

# Centenary *Chimes*

NEWSLETTER | CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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DECEMBER 2017/JANUARY 2018



## *Pastor's Pen*

As I prepare myself to write this final article of the year, my mind keeps on flashing the words, "evil" and "God's grace." Please don't get me wrong. On a personal level, my heart is full of joy as I think about Centenary and the year we had together. It has been a meaningful journey, especially since we worked on our new mission and vision statement for the church. (Remember? ENRICH, EMPOWER, IMPACT!)

However, on the national and global level, it's been disheartening to read and watch the news of the rise of gun violence, ever evident white privilege, revelation of sexual misconduct scandals, and top national leadership's fostering of xenophobia. Just naming these things in one sentence was emotionally difficult, because they are so destructive and hateful. Not only that, in 2017 this earth had to combat so many natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. In fact, the damages in the United States are estimated to be at least \$1 billion, according to the USA Today. O Lord, in your mercy...

Consequently, I just can't help but to think about evil and its influence in this world. The nature of evil is to oppress and destroy the dignity of God's creation. In different forms and intensities, evil influences humanity to cause suffering and pain without justification. First, there is moral evil, a type of evil that intentionally brings destruction to others and even unto one's self. Moral evil is tied in with our freedom of choice. I do not believe that it is human nature to do evil because we are created in the image of God. Given the freedom to make decisions on our own, however, humankind can will to do evil, and so become an agent of evil. Moreover, evil exists in the form of structural social sin such as war, racism, terrorism, poverty, and social injustice. When structures fail to bring people together in harmony and instead act against creation, structures become instruments of evil, so that the cohesion of life is broken and the original intent of God for human social life is thwarted.

On the other hand, it is important to understand natural disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and Tsunami in relation to theodicy. I do not believe that hurricanes that hit the world this year are neither the result of someone's sins nor a wrath of God or the Devil's work. Senseless tragedies such as natural disasters happen in life without us fully knowing why. Such tragedy happened in the time of Jesus when the Tower of Siloam fell on innocent victims, and he talked about how their death was not due to anyone's sins (Luke 12).

But wait! This article of mine isn't JUST about pointing out the presence of evil and calamities in this world. We already know that evil exists, but what matters is how we, as Christians, will respond to evil when it is a Christian

*continued on page 4*



# *Our Prayers*

We lift up prayers for these persons and families:

In remembrance of these saints who now rest from their labor...

Kiyoko Tsuda who passed away on October 17, 2017.

Estella Uchizono who passed away on October 21, 2017.

Mark Kiguchi, a long time faithful and active member of our church family, passed away on November 12, 2017. Funeral service was held at Centenary officiated by Reverend Sunyoung Lee, District Superintendent Mark Nakagawa, and Bishop Grant Hagiya on November 20th.

## *Upcoming Events*

- Dec. 9 Christmas Caroling at Sakura Gardens (Keiro)  
Christmas Caroling in LittleTokyo 4-10 p.m.
- Dec. 17 Joint Celebration Worship, 10 a.m.  
Dec. 24 Sunday Morning Worship  
(Japanese Lang. 9:30 a.m. & English 10:45 a.m.)  
"Christmas Eve Candlelight Service", 4 p.m.
- Dec. 22 – Jan. 2 Office will be closed.  
(Office will open on Wed., Jan. 3, 2018)
- Dec. 31 Toshi Koshi Soba being served for lunch
- Jan. 14 All-You-Can-Eat Mochi Lunch
- Jan. 21 80/88 + Celebration
- Jan. 28 Usher/Greeter Orientation
- Feb. 4 Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch
- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday, 12 noon service

## *Regular Events*

- Nihongo Bible Study - 11:00 am Sunday  
Chikara Practice - 1:30 pm Sunday  
Monday Bible Study - 6:00 pm  
Minyo Japanese Folk Dance Class - Tu/W  
Karate - 7:30 pm M/W  
Classical Japanese Dance Class - 7:30 pm M/W



