

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

September 2025

Dear JCC Family,

This month, we celebrate something truly extraordinary: 101 years in our sanctuary. That number isn't just about time—it's about testimony. For over a century, God has been faithful to us, and by His grace, we continue to stand as a witness in the heart of Salt Lake City. While the city around us grows and redevelops, our presence here is a reminder that God plants His people as a living sign of His kingdom—a kingdom that cannot be bought, sold, or replaced.

In a recent meeting with city leaders, we were reminded of how unique and precious our church is, and how important Japantown is to the story of this city. It's more than geography. It's sacred space—space made holy by God's people gathering for prayer, worship, fellowship, and service. When we step into this sanctuary, we step into a stream of heritage, memory, and promise. The walls themselves have absorbed the prayers of generations; they testify to baptisms, weddings, funerals, and countless Sundays of God's Word proclaimed. Truly, this place is irreplaceable.

At our Back-to-School service, as we prayed for our children and teachers, I felt a deep sense of wonder. I imagined all the children through the decades who have stood in this very place—some of whom grew into leaders, some who moved far away, and some who stayed to carry on the story. Each memory is part of the larger story God is writing here. Theologians often speak of the "communion of saints"—the great truth that we are bound not only to one another today, but also to those who have come before us and those who will come after us. JCC is a living picture of that communion.

As we look to the future, we are called to preserve and revitalize Japantown. This is not just about saving buildings or keeping history alive; it is about bearing witness to the God who makes all things new. Our efforts are part of God's mission—an act of stewardship, of protecting what has been entrusted to us, so that future generations may encounter the love of Christ here. I ask for your continued prayers as we discern the path ahead.

I am so grateful for our leaders and members who quietly, faithfully, and lovingly sustain this church week after week. I also give thanks to God for our partnership with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. Working together has been a blessing that reveals the wideness of God's mercy. We are bound together, in community, and in the conviction that this space must endure. That kind of partnership points us back to the heart of God, who calls us to be peacemakers and bridge-builders in His world.

September also marks my 12th month at JCC. I can hardly believe how quickly this year has passed! It has been a year of joy, of learning, of deepening trust, and of shared ministry. Thank you for letting me walk with you. Thank you for the privilege of praying with you, laughing with you, and serving with you. This has been a year that has confirmed for me, again and again, that God has planted me here for such a time as this.

As we reflect on 101 years and look toward the next chapter, I am reminded of the psalmist's words:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain." (*Psalms 127:1*)

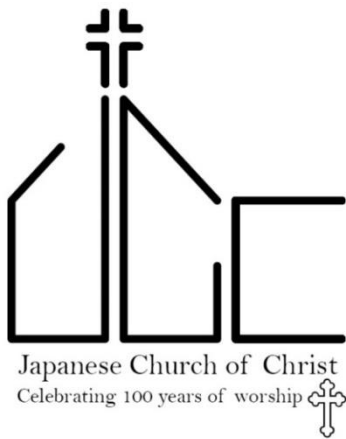
This verse calls us back to the truth: it is God who is the builder, the sustainer, and the protector of His people. We labor, but it is the Lord who makes our labor fruitful. We plan, but it is the Lord who secures our future. We look back with gratitude and forward with hope, because the same God who carried our forebears through hardship, displacement, and rebuilding will also carry us.

(Continued on Page 2)

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.

Website: www.jccslc.net

(Pastor’s Message, continued from Page 1)

Friends, let us continue to build—not only with bricks and mortar, but with faith, love, and hope. Let us tell the story of God’s faithfulness boldly, so that generations yet to come will know that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that His love endures forever.

With gratitude and joy,

Pastor Andrew

Vaccination Clinic

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

(Please note the date change. The August Herald announced the date as September 14, but it has since been postponed one week due to a scheduling conflict.)

Vaccinations Available: Influenza (Flu) and COVID.

Pre-Registration is Required - Must provide: Driver’s License or ID and Insurance Card or Medicare/Medicaid card.

Contact Stephanie Mori-Nakao (gsnakao@aol.com) for registration forms and information on additional shots. 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!

Nominating Committee

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

The Nominating Committee is looking to install 2-3 Elders, 3-4 Deacons, and 2-3 Trustees for the 2026-28 term at a congregational meeting to be held around the end of September.

We especially need volunteers for the Board of Deacons. Thank you to those who have already agreed to serve. Please consider taking a turn to participate on one of the boards. We would love to have you!

Please contact one of the committee members if you have questions or are willing to serve. Committee members are Jan Aramaki, Elaine Iwasaki, Julee Mori, Allyn Nakashima, Pastor Andrew Fleishman, and Nancy Umemura.

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 Louie Family

A new prayer meeting has started up and is held each Sunday just before worship service, from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m. All are welcome.

Also remember, a 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.

Trustees Update

Submitted by Pauline Vosburgh, VP of Trustees

The congregation should be aware that the demolition and widening reconstruction of our ADA ramp behind the chapel has commenced.

This project has begun, but please note that while we can still use the back door to enter/exit the chapel, the ramp area is closed and blocked off at this time. Please be careful since there are currently large mounds of dirt/wood debris piled up in the courtyard that will likely be there until the ramp is completely rebuilt.

We've also asked Namba Construction to fix the numerous cracks in the courtyard as well as the broken areas of the sidewalk under the breezeway.

