

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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

Pastor's Message

April 2025

Dear Beloved JCC Family,

I am filled with joy and anticipation as I approach my first Holy Week here at JCC! This sacred season is a powerful time to reflect, remember, and ultimately rejoice in the victory of Christ's Resurrection. I am truly grateful to be on this journey with all of you.

One meaningful moment we will share is our Maundy Thursday service, which is accompanied by a Seder meal. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus gathered with His disciples for a final meal before His crucifixion. The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," reflecting Jesus' commandment to His followers: "Love one another, as I have loved you." It is a humbling reminder of Christ's selfless love and the call to extend that love to others.

Our Seder meal is a beautiful addition to this evening. Rooted in the Jewish tradition of Passover, the Seder is a symbolic meal that remembers the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. For Christians, it also offers a powerful connection to Jesus' Last Supper, helping us understand the context of the meal He shared with His disciples. Each element of the Seder holds deep meaning — from the bitter herbs representing suffering to the unleavened bread symbolizing the haste of their departure. It's an experience that invites us to reflect on God's enduring faithfulness and the freedom we receive through Christ.

While I am deeply looking forward to these moments, my heart is especially eager for Easter Sunday. Easter is our celebration of the new life that is ever before us — made possible through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His victory over sin and death reminds us that new beginnings are always within reach, no matter what struggles or burdens we carry. The empty tomb is our promise that hope, light, and renewal are ours to embrace. I believe that this message is what God is speaking to JCC. Resurrection and new life is not just an idea; it is our promise. We are called to live into that promise. We are called to engage with it and not sit back passively. This call is to us individually and corporately.

As we finish this season of Lent, may we continue to draw comfort from the only true source: our loving and faithful God. Let us also begin to prepare our hearts for the overflowing joy of the Resurrection. In a world so often marked by division and sorrow, Easter stands as a beacon of grace, hope, and new beginnings.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Andrew Fleishman

Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life will be held for Hiro Iwasaki on **Saturday, May 3, 2025** at the JCC. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Remember in Your Prayers

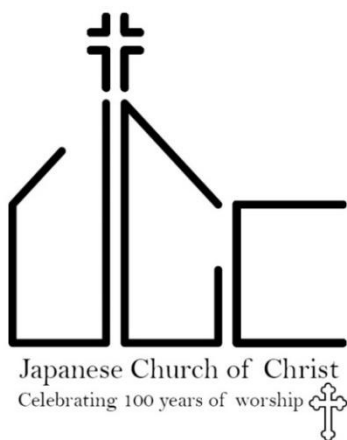
Names will appear on the prayer list for one month, so we can keep it updated and current. To respect individual privacy, if there is a name to be added to this prayer list, the person must first give permission to have his/her own name published in this newsletter. Contact any of the Deacons or Pastor Andrew.

Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers: Iwasaki family

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.

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Fleishman
Clerk of Session: Nancy Umemura
Office Administrator: Patty Price

Session

Michiko Kenmotsu
 Julee Mori, Finance/Kenshin Taiko
 Alan Shino, Building and Grounds
 Nancy Umemura, Membership/Deacons/
 Nichigo
 Lynne Ward, Personnel/Trustees
 Elise Yokoyama, Worship

Deacons

Allyn Nakashima, moderator; Teresa Aramaki, Stephanie Mori-Nakao, Akiko Oki, Laura Olson, Kory Shino, Marc Stillman

Trustees

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

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

Website: www.jccslc.net

Easter 2025

The Lenten season is upon us and the observance of Holy Week highlights the events leading up to Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday. Please join us at these events:

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 –

Worship service will begin at the usual 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Reverend Andrew O’Dowd. (See article about Rev. O’Dowd on page 3.)

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025 –

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper. Worship service will begin at 6:00 p.m. Following worship service, a Seder meal will be shared in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025:

- Easter Breakfast – from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Enjoy a hearty breakfast before worship service.
- Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.
- Egg Hunt and traditional Easter group photo – immediately following worship service.



