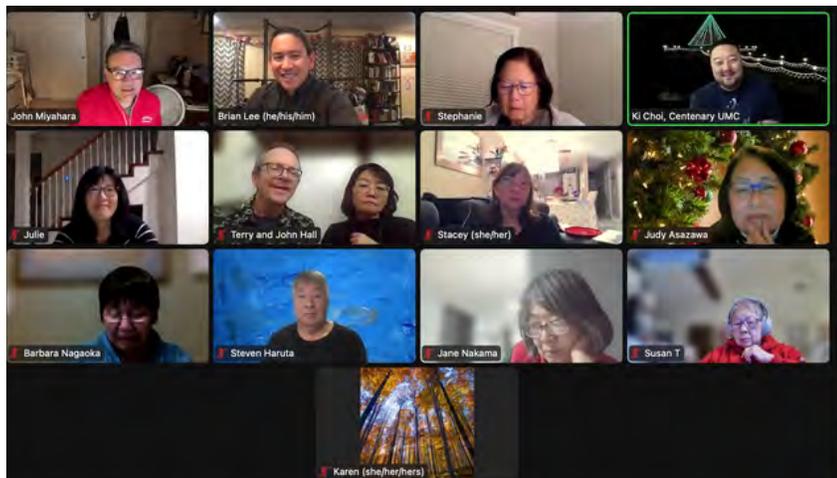


Simpson News

December 2023 | Volume 54 | Number 12

As I write this note to you, I'm making final preparations for my first Christmas Eve services as a clergy person. As we wrap up 2023, I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to all of you for allowing me to serve as your pastor. The Simpson community has experienced a lot of transitions this year, and you all have embodied *ganbaru* as you kept the community going.



During the Advent season, I was reminded of the power of connection. For four weeks, we were a part of the 'An Unlikely Advent' book study with other Japanese American United Methodist Caucus churches that Rev. John Miyahara and I led. We had participants from Colorado, Washington State, and California join together each Tuesday evening to engage in discussion and reflection. It was a delight for me to hear how people were connected to one another. At the end of each session, I was reminded that, indeed, "blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

At the end of each year, there is a transition in the lay leadership of the church. As 2023 comes to a close, I want to thank Jacque Cornish, Dave Powell, and John Hall for their service on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). I want to thank Owen FitzSimons for his leadership as one of the co-chairs of Simpson's Ad Council. In the coming year, Simpson will be trying a single-board governance model. In next month's newsletter, I will introduce you to Simpson's new board. I am grateful that many of the leaders for Simpson next year are folks you may already know and are familiar with.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank you, Rev. Brian



If you want to speak with Rev. Brian, call him at 720-381-4129 or email him at revbrian@simpsonumc.com. While you can always find him at the Simpson building on Sunday mornings, please get in touch with him if you want to meet him in person during the week.

Simpson News and Events

Mochitsuki at Simpson

We want to thank everyone who supported our Mochitsuki by purchasing our mochi. It was a very successful and fun event, and we could not have done it without ALL our volunteers from our Simpson Families and Friends!!

We also want to give a big THANKS to Pacific Mercantile for their support and their generosity. They too are dear partners.

We had extra mochi that we froze, and it can be purchased at Pacific Mercantile in Denver, if you missed us on December 16th.

Sincerely,

Simpson Mochi Committee



Simpson News and Events

Mochitsuki at Simpson



Simpson's Stories

Dean Tsutsui shared the following memory of Simpson's Summer Bible School:

I think we were in elementary school at the time when our mom informed my sister, brother, and I that she enrolled us in the Simpson Church Summer Bible School Program. My brother and sister didn't argue, but I tried all the tricks that I could come up with to get out of going to Bible School. My mom stood her ground and we all ended up going. It was Saturday morning when I entered a small room in the church basement where it was dimly lit. There were only a few of us and I didn't recognize anyone, so, I thought great, I'm going to be stuck in this dimly lit room, I don't know anybody, and this is going to be a long hot summer vacation. All of a sudden, the door opened with this lady carrying a couple of boxes and greeting everybody with a big "Good Morning." I looked at the lady and the same time she looked at me and said "Hi Dean!" and I returned with "Hi Mrs. Goto!"

This was going to be great as I knew Mrs. Goto from playing baseball with two of her sons Roger and Larry. It turned out to be one of my best summers as Mrs. Goto had so many different Bible-related art projects that kept us busy all summer.

Simpson News and Events

Knit and Crochet Group



The Simpson Knit and Crochet Group meets on the third Sunday of the month after Sunday worship in the Memorial Lounge. Many of the group donations provide warmth and love for cancer patients, the elderly and young children.



In addition, Simpson folks are welcome to join the Westminster UMC Prayer Shawl group on the second Tuesday of month at 10 AM in the Memorial Lounge.

Join the Simpson-Westminster Sanctuary Singers



All are welcomed to join the Simpson-Westminster Choir. The choir will rehearse in the Sanctuary at 9:15 AM on Sundays. If you interested in singing or know someone who might be, you may contact Judy Sapegin at orffgm@comcast.net.

Seeking Volunteers for Worship

Are you interested in helping with worship? On the table in the Nichigo Sanctuary you will find sign ups for Liturgist/Lay Reader, Ushers, and Technology Assistants. We will do training and help anyone to help you join in.

If you would like to Rev. Brian at revbrian@simpsonumc.com.

