

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

August 2025

Dear JCC Family,

As I reflect on the past month, my heart is filled with gratitude and a deep sense of joy. Thank you so much for the beautiful ways you helped celebrate my birthday. Your kind words, thoughtful gestures, and warm smiles reminded me once again how truly blessed I am to walk this journey of faith with all of you. I continue to be honored and deeply grateful to serve alongside such a loving and faithful community. JCC knows how to throw a party better than any other church I've been a part of!

These past weeks and months have brought a fair share of change and challenge as we've worked through the various upgrades and transitions within the church. From shifting spaces, adapting schedules, reworking plans and fixing things, I know it hasn't been easy. And yet, time and again, you've shown what it means to persevere with grace and patience. Your resilience, flexibility, and tenacity have been truly inspiring.

Even more meaningful to me is the way you've continued to care for one another through it all. Thank you for reaching out to one another, checking in, sharing meals after church, praying together, and living out what it means to be the Body of Christ. This is the heart of our church — a family bound by faith and love, growing together in Christ.

As we approach the close of summer, I'm excited to share that we will be holding a special **Back-to-School Family Service**. It will be a time to gather, bless our children and youth with a **Backpack Blessing**, and lift up the new school year in prayer. Whether you're a student, teacher, parent, or simply someone who wants to support our next generation, we hope you'll join us in this joyful and meaningful celebration. Stay tuned for the details.

In addition, I ask for your continued prayers as we deepen our partnership with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and the larger Japantown community. Together, we are working to plot a unified course forward in response to all the development happening all around Japantown. This is an important and sacred effort, and we hope to move forward with wisdom, unity, and a shared commitment to honoring the legacy and future of our community.

Let us continue to walk forward together — with gratitude for what has been, with courage for what is now, and with hope for what's ahead.

With love and deep appreciation,

Pastor Andrew

Remember in Your Prayers

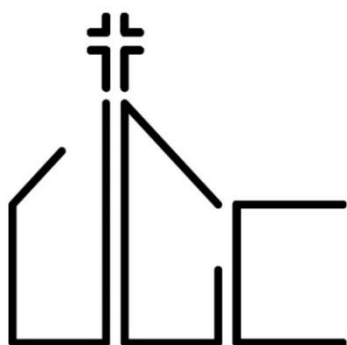
Names will appear on the prayer list for one month, so we can keep it updated and current. Contact any of the Deacons or Pastor Andrew to add a person. Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Mitsuru Tyler

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.

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 fourth Saturday of each month at noon. Send your articles to jccherald@gmail.com.

Website: www.jccslc.net

Church Garage Sale

Submitted by Jan Aramaki



The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple has invited the JCC to bring over used and new items for a rummage sale on **Saturday, August 23, 2025** from **7 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Any donated items are welcomed and will be sold in the back parking lot behind Lumbini’s Garden (the Buddhist Temple gift shop located just west of the Temple – 235 West 100 South).

Drop off your donated items during the day on **Friday, August 22, 2025 at Lumbini’s Garden from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** No price tagging will be done; anyone shopping can name his/her price for items or take items for free. Any proceeds raised from this sale will be divided between the Buddhist Temple and the JCC. Items that remain unsold or not taken back by 4 p.m. on the 23rd will go directly to Goodwill or the landfill. Do not bring your donated items to church ahead of the August 22 date as there is nowhere to store them. Also, mattresses and pillows cannot be accepted.

The intent of this rummage sale is to help both churches declutter and/or for church members to declutter their homes, and most importantly to put a smile on someone’s face who can use the donated item(s).

Trustees Update

Submitted by Pauline Vosburgh, Trustee

The JCC renovation/preservation construction project continues to progress. There are a few remaining items that still need to be completed in order for the project to be done, which include replacement of some door opening mechanisms, covering the soffits along the breezeway and front of the Fellowship Hall and replacement of the wiring/light fixtures under the breezeway.

The Trustees are also looking into installing a gutter system along the breezeway to help catch the dripping water when it rains that tends to displace the gravel along the walkway and shoring up the mortar of the Sanctuary to repair some areas of damage which is not unusual for a building that is over 100 years old.

The biggest item that the congregation should know about is that our ADA ramp did not pass SLC’s recent building inspection. The sides and end of the ramp walkways shrunk during the cement curing process and are now too narrow to meet the building code. As a result, the concrete company will be coming back around the 29th or 30th of July to demolish the inner planter box and ramp walkway areas to rebuild/repour the concrete to rectify the situation.

The process will hopefully only take about 7 days to complete, but during this time that part of the back courtyard and likely the doorway to the Sanctuary will be out-of-commission again. The positive is that we will gain slightly more width along the walkway areas that should help make it easier for wheelchairs/walkers to navigate the ramp.

