

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

February 2025

Dear Beloved JCC Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am filled with immense joy and deep gratitude as I share this exciting news with you: my Service of Installation as your pastor will take place on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at 3 PM, here at the Japanese Church of Christ. This sacred service is a moment to celebrate, reflect, and formally mark the beginning of our shared ministry—a new chapter in the life of our church.

This isn't just another event on the church calendar. The Service of Installation is a holy moment of covenant and commitment. Much like a wedding, it symbolizes the beautiful relationship we are entering into—one rooted in love, faith, and a shared calling to follow Christ together. It's a time for us to affirm God's work in bringing us together, to recognize my calling to serve as your pastor, and to commit ourselves to partnering in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Here's what makes this service so meaningful:

Formal Recognition: This service will publicly recognize my call to serve as your pastor. I see this call as a gift from God, and I feel honored to walk alongside you as we grow in faith, serve others, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Congregational Commitment: During the service, you will have the opportunity to reaffirm your commitment to our shared ministry. Your prayers, support, and partnership mean everything to me. Together, we will build on the legacy of JCC and continue to live out God's mission with love and compassion.

Presbytery Involvement: Members of the Presbytery will join us to celebrate this milestone, reminding us that our ministry is connected to the larger body of Christ. Their presence symbolizes the strength and unity we share as part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

A Time of Worship: The service will include scripture, prayer, hymns, and a message to inspire and challenge us as we step into this journey together. It is my hope that these elements will deepen our sense of gratitude and renew our collective sense of purpose.

At its heart, this service is a reminder that ministry is never a solo endeavor—it is a shared calling. I come to JCC as your pastor with humility and joy, ready to serve and lead. But this ministry is not mine alone; it belongs to all of us. As we enter into this covenant together, I ask for your continued prayers, your partnership, and your trust as we follow where God is leading us.

This moment is not just about what's ahead; it's also about celebrating the rich history and vibrant faith of the Japanese Church of Christ. You are a congregation rooted in resilience, love, and service, and I am honored to walk alongside you as we carry this legacy forward.

I invite each of you to join us for this joyful and significant occasion on February 23, 2025, at 3 PM here at JCC. It will be a time of celebration, reflection, and commitment as we step forward in faith together.

Until then, I ask you to keep this service in your prayers. Pray for God's blessings on our congregation, on our ministry, and on the journey ahead. May this service be a testimony to God's faithfulness and a celebration of the ways He is working in and through us.

With gratitude, hope, and love,

Rev. Andrew Fleishman

Condolences

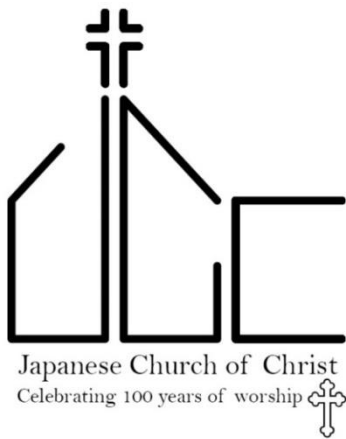
Our sympathy is extended to the family of Chiyoe Kubota, who passed away on January 5, 2025, just one week short of her 110th birthday. Please keep her son Al, Betty, Kory, and Dawn and their families in your prayers.

We are saddened to relay the news that Hiro Iwasaki passed away on January 21, 2025. Hiro was the ultimate dedicated and active member of the JCC; whether serving as an Elder, cooking breakfast with the Men's Fellowship at Easter, providing transportation and care for members and so many other leadership roles at the JCC. He will be so missed. Please keep Elaine, Vincent, Jeff and families in your prayers.

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, Nichigo
 Julee Mori, Finance/Kenshin Taiko
 Alan Shino, Building and Grounds
 Nancy Umemura, Membership/Deacons
 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

Reverend Andrew Fleishman Installation

Pastor Andrew will officially be installed as the minister of the Japanese Church of Christ on **Sunday, February 23, 2025**. A formal installation service will begin at **3:00 p.m.** with a reception to follow.



Please RSVP your attendance by Sunday, February 16, 2025. Due to conflicting events on First South that day, parking will be limited, but information was not available at press time and will be announced during worship service on Sundays before the event.

No Worship Service on 2/23

Due to Pastor Andrew’s installation on February 23 starting at 3:00 p.m., there will be NO 10:30 a.m. worship service on that Sunday. (The installation service will begin at 3:00 p.m. in order to allow the invited pastors from the local Presbytery of Utah churches to conduct their own Sunday morning services.)

New JCC Officers

The slate of candidates for office for the 2025-2027 term were elected at the Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025. Their ordination and installation will be conducted at a future worship service; date to be announced.

