

Pastors Pen



Rev. Sunyoung Lee

Dear Centenary Family and Friends:

Our denomination, The United Methodist Church, just held a special session of the General Conference in St. Louis, mainly to discern the Church's position on the LGBTQ+ matters. FYI, the General Conference is the legislative body that sets the laws of the United Methodist Church. Several plans were presented to the body and in the end, the Traditional Plan, which excludes the ordination of LGBTQ+ clergy and the same-sex marriage in the Church, got endorsed by the majority. Now we are waiting to hear from the Judicial Council, basically our Supreme Court, to see if this plan, in totality, is constitutional for our Church. (However, even before the General Conference started, the Judicial Council have already declared the Traditional Plan as unconstitutional. The supporters of the plan were busily making amendments at General Conference this past week to make it in compliance with the UMC constitution, but it is highly unlikely that the Judicial Council will declare the totality of the amended Traditional Plan to be constitutional.)

I, along with many of my colleagues and friends, have been praying for the One Church Plan to pass, so that we can remove the official stance that is oppressive and harmful to our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, the past several days has been extremely painful and excruciating as the updates from the General Conference were rolling in. Words cannot adequately express the sorrow and brokenness that I'm feeling, but this intensity and the level of my grief doubtlessly don't even surmount to the anguish and agony that our LGBTQ+ sisters and brothers are surely experiencing.

As I witnessed from afar, the words that Jesus spoke on the cross in his final moments found their place in my mouth: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34 NRSV). I do not come from a place of judgment to point a finger at any particular group of people within our denomination. For I know that I, too, am a sinner in constant need of God's grace. All I know is that the Traditional Plan does not seem to model the radical inclusive love of God that I have personally experienced in my life. As the season of Lent approaches, we, as The UMC, would need to confess our sins before God as we reflect on the harm that this special session of the General Conference has caused.

So what does this mean for Centenary? This action of the General Conference does not and will not change our day-to-day ministry here in Little Tokyo. We will continue to be that welcoming church on the corner of 3rd and Central, where everybody and anybody, regardless of their sexual orientation, race, class, gender, language,



Upcoming Church Events

March 3 (Sun) SPRC meeting / Taiko practice

March 6 (Wed) Ash Wednesday Services, 12 noon & 5:30 p.m.

Please join us to start the Holy Season of Lent in preparation for Easter.

Youth Ministry "Expressions", 6 – 7:30 p.m.

March 10 (Sun) Finance Committee meeting
March 17 (Wed) Arigato Bazaar meeting
March 20 (Wed) Youth Ministry "Expressions"
March 24 (Sun) Worship Committee meeting

March 31 (Sat) Praise Worship

April 3 (Wed) Youth Ministry "Expressions"
April 7 (Sun) Church Council meeting
April 14 (Sun) Palm Sunday Service, 10:45 a.m.

Arigato Bazaar meeting, 12:30 p.m.

April 17 (Wed) Youth Ministry "Expressions"

April 18 (Thu) Maundy Thursday, Dinner with Communion at 6 p.m. Please join us as we retell the story

of Jesus' last meal with his friends.

April 19 (Fri) Good Friday Service, 5 p.m. Come join us as we gather to recall Jesus' final moments.

April 21 (Sun) Easter Sunday Breakfast, Easter breakfast will be served from 8 – 9:30 a.m.

Joint Easter Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Let us celebrate the glory of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Regular Church Events

Sunday Mornings:

- + Japanese Language Personal Prayer Time, 8 a.m. in Chapel
- + Nihongo Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. with Rev. Ryohei Kawano
- + English Bible Study, 9:30 a.m., Dennis Park
- + English Worship Service, 10:45 a.m. with Rev. Sunyoung Lee
- + Japanese Bible Study, 11:15 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.

Arigato Bazaar

May 4th, Saturday 10 A.M. – **5** P.M.

