

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

March 2024

Special Offerings

In case you haven't noticed, in our tradition "mission" does not mean what it means for the majority religion in Utah. As Presbyterians, we do not seek to convert people to a particular belief, but we join Jesus's mission in action, "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-36)



Throughout the year we take special offerings to support this mission:

- One Great Hour of Sharing with a focus on hunger, disaster, and development during the Lenten season.
- The Pentecost Offering with a focus on children at risk, youth, and young adults.
- Peace & Global Witness with a focus on peacemaking and reconciliation on World Communion Sunday.
- Christmas Joy with a focus on church leaders – past, present, and future.

Since the JCC is dual-affiliated with both the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and the United Church of Christ, we also support the UCC special offerings which happen at the same time and for similar causes: One Great Hour of Sharing (shared with PCUSA), Strengthen the Church (Pentecost), Neighbors in Need (World Communion Sunday), and the Christmas Fund (also for church leaders).

Through Easter, I ask you to please give to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

In 2022, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance granted \$3.1 million in 27 U.S. states and 35 countries. In partnership with Church World Service, 228,318 Gift of the Heart Kits and blankets were distributed.

In 2021, the UCC Wider Church Ministries distributed a total of \$930,043 with most of the funds supporting International Relief and Sustainable Development (46% or \$427,414); development programs of global partners through our 5 Global Ministries area offices (43% or \$396,950); Refugees/Migration (10% or \$95,000), and National Disasters (1% or \$10,679)

You can make a difference at home and around the world!

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:

DeRose 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

Daylight Savings Reminder

It is that time of the year; daylight savings begins on **Sunday, March 10, 2024**. It is "Spring Forward", so set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

Holy Week Events

Easter is early this year – **March 31, 2024 is Easter Sunday**. As tradition, the following activities are planned during Holy Week to celebrate the passion of Jesus. (Due to construction in chapel, all worship services will be held in the Fellowship Hall.)

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24, 10:30 a.m.

Guest pastor: Rev. Chelsea Page
Palm processional, communion

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28, 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday worship service, communion, and supper

Good Friday

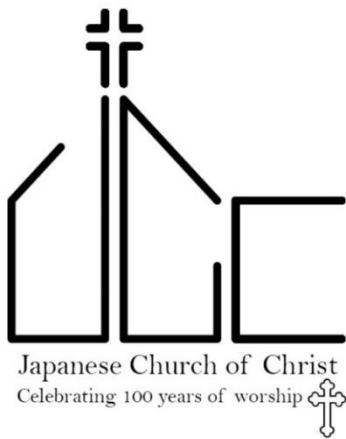
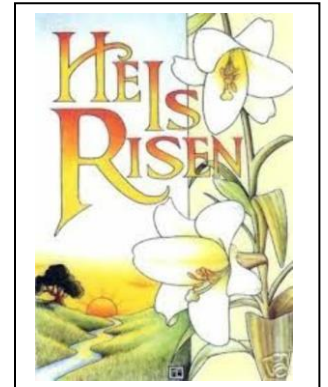
Friday, March 29, 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday worship service

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31:

- 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m.: Children's Easter Egg Hunt in Courtyard
- 10:30 a.m.: Worship Service in Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m.: Group Easter photograph outside Chapel



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.

Website: www.jccslc.net

Condolences

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Yoko DeRose on February 14, 2024. Funeral services will be held at the JCC on **Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** Please keep Paul and Kiara in your prayers at this time.

Tech Summit

The JCC received a grant from the United Church of Christ to help update our audiovisual equipment. When we were in our homes during COVID, things went technologically speaking, very well. Now, back in person, we are trying to increase broadcast quality, set up one combined system for both chapel and Fellowship Hall, and possibly bring back interactive elements for online participants.

We need your input on the future of the digital JCC experience! Please come to our Technology Summit during Coffee Fellowship on **Sunday, March 3**, right after worship service. Everyone is invited!

One Great Hour of Sharing

Along with the Easter offering envelope this month, there is an envelope for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). (See Pastor's Message on page 1.) This year is the 75th Anniversary of OGHS - the single largest offering that is an expression of thanks for all God gives us and an opportunity to share our blessings with those in need around the world.



CWU Human Rights Day Celebration

A multi faith gathering of Christian Women – Church Women United (CWU). Note that one of the award recipients this year is Reverend Mirjam Haas-Melchior, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Utah! Congratulations!