Nihon Matsuri

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JCC will have a food booth selling: combination plates of yaki and mochiko manjiu in addition to barbecuing teriyaki burgers, and serving chips and drinks.

Lorraine Crouse will set up a Japanese Americans in Sports photographic exhibit and cultural exhibits will be in the Fellowship Hall. In the chapel, U of U architectural students will set up two Japantown Architecture projects and Judy Iwamoto will demonstrate origami along with Ken Yamane showcasing bonsai. Information tables will be set up for Ogden Japanese Christian Church, Utah State Historic Preservation Offices' project to preserve and translate headstones in the SLC cemetery, Japanese Language School, and SLC Redevelopment Agency. Martial art demonstrations will take place outside at JCC.

Several parking spaces behind JCC will be reserved for VIPs/dignitaries who will participate in the 10 a.m. opening ceremony. Please plan ahead to allow yourself plenty of time to find parking if you are volunteering to help the JCC. You can first try parking behind the JCC, but if JCC lot is full go to the Salt Palace parking garage by entering from 300 West and walk out by the Japanese garden on 100 South. Thanks for your understanding - parking availability is a growing pain of the festival each year.

Attend the 10 a.m. opening ceremony to support Pastor Andrew Fleishman, Kenshin Taiko, Liliena Pupu’a - stage located in the JCC south parking lot.

Look forward to everyone enjoying the festivities. Lorraine Crouse and Jan Aramaki will keep you informed of the latest as we learn more - feel free to reach out with questions. Lorraine is still looking for volunteers for her exhibits - if you haven't been contacted yet to volunteer and wish to, contact us. For more information on the festival, visit: www.nihonmatsuri.com.

Welcoming Rev. Andy O’Dowd: A Guiding Presence for JCC

Submitted by Rev. Andrew Fleishman

As we continue our journey as a faith community, the Japanese Church of Christ (JCC) is blessed to walk alongside Rev. Andy O’Dowd, our liaison from the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (COM). The COM plays a vital role in ensuring the health of ministry within the presbytery, offering guidance and support to congregations as they faithfully respond to God’s call.

Rev. O’Dowd, an Honorably Retired Minister and a dedicated member of our presbytery and military Veteran, has graciously offered his experience and pastoral presence to JCC. His request to accompany us in this season of ministry speaks to his love for who we are as a church. Whether providing wisdom, encouragement, or simply walking with us in faith, he is a valuable resource as we step into the future.

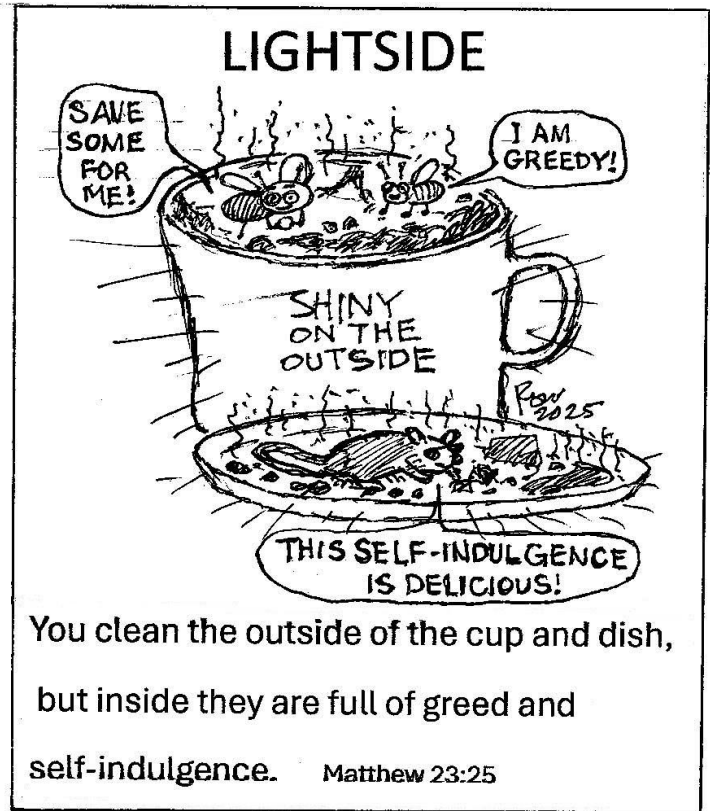
Prior to moving to Utah, Rev. O’Dowd served churches in Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. He and his wife, Rachel, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, a beautiful testament to their lifelong commitment to one another. They have two sons: Alex, who resides in Sandy, and Todd, who lives in Minneapolis, MN.

