

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

May 2024

THE PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS OUR YOUTH BEGIN LIFE WITH A STRONG START — A SOLID FOUNDATION OF FAITH FORMED IN THE FIRST THIRD OF LIFE, FROM CHILDHOOD THROUGH YOUNG ADULTHOOD.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come.

Pentecost arrives 50 days after Easter and 10 days after the Ascension — when Jesus ascends into heaven. Jesus and the Scriptures are making an important theological point at Pentecost. Jesus ascends and the church is born. If his mission and ministry is to continue, it is upon us, his disciples, to keep it going, and we have the Holy Spirit to lead us, who blesses us all with different gifts to be used at different times and in different ways. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect with God's hope and future, supporting ministries with children, youth and young adults by building a life of faith.

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:

Homma Family Pastor Nominating Committee Uno Family

Condolences

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Yeiko Homma on April 20, 2024 at the age of 98. Yeiko was "queen of the JCC kitchen" and was known as one of the Utah Jazz "Pink Grandmas", along with her sister Keiko Mori. She was an active, dedicated and hardworking member of the JCC and her smiling face will be missed immensely. Please keep her children Michael, Victor and Donna and their families in your prayers.

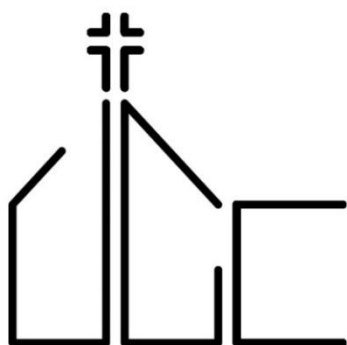
A viewing will be held on **Friday, May 10, 2024** from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at Memorial Estates Mountain View; 3115 East 7800 South. A memorial service will be held at the same location on **Saturday, May 11, 2024** at **11:00 a.m.** with a viewing one hour prior.



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



Japanese Church of Christ
Celebrating 100 years of worship

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

Mother’s Day Breakfast

Mother’s Day is on **Sunday, May 12, 2024**. The Men’s Group is once again putting on their aprons to provide a delicious breakfast to honor Mom!



Breakfast will be **from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** (There is no charge.) Bring the family to celebrate Mom’s special day and then attend worship service!

Memorial Day Services

On **Sunday, May 26, 2024**, we will have our traditional Memorial candle lighting service to remember our friends and family that have passed away. Worship service will begin at **10:30 a.m.** Come and light a candle in memory of your loved ones.

Also on that Sunday, the Utah JAFL Chapters will be holding its annual Veterans’ Memorial Service at the Salt Lake City Cemetery at **8:30 a.m.**, honoring local Japanese Americans who served in the military. It will be held in the Japanese section of the cemetery, off of 10th East and 11th Avenue.

Garden Party Invitation

All are invited to attend a garden party at the home of Bob Jones and Michiko Kenmotsu on **Saturday, May 18, 2024** at **11:00 a.m.** Their address is 3359 North 2550 East, Layton, UT 84040. It has become an annual event, a relaxing afternoon with friends from church while admiring the colorful spring blooms! If you get lost, call (801) 336-6951 (Bob’s cell).

Call for Graduates – Class of 2024



If there is a High School or College Senior (or advanced degree) in our JCC family that will be graduating in the Class of 2024, submit the graduate’s name by **May 30, 2024** to Karen Okawa. The seniors will be recognized in June.

GA 226 Coming Soon

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. There are opportunities to volunteer to greet and direct arriving delegates, welcome and direct attendees and visitors at the Salt Palace and direct them around Salt Lake City. To accomplish all of this, the Presbytery expects to need over 125 volunteers each day.

Visitors will also be joining the JCC worship service on **Sunday, June 30** as GA attendees are encouraged to worship at local Presbyterian churches that week. We will be serving lunch that day after worship service and Kenshin Taiko will be performing.

If you can volunteer to help with the June 30th event at our church, contact Marc Stillman or Karen Okawa. 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.)

Search for a Permanent Pastor - Posting the Announcement

Submitted by Lynne Ward, Elder for Personnel

The Pastor Nominating Committee has submitted the Ministerial Discernment Profile (MDP) to the Presbytery's national website and with other organizations. A number of churches on the West Coast along with JEMS have been asked to include our call in their respective newsletters and websites.

