



Centenary *Chimes*

NEWSLETTER
CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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MARCH/APRIL 2020

Pastor's Message

Dear Centenary Family and Friends,

Never have I ever imagined that the word "pandemic" will be a part of my everyday language. It feels like one day I woke up and found myself in a Twilight Zone episode not knowing when this dreadful story will come to an end. This point in time will probably be marked as that one that reshaped and reoriented the world as we know it.

One thing I know for sure is that most of the churches are now pushed forward into the 21st century to adapt to COVID-19. What was an acceptable practice has become irrelevant and there was no choice but to go digital from analog. I do not believe Centenary was a total digital dinosaur before the outbreak, but to meet the needs of our congregation during this Safer at Home order, we have moved our worship services from in-person to online for the time being.

Just in case you are wondering, our worship services are found on our website, www.centenarydtla.org at our usual worship times:

- 9:30 a.m. for Japanese Ministry
- 10:45 a.m. for English Ministry.

If the internet is not readily accessible for you, the audio version of the worship service can be found by dialing in at (605) 313-6073 and putting in the access code 767037.

Due to the low internet connectivity at church, instead of live-streaming the worship services, we have been pre-recording them during the week for them to be broadcasted on Sundays. I am grateful to our staff and volunteer who have made the recording possible thus far: Rev. Kawano, Akina Motoyama, Tomoko Takasugi, and Sookee An.

In addition, I would like to remind you that if you require any pastoral care, please call me at 424-222-9640 or email at pastorsunnie@gmail.com. I will provide care as much as possible. However, please note that pastoral visits to institutions like the hospitals or senior homes will be suspended as per limits placed by those establishments.

After several weeks of dealing with various challenges as well as now having more time for meditation, I have reflected more deeply on the words of Apostle Paul found in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, "Rejoice

continued on page 8

Events and Happenings

As the corona pandemic continues
we will remain closed
until further notice.



Centenary Joys and Concerns



Please pray for the healing and recovery of:
Barbara Asazawa, Keiko Kuyama, Taylor Young and
Randy Masada

We lift up prayers for the families of:

Mary Nakajima who passed away on January 28, 2020. A long time devout Centenary member who is now with her beloved husband, Ichiro Nakajima. A private service was held at Centenary on February 19, with District Superintendent Rev. Mark Nakagawa officiating.

Ray Mayeda who passed away on January 31, 2020. Ray was our master plant guy. All the plants at the bazaar plant booth were usually Ray's from his backyard. He is survived by his son Thomas, daughter-in-law Alvina, and grandson Elijah. A memorial service was held at Centenary on February 29, with Rev. Sunyoung Lee officiating.

Jene Shinagawa, wife of Jeff Shinagawa, passed away on March 6, 2020. A very private service was held at Rose Hills Memorial Park with Rev. Sunyoung Lee officiating.

Important Announcement

ATTENTION: Centenary Chimes Is Going Completely **DIGITAL!**

Centenary Chimes will transition to an all-digital format starting the summer of 2020. As the costs of printing and mailing rise, we would like to continue to reach our current and a wider audience by maximizing the usage of the digital platform that we have available at this age.

If you need to keep on receiving a printed copy of the Chimes, please contact Jane Rivera at the church office (213-617-9097 or centenarydla@gmail.com) by May 31, 2020, so that we can keep you on our limited Chimes mailing list.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Finances

Totals for the year, 2019 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	2019 Actual	2019 Budget
Pledges	\$164,481	\$211,210
Unpledged Giving	\$58,808	\$33,300
Holiday Offering	\$32,126	\$31,100
Fundraising (net)*	\$40,928	\$46,000
Other Income	\$58,780	\$35,300
Transfers from Merrill Lynch	\$50,465	\$41,800
Total Income	\$405,588	\$398,710

Apportionments & Quotas	\$50,232	\$50,232
Salaries	\$205,218	\$209,406
Operating & Program Expenses	\$101,258	\$101,887
Utilities	\$38,043	\$37,185
Total Expenses	\$394,751	\$398,710

