

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

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Website: jccslc.net Email: 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.

Pastoral Message

September 2022

A Time to Curse

I have been exposed to COVID four times: Three times as a health care chaplain and now on a trip to my mother-in-law's funeral. She died from COVID. My wife got sick and had to isolate in our bedroom for a week until she tested negative. After two and half years, COVID hit home for me. I have helped dozens of families navigate through the sickness and even death of loved ones due to COVID. Now this nasty bug took the first life in my extended family. Also, the pressure, the anxiety, the struggle of proximity and distance that comes with isolating in the same house is exhausting.

Early in the pandemic, the United Church of Christ sent all pastors a little book of liturgical and devotional writings that address pandemic-life. Professionally, I have used the following curse countless times in staff rounds in hospice and hospital. And now that my own family has been victimized by the virus, I offer this curse from a place of my own suffering. I hope it speaks for you as well:

Maker of the Universe, you want us to respect and care for all creatures, not curse and destroy them. But couldn't we make an exception for this virus? It's terrible, and doing so much harm. You yourself were not above cursing things. Remember how unhappy you once were with us? You sent a flood. And Jesus didn't go easy on the fig tree. He cursed it, and it withered, just like that. I don't understand why. But I do know this: Cursing shouldn't be done lightly or often, but now seems like a perfect time. People have suffered so much. So, forgive me if I'm crossing any lines here, but here it goes:

You malevolent, horrible virus, you microscopic nasty, you pox with spikey crown: I maledict and curse you! I imprecate and revile you! I execrate and scorn you! I summon science to annihilate you, to bleach you and to wipe you, to test you and to trace you, to send you writhing into the void! With righteous strength I oppose you! In the name of Life, I damn you: Be damned, and be gone! Be damned, and be gone! Be damned, and be gone!

(EMERGE: Blessings and Rituals for Unsheltering, Stillspeaking Writers' Group)

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

Annual Stewardship Mailer

Submitted by Gary Nakao, Stewardship and Membership

September typically notes the beginning of the annual Stewardship Drive. In past years, the JCC sent out a Stewardship pledge request brochure where members declared their yearly/monthly/weekly pledge to JCC and returned it in October. However, this mailer will be suspended for this year.

A motion was approved at the August 17, 2022 Session meeting to exclude the pledge request mailer this year and re-evaluate in 2023. The reasoning for this motion was that the return response rate for the mailed pledge requests has been very low in recent years and has not been useful in estimating the following year's proposed budget. In this time of tight budgets, the Session felt that the cost of preparing and sending out the pledge requests as we are currently doing is not cost effective. The Session will be looking into other more effective ways in the coming year.

Continue your regular pledges as always. We are eternally grateful for your support. Your offerings are a way to thank God for many blessings. It is a way to sow and invest in the JCC, so that all may reap the blessings to come.

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

It is Fall – Back to Bible Study!

Greg Paige will be teaching the Adult Bible Study class which will resume on **Sunday, September 11, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.** We will study the book of Luke, the third of the four gospel writings. The class will be held in-person and via Zoom. As in the past, Greg will send out the scripture references and Zoom link prior to Sunday. Contact Greg or jccherald@gmail.com to be added. Otherwise, please feel free to invite others to attend in-person too!

Children’s Sunday School is resuming **September 3**. The children will attend worship services at 10:30 and be excused for class during service for Bible lessons and activities every week. It is important to revive our Sunday School, so please bring your kids and grandkids!

Annual Flu Shot Clinic

Flu shots will be offered at the JCC on **Sunday, September 18, 2022**, after worship service. Please bring your personal ID, proof of insurance or Medicare and also wear a short sleeved shirt or top. It is important to have protection against influenza this coming season. A sign up sheet is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

COVID boosters and Shingles and pneumonia vaccinations will also be available, but please notify Stephanie Mori-Nakao in advance, so that CNS will bring enough of each vaccine. If you are getting a COVID booster, indicate whether you need the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine and don’t forget to bring your COVID vaccination record (white card) so it can be stamped.

Thanks to Stephanie for making the arrangements as always!

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Dr. Donald Lamb, who passed away on July 24, 2022 in Fargo, ND. Dr. Lamb was the husband of Linda Tabata Lamb.

