

The HERALD Newsletter

Japanese Church of Christ

268 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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Website: jccslc.net Email: info@jccslc.net

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

Pastor's Message

March 2025

Dear JCC Family,

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the love, support, and enthusiasm you showed during my installation service. Your prayers, your presence, and your kind words meant so much to me. I feel truly blessed to serve alongside you, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us on this journey of faith. Your warmth and kindness have already made me feel at home, and I am eager to grow, worship, and serve with you in the days ahead.

It feels especially meaningful that as we begin this new chapter together, we also step into the sacred season of Lent. This is a time for us to slow down, reflect, and open our hearts to God's transforming grace. Just as Moses on Mount Sinai, Elijah on his journey, and Jesus in the wilderness experienced deep encounters with God, Lent invites us into our own season of renewal—one of surrender, trust, and growth. It is a time to examine our hearts, deepen our faith, and allow God to shape us more fully into the image of Christ.

Lent is not just about giving something up; it's about making space. As we release the things that weigh us down—whether distractions, unhealthy habits, or burdens we've carried for too long—we create room for the new life Christ offers. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us of our mortality, but they also point us toward resurrection—toward the promise that, in Christ, death is never the end of the story.

Throughout this season, I encourage you to take time for prayer, reflection, and acts of love. Whether through fasting, giving, or simply being intentional about drawing closer to God, let's use these forty days to prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. The journey may not always be easy, but we do not walk it alone—God goes before us, and we walk together as a church family.

So let's embrace this season with open hearts, trusting that God is at work in us. My prayer is that this Lent will be one of renewal, deepening faith, and joyful anticipation of Easter's victory: *"Death is no more!"*

With gratitude and hope,
Rev. Andrew Fleishman

Condolences

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Stella Mzilikazi upon the passing of her son, Jabu. Funeral services were held on February 15th. Please keep Stella and her family in your prayers.

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.

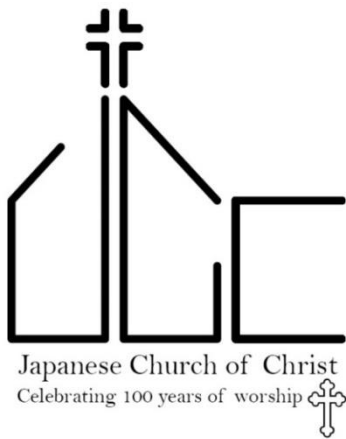
Please remember the following friends and family in your prayers:

Stella Mzilikazi and 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, 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

Daylight Saving

It's that time of the year; time to "Spring Forward" and set your clocks ahead one hour (meaning you will lose an hour of sleep). Daylight saving for Spring 2025 will occur on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**.

New JCC Officers

Submitted by Nancy Umemura

The ordination and installation service for the newly elected elders (Lynne Ward and Nancy Umemura) and Deacons (Teresa Aramaki and Kory Shino) was held on Feb. 9 during the worship service. The ordination and installation for Michiko Kenmotsu will be held on Mar. 2 during worship service. Trustees are not ordained, so the term of service for Jan Aramaki and Rick Aoki began on Jan. 26, upon their election at the annual congregational meeting.



Installed Session Elders and Deacons (l to r): Teresa Aramaki, Lynne Ward, Nancy Umemura, Kory Shino. (Not pictured – Michiko Kenmotsu)

Wanted: Volunteers for Nihon Matsuri

Submitted by Jan Aramaki

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

JCC will have a food booth for Nihon Matsuri with plans to barbecue teriyaki burgers directly from the food booth. Shifts include:

- 8 a.m. - Noon: setup and first shift (Teresa Aramaki family)
- Noon - 3 p.m.: (Doug/Dani Murakami family)
- 3 - 5 p.m. including clean up: (Marc Stillman, Alix Oike, Josh Uyeda, Rick and Arlene Aoki)
- Lynne Ward, Pauline Vosburgh and Julee Mori helping with cash boxes.