Session	Michiko Kenmotsu, Nancy Umemura, Lynne Ward (2 nd term)
Deacons	Teresa Aramaki, Kory Shino
Trustees	Rick Aoki (2 nd term), Jan Aramaki

February Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon

The Agape Women will be hosting the Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon on **Saturday, February 8, 2025 at noon**.



The luncheon is open to seniors 62 years of age and older (drivers providing transportation may also attend) with a suggested donation of \$2 for lunch. (Those 85+ are free of charge.) Lunch will be served followed by a performance by Kenshin Taiko.

Last Chance for the JCC Directory

Submitted by Patty Price, Office Manager

The 2025 JCC directory is being worked on and Patty Price needs your help. If you are in the current directory and have either moved or changed addresses, please send the new information to: Patty Price1406@gmail.com. It would be helpful to others if you would submit either an email address or phone number so they are able to contact you. Please send corrections to Patty no later than March 1st.

New Mailing Address

There is a new mailing address for the Presbytery of Utah:
 P.O. Box 25394
 Salt Lake City, UT 84125.

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: Tom Reed Jr., Steve and Susan Fukushima, Kennah and Brighton Misaka, Yeiko Nagata, Kubota family, Iwasaki family.

Revised JCC Masking Policy

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima

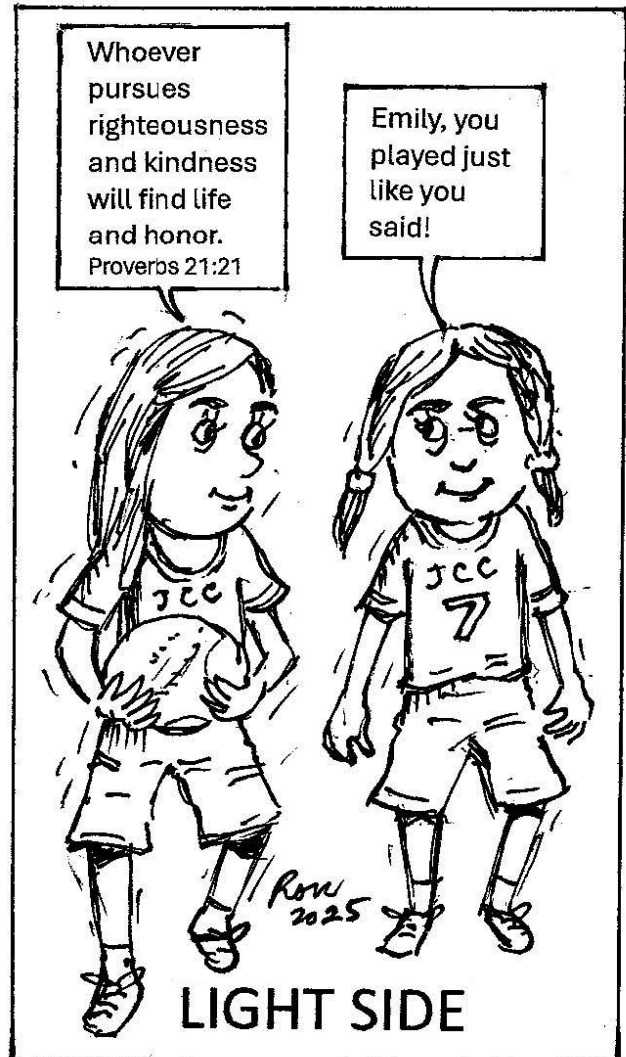
During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the Japanese Church of Christ (JCC) developed masking policies to prevent the transmission or acquisition of COVID-19, influenza (flu), and other respiratory diseases. This will explain changes to the current masking policy and the rationale for these changes.

Optional masking during worship service. Going forward, masking during worship service will be optional. When the initial policy was put in place, vaccines and treatments were not widely available. Today, most people have received multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Even if they become infected, vaccinated persons will usually have a much milder course of illness compared with unvaccinated persons. At JCC, nearly 100% of members have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, currently available treatments are very effective in reducing the symptoms of illness.

Who should continue to use masks or respirators. Regular face masks and cloth face masks are effective in preventing transmission of disease to others. Therefore, if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms, you should always wear a mask to protect others. You should also wear a face mask if you know that you have recently been exposed to COVID-19 or influenza since you may be incubating illness and have not yet developed symptoms. N95 or KN95 respirators are designed to prevent inhalation of viruses and other small particles. If you are immunocompromised or have a weakened immune system, you should wear one of these when you are exposed to a group of people. N95 and KN95 respirators are not the same as regular face masks so you should make sure that you have the correct device.

Coffee Fellowship. Since you cannot eat without unmasking, if you have cold or flu-like symptoms, or you have concerns about your own immune system, consider taking home your coffee fellowship snacks rather than unmasking.

For questions, please contact Allyn (email: allyn,nakashima05@gmail.com; cell phone: (404)-323 4583).