Our condolences are extended to the family of Ute Melchior-Giovannini, who passed away on July 27, 2022 in Germany. She was the mother of Pastor Mirjam Haas-Melchior, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Utah and mother-in-law of Pastor Haas. She had just visited Salt Lake City this summer and met many of our congregation at the Father’s Day picnic and worship services.

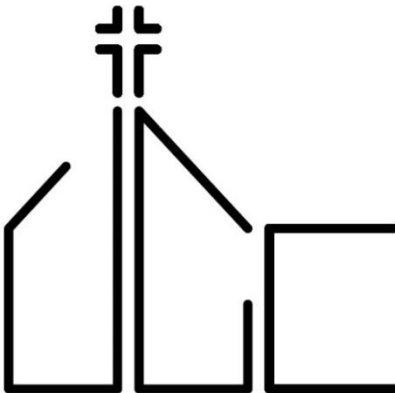
Also, sympathy is extended to the family of Toshiko Marse, who passed away on August 8, 2022. Toshiko was an active member of the JCC and was also a master Japanese doll-maker who shared her passion by teaching classes.

Remember in Your Prayers

Remember the new Prayer List practice – names will appear on the list for one month, so we can keep it updated. To respect individual privacy, if there is a name to be added to this prayer list, the person must first give permission to have his/her own name published. Email the JCC website, jccslc.net.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Saeko Nakashima | Victor Homma | Lillian Nakamura |
| Debbie Homma | Family of Don Lamb | Jason L. Moses |
| Family of Toshiko Marse | Family of Ute Melchior- | Giovannini |



Japanese Church of Christ
Celebrating 100 years of worship

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,
Elaine Iwasaki, Elise Mori, Julee Mori,
Laura Olson, Yuri Uyeda

Newsletter articles are due on the fourth Saturday of each month at noon. Send your articles to jccherald@gmail.com.

Website: www.jccslc.net

New JCC Office Administrator

Submitted by Lynne Ward, Personnel

Many of you know Michael Flemming as he is active in the JCC. He first came to JCC for the Aki Matsuri in 2007. A couple years later he became a member of JCC. Michael moved to Japan for 7 years, but moved back to Utah in 2020. He began as our Office Administrator in August and has hit the ground running!

He is fluent in Japanese and Spanish. Michael currently works as Senior Consultant | 支社長 (Regional Director) for GMO BRAND SECURITY, Inc. which is headquartered in Japan. He holds a certification as a project management professional and obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian Studies and English and Japanese from the University of Utah. Please welcome Michael to the position!

Let's Be Green

Within the next month or so, we will be using a new laminated card that includes the Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer and Doxology in English and Japanese translations. After service, turn the card back in so it can be used again in the following weeks. This will avoid printing copies of the same insert that is just thrown away after a single use. Special thanks to Elise Mori for laminating the cards!