10 A.M. – 5 P.M.

Bring your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers
Delicious Food, Entertainment, and Prizes
Asian Chicken Salad, Char Siu Bao, Baked Goods & Strawberry Shortcake,
Kalbi Short Ribs, Teriyaki Half Chicken Plate, Chicken Tacos,
Manju, Udon, Sushi, Chiraishi
Silent Auction / Country Store / Handcrafted Booth

Vision Implementation Team Corner

Centenary's Vision Implementation Team (VIT) is a committee of the church tasked to explore and create new ministries that will carry out our mission "Enrich, Empower, Impact" and provide our members and friends the opportunity to "Touch Heaven and Change Earth" (our vision for Centenary). In the VIT meeting, February 10, 2019, we implemented a new feature for the Chimes, a "VIT Corner" where we will keep our church community

- 1. informed of current opportunities for ministry participation and
- 2. informed of new ministries being considered for which all members and friends can add suggestions and take part in.

As you read "VIT Corner" each month feel free to suggest ministries that you would like to see happen at Centenary. See VIT chair Judge Ernie Hiroshige or Rev. Sunyoung Lee.

Centenary Participates in Oportunidad

One long running mission project has been our support of La Oportunidad. This store front ministry is an outreach center that serves the Spanish-speaking LGBTQ community, predominately homeless, immigrant men in the Pico-Union area of Los Angeles. Cup of Noodles and coffee is available every day to all in need. Once a week a large pot of soup with chicken legs is cooked to feed the hungry at MacArthur Park. On the fourth Wednesday of every month, Ray Mayeda delivers the chicken legs that were purchased by Carolyn Tokunaga and the vegetables purchased by Gail Nishinaka to the Oportunidad site. Julia Garcia, the director, prepares the soup on a hot plate and with help from the clients, transports the huge pot of soup on a rolling cart to the park. It is a welcome hot meal.

La Oportunidad operates on a shoestring budget. They are in need of Cup of Noodles (serve 26 cases a week) and monetary donations (checks to Centenary with Oportunidad on memo line). Ray, Carolyn, and Gail could also use others to help with purchasing and delivery. If you are interested see Carolyn for more details.



Students from Otani University in Kyoto, Japan visiting Centenary.

Acknowledgements

Donations December 17, 2018 - February 17, 2019

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Abe, Paul Akiyoshi, Ruth Aochi, Yas& Joyce Asazawa, Judy Baba, Duane Burrell, Toshiko Carlos, Florencio & Arelia Chin, Rose Choi, Kyung-Hee Doi, Clifford & Mi Emoto, Hiroshi & Junko Forgey, Rich & Lori Fujita, Richard & Kathy Furukawa, Larry Furuno, Roger & Wendy Furuta, Sandee Goerke, Dorothy Griffin, Takeko Hagiya, Yoshie Haruta, Steve and Jan Hasegawa, Ron & Sonoko Hayashi, Karin Hayashida, Ron Helm, Shoko Hirama, Patty Hirashima, Margie Hiroshige, Ernest Homjo, Osamu & Linda Hubbard, Kevin and Julie Imoto, Takafumi& Susan Kamon, Barbara Kaplan, Dolly Kasuyama, Terry Kato, Haruko Kawabe, Alice & Paul Kawahara, Denby & Sets

Keimi, Albert & Amy Kimoto, Marye Kimura, Fumihisa & Yukiko Kitabayashi, Setsuko Kiyomoto, Utako Koike, Clifford and Mui Kondo, Shig & Yuko Kubo, Ruth Kunishige, Dora Kuroki, Takeshi & Ritsuko Kuruma, Harry and Carole Kuruma, Joyce Kurushima, Brian Kushino, Dick & Frances Kusumi, Grace Lee, Janet & Steven Lee, Rev. Sunyoung Leon, Victoria Lew, Arline Lew, Victor and Cynthia Liu, Yvonne Manabe, Louise Mano, Irene Maruyama, Mark Matsumoto, Terry & Jane Matsuno, Barbara Minabe, Setsuko Minami, Ken & Ellen Miya, Keiko Miyake, Masako Miyaoka, Masashi & Grace Miyazaki, Shu & Lynn Morita, Albert & Pauline Murakami, Douglas & Ruth

