

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

January 2025

Dear Beloved Members and Friends of the Japanese Church of Christ,

As we begin this New Year together, I am filled with immense gratitude and joy as I reflect on my first Advent season with you at the Japanese Church of Christ. These past two and a half months have been nothing short of extraordinary—marked by meaningful moments of connection, warm fellowship, and the beauty of worshipping God together. Your hospitality and kindness have truly made me feel at home, and I thank you from the depths of my heart.

Looking ahead, I am excited to share that we are planning for my installation service, which I hope will take place in late February. It would be such a blessing to have all of you there to celebrate this milestone together. As soon as we finalize the date, I encourage you to mark your calendars—I can't wait to share this special moment with you.

I also want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to the Trustees, Deacons, Session members, and all the other leaders of this church who work so tirelessly behind the scenes. Your faithful service and dedication are the backbone of this community and the foundation that allows ministry to flourish here at JCC. Your commitment inspires me every day, and I look forward to the great work we will continue to do together. Truly, the future of JCC is bright, and I feel honored to journey alongside you.

For over a century, this church has been a beacon of faith, resilience, and unity, faithfully navigating seasons of change through God's guidance. As we step forward into a new century of ministry, we can do so with confidence, trusting the same God who has brought us this far to lead us into a future full of promise.

As we enter this new chapter, I invite all of us to continue praying and working together to discern God's will for JCC and Japantown—the community we are so blessed to serve. Let us share our hopes and dreams for what lies ahead and work as one body to live out our mission. While change can be challenging, it also brings new opportunities for growth, renewal, and vision.

Together, let us dream boldly, pray fervently, and act faithfully, trusting that the work we do in God's name will bear beautiful fruit. The journey ahead is ours to take, and with God's grace, it will be filled with joy and purpose.

As we turn the page to this new year, my prayer for each of you is that God's blessings will sustain and carry you through every moment ahead. May this year bring you hope, deeper faith, and abundant joy for you and your loved ones.

Thank you once again for the warmth and kindness you have shown me as I settle into this new chapter of ministry with you. I am deeply grateful and will continue to serve you with all my heart.

God's grace and peace to you!

Rev. Andrew Fleishman

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.

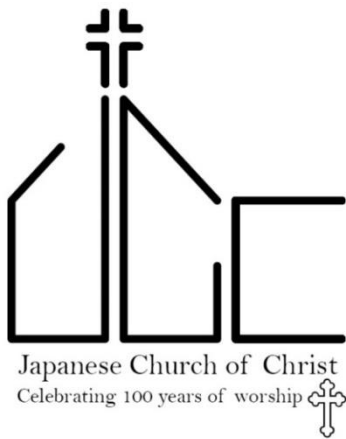
Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Tom Reed Jr.	Steve Fukushima	Susan Fukushima	Jabu
Brighton and Kennah Misaka	Ron Price	Yeiko Nagata	

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

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

Deacons

Jan Aramaki, 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

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

Website: www.jccslc.net

New Year’s Celebrations

To celebrate our Japanese culture, an “Oshogatsu” or New Year’s party will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2025** after worship service. Akiko Oki and crew will prepare traditional New Year’s foods to kick off 2025.



On **Saturday, January 18, 2025**, a traditional Tea Ceremony will take place at noon. Sensei Akiko has been conducting a class on the art of tea ceremony and students will prepare matcha for those interested in experiencing the ritual. Come have matcha and a nerikiri (sweet bean confection) prepared by JCC students.

Please pre-register for the Tea Ceremony, so that we may plan ahead on the number that will be attending. A signup sheet is posted on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Invite family and friends.

Annual Reports Due

To those that will be submitting year-end reports (you know who you are!) for the 2024 Annual Report, the reports are due on **January 8, 2025**. Please submit them to Patty Price.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

The annual JCC Congregational Meeting will be held **on Sunday, January 26, 2025** following worship service. The meeting will be held in person (no Zoom option this year).

Hardcopies of the annual report will be distributed to baptized members of the congregation on the previous **Sunday, January 19, 2025**, so that the reports can be read and reviewed prior to approving them at the annual meeting.

Presbytery Per Capita 2025

The PCUSA Per Capita amount for 2025 is **\$46.00** per baptized member of JCC. Please indicate “Per Capita” on your check or remittance.

Year End Pledge/Donation Statements

If you would like a hardcopy of your 2024 Year End Pledge/Donation statement, please contact Julee Mori or email jccherald@gmail.com to request a copy be printed for you. Copies will not automatically be sent out this year.

Nominating Committee

The slate of candidates for office for the 2025-2027 term that will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025 are:

Session Michiko Kenmotsu, Nancy Umemura, Lynne Ward (2nd term)

Deacons Teresa Aramaki, Kory Shino

Trustees Rick Aoki (2nd term), Jan Aramaki

We acknowledge out-going Deacon, Yuri Uyeda, who completed her 3-year term. Thank you for your service as an officer of the JCC!

February Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon

The JCC will be hosting the Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon on **Saturday, February 8, 2025** at noon. Traditionally the JCC hosts this first luncheon of the year for the organization.

Deacons December Meeting Report

Submitted by Jan Aramaki, Deacons Moderator

Opening prayer by Akiko Oki.

Prayer request cards will be implemented once chapel reopens. If box is marked confidential, the prayer will not be read – all prayer requests will be hung on Torii prayer gate for a month.

Treasurers Report: Checking account: \$2193 Savings account/money market: \$8035; Savings account: \$1854. Marc Stillman will prepare spreadsheet for the year and Jan Aramaki to prepare annual report.

Gideon's bible donation will be made in memory of Glenn Iwasaki and Eugene England.

December prayer request list: Tom Reed, Steve and Susan Fukushima, Kennah and Brighton Misaka, Yeiko Nagata, Jabu, and Ron Price.

Deacons will support Agape for December 6 annual Church Women United (CWU) Advent Tea. Deacons plan to deliver poinsettias for the holidays on Sunday, December 15.

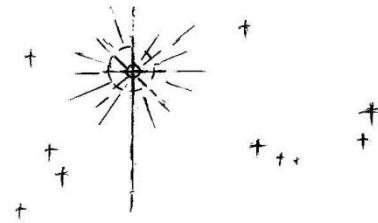
Proposal to make mochi – 50 lbs on Saturday, December 28 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers needed. Motion made by Laura Olson asking Deacons to fund two new mochi making machines. Second by Marc. Unanimously passed. Price for mochi to be determined at a later date.

Deacons to help with Christmas potluck lunch on December 22, set-up/organize/clean-up. Laura will help organize pageant and Stephanie has Santa lined up.

Communion and Coffee fellowship rotation to be revisited first of the year.

Rev. Fleishman shared chapel temperature must be controlled when organ pipes are tuned. JCC still has the digital component to play at any time. Pastor shared Ken open to teaching Marc Stillman and Allyn Nakashima at \$80/hour. Laura shared at one time JCC had an organ fund and it was moved into General Fund. Paying Ken needs to be discussed further.

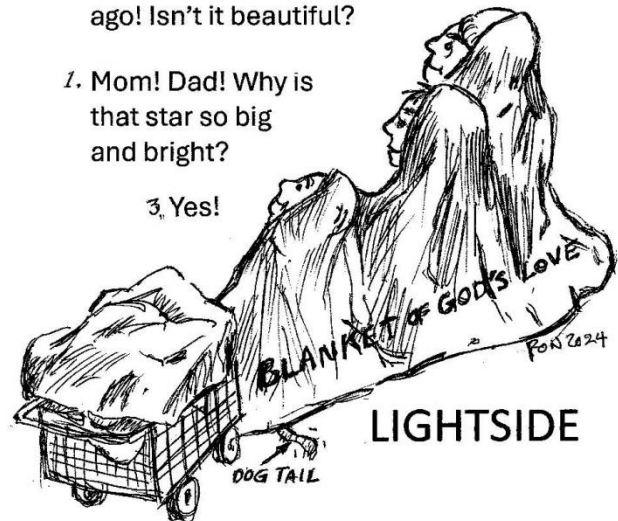
Next meeting, Sunday, January 5, 2025 following service. Closing prayer by Laura Olson. Deacons prayed faithfully on the needs of our church members and those asking for prayer.



2. We think, it is a reminder of Jesus's birth many years ago! Isn't it beautiful?

1. Mom! Dad! Why is that star so big and bright?

3. Yes!



LIGHTSIDE

Session Meeting Reports

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

Session meetings were held Nov. 26, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18.

Plans were made for the Advent services and events. The Session discussed ideas for communications about upcoming events on the website, Facebook, and Instagram.

New hymnal options were discussed and it was decided to go with the more familiar version of the Presbyterian hymnal with the blue cover. The Community of Grace Presbyterian Church has given us 76 blue hymnals at no cost.

The Session agreed that parking for church events for all three congregations would have priority over outside event parking. The Fellowship Hall sound and video system issues are being assessed and repaired. Plans are developing with Utah Presbytery for Pastor Andrew's formal installation service in February. More details will be provided in January.

The proposed 2025 budget and slate of candidates for Session, Deacon, and Trustee board members were reviewed and approved for presentation at the January Congregational meeting.

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, February 8: Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon, hosted by Japanese Church of Christ, 268 W. 100 South, noon.