When: Friday, March 15, 2024 (3rd Friday)

Time: 9:30 a.m. registration; 10:00 - 1:00 Program & Lunch

Where: Mountain Vista United Methodist Church, 8931 South 3200 West, West Jordan, UT

Theme: "What Does the Lord Require of CW-You? – Act Justly"

Keynote Speaker: Moe Hickey, Executive Director, Voices for Utah Children

Award Recipients:

Laura B. Eady-Popwell and Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior

Registration: \$2 **Lunch:** \$6.00

Community Outreach: Cash Donations for Voices for Utah Children. These donations support internships, which greatly add to Voices' growing momentum as we advocate for policies that bring real change for Utah's children. Checks Payable to "Church Women United," designated for Voices for Utah Children.

Offering: Used for CWU National Programs: Checks need to be made payable to: "Church Women United"

Lunch RSVP: To Mary Ann Allison at 801-278-9223 by Monday, March 11.

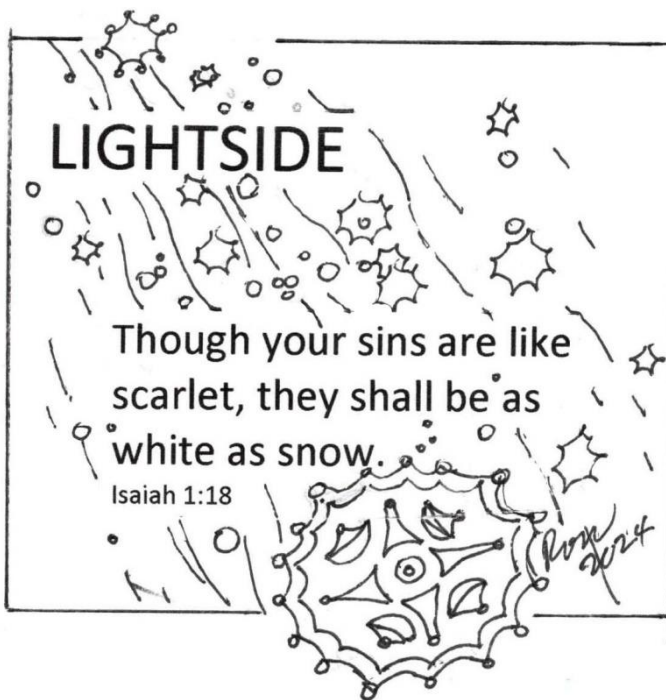
Weekly Prayer Zoom Call – Thursdays 9:00 A.M.

Please join us for our weekly prayer call via Zoom at 9:00AM each Thursday.

We offer thanks and pray for those on our prayer list, our new pastor search process, our congregation, the future of our church, and whatever is on the hearts of those who join. It usually lasts 15-20 minutes. You are welcome to join as available, and don't have to pray out loud. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Umemura (nancyume[at]Comcast[dot]net)

The Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88183384849?pwd=dUd1ZVJlTUcvTWNDcDFtcXQ3UDgvQT09>



Search for a Permanent Pastor – Fast Out of the Gate

Submitted by Lynne Ward, PNC Committee

In its first five meetings during February, the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) has been energetic and committed to honor the responsibility entrusted to it by the congregation. The Mission Study is being used as the foundation to write up the qualities sought in the permanent pastor. In two of the meetings, Executive Presbyter, Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior gave the PNC overall guidance and came again to answer questions.

The product of this effort is the Ministerial Discernment Profile (MDP) which is a form provided by the Presbytery. Once the answers are drafted by the PNC, it will be approved by the Executive Presbyter and the Session. Refinement will be made to the MDP. The next step will be to post it on the national Presbytery's web site and as many other places as possible to generate interest in the position. The MDP tells the reader about the JCC such as the congregation size, vision for the church, skills and experience sought. The MDP will also define a pastor's role.

There will be a quiet period of time for the PNC while the MDP and other postings are being contemplated by possible candidate pastors. As a critical mass of applications are received, the PNC will resume its energy and evaluate the applications. More information about this step of the process will be covered in a future Herald article.

The final candidate proposed by the PNC will be approved by the Session and the congregation. PNC members are: Rick Aoki, Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse, Michiko Kenmotsu, Marc Stillman, Nancy Umemura and Lynne Ward.

Building and Grounds Update

The Building and Grounds committee met with the contractor at the end of February to go over construction plans in the chapel; which will begin mid-March. All worship services including Easter Sunday, will be then be held in the Fellowship Hall until completion of the renovation, slated for mid-summer.