We are grateful for Rev. O’Dowd’s presence and look forward to the ways in which his guidance will bless our congregation and help us move into where God is calling JCC. Please join us in welcoming him with open hearts and prayers as we continue our journey together in faith.

New AED

On March 11, 2025, a representative from the Utah Safety Council presented a workshop on how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The defibrillator is used in cases of life-threatening cardiac arrest.

A new AED was donated to JCC and will be located on the wall near the restrooms in the Fellowship Hall.



CRASE Training

A CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) training will be presented by Lt. Wooldrige of the Salt Lake City Police Department on **Wednesday, April 2, 2025** from **6 to 8 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

The JCC held training two years ago, so if you attended, please attend this time for a refresher. Hopefully, we never have to use the information, but we should be as prepared as possible.

Reminder

Remember to check the bulletin boards located in the Fellowship Hall for upcoming events and a current JCC calendar. If you have event flyers that would be of interest to the congregation, please post them! (The board on the left is for JCC events and the board on the right is for local community events.)

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, April 5, 2025 – Nikkei Senior Center luncheon at noon at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, sponsored by the Salt Lake JAACL Chapter.

Saturday, April 26, 2025 – Nihon Matsuri (see Page 2)

Saturday, May 3, 2025 - National JAACL Credit Union Annual Meeting, Rice-Eccles stadium, Ken Garff University Club. Go to jaclcu.com for more information.

Saturday, May 10, 2025 – Nikkei Senior Center luncheon at noon at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, sponsored by Dharma School.

Spring Gathering of Hope for Women in the Presbytery of Utah

April 25 and 26, 2025

The gathering begins at 5 p.m. on Friday (4/25) with registration at First Presbyterian Church of Ogden and ends Saturday (4/26) at 3 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person

Dinner Friday and Lunch Saturday are included.

Register by April 13, 2025 with Mary Hargis,

mkh.3@juno.com

Church Women United May Friendship Day Celebration 2025

When: Friday, May 2, 2025 (1st Friday)

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: Calvary Baptist Church, 1090 S. State (SLC)

Theme: “God’s Daughters Living Powerful Lives – Friends Love at All Times”

Keynote Speaker: TBA

Registration: \$2 Lunch: \$6.00

Annual FLC: Fellowship of the Least Coin Collection / Dedication

Potential Speakers: Esther Williams Scholarship Fund Recipients

Community Outreach: The CWU Esther Williams Scholarship Fund. Make checks payable to “Church Women United” and note “Scholarship Fund”

Offering: Used for CWU Local Programs: Checks need to be made payable to: “Church Women United”

Lunch RSVP: To Connee Schoon at conneesch@comcast.net or 801-942-7675 (please leave message) by Monday, April 28.

