

Centenary Chimes

NEWSLETTER

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

Pastor's Pen

Happy New Year! One of the most important traditions of the Methodist church is the Covenant Prayer. Having been influenced by the writings of Richard Alleine, a puritan, John Wesley began to celebrate covenant services to inspire people to periodically dedicate and rededicate themselves to God. Over the years, Methodists began to hold covenant services with watch nights, typically on New Year's Eve, to renew their faith, and they were expected to recite the Covenant Prayer. The following is the modern version of the prayer:



Rev. Sunyoung Lee

*I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in
heaven.
Amen.*

I have found this prayer to be a wonderful reminder - a reminder of who I am before God and as a representative of Christ in this world. What humbling words are these to declare that this life of mine does not belong to me but to God, my Creator? What a beautiful expression it is to say that I'm willing to be brought low for God and be put to suffering so that the glory of God be made known? These words ground me as I seek to continually dedicate my life to serve Christ and his mission.

In this new year, may you find a quiet corner and the appropriate time to say this Covenant Prayer as you renew your relationship with God, because this world of ours needs every one of us to be an active follower of Christ.

Celebrating

Mary A. Saito turned 101 years old on December 13, 2018

Prayers

Please pray for the healing and recovery of:

Mary Enomoto
Yuko Kondo
Yoichi Serizawa

We lift up prayers for these persons and families:
In remembrance of these saints who now rest from their labor...

Mary Kurushima, a long time faithful and active member of our church family, passed away on December 5, 2018. A memorial service was held at Centenary officiated by Reverend Sunyoung Lee, District Superintendent Mark Nakagawa, and Bishop Grant Hagiya on January 5, 2019.

Rodney Kageyama, a beloved figure in the Japanese American community, passed away on December 9, 2018. Rodney will be greatly missed.

Migiwa Takahashi (Bernard), a faithful member of the Japanese Language Section passed away on December 11, 2018.

Denny Sunabe, husband of Julie and son-in-law of the late Sam Miyamoto, passed away on Tuesday, December 11, 2018.

Ruth Kiralfy of Georgia, grandmother of David (Randi) Davis, passed away at 101 years old. She was still traveling up to last year. She has visited Centenary in the past.

Vicky (Kiki) Uyemura, we offer prayers her family for the passing of her mother.

Seiko Nakayama, Prayers for the family of this long time member who passed away on December 24, 2018. A small private service will be held on Friday, February 1st at Green Hills Memorial Park officiated by Rev. Mark Nakagawa.

Our most sincerest condolences to the families on the passing of their loved ones.

ENRICH EMPOWER IMPACT

Upcoming Church Events

- Jan. 6 (Sun.) Church Council meeting / Taiko practice
- Jan. 12 (Sat.) Wise Up! 2 – 6 p.m. Join us for a day of fun, fellowship, and learning! We have dinner, games, and interesting workshops led by wonderful presenters. Call the church or check our website for more info.
- Jan. 13 (Sun.) Ushers & Greeters workshop / All-You-Can-Eat Mochi lunch served by the Nihongobu
- Jan. 16 (Wed.) Youth Ministry “Expressions” 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 20 (Sun.) Arigato Bazaar meeting, 12 noon / Board of Trustees meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- Jan. 27 (Sun.) 80/88 yr. old potluck luncheon
- Feb. 3 (Sun) Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch / VIP Meeting 12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 2 (Sat.) West District Leadership @ Holman UMC / Taiko drum workshop
- Feb. 6 (Wed) Youth Ministry “Expressions” 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20 (Wed) Youth Ministry “Expressions” 6 – 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23 (Sat.) Taiko Beginners workshop, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Feb. 24 (Sun.) Praise English Worship 10:45 a.m./Arigato Bazaar meeting, 12:30 p.m.

Regular Events

- Sunday Mornings:
Japanese Language Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. with Rev. Ryohei Kawano
English Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. with Dennis Park
English Worship, 10:45 a.m. with Rev. Sunyoung Lee
Japanese Bible Study, 11 a.m.
Monday Night Bible Study, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday Night Praise Band Practice, 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Thursday Eastside Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.

Mission Project



Blankets were collected to distribute to the homeless living on the streets around Centenary.

