

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.

Pastor's Message

September 2023

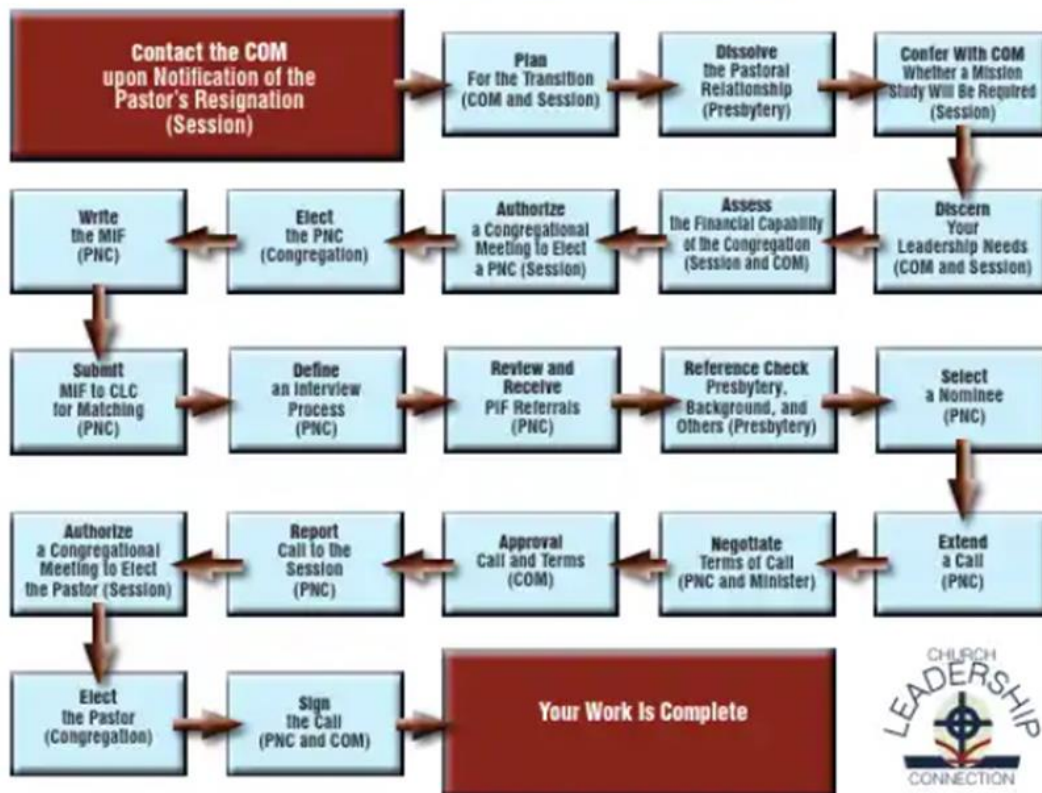
My main job as your interim pastor is to support your journey towards finding your next permanent pastor. Our mission study team has been working for a year now and we just finished receiving your input via interviews and questionnaires. From here, we will deliberate what themes emerge and what they tell us about the future mission of JCC. We will summarize our findings in a Mission Study Report to the session. I expect we will get that done this year. After session approval, the report goes to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Once they approve, it's your turn again: at a congregational meeting, you will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC will then prepare JCC's Ministry Information Form (MIF). That will get matched with available Personal Information Forms (PIF) which is the standard application packet for pastors. It's a lengthy and orderly process and that may feel tedious and gruesome at times. But let me tell you it's worth it!

Every pastor eligible to serve at JCC has at least completed a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree and gone through a rigorous ordination process and background check. I think of the installation of pastor like a wedding ceremony. After a solid courtship of getting to know each other, both promise to God and one another to make a meaningful life together. That's why PIFs and MIFs are important! Wouldn't it be nice if we approached all relationships as deliberately: working for two years on figuring out what's important in a relationship. Now, that's a solid test drive!

Blessings

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

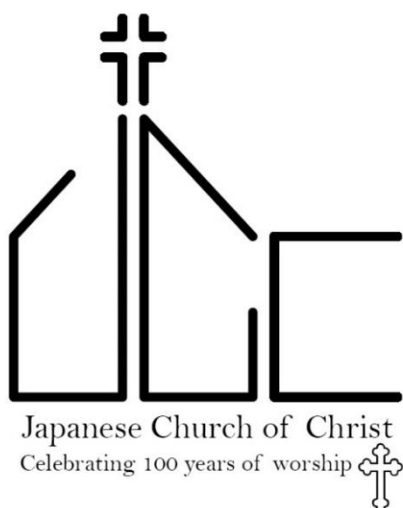
The Call Process



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

Back to Bible Study!

