



Pastor's Pen



Rev. Sunyoung Lee

It has been challenging for me to write an article this month. Yes, my schedule has been incredibly hectic, but there was something that prevented me from sitting down in front of a computer and actually start typing. At first, I had difficulty naming the reason for this but after reflecting for a while, I concluded that much of my inability to pen this piece is due to my own angst over the unknown future of my beloved denomination. As the year 2020 fast approaches with another General Conference scheduled and the implementation of 2019 General Conference legislations to take an effect starting January, I have to say that I am already feeling weary and jaded. Having conversations with my colleagues and some church members, I know that many share the feelings of anxiety and even nervousness.

So yes, one of the hottest topics in the mainline church world now is probably the future of the United Methodist Church: Is the denomination heading for schism? If you have been keeping up with Centenary Chimes this year, many of my articles have been about February's Special General Conference and its aftermath. Without a doubt, what's been looming in my mind is whether our denomination will be getting a divorce, mainly over the church policies regarding LGBTQIA persons. Just like any divorce in a marriage, schism in church is not a simple matter as termination of relationships are concerned. There are various church policies regarding LGBTQIA persons. Just like any divorce in a marriage, schism in church is not a simple matter as termination of relationships are concerned. There are various factors that need to be carefully and thoughtfully weighed, and honestly, it's not going to be easy for anyone who's involved.

Superficially, it appears that there are two major political powers in the United Methodist Church: The Traditionalists and the Progressives. These two can't stand each other, ready to split any minute. However, what many people don't realize is that not only are there the Traditionalists and the Progressives in the UMC, there is also a third party, the Centrists, the people in the middle. I've seen some data that it is the Centrists that really make up the majority of the United Methodists in the United States, and that the far-right and the far-left are but a smaller number compared to those in the middle. I'm uncertain whether those data come from an official United Methodist source, but regardless, I know that the Centrists very much exist.

In fact, a couple of months ago, in response to the Special General Conference and being united in their efforts to fight against the institutional discrimination, some key leaders of both the Centrist and Progressive movements got together in Kansas at the Church of the Resurrection (UMC's largest congregation in the

continued on page 6

Joys and Concerns

Celebrating Mary Yonemoto turning 102 years old on June 1, 2019.

Congratulations to our recent graduates

College graduates:

J.J. Rivera
Marissa Vensel
Ryan Tait

Masters: Kelly Sadamitsu
Ryan Sadamitsu

High School: Memo Pinto
Kayla Tait

Please pray for the healing and recovery of:

- ♥ Stephanie Leese's grandmother Ruth
- ♥ Vicky Uyemura's aunt Margaret Uyemura
- ♥ Barbara Asazawa Nava as she prepares for her surgeries in July
- ♥ Lillian Yamaka
- ♥ Brian Kurushima

We lift up prayers for the family of:

Ronald Senzaki who passed away on June 1. He was in the Knights Y Club and is survived by his brother Paul.

Regular Church Events

Sunday Mornings:

- * Japanese Language Personal Prayer Time, 8:15 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.

Upcoming Church Events

- * July 3 (Wed.) 6-7:30 p.m. Youth Expressions
- * July 13 (Sat.) 2-6 p.m. "Wise-Up" a Centenary family event - Free dinner, games, and workshops
- * July 17 (Wed.) 6-7:30 p.m. Youth Expressions
- * Aug. 7 (Wed.) 6-7:30 Youth Expressions
- * Aug. 21 (Wed.) 6-7:30 p.m. Youth Expressions
- * Aug. 24 (Sat.) 9 - 12 p.m. Men's Breakfast

Finances

Giving report for April/May 2019 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	Apr-May Actual	Apr-May Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges	\$19,932	\$35,303	\$56,115	\$88,258
Unpledged Giving	\$3,965	\$5,550	\$12,073	\$13,875
Easter Offering	\$10,193	\$9,500	\$10,193	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$34,090	\$50,353	\$78,381	\$112,133
Apportionments & Quotas	\$ -	\$8,372	\$12,558	\$20,930

Peace with Justice Sunday

by Carolyn Tokunaga

On Peace with Justice Sunday, worship was led by the Church & Society Committee . They shared their thoughts, experiences, and visions.

“Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow” were the words of Isaiah. All humans are equal before God and have the right to be treated with dignity and fairness whoever they are. We are called through Jesus to live a selfless way of life, to treat others as the image of God and to advocate for those who can’t speak for themselves.