JCC April 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 -Parking, Hockey vs. Calgary, 7pm	2 -CRASE Training, 6-8pm	3 -Parking, Hockey vs. LA, 7pm	4	5 -Parking, Hockey vs. Winnipeg, 5pm
6 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon	7	8 -Parking, Hockey vs. Seattle, 7pm	9 -Parking, Jazz vs. Portland, 7pm	10 -Parking, Hockey vs. Nashville, 7pm	11 -Parking, Jazz vs. Oklahoma, 7:30pm	12 -Yaki Manju making, 10am
13 PALM SUNDAY -Worship Service, 10:30am (Guest speaker, Rev. Andrew O’Dowd)	14	15 -Parking, Rauw Alejandra, 8pm	16	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY -Maundy Thursday service, 6pm	18 GOOD FRIDAY -Parking, Kevin Hart, 7:30pm	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY -Breakfast (8:30 to 10am) -Worship Service, 10:30am -Egg hunt and picture	21	22	23	24	25 -Nihon Matsuri set up, all day -Mochiko Manju making, 9am	26 -NIHON MATSURI
27 -Worship Service, 10:30am	28	29	30			

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 3/25/2025.

Session Report

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

Note: The next Session meeting is scheduled for March 26 (after the March Herald due date), so the report from that meeting will be in the next edition of the Herald.

Some of the on-going Session activities include, preparing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday services; discussing ways to improve our safety, security, and emergency response measures, and taking the next steps of assignments for actions coming out of our strategic planning session held in February.

Rev. Andrew Fleishman and Nancy Umemura attended the Utah Presbytery meeting on March 8 at Cottonwood Presbyterian Church. The meeting began with a worship service, followed by the business portion of the meeting, which included approval of twelve amendments to the Presbytery Book of Order that were approved at the General Assembly held in Salt Lake City last year and reports by committees, working groups, and finance officers. Speakers also shared about a ministry opportunity for churches to support foster families.

Lake Tahoe Retreat

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

Lake Tahoe Retreat registration is open! Slots fill up fast to spend a week right on beautiful Lake Tahoe Lake -enjoy fellowship with beautiful individuals who shine with God's love -and they are most welcoming - you gotta go to see for yourself. Doc Matsukawa was integral in keeping this retreat alive and he will be smiling if you attend.

Sunday, July 20 – Friday, July 25, 2025

Speaker: Reverend John Miyahara

Theme: "Flourishing in a Life of Faith"

Contact Jan Aramaki (801) 718-2006 or mcj925@gmail.com for a registration form - scholarship money is available to help with your transportation. I will help you get there!

First come first served!

Registration forms postmarked after 4/19/2025 will be charged a late fee of \$50. Based upon availability, you may be placed on a waiting list.

Deacons March Meeting Report

Submitted by Kory Shino, Deacon

The March Deacons Meeting was held on Sunday, March 2, 2025. Discussion included:

- Went over the Easter events coming up and any supplies needed.
- Reviewed the list of shut-ins for the Easter lilies and who can deliver them.
- Announced that Nihon Matsuri committee is looking for volunteers.

Talent Abounds

Thanks to Halley Malison (Allyn Nakashima’s daughter), the JCC has new offering bags to replace the green bags we have been using and that now show years of wear and tear.

Halley is a fashion designer and sews many of her creations, so she put her talents to work and donated the offering bags (4 sets of 3 different colors) to JCC.



Also thank you to Michiko Kenmotsu for creating the stole presented to Reverend Andrew at his installation. The stole, a gift from the congregation, was sewn from a Japanese obi.



We are so blessed to have such talented individuals in our church family!

JCC Officer Installation

During worship service on Sunday, March 2, Michiko Kenmotsu was installed as an Elder. Thank you Michiko for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

Pastor Andrew conducts the installation of Michiko Kenmotsu as an Elder.
Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse



More Photos of Pastor Andrew’s Installation

Pastor Andrew’s installation occurred on February 23, just prior to the Herald print deadline. Since that time, more photos of the occasion have been shared.



Anchored in Christ choir



Laying of hands on Pastor Fleishman



Rev. Tipiloma Pupu’a gives the scripture lesson.



The sermon was delivered by Rev. Scott Dalgamo of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Oregon.



Elder Lynne Ward poses questions to the congregation to accept Rev. Fleishman as our new pastor, along with Rev. Bobbie Ramer.