After a short summer break, the Adult Bible Study will start up again on **Sunday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m.** 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 to the distribution list. Otherwise, please feel free to invite others to attend in-person too!

This year, the study will be on the book of Romans. A discussion guide called "Life Change" will be used for the class. The book is \$10.00. If you would like to order a book, contact Elaine Iwasaki.

Annual Flu Shot Clinic

Flu shots will be offered at the JCC on **Sunday, September 17, 2023**, between **11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** Please bring your personal ID, proof of insurance or Medicare and also wear a short sleeved shirt or top.



A sign up sheet is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Shingles and pneumonia vaccinations will also be available, but please notify **Stephanie Mori-Nakao** in advance for these other shots, so that Community Nursing Services will bring enough of each vaccine.

Thanks to Stephanie for making the arrangements as always!

Learn to Fall Clinic Rescheduled

The Learn to Fall Clinic that was originally scheduled to take place on August 20 has been postponed until **Sunday, September 24, 2023**.

Following worship service that day, Rev. Haas will conduct a class on falling properly to reduce injury. No prior knowledge or special skills are required. Come dressed in something comfortable and be prepared to take off your shoes.



Taiko Performance

On **Friday, September 1, 2023**, join us for a free taiko performance in the Fellowship Hall at **7:00 p.m.**

Takumi Kato is a professional Japanese Taiko drumming performer from Japan. He has performed in Japan, at international events, and for numerous dignitaries including the current and former Emperor of Japan.



Takumi and his young family (including three young sons) have moved to the United States for five years with the goal of performing in all 50 states. He is not performing for monetary gain or popularity.

A pre-concert dinner will be held at church at **6:00 p.m.** before the performance. Please RSVP jccherald@gmail.com to make a reservation if you would like dinner, so we can plan enough food.

Session Report – August Meeting

Submitted by Karen Okawa, Clerk of Session

The August Session meeting was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

Pastor Haas opened the meeting with prayer and gave a devotional based on Deuteronomy 30:15, on life and death.

Individual reports:

Pastor: The Fall Prevention Clinic scheduled for August 20 has been rescheduled to Sunday, September 24, 2023. (See article on Page 2.)

Building and Grounds: The new Fellowship Hall windows are in and scheduled to be installed. Chapel kitchen renovation has begun and new cabinets will be installed. Live stream testing of music for worship service is on-going.

Mission Study Committee: Interview and questionnaire due date extended to August 31.

Education: Adult Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m. with a study of the book of Romans.

Nichigo: Reaching out to Nichigo to discuss the Mission Study survey to ensure this group is represented.

Nominating Committee: Made announcement during July worship service. Looking for candidates.

Finance: The budget looks healthy for July. Natsu Matsuri opportunity drawing ticket sales have been coming in to offset some festival costs.

Membership/Stewardship: The first release of the Emergency Contact List is located in the office. Working on update to Membership list. Investigating on-line donation options.

Worship: Our regular pianists will all be out of town for periods of time, so pre-recorded music may have to be used. Live stream will have a test run on Sunday.

Deacons: Akiko Oki and Elaine Iwasaki have volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. Making preparations for Saeko Nakashima's memorial service on 8/28.

Kenshin Taiko: The group has been busy with many bookings. They also made the white lima bean an and dough for yaki manju to sell at Natsu Matsuri.

The next Session meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023.**



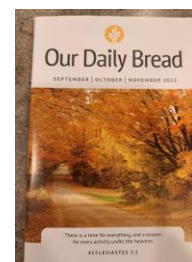
Lake Tahoe Retreat Report

Submitted by Jan Aramaki and Allyn Nakashima

In July, Lake Tahoe Retreat was truly a blessing for us. God gave us the opportunity to fellowship with and get to know so many wonderful individuals from surrounding California churches, Seattle church and our neighboring church family, Ogden Christian Church. Reverend Karen Yokota Love was the conference speaker and her theme was: "Cast Your Burdens- A Journey on Renovations of the Heart." We look forward to sharing our testimonies at a future Sunday service.