Pastor Haas’ Interim Pastor Contract

Submitted by Lynne Ward, Elder of Personnel

At its February meeting, the Session voted to renew Pastor Haas’ Interim Pastoral Contract. As you know, JCC is in search of a permanent pastor. So, this new contract will end when a permanent pastor is found or after twelve months, whichever is sooner. And, the Pastoral Nominating Committee is working hard to find a permanent pastor much sooner than twelve months from now. Pastor Haas’ part-time status will continue as it has over the last two years.

March Community Events

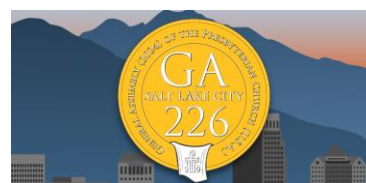
- **Saturday, March 23, 2024** – Mount Olympus JAFL Chapter Fundarama, Hillcrest Jr. High, 178 East 5300 South, Murray, UT. Dinner at 5:00 p.m. Contact Karen Okawa for more information.
- **Saturday, March 30, 2024** – Nikkei Senior Center luncheon sponsored by Salt Lake JAFL chapter. Location: Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, 211 W. 100 South, noon.

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**.

The GA will take place at the Salt Palace Convention Center, so it is in close proximity to the JCC and some meetings may be held in the Fellowship Hall during that week. Visitors may also be joining our worship service on Sunday, June 30.

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 and lunch during the week, etc. Let us all welcome these guests to our city and to the JCC!



Interfaith Sacred Music Evening

**Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square
Sunday, March 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

This is an evening of music, dance, choirs and more. Admission is free. For more information, go to: interfaithroundtable.org.

JCC March 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 7pm	2 -Parking, Disney on Ice, all day
3 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon -Parking, Disney on Ice	4 -Parking, Jazz vs Wizards, 7pm	5 -Parking, Dr. Peterson, 7:30pm	6 -Parking, Jazz vs Bulls, 7pm	7	8	9 -Funeral service, 10am -Parking, Lany, 8pm
10 -Worship Service, 10:30am	11	12 -Parking, Jazz vs. Celtics, 7pm	13 -Parking, Harlem Globetrotters, 7pm	14	15 -Parking, Jazz vs. Hawks, 7pm	16 -Parking, Jazz vs Timberwolves, 7:30pm
17 -Worship Service, 10:30am	18 -Parking, Jazz vs Timberwolves, 7pm	19	20	21 -Parking, NCAA Basketball, all day	22	23 -Parking, NCAA Basketball, all day
24 -Worship Service, 10:30am	25 -Parking, Jazz vs Mavericks, 7pm	26	27 -Parking, Jazz vs Spurs, 7pm	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY -Service, 6pm	29 GOOD FRIDAY -Service, 6pm -Parking, Jazz vs Rockets, 7:30pm	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY -Breakfast, 8:30am -Egg Hunt, 10am -Worship Service, 10:30am						

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 2/26/2024.

2024 Deacons' Annual Planning Recap

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Deacons' Moderator

The Deacons met on Feb. 18-19 for an annual planning session. They created an annual calendar of events and brainstormed ideas for ways the Deacons could serve the church family and community in the five areas listed in Romans 12:12-13:

- Rejoicing in hope
- Patient in suffering
- Persevering in prayer
- Meeting the needs of the saints (church family & community)
- Extending hospitality

They recommitted themselves to on-going ministry activities and came up with a number of new and exciting actions for 2024, including service projects, Japanese cooking and language classes, prayer and praise activities, and social media communications. They will be creating a Deacons Corner in one of the classrooms to keep the planning calendar and action assignments and progress visible.

Our Daily Bread

The Spring 2024 copies of "Our Daily Bread" are now available. Copies are located on the table near the front door in the Sanctuary and table by the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like a copy mailed to you, email a request to jcherald@gmail.com.



Souper Bowl of Caring Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring project! A total of 598 canned and non-perishable foods and \$445.00 in cash/checks were delivered to Rescue Mission of Salt Lake in memory of Kay Nakashima, one of the original founders.



Our total point count was submitted to the Matthew 25 Presbytery committee. The top 3 teams will be announced and applauded at the next Presbytery meeting. The committee expressed their appreciation to the JCC for our participation in this worthy cause.

Check it Out!

Remember to take a look at the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall for current information and events! It is easy to forget the boards are there since they are located off of the entrance now.