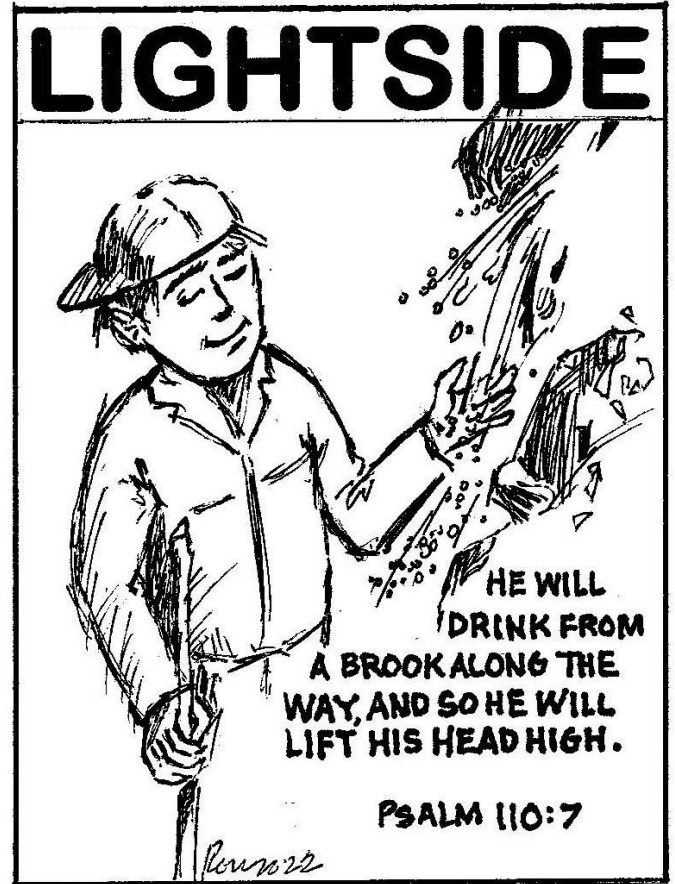
P.O. Box Issues

We have been made aware that there have been some issues in receiving pledges and payments to the JCC. The problem stems from our using a temporary P. O. Box while we were in COVID shutdown and no one was physically at church to check mail. When the church reopened, the P. O. Box was canceled. However, unbeknownst to us, the postal service is still returning mail that used to be sent to the P.O. Box as "undeliverable" and returned to sender.

We believe the problem has now finally been resolved after months of attempts to contact the postal service, via telephone, email and in-person. In the meantime, we ask for your patience. Please know that we are eternally grateful for everyone who continues to pledge faithfully.

Our Daily Bread Available

The "Our Daily Bread" devotional for Fall 2022 (September, October and November) is now available. Pick one up after worship service next week. Copies are located at the Fellowship Hall entrance.



Deacons Report – August Meeting

The Deacons met on Sunday, August 7, 2022 in Pastor Haas' office. The following items were discussed:

- Gideons bibles were purchased in memory of Dorthie Conway, Donald Lamb, Ute Melchior-Giovannini and Haruko Moriyasu.
- Finalized plans for the Sunday, August 21 potluck luncheon. Deacons will provide the main entrée and ask the congregation to bring sides, salads, desserts.
- Discussed future community service project and program ideas. These are being researched.
- Discussion on future of children's Sunday School. There are new requirements and restrictions, but it is important to have a program for the children. Forwarding concern to Session to discuss.
- Visitations –Yoshiko Miyake, Toshiko Marse (has passed since), and Lil Nakamura.

The next Deacons meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2022.

Happy Birthday Yoshiko!

Yoshiko Miyake celebrated her 100th birthday on July 29. What a milestone! She is still very active and in good health. May we all age as gracefully! Happy Birthday blessings!



Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

You are invited to join the PWP Fall Gathering:

- September 16 and 17, 2022
- Friday from 5 to 9 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Trinity Presbyterian Church, 140 North Tyler Avenue, Ogden, UT.
- Storyteller Lora Schmidt will be the Keynote Speaker. "Far Above the Rubies"
- Registration Deadline: September 12, 2022
- \$15 registration fee includes 2 meals (payable at registration on Friday)

Please contact Marilyn Collins, mcollins1949@hotmail.com or 801-866-7007 to register. Let Marilyn know if this is your first time at a Gathering and/or any dietary needs.

September Arts Event

"Finding Solace in the Soil: An Artistic and Archaeological Exploration of Internment Gardens" on **Thursday, September 15, 2022 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** at Red Butte Gardens (upstairs education room), 300 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City. Admission is free.

Placed in internment camps, Japanese Americans transformed hostile landscapes through intensive gardening; a testimony to their skill and resilience. One author used art and another used archaeology to explore gardens at Amache, Colorado. This perspective through historic gardens draws from personal experience, imagination and systemic landscape study. It presents a holistic view of the inspirational expressions of the human spirit.

The presentation will feature Lily Yuriko Havey (artist and survivor of Amache) and Dr. Bonnie J. Clark (anthropology professor at the University of Denver). The event is put on by the Utah Division of Arts and Museums.



Watercolor by Lily Havey

JCC September 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 -Communion, 10:30am -Deacons Mtg, 11:45am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	5 LABOR DAY	6	7	8 -Parking, Roger Waters Concert, 8 pm	9	10
11 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am -Flu Shot Clinic, 11:30am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	19 -Parking, Gorillaz Concert, 7:30pm	20 -Parking, Twenty One Pilots Concert, 8pm	21	22 -Parking, SLC FanX, all day	23 -Parking, SLC FanX, all day -Parking, WWE Smack, 5:45pm	24 -Herald Deadline, noon -Parking, SLC FanX, all day
25 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am -Nihongo Gakko, noon	26	27	28 -Session Meeting, 6pm	29	30	

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 8/29/2022.

