

## The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

(801) 363-3251

Website: [jccslc.net](http://jccslc.net) Email: [info@jccslc.net](mailto:info@jccslc.net)

**In-person worship services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

The weekly sermons may also be viewed at [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net).

### Pastoral Message

July 2022

#### Presbyterians stand up for transgender youth

I am already entering my third month as your interim pastor. And while I have sat with people in great joy and in grief, our relationship is not built to last. As an interim minister, it is my mission to help JCC clean up policies and procedures, understand where you are as a church right now and what mission you are going to have in the future. Then you will be ready to call a permanent pastor. In the meantime, I have the great privilege to be available for all your pastoral needs. Feel free to reach me directly on my cell phone at 801-368-1180. I also serve as a resource for the session and all committees and groups of the church. I do not know it all, but I do know where to look and with whom to connect.

Allyn Nakashima and I had the privilege to attend the Utah Presbytery meeting in May. There, the body of Christ unanimously made an important pronouncement:

#### *Transgender Equality Statement*

Utah House Bill 11 (HB11) goes into effect in July 2022, despite initially being vetoed by Utah Governor Spencer Cox. HB11 prohibits transgender athletes in the state of Utah from participating in girls' high school sports. Although there are currently only four transgender athletes across the state of Utah who are participating in girls' athletics, the state legislature felt the need to enact such a bill and prohibit their future participation.

As the Presbytery of Utah, we strongly disagree with this law, and we fully support all transgender people, including trans youth and trans athletes. Laws such as HB11 are being enacted in a number of states around the nation. It is clear such laws have devastating impacts on transgender people, particularly trans youth. Trans youth often suffer extreme discrimination in their schools, sometimes from their families. This results in a variety of mental health challenges for trans youth, including increased suicide. We believe and affirm the God-created beauty and worthiness of every transgender person. Transgender youth, like all youth, gain benefits from participating in school athletics: leadership opportunities, better physical and mental health outcomes, self-confidence, teamwork, and most of all, fun. Trans youth should not be prevented from participating in school athletics because of who they are.

As the Presbytery of Utah, we will continue to work to repeal such laws and affirm the full humanity of transgender youth and adults, reminding our community that the love of God is for everyone, and Jesus calls us to continually share this message with the world.

Blessings,

Rev. Daniel Haas, BCC  
Cell 801-368-1180

### Condolences

Our deepest sympathies go out to members of our church family upon the passing of their loved ones - Sumi Arakaki, Jane Sugihara and Kenichi Shiozaki.

Sumi was always actively involved with the JCC; whether it was baking and cooking for church functions, preparing goodie bags for the children at Easter and Christmas, or serving as a Sunday School teacher for many, many years. Her warm smile will truly be missed.

Jane was first an active member of the Ogden Christian Church, but attended the JCC when she moved to Salt Lake to live with some of her children. It was so nice to see her at worship service each Sunday.

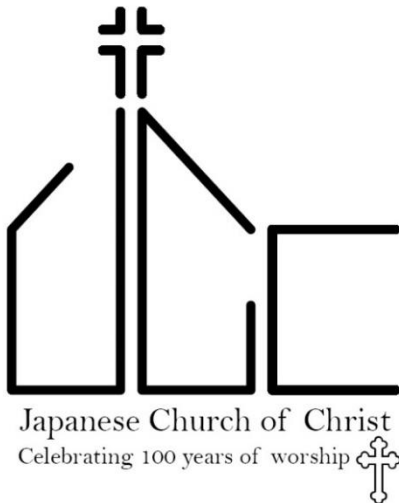
Ken endured recent health issues, but enjoyed his time with family and his passion for fishing!

Please keep the families of Sumi, Jane and Kenichi in your prayers. May God give them peace, comfort and strength during this difficult time.

**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.

**Interim Pastor: Rev. Daniel Haas**  
**Clerk of Session: Daniel Cheung**

**Session**

- Lorraine Crouse - Worship
- Steve Fukumitsu - Building and Grounds
- Yoko DeRose - Nichigo
- Allyn Nakashima - Education
- Pauline Vosburgh - Finance
- Lynne Ward - Personnel
- Gary Nakao - Membership, Stewardship

**Deacons**

- Karen Okawa (moderator), Jan Aramaki, Julee Mori, Laura Olson, Elaine Iwasaki, Elise Mori, Yuri Uyeda

Newsletter articles are due on the fourth Saturday of each month at noon. Send your articles to [jccherald@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com).