Laura's taiko group will bake yaki manju - mochiko manju is still being decided. Volunteers are needed to help package manju on the morning of Nihon Matsuri (Saturday).

Lorraine Crouse will have exhibitions at JCC to include a "Japanese Americans in Sports" photograph exhibit featuring notable local athletes such as Wat Misaka and many others, cultural exhibits that include Bonsai, Origami, Kimonos, University of Utah Architectural Students' Japantown projects, information about Utah State Historic Preservation Offices' project to preserve and translate headstones in the Salt Lake City Cemetery, as well as Martial Arts demonstrations in our courtyard. Lorraine is looking for volunteers to monitor the exhibits throughout the festival and volunteers to help set up tents in JCC driveway or on our porch.

More details about the festival will be provided in the April Herald.

Food Handler Class

There will be an on-site Salt Lake County food handler permit class on **Sunday, March 30, 2025** at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple at **12:30 p.m.** The class cost is \$30, but the certification is good for 3 years. Anyone volunteering in the kitchen or involved in food preparation for gatherings, such as Nihon Matsuri, is required to have a permit. For any questions regarding food preparation or volunteering for the Nihon Matsuri, contact Jan Aramaki.

Latest Updates from SLC Mayor Erin Mendenhall

Submitted by Jani Iwamoto

What are the current projects in the city impacting Japantown?

1. Japantown Visioning Project (led by the Community Reinvestment Agency or "CRA", formally the Redevelopment Agency or "RDA,"): <https://rda.sl.gov/japantownstreet/>

This project began in 2018 and focused on mitigating potential development impacts from the West Quarter while transforming Japantown into a vibrant gathering place that celebrates Japanese culture via the Japantown Design Strategy and Guidelines.

2. Public Art Installation/Entryway Monuments (led by the Arts Council):

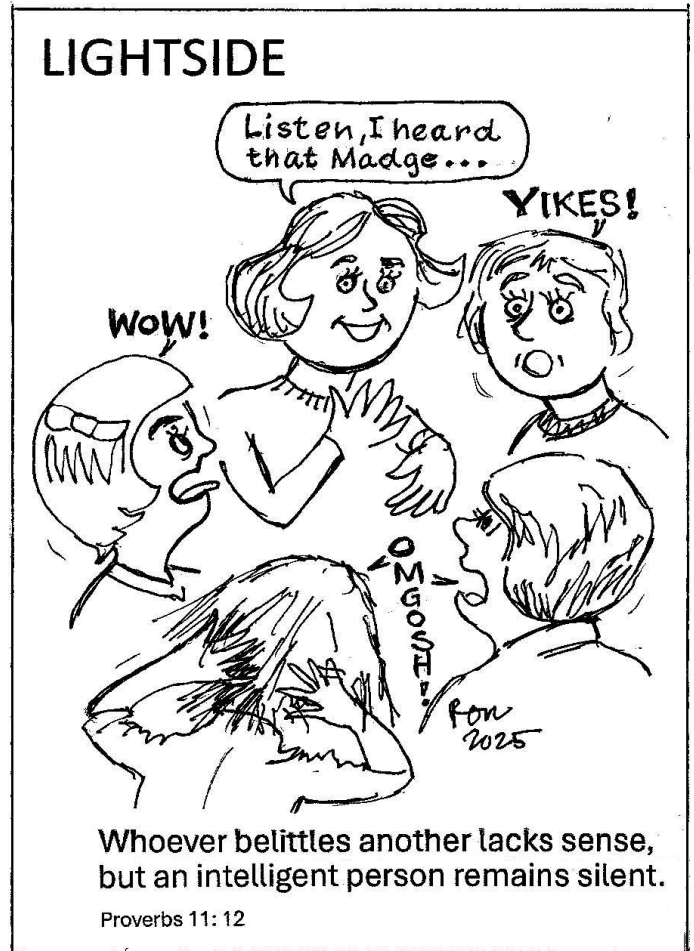
Public art will be a significant component of the new streetscape. The Arts Council will oversee the selection and procurement of an artist to create a site-specific public art installation in coordination with the vision for Japantown. Japantown Design Strategy and Guidelines, April 13, 2021:

https://rda.sl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/21-04-19_JapantownStreetDesignGuide_FNL.pdf

3. Downtown Sports, Entertainment, Culture, and Convention District (led by Smith Entertainment Group or "SEG"): <https://reimaginedowntownslc.com/>

This large-scale project includes the redevelopment of the North and West ends of the Salt Palace, creating a hub for sports, entertainment, culture, and conventions.

