

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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

Pastor's Message

June 2023

"I'm a straight, cisgender, white Christian man in America." That is one way to identify me. But here is another description me that is just as true: "I am an immigrant for whom English is a second language, living in one of the most conservative states in the U.S., who shares parenting and household duties equally." The point is that labels cannot do justice to the lived experience of an actual person. Multiple things are always true at the same time. And June is a month of label-defying importance in this country.

The whole month of June is commemorated as LGBTQ Pride month, a now joyful festival remembering police brutality against patrons of the Stonewall Inn in 1969. June 6 marks D-Day when the allied invasion started in Europe to overthrow the Nazi regime that put in concentration camps anyone they labeled Jews, dissidents, migrants, pacifists, LGBT persons, people suffering from addiction and many more. June 19 remembers the delayed freeing of enslaved people in Texas, and now celebrates African-American culture in a broader sense. June 26, 2015 was the day when marriage equality became the law of the land in all of the United States.

My own identity and all the American culture struggles show how we use labels to define who's in, who's out. What does it mean to be American? What is the color of your skin? What is your gender identity and sexual orientation? For too long, this country has used labels for one group to exert power over another. The Apostle Paul has called the Galatians to task on this very notion: "There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

Here is your chance to act: The Salt Lake City Pride Parade kicks off on Sunday 4 June at 10 a.m. and staging happens all around JCC. Session created a task force to set up a table in front of JCC and create a positive outreach to Pride marchers. We plan to be there at 8 a.m. Please join us in prayer and action!

Blessings

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



Image made by Bing Image Creator

Condolences

Our condolences go out to the family of Richard (Rick) Okabe, who passed away on April 22, 2023 after a battle with cancer. Rick was very active in the local Japanese American community - serving on the Topaz Museum board and also the Nihon Matsuri committee. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Grace Sato, who passed away in May. Grace was the sister of Frank Imai. Please keep the Imai and Sato families in your prayers as well.

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:

Saeko Nakashima

Jan Vosburgh

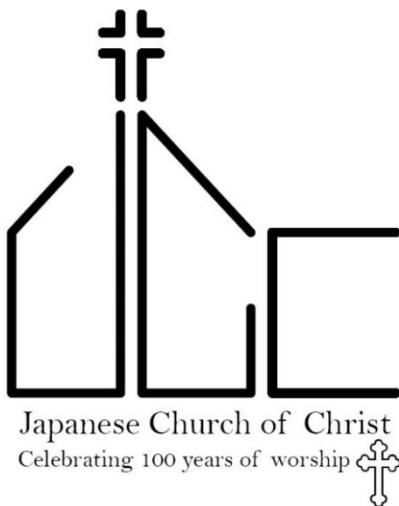
Okabe family

Sato family

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: Karen Okawa

Session

Lorraine Crouse - Worship
 Steve Fukumitsu - Buildings and Grounds
 Lynne Ward - Personnel
 Julee Mori - Finance/Kenshin Taiko Liaison
 Elise Mori - Membership/Stewardship/Deacons Liaison
 Karen Okawa - Membership/Stewardship
 Greg Paige - Education/Nichigo

Deacons

Jan Aramaki - moderator, Elaine Iwasaki, Stephanie Mori-Nakao, Allyn Nakashima, Akiko Oki, Laura Olson, Nancy Umemura, Yuri Uyeda

