

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ
268 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 363-3251

JCC in-person Sunday worship services are suspended until further notice.

Go to www.jccslc.net to view the weekly sermon.



Website:
jccslc.net

Email:
info@jccslc.net

Pastor's Message

November 2021

I came across this story a while back. It is so good that I wanted you to read it:

Gregory Boyle retells the story of a 15-year-old gang member named Rigo. Rigo was getting ready for a special worship service for incarcerated youth when Boyle casually asked if Rigo's father would be coming. The following is a summary of their conversation:

"No," he said, "He's a heroin addict and never been in my life. Used to always beat me."

Then something snapped inside Rigo as he recalled an image from his childhood.

"I think I was in fourth grade," he began, "I came home. Sent home in the middle of the day ... [When I got home] my dad says, 'Why did they send you home?' And cuz my dad always beat me, I said, 'If I tell you, promise you won't hit me?' He just said, 'I'm your father. Course I'm not gonna hit you.' So I told him."

Rigo began to cry, and in a moment he started wailing and rocking back and forth. Boyle put his arm around him until he slowly calmed down. When Rigo could finally speak again, he spoke quietly, still in a state of shock: "He beat me with a pipe ... with ... a pipe."

After Rigo composed himself, Boyle asked about his mom. Rigo pointed to a small woman and said, "That's her over there ... There's no one like her." Then Rigo paused and said, "I've been locked up for a year and half. She comes to see me every Sunday. You know how many buses she takes every Sunday [to see me]?"

Rigo started sobbing with the same ferocity as before. After catching his breath, he gasped through the sobs, "Seven buses. She takes ... seven ... buses. Imagine."

Boyle concluded this story with an analogy. God, as revealed in the person of Jesus, loves us like Rigo's mother loved her son—with commitment, steadfastness, and sacrifice. According to Boyle, we have a God "who takes seven buses, just to arrive at us." All throughout Jesus' ministry—his birth on Christmas morning, his meals with sinners, his healing of the sick, his death on the cross for our sins—he showed us the heart of God, the God who will take a long journey of love to find us.

My hope is that this story will cause us to reflect deeply on the love of God for His children.

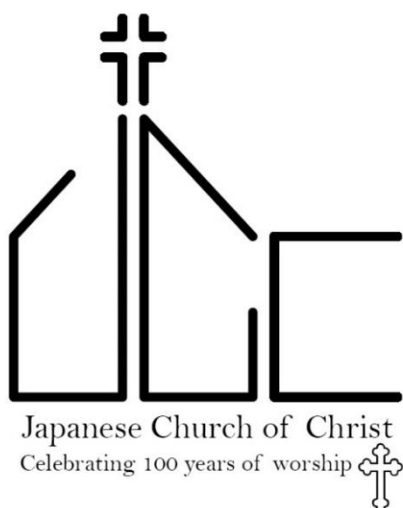
May God Bless You Richly,

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, 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@gmail.com.

Website: www.jccslc.net

A Message from Session

After much discussion and listening to many church members regarding the status of COVID-19 and in-person services, the Session has decided to take a pause effective immediately. We are now approaching colder weather which eliminates our ability to keep the sliding glass doors open for those to sit outside and the proper ventilation for those who sit indoors. For the health and safety of our senior members and families who are concerned about them, we feel this pause is the right thing to do. We will be coordinating virtual Sunday services online for the immediate future. Worship services will be posted each week at www.jccslc.net. Greg Paige will continue to have his Adult Bible Study Zoom session each Sunday. Pledges may be remitted by mailing them to the JCC street address or online at jccslc.net/pledge.

The Session chose this pause statement as we are hopeful to return to in-person services as soon as the COVID-19 numbers are more manageable. The Session will also continue to meet monthly to assess where we are with COVID-19 and how we communicate properly to return to in-person service.

In the meantime, please get your booster shots and remain safe.

Adult Bible Study

As noted above, Adult Bible Study will continue weekly via Zoom. Email Greg Paige at [gepaige1\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:gepaige1[at]gmail[dot]com) to request an invitation to join the meeting. Also be sure to include your email address in the message. Before Sunday, Greg will send an "invitation" to you via email to join the meeting. On Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., click the link in the invitation, enter the Meeting ID number found in Greg's email and then you will join the bible study.

Note: You will need to have the Zoom app on your electronic device.

Taiko Workshop

Note: Arrangements for this workshop were approved before the decision was made to temporarily close the JCC again. All COVID-19 protocols – sanitizing, face mask requirement, physical distancing will be strictly adhered to.

Kay Nakashima/On Ensemble Taiko Workshops

Saturday, November 6, 2021

Japanese Church of Christ (JCC) Fellowship Hall

Free workshops taught by On Ensemble members Shoji Kameda and Masato (Maz) Baba, for ages 16 and up.