When Kris and Stephanie Leese first came to Centenary 11 years ago, they were welcomed with open arms and felt the love of the congregation as they integrated into church life. Kris learned to wash rice, even though he didn’t know it needed washing since for him, it came out of a box; and he and Stephanie are now carrying out the tradition of Centenary’s teriyaki chicken. He wants this full inclusion for everyone else.

We are called to treat everyone as neighbors and for us, neighbors are the homeless population that lives on Skid Row, a mission for Kris. Through Centenary, he was exposed to different religions like Buddhism and its cultural connections. Attending Vigilant Love’s Little Tokyo vigil after the Christ Church shootings and the Iftar dinner that ended the fast of Ramadan was eye-opening. As Kris joined the people fighting Islamophobia, he found more similarities than differences. He sees a need for more people to be involved. A Reconciling Church is open and accepting of the LGBTQ community. The committee is looking at steps for inclusion of this group – open and declared. Aiko’s Team has been a part of his Centenary experience as it raises awareness of mental health and suicide. After this tragic event, Centenary came together to help others and today they carry the banner as team captains – to Enrich, Empower, and Impact.

Heidi Sasaki was taught by Centenary that as a Christian, it is her job to seek social justice and help vulnerable people. Asian Camp, mission trips, workshop and discussions gave her the tools and exposure to move outside her comfort zone, to make other peoples problems her problems – to fight for social justice. Centenary taught her a radical way of life and gave her the strength to connect with others to fight with and for them. Involvement with Church & Society has given her a way to work on Social Justice issues: Fair Trade education and the selling of fair trade coffee helps small farmers, 165 KIVA loans of \$25 have helped small business worldwide get started, Nikkei Progressives advocate for immigrants, Going Green helps our environment, Didi Hirsch educates and creates awareness, Kid City develops teen and young adult leaders, Vigilant Love combats Islamophobia and builds bridges between cultures and religions, the Reconciling Church fully supports the LGBTQ community.

Gloria O’Brien stated that she is a doer not a speaker. She did speak about peace and shalom. Shalom is not just a greeting but a word to describe socially just relationships. This peace sees the end of oppression, greed, and violence. It is visible and active. As Micah said, “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”



Kid City Back to School Mission by Carolyn Tokunaga

The 250 Kid City college students have completed their finals and are home for a much needed break. It is a time for them to reenergize, spending time with family and friends, working summer jobs and internships and preparing for the year to come.

The beginning of any new school year involves the need for school supplies and textbooks. There are fees to be paid and housing arrangements to be made. These students from South Central Los Angeles, Pico Union, and neighborhoods around downtown face tremendous financial challenges, cobbling together grants, loans and job earnings to make college attendance possible. As the first in their families to attend college, they serve as great role models for siblings, friends and the community.

Once again Centenary will be assembling Back to School Bags for the Kid City college students. Petrona wrote, "I always look forward to receiving a care package. It reminds me that there are people who care about us and want us to succeed!" Daisy wrote, "Kid City students are so grateful for the care packages you provide and make! I received one when I was going through a tough time and the snacks, notebooks helped not only me, but my sisters. Thank you." Centenary, you make a difference in the lives of others!!

You can help by purchasing an item or two from the list or making a donation to Centenary with Kid City on the memo line. Bags will be assembled for distribution in July before the kids head off to school

Spiral Notebooks
2 Pocket Folders
Pens

Granola Bars
Handsanitizers
Travel sized toiletries, toothbrushes and toothpaste

Senior Moments Fellowship

by Cynthia Nishinaka

Starting Wednesday, June 26, 2019, all seniors and anyone else who is available during the weekday on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. are invited to attend the new Senior Moments Fellowship. The focus of this ministry is to give the seniors an opportunity to meet once a week at church for fellowship time. This ministry will tentatively be meeting only during the summer. The meetings will be very light where we can do activities together whether it would be games, crafts, discussions on a topic, etc. There will also be a short devotional given so that people can grow spiritually together.

During this meeting time, people can also eat lunch together for a time of fellowship.

If you are interested in this ministry or have any questions, please contact the church or speak with Cynthia Nishinaka who will be coordinating this.