Website: [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net)

**Bible Study Summer Break**

The Adult Bible Study class will take a break until September.

However, if there is a particular book in the Bible or a topic that you would like to study when the class resumes in the fall, please contact Greg Paige.

We appreciate all of the time and effort that Greg puts into these lessons every week. Through Zoom, it has been nice to have church family from across the country attend the class each week!

**Prayer List Updates**

Beginning this month, the "Remember in Your Prayers" list will be "starting from scratch". We wish to keep the list up-to-date and current; there may be persons listed that don't realize their names are still on the list. Yet we want to remain mindful of those in need of prayer and who would like to be included on the monthly prayer list.



Since the Herald is sent at the beginning of each month, names will appear on the prayer list for the month. Weekly prayer requests can be made during worship service and will appear in the worship bulletin.

If any person wishes to be placed on the next month's prayer list, please email the JCC website, [jccslc.net](http://jccslc.net) or contact Pastor Haas or any one of the Deacons. (Listed in the sidebar on the left of this page.)

Note though, to respect individual privacy, if there is a name to be added to this prayer list, that person must first give permission to have his/her own name published.

**Crossroads Urban Center**

The Crossroads Urban Center has sent a list of the top donation needs:

Food Pantries: Chili, boxed meals, ramen noodles and snacks.

Thrift Store: Dishes, pots and pans, men's clothes and men's socks and underwear.

During the month of July, the organization is having a Golden Celery Food Drive, a competition between congregations to see who can give the most food per person during worship services in the month.

A box will be set up in the sanctuary for pantry donations and the Deacons will deliver the items to Crossroads.

Crossroads Urban Center is a nonprofit organization that assists Utahns with low incomes, disabilities and people of color to meet basic survival needs and address essential issues affecting quality of life.



### No Host Coffee Fellowship

After we reopened to live worship service, there has been some confusion about Coffee Fellowship that follows worship service.

Due to a generous donation to the Coffee Fellowship fund and funding from Men’s Fellowship, commercially prepared and individually wrapped snacks (practicing sanitary precautions), are being purchased for enjoyment after worship service for the time being.

The Deacons will be responsible for purchasing the snacks and water, and setting up and taking down the snack cart every week except the first Sunday of the month. The Nichigo group will be responsible for set up and take down on that week (as the Deacons are setting up Communion on that week) and the Deacons will be responsible for the remaining Sundays of the month. There will no longer be an assigned week for Nichigo, Agape, Deacons and Youth groups as in the past because there are not enough volunteers willing to fill each week.

However, if anyone wishes to bring a treat to share at any time, please do so! (If you would like reimbursement, just submit a receipt.) If your item is homemade, please divide and wrap into individual servings.

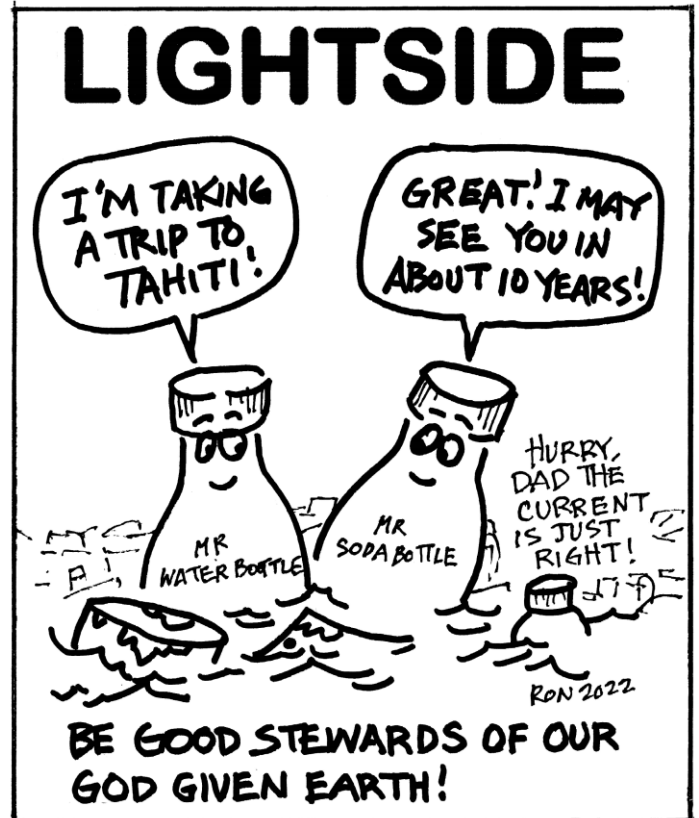
We wish to keep things simple though. Coffee Fellowship is meant to be a time for visiting with others while enjoying a snack or two on site; not a full lunch. Also, how about bringing your own carafe of coffee or reusable water bottle from home, so we can practice sustainability as well!