Murata, Hideo and Marian Nakagawa, Mark and Pamela Nakajima, Mary Nakano, Elaine & Hiramoto, Grant Nishi, Ken & Shari Nishinaka, Angel Nishinaka, Mark & Cynthia Nishinaka, Robert and Gail Nobori, Alan & Marilyn O'Brien, Patrick and Gloria Oba, Eugene Obata, Emi Oekawa, Mariko Okada, Dorothea Okuda, Sakae Onishi, Randall & Susan Onoye, Kathy Osaka, Bessie Oyama, Jonathan Oyama, Wendell and Jane Park, Dennis Pena, Patricia Pinto, Art Quon, Betty Rivera, Ernie & Jane Sadamitsu, Mark& Kathy Saito, Mary A. Saito, Toshiko Saruwatari, Ray & Mits Sasaki, Akira & Carole Sasaki, Todd & Joyce Senzaki, Norman & Susan

Shirai, Darren Shohara, Hisako Sugamura, Terry Sugano, Dean Tadakuma, Ray & Fumi Takagi, Barbara Takahata, Suzuko Takashima, Emi Takasugi, Tsuneo & Tomoko Takata, Ruth Tamaki, Dr. Ben Tamaki, Susan Tanisaki, Jun & Chi Fung Terukina, George & Naomi Togawa, Fred & Kaz Togino, Susan Tokunaga, Asao and Carolyn Tsuda, Wayne & Ann Uemura, Yuki Ujiiye, Donna Uyemura, Vicky Vensel, Kris & Robin Wada, Ayako Wada, Marion Wong, France Yamaki, June Yamamoto, Kenji & Hideko Yamamoto, Tim & Tomoko Yamanaka, Laura Yamanaka, Russell & Barbara Yanagawa, Florence Yasui, Emmie Yonemoto, Mary Yun, Jake & Yoko

Zaima, Carole

THANKSGIVING

Burrell, Toshiko
Choi, Kyung-Hee
Emoto, Hiroshi & Junko
Griffin, Takeko
Hasegawa, Ron & Sonoko
Honjo, Osamu & Linda
Kato, Haruko

Kimura, Fumihisa& Yukiko

Kawano, Ryohei & Ryoko

Kitabayashi, Setsuko Kiyomoto, Utako Kondo, Shig& Yuko Kuroki, Takeshi &Ritsuko Oekawa, Mariko Takahashi, Migiwa Yamamoto, Kenji & Hideko Yamamoto, Tim & Tomoko

Yun, Jake & Yoko

Serizawa, Yoichi

Shiokari, Mark

MEMORIALS

Adachi, Joyce In memory of Masako Kaku Asazawa, Judy In memory of Mary Kurushima Asazawa, Judy In memory of Denny Sunabe Asazawa, Judy In memory of Kiki's mother (Mrs. Uyemura) Asazawa, Judy In memory of Rodney Kageyama Asazawa, Judy In memory of Ruth Kiralfy (Davis' grandmother) Cavazos, Jody and Alfred In memory of Mary Kurushima Centenary UMW In memory of Mary Kurushima Chin, Michael and Elaine In memory of Mary Kurushima Choi, Thomas In memory of Mary Kurushima Coombs, Michael and Wendi In memory of Mary Kurushima Co-workers of Denise Okamura In memory of Mary Kurushima Date, Kiki and Jun In memory of Mary Kurushima Ezaki Jr., Tom In memory of Mary Kurushima Friends of Brian, Jeff and Denise In memory of Mary Kurushima Fukunaga, Lily In memory of Mary Kurushima Haruta, Steve and Jan In memory of Rodney Kageyama Hawkins Family and Ashley Yamashita In memory of Mary Kurushima Hayashi, Karin In memory of Mary Kurushima Hayashi, Karin In memory of Rodney Kageyama Hubbard, Kevin and Julie Christmas in memory of Emi Serizawa Kawabe, Alice and Paul Christmas donation to Issei division in memory of Shizu and George M. Shima Kunishige, Dora In memory of Mary Kurushima Kuramoto, Frances and Ford In memory of Dennis Nishimura Kuruma, Harry and Carole In memory of Mary Kurushima Kurushima, Brian In memory of Toshiko Uyemura Kurushima Family In memory of Mary Kurushima in appreciation and gratitude of Family and Friends Kushino, Richard and Frances In memory of Mary Kurushima Lew, Arline In memory of Mary Kurushima Masumiya, Kimberly In memory of IsoeTerasawa Masumiya, Kimberly In memory of Tosh Terasawa Mataga, Margaret In memory of Mr and Mrs Tom K. Tara Mataga, Margaret In memory of Albert Tam Matsuno, Lori In memory of Mary Kurushima Matsuno, Lori In memory of Vicky Uyemura's Mom Matthias, Denise In loving memory of Migiwa Bernard