- Beginner Workshop: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Lunch provided on veranda from 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.
- Advanced Workshop: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

To register,

visit: <https://fs2.formsite.com/wilksdunn/ueontodylt/index.html>

Workshops limited to 25 people due to COVID-19 precautions.

Established in 2002, On Ensemble is one of the most respected ensembles in the taiko world. Led by childhood friends Shoji Kameda and Masato (Maz) Baba, On Ensemble is recognized for infusing the powerful rhythms of taiko with a wide range of musical influences from jazz and rock to central asian overtone singing. For more information about On Ensemble and their musicians, visit:

<https://www.onensemble.org/about>

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Day is a time to remind ourselves of the many reasons to be grateful and to count our blessings.

Sadly, the JCC will once again be unable to enjoy the traditional Thanksgiving dinner with church family and friends due to COVID-19. If you personally gather for the holiday, please follow guidance in hosting and participating in events with those outside of your "bubble" and be safe.

Today, let us remember that no matter how turbulent and difficult our lives may feel, we can always find something to be thankful for.

The Thanksgiving offering envelope is included with this newsletter. Return the envelope to the JCC street address, 268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. (The P.O. Box address is no longer valid.)



Reminder – Operation Christmas Child

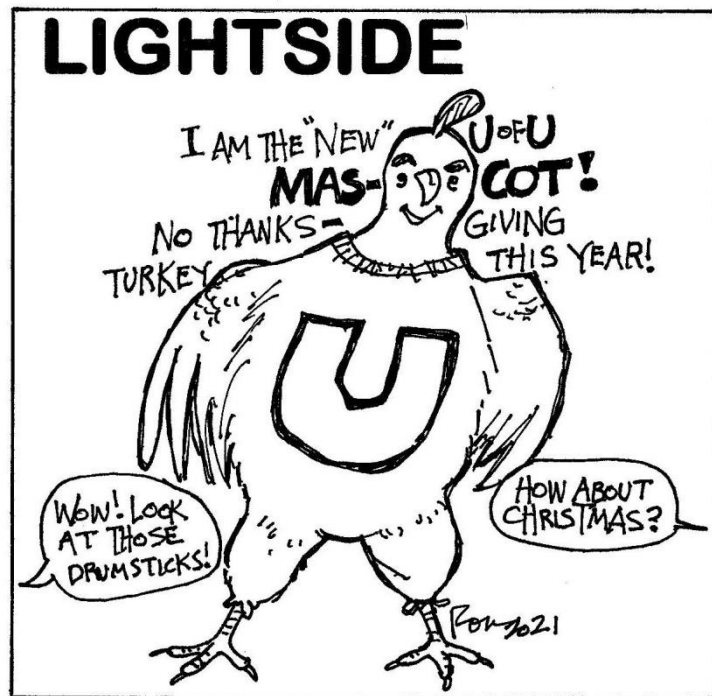
The due date for the Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" program will be **Sunday, November 14** in order to get gift shoeboxes distributed to children in need around the world.



A drive-thru box drop off will be held on that date from **noon to 2 p.m.** since we will not be meeting in-person for worship service.

You may also go to the Samaritan's Purse website, www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ and click on "Build a Shoebox Online".

Another option for contributing to this project is to donate funds for postage to ship the shoeboxes. Each shoebox costs **\$9** to ship. If you wish to make a donation in this manner, you may do so online (www.samaritanspurse.org) or send a check to the JCC at the street address, payable to Samaritan's Purse; or you may bring it down to the church on November 14.



Reminder to "Fall Back"

Daylight savings time ends at 2 a.m. **on Sunday, November 7, 2021.** Remember "Spring Forward and Fall Back", so set your clock back one hour and receive an extra hour of sleep!

Electronic Herald

Following the trend of our local newspapers - Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News - the JCC is attempting to "go green" and eliminate paper copies of the Herald newsletter as postage rates and the need to reduce paper waste continue to increase. Some bonuses of receiving the electronic version (eHerald) in PDF format is that the issue is sent out immediately, so you receive it earlier. Also, the eHerald photos appear in color instead of black and white.

Send your email address to **jccherald@gmail.com** to request the eHerald emailed to your inbox every month. (If you already receive the eHerald, you don't need to make the request again.)

We do realize there are some readers that do not have the capability to receive the Herald online. Those that currently receive hardcopies will continue to do so.

But if you are currently receiving a hardcopy Herald but can discontinue it because you can access it online, please let us know. It will save us postage and filling the landfill! The Herald is always posted on the JCC website under "The Herald" from the main menu and can be accessed that way as well.

Our Daily Bread – Winter Edition

Copies of *Our Daily Bread* for the months of December 2021 through February 2022 are now available. If you would like a copy mailed to you, send an email to jccherald@gmail.com.