### Deacons Report – June Meeting

The Deacons met on Sunday, June 5, 2022 in Pastor Haas’ office. The following items were discussed:

- Sumi Arakaki funeral – Services will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial Estates Mountain View. Deacons will assist if family has need.
- Father’s Day Event – Provide transportation to the park for those who would like to carpool from church. Deacons will help with set up at the park.
- Discussion of Duties – The Deacons have paired up into teams responsible for Communion and Coffee Fellowship set up and take down. To avoid scheduling confusion, a quarterly rotation has been set up.
- Transportation – As officers of the church, we are covered for liability. But at some point, there needs to be discussion with family members on whether the Deacons should be responsible for providing transportation to church for their loved one if there are health issues or impairment.

The next Deacons meeting is scheduled for July 3.



### Reminder – No P.O.

Please remember that the P.O. Box that was set up temporarily during the COVID shut down is no longer valid. Address all correspondence to the JCC to the street address: 268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101.

### Guest Pastor - June

On June 12, Pastor Bob Nakaoka from the Ogden JCC was the guest speaker. It was also nice to have Alison Cheung (visiting from Southern Cal) as the scripture reader that week.



Photos courtesy: Lorraine Crouse

### Correction

A photo in the June Herald taken at the Memorial Day Veteran’s service was incorrectly captioned. Allyn Nakashima placed a flag in memory of her uncles Howard, Kinji and Shoji Watanabe who served in WWII; not her father Kay as stated in the caption.

## Lock Up Reminder

If you are the last person to leave the church premises on any given day, please check that the buildings are secure. Make sure all gates are locked with padlocks and put up the chain at the front of the driveway.

In the Fellowship Hall, turn out all lights upstairs and downstairs, check that all sliding glass doors are locked and main doors – front and office access - are locked.

In the Sanctuary, make sure the windows are shut throughout the building, turn out all lights, and that the front and back doors are locked.

## Session Report – June 2022

The Session held a hybrid meeting on June 15, 2022. Pastor Daniel led a devotional about the connection between Flag Day, Juneteenth, and Swords to Plowshares events in our community. The Session will not meet in July, and our next meeting will be August 10. If you have any questions, thoughts, or suggestions, please reach out to any member of the Session!

**Old Business:** Allyn and Pastor Daniel reported that they will meet this month with Laura and leadership of **Kenshin Taiko** to start a discussion about how best to move that partnership forward.

Steve presented updated **estimates for HVAC system upgrades**. *The Session voted to recommend moving forward with the Namba estimate and request the Trustees to approve this as soon as possible due to concerns about time, health, cost, and supply chain.*

**New Business:** Allyn reported that population-level policies are unlikely to be pushed at this point and recommended that we **keep existing COVID precautions in place** because of the demographics of our congregation. Allyn will work on updating written policies.

The Session also discussed **recognition for Judge Raymond Uno, Mitsugi Kasai, and the Kato family** and voted to approve placement of plaques for *Raymond Uno in memory of his mother, Mitsugi Kasai, and the Kato family in memory of Reverend Paul Kato*. The Session also voted to begin working on a policy for *stewardship recognition, led by the Stewardship committee*.

We will look at an event in August for a **dedication of the Fellowship Hall** and to recognize these individuals.