Miyake, Masako In memory of Mary Kurushima
Miyake, Robert In memory of Mary Kurushima
Miyashiro-Sonoda, Theresa In memory of Mary Kurushima
Miyazaki, Lynn and Shu In memory of Mary Kurushima
Miyazaki, Lynn and Shu In memory of Mary Kurushima
Miyazaki, Jeff In memory of Mary Kurushima
Nakagawa, Mark In memory of Shizuko Nakagawa
Nakajima, Mary In memory of Mary Kurushima
Nishimura, Kirk In memory of Tom, Mary, Lin Saruwatari
Nishimura, Kirk In memory of Kay Sato
Nishimura, Kirk In memory of Love Ones
Nishimura, Kirk and Pam In loving memory of Mike
and Fumi Nishimura

Nishinaka, Robert and Gail In memory of Mary Kurushima Nishinaka, Robert and Gail In memory of Rodney Kageyama Nobori, Marilyn In memory of Rodney Kageyama Nobori, Alan and Marilyn In memory of Aiko's 15th memorial Oba, Gary and Cromwell, Janet In memory of Mary Kurushima Onishi, Randy and Susan In memory of Mary Kurushima Oyama, Wendell and Jane In memory of Mary Kurushima Oyama, Wendell and Jane n memory of Rodney Kageyama Oyama, Wendell and Jane In memory of Tomita Nakayama Ozaki, Georgianne and Family In memory of Mary Kurushima Rivera, Ernie and Jane In memory of Mary and Eddy Kurushima Roberts, Rose In memory of Mary Kurushima Sadamitsu, Mark and Kathy In memory of Mary Kurushima Shimotsu, Stan and Jane In loving memory of Mary Kurushima Sugita, Dennis and Janet In memory of Mary Kurushima Suzuki, Kiyoe In memory of Hirohisa Suzuki Tokunaga, Carolyn In memory of Rodney Kageyama Watanabe, June In memory of Mary Kurushima Wong, France In memory of Marion Chun Wong, France In memory of Rodney Kageyama Wong, France In memory of Dennis Park's former wife Yamaguchi, Ted and Lily n memory of Mary Kurushima Yamaka, Lillian In memory of Mary Kurushima Yamashiro, Ron In memory of Mary Kurushima Yamashita, George and Carol In memory of Mary Kurushima Yang, Kay and Richard In memory of Mary Kurushima

SPECIAL OFFERING

Asazawa, Judy n celebration of my mother's 100th birthday Asazawa, Judy Kid City Chandler, Madeline Blessing from the Chandler Family Edwards, Susan Multiple donations toward building maintenance Fujimoto, Nobuko Holiday special offering Ed Inouye Family Special offering thank you Kato, Haruko Birthday special offering Kimura, Yikiko & Fumihisa Birthday/Anniversary special offering Kuruma, Harry and Carole Kid City Brian Kurushima Kid City Lee, Pastor Sunyoung Birthday thank you Leon, Vicky Kid City Lew, Victor & Cynthia 100th birthday celebration for Masako Miyake Lew, Arline Kid City Maruyama, Mark Christmas special offering Miyake, Masako In celebration of my 100th birthday. Praise the Lord! Miyashiro-Sonoda, Theresa Kid City Morris, Tom and Julia 100th Birthday celebration for Masako Miyake Nguyen, Kristi Special Offering Nishinaka, Angel Kid City Nishinaka, Robert & Gail Special offering for new member Susan **Edwards** Nobori, Marilyn Kid City O'Brien, Pat, Gloria & Caitlin In appreciation of Pastor Sunnie O'Brien, Pat, Gloria & Caitlin In honor of our Auntie Masako Miyake's 100th birthday Saito, Mary 100th birthday celebration for Masako Miyake Sasaki, Todd Mochi lunch Takagi, Barbara Christmas special offering Tanigawa, Clifford Special Offering Tanimoto, Tetsu & Kathy Special Offering Wong, FranceWise up



