

## The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

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

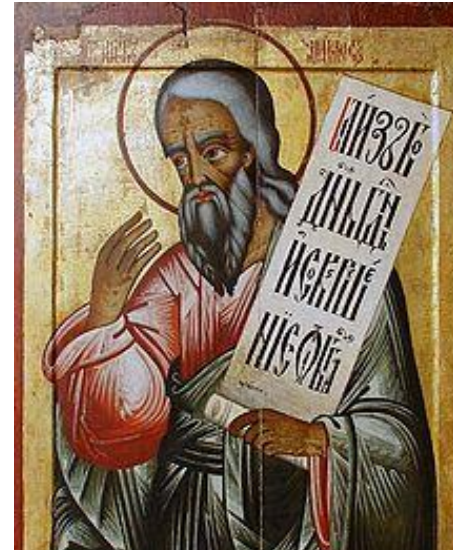
### Pastor's Message

April 2024

#### A Festival of Justice

We need help with Nihon Matsuri. Utah's Japan Festival is a huge undertaking and the JCC carries a third of the burden, along with our friends from the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and the Daichi Ward. On April 27, it is all hands on deck. As interim pastor of the JCC, I am one of the dignitaries that write letters of support and you can see it on [NihonMatsuri.com](http://NihonMatsuri.com). As a minister, I am also in charge of making sure God's intentions are honored. The prophet Amos is one who is especially loud and effective in interrupting our festive routines:

"I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5:21-14)



During Amos's time, God's people were off with their priorities: They had elaborate parties but neglected to for social justice! Nihon Matsuri is not a party that Amos is rallying against. Nihon Matsuri is not a festival that the LORD despises. Nihon Matsuri is the Japanese-American community showing that Japantown is still alive. Nihon Matsuri is confronting the injustice of displacement. Nihon Matsuri shows that even after Topaz, Japanese-Americans are still alive and well in Utah. One example of bringing justice to the forefront through this festival is an exhibit we will be hosting on the 100th anniversary of the JCC chapel. Despite the Salt Palace's displacement of Japantown, the chapel has endured. God's justice is still standing.

Blessings,

Rev. Daniel Haas, BCC-SP

Cell 801-368-1180

### 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](http://jccslc.net) or contact Pastor Haas or any of the Deacons.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

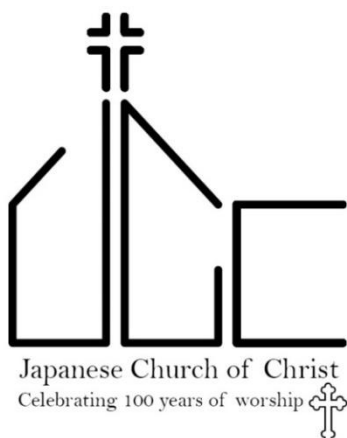
Uno Family

Pastor Nominating Committee

**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**

Lynne Ward, Personnel  
 Julee Mori, Finance/Kenshin Taiko  
 Elise Mori, Worship/Deacons  
 Karen Okawa, Membership/Nichigo  
 Alan Shino, Building and Grounds

**Deacons**

Nancy Umemura, moderator, Stephanie Mori-Nakao, Allyn Nakashima, Akiko Oki, Laura Olson, Marc Stillman, Yuri Uyeda

**Trustees**

Jani Iwamoto – President; Pauline Vosburgh – Vice President, Rick Aoki – Treasurer, Daniel Cheung – Secretary, Ron Nishijima

Newsletter articles are due on the third Saturday of each month at noon. Send your articles to [jccherald@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com).

Website: [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net)

**Adult Sunday School**

On **Sunday, April 14, 2024**, Pastor Haas will be conducting a class on looking at the Bible and how it has informed communities of faith across continents and millennia. Class will be held at **9:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for an informative class!

**Japantown Update**

After worship service on **Sunday, April 21, 2024**, Jani Iwamoto will provide an update on the future of Japantown. With the growth and changes occurring in downtown Salt Lake City, we need to be informed on the impact these changes may have on our local community and our church.