Our Daily Bread – Autumn 2023

Copies of the devotional "Our Daily Bread" for the months of September, October and November 2023 are now available. Pick up a copy in the sanctuary!



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:

Jan Vosburgh Jason L. Moses Nakashima Family
Mission Study

Greg Paige has set up a recurring time, Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m., for a 15 minute prayer time via Zoom, for our pastoral search team, a new pastor and family, our congregation and any other things that must take place to ensure that God's blessing comes to both the new pastor and to the JCC family through this process. You are invited, and encouraged, to join in this prayer time. Contact Greg to have him send you the Zoom link.

Presbytery General Assembly

The 226th General Assembly (GA) of PCUSA will be held in Salt Lake City next year from **June 25 to July 4, 2024**. The theme is "Live into Hope." A group from the GA will be meeting with Session on September 19, 2023 in preparation for this event.

The online "On the Road to GA" is a monthly newsletter to keep us posted about the upcoming GA. Soon our congregation will be featured there. If you would like to sign up, here's the link: <https://ga-pcusa.org/>

Presbytery of Utah Women's Fall Gathering

For the Beauty of the Earth: Our Call to Care

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" 2 Corinthians 9:6

September 15-16, 2023 (Friday 5:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church
2015 E Newcastle Dr, Sandy, UT 84093

Featuring: The Great Salt Lake Interfaith Coalition, Fellowship with God and Creation Commission on the Status of Women; the impact of climate change on women.

Registration Deadline: **September 8, 2023**

\$15 registration fee includes 2 meals (payable at registration on Friday)

Please contact Paula Burns McEvoy, pmcburns24@gmail.com, or 801-230-0573 or your PW moderator to register.

Yoga Fundraiser Workshop

YOGA FOR WOMEN AND MEN OF ANY AGE AND PHYSICAL CONDITION- Demystifying the practice of yoga through an introductory lecture and practice. SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE.

- Yoga is NOT a religion
- Yoga is NOT exercise or a workout. You do NOT need to be flexible!
- Yoga IS a comprehensive practice that can be beneficial for physical injuries and illnesses; as well as mental and spiritual well-being.

Taught by BOB MATSUEDA

Licensed Yoga/Wellness Instructor & Yoga Therapist by Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India
Certified Advanced Yoga Teacher (E-RYT 500) Yoga Alliance.

****PLEASE NOTE- THIS IS A FUNDRAISER FOR VICTIMS OF THE MAUI FIRE SPONSORED BY THE JCC AND SL BUDDHIST TEMPLE. All donations will go directly to the Maui Strong Fund. Bob Matsueda is volunteering for this event.**

The "Maui Strong" Fund is an initiative by the Hawai'i Community Foundation, to provide community resilience with resources for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The fund is currently being deployed to support Maui residents affected by the wildfires on Maui.

WHEN: Saturday, September 23, 2023 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. followed by lunch.

WHERE: JCC

COST: Donation to Maui Strong Fund

WHAT TO BRING: Water, Optional - yoga mat or large beach towel/ blanket to lie on for guided relaxation yoga nidra at end of practice. The rest of the session will be utilizing a chair and/or standing.

SPACE IS LIMITED - Please contact Jani Iwamoto if you have questions (iwamoto.jani@gmail.com). A sign up sheet is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

Deacon's Report – August Meeting

The Deacons met on Sunday, August 6, 2023 and discussed the following:

- Elaine Iwasaki and Akiko Oki volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee.
- Approved Gideons bible donation in memory of Saeko Nakashima.
- Final plans in place for Natsu Matsuri.
- Deacons will help with Saeko Nakashima's memorial service on August 28. Light refreshments following the service.
- Next meeting will be Sunday, September 3.

August Birthday Celebrations

Happy birthday to Ron Nishijima, who celebrated his 90th birthday on August 4! What a milestone! Ron continues to stay active with his vegetable garden and painting.

On August 26, Yeiko Homma celebrated her 98th birthday with an open house hosted by her children in the Fellowship Hall.



Ron tackles 9-0!



Yeiko sees a tropical future!

Photos courtesy: Lynne Ward, Julee Mori

Good Press!