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

Website: www.jccslc.net

JCC Stewardship Event

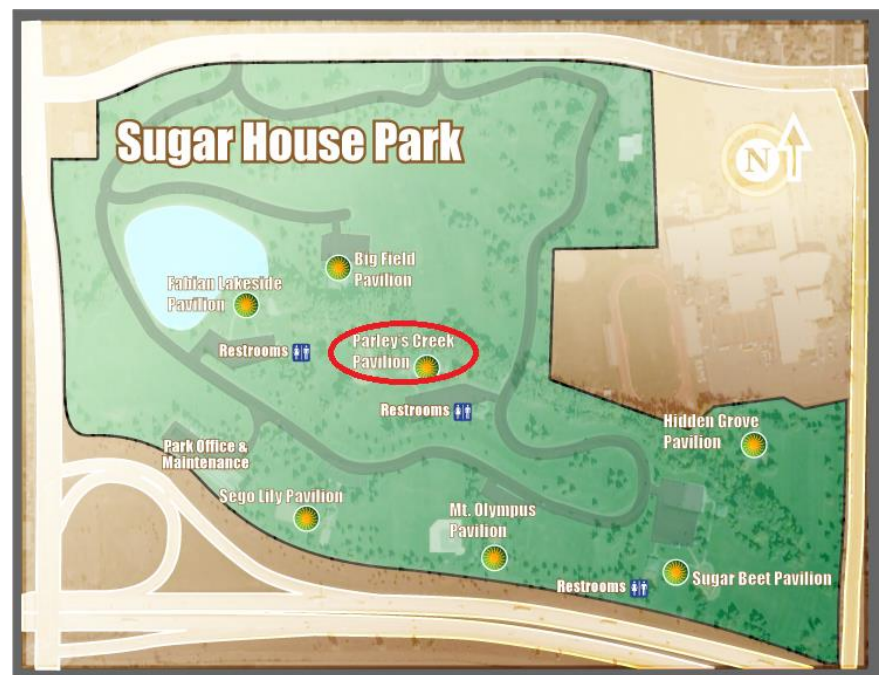
On **Sunday, June 25, 2023**, please stay after worship service to attend a JCC Stewardship event. This event is open to everyone and anyone with an interest in the future of the JCC. It is an opportunity to learn about how the JCC operates and the many positions and tasks available to you to get involved in and serve the church. (The meeting will only take an hour and a light lunch will be served.)

Father's Day Potluck Picnic

Submitted by Lorraine Crouse, Worship Elder

Bring your families to honor our fabulous fathers at our annual Father's Day Potluck Picnic that will be held **Sunday, June 18, 2023** at **10:30 a.m.** in the Parley's Creek Pavilion in Sugarhouse Park, 1300 East and 2100 South. This is the same pavilion we have used in past years, located in the center of the park, near the new children's play area, restrooms and plenty of adjacent parking. To get there, enter the park from the 2100 South entrance and follow the one way road around to the east side of the park. After the hairpin curve in the road, turn left into the parking lot (see map).

Please bring a potluck dish to share, drinks will be provided. In addition to bingo, there is space for volleyball and other fun lawn games that people can bring.

**Congratulations – Class of 2023**

Congratulations to the following graduate!

High School

Carson Kawabata – Rowland Hall

College

Josef Sueoka – Santa Clara University, BA in Communications and Studio Art



Pride Parade Street Closure

The LGBTQ Pride Parade will be held on **Sunday, June 4** and the route will close off First South on that date. Please access the church from the **300 West** entrance that morning.

First South will be used as a staging area for the parade, beginning at 8:00 a.m. However, the start time of the parade is 10:00 a.m. which conflicts with worship service at 10:30 a.m. So to show our support, the JCC will be handing out bottled water to participants during the set up in the morning. Come join in before service!

Deacon's Report – May Meeting

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

Summary of Deacons' meeting on May 7, 2023.

On Mother's Day the Deacons will be handing out red and white carnations to everyone: red for those with living mothers and white for those whose mothers have passed away.

The Deacons will donate \$50 to Gideons International in memory of Rick Okabe.

In June, we will be participating in a training for Deacons provided by Candice Sweet of the Presbytery. The purpose of the training is to discuss the role of Deacons and review our current and past activities to identify ways we might improve. Following the training, we will be conducting a half-day strategic planning retreat to discuss our future directions, goals and activities.

Reminder!