# Acknowledgements

Anonymous Special Offering  
Gary Asano Donation  
Judy Asazawa World Communion Sunday  
Judy Asazawa in memory of Yosh Hayashi  
Elston & Verna Carr in memory of Grandmother Albertha Arthurs  
Lola & Leo dos Remedios in memory of Riyoko Toda  
Susan Edwards Soecial Offering - Turkey Lock-In 2  
Susan Edwards Soecial Offering - Turkey Lock-In 3  
Yoshie Hagiya in memory of Son Noel  
Steve & Jan Haruta UMCOR - Hurricanes  
Steve & Jan Haruta World Communion Sunday  
Judge Ernie Hiroshige Special Offering - Thanksgiving Dinners  
Judge Ernie Hiroshige Special Offering - Turkey Lock-In  
Frances & Wilbur Hong in memory of Riyoko Toda  
Nobu Ikushima in memory of Mark Kiguchi  
Terry Kasuyama World Communion Sunday  
Clifford & Mui Koike in loving memory of Karin Hayashi's Father, Yosh  
Susie Koo UMCOR  
Ruth Kubo in memory of Loved Ones  
Dora Kunishige Special Offering  
Harry & Carole Kuruma World Communion Sunday  
Brian Kurushima World Communion Sunday  
Rev. Sunyoung Lee World Communion Sunday  
Helen Lee in memory of Riyoko Toda  
Pastor Sunyoung Lee Special Offering - Turkey Lock In  
Victor & Cynthia Lew in memory of Yosh Hayashi  
Lily & John Lew in memory of Riyoko Toda  
Victor & Cynthia Lew in memory of Mark Kiguchi  
Yvonne Liu Thanksgiving in loving memory of David & Haruko Gima and Fred Liu  
Amy & Stephanie Ming in memory of Walter Ming  
Mush & Grace Miyaoka UMCOR  
Nikkei Women Legacy Association Special Offering  
Kirk Nishimura Thanksgiving in memory of Mike & Fumi Nishimura  
Robert & Gail Nishinaka Pastors Housing - Best wishes to Robin & Kris Vensel on  
their move to Texas  
Robert & Gail Nishinaka Ministers Housing in celebration of the marriage of Ryan  
& Diana Sadamitsu  
Marilyn Nobori UMCOR - Puerto Rico  
Marilyn Nobori World Communion Sunday  
Marilyn Nobori in memory of Mark Kiguchi  
Randy & Susan Onishi in memory of Susumu Yasuda  
Wendell & Jane Oyama World Communion Sunday  
Wendell & Jane Oyama in memory of Estella Uchizono  
Lyane & Nathan Peralta & Families in memory of Riyoko Toda  
Esther & Gary Reitz in memory of Riyoko Toda  
Mark & Kathy Sadamitsu UMCOR - Hurricanes  
Skeeter & Carole Sasaki UMCOR  
Heidi Sasaki World Communion Sunday  
Denny & Julie Sunabe in loving memory of Sam Miyamoto  
Emi Takashima World Communion Sunday  
Fred & Kaz Togawa Special Offering - Blessing of the Animals  
Carolyn Tokunaga UMCOR - Mexico Earthquake  
Yasuko Amy & Karl Yahiku Thanksgiving in loving memory of Tokio Yahiku  
Ramon & Akiko Yamamoto Special Offering for Chimes  
Laura Yamanaka Special Offering



## THANKSGIVING

For Period: 01/01/2017 to 11/20/2017

Mrs. Ruth Akiyoshi	Robert & Gail Nishinaka
Yas & Joyce Aochi	Mr. James Nishitsuji
Ms. Judy Asazawa	Alan & Marilyn Nobori
Mr. Duane Baba	Patrick & Gloria O'Brien
Florencio & Arelia Carlos	Michael & Denise Okamura
Elston & Verna Carr	Mrs. Helen Okazaki
Ms. Mary Enomoto	Randall & Susan Onishi
Richard & Kathy Fujita	Mr. Jonathan Oyama
Mr. Larry Furukawa	Wendell & Jane Oyama
Roger & Wendy Furuno	Mark & Kathy Sadamitsu
Mrs. Dorothy Goerke	Mrs. Mary A. Saito
Mrs. Yoshie Hagiya	Mrs. Toshiko Saito
Steve & Jan Haruta	Mrs. Pauline Sakata
Mr. Ron Hayashida	Ray & Mits Saruwatari
Ms. Patty Hiram	Mr. Donald Sasaki
Ernest Hiroshige	Mr. Yoichi Serizawa
George & Linda Holtz	Mrs. Kumiko Shibuya
Robert & Alice Isawa	Jack & Jean Shigetomi
Ms. Barbara Kamon	Ken & Karen Shintaku
Dr. Dolly Kaplan	Mrs. Hisako Shohara
Mr. Terry Kasuyama	Mr. Dean Sugano
Denby & Sets Kawahara	Ray & Fumi Tadakuma
Mrs. Marye Kimoto	Ms. Suzuko Takahata
Clifford & Mui Koike	Mrs. Ruth Takata
Mrs. Ruth Kubo	Tetsu & Kathy Tanimoto
Mrs. Dora Kunishige	Jun & Chi Fung Tanisaki
Mr. Brian Kurushima	George & Naomi Terukina
Mrs. Mary Kurushima	Fred & Kaz Togawa
Dick & Frances Kushino	Ms. Susan Togino
Rev. Sunyoung Lee	Asao & Carolyn Tokunaga
Kristofer & Stephanie Leese	Ms. Donna Ujiiye
Victor & Cynthia Lew	Mrs. Jean Urushima
Mrs. Irene Mano	Ms. Vicky Uyemura
Mrs. Setsuko Minabe	Kris & Robin Vensel
Masashi & Grace Miyaoka	Mrs. Marion Wada
Mr. Ed Miyashiro	Ms. France Wong
Ms. Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda	Mrs. Michi Yamaguchi
Shu & Lynn Miyazaki	Russell & Barbara Yamanaka
Lori Naka	Mrs. Fumi Yano
Ms. Elaine Nakano	Mrs. Carole Zaima
Mrs. Seiko Nakayama	