Acknowledgements from Brian Kurushima

Donations April 28, 2019 to June 16, 2019

EASTER OFFERING

Adachi, Joyce	Kato, Haruko	Nakagawa, Mark and Pamela	Tait, Tom and Michele
Aochi, Yas and Joyce	Kawahara, Denby and Sets	Nakano, Elaine and Grant	Takahata, Suzuko
Asazawa, Judy	Kawano, Ryohei and Ryoko	Hiramoto	Takashima, Emi
Baba, Duane	Keimi, Albert and Amy	Nishi, Ken and Shari	Takata, Ruth
Bala, Dil and Kristi	Kimoto, Marye	Nishimura, Kirk	Tamaki, Anna Mae
Burrell, Toshiko	Kimura, Fumihisa and Yukiko	Nishimura, Setsuko	Tamaki, Dr Ben
Carlos, Florencio and Arelia	Kitabayashi, Setsuko	Nishinaka, Mark and Cynthia	Tamaki, Susan
Choi, Kyung-Hee	Kondo, Shigemitsu and Yuko	Nishinaka, Robert and Gail	Tanimoto, Tetsu and Kathy
Emoto, Hiroshi and Junko	Koo, Susie	Nobori, Alan and Marilyn	Terukina, George and Naomi
Fukunaga, Lily	Kubo, Ruth	Oba, Eugene	Togawa, Fred and Kaz
Fukute, Kathleen	Kunishige, Dora	O'Brien, Patrick and Gloria	Togino, Susan
Furukawa, Larry	Kuroki, Takeshi and Ritsuko	Okada, Dorothea	Tokunaga, Asao and Carolyn
Furuno, Roger and Wendy	Kuruma, Harry and Carole	Okuda, Sakae	Uemura, Yuki
Goerke, Dorothy	Kurushima, Brian	Onishi, Randall and Susan	Ujiye, Donna
Griffin, Takeko	Kushino, Dick and Frances	Osaka, Bessie	Uragami, Stanley
Hagiya, Yoshie	Kusumi, Grace	Oyama, Wendell and Jane	Urushima, Jean
Hamamura, Frank and Elsie	Lee, Rev Sunyoung	Park, Dennis	Vuong, Tommy and Lisa
Haruta, Steve and Jan	Leese, Kristofer and Stephanie	Pena, Patricia	Wada, Ayako
Hasegawa, Ron and Sonoko	Lew, Arline	Pinto, Art	Wada, Marion
Hayashi, Karin	Lew, Victor and Cynthia	Sadamitsu, Mark and Kathy	Wong, France
Hayashida, Ron	Liu, Yvonne	Saito, Mary A.	Woodward, Fukiko
Hirama, Patty	Manabe, Louise	Saito, Toshiko	Yamada, Hitoshi
Hiroshige, Ernest	Matsunaga, Ronald and Helen	Samaroo, Raj and Lana	Yamaki, June
Honjo, Osamu and Linda	Matsuno, Barbara	Sasaki, Akira and Carole	Yamamoto, Hideko
Imoto, Takafumi and Susan	Matsuoka, Dassie	Schaeffer, Tae	Yamamoto, Tim and Tomoko
Jew, Lily	Miki, Mihoko	Senzaki, Norman and Susan	Yamanaka, Laura
Kamon, Barbara	Miyashiro, Ed	Serizawa, Yoichi	Yasui, Emmie
Minami, Ken and Ellen	Miyashiro-Sonoda, Theresa	Shibuya, Kimiko	Yonemoto, Mary
Miyake, Masako	Miyazaki, Shu and Lynn	Shohara, Hisako	Yoshinaga, Reiko
Miyaoka, Masashi and Grace	Murakami, Douglas and Ruth	Sugamura, Terry	Yun, Jake and Ashley
Kasuyama, Terry	Murata, Hideo and Marian	Suzuki, Ellen	Zaima, Carole

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Asazawa, Judy - Easter breakfast
Chandler, Madeline - Thank you for prayers for Chandler Family
Edwards, Susan - Donation towards bldg. maint (April and May)
Fujita, Carol - Kid City

Furumoto Family - Thank you for Rev Mark conducting memorial service
Kuruma, Harry and Carole - Easter breakfast
Shirai, Darren and Linda - Easter breakfast
Yamada, Ted - Easter breakfast

MEMORIALS

Haruta, Steve and Jan - In memory of Kristi Bala's Dad
Haruta, Steve and Jan - In memory of Aiko Nobori
Kondo, Shig and Yuko - In memory of Mr. Hayano
Miyazaki, Lynn and Shu - In memory of Ray Tadakuma
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - In memory of Ellen Kawa Imaizumi
Nishitsuji, Linda - In memory of Jim and Agnes Nishitsuji and Roy Saito
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - In memory of Candice Oshita
Toda, Steve and Lela - In memory of Ryoko and Roy Toda
Toda, Donald and Larkin, Janice - In memory of Ryoko and Roy Toda