**Condolences**

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Judge Raymond S. Uno, a nationally recognized civil rights and peace activist, who died peacefully and unexpectedly in his sleep on March 8, 2024, while under the care of the Veteran's Hospital in Salt Lake City. Raymond, who was Utah's first minority judge, is survived by his wife Yoshiko and his five sons, Tab (Bobby), Kai (Sheri), Mark (Kris), Sean, and Lance; grandkids Drue, Taylor, Summer, Sam, KT, and Jax.

Judge Uno leaves behind a legacy of service, breaking barriers, and dedication to the pursuit of justice. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held **Saturday April 20, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the University of Utah Eccles Alumni House, 155 South Central Campus Drive, Salt Lake City, UT. Doors open at 9 a.m., program starts at 9:30 a.m.; seating and time limited.

Because the Salt Lake Marathon will also take place on April 20th, please utilize the route instructions below, courtesy of the Salt Lake City Police Department. Any other route to the Eccles Alumni House will have significant delays.

- Coming from the North or South—access Eastbound I-80 to Foothill Dr.
- Travel Northbound Foothill Drive to 500 South
- Travel Westbound 500 South to 1300 East
- Travel Northbound 1300 East to 100 South
- Travel Eastbound 100 South to Central Campus Drive
- Travel Southbound Central Campus Drive to 155 Central Campus Drive (Alumni House)

**Chapel Remodel**

*Submitted by Alan Shino, Building and Grounds Elder*

The chapel remodel is proceeding on track to be completed prior to the last week of June. The bathrooms have been demolished and new flooring supports are being installed where needed.

Upholstery of the pews is moving forward and will improve the chapel's appearance.

We appreciate Namba Construction for their flexibility in working with the JCC's many schedules. These conflicts make their workload challenging.

During remodeling of the building for the next few months, all worship services and activities will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

## Nihon Matsuri Volunteers Needed

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

On **Saturday, April 27, 2024**, Nihon Matsuri on Japantown Street is approaching. It is always a welcome blessing to have volunteers to help with cooking, setting up, cleaning up, and/or taking a shift in our food vendor booth - we always are filled with gratitude to see you and to receive your help.



Menu items: A Japanese dessert; Obento box with Kakiage (vegetable tempura fritters) with tempura sauce along with three nigiris (two topped with ebi tempura/one topped with bean tempura) and tsukemono; plates of yaki manju and mochiko manju; and soda drinks/bottled water.

Volunteers helping in the kitchen and food booth must have a food handlers permit. Contact Jan Aramaki (801) 718-2006 to sign up to volunteer or if you have questions.

Lorraine Crouse will be displaying a Japantown historical exhibit in our fellowship hall and an exhibit in the JCC chapel celebrating the 100-year dedication of the chapel. Lorraine is looking for volunteers to help welcome people into the exhibits, you can contact Lorraine at [lmcrouse\[at\]comcast\[dot\]net](mailto:lmcrouse[at]comcast[dot]net).

## Japanese Cooking Classes

Join Akiko Oki for her "Azuki no ie" Nerikiri Japanese traditional manju confection cooking class on **Tuesday, May 7, 2024** from 10 a.m. to noon in the JCC Fellowship Hall kitchen.

This will be her first of a series of cooking classes. It is limited to ten participants. This first class is free. (Starting in June, the classes will be held on the first Tuesday of each month and participants will need to provide their own materials/ingredients.)

A sign up list is hanging on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board or contact Jan Aramaki (801) 718-2006 or email [mcj925@gmail.com](mailto:mcj925@gmail.com) to register for the class.

## 2024 Zephyr Point Retreat - Filled

**July 21-26, 2024**

The Lake Tahoe retreat is already filled. Any signups now will be on a waiting list. Reach out to Jim Mar at [mar.jmail@gmail.com](mailto:mar.jmail@gmail.com) or Jan Aramaki to be put on that list.