Thanks for your patience as church leadership continues to work on improving our church property. The Trustees will continue to keep the congregation informed of the project process.

Vaccination Clinic

Sunday, September 14, 2025

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Vaccinations Available: Influenza (Flu) and COVID.

Pre-Registration is Required - Must provide: Driver's License or ID and Insurance Card. If you received a vaccination at the JCC last year, your information will be on file.

Contact Stephanie Mori-Nakao for registration forms at gsnakao@aol.com. The vaccinations are provided by Kroger Pharmacy.

Payment is required at time of vaccination. Payment is still required if there is a no-show.

Remember to wear short-sleeves!

Session Report

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

The Session meeting was held July 3, 2025. We discussed the family-friendly worship service on June 29 and ideas for the next one.

We discussed opening up the proposed membership class to anyone, even existing members, to learn more about the basics of our theology and the meaning of baptism and statement of faith as requirements for membership at JCC.

An updated version of our sexual harassment policy was approved and submitted it to Presbytery of Utah, as required for insurance.

We discussed the Japantown activities (see separate article). We agreed to have an informational meeting for the congregation on Japantown activities and our JCC construction projects, which was held on July 20.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for July 30.

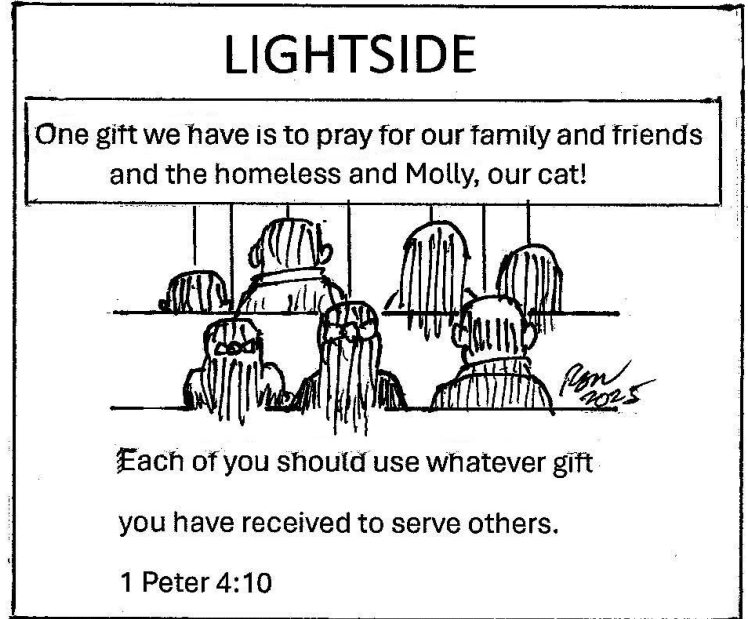
Correction to JCC Directory

There is a correction to the JCC Directory.

Betty Morishita's address should be:

Betty Morishita
c/o Debbie Contini
68 Martin Road
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533-5516

(The address number should be 68, not 65 as listed in the directory.)



Japantown Update

Submitted by Lynne Ward

In the face of the upcoming years of development around the JCC properties, many meetings are being held to position JCC. At a joint meeting of the Session and Trustees on July 10, the JCC Development Principles were adopted: (not necessarily in any order)

1. Retain our property ownership/rights
2. Don't become a landlord or property manager (instead look at long-term land leases)
3. Partner with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple (SLBT)
4. Security for people and properties is paramount
5. Struve building – acquire or ensure use is for JCC/Japantown
6. Retain access to our properties
7. Gain parking
8. Keep/create a buffer around the north property
9. Acknowledge that we may need to partner with other parties in addition to the SLBT

These guiding principles were shared with the congregation after the service on July 20, 2025. They are aspirational and will serve as a foundation for JCC's actions.

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, August 16, 2025 – Mount Olympus JACL chapter August Outing, Wheeler Farm, 5:00 p.m. Chapter will supply chicken and drinks, bring potluck item to share. The 2025 chapter scholarship awardees will be honored at this event.

Saturday, September 6, 2025 – Nikkei Senior Center Picnic, Murray Park pavilion 5. Noon. Lunch provided by the board, bingo afterwards.

Sunday, September 14, 2025 – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Golf Tournament, Stonebridge Golf Course, shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. Four person scramble, any combination. Sign up at slbtgolf.com. For information, contact sherriekoga@gmail.com, or sueokaryan@gmail.com.

