Clara University.



Greg Paige awards bibles to Allison Oki (accepting for son Alex Okawa), Alison Cheung and Abi Shino. Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse

Memorial Day Veteran's Service Recap

This year, the local chapters of the JACL were able to conduct the annual Veteran's Memorial service "live" at the Salt Lake City cemetery on Sunday, May 30. Boy Scout troop 442 assisted in flag placement to honor the services of deceased local Japanese-American veterans. Pastor Brad was one of the speakers and recognized the sacrifices and service of these veterans.



Pastor Brad speaking at memorial service
Photo courtesy: Haley Watanabe

Japanese Language Classes – Nihongo Gakko

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.

Magnolia Project

The Deacons collected kitchen items for the Road Home to help individuals who experienced homelessness and are moving into their own place at the Magnolia Apartments. Items were gathered and boxed on Saturday, June 12. Over 30 boxes of various kitchen appliances, dishes, flatware, pans, and utensils were delivered!

Thanks to everyone who contributed items to this project and those that helped box them up. These kitchen items will provide a nice start for the residents.

A special thank you to Steve Fukumitsu for delivering the truckload of boxes to Magnolia.



Hiro and Elaine Iwasaki and boxes of kitchen goods.

Father's Day Recap

After 15 months of closure, the JCC reopened its doors on Father's Day, June 20, 2021. Worship service was held outside on the deck with chairs strategically placed in the shade! There was a nice attendance, both young and old, familiar faces and new! After the service, it was time to catch up on what everyone has been up to.



Pastor Brad welcomes congregants back to church



Photos courtesy: Lorraine Crouse

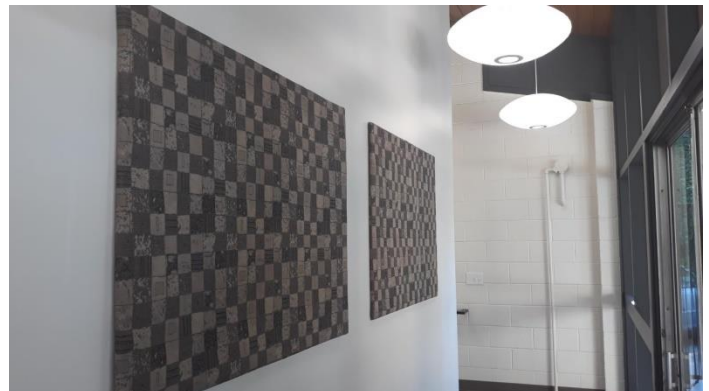


A fish-eye view of Father's Day services. Photo courtesy: Jan Aramaki

New Features

There's a new working drinking fountain in the Fellowship Hall now and is equipped to fill water bottles. Let's "think green" – bring your personal water bottle and help keep plastic out of the landfill!

Second, two new bulletin boards have been donated and installed in the hallway leading to the basement of the Fellowship Hall. The board on the left will be for JCC, Tongan and Kachin events and the board on the right will be for community events, information and FYI.



Living with COVID-19: Summer 2021

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

We are in the summer months, and everyone is eager to get back normal activities, e.g., enjoying the company of others, going on vacation, etc. At church, the Session and the task force working on recommendations for resuming worship and other activities have been working hard at making opening up safe for everyone. The Father's Day service held outdoors on the deck of the fellowship hall and courtyard walkway was a great success. In this installment, we will discuss how to be safe during the summer months.

Utah unfortunately continues to lag behind many other states in uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines; only about 40% of Utahns have been fully vaccinated (--defined as two weeks after two doses for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines or one dose for Johnson & Johnson vaccine). Vaccination is recommended for everyone 12 years and older. Teenagers are efficient transmitters of COVID-19 so it is important to get them vaccinated. Younger children are less likely to acquire and spread COVID-19; research is ongoing to determine safe dosing and schedules for vaccinating younger children.

Vaccines are now widely available in many pharmacies as well as public health venues. To encourage vaccination, public health is offering free vaccine clinics in conjunction with many summer events. Utah continues to have 300-400 new cases per week; the majority of cases are in Salt Lake and Utah counties. Death rates are low because vaccine uptake among older people and people with weaker immune systems been much better, and these folks are more likely to have severe disease that leads to hospitalization and death. Again, the goal for Utah is to get to <50 cases per day which would put us in the low risk category. We are unlikely to reach this goal unless overall vaccine uptake is reaches 60%.

Vaccinated individuals are at very low risk of acquiring or transmitting COVID-19. In the rare event that a vaccinated person does become infected, the course of illness is much less severe and will usually not result in hospitalization or death. 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. As these businesses open up, public health will be closely monitoring for outbreaks and increases in the case counts.

Living with COVID-19 continued

At church, we are continuing to ask everyone to wear masks if you are indoors since we don't know the vaccination status of individuals. Singing is safe for vaccinated persons. However, unvaccinated persons should refrain from singing since singing disperses large numbers of viruses if the individual is infected. Indoors, because of air re-circulation patterns, physical distancing does not add to safety; therefore, masking is essential to keep everyone safe. While disinfection of surfaces improves overall sanitation, this does not play much of a role in preventing COVID-19, which is largely spread through inhalation of virus.

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

Lost and Found Again

Have you been looking everywhere in your kitchen for that certain serving tray or container you know you had? Maybe you forgot that you brought it to church during Coffee Fellowship two years ago! Check out the Lost and Found box on the north table of the Fellowship Hall. Your lost item may be there, so please take it home!

Congratulations Jean!

Congratulations to Jean Irwin, recipient of the Arts Education Award at the 2021 Americans for the Arts Annual Convention, held in June. The award is given annually to honor those individuals who enrich their communities through the arts. Jean was recognized for her leadership and involvement in a number of local projects and programs including Nihon Matsuri, JACL, and many others.



建物の中では マスクを 着用して下さい。

July 2021 - Worship Service Participants

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
Liturgist	Greg Paige	Julee Mori	Jan Aramaki	Hiro Iwasaki
Scripture Readers	E) Zach Paige J) Misako Bowker	E) Elise Mori J) Yoko DeRose	E) Alison Cheung J) Mike Flemming	E) Pauline Vosburgh J) Keiko Ikeda
Organist/Pianist	Allyn Nakashima	Allyn Nakashima	Greg Paige	Daniel Cheung

Upcoming Community Events

- Virtual Obon Festival – Saturday, July 10, 2021, Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. Visit slbuddhist.org for more information on the festival activities.
- National JACL Convention – “Communities Forged Under Fire”, July 14 through 18, 2021. This convention will be held virtually. Registration now open, <https://jacl.org/2021-national-convention>