Toda, Dennis and Peggy - In memory of Ryoko and Roy Toda
Uyemura, Katie and Chris - In memory of Ryoko and Roy Toda
Julie Uyeno and Uyeno Family - In memory of Aunt Seiko M. Nakayama
Yamamoto, Hideko - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto (Nichigo)
Yamamoto, Tim and Tomoko - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto
Yamamoto, Tomoko - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto (Nichigo)



JULY 13, 2019, SATURDAY, 2:00 TO 6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

A Centenary family event - FREE dinner, games and workshops featuring:

Dr. John Holbert, retired UMC pastor, professor of religion at Texas Wesleyan University, Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, author of eleven books, written an opera based on the book of Job, entitled, "Job's Truty and many more distinguished accomplishments.

Have you ever wondered why innocent people suffer? Is God punishing you for doing something evil? Have you sought a relatable God in difficult times?

2:00 - Registration	3:45 - Workshops
2:15 - Welcome	4:45 - Fellowship
2:30 - Dr. John Holbert	5:15 - Dinner
3:30 - Break	6:00 - Departure

Pastor's Pen continured from page 1

world) to consider what is next for the denomination. This gathering was called UMCNext and brought an impressive number of more than 600 United Methodists with groups of 10 from each Annual Conference in the United States.

I believe the representatives gathered for the event could not reach a consensus yet as to what needs to be done, and I don't blame them. After all, the UMC is so diverse and it is challenging to come up with a solution that is comprehensive and satisfactory for most people. There are those of us who want to sever ties immediately and create a new church, while there are those of us who want to stay together as one church, trying to make the changes within the system. Although, there were no concrete "next steps" laid out by the participants, they did put together four key commitments, which I saw as a glimmer of hope for our church.

Four Commitments of UMCNext

We believe these commitments are essential to a hope-filled future for the global Methodist movement as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world:

1. We long to be passionate followers of Jesus Christ, committed to a Wesleyan vision of Christianity, anchored in scripture and informed by tradition, experience and reason as we live a life of personal piety and social holiness.
2. We commit to resist evil, injustice and oppression in all forms and toward all people and build a church which affirms the full participation of all ages, nations, races, classes, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, and abilities.
3. We reject the Traditional Plan approved at General Conference 2019 as inconsistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ and will resist its implementation.
4. We will work to eliminate discriminatory language and the restrictions and penalties in the Discipline regarding LGBTQ persons. We affirm the sacred worth of LGBTQ persons, celebrate their gifts, and commit to being in ministry together.

I know that the United Methodist Church has a long and arduous road ahead, but with groups like UMCNext prayerfully leading the way, perhaps we have a more encouraging future to look forward to. My heart is still quite heavy as I anticipate what's to come, but I'm going to continue to put my trust in God, who is steadfast and faithful. Let's hold our denomination in ceaseless prayer.

Peace,
Rev. Sunyoung Lee



Remodeling of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship Room

by Cynthia Nishinaka

This summer, the children / youth and young adults will be working on remodeling the UMYF room. The walls will be repainted, new carpet and a Smart TV will be installed, there will be a central lounge / seating area with new furniture along with bookshelves, and an activity table and a whiteboard will be mounted on one of the walls. Additionally, the main wall will be painted with a name and logo of the youth group's design. With the completion of this project, the room will provide an enriching space for youth to build relationships, to lean on as a place of support, and to be inspired as they build upon their faith. The youth will be able to eat lunch together, gather in fellowship after service, sing worship songs, participate in biblical study and discussion, and much more. Furthermore, the space opens up the opportunity to foster leadership skills in the youth, as they take on leadership roles arising out of the room's usage.

For this project, the estimated budget is \$2,500. This money will be raised through donations and fundraisers. If you'd like to support this project financially or in any other way, the youth would really appreciate it. May we share in this opportunity for spiritual growth and trust in the Lord's plan for the future of the youth ministry.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

Vision Implementation Team Corner by Carole Sasaki

Centenary's Vision Implementation Team (VIT) is a committee of the church tasked to explore and create new ministries and to keep our church community informed of opportunities for ministry participation.

