

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

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

The weekly sermons may also be viewed at www.jccslc.net.

Pastoral Message

December 2022

Don't be a Wise Man!

"In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.'" (Matthew 2:1-2)

The wise men came late to the party! Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are still in Bethlehem but by now they found a house to stay in and left the stable (Matthew 2:11). That means, the wise men do not belong in the nativity scene, because they did not come until 12 days later. They are not part of the Christmas story. Their day is Epiphany on January 6th.

Don't be a wise man! Don't be late to the party! Please show up for baby Jesus! The church needs you now! The nominating committee has been working diligently on finding candidates for our 2023 slate of officers. Please be ready to embark on a new journey when you see the star. Its light points you to a new way of engagement with God's people. We do not ask you to travel 1000 km on foot like the ancient wise men, but we do ask you to volunteer a few hours of your precious time per month, be it by filling a formal position or helping out with things that need to be done.

When the wise men finally made it to Bethlehem, they came bearing great gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What are the gifts that you can bring? Please be a wise man and bring your gifts! And please arrive early!

Blessings,

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



Advent Season 2022

The season of Advent is the four-week period before December 25th when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. During Advent we get ready to welcome Jesus into our lives by reading Scriptures, sharing special Advent readings, lighting the candles on our Advent wreath and praying together.

Three candles are purple to represent royalty, because Jesus is our eternal King. One candle is pink to represent the joy we feel when Jesus comes to our world. The last candle, the Christ Candle, is white to represent the holiness and purity of Jesus, our Savior. We light the Christ candle on Christmas Eve as we read the story of Jesus' birth.

Advent Season Participants

- November 27, 1st week in Advent: HOPE (purple candle) – Flemming Family
- December 4, 2nd week in Advent: PEACE (purple candle) – Lund and Vosburgh Families
- December 11, 3rd week in Advent: JOY (pink candle) – Oki and Croft Families
- December 18, 4th week in Advent: LOVE (purple candle) – Haas Family
- December 24, Christmas Eve: CHRIST (white candle) – Aoki and Foxley Families

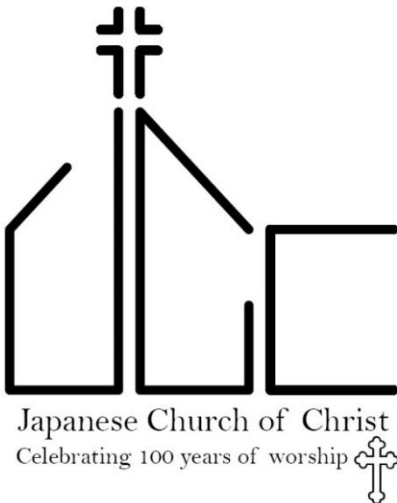


Flemming family lights the first Advent candle for HOPE

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
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

Christmas Events 2022

After two years of virtual Christmas services, we will meet in-person this year. We invite you to these special events to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Sunday, December 18: There will be a joint worship service with the Tongan and Kachin congregations at the usual **10:30 a.m.** time.

Afterwards, there will be a holiday potluck (note the potluck will be immediately following worship service this year instead of an evening event to avoid a drive back to church later). Please bring a dish to share.

The traditional Christmas Pageant will be performed as well. Finally, a visit from Santa will complete the afternoon!

Saturday, December 24: The Christmas Eve service will begin at **5:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. During this service, the final Advent candle will be lit and Pastor Haas will lead the congregation in a candle lighting service. Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Sunday, December 25: This year Christmas is on Sunday! Rise and celebrate Jesus' birth. Worship service will begin at **10:30 a.m.**

**Delayed Mailing**

For those on the hardcopy Herald mailing list, we apologize for the delay in receiving the November issue last month. The newsletter was prepared and sent to the mailing company on time, but there were some corporate changes that caused an internal problem with the November mailing. (Also, hardcopy recipients received a "bonus" full color issue in error last month, rather than the black and white print. We were not charged for this error.)

The Herald due date is the fourth Saturday of the month and the final draft is sent to print the following Monday. Bulk mail processes determine the day the Herald is delivered in mailboxes. If in the future, you do not receive your hardcopy by the 10th of the month, please let us know! Also, remember that you can always receive the Herald via email too. Write jccherald@gmail.com.