Job Opening

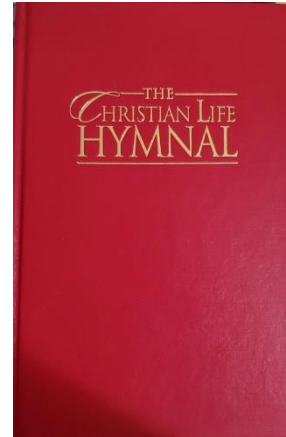
Topaz Museum is looking for a new executive director. If you know of someone who is both a qualified museum/non-profit professional and wants to live in Delta, UT, here’s the job posting:

https://topazmuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Topaz-Museum-Executive-Director-Job-Description.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawLs3n9leHRuA2FibQIxMABiCmlkETF5NDJ2bmo3bjVOSXBic3IKAR7AIK5cV8mBGB4bf5Xy8GVGQS3-2DVBz9DIf7WCyvXrMI1dCMZFnx2bXpyOg_aem_SOrREj3XYZ3Tdm1D3Uu-dg

Red Hymnals Available

If you would like one of our former red hymnals, they are available free of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis. They will be on the table by the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are not local, please send an email request to jccherald@gmail.com.



JCC August 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 -Worship Service, 10:30am	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 -Worship Service, 10:30am	18	19 -Japantown tours, 10am-1pm	20 -Japantown tours, 8am-4pm	21	22	23 -SLBT/JCC Garage Sale, 7am-3pm
24 -Worship Service, 10:30am	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 -Worship Service, 10:30am						

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 7/25/2025.

Thank You for Supporting UJA at Obon!

Submitted by Kristine Aramaki

We're so grateful to everyone who stopped by the Utah Japantown Advocates (UJA) table at the SLC Buddhist Temple Obon Festival! It was a great opportunity to connect with the community, share updates on Japantown progress, and spread the word about our mission.

With our recent rebrand (formerly known as SLC NextGen JA), we're excited to introduce our new name and logo—designed by talented UJA member Alli Nakamura!

We're always looking for passionate individuals to join our efforts. If you're interested in getting involved or would like to donate, we'd love your support.

Follow us on Instagram [@Utah_Japantown_Advocates](#) or visit our website at www.utahjapantown.org to learn more.

A heartfelt thank-you to the Buddhist Temple for allowing us the opportunity to table at Obon. We're proud to stand together in preserving and celebrating Japantown's legacy."



UTAH JAPANTOWN ADVOCATES

Prayer Group

Remember, prayer group is held every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Contact jccherald@gmail.com with your email address to add your name to the weekly distribution list to have the Zoom link emailed to you.

The prayer group is a great way to connect with other like-minded people. Pray for a loved one going through a difficult time to interceding for those affected by natural disasters. It is also a great way to learn more about our faith and a great source of support during difficult times.

The prayer group provides a place for people to share their concerns and pray for each other.

Please join us!

Recipe Time

One Sunday last month, Elizabeth Ward made the following treats for coffee fellowship. They were a big hit, so she is sharing the recipe with us. It's a great snack for these hot summer days! Thanks for sharing this with us, Elizabeth!

Black Sesame Rice Krispies Treats

By Eric Kim for New York Times Cooking

INGREDIENTS

- 2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil, plus more for greasing
- 6 tablespoons (85 grams) unsalted butter
- ¼ cup (38 grams) black sesame seeds
- 1 (12-ounce/340-gram) bag marshmallows
- ¾ teaspoon coarse kosher salt or 1 teaspoon flaky kosher salt
- 6 cups (160 grams) Rice Krispies cereal

PREPARATION

Step 1

Grease a 9-inch square baking pan with sesame oil.

Step 2

In a large pot, melt the butter over medium-high and cook, stirring occasionally, until the milk solids at the bottom of the pan start to brown, 2 to 3 minutes. Reduce the heat to low and add the sesame seeds. Cook, stirring constantly, until the seeds smell toasty, 1 to 2 minutes.

Step 3

Add the marshmallows and salt and stir until melted, about 5 minutes. Turn off the heat and stir in the 2 teaspoons sesame oil.

Step 4

Add the cereal and quickly stir until evenly coated. Immediately press into the greased pan.

Step 5

Let cool for at least 10 minutes before flipping out onto a cutting board and slicing into squares. The treats can be stored in an airtight container for up to 4 days at room temperature.

Happy 100th Birthday Beverly!

On Sunday, July 20, 2025, the JCC and Kikuchi family celebrated Beverly Kikuchi's 100th birthday! To commemorate this milestone, the Deacons and Kikuchi family members prepared lunch and Beverly blew out candles on her birthday cake as guests sang "Happy Birthday!" Congratulations Beverly on this milestone!



The birthday girl!



Blowing out the candles



The Kikuchi family celebrates Bev's milestone

And Another Happy Birthday!

On Sunday, July 27, 2025, we celebrated Pastor Andrew's birthday during coffee fellowship as Laura again led us in Happy Birthday!

Thanks to the Deacons for the yummy lunch!



Celebrating Pastor Andrew's birthday, who is younger than half of Beverly's age!