## Church Safety Presentation

The Presbytery of Utah is holding a Church Safety Workshop on **Sunday, April 14 from 3 to 5 p.m.** at Community of Grace Presbyterian Church, 2015 East Newcastle Drive in Sandy, UT.

This workshop is open to everyone. As the JCC is located in a vulnerable downtown area, it is important we learn to identify what we can do to be safe.

## Kitchen Reminder

After using the kitchen and before leaving the Fellowship Hall for the day, along with basic clean up (sweep floor, wipe down all counters, emptying trash receptacles, etc.), please check the following:

- Check the gas stove and ensure all pilot lights are lit, but that all switches are in the off position.
- Ensure the fan over the gas stove is off (switch is on upper right side of the hood).
- Ensure the convection stove/oven is turned off.
- If using the A/C, make sure it is turned off (use remote).
- Remove any waste accumulated in the drain strainer underneath 3-section sink and center prep sink.

Also please remove any personal food items from the refrigerator and/or freezer.

## Search for a Permanent Pastor

### Posting the Announcement

*Submitted by Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel*

The Pastoral Nominating Committee will be submitting the Ministerial Discernment Profile (MDP) to the Presbytery’s national website and with other organizations. We hope for broad distribution to reach pastors searching for the calling to JCC. In the coming days, the JCC website will post the formal advertisement and the link to the Presbytery’s website.

The MDP will give the reader a feel for JCC by informing them of our congregation size and vision for the church. The skills and experience we seek will be evaluated by the reader.

During the month of April, the PNC will watch for applicants who are interested in exploring the JCC pastoral opportunity.

Any queries or actual applications will be kept confidential amongst the PNC. An applicant may not want their current employer to know they are contemplating another position. It would be unfair to them to disclose their interest to anyone outside of the PNC or Rev. Mirjam Melchior-Haas (who is assisting the PNC). And, it would be detrimental to JCC to have a potential strong candidate withdraw because they are concerned about a lack of confidentiality.

We hope to begin reviewing applications and sorting through them in May.

The PNC members are: Rick Aoki, Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse, Michiko Kenmotsu, Marc Stillman, Nancy Umemura and Lynne Ward.

## GA Update

Remember that the 226th General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (PC USA) is meeting in Salt Lake City this year, from **June 25 to July 4, 2024**, at the Salt Palace. The theme is “Live into Hope.”

Since the event is in close proximity to the JCC, some meetings may be held in the Fellowship Hall during that week. Visitors may also be joining our worship service on Sunday, June 30 as attendees are encouraged to worship in many of the local Presbyterian churches that week.

More updates to be provided as the date draws closer, but we will need volunteers to help with clean up before the event week, prepare refreshments during the week, and lunch after worship service on June 30. Let one of the Elders know if you can help.

The latest issue of On the Road to GA226 is here:

[On the Road to GA226 - Issue 8 - March 2024 by PCUSA OGA - Issuu](#)



JCC April 2024 Calendar

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday                              | Friday                         | Saturday                     |
|--|--------|---|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | 1      | 2<br>-Parking, Jazz vs. Cavaliers, 7pm                            | 3         | 4                                     | 5<br>-Parking, Tim McGraw, 7pm | 6<br>-Yaki Manju making, 9am |
| 7<br>-Communion Service, 10:30am<br>-Deacons Meeting, noon     | 8      | 9<br>-Nihon Matsuri prep, 10am<br>-Parking, Jazz vs. Nuggets, 7pm | 10        | 11<br>-Parking, Jazz vs. Rockets, 7pm | 12                             | 13                           |
| 14<br>-Adult Sunday School, 9am<br>-Worship Service, 10:30am   | 15     | 16  | 17        | 18<br>-Session Meeting, 6pm           | 19                             | 20                           |
| 21<br>-Worship Service, 10:30am<br>-Japantown Meeting, 11:30am | 22     | 23  | 24        | 25<br>-Nihon Matsuri Prep, 8am        | 26<br>-Nihon Matsuri Prep, 8am | 27<br><b>NIHON MATSURI</b>   |
| 28<br>-Worship Service, 10:30am<br>-Parking, Luis Miguel, 7pm  | 29     | 30  |           |                                       |                                |                              |

\*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 3/31/2024.



