

## The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

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

### Pastor's Message

July 2025

Dear JCC,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the warmth and slower rhythm of summer. (Maybe not that much slower)

What a joy it was to gather on June 29th for our children and family-focused worship service and Sunday School! Seeing the energy, smiles, and voices of our young ones in worship was a true blessing. Their laughter, curiosity, and presence filled our worship service with life, reminding us of the gift of childlike faith. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the families who made that special day possible. Your effort, participation, and support made it memorable for everyone. It takes a whole community to nurture young hearts in faith, and I am so grateful for yours.

We are excited to continue creating more of these worship experiences centered around children and families. These gatherings help shape not only the spiritual growth of our youngest members but also the unity and vibrancy of our entire church. As we move forward, we ask for your prayers and your partnership in this meaningful work. Whether it's through helping plan, praying for the children, or simply showing up in support, your presence makes a difference. There is more to come, so stay tuned!

I'm also very grateful to share that the new handrails have been installed at the courtyard exit from the sanctuary. This has been a long-awaited and much-needed project, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our church leaders, who have worked faithfully for many months to bring it to completion. These new additions will serve our congregation well for many years to come, providing greater safety and accessibility for all. It's one of those improvements that may go unnoticed at first glance, but it truly reflects our commitment to care for one another in every detail.

As we find ourselves in the heart of summer, I recognize that this season often brings both responsibilities and the gift of rest. For some, it's a busy time of travel, family events, or catching up on tasks. For others, it's an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with what truly matters. I pray that you are finding the right balance—attending to what needs care, while also giving yourself space for joy, renewal, and maybe even a little vacation from the usual routines. May the summer fill your hearts and homes with peace, refreshment, and a renewed sense of God's presence.

Please continue to keep the leaders of the Japantown community in your prayers, as they navigate the complex challenges of ongoing development surrounding Japantown Street. These changes are not always easy, and yet we trust that God is present and at work in all the details, guiding us with wisdom and grace. We pray for unity, resilience, and hope as we look to the future together. May we continue to be a strong, loving, and faithful church as we seek to worship and serve God for another century in the heart of Salt Lake City.

Thank you for being a faithful, generous, and caring community. I am deeply grateful every day to walk this journey with you and to see God's Spirit moving among us.

With peace, gratitude, and joy,  
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

Nakamura Family

Aoyama Family

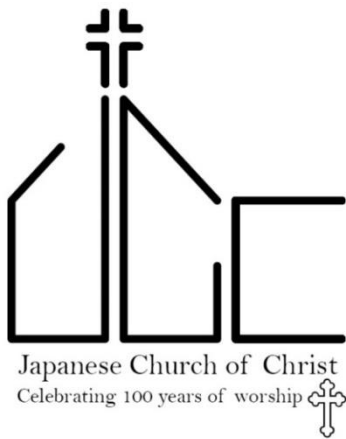
Tom Reed

Tom Reed Jr.

**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 fourth Saturday of each month at noon. Send your articles to [jccherald@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com).

Website: [www.jccslc.net](http://www.jccslc.net)

**Wanted: Chairperson**

The Session is looking for a chairperson and committee members to organize a Japantown event this summer or fall to invite the local community. A time capsule was sealed in the sanctuary when the building was completed over 100 years ago, so an event to reveal the possible contents (or none) of that time capsule is tentatively planned.

Please let Lynne Ward or a member of Session know if you are interested in serving as chairperson or as a member of a committee. Such an event would invite and open the JCC to the local community and be good exposure for Japantown efforts.

**Membership Classes**

If anyone is interested in attending a membership class, please let Pastor Andrew or Nancy Umemura know.

**Herald Fund Drive**

As with everything these days, the cost of paper, printing and postage continue to increase. Contributions to the Herald fund will assist in covering these costs incurred in producing the hardcopy of this monthly newsletter. A remittance envelope will not be sent out, but you may contribute during the regular offering in worship service or mail a check to the JCC. (Please note on the check that it is for the Herald Fund.)