The district is anticipated to include retail, housing, hotel spaces, Abravanel Hall, and public plazas. SEG is also asked to specifically integrate Japantown's unique identity into the project while minimizing negative impacts.



Cookbook Project Reminder

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

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, March 8, 2025 – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple bus trip to Wendover. Leaves at 9:00 a.m., \$30. Contact Sherrie Koga at sherrie.koga@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 15, 2025 – Mount Olympus JACL Fundarama to benefit scholarships. Hillcrest Junior High School, 5:00 p.m. Dinner, raffle, bingo and bake sale. Contact Dick Mano at dickmano@aol.com for tickets or information.

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

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – Please join us for a Special Cultural Exhibits Opening at Utahraptor State Park. The exhibits help share the experiences of the men enrolled at the Dalton Wells CCC Camp located at the site from 1935-41 and the men who were incarcerated at the Moab Citizen Isolation Center located at the site from January through April 1943. Here is the link to Schedule and RSVP Form for the day's events:
<https://forms.gle/5BojD5h92G4NHiBz5>

Church Women United

Mark your calendar and plan to attend CWU's Human Rights Celebration 2025

When: Friday, March 14, 2025 (2nd Friday)
 Time: 9:30 a.m. Registration; 10:00 - 1:00 Program & Lunch

Where: Community of Grace Presbyterian Church
 2015 E. Newcastle Drive (Sandy)

Theme: "God's Daughters Living Powerful Lives – Help Others at All Times"

Keynote Speaker: TBA
 Award Recipients: Art Hupka
 Registration: \$2 Lunch: \$6.00

Community Outreach: International Refugee Committee. Please bring NEW Baby Diapers, Baby Wipes, and Baby Formula to donate. Cash donations: Checks Payable to "Church Women United," designated for IRC

Offering: Used for CWU National Programs: Checks need to be made payable to: "Church Women United"

Lunch RSVP: To Mary Ann Allison at 801-278-9223 by Monday, March 10.

This is a wonderful ecumenical gathering and an opportunity to learn and grow spiritually and personally. Hope to see you there.

JCC March 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 -Tongan event, 1 to 4pm -Parking, Hockey vs. Devils, 7pm
2 -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon -Parking, Jazz vs. Pelicans, 6pm	3 -Parking, Jazz vs. Pistons, 7:30pm	4	5	6 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 7pm	7 -Parking, Disney on Ice, 7pm	8 -Presbytery of Utah meeting, 9:30am -Parking, Disney on Ice, 11am, 3 and 7pm
9 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Parking, Disney on Ice, 11am, 3 and 7pm	10 -Parking, Hockey vs. Toronto, 8pm	11	12 -Parking, Hockey vs. Anaheim, 7pm	13	14 -Parking, Jazz vs. Raptors, 7pm	15 -Parking, Shane Gilles
16 -Worship Service, 10:30am	17 -Parking, Jazz vs. Bulls, 7pm	18	19 -Parking, SL Stars vs. Capitanes, 12:30pm -Parking, Jazz vs. Wizards, 7pm	20 -Parking, Hockey vs. Sabres, 7pm	21 -Parking, Jazz vs. Celtics, 7pm	22 -Parking, Hockey vs. Tampa Bay, 3pm
23 -Worship Service, 10:30am -Parking, Jazz vs. Cavs, 1:30pm	24 -Parking, Hockey vs. Red Wings, 7pm	25 -Parking, Jazz vs. Grizzlies, 7pm	26 -Session Meeting, 6pm	27 -Parking, Jazz vs. Rockets, 7pm	28	29 -Parking, Kelsea Ballerini, 7pm
30 -Worship Service, 10:30am	31					

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 2/25/2025.