80th / 88th / 90+ Birthday Cefebration

Ga no iwai (also known as toshiiwai) is a Japanese rite of passage celebrated at various ages to pray for long life. This tradition was brought to Japan from China, and originally was celebrated once every ten years beginning when one turned 40. Today, we celebrate the 80th year.

The celebration of one's 88th birthday, known as beiju, is an important milestone in one's life. The Japanese characters for 88, when written together, resemble the character for "rice." For the Japanese, it was their food, their life, their livelihood and happiness. An integral and fundamental part of Japanese society, rice symbolized purity and goodness.

Centenary, celebrated the birthdays of all members who will be 80 and 88 during the year 2019 and those over 90. On January 27, everyone enjoyed the delicious potluck, the fellowship, and the opportunity to celebrate with the honorees. We thank the UMW and President Martha Nishinaka for the manju gifts, Mui Koike and Susie Koo for the birthday cake, and all those who helped set up the tables and food.

We honored 80 year olds: Ruth Murakami Skeeter Sasaki

Rev. Hitoshi Yamada (84)

88 year olds: Dick Kushino Junko Ito Grace Miyaoka 90+ year olds: Ray Mayeda (89) Sumi Yonemoto (90) Lily Yamaguchi (90) Angel Nishinaka (90) May Ochi (92 Kumi Shibuya (93) Shigeru Ochi (95)

Yoshie Hagiya (95) Lillian Yamaka (96) Mary Nakajima (99) Hideko Yamamoto (99) Masako Miyake (100) Mary Saito (102) Kenji Yamamoto (102)





Expressions Ministry

The children's ministry Expressions has been meeting for the past 8 months on the first and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Within these 8 months, this ministry has been able to establish a relationship with several families from the community, mainly from the low-income housing project, Casa Heiwa, managed by Little Tokyo Service Center. The children have been attending Expressions on a consistent basis and have started attending other various Centenary activities. During our Expressions meeting, we provide dinner for the children and have given them opportunities to express themselves through an activities such as taiko, karate, crafts, cooking, and singing praise songs. Following the activity, we would have a discussion time about various life lessons. Our discussions have been more and more focused on God and His Word. As time has gone on and the children have become more comfortable with us, it has been so encouraging to listen to these kids open up and share their thoughts and feelings and their faith. They even "argue" to see who will open and close our meeting in prayer. God has truly been watching over this ministry and has blessed us in so many ways. Just recently, Expressions received a \$1,000 grant from the Living into the Foundation (LITFF) which will help pay for majority of the expenses for 2019. We give thanks to this foundation because this grant will allow us to reach out to children in the local community while focusing on living out the Great Commission of going out and making disciples of all nations. Through our church's mission statement, we want to help children ENRICH their lives through different activities, EMPOWER them by strengthening their skills and self-esteem, and allow them to go out and IMPACT the world using the skills and knowledge of what they have learned in Expressions.



"EXPRESSIONS"

6:00 p.m. – Dinner 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. – Program Contact person – Cynthia Nishinaka (213) 617-9097

Wednesday, Feb. 6th and 20th, 2019
Wednesday, March 6th and 20th, 2019
Wednesday, April 3rd and 17th, 2019
Wednesday, May 1st and 15th, 2019
Wednesday, June 5th, 2019
(Only meeting once in June and this date is subject to change)

Wednesday, July 3rd and 17th, 2019
Wednesday, August 7th and 21st, 2019
Wednesday, September 4th and 18th, 2019
Wednesday, October 2nd and 16th, 2019
Wednesday, November 6th and 27th, 2019
(Moved date to Nov. 27th. It is the Thanksgiving Project)
Wednesday, December 4th and 18th, 2019



Blankets for the Homeless

On Christmas Eve and in the wee hours of Christmas Day, Centenary and community members walked the streets of Skid Row delivering blankets to the homeless. This simple gesture of caring added physical and heartfelt warmth to a cold night on the streets.