Session January Meeting Recap

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

Session meeting was held January 22, 2025

Jani Iwamoto provided an update from the Trustees' meeting on the courtyard renovation status and Japantown updates.

The Session discussed options and priorities for renovations to improve safety and security for the church during construction, preparation for the annual congregational meeting, the pastor's installation service, and Nihon Matsuri planning.

The Session voted not to hold worship service at 10:30 AM on Feb. 23, since Pastor Andrew's installation service will be held at 3:00 PM that day.

The Session approved an initial Building Use Policy and Rules of Use. Details and supplemental documents are still to be developed. The policy establishes a Building Use Committee to review and approve requests to use the JCC facilities. See Patty Price for the request form.

Upcoming Community Events

Friday thru Sunday, February 14-16: Plan B Theater presents "Kilo Wat", a play that explores the life and legacy of point guard Wat "Kilo-Wat" Misaka, who led the University of Utah men's basketball team to the 1944 NCAA Championship. The play features Brian Kido as Wat. For ticket information, go to [Kilo-Wat - Plan-B Theatre](#).

Saturday, February 15: Day of Remembrance, sponsored by the three Utah JACL chapters (Mount Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front North). A special exhibition will be opening at the Brigham Academy Center in Brigham City featuring "Uncovering the Journey: Japanese American Pioneers in Box Elder County." For more information and to register for the event, go to <https://www.wfnjacl.org>.

Saturday, February 22: Utah Yoga, Buddhism and Healthy Lifestyles Retreat, features speakers sharing wisdom on Buddhism, mindfulness and stress management. Ogden Buddhist Church, 155 North Street, Ogden. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. \$15.00. Contact Kris Yamada, KYamadaUT@comcast.net to register.

Guest chefs Alan Hirahara and Rolen Yoshinaga will prepare a fundraising closing meal at 5:30 p.m. to support friends impacted by the LA fires. Donations of any amount are accepted.

Saturday, March 8: Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Wendover Bus Trip, \$30, transportation and bingo.

Saturday, March 15: Mount Olympus JACL Fundarama, 5:00 p.m. Dinner, bingo, raffle, bake sale. See: <https://www.instagram.com/mtolympusjacl/?igsh=MXMzZ3ZiNWJhOHRhOQ%3D%3D> for more information.

Human Rights Day

Church Women United (CWU) will host its Human Rights Celebration on Friday, March 14, 2025, at Community of Grace Presbyterian Church, 2015 E. Newcastle Drive, Sandy, 84093. The event will feature a breakout session for discussion; Edie Mitko will be representing the JCC as past director of the Asian Association.

This event provides the opportunity to recognize individuals working in the field of human rights in our community. CWU is requesting your help in nominating an individual to be considered for this award.

Your nominee does not have to be a person that has been in the public eye. It is important your nominee shows a consistent high regard for the dignity of others and works toward a more justice focused culture. It could be someone in your church family or a leader in the community who is working towards peace. It could be a person who volunteers in public school or a teen working within an organization. We hope to have a cross section of people nominated. Our celebration committee will select the award recipient(s) and notify both you and your nominee(s) of the results.

More information is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

JCC February 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 -Strategic Planning Mtg, 8am-2pm -Parking, Jazz vs. Magic, 3pm
2 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon -Parking, Hockey, 5pm	3 -Parking, Jazz vs. Pacers, 7pm	4 -Parking, Hockey vs. Flyers, 7pm	5 -Parking, Jazz vs. Warriors, 7pm	6 -Nihon Matsuri planning meeting, 6-8pm	7 -Parking, Pro Bull Riders, 7pm	8 -Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon, 9am to 2pm -Parking, Pro Bull Riders, 7pm
9 -Worship Service, 10:30am	10 -Parking, Harlem Globetrotter, 7pm	11	12 -Parking, Jazz vs. Lakers, 7pm	13 -Parking, Jazz vs. Clippers, 7pm	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15
16 -Worship Service, 10:30am	17 PRESIDENTS DAY	18	19	20	21 -Parking, Jazz vs. Thunder, 7:30pm	22 -Parking, Jazz vs. Rockets, 7:30pm
23 -Rev. Fleishman Installation, 3pm -Parking, Hockey vs. Canucks, 6pm	24 -Parking, Jazz vs. Trailblazers, 7pm	25 -Parking, Hockey vs. Blackhawks, 7pm	26 -Parking, Jazz vs. Kings, 7pm	27 -Parking, Hockey vs. Wild, 7pm	28 -Parking, Jazz vs. Timberwolves, 7pm	

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 1/26/2025.