Doumo Arigatou Gozaimasu

We are grateful for the many ways people support our church with generous gifts. Our tradition is to publicly thank those who give special gifts. Please note that as some prefer to donate anonymously, this is not a complete list of donors. Giving information as of December 18th, 2023.

In Memory of:

Mitchell Hamai

Walt Sagara

Stacey Marquess, Mother Toshie Furuiye,
& Grandmother Tamaye Furuiye

Given by:

Dan Hamai

Ruth Shinto

Carol Yamamoto



In Celebration of:

Tommy & Meg

Given by:

Carol & Owen FitzSimons

Thanksgiving

- Masako Furuiye

Christmas

- George & Ruth Kawamura
- Carol Yamamoto
- Mae Ida
- Calvin Yukihiro

Simpson's Stories

Charlotte Namba shared some memories of Simpson folks important to her:

My memories of Mary Nishiyama, the General, are many. She was my guru! Mary was so dedicated to Simpson and ran our Food Bazaars, Hina Matsuri and many other activities. I first met her at the High Street UMC back in 1960. Mary talked me into teaching Sunday School, taking minutes at the Ad Council, etc. She was single when we first met and we did so many churchy things, bowled together and just ran around a lot having fun. I miss her smile.

I have been around Simpson for so many years that I have many appreciated members. Sam Matsumoto, father of Paula, took Ken and myself under his wings when we were first married. Sam sold New York Life insurance policies and he was the one who taught us about life and securities. Sam and 5 or 6 other men ran Simpson with Rev. Paul Hagiya. The rest of us could sit back and not worry about anything.

Favorite Pastor – Rev. Paul Hagiya. I remember when our first child was born, Rev. Paul, came to the hospital and we were standing at the nursery window when one of the nurses asked if he was the grandfather. We all laughed but we also felt so close to Rev. Paul, he could have been a wonderful grandfather!

The Gift of Poinsettias

Given by:

Carol Beier
Megan Burg
Neal & Sheryl Blythe

Jackie Carlson

Mary Charmichael
Jacqueline Cornish, Karla Cornish
Kazuko Dishong
Barbara R. Gross
Hiroko Hansen
Anna & Tom Hurley

Laura Nokes Lang
Paul Langley
Jamie MacKinnon & Mike Woodyard
Paula Matsumoto

The Miyahara Family
Jane Nakama
Charlotte & Ken Namba

Orin Nobbe
Shena & Todd Redmond
Judy Sapegin
Stacey Shigaya
Forrest Trimbell
Gwen Vallejo

Given by:

Brian Lee
Robin Miyahara

Given by:

Carol Beier
Neal & Sheryl Blythe

Laura Nokes Lang
Jamie MacKinnon & Mike Woodyard
Earlene Maldonado

Gwen Vallejo

Given by:

Shelley Cadwallader
Julia Kamura
Noelle Maynell
Karen Padrick
Marybeth Rule

In Memory of:

Doug Beier
Marta Burg, Carol Dey
Neal Blythe's parents, our
grandparents and Rodney Blythe
Parents & Brother, John & Marie Geiss,
Michael Geiss
Richard & Kurt Charmichael
Uncle Tony Sandoval, Clifford Cornish
Reiko Urano
Richard & Pauline Gross
Dr. and Mrs. K. Miyamoto
Our daughter, Ronda Keveles. Our
parents Ethel & Charles Bonnel &
Shirley & Mike Hurley
My son, Keith Nokes
My parents, Paul E. & Aleda Langley
Our Parents
Sam and Doris Matsumoto, Kristine
Motoyoshi, Kelly Dolezal and all my
wonderful pets
Drs. Flo and Ben Miyahara
Mary & Naoye Suzuki
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miyoshi
Mr. and Mrs. S. Namba
Lynda Lee Nobbe
Our grandparents
Nick Sapegin, Trenetta Robertson
Doug & Ruby Sagara
Thomas & Kathleen Trimbell
Mom & Dad

In Celebration of:

Simpson & Westminster UMCs
Ava Miyahara

In Honor of:

Jean Beier
Sheryl's parents, our children
and grandchildren
My daughter, Melanie Nokes
Our children
Children: Janet, Lori, & Brian
Grandchildren: Echo,
Dezirue, Carter & Eric
Children: Philip & William



Upcoming Events and Opportunities at Simpson!

Worship Schedule

- January 7th at 10 AM (Communion Sunday)
- January 14th at 10 AM
- January 21st at 10 AM
- January 28th at 10 AM
- February 4th at 10 AM (Communion Sunday)
- February 11th at 10 AM
- February 18th at 10 AM (Day of Remembrance Service)
- February 25th at 10 AM

You can come to worship in-person or virtually by using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87520951862?pwd=VUZlQkNMd2ZvSTZYVVd0eEliUVZkQT09>

Other Events and Dates to Remember

- January 14th at 8:30 AM - Making Breakfast Casseroles for Mission Arvada
- January 21st at 11:15 AM - Knit and Crochet Group
- February 2024 - JAUMC Lenten Book Study.
- March 2nd and 3rd from 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM - Hina Matsuri
- March 31st at 10 AM - Easter Sunday

Join the weekly email list to stay up-to-date with what's happening at Simpson. You can fill out this form <https://bit.ly/SimpsonEmailList> or email Rev. Brian at revbrian@simpsonumc.com.



You can always find out what's happening at Simpson by checking the calendar on the website. The link to the calendar is

<https://www.simpsonumc.com/calendar/>.

If you would like to have an event put on the calendar, please email events@simpsonumc.com with your information!