Session Meeting Report

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

Session meeting was held February 19, 2025

We enjoyed meeting Rev. Andrew O’Dowd, the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) liaison for JCC, who was introduced and attended the Session meeting. He has a wealth of experience in ministry, the military, and Japan. He will be a valuable resource for us. We welcomed Michiko Kenmotsu as the newest Session member.

The Session finalized detailed plans for Pastor Andrew’s installation service on Feb. 23. We discussed Easter events (to be announced in April Herald). We discussed the need for improved building security and will be working with the Trustees to identify and implement solutions.

We discussed needing to arrange for emergency first aid training and the use of an AED that is being donated by a church member. We will be reconvening a funeral planning committee, in light of the upcoming service for Hiro Iwasaki on May 2.

Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon Wrap Up

On Saturday, February 8, 2025, the Agape Women sponsored the Nikkei Senior Center luncheon. The luncheon was well attended and diners enjoyed teriyaki chicken (ala Jerry Mori’s famous Oishii teriyaki sauce!) as the main entrée. For the program portion, Kenshin Taiko performed a few numbers. The February luncheon is always a popular one! Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation for this event!



The February luncheon is always well attended



Pastor Andrew and Laura



Kenshin Taiko, always a popular program

Congregational Meeting Wrap

The annual JCC Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 following worship service. The meeting was moderated by Pastor Andrew. Copies of the 2024 Annual Report were distributed a week prior to the meeting so that recipients had a week to review the reports and budget. Al Kubota reported on Cascade Corporation and Julee Mori presented the 2025 budget for approval.

Baby Congrats

Michael and Kylie Lloyd are happy to announce the birth of their first child; Milo Douglas Lloyd was born on February 8, 2025. Weight 7 lbs, 6 oz. and 22” long! That makes six grandchildren for Doug and Dani Murakami and another great grandchild for Betty Murakami!



Yuri, Yas, Betty and Al

Pastor Andrew's Installation

On Sunday, February 23, 2025, Reverend Andrew Fleishman was installed as minister of the Japanese Church of Christ. The service and installation involved JCC Elders and guest pastors and Elders. The Anchored in Christ Choir performed the anthem accompanied by Dr. Ken Udy on the organ.

During the service, Clerk of Session Nancy Umemura presented Reverend Andrew with a stole and plaque from the JCC. The stole was made from a Japanese obi, sewn by Michiko Kenmotsu, representing the culture of JCC. A plaque accompanied the stole, marking the date of this special occasion. Thanks to Gail Minaga of Creative Awards for creating the plaque.

A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall after the service, featuring gyudon, salads and desserts. Kenshin Taiko (including Pastor Andrew!) performed for the attendees. It was a memorable and festive occasion for all.

Note: Since this event occurred just prior to the Herald print deadline, more photos will be featured in the April Herald. (Thanks to Lorraine Crouse for sending these pictures.)



A full house to witness the installation of Rev. Fleishman



The Anchored in Christ Choir sings beautifully



Kenshin Taiko performs during the reception



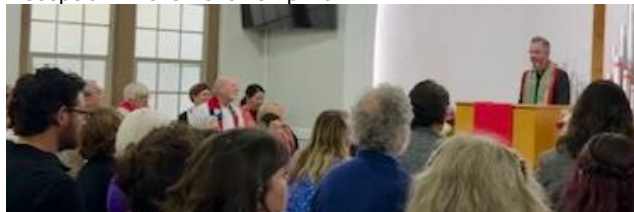
Questions for the congregation



Part of the kitchen crew and Pastor Andrew



Reception in the Fellowship Hall



Newly installed Rev. Fleishman gives the benediction



A familiar face to the JCC; Executive Presbyter Mirjam Haas-Melchior