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 and current. 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 or contact Pastor Haas or any of the Deacons.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Family of Shinji Ichida Betty Morishita Midori Murakami

Church Clean Up Wrap Up

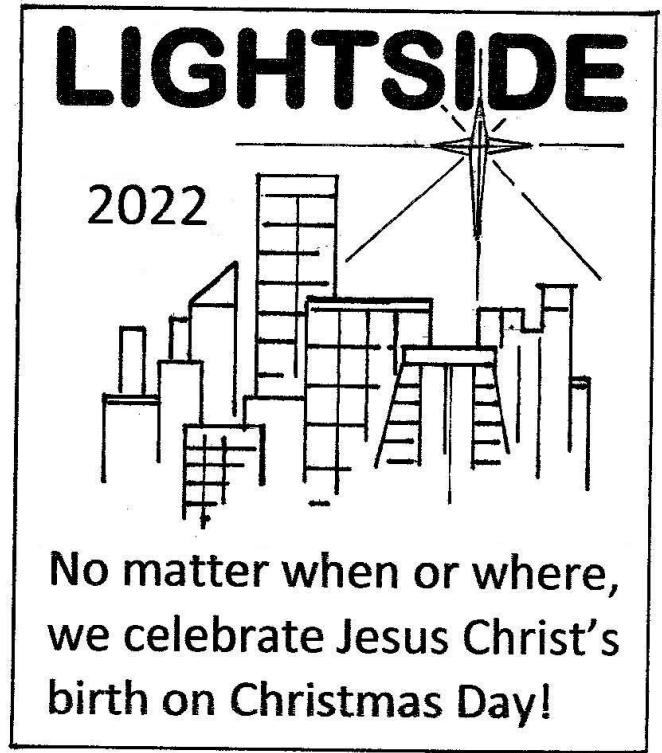
Submitted by Steve Fukumitsu

We had a successful fall cleanup. Thanks to all our regular members who came to help. Special thanks to the Kachin members who came in numbers, both men and women. A big thanks to Jerry Mori for bringing his trailer and making several loads to the dump with help from Mark Ward.



Jerry Mori and Mark Ward load up the trailer

Photo courtesy: Steve Fukumitsu



Operation Christmas Child Thanks

Thank you to everyone who filled shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project. The Deacons also purchased supplies and supplemented some of the postage/shipping costs. There were over 40 boxes filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items.

The shoebox gifts bring joy to so many children and send the news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Thank you again for your support!



Farewell

The November Session meeting marked the last in-person meeting with Daniel Cheung acting as Clerk of Session. Daniel's term of office ends on December 31 and he will permanently be in California at this point.

We are so grateful for Daniel's service as Clerk of Session and other contributions he made for JCC – his talent as pianist and vocalist in worship services and video editor of our prerecorded services while we were holding online services during the pandemic. We will miss him immensely, but wish Daniel and Alison well! Please keep in touch!



Clerk of Session Daniel Cheung flanked by Elders Lynne Ward, Steve Fukumitsu, Rev. Daniel Haas, Gary Nakao, Allyn Nakashima, Lorraine Crouse and Pauline Vosburgh (virtually).

Upcoming Community Events

- **December 3** – Nikkei Senior Center Christmas Luncheon, sponsored by Nikkei Senior Center, to be held at the Japanese Church of Christ at noon.
- **December 10** – Mount Olympus JAACL Christmas Luncheon at Dai Ichi Ward (1900 South 900 East) at noon. Potluck, chicken provided by chapter, bring a side dish or dessert to share.

No Agape Christmas Luncheon

The Agape Christmas luncheon tentatively scheduled to be in December is cancelled. A poll was conducted last month; but unfortunately, it is a busy time of year and there were not enough names to secure a reservation at a restaurant. Hopefully we can gather together next year!

Our Daily Bread

The December 2022 through February 2023 Winter issue of "Our Daily Bread" is now available. Pick up a copy after worship service.

CWU Advent Service and Tea

A multi-faith gathering of Christian women.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend Church Women United's (CWU) Advent Service and Tea:

When: Friday, December 2, 2022 (1st Friday)

Time: Afternoon - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Centenary United Methodist Church, 1740 South 500 East (SLC)

Worship: Pastor A. J. Bush

Community Outreach: The Ronald McDonald House – Please BRING the following: Individual snack items, juice containers, water bottles, yogurt or apple squeeze tubes, travel size personal items, individual cereal, or gift cards.



JCC December 2022 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 -Parking, Jazz vs Pacers, 7pm	3 -Nikkei Senior Center Christmas luncheon, noon -Parking, Jazz vs Trailblazers, 7pm
4 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Communion, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, 11:30am	5	6	7 -Parking, Jazz vs Warriors, 7pm	8	9 -Parking, Jazz vs Timberwolves, 7pm	10
11 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am	12	13 -Parking, Jazz vs Pelicans, 8pm	14 -Session Meeting, 6pm	15 -Parking, Jazz vs Pelicans, 8pm	16	17 -Deacons deliveries -Parking, Piano Guys, 7:30pm
18 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Joint Worship Service, 10:30am -Christmas Potluck and Pageant, 11:45am	19	20	21	22 -Parking, Jazz vs Wizards, 8pm	23	24 -Christmas Eve service, 5:00pm
25 CHRISTMAS -Worship Service, 10:30am	26	27	28	29	30	31 -Parking, Jazz vs Miami, 8pm

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 11/28/2022.