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 Retreat, a seminar for new seekers and those familiar with Buddhist teachings and practices. \$15.00 registration fee, Ogden Buddhist Church, 155 North Street, Ogden. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 23: Special Screening of "Free Chol Soo Lee" at Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, 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. Sponsored by the SLBT Sunshine and JCC.

Church Women United

A multi faith gathering of Christian Women

Mark your calendar and plan to attend CWU's 2025 Kickoff & Annual Meeting

When: Friday, January 31, 2025 (Last Friday)

Time: Afternoon – 12:30 p.m. Registration (\$2)

Where: Centenary United Methodist Church, 1740 South 500 East (SLC)

Keynote Speaker: Bill Tibbitts, Deputy ED / FACE Director

Crossroads Urban Center

Election and Installation of CWU Officers – Business Meeting

Tea / Social / Fellowship

Community Outreach: Crossroads Food Pantry – Please bring: Non-perishable food to donate. Specific items needed TBA. Cash Donations: Checks Payable to "Church Women United," designated for Crossroads Food Pantry

Free-will Offering: Stays with Local SLC / Bountiful CWU Unit:

Checks need to be made payable to "Church Women United"

JCC January 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY -Private party, Fellowship Hall, noon	2	3 Parking – Monster Jam, 7pm	4 Parking – Monster Jam, 1pm, 7pm
5 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon -Parking, Monster Jam, 1pm	6	7 -Nerikiri Practice, 10am -Parking, Jazz vs Hawks, 7pm	8 -Parking, Hockey	9 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	10 -New Year's Prep, 10am -Parking, Hockey, 7pm	11 -New Year's Prep, 10am Parking, Hockey, 7pm
12 -Worship Service, 10:30am -New Year Oshogatsu Party, 11:30am -Parking, Jazz, 6pm	13	14 -Parking, Hockey, 7pm	15 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	16 -Parking, Hockey, 7pm	17 -Nerikiri Prep, 10am	18 -Nerikiri Tea Ceremony, noon -Parking, Hockey, 7pm
19 -Worship Service, 10:30am	20 MLK DAY -Parking, Hockey, 7:30pm	21	22	23 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	24	25 -Parking, Justin Timberlake 7:30pm
26 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Congregational Meeting, 11:45am	27 -Parking, Jazz, 7pm	28	29 -Parking, Hockey, 7:30pm	30 -Parking, Jazz, 8pm	31 -Parking, Hockey, 7pm	

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 12/30/2024.

Christmas 2024 Events

As always, the JCC carried on Christmas traditions through December: the lighting of the Advent wreath, joint worship service with the Tongan and Kachin congregations, followed by a plentiful potluck and the Christmas pageant. And of course, a visit from Santa!

On Christmas Eve, the Christ Candle was lit. Such a wonderful time of the year to bring the church family together to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus.

“Christmas is forever—not just for one day. For loving, sharing, and giving are not to put away.”
– Norman Wesley Brooks



The Murakami and Erlacher families light the candle of Joy



Festive offertory by Laura, Allyn, Karla and Greg



Laura and Marc at Advent



Lily Pupua sings



Shigeko and Keiko enjoy lunch

Photos courtesy: Allyn Nakashima, Suzanne Hata, Lorraine Crouse, Julee Mori



Santa and his helpers



Christmas Eve candle



Christmas Eve service



Pastor Andrew and Jeanie



The Christmas Story



Plentiful potluck

U of U Architectural Student Presentations on Japantown

On Wednesday, December 4, 2024, University of Utah Architectural Students presented their visions of Japantown at the JCC and Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. As a semester project initiated by U of U Professor Anne Mooney, the students researched the history of Japantown (many never knew it existed) as well as Japanese culture and incorporated their ideas and visions for the JCC, SLBT and multi-ethnic senior housing. There were so many innovated and creative ideas!

Fox 13 Utah covered the event:

[University of Utah students reimagine Japantown development for class project](#)



U of U Architectural students present their semester projects

CWU Advent Tea Wrap Up

The JCC Agape Women hosted the annual Church Women United (CWU) Advent Tea on Friday, December 6. Pastor Andrew conducted the worship service and an "afternoon tea" followed. Thanks to all who helped with the event! Special note of thanks to Judy Tegan for creating the holiday favors that everyone loved!



Church Women United Advent Tea Guests



A Thank You Note From Church Women United

CWU sends its sincere gratitude to the Japanese Church of Christ for a wonderfully warm and enriching Advent Service on Friday, December 6, 2024. The social gathering that followed was substantial and tasty. The room was filled with the sound of sharing and getting to know others for quite some time. Thank you to Karen Okawa and Suzanne Hata and ALL their helpers in the coordination and success of this event. A special "Thank You" is extended to Pastor Andrew Fleishman for his unique and thought-provoking message.

Church Women United Board for Metropolitan Salt Lake City & Bountiful