Kenshin Taiko News

Submitted by Sarah Gregorio, Kenshin Taiko

Editor's note: To keep everyone "in the know" of JCC related activities, we welcome Sarah Gregorio of Kenshin Taiko as a regular contributor to the Herald!

August has been a busy month for Kenshin! The month started with a performance in West Pointe Park, an open summer family event. Next, we were invited back to the annual Summer Dance Festival, an event featuring cultural performances from all over the world. In the same weekend, we were invited back to the Kimball Art Festival!

Next, the Hale Center Theater asked us to play at a cultural celebration series. This was a special performance in which Josh and Tyler Uyeda played the Odaikos! The theater enjoyed us so much that they promptly invited us back for next year.

And to catch up to date, we played at the ACLU Block Party, an event promoting civil rights. They, too, will reach back out for future events!

On 8/23 and 8/25, a workshop from Rannoch Purcell. Now a professional Taiko teacher located in Germany, Rannoch is originally from Utah, so he comes home every summer. He happened to grow up with one of our newest players, Amber, so she connected us! He has worked closely with Kenny Endo and Shoji Kameda of ON Ensemble, who came to give us that workshop in November 2021. We're very excited to have him in town!

On August 27, a traditional Chinese festival, the art of racing Dragon Boats comes to Daybreak, Utah! We have been asked to perform as part of their entertainment segment of the festival.

Amongst all the performing, Kenshin is also working on reskinning the drums in need of repair.

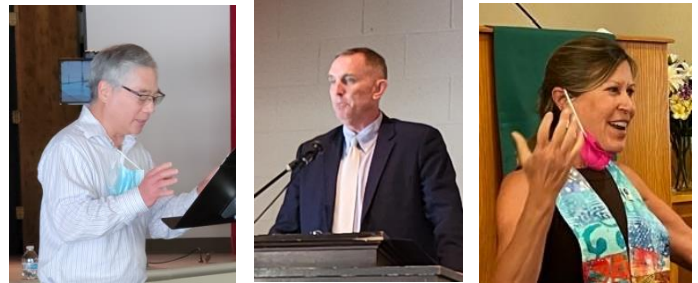
On September 11th, Kenshin will perform at The Full Moon Goddess Group. We have played many times in the past for this lovely group! They are humanitarians who advocate for battered women, and provide safety, shelter, and healing. This event is open to the public, but the location was not available at press time. Inquire with Sarah or Laura if interested in attending.



Kenshin Taiko performs during worship service, 8/21 (Photo courtesy Lorraine Crouse)

Guest Speakers

While Reverend Haas was in Germany, guest speakers filled the pulpit: July 30, Reverend Bob Nakaoka, formerly of the Ogden Christian Church; August 7, Reverend Scot McCosh, U.S. Army, North Carolina; and August 14, Reverend Lorrie Gaffney, UCC. Each speaker delivered thoughtful and insightful sermons; we are thankful for their words!



Photos courtesy: Jan Aramaki and Lorraine Crouse

Crossroads Urban Center Drive

The Deacons' Crossroads Urban Center Food Drive is being extended one more month until **September 30**. Bring non-perishable items (pastas, peanut butter, canned fruits and veggies, etc.) and place them in the blue bin in the Fellowship Hall. We appreciate all of the donations so far! We have even made a delivery to Crossroads already. (Thank you to Ron Nishijima for creating the signage for the bin.)

Monetary donations are always welcomed for the Utah Food Bank too! Rising food prices in 2022 have driven more people to ask for help from the Utah Food Bank. Donations can be made online through its website: <https://www.utahfoodbank.org/give-money/>

Or if it is easier, make your check payable to Utah Food Bank and deposit it in the offering box. We will forward your check to the organization.

Women in the Money Conference

Join personal and family finance experts for a day of learning and growth on **Friday, September 16, 2022** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The conference will be held in person at the Salt Lake Sheraton, \$25 registration fee. It will also be held virtually at no cost, but registration is required. Go to the website to sign up: womeninthemoney.org.