Deacons Report – November Meeting

The Deacons monthly meeting was held on Sunday, November 6. The following items were discussed.

- Discussion on holiday gifts. Care packages will be distributed to shut-ins/90 years of age and poinsettias to those families who have lost a loved one in 2022. Deliveries on December 17.
- The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple is having a Holiday Boutique on November 19/20 and the Deacons will participate as a vendor. We have several items to sell.
- No names have been identified as turning 90 years of age in 2022. (Deacons give monetary gift to those reaching that milestone during the year.)
- Approved end of year donations. Rescue Mission for Thanksgiving dinners; Geraldine King Women’s Resource Center, Utah Food Bank and Road Home.
- Next meeting will be Sunday, December 4.

Update - The Deacons participated in the Holiday Boutique on November 19 and 20. A big thank you to those that donated items for us to sell and to everyone that came and supported the fundraiser.

November Services

November was a busy month – along with the Harvest Party and Veterans’ Day events, there was special offertory music and an appearance from St. Martin!



Tongan Choir; story of St. Martin; guest Pastor Tip; Elise and Yas with offertory music.

Session Report – November Meeting

Submitted by Daniel Cheung, Clerk of Session

November was a busy month for the church and for the Session! As always, thank you to all of those who have been involved in big and small ways throughout the month.

On November 6, we held a joint meeting with the Deacons and Session. This is a meeting that is required by our bylaws, but also one that we were grateful to hold. Pastor Daniel started by leading us through a reflection of things that the church may want to start, continue, or reevaluate/stop. We had a very helpful discussion about Sunday School, which many of the Deacons (and others) have graciously been shouldering for many years. The Session will be working with the Deacons and others to set up some structure around Sunday School.

On November 16, the Session met to discuss a number of issues as we look toward the new year. The main item of discussion was the nominations report and the importance of lay leadership and volunteers to the church. As the pastoral message this month notes, we hope that people will consider "stepping up" their time and commitment to the church!

We followed up on security training with SLCPD and talked about ways to be prepared for any kind of emergency. The Session is closely following the NBA All Star Event which may affect church operations in February 2023. Finally, the Session voted to approve the baptism of the Flemming children on Christmas Sunday per Presbytery rule.

The Session's last meeting of the year will be Wednesday, December 14 at 6 PM. We will be discussing the 2023 budget and other items that may come up. If you have any questions or issues that need to be discussed, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the Session!



The November 6 meeting was also Pastor Haas’ birthday!

Harvest Party Wrap Up

On October 30, a Harvest Party luncheon was held for young and old. Many thanks to Stephanie Mori-Nakao for putting together the festive party as she has done for many years! Also thanks to the Sunday School teachers and assistants for planning the children’s activities. The costumes were great!



Captain Kirk-Haas gives sermon



Unmasked frog



Phoebe and Marie enjoy lunch



So do Tomiko and Katsuko



Stephanie and Elise serve sloppy joes and mummy dogs

Photos courtesy: Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse



Then and Now

From the archives, a JCC Halloween party in the early years. The tradition carries on today!



The Sunday School class and Laura play Halloween games.

Nisei Veterans Plaque Ceremony

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto

November 6, 2022 was definitely one of the most special days of my life. As background, I had met with Raymond Uno, "Judge", and Jeanette Misaka (two of my heroes) over various funds including a fund Raymond donated to the Japanese Church of Christ on behalf of his parents. It was Judge's wish that a plaque be done for the garden in Japantown, which he has been involved with from the beginning. It is so important to him to honor our Nisei soldiers- with their names visible and forever remembered.

Following the ceremony in Washington, DC on November 2, 2011, we had a Utah congressional gold medal ceremony, as well as a ceremony to place a plaque at Camp Williams. Terry Schow, the long-time executive director of the Utah department of Veterans Affairs, help make this happen and we were so honored to have him with us that day.

Making sure all the names were included was a monumental task - our CGM team worked on it years ago; but with the help of Lorraine Crouse, we perused through obituaries, books and with other help from Rosalyn Tonai (NJAHS), Christine Sato Yamasaki and proofing skills of Karen Okawa and Jeanette Misaka, we hope it is as accurate as possible. Thank you to Paul Seo, Creative Awards for his expertise and patience!