Stewardship Drive

The deadline for pledges has been extended to **November 14, 2021**. You will be receiving a brochure in the mail shortly. The Stewardship brochure can also be found online at jccslc.net/pledge.

No Mochi – Again

Unfortunately, the JCC will not be selling mochi again this year due to COVID-19 safety precautions. Hopefully, we will be able to resume again next year.

A Thank You

We received a nice thank you card from Toshi Hirose for the gift from JCC commemorating her 100th birthday last month. It was so nice to hear from her. According to her daughter Laura, the party went well and Toshi enjoyed her special day with family and friends.

Agape Poll

Traditionally (last year was an exception due to the COVID shutdown), the Agape Women's Group would get together for a Holiday luncheon at the beginning of December.

As people are obtaining vaccinations and boosters and COVID protocols are being practiced with sanitizing and facemasks, we are wondering how many people (both women and men are invited!) would consider it safe enough to attend a luncheon to be held at a restaurant. The restaurant in consideration would open just for our private party on a Sunday afternoon and tables are spaced to allow physical distancing.

Contact Suzanne Hata or Karen Okawa if you would be interested. If there are enough signups, we will make plans for an event and details will appear in next month's Herald.

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.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Toshiko Marse	Chris Miya	Sumi Arakaki
Kenta Naraoka	Saeko Nakashima	Dorthie Conway
Betty Morishita	Susan Fukushima	Susan Rosvall
Mary Tabata	Steve Fukushima	Sumiko Rosvall
Kai Ronning	Robin Sueoka Puri	

Church Women United World Community Day Celebration "Becoming One in 2021"

New Places, New Faces at the Table

Written by our own Rev. Lillie Holman

Bible Study with small group discussions on Friday, November 5, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Offering - CWU National Programs

Outreach - Crossroads Urban Center

Please make checks payable to Church Women United. Mail to Desta Aure at 10227 Hickory Pl Dr Sandy, UT 84092. Register in advance for this meeting – copy and paste this link in your browser:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocOupqjsqGNVQ-Pa-97_1sHR-7Rj7EGtn

NOTE: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Questions?? Contact Kathy Horvat at (801) 502-0708.

Worship Service – October 17

The offertory music for October 17 was performed by Allyn Nakashima and Laura Olson. It is always so nice to hear. We appreciate all of the time and effort put in by all of those that provide music for our worship services.



Photos courtesy – Lorraine Crouse

Living with COVID-19: Learning to live with a disease that has become endemic

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

We first became aware of the SARS-COV-2 virus about 2 years ago, and the COVID-19 pandemic it caused has drastically impacted all human life across the planet. In the beginning, since it was a new infectious disease, we did not know much about it and had no vaccines to prevent it. Since everyone was susceptible, numbers of infections were very large and death rates were high.

The situation today is very different. We have information from two years of intense study of the virus and the disease it causes and many other tools to assist with preventing (e.g., vaccines, masking, social distancing) and treating (e.g., drugs, antibodies, ventilators) the disease.

However, as with all diseases, there is great diversity among people on how they will use this information and the tools. In public health, we term diseases that will remain in a population for a long period of time as "endemic". This is now true of COVID-19. This disease will remain with us for the foreseeable future. The numbers of cases in any geographic area will wax and wane depending on many factors, but the disease will not be eliminated. Our best model for this type of disease is influenza or flu. Every year the common strains of flu virus mutate and we have to develop new vaccines to prevent disease. Similarly, the COVID-19 virus will change, and we will have to develop new vaccines in response. Also, immunity to both diseases does not last very long so yearly vaccines will be needed.

Most importantly, we need the public to become educated about this disease and overcome the fear and misinformation and begin to deal with COVID-19 as an endemic disease in a rational manner. This is the only way that we will be able to get back to a more normal life and begin to repair the economic, sociopolitical, and personal damage this disease has wrought.

Below are some suggestions to begin this healing process.

1. Keep up with information from credible sources. From the beginning, the amount of misinformation surrounding COVID-19 has been unprecedented. This was due to a number of factors, such as, the severe political polarization across the country, poor leadership at many levels, and the intense distribution of misinformation by social media. Just because it is on the Internet or Facebook does not mean it is true! Credible sources of information include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), your personal physician

(although there are a few exceptions), public health departments, and standard news media (although unfortunately, many news outlets have become politically biased). Information on COVID-19 changes quickly, so it is good to check in with what is new regularly.

2. Keep current on your COVID-19 vaccination. Getting vaccinated is the most important way to protect yourself and your loved ones. The COVID-19 vaccines have now been extensively tested and widely used. As with any vaccine, there can be mild side effects, but they have been very safe vaccines. As with any vaccine, the efficacy for protection can vary depending on timing of vaccination, amount of exposure to the virus, and the individual's ability to develop an immune response. The current vaccines are about 70-80% effective in preventing the disease. The added benefit to vaccination is that if a break-through infection occurs, the disease is usually mild and does not require hospitalization.