Special Sunday Givings:	
One Great Hour of Sharing (UMCOR)	\$425
Peace with Justice	\$617

*Arigato Bazaar and Golf Tournament

	Jan-20 Actual	Jan-20 Budget
Pledges	\$11,751	\$14,000
Unpledged Giving	\$4,334	\$3,240
2019 Holiday Giving	\$125	\$ -
Total	\$16,210	\$17,204
Apportionment payments	\$ -	\$3,776





For My Poor People by Carolyn Tokunaga



Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Lincoln E. Galloway delivered a passionate message on Feb. 21 while Pastor Sunyoung was on her honeymoon. I've tried to capture some of his thoughts, but the article doesn't do justice to his animated delivery and the power of his words that left all uplifted and inspired.

The Scripture for this Sunday was Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet and in this passage Jeremiah weeps with his people and for them. He calls them "my poor people" and hurts for "my poor people." He weeps at the disposition of their hearts, their lack of a moral compass, and absence of wisdom.

God also weeps because the people don't listen or speak honestly, its live in deception and sin, and do not acknowledge the Lord. They act like a horse blindly plunging headlong into battle.

Today the challenge of the church is to restore the GPS, to refocus on direction like the birds of the heavens who know where they are going. There is a need for spiritual renewal, purpose, dignity, respect, and the power to resist evil. Much has been done in the name of religion that distorts the moral narrative.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King who led the fight for economic justice and against structural poverty. His Poor Peoples' campaign focused on a part of society ignored and forgotten. He understood disposable lives.

The marginalized see the world differently. They have a different wisdom. They see that God can make a way out of no way. He is their rock, their shelter. Lacking resources, they find the strength from within. They are resilient, unbroken, and know they exist because they are children of God. Their wisdom says God will make away, that God cares. He is the healing balm.

Acknowledgements

By Brian Kurushima

Donations Jan 1 – Feb 23, 2020

MEMORIALS

Asazawa, Judy - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Date, Jun and Janice - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Haruta, Steve and Jan - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Hayashi, Karin - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Hayashi, Karin - In memory of Ray Mayeda
Kajikawa, Chiyeko - In memory of Fred Kajikawa, Mary Kurushima, Mas Watanabe
Kato, Haruko - 15 year memorial for husband Rev Shiro Kato
Koike, Clifford and Mui - In memory of Ray Mayeda
Koike, Clifford and Mui - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Kubo, Ruth - In memory of loved ones
Kuruma, Harry and Carole - In memory of Ray Mayeda
Lew, Victor and Cynthia - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Manaka, Tim and Marian - In memory of Fred Kajikawa, Mary Kurushima, Mas Watanabe
Matsuno, Lori - In memory of Ray Mayeda
Miyakawa, Christine - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Miyake, Masako - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Nishinaka, Angel - In memory of Mary Nakajima
O'Brien, Pat, Gloria and Caitlin - In memory of Ray Mayeda
O'Brien, Pat, Gloria and Caitlin - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - In memory of Ray Mayeda
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Pryor, Amy and Samuel - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Rivera, Ernie and Jane - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Saito, Mary - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Sanders, Sharon - In memory of Jim and Agnes Nishitsuji
Sanders, Sharon - In memory of Roy Saito
Serizawa, Yoichi - In memory of Emi Serizawa
Shimotsu, Stanley and Jane - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Shu, Beverly Tarumoto - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Tanabe, Jan - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto
Tarumoto, Janice - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Tokunaga, Carolyn - In memory of Mary Nakajima
Uyemura, Vicky - In memory of Ray Mayeda
Uyemura, Vicky - In memory of Mary Nakajima