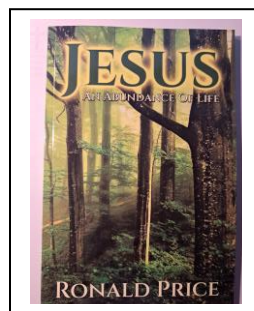
Natsu Matsuri received good press coverage, both before and after the event! We also received a lot of pre-event publicity with listing on various social media! Thanks to Dani Murakami of Love Communications for producing the press release that garnered attention!

[Japanese Church of Christ hosts summer festival \(abc4.com\)](https://abc4.com)

['Sharing our culture': Utahns celebrate Japanese Church of Christ's first-ever summer festival | KSL.com](https://ksl.com)

Jesus, An Abundance of Life

Ron Price has written a book of devotional essays that provide inspiration and guidance for Christians seeking to find a closer work with the Lord. The paperback is \$20; see Patty Price to obtain a copy (or it is also available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble).



Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, September 9 – Nikkei Senior Center picnic, Murray Park, noon.

Saturday, October 7 – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Food Bazaar, 211 West 100 South.

JCC September 2023 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 -Takumi Kato Taiko, 6pm | 2 |
| 3 -Communion Service, 10:30am. | 4 LABOR DAY | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 -Parking, Playbol Carti, 7:30pm | 9 |
| 10 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am -Flu Shot Clinic, 11:30am to 1:30pm | 18 -Parking, WWE Wrestling, 5:30pm | 19 -Session Meeting, 5pm | 20 -Parking, Artic Monkey, 8:00pm | 21 -Parking, Fan X, 8am to 7pm | 22 -Parking, Fan X, 8am to 7pm | 23 -Yoga Workshop, 10am to 12pm -Parking, Fan X, 8am to 7pm |
| 24 -Adult Bible Study, 9:30am -Worship Service, 10:30am -How to Fall workshop, noon | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 -Parking, Nate Bargatze, 7pm | 30 -Parking, Nate Bargatze, 7pm |

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 8/28/2023.

August Guest Speakers

The guest speakers we heard in August included Reverend Peter Stirba, Certified Lay Pastor; and Reverend Ginger Memmott. She is a retired Presbyterian minister, now working at the University Hospital as a Board Certified Chaplain. Her husband Guye Memmott performed the offertory music that week; what a treat!



Rev. Stirba



Rev. Memmott



Guye Memmott

Also in August, we successfully conducted our first test of pre-recorded music. There are times when a pianist may not be available to play piano during worship service. So pre-recorded music (with words available on the monitor) may be used in these instances. Thanks to Steve Fukumitsu and Matt Miya for getting the equipment set up and running!



Photos courtesy: Lorraine Crouse

Summer Visitors

JCC members and friends that have moved out of state returned to Salt Lake in August for summer visits. On August 6, we welcomed Kuni Kanegae (now residing in Southern California) and his children, grandchildren and other family members.

Rita Inoway (now residing in Portland, OR) also was in town with her daughter Kari and granddaughter. It is always nice to catch up with JCC family who live far away!



Kuni Kanegae catches up with friends Yuri, Sadie and Betty.



Rita Inoway and Elaine Iwasaki catch up too.
Photo courtesy: Jan Aramaki



The JCC Band performed on August 20.

Natsu Matsuri Thank You!

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto

Our Natsu Matsuri was a success thanks to all those that worked so hard - it takes so many hearts and hands to bring back our festival after a five-year hiatus due to COVID, renovation and celebrating our 100th year celebration. So much has happened, which created a challenge to organize since our last festival when parking was abundant, and expenses were definitely less. Very stressful with all the rules and regulations but we did it - and the weather held out! We had literally just completed putting away tents, tables, chairs, garbage, etc., when the crazy storm hit!

Huge thanks to our committee members. The committee - each member, put in so much time and effort on multiple tasks - we are fortunate to have so much talent and support: Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse, Steve Fukumitsu, Jani Iwamoto, Al Kubota, Elise Mori, Julee Mori, Karen Okawa, Laura Olson, Nancy Umemura and Pauline Vosburgh.

We are grateful and relieved for the completion of the installation of all the windows, and the chapel kitchen in the ending hours of the prior night! (Thanks to Session and Steve.)