Acknowledgements

Donations November 18, 2018 - December 16, 2018

SPECIAL OFFERING

Asazawa, Judy - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Bernard, Migwa - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Date, Janice - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Doomey, John and Elizabeth - Thanks to CUMC for all that you do for the community
Hamasaki, Nagisa - Thanks for Thanksgiving dinner
Haruta, Jan and Steve - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Hasegawa, Ron - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Hayashi, Karin - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Koike, Mui and Clifford - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Koo, Susie - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Kuruma, Harry - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Leon, Vicky - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Masada, Randall - Thanksgiving Dinner project

MEMORIALS

Fukute, Kathy, Ricky and Greg - In memory of Eugene Fukute
Iwasaki, Sumi - In memory of Naomi "Nails" Iwasaki
Jew, Lily - In memory of Irene Nishimuro Ryan
Kitashima, Moonza - In memory of NortKitashima, Kiyoto Maruyama Family, Fumi Nakamura, Mutsuko Nakamura, Fumi Maruyama
Koike, Mui and Clifford - In loving memory of Mary Kurushima
Kurushima, Brian - In memory of Masato "Eddy" Kurushima
Matsuno, Lori - In memory of Mrs. Kurushima
Matsuoka, Dassie - Christmas remembrance for parents Tome and Taneo Yasunaga and sister Mary Maruyama

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

Ochi, Shigeru and May
Oyama, Wendell and Jane
Rivera, Ernie and Jane
Sadamitsu, Mark and Kathy
Saruwatari, Ray and Mits
Shohara, Hisako
Sugamura, Terry
Takashima, Emi
Terukina, George and Naomi
Togawa, Fred and Kaz
Tokunaga, Asao and Carolyn
Uyemura, Vicky
Wada, Ayako
Wada, Marion
Zaima, Carole

Nishinaka, Angel - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Nobori, Marilyn and Alan - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Sadamitsu, Kathy and Mark - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Suzuki, Lorraine - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Takashima, Emi - Thanksgiving Dinner project
Thomas, Darcine - Thanks to Centenary for Christmas caroling in Little Tokyo
Tokunaga, Carolyn - In honor of Elston and Verna Carr
Tokunaga, Carolyn - In appreciation of Wesley and Martha Nishinaka for nurturing Centenary's community connections
Tokunaga, Carolyn - Celebrating Vicky Leon's passionate belief that the Sunday fellowship lunches are an important ministry and her work to assure they happen
Tokunaga, Carolyn - Celebrating Gloria O'Brien's faithful service

Nishitsuji, Linda - In memory of Jim and Agnes Nishitsuji
Nishitsuji, Linda - In memory of Roy Saito
Okazaki, Joyce - In memory of Gen and Yae Nakamura
Onishi, Randy and Susan - In memory of Mary M. Saito
Teraoka, Janice - In memory of Mary Kurushima
Tokunaga, Carolyn - In memory of Mary Kurushima
Wong, France - In memory of Mary Kurushima
Yamanaka, Laura - In memory of JitokNakama

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Fukunaga, Lily
Hirama, Patty
Kamon, Barbara
Kimoto, Marye
Miyazaki, Shu and Lynn
Nakagawa, Mark and Pam
Okuda, Sakae
Onishi, Randy and Susan
Sasaki, Skeeter and Carole
Senzaki, Norman and Susan
Serizawa, Yoichi
Tadakuma, Ray and Fumi
Takahata, Suzuko
Tamaki, Paul
Tanimoto, Tetsu and Kathy
Uragami, Stanley
Wada, Marion
Whittemore, Chieko
Yamanaka, Russell and Barbara
Yanagawa, Florence

An Advent Reflection

by Carolyn Tokunaga

“Advent calls us to slow down and prepare. In a world of darkness and violence, the church proclaims a message of light and hope. In a world of divisions and fear, the coming of the Christ child reminds us of the healing power of love.” (United Methodist Communication)

It was during the Season of Advent in 1941 that Pearl Harbor was bombed. In the United States, people of Japanese ancestry were vilified and the seeds of incarceration were planted. Within a few months, over 100,000 people, the majority U.S. citizens, were moved into camps. Ultimately, the action was deemed unnecessary, an apology issued, but the incarceration of ethnic groups is an idea that won't die and is proposed often and is implemented in some form as an easy solution to complex problems. The rhetoric today has the same racial undertones that led to the WWII Evacuation.

