

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

June 2024

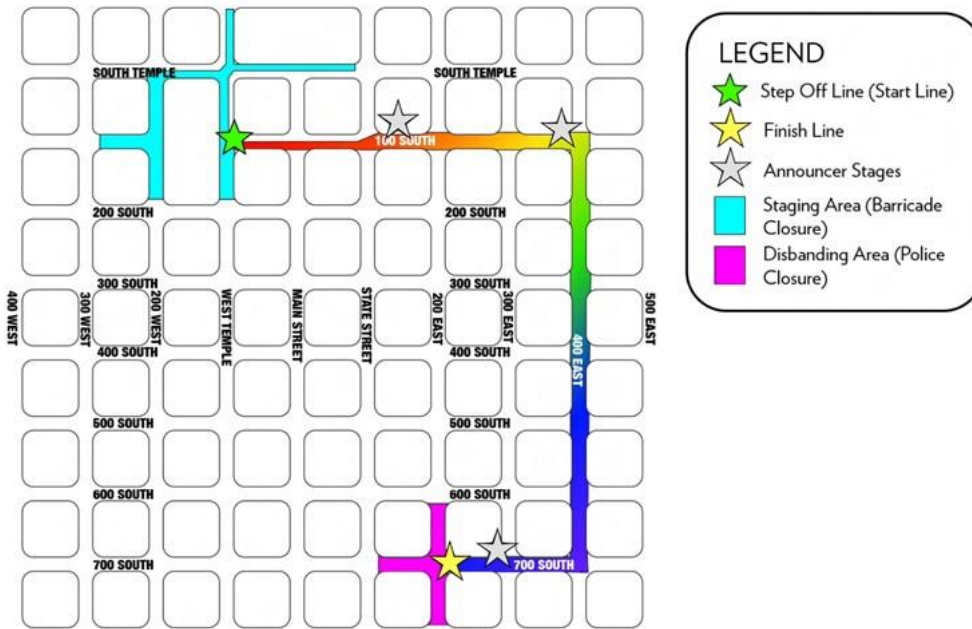
Join the Pride Parade on June 2nd!

The mission study process that the JCC completed in January 2024 was clear: This congregation stands for gender equality and LGBTQ inclusion. The mandate for the Pastor Nominating Committee states unequivocally, "We need to find a full-time permanent pastor who likes everyone equally (including LGBTQ)."

Last year, we had great energy at the staging area for the Salt Lake City Pride Parade right in front of the JCC Chapel. On **Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.**, Kenshin Taiko will be out in the street and friends from the Presbytery and Holladay UCC will join us in welcoming parade goers. We extend God's love through hospitality and hand out water.

Get up early that Sunday and come out into the street!

Join us in sharing God's extravagant welcome!



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 or contact Pastor Haas or any of the Deacons.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Debbie Homma
Homma Family

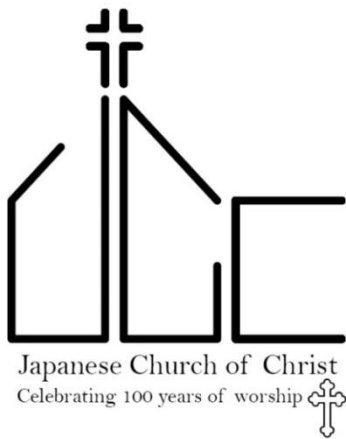
Steve Fukushima
Tom Reed Jr.

Rev. Dr. Mirjam Haas-Melchior
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, Lorraine Crouse, Pat Price