This month we highlight the VIT committee's vision that all of Centenary's members and friends regularly participate in a small group. To effectively carry out our mission "Enrich, Empower, Impact" and provide opportunities to "Touch Heaven and Change Earth" – in other words, to grow deeper in our spiritual lives and experience God's Love – we encourage you to join a small group. It is an opportunity to make personal discovery by developing deeper relationships and a support group as you involve yourself in the lives of others and engage in conversation about theology taught in Pastor Sunnie's sermons and lessons from the Bible. In small groups lives are enriched, empowered and transformed.

Join one of Centenary's existing small groups

- Men's Breakfast – see Dennis Park, Skeeter Sasaki, Harry Kuruma,
- Monday evening Bible Study – see Mark Nishinaka
- Thursday Eastside Bible Study – see Cynthia Lew
- Sunday morning Bible Study – see Dennis Park
- Sunday United Methodist Youth – see Cynthia Nishinaka, Emily Doi
- Wednesday morning Senior Fellowship – see Cynthia Nishinaka
- Prayer Shawl Ministry – See Marilyn Nobori

Or you can form a new small group – see Rev. Sunyoung Lee or VIT chair/members Ernie Hiroshige, Vicky Leon, Carole Sasaki

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

Address Service Requested

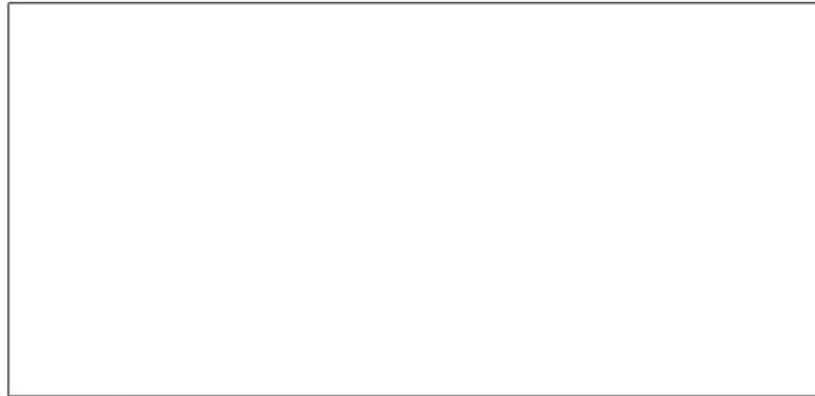
Non-Profit Org.

U. S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 27007

Los Angeles, CA



Baked Goods Booth Arigato Bazaar

Thank you to our friendly crew who include the efficient strawberry washers/cutters in the morning to the helpful packers/sellers throughout the day. Special thanks to Tanaka Farms who donated the delicious strawberries for our favorite strawberry shortcakes that everyone looks forward to. In the morning the rumors of Wendell Oyama's homemade yummy pies spread rapidly, so by the early afternoon, the aroma carried and the crowds hovered around to purchase the pies. They were sold out in a flash! We so appreciate all those bakers/cooks who brought in their specialty treats/snacks, including tasty tsukemono. For without these outstanding homemade items and wonderful volunteers, we would not have accomplished another successful year. Thanks again and see you next year!! - Kristi Bala & Linda Shirai

VOLUNTEERS

Maya Bala	Joyce Adachi	Michele Nagata
Janice Date		Elaine Nakano
Marian Entoku		Jan Nakasone
Ana Frankel		Cynthia Nishinaka
David Fujioka		Susan Onishi
Jan Haruta		Jonathan Oyama
Marilyn Hikida		Alexis Sasaki
Cindy Hu		Carole Sasaki
Michiko Kumamoto		Sally Sasaki
Siony Lagunero		Skeeter Sasaki
Mandy Masai		Doreen Sodetani
Cami Matsukuma		Justin Wadahara
Erika Muller		Ted Yamada
Joyce Murakami		June Yamaki

DONATIONS

Kristi/Maya Bala	Denise Okamura
Tammy Carrell	Susan Onishi
Janice Date	Jerry Osaka
Ana Frankel	Wendell Oyama
Carol Fujita	Patty Pena
Sandee Furuta	Kathy Sadamitsu
Jan Haruta	Carole Sasaki
Reiko Kuruma	Linda Shirai
Lori Matsuno	Terry Sugamura
Grace Miyaoka	Emi Takashima
Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda	Glenn Tanaka (Tanaka Farms)
Elaine Nakano	Carolyn Tokunaga
Marilyn Nobori	Ann Tsuda
	Robin Vensel