3. Learn to assess the risk of your daily activities. COVID-19 is largely an airborne disease. Risk of spread depends on how many people are infected at any given time. Currently, in the state of Utah, we are experiencing high numbers of cases (about 1,500 per day). This means that in a crowded situation, you are likely to encounter someone who is infected. A standard face mask can contain most of the virus and prevent spread to other people. When you wear a face mask, you are protecting others; the benefit to you is much smaller since you can still inhale virus if others are not wearing a face mask. Indoor, crowded situations where vaccine status is not monitored and masking is variable, are high risk when the overall case rate is high as it is currently. Examples of high risk situations include shopping in a crowded store, going to a Jazz game, sitting in a classroom, going to a crowded restaurant, using mass transportation, etc. Situations like our church where we monitor vaccine status and require masks indoors, are very low risk. We also require masking indoors which reduces the risk even further.

4. Learn how to respond to the risk and benefits of different situations. If Costco or Smith's is crowded, then postpone your visit to a less busy time if possible. If you have a compromised immune system, avoid all high risk situations and make your decision in lower risk situations by weighing the risks and benefits carefully. Ask yourself and your family members if you are willing to enter a low risk situation, e.g., attend our church services, for the benefits of social interaction and fellowship.

5. Begin to "normalize" COVID-19. We need to get used to COVID-19 being with us for the long term. No one will be able to avoid exposure to COVID-19 unless they live like the Boy in the Bubble. However, we can drastically and rationally reduce our risk of exposure yet go on with our lives. The best analogy is, again, how we live with flu, a disease that has been with us for a very long time.

South Parking Lot and Japan Town Update

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto and Steve Fukumitsu

The JCC south parking lot is now fully functioning! After several years of planning, discussions, and collaboration, we are able to have full use of our south parking. We have entered into a contract with ABM Parking who has automated our south parking lot to take advantage of 24/7 paid parking income. We are in a short-term contract which will evolve into a longer-term contract for the future coordination with the Ritchie Group development and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, with the installation of electronic parking arms. We will be able to have control of the parking for all church activities which will be made free of charge to our members or the community when needed. Please keep in mind that there is an automated phone application charge at present which you will see on signage posted at the parking lot.

This will not affect the north parking lot adjacent to the chapel and Fellowship Hall. Cascade Corporation will continue to schedule and staff parking in that lot.

All of this was negotiated with the Ritchie Group with prior, beneficial monetary settlements and to improve and grade our parking lots with the Ritchie Group development for the future of a Japantown renaissance. It is an exciting time for what has been a collaboration of the Japanese community to honor and remember our past and provide for opportunity in the future. We also plan to formally share the vision of Japantown at next year's Nihon Matsuri.

(South Parking continued)

The Japanese Community Preservation Committee (JCPC) is an organization which began in 2003, with representatives from the JCC, SLBT and the Japanese community. We will be meeting this week.

We will continually update our congregation as to the parking and other Japantown efforts.

Community Events

Friday, November 5: On Ensemble at Kingsbury Hall (University of Utah campus), 7:30 p.m.

One of the most respected ensembles in the taiko world, On Ensemble is recognized for infusing the powerful rhythms of taiko with a wide range of musical influences from jazz and rock to central Asian overtone singing. Their fearless musical exploration is completely original and brilliantly conceived, expanding the artistic range of the taiko and taking these ancient instruments into new realms.

Go to <https://artstickets.utah.edu/events/on-ensemble/> for ticket information.

See information on the taiko workshop on Page 2 of this newsletter.

November 15 to December 3: Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Virtual Holiday Boutique fundraiser

Go to **lumbinisingarden.com** to shop online. Hundreds of gift ideas as well as bento boxes and silent auction. Bento boxes can be ordered at lumbinisingarden@gmail.com. Contactless pick-up days – November 20, 27 and December 4 from 12 to 3 p.m.

JCC November 2021 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	3	4 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 7pm	5 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 7pm	6 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 11am, 3pm, 7pm
7	8	9 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	10 -Parking, Lany Concert, 7:30pm	11 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	12	13 -Parking, Jazz, 3pm
14 -Operation Christmas Box drop off, Noon to 2 p.m.	15	16 -Parking, Jazz, 8pm	17 -Parking, Florida Georgia Line, 7:30pm	18 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	19	20
21	22 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	23	24 -Parking, Trans-Siberian Orchestra, 3:30pm, 7:30pm	25 THANKSGIVING	26 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	27 -Herald deadline, noon -Parking, Jazz, 7pm
28	29 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	30				