If you would like to receive the Herald electronically via email, send a request to [jccherald@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com). The eHerald readers receive the newsletter earlier at the beginning of each month and the photos are in full color!

Also, if you wish to be removed from either the Herald hardcopy or electronic Herald list, please send a message to [jccherald@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com) to Unsubscribe.

**Our Daily Bread**

The Fall 2025 issue of Our Daily Bread is already available! This issue covers the months of September, October and November 2025. Copies are available in the sanctuary as well as in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like a hardcopy mailed to you, go to [jccherald@gmail.com](mailto:jccherald@gmail.com) and provide your mailing address.



**Condolences**

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family of Masuji "Moose" Nakamura, who passed away on June 3, 2025 at the age of 97. Please keep Eleanore, Kim, Jim and Mike in your prayers.

Condolences are also extended to the family of Faye Aoyama, who passed away on June 11, 2025 at the age of 97. Remember her children, Linda, Randy and Eddie in your prayers as well.



**JCC 2025 Directory Update**

*Submitted by Patty Price*

The JCC 2025 directory has been completed and distributed to those who requested a hard copy. The PDF file was sent to everyone who receives a Herald newsletter.

There were, however, still a few mistakes so please make the corrections on your PDF copy and in your bright green hard copy directories. They are:

1. Add **"Bob"** Akagi's name to his entry.
2. Change the zip code on Rick and Arlene Aoki's address from 84108 to **84109**.
3. Ernest and Marcia Garcia's address needs to have the name of their street corrected from Morningside to **Morning Crest** so it should read "West Morning Crest Drive."
4. Vincent & Irene Iwasaki's zip code should be **94087**, not 84097.
5. Jean Lizoin Tokuda (Irwin)'s address should include a **#7**.
6. Add **Shigeko Ota** to your directory. Her address is **7876 Ponderosa Way, Sandy, Utah 84094, (801) 255-3416**. Her information was left out inadvertently.
7. Remove the phone number (801) 771-0181 from Bob and Michiko Jones' listing. New numbers are:

Michiko: (385) 310-6368  
 Bob: (801) 336-6951

If you have further questions, please contact Patty Price at (801) 556-1484 or at [patp1406@gmail.com](mailto:patp1406@gmail.com).