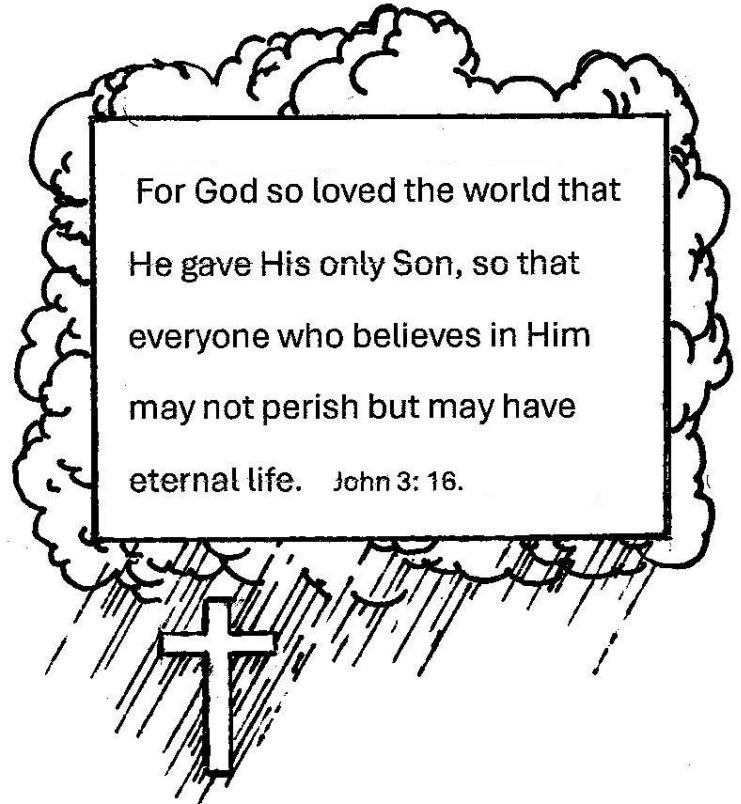
The other major issue with the property is the non-working air conditioning system in the Fellowship Hall, most particularly in the office areas of that building. We are having some HVAC contractors come in to evaluate the entire system next week who will hopefully provide us with the best, most cost-effective options to fix/resolve this problem long term. We appreciate everyone's patience, especially Pastor Andrew, Patty Price and others who use the offices the most, as we work through this process.

The Trustees continue to follow-up and work on the other items remaining to be completed such as replacement of the chapel front door closers, breezeway lighting and gutter systems and replacement of the soffits along the roofline of the Fellowship Hall and breezeway.

Finally, the Trustees, along with the Session and members of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, continue to participate in meetings about Japantown. These meetings with various community and government leaders, developers and others are helping us hone our voices and develop strategies to preserve our relevance in light of the huge Sports and Entertainment District development taking place around JCC.

We will continue to keep the congregation informed about the progress of the renovation and Japantown projects.

Light Side



Session Report – July 2025

Submitted by Nancy Umemura, Clerk of Session

The Session meeting was held July 30.

We discussed the plans for starting a Sunday morning prayer meeting on Aug. 10, a Building Use Committee meeting on Aug. 10 to streamline the approval process, the back-to-school themed service on Aug. 17, and a fall event highlighting Japantown and reveal the contents of the time-capsule in the chapel building cornerstone.

We approved the Item Donation form provided by the Donation Committee for vetting items that people would like to donate to JCC and approved an update to the signature authorization document.

We discussed Japantown activities, including on-going tours, the cooperation agreement with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple for joint Japantown-related activities and expenses, and the plans for the 300 West pedestrian walkway construction.

We reviewed the Trustees report on the ramp reconstruction and noted that the air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall and office area needs to be repaired.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2025.

Upcoming Community Events

Saturday, September 6, 2025 – Nikkei Senior Center Picnic, Murray Park pavilion 2. 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.

Friday, September 19, 2025 – Japanese Heritage Night at Utah Royals vs. Racing Louisville FC soccer game at America First Field, 8 p.m. Meet and greet team members Mina Tanaka (Japanese National Team) and Aria Nagai (Japanese American professional player). For tickets: [Utah Royals - Tickets](#)

Saturday, October 4, 2025 – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Food Bazaar, 211 West 100 South, 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 11, 2025 – Nikkei Senior Center Luncheon, sponsored by Mount Olympus JAACL chapter. Location - Dai Ichi Ward, 2200 South 900 East, noon.

August Guest Speaker

On Sunday, August 10, 2025, Reverend Nancy Cormack-Hughes gave the morning sermon. Reverend Cormack-Hughes has filled in as guest speaker in the past, and it is always nice to hear her message!

(Photo courtesy: Lorraine Crouse)



PC USA News

Next year’s Presbytery GA (General Assembly) will be held in Milwaukee, WI from June 29 to July 2, 2026. See the following link:

[On the Road to GA - Issue 2 - August 2025 by PCUSA OGA - Issuu](#)



Rummage Sale Recap

A joint rummage sale with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and JCC was held on Saturday, August 23, 2025. Thank you to everyone who brought items to sell (hopefully this was an opportunity to get rid of unneeded/unwanted items in your homes). And thanks to those who supported the sale by helping with set up, selling, and take down.

A special thanks to Jerry Mori and crew for bringing a trailer to move file cabinets and haul items to Goodwill. Finally, we appreciate those that came to the sale and shopped (as they say, one man’s trash is another’s treasure!).



JCC September 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY	2	3 -Preservation Utah tour, 5pm	4	5	6
7 -Prayer Meeting, 9:45am -Communion Service, 10:30am -Deacons Meeting, noon	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 -Prayer Meeting, 9:45am -Worship Service, 10:30am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 -Prayer Meeting, 9:45am -Worship Service, 10:30am -Vaccination Clinic, 11:30am-1:30pm	22	23	24 -Session Meeting, 6pm	25	26 -Parking, FanX	27 -Parking, FanX
28 -Prayer Meeting, 9:45am -Worship Service, 10:30am -Parking, FanX	29	30				

*Calendar current as of Herald printing, 8/25/2025.