Trustees Report

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto, Trustees President

Historically, our trustees (correcting the Annual Report where I wrongly stated session!) meet when issues arise regarding brick-and-mortar needs – long-term building and grounds issues, as well as parking issues on our south and north parking lots. However, with our aging buildings and grounds, we have needed to meet frequently as guardians of funds for this purpose. Also, for the last decades, many of us have been working on issues on our street and to safeguard our churches (the JCC and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple) and community from developments over the years. The latest development has been the Smith Entertainment Group and the new entertainment district which includes the street on which we reside (100 South between 200 West and 300 West – which we had renamed Japantown Street). Because of long-time relationships with Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, our State, and other entities we have good relations that have given us a seat at the table.

Throughout 2024, we met over 16 times for trustee meetings, joint trustee and session meetings, smaller trustee development group meetings, and meetings related to Japantown and its impact on our church and surroundings. (A more detailed summary of those meetings is included in the 2024 JCC Annual Report). The final quarter of 2024 we met on Roof and insulation for the Education Building; trustee accounts; parking issues relative to our North parking lot; discussion on roles and responsibilities; calendaring procedures with our 3 congregations, and related usage of our buildings and grounds; final ramp and gate construction; signage on our parking, handrail for steps that enter the Chapel on the south side; and structural integrity of our Chapel.

Cookbook Project

Share your recipes that warm your heart for an upcoming SL Buddhist Temple/JCC Joint Cookbook.

You're invited to share a few of your favorite recipes to include: appetizers, main courses, side dishes, traditional family favorites handed down from generations, vegan, specialty drinks and desserts.

Your name will be listed by each recipe you submit. Also share any other personal details you want to include – such as, a brief story or memory associated with the recipe to showcase why this recipe is meaningful to you (limit to 1-3 sentences).

Due by **Saturday, March 15, 2025.**

Send a handwritten or copy of your recipe via text, email or mail to:

Jan Aramaki, 294 E 340 N, North Salt Lake, UT 84054
mcj925@gmail.com or (801) 718-2006 OR
 Sherrie Koga, 2269 E 3100 N, Layton, UT 84054
sherriekoga@gmail.com or (801) 628-8015

Omochi 2024 Wrapup

Submitted by Suzanne Hata

On Dec 28, 2024, over 20 volunteers turned 150 lbs of mochigome into 240 lbs of warm, delicious mochi. Over 70 customers enjoyed fresh mochi for their New Year's celebrations as well as JCC's traditional Oshogatsu on January 12th. A gourmet luncheon was prepared by Marc Stillman and Sherrie Garcia. Estimated profit: \$357.90.

Missing

A couple of items belonging to church members have turned up missing after the New Year's and Nerikiri events: a medium aluminum bowl/container and a round red lacquer tray (20 inches in diameter). If you know of the whereabouts of these items, please contact Karen Okawa or iccherald@gmail.com.



Deacon's January Meeting Report

Submitted by Allyn Nakashima, Deacons Moderator

The Board of Deacons met on January 5, 2025, and discussed the following:

- 1) Jan Aramaki will be leaving her position as interim moderator and will be replaced by Allyn Nakashima. Other officers will be elected after the new deacons are installed at the annual Congregational Meeting.
- 2) The Lake Tahoe retreat will be held July 21-26, 2025. Please let Jan Aramaki or Allyn Nakashima know if you are planning to attend as soon as possible since there are limited slots available.

Special Screening

On **Sunday, February 23**, there will be a film screening of "Free Chol Soo Lee" at Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, at **12:30 p.m.** Suggested donation of \$10.00 per person.

The film deals with a Korean immigrant wrongfully convicted of murder and the pan-Asian American social justice movement he inspired. The event is co-sponsored by the SLBT Sunshine group and the JCC.

Lake Tahoe Zephyr Point Retreat

The Northern California Japanese Christian Church Federation (NCJCCF) Retreat will be held from July 20 through 25, 2025 at Zephyr Point Conference Center in Lake Tahoe, NV. The theme of this year's conference is "Flourishing in a Life of Faith" and guest speaker will be Reverend John Miyahara. Registration information will be available in late February. Slots fill up fast though, so if you are interested in attending, contact Jan Aramaki.

Oshogatsu Party Wrapup

On Sunday, January 12, 2025, an Oshogatsu (New Year's) celebration luncheon was held after worship service to ring in 2025. Decorative sushi, ozoni, tempura shrimp, nishime and salads were prepared by Akiko Oki and volunteers. Thanks to all who helped with preparation and cooking.



Allyn and Greg perform the Offertory



Akiko and Edie set out the spread



A feast for the New Year!

Nerikiri and Tea Ceremony Party

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, a Nerikiri party and tea ceremony were held. Guests were served matcha by students of Akiko Oki and treated to a nerikiri confection made by her students as well. Students received certificates for passing the Intermediate course of nerikiri making!



Colorful nerikiri



Nerikiri graduate students and sensei



Tanoshinde kudasai!



Three generations



Tea whiskers

Photos courtesy: Bob Jones, Maurika Croft, Lynne Ward, Suzanne Hata, Lorraine Crouse