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

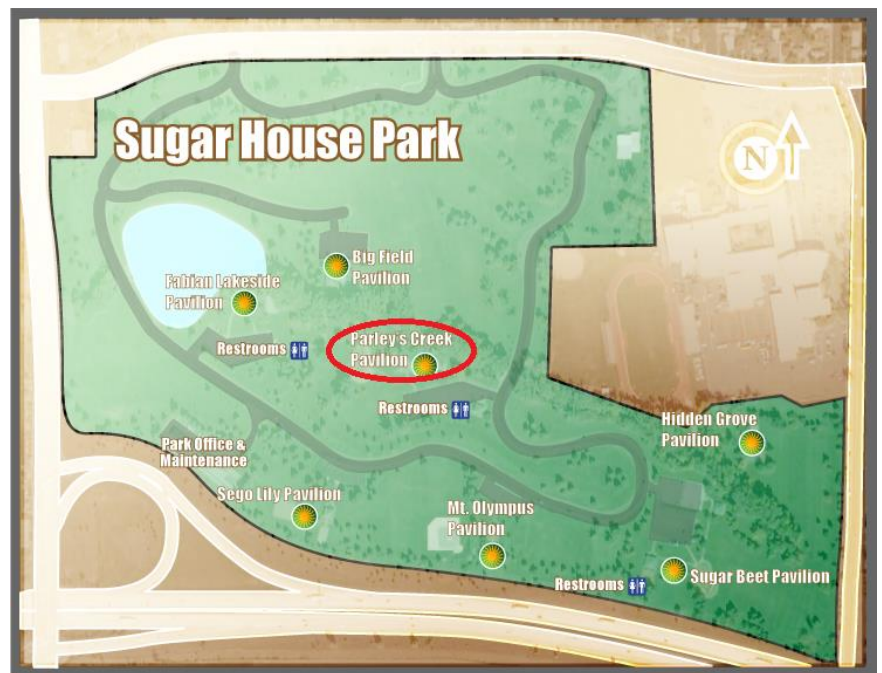
Website: www.jccslc.net

Father’s Day Picnic

The traditional Father’s Day Worship and Picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 16, 2024** at **Sugarhouse Park, 1300 East and 2100 South**, in the Parley’s Creek Pavilion. This is the same pavilion as in past years, located in the center of the park, near the children’s play area, restrooms and plenty of adjacent parking.

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). There will be signage.

Please bring a potluck dish to share, drinks will be provided. Bingo afterwards!



Searching for a Permanent Pastor – Potential Matches

Submitted by Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel

The process of identifying a permanent pastor for JCC continues. The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) has been reviewing potential matches to meet our needs. The Presbytery’s national website has been the primary source for identifying pastors to interview.

PNC members will develop interview questions and all candidates will be asked the same questions. This provides the PNC with the means to equally evaluate the answers. Those answers and the candidates’ theology, energy level, and genuine interest in JCC will be assessed.

Details such as the interview questions, the number of interviews and the names of the pastors will be confidential.

Please keep the pastors, the process and the PNC members in your prayers.

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

Your Input is Needed: Complete the Japantown Survey, Today!

Earlier this year, the State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 272 which allows for the creation of a Capital City Revitalization Zone. The initial zone includes the Delta Center and the two blocks to the east. The area includes Japantown (the north side of 100 South and between 200 West and 300 West). Additionally, to fund development of the Revitalization Zone, SB 272 allows the City to impose a 0.5% increase in citywide sales tax. Over a 30-year period, the tax increase will generate \$1.2 billion. Of this, \$900 million would go towards developing Smith Entertainment Group's (SEG) privately owned Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention (SECC) District. Japantown Street, the Japanese Church of Christ (JCC) and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple (SLBT) will be impacted by the construction and the new development.

There is potential for Japantown to be included in revitalization efforts. The Japanese Community Preservation Committee (JCPC), SLC NextGen JA (a group working to bridge generations in the effort to preserve, protect, and promote Japantown) and of course, JCC and SLBT, are working to ensure that the community is included as key stakeholders in the planning of the SECC District.

Japantown is a vital asset for downtown and the entire Salt Lake region. As community leaders consider revitalization plans for the SECC District, we need to be mindful to not repeat the mistakes and injustices of the past and to take full advantage of opportunities for the future.

You can do three things:

ONE, to ensure thoughtful planning is conducted, we are looking to gather input from the community on the future of Japantown. By taking this survey, you can provide input on ways to protect and potentially reimagine a revitalized Japantown.

Take the survey by going to: [Japantown Revitalization Questionnaire](#)

Or scan the QR code below:

Survey QR code



TWO, you can sign and share the **Revitalize Japantown Petition** to show your support. Access the petition by scanning the QR code below:

Petition QR code



(Your Input is Needed continued)

THREE, you can stay informed by reading news articles about the SECC District and Japantown.

Your time, opinion, and willingness to join in the efforts of making this a community inspired and re-invented Japantown is valued.

Survey run and operated by SLC NextGen JA. A group of individuals dedicated to protecting, preserving, and promoting the Salt Lake City Japantown history and community for future generations. For any questions, please reach out to SLC NextGen JA at SLCNextGenJA@gmail.com



Community Events

Sunday, June 2, 2024: Utah Pride Parade, downtown beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, June 8, 2024: 47th Utah Asian Festival, Utah Fairpark Grand Building, 155 North 1000 West, Salt Lake City, UT, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This festival not only connects new Americans, immigrants, and refugees to the more historic ethnic groups in our state, but also brings our diverse ethnic communities together. UtahAsianFestival.org

Thursday, June 20, 2024: UACC Access Asia 2024 Utah Asian Chamber of Commerce, 6:00 p.m. Featuring local Asian-owned food vendors.