## Youth Golf Tournament Wrap

From Rev. Adam Tobey, Youth Director for the Presbytery of Utah:

"The Youth of the Utah Presbytery Golf Fundraiser was a great success! We saw 28 people golf their way around the course of Sun Hills and enjoy lunch together, and raised \$2000 in the process. These funds will help to offset costs for our programming so that any student who wants to join us can do so without having to worry about financial constraints. Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy the beautiful Saturday morning and to those who donated. We'll be selecting a date this fall for next year's tournament, so stay tuned!"



The JCC Team: Rev. Daniel Haas, Jerry Mori, Allyn Nakashima and Steve Fukumitsu. Photo courtesy: Rev. Haas

## Topaz Museum Survey

The Topaz Museum is pleased to announce the launch of the Topaz Community Outreach Project. We invite you to participate in a survey and to attend a community outreach session at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple on August 27, 2022 from 1 to 3 p.m. (a Zoom option is also available). The board is looking forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions and perspectives about the Wakasa monument as well as the future of interpretation and community engagement at the Museum.

Take an online survey here:

<https://forms.gle/FkHJKuehMbERewJJ6>

Visit the new Topaz Community website here:

[www.topazcommunityoutreach.com](http://www.topazcommunityoutreach.com)



**Community Events**

- July 9 – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Obon Festival. Taiko performance at 7:00 p.m., dancing at 8:00 p.m. Food from 3 to 7 p.m.
- July 9 – Utah Asian Festival. Utah State Fairpark, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Free admission.
- July 13 – Crossroads Urban Center “Meet the Candidates BBQ” 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Liberty Park Pavilion (NE corner of Liberty Park).
- July 23 – Utah JAACL Chapters Matsumoto Picnic

**Utah Magazine Article**

An article entitled “ *Revitalizing Japantown Street*” has come out in the summer issue of the University of Utah alumni publication, Utah Magazine.

The article does a good job of touching on the important history of the area with a focus on the positive effort, community, partners, and momentum around revitalizing Japantown. The magazine reaches 185,000 alumni mailboxes and is online as well!

Here is the link to the story:

<https://magazine.utah.edu/issues/summer-2022/restoring-historic-japantown/>

JCC July 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 -Communion, 10:30am -Deacons Mtg, 11:45am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 -Parking, Utah Jazz Summer League, 5pm	6 -Parking, Utah Jazz Summer League, 5pm	7 -Parking, Utah Jazz Summer League, 4pm	8	9
10 -Worship, 10:30am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	11	12	13	14	15 -Parking, Dude Perfect Tour, 7pm	16
17 -Worship, 10:30am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	18	19	20	21	22	23 -Herald Deadline, noon
24 -Worship, 10:30am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	25	26	27 -Parking, Josh Groban, 7pm	28	29	30
31 -Worship, 10:30am -Nihongo Gakko, noon						

\*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 6/27/2022.

For up to date building use information, go to [www.icslc.net](http://www.icslc.net), Events/Activities tab, JCC Building Usage Schedule link

### Father's Day at Liberty Park

This year, the traditional Father's Day worship service was held at Liberty Park. The weather was perfect – not too hot with a slight breeze. (Unlike the day before with gale force dusty winds!) Pastor Haas led the service which included the traditional Father's Day solo by Victor Homma. The JCC Worship Band performed three numbers as well.

After the worship service, participants enjoyed bento boxes or their own picnic lunches. The Chase Home Museum opened its doors to allow us to view the exhibit "Japantown in the Heart of Salt Lake City."

Thanks to Jean Irwin for making arrangements at the museum and to the many hands involved in making the event a success.



Worship service under the shade at Liberty Park.



JCC Worship Band – Rick Aoki, Dean Shiba and Wes Kida.



Elaine Iwasaki, Patty Price, Luanne Nakamura and Sadie Yoshimura enjoy bento lunch.



Pastor Haas



Victor Homma



Members of the Haas family: Ben, Marie, Mirjam Haas-Melchior and Mirjam's father, Kurt-Eugen Melchior.



Jan Aramaki and Laura Olson view the exhibit at the Chase Home Museum.

Photos courtesy: Lorraine Crouse, Allyn Nakashima, Karen Okawa