In Hawaii, the area that was bombed, a place where hysteria should have been the highest, Christ's message of love prevailed. A few years before Pearl Harbor, civilian activists Hung Wai Ching, Shigeo Yoshida, and Charles Loomis, formed the Committee for Interracial Unity. With close ties to their respective communities and with broad ties beyond their ethnic groups, they worked to build bridges across racial divides and forge friendships among the people. When War Authority leaders arrived in Hawaii with the task of building camps and incarcerating the Japanese, they found a situation that could not be manipulated with the tactics of fear and racism. When people know each other, reach out to one another, Christ's message of love encompasses all.

9/11 brought the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to our shores and with it the same hysteria that followed the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The hateful rhetoric, the condemnation of a whole group of people, the generalization that all Muslims were terrorists paralleled the experiences of the Japanese Community. Recalling the events after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese-American community mobilized. Letters were written by organizations and individuals and published in Opinion sections opposing the suggested government actions of registration and incarceration.

JANM held a community forum that gave Muslims a place to share their stories after 9/11. We heard that community leaders were rounded up. Voluntary registrations lead to detentions, families slept on hallway floors. Participants shared their fears, mistreatment, and uncertainties with an audience that understood their ordeal. Religious communities also worked to build bridges. Jihad Tuck of the Islamic Center was invited to Centenary. The Los Angeles District held workshop sessions to eliminate misconceptions and to help us better understand the religion of Islam. —(Allah is the God of Abraham, our God, the Quran includes many of the stories and people found in our Bible.) Love and care are at the core of Muslim belief. After the San Bernadino shootings, the multi-ethnic group Vigilant Love was organized to maintain the conversations and to continue the connections of Muslim groups to the larger community.

The horror of evacuation was once again revived as the news stories and pictures of immigrant children separated from their families at the borders were published. Tent camps, fenced cages, open shelters, records lost or misplaced are reminders of what happens when hysteria and racism direct our actions. Old ideas constantly seem to be resurrected no matter how wrong they were – “it was done before” seems to make it right in the minds of some.

One person at a time, one friendship, one acquaintance breaks down barriers, promotes understanding and removes labels. The world of peace and harmony promised by the birth of the Christ Child can be built when we allow him to enter our lives and push us to reach out to bridge our differences and recognize the good in all. Advent is a time for reflection... a time to consider our actions in fulfilling the promise brought to us by the birth of Jesus.

January 12, 2019 at Centenary United Methodist Church
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
A Centenary family event – FREE dinner, games, and workshops

Workshop Session Topics

- Cybersecurity – protection for home computers, home networks, and personal information in the age of the internet/cloud led by Eric Meyers, V-CIO, and IT Project Manager
- Helpful Hints in Reading the Bible – led by Rev. Sunyoung Lee
- Funeral Planning – yours or a loved one – led by representative from Fukui Mortuary
- Cooking with Wendell – 2 sessions, one kid-friendly, one adults only, led by Wendell Oyama, Centenary UMC “resident chef”
- Games – for kids of all ages, led by Heidi Sasaki, Middle School Science teacher
- Self Defense Tips – 2 sessions, one kid-friendly, one for adults led by Art Ishii, Karate Sensei, Matsubayashi Shorin-Ryu Dojo

2:00 Registration
2:15 Welcome
2:30 1st Session
3:30 Break

3:45 2nd Session
4:45 Fellowship
5:15 Dinner
6:00 Departure

Centenary UMC, 300 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles 90013, 213-617-9097
Sign Up NOW on website centenarydtla.org
or facebook Centenary United Methodist Church, DTLA

Christmas Worship



Finances

Giving report for November and December 2018 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	Nov-Dec Actual	Nov-Dec Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Pledges (1)	\$50,014	\$25,667	\$167,141	\$154,000
Unpledged Giving (2)	\$10,408	\$5,974	\$49,294	\$35,850
Thanksgiving	\$7,093	\$6,200	\$7,168	\$6,200
Christmas	\$9,991	\$11,000	\$10,141	\$11,000
Anniversary	\$140	--	\$4,055	\$2,000
Easter	--	--	\$10,973	\$9,200
TOTAL	\$77,646	\$48,841	\$248,772	\$218,250
Apportionments & Quotas	\$10,916	\$10,916	\$65,499	\$65,499

(1) Actual Pledge totals include 2019 prepaid pledges of \$19,390
 (2) Actual Unpledged Giving totals include In Memoriams of \$16,435

Hanging of the Greens



Flower Arranging Class





Centenary United Methodist Church
300 South Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90013

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