Congrats!

Congratulations to Reverend Doctor Mirjam Haas-Melchior who received her Doctor of Ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in May.



Rev. Doctor Mirjam Haas-Melchior

Celebrate Pride with Presbytery of Utah

The Utah Presbytery will be walking in the Utah Pride Parade together on **Sunday, June 2**.

In conjunction, the JCC will be passing out bottled water for participants in the staging area on 100 South. The Kenshin Taiko group will also be performing. (See Pastor’s Message on Page 1.)

Pictures of Belonging

June is the last month to see the “Pictures of Belonging” exhibition at the Utah Museum of Fine Art (UMFA). This is the traveling exhibit from the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. The exhibit features more than 100 artworks from 3 female artists of Japanese descent – Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Mine Okubo, tracing their prewar, wartime and postwar art.

We are considering making a field trip to the UMFA on **Sunday, June 23, 2024**, following worship service. Transportation will be furnished to the museum (located on U of U campus) and then return back to church (estimating around 2 or 2:30 p.m.)

If you are interested in viewing the exhibit, please contact Karen Okawa or Jean Irwin by **June 10**, so that arrangements for lunch, drivers and tour can be made. If there is not enough interest, we will cancel the event.

JCC June 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, 11:45am	3	4 -Nerikiri class, 10am	5	6	7	8
9 -Worship Service, 10:30am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 -Father’s Day Picnic, Sugarhouse Park, 10:30am	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 -Worship Service, 10:30am	24	25	26	27 -National Asian Presbyterian Council, 5:00pm	28 -National Asian Presbyterian Council	29 -National Asian Presbyterian Council, to noon -Parking, Kevin James, 7:30pm
30 -Worship Service, 10:30am -GA Luncheon, 11:30am						

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 5/28/2024.

Team Spirit Shines Even When it Rains

Submitted by Jan Aramaki, Nihon Matsuri Committee

Sincere thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this year's Nihon Matsuri. It takes a team to plan and pull off this event. Your help with planning, preparing, and cleaning up for the festival; purchasing needed supplies/ingredients; prepping food items for sale; cooking; trouble shooting; giving ideas/input; enduring the weather in the food booth while welcoming the public; performing; inviting friends to the festival; taking a lead; helping with historical exhibits; being present and much more!

This is an annual opportunity to be a part of this cultural community event, opening our doors to welcome the public, and to share our history. Akiko Oki is our mastermind behind the menu, Lorraine Crouse is our historian for the wonderful exhibits, and Ron Nishijima is our highlighted artist – everyone's talents and time are gifts from God – thank you volunteers for your generous kind hearts to pitch in, give your time, and for your friendship – you are all angels no matter what part you played. Our net profit is approximately \$4,000.

Coming together in fellowship, catching up with each other, opening our doors to the public while working side by side are blessings JCC gains from events like Nihon Matsuri. But you being a part of this event, is the biggest blessing of all!

1 Corinthians 1:9: "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Congratulations Graduates – Class of 2024

Congratulations to the following graduate:



Matthew Aramaki (son of Dale and Teresa Aramaki) – B.S. from the University of Utah with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance with an emphasis in Advanced Financial Analysis.

He will participate in a study abroad program this summer in Seoul, Korea and Tokyo, Japan and will earn a minor in the Global Information Systems.

Deacons May Meeting Recap

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima, Deacons

The Board of Deacons met on May 5, 2024 and discussed the following topics.

We updated our prayer list. We also updated the upcoming calendar of events, most notably the Father's Day Picnic on June 16 and General Assembly Luncheon on June 30.

There is a calendar posted opposite the stairwell in the Fellowship Hall. We also discussed Prayer Encouragement activities. Copies of *Before and After Amen* by Max Lucado will be available on the table beneath the bulletin board. There are also prayer request cards available on the table with the hymnals.

GA 226 is Coming Soon!

Remember that from June 24 to July 4, the Presbytery of Utah will welcome and host over 1,000 delegates from over all over the United States and the world.

Visitors will also be joining the JCC worship service on **Sunday, June 30**. Attend church that day to show the GA that the JCC is alive! We will serve lunch that day after worship service and Kenshin Taiko will perform.

If you can volunteer to help with the June 30 event at our church, contact Marc Stillman or Karen Okawa. We need people to grill, set up the tent, prepare food, etc. A signup sheet will be posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

If you can volunteer to help the Presbytery of Utah at the conference, contact Karen who will coordinate with the Presbytery. (There will be two virtual orientation and training sessions for that.) See the flyer on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board for more information.