Skid Row-Kyo Mission* reached out to the Little Tokyo Community for blanket donations during their Christmas Craft Day and Little Tokyo Christmas Caroling. Centenary members added their donations to the truckload of blankets that were delivered by those willing to give up family time to minister to those in need – a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

*Skid Row-Kyo Mission is a non-religious, non-profit fellowship group based out of Centenary UMC in Little Tokyo (Downtown Los Angeles / DTLA). "Skid Row-Kyo" refers to the section of Downtown Los Angeles where the "Spirit and Culture" of Little Tokyo, the "Creativity, Imagination and Inspiration" of the Artist District and the "Compassion and Humanity" of Los Angeles' Skid Row District intersect, bringing the three communities together in

harmony, solidarity, and unity.









Finances

Giving report for January 2019 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	January	January	YTD	YTD
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Pledges	\$10,048	\$17,651	\$10,048	\$17,651
Unpledged Giving	\$2,986	\$2,776	\$2,986	\$2,776
TOTAL	\$13,034	\$20,427	\$13,034	\$20,427
Apportionments & Quotas	\$0	\$4,186	\$0	\$4,186

Actual pledge total include \$250 paid for full year pledge.

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immigration status, and age, will be received as a fellow sister and brother in Christ. We will remain a strong advocate to the LGBTQ+ persons as we have been for years, and we hope to provide Centenary as a spiritual home for all. We will operate under the principle of John Wesley: Do no harm. Do good. And stay in love with God.

As we move forward, I would like to invite you to attend a special worship service led by our very own Bishop Grant Hagiya this coming Sunday, March 3, 2019, at Pasadena First UMC (500 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91101) at 6 P.M. Bishop Hagiya will share his reflections as we envision a more inclusive church for our denomination.

May the peace of Christ guide your hearts today and always.

Peace,

Rev. Sunyoung Lee



Good News at Centenary United Methodist Church



Centenary UMC awarded \$10,000

The photo shows Pastor Sunyoung Lee accepting a check in the amount of \$10,000 from Makoto Kotani, Program Associate from Keiro. The Keiro Board of Directors has awarded Centenary United Methodist Church a one year grant of \$10,000 to be used to help purchase and install a new sound system to serve the older adults and caregivers. Centenary UMC committee members who assisted in writing the grant are church members France Wong, Vicky Leon, Carolyn Tokunaga and June Yamaki with the support of Pastor Sunyoung Lee. The CUMC committee members look forward to seeing how this grant will increase the positive impact it will have on the older adults and caregivers to fully engage in the Sunday worship service, hymnal singing and participate in the luncheon after service for social interaction with their friends.

Centenary UMC receives \$2100

Centenary UMC received a check in the amount of \$2100 from Little Tokyo Service Center in their final Toyota Raffle fundraising efforts for the Terasaki BUDOKAN. Centenary UMC congregation members and friends bought over \$5,000 worth of tickets to aid in this effort. Centenary was given 40% of the ticket sales. Special thanks to Judge Ernest Hiroshige, June Yamaki and France Wong who volunteered to spearhead this endeavor.

The Terasaki BUDOKAN started construction in mid-April and are scheduled to open in early 2020. This multi-purpose community gym will feature 2 regulation basketball courts, 4 volleyball courts and martial arts (kendo, judo, karate, aikido) as well as host community events for all generations. There will be an outdoor plaza with performance stage, community garden and children's playground and approximately 65 underground parking spaces. Terasaki BUDOKAN is located on Los Angeles Street between 2nd and 3rd Street in Little Tokyo.



Souper Bowl Sunday



A delicious assortment of soups were prepared by Centenary members for Souper Bowl Sunday. Proceeds from lunch will be donated to the LA Food Bank.



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