Interested pastors may indicate their interest within the Presbytery's national website. Additionally, the information about JCC and our vision will be matched to any pastors who are already registered as job seekers in the Presbytery's national website. The PNC will evaluate potential matches and will follow up with pastors whose profiles most closely meet our needs.

Remember that names 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 have their interest disclosed to anyone outside of the PNC or Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior (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.

Join the Utah Presbytery to Celebrate Pride

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

All are welcome!

Wear your brightest PRIDE COLORS!

- Feel free to bring flags to wave. We will have a large banner to carry as we walk.
- We will have one vehicle for those who are unable to walk the entire route.
- Participants must be checked in by 9 a.m. Parade starts at 10 a.m.
- Parking will be limited downtown; consider carpooling and taking TRAX.
- We will get our staging area later in May, staging grounds are near the Salt Palace.

Contact Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior or Meghan at the Presbytery of Utah if you want to walk. They will share more information once it is available.

Also, if you want to order T-shirts you can do this here: <https://kindcotton.com/products/pcusa-kindness-is-pride-classic-tee>



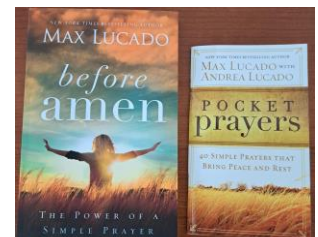
Our Daily Bread

Copies of "Our Daily Bread" for the months of June through August 2024 are now available in the Fellowship Hall near the bulletin boards. If you would like a copy sent to you, place a request at jccherald@gmail.com.



Prayer Time

Remember there is weekly prayer time at **9:00 a.m.** on Thursday mornings via Zoom. Contact Nancy Umemura if you would like to be sent the link.



Copies of two excellent publications about prayer are available on the table below the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

Community Events

Saturday, May 17-19, 2024: Living Traditions Festival, celebrating the diverse cultures of Utah. Workshops, food, crafts and program for the entire family. Kenshin Taiko will be performing on Sunday, May 19 at 2:30 p.m. on the North Stage.

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.

Celebrate Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Month

May is Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) month. On Sunday, April 28, 2024, Kenshin Taiko performed during worship service to kick off the month.



Kenshin Taiko performs at worship service.

CWU May Friendship Day

Church Women United Event

Friday, May 3, 2024

9:30 Registration (\$2.00) – 10:00 Program

Cathedral Church of St Mark

231 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT

“What Does the Lord Require of CW—You? Love Mercy”

Speaker – Shannon Burke, Chaplain & Coordinator to Ministries at ‘The Point’

Fellowship of the Least Coin Collection/Dedication

Community Outreach – Esther Williams Scholarship Fund

Offering to benefit CWU local and State Programs

Make checks payable to “Church Women United” designate Scholarship Fund and/or Offering

Lunch (\$6.00) RSVP to Mary Ann Allison at 801-278-9223 by Monday, April 29.

Congrats

Nathan Iwamoto-Fukumitsu and Kylie Farrenkoph were wed on Friday, April 12, 2024 in Novato, CA. Nate is the son of Steve Fukumitsu and Jani Iwamoto and grandson of Yas Iwamoto. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

JCC May 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, 11:45am	6	7	8	9 -Japantown Meeting, 6pm	10	11
12 -Mother’s Day brunch, 9am -Worship Service, 10:30am	13	14	15 -Parking, Feid, 8pm	16	17 -Parking, Kane Brown, 7pm	18 -Parking, Melanie Martinez, 7pm
19 -Worship Service, 10:30am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 -Worship Service and Memorial Day candle lighting, 10:30am	27 MEMORIAL DAY -Parking, Stevie Nicks, 7pm	28	29	30 -Session Meeting, 6pm	31	

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 4/29/2024.

Easter Photos

Copies of the annual JCC Easter group photo are available for \$5.00 for an 8x10 color print. An order sheet is located on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Order will be taken until May 19.

Digital copies are free. Send your request to jccherald@gmail.com.