The GA will be using our Fellowship Hall for other meetings and events during the week as well.

- The National Asian Presbyterian Council will be using our building from Friday evening, 6/27 through Saturday morning, 6/29.
- The Presbytery of Utah will be using the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, July 2.

The groups will make separate arrangements to cater their events, but we need JCC volunteers to be at the church to assist where and open/close the building as needed. Let Karen or Marc know if you can help!

Wanted – Office Admin

The JCC is seeking someone to fill Office Administrator duties. Duties include producing the weekly worship script and bulletin, sorting and distributing mail, ordering office supplies, etc. Michael Flemming had been the OA, but work commitments including a lot of travel, will prevent him from meeting the needs of the OA duties. We appreciate Michael's efforts during this past year.

Session May Meeting Recap

Unfortunately, the May Session meeting was not scheduled until May 30, 2024 this month. So it missed the June Herald publication deadline. The recaps for the May and June meetings will be reported in the July 2024 Herald.

Veterans' Memorial Service Recap

The annual Veteran's Memorial Service sponsored by the JACL chapters was held bright and early on Sunday, May 26 in the Japanese section of the Salt Lake City Cemetery. Reverend Haas gave the opening remarks and prayer. Leaders of the Dai Ichi Ward and Salt Lake Buddhist Temple also participated in the program. Names of veterans were read and a small flag was placed in remembrance of each by Scout Troop 442 who also presented the colors.

Thanks to the Utah JACL chapters for putting on this event every year.



Pastor Haas gave remarks and the opening prayer. Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse



The monument is dedicated to the local JAs killed in action during WWII. A wreath was presented to them by Scout Troop 442.

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost was Sunday, May 19 and a joint worship service was held with the Anchored in Christ Free Wesleyan Church. It was noted that this year is the 10th anniversary of the Tongan congregation worshipping at the JCC facilities. Time does fly!



Pastor Tip delivers the Pentecost message. Photo courtesy: Jan Aramaki.

Memorial Day Service

After the regular sermon on May 26, the traditional Memorial Day candle lighting service was held at the JCC to remember loved ones who have passed on.

A joint service was held with the Anchored in Christ Free Wesleyan Church, who had not participated in a candle lighting memorial before. It was a poignant moment for all who attended.



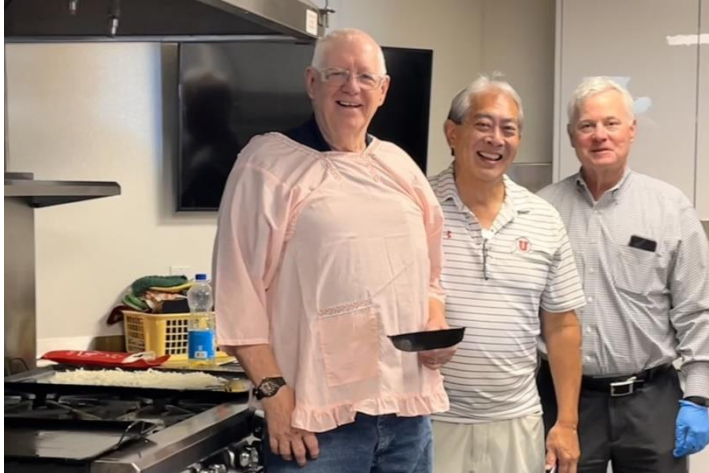
Members of both congregations lit candles to remember loved ones.



Pastors Haas and Pupu'a also light candles on Memorial Sunday.

Mother's Day Recap

Mother's Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 12 beginning with a hearty breakfast prepared by the men's group. Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior was the guest speaker that day (she had to work on Mother's Day?!).



Kitchen chefs Bob, Steve and Mark. Bob wore the stylish pink apron in honor of Yeiko Homma (the queen of the JCC kitchen). Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse

How Does Your Garden Grow?

On Saturday, May 18, church family members attended a garden party at the home of Bob Jones and Michiko Kenmotsu. What a beautiful setting of trees, plants and flowers.

Thank you Bob and Michiko, for sharing your patio and garden for us to enjoy!



Michiko, Marc and Allyn enjoy the warm day and beautiful peonies (with BIG blooms!)

The Order of the Rising Sun

Congratulations to Jani Iwamoto, recipient of The Order of the Rising Sun - Gold and Silver Rays. This award is a Japanese decoration of honor awarded by the Government of Japan to individuals from both Japan and abroad who have made distinguished contributions to the advancement of Japan.