SPECIAL OFFERING

Chandler, Madeline - Thanks for praying for Chandler family
Dohzen, Jeff and Lorraine - Prayer shawl ministry thanks for Patti Dohzen
Edwards, Susan - Donation towards building maintenance
Emoto, Junko and Hiroshi - Thank you
Furuta, Sandee - La Oportunidad
Haruta, Steve and Jan - Kid City
Hayashi, Karin - Kid City
Honjo, Osamu - Thank you
Kimura, Fumihisa - Thank you
Kurushima, Brian - Celebrating Pastor Sunnie's marriage
Kurushima, Brian - Kid City
Lee, Pastor Sunyoung - Birthday thank you
Lee, Pastor Sunyoung - Thank offering for Wedding
Lee, Pastor Sunyoung - La Oportunidad
Matsuno, Lori - Celebrating Pastor Sunnie's marriage
Matsuno, Lori - Prayers for Ray Mayeda
Matsuno, Lori - La Oportunidad
Miyaoaka, Mush and Grace - In honor of Pastor Sunyoung Lee and John Shon Wedding
Nakagawa, Mark - Human Relations Day
Nishinaka, Angel - Kid City
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - Celebrating Pastor Sunyoung Lee and John Shon Marriage
Nobori, Marilyn - Church and Society
Obrien, Gloria and Patrick - Celebrating Pastor Sunnie's marriage
Pena, Patricia - Thanksgiving
Saito, Mary - Birthday Celebration
Schmidt, Steve - Missions
Shinagawa, Jeff and Jene - Special offering – Company sponsored giving
Tani, Edward and Victoria - Prayer shawl ministry thanks for Patti Dohzen
Tanigawa, Linda and Clifford - Special offering
Takashima, Emi - Kid City
Uyemura, Vicky - Kid City

CHRISTMAS

Chandler, Madeline
FIA Insurance Services
Manabe, Eugene
Pena, Patricia

80+ Birthday Celebration

January 26, 2020

Setsuko Kitabayashi
Toru Igarashi
Ryoko Kawano
Dorothy Goerke
Shigemitsu Kondo
Skeeter Sasaki
Fumihisa Kimura
Yuko Kondo
Shigeko Giger
Harry Kuruma
Carole Sasaki
Kiyomi Long
Rev. Yamada
Emmie Yasui
Takeko Griffin
Choi Kyung Hee
Dick Kushino
Junko Ito

91 – this year
Lily Yamaguchi
Saiko Perkov
Sumi Yonemoto
Mary Enomoto
Angel Nishinaka

92 – this year
Moonza Kitashima

93 – this year
May Ochi

95 – this year
Shu Miyazaki

96 – this year
Yoshie Hagiya

98 – this year
Dora Kunishige

100- this year
Ruth Kubo
Hideko Yamamoto

101- - this year
Cedrick Shimo
Masako Miyake

103 – this year
Mary Yonemoto
Mary A. Saito



Honoring Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

Dear Cal-Pac Family,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you may know by now, Bishop Grant J. Hagiya will be retiring from active service this September and we want to enthusiastically recognize and celebrate his lifelong commitment to the United Methodist Church. Bishop Grant held his first appointment in 1976 at Berkeley Methodist United until his first appointment in the California-Pacific Conference in 1985. Over his 44 years in ministry, he has served as Senior Pastor, Cal-Pac District Superintendent, on numerous committees of which he often chaired, and now retires after 12 years in the episcopacy, including the last 4 as our bishop. It is in this spirit that the Episcopacy Committee and Cabinet are pleased to share with you the following plan to honor and say goodbye to Bishop Grant. We graciously invite your participation in the following ways:

- **Book of letters:** The Cabinet will spearhead the creation of a book of letters from Bishop Grant's friends and colleagues. We ask you to share how his ministry positively impacted your own role in the church. Please send your letter no later than April 30, 2020 to Rev. John Farley, Dean of the Cabinet, 2231 Camino del Rio South, Suite 303, San Diego, CA 92108-3612; or email to southdistrict@calpacumc.org.
- **Video Scrapbook:** Episcopacy Committee and James Kang, Director of Communications and Innovation, will spearhead the creation of a video scrapbook of tributes - photos, notes, other items, highlighting how Bishop Hagiya's ministry positively impacted the lives and leadership of members of the Cal-Pac family. Please send copies of tribute material no later than April 30, 2020 via the online form at www.calpacumc.org/tributes
- **Scholarship Fund:** A Conference-wide fundraising campaign will be mounted to 1) raise funds for a scholarship fund for promising young leaders in the Bishop's name at Claremont School of Theology; and 2) raise funds towards a vacation trip/adventure for Bishop Grant and his wife Janet. Donations may be sent to Archana Carey, Executive Director of Finance and Administration/Conference Treasurer, to 110 S. Euclid Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101, Attn: "Honoring Bishop Hagiya."
- **Special Offering:** A special offering will be received during this year's Annual Conference session designated towards the CST scholarship fund mentioned above.
- **Day of Recognition at Annual Conference:** The presentation of the book of letters, video scrapbook, scholarship fund collection, trip gift, and special offering proceeds will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2020, following the conclusion of the Bishop's Awards.

