

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

(801) 363-3251

Website: jccslc.net Email: info@jccslc.net

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

Pastoral Message

Baptism FAQs

I am coming up on my first anniversary at JCC. And one of the most frequent theological topics people ask me about is Baptism. So I want to take this opportunity to answer the most frequently asked questions on Baptism right here:

Is the water holy?

No and yes. No because Protestant thought does not have room for a "real benediction" like Catholicism where things are substantially being transformed. It's tap water before, during, and after the act of Baptism. But then also: Yes because all things and all persons are holy to God, just not one more than the other.

Do I have to be baptized to come to heaven?

No, because all things and all persons are holy to God. Baptism by water is your response to God's freely given, prevenient grace.

Do I have to be baptized to be a member at JCC?

Yes, Baptism makes you a member of the Body of Christ and if you choose to join its local expression in the form of this congregation and then you are welcome into membership with voting rights and the right to hold offices.

Is my membership active?

Yes, if you are present in the life of the church. We have people all over the world as members. They may not attend or give, but they feel a vital sense of connection. There is no hard and fast requirement on what activity has to look like.

Is my baptism valid?

Yes, if you were baptized with water and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That's the theological answer. Organizationally, any local church is an expression of the body of Christ. Congregations belong to denominations, in JCC's case the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of Christ. Our denominations have "a formula of agreement" with the Reformed Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which essentially states that there are no differences that separate us. We also share in the "common agreement on the mutual recognition of baptism" with the Roman Catholic Church. On a global level, we belong to the World Council of Churches which unites our Baptism with people all over the world, including the Myanmar Baptist Convention, the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, and the United Church of Christ in Japan.

More questions are always welcome!

Blessings,

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



**World Council
of Churches**

Remember in Your Prayers

Names will appear on the prayer 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 Jim McBroom

Midori Murakami

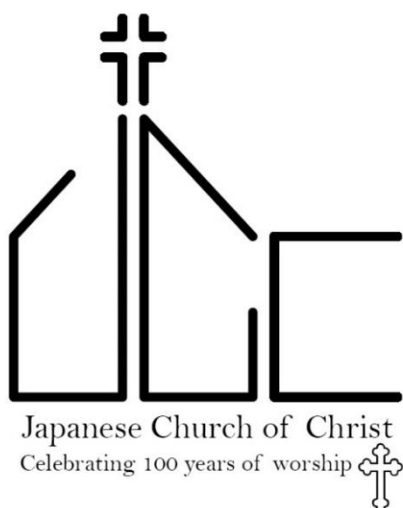
Family of Mary Imamura

Don Sakata

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

Reminder - Congregational Meeting

The JCC Annual Congregational Meeting for 2023 will be held on **Sunday, February 5, 2023**. This is an important meeting for JCC members - to review the annual report, review and approve the upcoming year budget and to approve nominations for Elders, Deacons and Trustees. The meeting will be held right after worship service.

First South Road Closures

The NBA All Star festivities at Vivint Arena will impact the roads near the arena and First South will be closed to general public access. However, we will still be able to hold in-person worship service on **February 12 and 19**.

Please use 300 West to access First South where there will be a security checkpoint. The JCC North lot will not be available, so please park in the South lot (there will be a few parking spots in the front of the North lot for handicap and seniors only).

Also, a Western Outdoor retailers event at the Salt Palace will impact First South from **January 28 to February 7, 2023** where 200 West will be closed. Please use 300 West to get to church during this time period.

Feedback Welcome

Submitted by Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel

It was a short year ago when the Session retained Pastor Daniel as our Interim Pastor. He began his one-year commitment to JCC on Easter Sunday. Looking ahead to the anniversary, we are seeking input from the congregation about his work.

Please write down any constructive comments or feedback you have regarding Pastor Haas.

Either: 1. email Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel at lynnenward@yahoo.com

OR 2. place your comments in the envelope on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board labeled "Pastoral Feedback."

Please submit your notes by **Monday, February 20**. Your feedback will be kept confidential.

Please consider these categories to guide your thoughts:

Pastoral

- Sermons (timeliness, quality, understandable message that resonates)
- Outreach to members
- Planning for weekly worship needs
- Officiation at baptisms, weddings, funerals
- Special events – represent JCC and/or participate

Administrative

- Herald Pastor's message
- Accessibility and responsiveness

Overall

Including Leadership characteristics (Initiative, enthusiasm, empathy, intuitiveness, forward thinking, sensitivity, intellect, theological integrity)

Condolences

Our condolences and sympathy are extended to the family of Mary Imamura, who passed away on January 21, 2023. Mary always volunteered her time to help make manju for JCC fundraising events and supported activities in the JA community. Please keep her sons Glenn, Paul, Wayne, Jay and Kirk and families in your prayers.

Deepest sympathy also to the family and friends of Jim McBroom, a friend of the JCC who supported our activities and festivals for many years.

Reminder - Per Capita Amount

Reminder that the Annual Per Capita one-time amount for the Presbytery per JCC baptized member for the year 2023 is **\$42.35**. Please indicate on your check that it is your Per Capita remittance.

Church Women United at JCC

The JCC will be hosting the March luncheon of CWU; a Human Rights Day celebration. The theme is "Living a Legacy of Love: Doing God's Work."

When: Friday, March 10, 2023

Time: Registration: 9:30 a.m.; Program: 10:00 a.m. to Noon; Lunch: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Japanese Church of Christ, 268 West 100 South
Lunch will be provided by JCC (\$5.00 per person) Make reservations by Monday, March 6.

Since JCC will be hosting this luncheon, we are again seeking volunteers to help! Please contact Karen Okawa if you can help.

Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon

Speaking of luncheons, the Nikkei Senior Center luncheon will be hosted by Japanese Church of Christ on **Saturday, February 4, 2023** at noon.

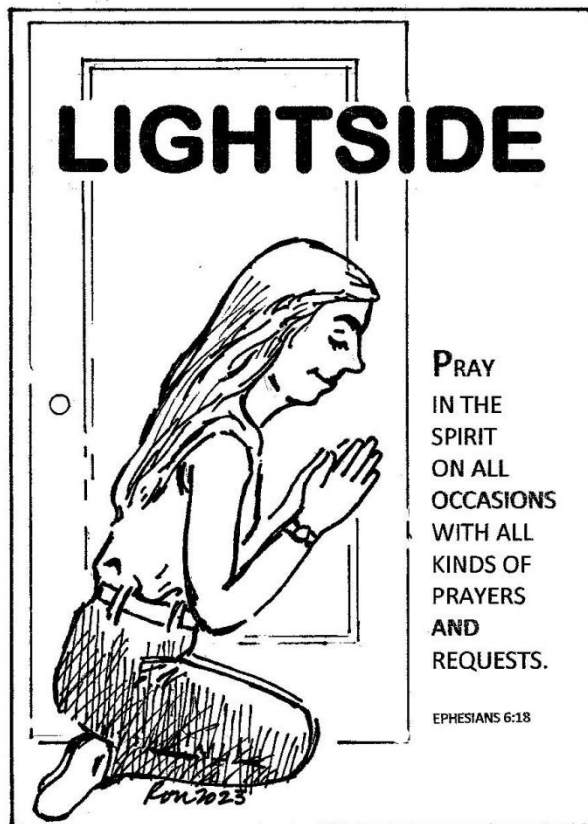
As the host, we are tasked to prepare food for lunch and provide entertainment – our Kenshin Taiko. If you would like to help with food preparation and plating, please let one of the Deacons know. Also, if you are a senior (only 62 years and older!), please plan to attend! A \$2 donation is suggested, but those 85 years and older are free.

Deacons Report - January

The Deacons did not meet in-person in January, but communicated via email.

A box was set up in the Fellowship Hall for the Souper Bowl of Caring project (see article on the right).

Gideon's bibles were sent in memory of Jim McBroom and Mary Imamura.



Souper Bowl of Caring Status

So far, the Souper Bowl of Caring competition for JCC has collected the following as of January 23:

- Non-perishable food items: 75 points
- Cash/check donations: 75 points

The last collection Day will be **February 12, 2023**.

The JCC will be collecting for the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake, in memory of Kay Nakashima.

We earn points via donations of money and/or cans of food (**no elapsed dates please**) to donate to charity. 1 non-perishable food item = 1 point OR \$1 = 1 point.

On February 12th, we will take total points and divide by church members. The final number will be our total team points.

A bin is located in the Fellowship Hall. Our total point count will be submitted to the Matthew 25 Presbytery committee. The top 3 teams will be announced and applauded at the next Presbytery meeting.

Our Daily Bread – Spring 2023

Copies of Our Daily Bread for March through May 2023 are now available. Pick one up in the Fellowship Hall.

More Kudos

Congratulations to Jani Iwamoto for receiving the NAACP Rosa Parks award on January 16, 2023 at the organization's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon.



Jani with Jeanetta Williams, President Utah Branch, NAACP

Upcoming Community Events

- February 4 – Nikkei Senior Center luncheon at JCC (see page 3), noon
- February 18 – Day of Remembrance panel discussion at Utah Bar Association office, 645 South 200 East, 1 p.m.

Session Report – January Meeting

Submitted by Daniel Cheung, Clerk of Session

The Session had its first meeting of 2023 on January 11, 2023. The main purpose of this meeting was to wrap up 2022 and prepare for the annual meeting coming up on February 5. The meeting began with a reflection on the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1) who have encouraged us at JCC -- there are so many people who have been and continue to bring life and joy to the church.

The Session discussed many events coming up in February, and we look forward to the meetings that are coming up in February. The first Sunday (2/5) will be our annual congregational meeting, where we look forward to adopting the nominations and budget that those committees have been hard at work preparing. We will hold service as usual on the following Sundays (2/12 and 19) but they will coincide with the NBA All Star events. In February, we will also begin the process of renewing our interim pastoral relationship with Pastor Daniel Haas - we have been blessed by his ministry, and Lynne Ward presented a process by which we hope to exchange feedback and renew his contract.

We have always ended these summaries with a note of thanks, and this month, we are especially grateful to those have agreed to begin or continue their service as church officers and those who are rotating off of the Session -- Gary Nakao, Allyn Nakashima, Pauline Vosburgh, and Daniel Cheung. Our elders, deacons, and trustees take on responsibilities that require time, wisdom, and attention, and we hope you will continue to keep them in your prayers!

JCC February 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 -Parking, Jazz vs. Toronto	2	3 -Parking, Jazz vs. Atlanta	4 -Nikkei Senior Center luncheon, noon
5 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Communion Service, 10:30am -Congregational Mtg, 11:30am	6 -Parking, Jazz vs Dallas	7	8 -Parking, Jazz vs. Minnesota	9	10 -Parking, North lot closed due to NBA All Star activities, through 2/20	11
12 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am	20	21	22	23 -Parking, Jazz vs. Oklahoma	24	25 -Parking, Jazz vs. San Antonio
26 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am	27 -Parking, Harlem Globetrotters, 7pm	28 -Parking, Jazz vs. San Antonio				

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 1/23/2023.