The award was presented at a reception at the Cottonwood Country Club on May 2 by Yoichi Mikami, Consul-General of Japan.



Yoichi Mikami, Consul-General of Japan (wearing red to commemorate his 60th birthday); awardee Jani Iwamoto; Tomie Eilers, assistant to the Consul-General; and Keiko Furutani, Economic Consul.

Nerikiri Class – June 4

For those enrolled in the Nerikiri class series taught by Akiko Oki, this is a reminder that the next class will be on Tuesday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m. Please remember to make your nerikiri at home and bring it to class on that day. (Also make sure your cutting board is smooth; no grain.)

National Asian Presbyterian Council

The National Asian Presbyterian Council (NAPC) is a council under the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and have 11 different nationalities represented within the council that includes churches from across the country; Chinese, Indonesian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Filipino, Japanese, Taiwanese, Cambodian, Indonesia, Korean, and Thai.

Once a year, the council joins face-to-face to share joys and challenges within the church community. This year, the council will be meeting when PCUSA is hosting their 224th General Assembly meeting in Salt Lake City and the council will be using the Fellowship Hall for their meetings from June 27 through June 29.

As mentioned above, the Japanese caucus is part of NAPC but currently does not have a representative from the caucus itself. If you are interested, let us know. This is a great opportunity to bridge the gap and join together as brothers and sisters to work alongside to do the Lord's work.

Trustees Report

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto, Trustees President

The Trustees have met a record three times this year! On March 31, the Trustees met to discuss the issue of acceptance of gifts, with a follow up discussion with the Session and Trustees on April 18th - also including discussion on Japantown; the upcoming May 9th meeting with Mayor Mendenhall and officials; and display panels. These displays, curated by trustee and archivist Lorraine Crouse (with Special Collections at the University of Utah J. Willard Marriott Library) were viewed by hundreds at Nihon Matsuri, Topaz art pilgrimage from the Bay Area, and for the May 9 meeting.

The May 9 meeting was organized by Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall. While many were involved, Tim Cosgrove from the Mayor's office contacted me and asked if JCC would host the meeting. What was to be a small meeting with Japanese Community Preservation Committee (JCPC) members, grew to include the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple's (SLBT) board, the JCC's leadership and other community leadership. Pizza, drink and salad were provided and donated by Sean Uno (City Creek Pizza) on behalf of his dad, the late Judge Raymond S. Uno. Thank you, Judge! Dessert was provided by SLBT and SLC Council Member Darin Mano.

The program was set by the SLC Mayor's office and included SLC Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson, Smith Entertainment Group's Mike Maughan, SLC Council Member Darin Mano, and myself. Robust question and answer followed. Thank you to all those from our church that helped set up, including Steve Fukumitsu, Lorraine Crouse, Laura Olson and crew, Karen Okawa and Julee Mori.

On May 15, I called a joint Zoom meeting with Session and Trustees to discuss growth options for our church. Concern over parking is critical, as the downtown is slated to become "re-imagined", with our church within this new entertainment district. Looking into our two properties has been at the forefront over the years since the Salt Palace expansion, convention hotel, and Block 67.

For the JCC, height had been negotiated downward for safety, including ice buildup due to heightened structure and less exposure to light; the setbacks/buffer zones to the north and east sides of our north parking lot and driveway; name change to Japantown Street; gates designed with Japanese style motif; the hard-fought garden to honor our Issei and Nisei pioneers, as well as the plaque funded primarily by the late Judge Raymond Uno - but importantly, to act as a buffer for traffic coming in and out of the parking garage/loading docks, and to enable light to our church. The SL Planning Commission will be hearing comment, both written and oral, to increase height in the area surrounding our church - this area is zoned D-4 and will remain so, but the height limitation will be lifted.

(Trustees Report continued)

The May 15 meeting concluded with a commitment to future investigation into various, possible options for our church.

We also thank Al Kubota and Steve Fukumitsu for their input and work on our parking lots.

Events Calendar

The Deacons have created a calendar that posts the usage of the JCC chapel and Fellowship Hall by month. The calendar is posted on the wall opposite the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards.

If you have an event that will be using JCC facilities, please pencil it in under the date(s) on the calendar under the applicable month. (Remember, all usage requests must be approved by Session.) Then inform Nancy Umemura of your update to the calendar.

Events will continue to be noted in the Herald monthly calendar, but there are times when the event dates are too late to make the publication deadlines for the newsletter. Refer to this new calendar as the most current resource to schedule events in the church buildings.