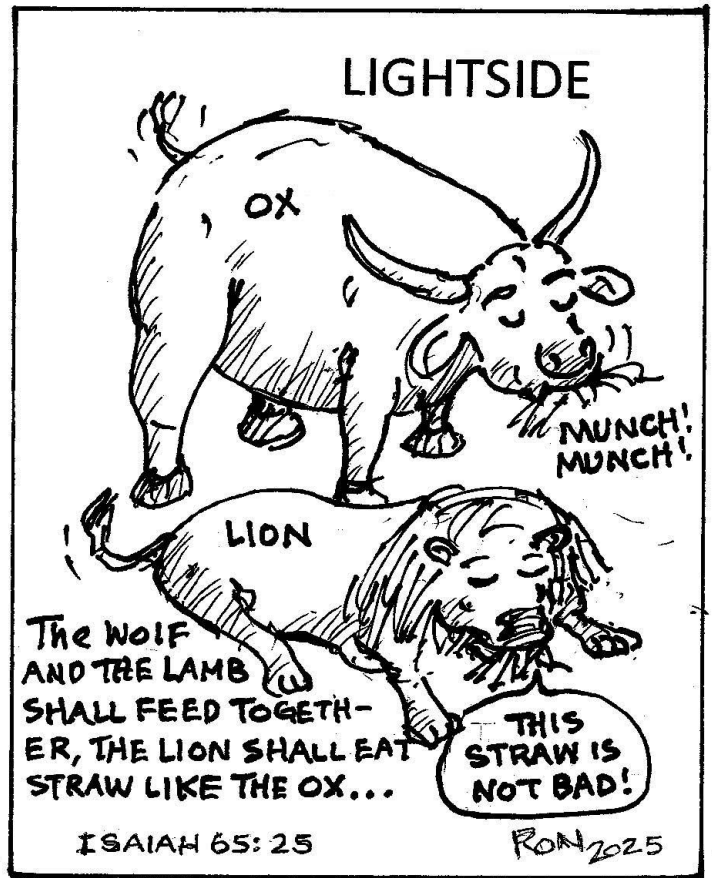
**Japantown Update**

*Submitted by Lynne Ward*

Tours of JCC, the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and Japantown street are being conducted for elected officials and community leaders. They can see firsthand, the current street and the planned potential developments by the Smith Entertainment Group for the Sports, Entertainment, Culture and Convention District and by the Ritchie Group for the West Quarter/Block 67. We are communicating the history of the churches and past encroachment, the activities at both churches and concerns about the upcoming changes.

Many tour guests are unaware of the churches and Japantown. They became educated, were attentive and in many cases, wanted to assist us. To answer the common question: "what do you (churches) want," the two churches are working together to determine a vision for the future. The effort to preserve our churches and Japantown are strengthened by working cooperatively.

*(Continued next column)*



*(Japantown Update continued)*

The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple's 89th Obon Festival is on July 12. Prior to the program, elected officials and community leaders are invited by the Utah Japantown Advocates (formerly known as the NextGen SLC JA) to enjoy a bento at the JCC Fellowship Hall. It's an opportunity for the guests to see both churches and in particular, the deep tradition of the colorful and festive Obon.

Our churches will be surrounded by demolition and construction. Providing consultation to the churches are Ben McAdams and Kerri Nakamura. Each is skilled at finding creative solutions and have experience with government. Other professionals will be needed to help us navigate.

Watch for a fundraising effort for these special costs. Also, watch for a meeting to give the congregation an in-person update. Please contact an elder or trustee with your input.

### Upcoming Community Events

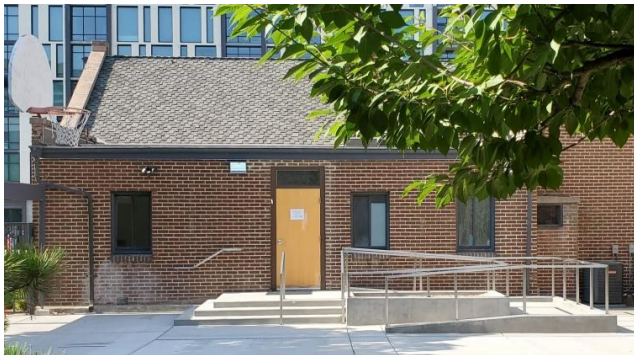
**Monday, June 30 through Thursday, July 10, 2025 (excluding July 4)** – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Obon Dance Practices. Practices are open to the public and start at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, July 4, 2025** – Murray Fun Days, Murray, UT. Kenshin Taiko performance at 11:00 a.m., Murray Park Gazebo. For information: [Murray Fun Days | Murray City, UT - Official Website](#).

**Saturday, July 12, 2025** – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Obon Festival. Food from 3:00 p.m. Taiko 7:00 p.m. and dancing at 8:00 p.m.

### Safety First!

The accessible ramp at the rear entrance to the sanctuary is complete! New railing has been installed along the ramp to allow for a safer and secure walk.



New accessible ramp. (Photo courtesy: Suzanne Hata)



### Deacons Report

The last Deacons meeting was held on Sunday, May 4, 2025. Funeral plans for Bea Ichiuji on May 17 were discussed. Communion and Coffee Fellowship assignments were discussed. In the future, it was suggested that we try to be more environmentally conscious. After the current Styrofoam cups and plastic water bottles are used up, paper cups will be purchased and water will be served in pitchers.

A meeting was not held in June. The next meeting will be scheduled for July 6, 2025.