Thank you to Salt Lake County and SMG that runs the Salt Palace Convention Center for their help to continue this garden in the heart of Japantown, and for rushing to complete the structure that houses our plaque. Specifically, thank you to general manager Dan Hayes, manager Bart Allen, Detlef Preuer (Crafts Manager), Shawn Warfield, Johnny Parks, Mike Mitchell, and Dustin Redman!

Thank you to Judge Uno for funding this plaque in celebration on behalf and in honor of his parents, the late Clarence Hachiro Uno and Osako Teraoka Uno. Also thank you to the late Mitsugi Murakami Kasai and the JCC for their contributions.

Prayers were given by Pastor Daniel Haas (JCC), Rev. Dr. Carmela Javellana-Hirano (SL Buddhist Temple) and Matt Garriott, Bishopric Second Counselor - Japanese Dai Ichi Ward.

The bento boxes were delicious and we have to thank Japan Sage Market - Junko and her daughter April for working on a Sunday - and for donation of manju.

Janice Oike made fresh manju for everyone that morning - it was delicious! Julee Mori and her crew made patriotic centerpieces.

Special was the display photos of our Nisei soldiers - thank you to Lorraine Crouse for her tireless work - thank you to Special Collections, J Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah for loaning the

Japanese American Veterans of World War II Exhibit that is part of the Mitsugi Kasai Memorial Japanese American Archive and was curated by Lorraine Crouse for the local Congressional Gold Medal event in 2011. Thank you also to Barbara Yamada and the Utah Ski and Snow Sports Archive for loaning the exhibit panels and Dan Crouse for transporting and setting up the veterans' exhibit and for picking up all the bento lunches.

We were fortunate to have videographer Kiyoshi Nagahama of Digital Bytes - he was able to interview Casey Kunimura, our 96-year-old veteran from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, who also did the unveiling - along with Judge, and other families of veterans. We also watched a video clip from NVN - and all eyes were on the videos done for our Utah CGM ceremony of the DC and Utah CGM ceremonies and which showed photos of our Utah Veterans, to music of those days.

We also had plaques inside the church installed for Judge's parents "In remembrance for their devotion, service, and contributions to the Japanese Church of Christ"; Mitsugi Murakami Kasai who served in the US military from 1946 to 1973, and was an advocate for the rights of Japanese Americans and their place in history; to Eunice Kato's parents Rev. Paul & Nobuko Kato, who faithfully served the church from 1966 to 1975 - for the JCC Cross at the JCC's 100th anniversary celebration which was dedicated in their loving memory; and on the pew in the back of the church, a small plaque in loving memory of Franklin "Frankie" Imai who was a faithful member and brightened our lives - and who died from COVID during the early days.

What is really amazing about this event is that it came together in less than two weeks. We were going to wait until January or March to have a big event but decided to have it on this Veteran's Sunday - and so glad we did. Thanks to all those who came, and mostly to our veterans! What an honor!!!❤️



Yo and Judge Ray Uno stand next to the plaques honoring Ray's parents Clarence and Osako Uno and Mitsugi Kasai. The plaques are displayed in the Fellowship Hall. (Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse)

More photos on page 8 of this newsletter.

Photos from the Veterans' Day Event

Photos courtesy Jani Iwamoto and Lorraine Crouse.



Crowd assembles in front of Japantown Garden.



Jani Iwamoto, Casey Kunimura, Bishop Matt Garriott (Dai Ichi Ward); Pastor Daniel Haas (JCC), Rev. Dr. Carmela Javellana-Hirano (SL Buddhist Temple)



Casey Kunimura unveils plaque in Japantown Garden



Victor Homma stands next to photo of father Don



Dan Hayes from the Salt Palace addresses the crowd, along with Jani Iwamoto



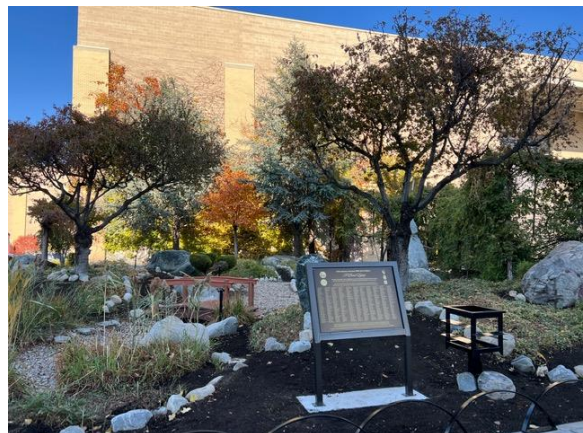
Standing room only!



Judge Uno and Casey Kunimura



JCC chapel with new cross



Nisei Veterans' plaque in Japantown Garden