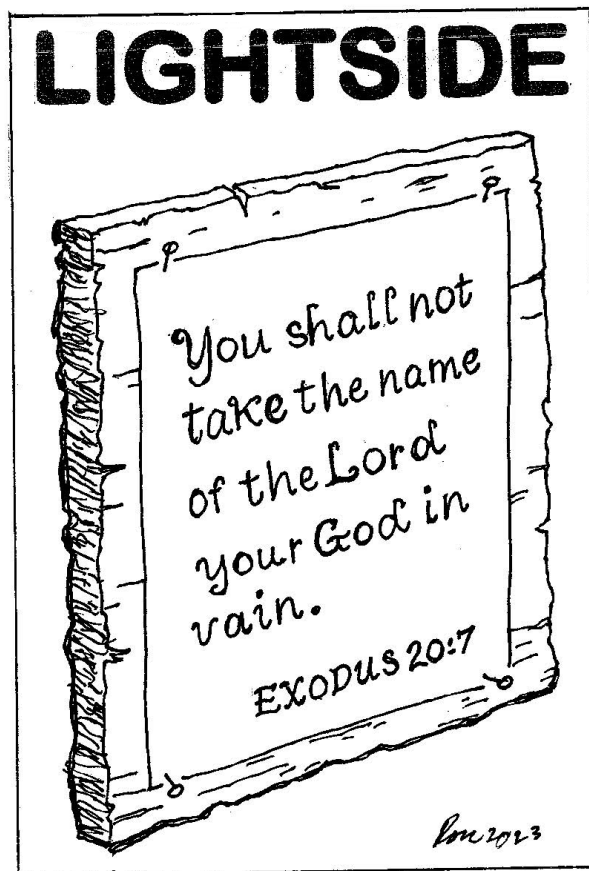
Don't forget to always check out the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall for the latest information regarding the JCC and local community events. Since the Fellowship Hall remodel, it is hard to remember that the bulletin boards have moved away slightly from the building entrance. Make it a habit to stop by and take a look at what is posted every Sunday on your way to coffee fellowship!

Also, there are a few Lost and Found articles on the table below the bulletin boards. Are you missing something?

In Gratitude

A big thank you to Willie and Gloria Wong for their monetary donation to the Deacons. Willie attended the JCC while he was a student at Westminster College. Gloria served as a Deacon in California.

Also, thank you to Peter and Karen Murakami for their generous donation of four Teflon rice pot inserts! (And a special thank you for their time as rice washing/cooking volunteers during Nihon Matsuri!) The pots will be especially useful during Natsu Matsuri in August!



Natsu Matsuri 2023!

It is a bit of a tongue-twister, but the former Aki Matsuri is now Natsu Matsuri (Summer Festival). Reserve **August 19, 2023** for the return of our annual fundraiser festival.

A committee is meeting to plan for food, displays, entertainment, raffle and children's games. But we are always looking for volunteers! Contact Jani Iwamoto, Julee Mori, Elise Mori, Karen Okawa, Lorraine Crouse or Jean Irwin if you can help. If you can help with food prep or serving, it is recommended you obtain a food handler's permit by then. See the Salt Lake County Health Department website: <https://slco.org/health/food-protection/food-workers/> for information.

Our Daily Bread Available

Copies of the Our Daily Bread devotional for the months of June, July and August are now available. Pick up a copy in the Fellowship Hall.



Mother's Day Breakfast Wrap Up

The Men's Group prepared a delicious breakfast buffet to honor the moms before worship service began. Thanks to the chefs in the kitchen – Hiro, Jerry, Bob, Steve and Greg!

Thank you also to the Deacons for providing carnations to the women attending church that day – red for those whose mother are alive and white for those whose mothers have passed on.



Smiling cooks provide a great breakfast!

Nihon Matsuri Wrap Up

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the Japanese Church of Christ with Nihon Matsuri. No matter what part you played, your help was a welcome blessing and truly appreciated! Nihon Matsuri is an opportunity for the Japanese community at-large to highlight the Japanese culture and traditions and the historical significance of Japantown that once existed on 100 South.

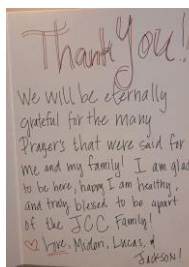


Fellowship that comes out of preparing for and joining this festival each year is truly God's biggest gift! We loved seeing you and having you be a part of the JCC's efforts in participating in this year's festival.

With heartfelt gratitude – Laura Olson and Jan Aramaki, Nihon Matsuri Committee

Thank You JCC!

Midori, Lucas and Jackson Murakami sent along their gratitude to the JCC for our prayers during Midori's health issues by providing coffee fellowship muffins and rolls on May 21. We are glad to hear she is recovering and improving every day.