Deacons April Meeting Recap

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Deacons Moderator

The Board of Deacons met on April 7, 2024 and discussed the following: Mother’s Day carnations, Marc Stillman is the lead from the Deacons for the Father’s Day picnic potluck on June 16 and the General Assembly luncheon on June 30, action item status, including Japanese cooking class May 7, various ways to facilitate prayer, Deacons’ inventory list for coffee fellowship, communion and kitchen items, name tags for Deacons and ushers/greeters, the JCC website updates, and monthly birthday acknowledgements.

Visitors

Remember Masa Naraoka and his children? Masa now works for Southwest Airlines based in Denver. His oldest son Eito is in college in Southern California; daughter Lin graduates from high school this year, and Kenta (who was just a baby at JCC) is in junior high. Time flies!



Eito, Lin, Kenta and Masa

A familiar face, Daniel Cheung, was in town recently and attended the April 28 worship service. It was great to see him! Daniel and his wife Alison now reside in Southern California, but he is still able to serve as a JCC trustee remotely.

Jan, Daniel and Jani enjoy coffee fellowship on Sunday.



Session April Meeting Recap

Submitted by Karen Okawa, Clerk of Session

The April Session meeting was held on Thursday, April 18, 2024. The following items were discussed:

At the beginning of the meeting, Trustee Jani Iwamoto provided an update on the status of Japantown as new developments with the NHL announcement of a hockey team in Salt Lake City and ideas for an entertainment district near the Delta Center may impact the future of what remains of Japantown.

A Funeral Committee is now in place and has had two meetings to develop some procedures in planning funerals and Celebration of Life events. Elder Julee Mori led the committee consisting of Jan Aramaki, Suzanne Hata, Laura Olson, Alan Shino, and Nancy Umemura.

The Presbytery of Utah has requested use of the Fellowship Hall on July 2 for a GA reception. A motion was made to approve this request and passed.

Individual committee reports:

Pastor – Requested organizing a committee (pastor, worship committee, and musicians) to decide on a new hymnal that follows the liturgical calendar. He has asked Kenshin Taiko to perform for Pride Sunday on June 2; and GA Sunday on June 30. The May worship schedule will be Mike Clang on May 5; Mirjam Haas-Melchior on May 12; Pastor Tipiloma Pupua on May 19; Sunday, May 26 is Trinity/Memorial Sunday.

Building and Grounds – Chapel renovation is progressing, but behind about a week due to unforeseen issues discovered during remodeling (pitfall of remodeling an old building).

Finance – P&L for March shows a favorable net income. Nihon Matsuri expenses are coming in.

Membership – Karen attended a Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Utah on 4/13. Overtures were approved to support gun safety in the home and to protect Utah’s national monuments and wildlands.

Nichigo – Akiko Oki will begin Japanese cooking lessons on May 7. The class is full.

Personnel – The CLC has posted the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP).

Worship – A rotating monthly schedule will be implemented. There are still some areas to be filled in. If anyone can sign up to be liturgist, scripture reader, or usher, contact Elise.

Kenshin Taiko – Signed contracts for more appearances in the coming months.

Nihon Matsuri 2024

This year Nihon Matsuri was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The weather was chilly and wet, but the atmosphere was warm with fellowship and friends in the community joining together.

The JCC sold manju, an ebi bento box and sweet potato ice cream dessert at its food booth. Thanks to all of the volunteers who chopped, fried tempura, made onigiri and manju, helped with set up and tear down, and countless other jobs! We could not have done it without you!

Photo exhibits of Japantown, JCC chapel, Utah Nippo newspaper, and Judge Raymond Uno were displayed in the Fellowship Hall. The chapel building is celebrating its' 100th anniversary this fall (the JCC itself celebrated a Centennial anniversary of organization in 2018).

Photos courtesy: Julee Mori, Lynne Ward, Jan Aramaki and Lorraine Crouse



Tea ceremony



Reverends Hirano (SLBT) and Haas await opening ceremony



Akiko Oki and daughter Maurika Croft with display of traditional Japanese clothing and decor



SLC Council Member Darin Mano; Keiko Furutani from the Consulate-General of Japan office; SLC Mayor Erin Mendenhall and daughter; Rev. Haas; Bishop Steve Swayze, Dai Ichi Ward; SLC Council Member Eva Lopez Chavez.



Betty and Shigeko



An exhibit of Ron Nishijima's paintings was displayed in the Fellowship Hall.



Kitchen pandemonium