FYI

At one time a farewell event had been proposed for Pastor Brad Kramer and family; but at this point in time, Pastor Kramer has decided it would be best to forgo such a gathering. However, he would be happy to meet with those that would like to visit individually. We are grateful for his service to the JCC and continue to wish him and Keri the best.

Session Report – August 2022

Submitted by Daniel Cheung, Clerk of Session

The Session held a hybrid meeting on August 17, 2022. We will continue to provide highlights in the Herald of important items that were discussed. The next Session meeting is on September 28. If you have any questions, thoughts, or suggestions, please reach out to any member of the Session!

Pastor Daniel led a devotional and the Session reflected on our memories and hopes for the church. The last question was about *your wishes for the future of JCC*. We invite you to reflect on that question and hope you will contribute your answer to our mission study.

We also reflected on the positives and challenges of returning to in-person events. After much discussion, the Session voted to: (1) continue requiring masking during Sunday services, (2) continue providing masks and hand sanitizer, and (3) serve food and beverages in coffee fellowship and conduct other activities in a manner as safely as possible under the circumstances. We recognize that circumstances continue to change, and we will continue to monitor these challenges and communicate with the congregation.

The Session is working toward doing the work of the church through committees and teams. As part of this transition, the Session receives reports from each of the church's committees. We know that there are so many hands that help to keep the church vibrant and hopeful. We are so grateful!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jani Iwamoto, a recipient of a 2022 Living Color Award that honors the individuals and organizations who are working toward a more equitable and inclusive future for our state.

Jani was also named the recipient of the 2022 Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Utah Democratic Party and will be honored in October. This award honors the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt in recognizing the immense strength and contribution of women to the party.

Lake Tahoe Retreat Wrap Up

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

Strengthen your Faith at Lake Tahoe Retreat

Lake Tahoe Retreat was once again a week of spiritual growth for me. I was the only attendee from the JCC, missing many of you who initially registered. Next year, mark your calendars - Monday, July 23 thru Friday, July 28, 2023. Registrations become available generally around February/March and fill up quickly. I will be reaching out on behalf of Doc Matsukawa's evangelical heart encouraging you to attend.

Rev. John Oda from the Wesley United Methodist Church (<https://www.wesleysj.net/wesley-church-staff>) was the keynote speaker with the theme "Life Lessons from the Parable of the Prodigal Son." We did a daily exercise to write down five things we are grateful for to experience the effects of gratitude in our overall well-being. The week was a wonderful reminder of God's grace and love.

Plan on next year – you will feel welcomed, enjoy the beauty of the Lake, grow in your spiritual journey, and feel God's presence. The Lake Tahoe Retreat family is like being at home at the JCC – people with a BIG heart! You gotta go!! You will find peace, joy and love by attending. Look forward to you joining next year!

Summer Celebration Luncheon Wrap Up

After a few years absence due to COVID precautions, the JCC finally had its first Fellowship luncheon on August 21, 2022 to celebrate the remodeling of the Fellowship Hall and formally welcome Pastor Daniel Haas as our interim pastor, and his family.

The day started with worship service that included a performance from the Kenshin Taiko group, who also conducted a short workshop afterwards. For the potluck luncheon, the Deacons furnished fried chicken as the main entrée and attendees brought sides, salads and desserts. The food selection was delicious – after two years, people were happy to be able to cook for a crowd! Thank you to all that helped with set up, serving and clean up.

It was nice to see some familiar faces that we haven't seen in a while! We hope to see you more often.

More photos on Page 8, courtesy of Lorraine Crouse.



Rick Aoki and grandsons



Pastor Haas shows good form!



Miya Titmus, Derrick Davis, Suzy and Jon Namba and Matt Miya



Masked and gloved food servers in the remodeled kitchen



Hymn time in the Fellowship Hall, new lighting and flooring



Mateo Gregorio instructs Ben and Marie Haas on the taiko drums



Making music? Marie Haas, Pastor Haas, Mateo Gregorio (instructor), Katsuko Gose and Steve Fukumitsu



Liturgist Chris Miya



The Murakami family listens to the scripture reading



Pastor Haas welcomes all



A variety of salads to choose from!



Kenshin Taiko leaders Sarah and Mateo Gregorio



Sadie, Wilma, Yas, Betty and Al enjoy the potluck