We invite our clergy and laity to stay through the last day of Annual Conference so we may all, as the Cal-Pac family and community, celebrate Bishop Grant. Thank you for participating!

Sincerely,
Rev. John Farley
Dean, Appointive Cabinet

Rev. Adiel DePano
Chair, Episcopacy Committee



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*Our mailing address is:
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Pasadena, CA 91101*

always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (NRSV). How can we have a heart and attitude of gratitude in tough times like this? Appreciating life is much easier when things are going well - when everyone I love is healthy, when I have a roof over my head, when I get to eat the food I like at any time, when I get to drive a fully functional car, when I get to receive my paycheck without a disruption, etc. The truth is giving thanks become enormously difficult when life gives you lemons.

However when Apostle Paul penned those famous words that we are to "rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances," he was not oblivious to the realities of life and the presence of pain in the world. In fact, he knew far more than a normal human being about a life of constant suffering. To help you understand Apostle Paul, here's a small list of numerous trials he had to endure:

- Getting imprisoned several times
- Facing death frequently
- Getting beaten with rods three times
- Getting shipwrecked three times
- Getting robbed
- Getting stoned once

The list goes on and on to demonstrate how Apostle Paul had to face so many crises in his life. Hence, he wasn't some Pollyanna being ignorant of the shadows of life robbing one's joy. He understood suffering. Then, for a person like Apostle Paul to commend everyone to give thanks in all circumstances, perhaps there's wisdom to be found in his words.

Paul understood that being joyful cannot be forced, but that it can still be experienced in life's difficult situations. He was able to give thanks to God despite all the trials and tribulations because his hope and joy were not found in himself, his situation, or anyone else, but ONLY in God. Likewise, as Christians, we are to reframe our mindset to focus on God instead of on external matters such as our circumstances, because God will change our hearts, perspectives, and attitudes to help us handle our situation. When our mind is on the things of God, we begin to find hope, joy, and peace in God and receive the courage to weather the storms.

Therefore, the practice of gratitude especially in times of trouble is a great coping strategy that allows us to still discover the treasures in life and appreciate them more, rather than being held captive to all the things that are wrong with our life. I also find comfort in the words of Dr. Bruce F. Singer, a psychologist who works with chronic pain patients, when he said, "Gratefulness will not make pain go away but it will help loosen the bonds of suffering. It helps to refocus us on what we have rather than what we have lost. It brings us into communion with acceptance and with allowing and these, in turn, open our spirits to greater flexibility and resilience."

Therefore, Centenary, today, let us choose to give thanks to God despite this outbreak that we are dealing with. Let us still find ways to celebrate the goodness of God. Why don't we, before going to bed, come up with three things that we are thankful for? On this day, I'm grateful for 1) the technology that allows us to stay connected, 2) my family and friends who have been so caring and thoughtful, and 3) God's endless love to me despite my shortcomings.



Peace,
Rev. Sunyoung Lee
Senior Pastor
Centenary United Methodist Church



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Los Angeles, CA 90013

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Arigato Bazaar

After careful consideration of community health in light of the current COVID-19 guidelines, we are cancelling the Arigato Bazaar for this year.

We thank all of you who have supported our event and the Centenary Families.

Be Safe and Healthy..

Thanks
Ted Yamada
Arigato Bazaar Chair

Michele Nagata
Arigato Bazaar Co-Chair