## Church Clean Up

*Submitted by Alan Shino, Building and Grounds Elder*

Thank You to all members and friends who worked on the Spring Cleanup. The Social Hall and courtyard received a much needed face lift. Steve Fukumitsu's leadership resulted in a welcoming first impression for the guests and members of the Japanese Church of Christ.

The cleanup helps us progress towards providing a welcoming meeting space for the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in June.

Special thanks goes to Namba Construction for providing the trash removal for this project. Their assistance made our jobs much easier to accomplish.

## Deacons March Meeting Recap

*Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Deacons Moderator*

The Board of Deacons met on March 3, 2024, and discussed the following: Easter lily deliveries on Palm Sunday, Yoko DeRose Memorial service refreshments on March 9, financial donation and expense processes, and Japanese cooking classes given by Akiko Oki.

## Congratulations

Reverend Mirjam Haas-Melchior was a recipient of the Church Women United (CWU) Human Rights award at the organization's annual Human Rights Celebration on March 15, 2024.



Judy, Elaine, Sadie, Karen, Rev. Mirjam, Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz (CWU) and Lorraine.

## Session March Meeting Recap

The March Session meeting was held on Thursday, March 14, 2024. The following items were discussed:

- Julee Mori attended the Presbytery of Utah meeting on March 2.
- A Funeral Committee will be put together. The pastor will still be the first point of contact, but will coordinate with the Funeral Committee from that point.
- Holy Week activities: Palm Sunday guest speaker Rev. Chelsea Page; Maundy Thursday service; Good Friday service and Easter Sunday breakfast and worship service.

Individual reports:

Pastor – Pastor will begin offering Sunday School. So far two sessions are scheduled for March 17 and April 14.

Building and Grounds – The B&G committee met with Namba Construction and demolition will begin in the chapel.

Finance – The accounting and financial statements are being reviewed by a CPA, working with Lynne and Julee.

Membership – One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes have been distributed in the March Herald mailing.

Nichigo – The Nichigo women will continue to host Coffee Fellowship on the first Sunday of each month.

Personnel – The PNC met 5 times in February. A Ministry Discernment Profile is being worked on.

Worship – New purple paraments have been ordered. The Worship Committee is working on Holy Week activities. Sugarhouse Park pavilion has been reserved for the Father's Day picnic.

Kenshin Taiko – The group has scheduled many performances due to Lunar New Year's events.

## Tech Summit

*Submitted by Alan Shino, Building and Grounds Elder*

Social Hall and Chapel technology upgrades will be occurring during the coming months. We are in the process of meeting with the contractor who set up the audio/visual system in the social hall to bring the system up to date and functional. Some of the things to look forward to are new microphones to improve sound quality and a new camera system for hosting online access of our sermons. The chapel will also be receiving similar audio/visual upgrades.

Special thanks go to the United Church of Christ for its financial support in this project.

### Holy Week Wrap Up

#### **Palm Sunday**

The guest speaker for Palm Sunday was Reverend Chelsea Page. Palm leaves and lilies graced the pulpit.

Photo courtesy: Jan Aramaki



#### **Maundy Thursday**

On Maundy Thursday, worshippers took part in washing of the feet and re-enacting DaVinci's "The Last Supper."



I'm glad I got that pedicure this morning!

#### **Good Friday, April 29, 2024**

Good Friday services took place in the evening.

Al Kubota drives a nail into wood, symbolizing the crucifixion.

Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse



#### **Easter Sunday**

Easter Sunday began with a hearty breakfast prepared by the Men's group! Thanks to Steve Fukumitsu for organizing the event. An indoor egg hunt followed worship service due to wet weather; but the sun appeared just in time for the annual group Easter photo!



Getting ready to decorate the cross  
Photo courtesy: Lauren Erlacher



Pastor Haas' Easter message



Anointed with oil



DaVinci's "The Last Supper"



JCC's "The Last Supper"



Photographer Frank and his stabilizers