JCC July 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 -North Parking reserved, all day	2 -North Parking reserved, all day	3 -North Parking reserved, all day -Session Meeting, 6pm	4 4 <sup>th</sup> OF JULY - North Parking reserved, 8-5	5 - North Parking reserved, 8-5
6 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon	7 -North Parking reserved, 6-10pm	8 -Japantown tours, 2-5pm -North Parking reserved, 6-10pm	9 -North Parking reserved, 6-10pm	10 -North Parking reserved, 6-10pm	11	12 Obon Festival North parking reserved, all day
13 -Worship Service, 10:30am	14	15	16	17	18	19 Utah Presbytery Meeting, 9am
20 -Worship Service, 10:30am	21	22	23	24 PIONEER DAY	25	26
27 -Worship Service, 10:30am	28	29	30	31		

\*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 6/30/2025.

## Garden Party Wrap Up

On Saturday, May 31, friends and families attended a garden party at the home of Bob Jones and Michiko Kenmotsu. It was perfect weather to sit on their patio and visit with friends while enjoying the Japanese maples, irises, and other spring greenery. A great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Thank you Bob and Michiko for opening your home to us!



Betty takes in the garden view.



Hosts Michiko and Bob



Eunice and Marc

Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse, Lynne Ward and Jan Aramaki

## Session Report

*Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session*

The Session meeting was held May 28. We discussed plans for Pentecost Sunday (June 8), Father's Day Picnic (June 15), and the introduction of a monthly family-friendly Sunday worship, including a children's sermon and less formal atmosphere. We discussed on-going efforts to identify ways to improve the security of the buildings and grounds. We passed a resolution to clarify who has signing authority for different types of documents and contracts. We agreed to issue a call for a chairperson and committee to head up a summer or fall event at JCC to highlight Japantown and be open to the community, where we could possibly open the time capsule that was placed in the cornerstone of the Sanctuary building when it was completed. We voted to establish the nominating committee in June, with the goal of electing the new elders, deacons, and trustees by the fall.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for July 3.

## Happy Belated Birthday!

Friday, May 16, 2025, was declared "Betty Morishita Day" in the town of Ramapo, NY in honor of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The JCC received a letter from Betty's children, Debbie and Aaron, along with a copy of the proclamation – which are displayed on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

Update: Betty is doing well and is loved by everyone at the care center where she resides. (Of course, we all knew that would be the case!)

Happy Belated Birthday, Betty!



Debbie, Betty and Aaron



Proclamation

## Family Worship

On Sunday, June 29, 2025, a Family Worship Sunday was held. Children attended worship service and listened to Pastor Andrew's sermonette (the subject was "bugs" and included samples to eat!) before being excused to attend Sunday School. Adults were treated to songs by the JCC Worship Band during regular service.



All eyes on Pastor Andrew



JCC Worship Band (Gene Shimizu, Rick Aoki, Dean Shiba and Wes Kida) Photos courtesy: Lorraine Crouse

### Father's Day Picnic Wrap Up

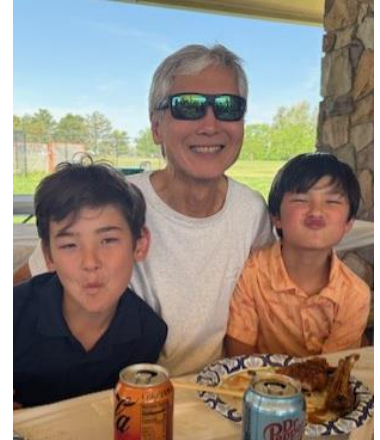
The traditional Father's Day picnic was held on Sunday, June 15, 2025 at Sugarhouse Park. Pastor Andrew gave a short sermon and included an interactive project for the group – writing down thankful thoughts on ribbon and affixing them to a nearby shade tree. After the service, a bountiful spread of potluck dishes filled an entire row of tables for all to partake. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed rounds of bingo (thanks to Marc for calling the numbers) and took home some great prizes (thanks to an anonymous donor for providing all of the prizes!). It was a nice day to stop and reflect on the role of a father and celebrate the dads in our lives.



A Father's Day message



Ribbons on the tree



Grandpa Rick and grandsons



Aidan and Elise tie their wish ribbons to a branch



The Fleishman gang enjoys lunch



Patty and Ron celebrate the day



Four generations of the Murakami family

Photos courtesy: Jan Aramaki, Lorraine Crouse, Karen Okawa



There's never a shortage of food!