Session Report – May Meeting

Submitted by Karen Okawa, Clerk of Session

The Session met in-person on Thursday, May 11, 2023 in the Fellowship Hall. On June 11, Pastor Haas will be conducting a Mission Study training session for Elders, Deacons and Trustees. A "JCC Stewardship" meeting will be held on Sunday, June 25, on church positions and ways one can serve the church.

Individual reports:

Pastor: Rev. Chelsea Page has been approved into JCC membership. Pride Parade is Sunday, 6/4; a task force will be organized to support the event.

Buildings and Grounds: Contract with ABM Parking for the south lot will be renewed. Landscaping drip system has been installed and several sprinkler heads had to be replaced. Looking at options for green areas near the curb. Spring clean up on May 27. Committee met with Namba Construction and architect regarding sanctuary upgrades. The kitchen will be repaired and bathroom and back entrance will be reconfigured to be ADA accessible. Input is welcomed.

Mission Study: A final draft of the questionnaire is in process. Interview training on June 11.

Education: Study of the book of Luke will end this month. Look into implementation of YouTube live streaming.

Nichigo: In process of reconciling Nichigo Fujinkai account. Japanese bible study and retreat on hold for now.

Finance: P&L statement continues to look good. Accumulating Nihon Matsuri income and expenses; we made a profit.

Membership: eHerald responses have been good. Looking at options for hardcopy version. Compiling Emergency Contact list.

Personnel: Pastor Haas' contract has been approved. Rev. Andrew Fleischman has offered support for the Mission Study.

Worship: Father's Day picnic will be at Sugarhouse Park on Sunday, June 18.

Deacons: See report summary on Page 3.

Kenshin Taiko: Will perform at Living Traditions this month.

The next Session meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m.**

Nihon Matsuri Photos



Kenshin Taiko entertainment



Theresa Sueoka's ikebana



Security Ron



Cashiers Rick and Arlene sell out of everything!



A hard working staff making manju and salad



First shift – Sharleen, Dani, Doug and Kory



Akiko, Julee and Allyn – happy volunteers!

Photos courtesy: Jan Aramaki, Allyn Nakashima

Maya Rimal Celebration Event

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto

As a board member of Primary Children's Hospital (PCH), I attended the 7th Annual Maya Rimal Safety Hero Celebration. Every year providers, caregivers, and staff are invited to nominate their peers for their commitment to safety. Each May the Zero Harm Committee and the Administrative Council highlight the nominated "Good Catches" that rise to the level of a safety hero and its definition of an Individual or Team that made an outstanding contribution to improving patient/employee safety through a process improvement, an impact on culture, or a safe behavior that resulted in a lifesaving good catch. This year, one of the awardees was Dr. Allison Oki of Physical Medicine and Rehab at PCH.

This annual awards ceremony honors the beautiful life of Maya Rimal, who sadly passed away on March 12, 2011, at the age of 14 while a patient at PCH. Maya's passing was tragic and devastating and attributed to human error. Maya's death inspired PCH to implement "Maya's Rule," to follow specific safety protocols with teams being encouraged to communicate and consider alternative viewpoints.



Good Catches
Awardee Dr. Allison
Oki

I am well aware of Maya's story and have deep respect for PCH for acknowledging the mistakes made and the change in culture at all levels.

I have so much respect and love for Sofia and Satish Rimal. Although their sadness and grief will never subside, they come every year to honor those who have made outstanding contributions. Their love for Maya and strength to contribute in this way is unbelievable. As one awardee said, Maya's journey is a forever journey.

Thank you, PCH, and Dr. Allison Oki and everyone there at all levels, and especially Sophia and Satish Rimal. And of course, Maya Rimal. ♥.



Pictured with the Rimals and Sophia DiCaro, board chair, and those heroes honored today. Photo courtesy: Jani Iwamoto

JCC June 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 -Parking, Duran Duran, 7pm
4 -Pride Parade (100 South street closure from 8am) -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons meeting, noon -Parking, The Cure, 7:30pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Session, Deacons and Trustees Training, noon -Parking, Peso Pluma, 8pm	12	13	14 -Session Meeting, 6pm	15	16	17 -Herald Articles Due
18 -Father's Day Worship and Picnic, Sugarhouse Park, 10:30am	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Stewardship Event, noon	26	27	28	29	30	

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 5/22/2023.