Nihon Matsuri Volunteers Needed

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

Nihon Matsuri will be on **Saturday, April 27, 2024** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. JCC will have a food booth on 100 South for the festival. As in years past, volunteers will be a welcoming blessing to help us cook, set up for the festival, take a shift in our booth, or to help with after clean up. We will be making yaki manju, mochiko manju, Japanese ice cream dessert and an obento of ebi nigiri with vegetable tempura. We will be reaching out for volunteers or please contact Jan Aramaki (801) 718-2006.



Deacons February Meeting Recap

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

The Board of Deacons met on February 4, 2024, and discussed the following. We welcomed Marc Stillman as a new deacon and Laura Olson was elected to a second term of 3 years. For 2024, these officers were elected: Moderator - Nancy Misaka Umemura; Treasurer - Marc Stillman; Secretary - Allyn Nakashima. We also discussed plans for a 2-session Strategic Planning Meeting to go over our mission and activities for the upcoming year.

Session February Meeting Recap

The February Session meeting was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

The following Elder assignments were made:

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

A "Tech Summit" will be organized to gather input and discuss what we need to update our technology; such as audio/video upgrades, redesign of the church website, and other matters. A meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3.

Pastor Haas' interim pastor contract ends in mid-April. His contract will be renewed for 12 months or until a permanent pastor is found, whichever comes first.

Holy Week activities were discussed. See page 2 of this newsletter.

New Anti-Harassment and Anti-Racism policies will need to be developed this year. The Presbytery will send a sample template. The 2023 year end reports have been submitted to the Presbytery of Utah.

Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon Wrapup

The JCC hosted the Nikkei Senior Center luncheon on February 3, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Jan Aramaki for preparing the main entrée and to all who helped in the kitchen. (And special thanks to Cary and Nancy Umemura for getting our kitchen knives sharpened! It was nice to have tools that actually cut!)

The program featured a low-impact yoga demonstration from Salt Lake County Aging Services. The luncheon was well-attended and enjoyed by all!



Jeanette, Alyce, Sadie, Tom, Edie, Karie, Mariko, Elaine and Hiro enjoy fellowship at the Nikkei Senior Center luncheon.



Attendees participate in yoga.

February Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for the February 18 worship service was Reverend Mike Clang, a hospital chaplain with Episcopal Community Service. This was Rev. Clang's first sermon at the JCC. We enjoyed his words.

Photo courtesy:Lorraine Crouse



Esther Williams Scholarship

Church Women United (CWU) sponsors a scholarship for female high school/college students active in local church activities. A flyer with details and application form are found on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Applications are due on May 1, 2024.

Zephyr Point Retreat

July 21-26, 2024

Zephyr Cove, NV (Lake Tahoe)

Reverend Michael Yoshii, guest speaker
Theme: "Spirituality of War and Peace"

Rev. Michael Yoshii is a retired clergy from the California Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. During his active ministry he was involved with social action in community issues regarding racial equity, affordable housing, renters' rights, LGBTQ+ inclusiveness, and immigrant rights. He served on the General Board of Global Ministries from 2008-2012 and was one of the convenors of the United Methodist Kairos Response (UMKR) in 2010. Rev. Yoshii served on the International Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP) Global Council.

More information to come on the Lake Tahoe retreat. Registrations will become available sometime this month. See Jan Aramaki for details.

Virtual Yoga Class

Reminder that JCC hosts free online yoga classes on Monday evenings via Zoom, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The class is taught by Bob Matsueda. All ages and physical conditions are welcomed.

The Zoom link to the class is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86910657449?pwd=MTk2VnFvU2VRR1YvUGZyUXdZS09Hdz09>

If you would like to receive notifications on this virtual yoga class, contact Steve Fukumitsu.

Utah Filmmaker Showcase

April 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Free
Salt Lake City Library

Featuring a Q&A moderated by Artist Foundry Manager, Amanda Madden, and the film's directors, Kishi Bashi and Justin Taylor Smith.

Violinist and songwriter Kaoru Ishibashi travels on a musical journey to understand WWII era Japanese incarceration, assimilation, and what it means to be a minority in America today. Ishibashi goes on a journey to learn about this history and its relevance.

Using never before seen archival footage from the camps, mixed with breathtaking visual storytelling, Kishi Bashi, weaves a story using history, music and current events to create a portrait of America from the perspective of someone caught between two worlds. Click here for more information and an RSVP link to attend the event:

[A Song Film by Kishi Bashi: Omoiyari - Utah Film Center](#)