Thank you to my law school friend Bob Matsueda for flying out from Berkeley to help barbecue teriyaki steaks and to Karen and Jon Hale (owners of Hire's and Litza Pizza) who came with their griddle, barbecuing straight from beginning to end. We appreciate Cascade Corp. for their donation of the griddle which will be used for years to come, and for the generous donation of a \$500 Amazon gift card for our opportunity basket/silent auction. Thank you to Robert Goodick and Sophia DiCaro for having Troop 34, chartered by the First Presbyterian Church, to work their heads off to help in so many capacities!

Thank you to all of the volunteers involved in the food preparation! Sushi, manju, curry, udon, chicken and steak bentos received rave reviews! Also, thank you to all of the volunteers from the community who helped as runners, security, table bussing, selling, manning booths, setting up tents, etc. Too many jobs to mention, but all were so important to the success of this festival!

Thank you to the Kenshin Taiko group for their continuous help and contributions. Thanks to the SL Buddhist Temple members who also contributed in many ways, along with Lumbini's Garden. Thank you to SMG, ABM and SL County for working on the garden and providing additional parking despite having tens of thousands of attendees for their own conferences! Also, thank you to Andrea Gamble, Environmental Health Scientist in the Bureau of Food Protection with Salt Lake County - she answered every question posed and offered her availability even on weekends and after-hours!

Thank you to our amazing sound systems - thanks to Matt Miya and Alan Shino who helped with piping the music outside, also while having the program inside.

Thank you to Lili Pupu'a for opening our festival with her beautiful vocals, and the Anchored in Christ Wesleyan Church Choir. Having our Tongan congregation led by Pastor Tipi Loma Pupu'a as part of our church family, as well as the Kachin Congregation has been such a blessing for our church. The JCC Kenshin Taiko is always a favorite! We were so pleased to have the Utah Japanese Language School involved in our festival with their fashion show and also their Onigiri Workshop, sponsored by "Change the World with Japanese Food - TABLE FOR TWO USA!" Participants of the workshop really enjoyed the workshop. Thank you to Josh Watanabe for his K-POP performance! We also enjoyed the skills of the Lotus Blossom School of Martial Arts with Master Marshall Parnell - thank you Carson Kawabata for being so diligent in making sure everything worked out! We also were able to see Pastor Haas in action as he brought the USA Stars of SLC & Rocky Mountain Judo Club.

We were also so honored to have Consul Keiko Furutani from the Consulate-General's Office in Denver. Consul General Yoichi Mikami wanted to make sure their presence would be with us.

The chapel was transformed artistically with the beautiful Ikebana display done by Theresa Mori-Sueoka, creative origami display/demonstration by Judy Iwamoto and Bonsai display by Ken Yamane. Also, a thank you for the treasured photo display curated by Lorraine Crouse and Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.

The Opportunity Basket/Silent Auction included so many amazing donations from generous donors. Special thank you to Jodi Iwasaki for her beautiful and meaningful quilt done especially for our festival. Thank you, a million times, over to Ron Nishijima who donated a beautiful, original, framed watercolor. Ron also designed our beautiful posters and t-shirts, as well as continuing his painting of directional signage. What talent is in our congregation!

Thank you to Dani Murakami and Love Communications for our professional media releases and to Halley Malison for updating the JCC website with the latest information.

Thank you also to Elder Ryan Edwards, Braxton Johnson and Ben Carlson who offered to sand and paint the weathered wooden stairs used for our takeout window - it was an incredibly hot day, and we thank them for working with Steve to get it done!

Our church is small but the many volunteers who came to give their time was great in number, effort and spirit. It was a time to honor those that came before us, but we all agreed, we do not know how they did it!



NATSU MATSURI

To see more photos and videos from the festival, go to:
[Natsu Matsuri Google photos](#)



Too many choices for Karen Shino.



Sherrie Garcia and Barbara Robinson taste test rice.



Karla Paige and Penny Imamura sell thirst quenchers.

Photos courtesy: Jani Iwamoto, Nancy Umemura, Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse



Yas Iwamoto and Linda (Uyeda) O'Connor sell wares at JCC Corner.



Rev. Bob Nakaoka feels the heat!



White Rice Boy (aka Charlie Brown)



Bob Matsueda and Jani Iwamoto ask "where's the beef?"



Utah Japanese Language School onigiri kits.



Emcee Steve Fukumitsu and Laura Olson introduce Kenshin Taiko.