Luke 2:14

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
good will toward men."*

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belief that evil will not have the ultimate final word? We believe in God, who's loving grace is limitless. God feels pain when we hurt, because God desires for people to live in harmony, do good, and share love. I take comfort in Psalm 34:18-20 that reads, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all. He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken" (NRSV). Even when we face evil, my faith in God sustains me and offers me the possibility to do what is good so that we may overcome evil. The power of God's love is GREATER than the bondage of evil.

Therefore, Friends, as we close 2017 and look forward to starting a new year, I urge you all to recommit yourself be the restorative signs of Kingdom of God. As God turned to us with his saving grace, we must respond to God in faith by becoming the agents for God's peace, love, and justice. We must reach out to our hurting world to make a difference. Please pray and think about ways in which you can positively IMPACT our world. May 2018 bring brighter days with hopes for peaceful future.

*Rev. Sunyoung Lee*

## *Nikkei Women Legacy Association Donation*



Nikkei Women Legacy Association (NWLA) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2012. The heart of NWLA's mission is to preserve and promote Nikkei history and culture with a primary focus on women. NWLA strives to engage and enlighten others to the importance of preserving Nikkei cultural history with their projects and events.

This year NWLA presented the Nisei Week Fashion Event on September 16 at Almansor Court in Alhambra. \$5,000 in funds raised from this event were generously given to Centenary UMC. Donations were also given to the Budokan, Nisei Week Foundation, KOBAN, and the Japanese Historical Society, all organizations in the Little Tokyo community to foster an appreciation for Nikkei culture."





## Centenary Finances

Giving report for September and October 2017 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer  
**For credit on your 2017 statement please have donations in the church office by Sunday, December 31, 2017.**

	Actual Sept-Oct	Budget Sept-Oct	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Pledges	\$26,643	\$26,167	\$125,694	\$130,833
Unpledged Giving	\$10,429	\$11,800	\$52,600	\$70,600
Anniversary	\$1,578	\$4,200	\$1,578	\$4,200
	<b>\$38,650</b>	<b>\$42,167</b>	<b>\$179,872</b>	<b>\$205,633</b>

### TOTAL

NOTE: \$40,095 of the actual YTD pledge amount are from pledgers who have given their total annual pledge.

	Year to Date Collected
UMCOR Sunday	\$600
Peace with Justice Sunday	\$636
World Communion Sunday	\$325
UMCOR hurricanes & earthquake	\$2,300

	Paid Actual Year to Date
Apportionments	\$45,332

Amount Owed
\$32,380

Note: As of October 31, seven of twelve payments were made.  
 Five months of payments is owed to the Conference by December.



## 2017 PLEDGERS

Thank you 2017 pledgers! Your pledge commitments enable Centenary to carry out its mission to be "a place where we ENRICH lives through experiencing God's love and become EMPOWERED to IMPACT the world"

By keeping our doors open and lights on, Centenary is a place where people come to encounter God's love. Through fellowship, worship, service, and study, we are empowered emotionally, socially, and morally. We are equipped to make a positive impact both locally and universally.

We thank all of you who have faithfully donated throughout the year.

Carolyn Tokunaga, financial secretary

### 2017 PLEDGERS

Yas & Joyce Aochi	Clifford & Mui Koike	Mrs. Mary Nakajima	Mr. Yoichi Serizawa
Mr. Gary Asano	Mrs. Ruth Kubo	Mrs. Hanako Nakamoto	Mrs. Kumiko Shibuya
Mrs. Joyce Asato	Mrs. Dora Kunishige	Mrs. Fumi Nakamura	Mr. Darren Shirai
Ms. Judy Asazawa	Harry & Carole Kuruma	Mrs. Seiko Nakayama	Mrs. Hisako Shohara
Mr. Duane Baba	Mr. Brian Kurushima	Mrs. Angel Nishinaka	Mrs. Terry Sugamura
Dil & Kristi Bala	Mrs. Mary Kurushima	Mark & Cynthia Nishinaka	Ray & Fumi Tadakuma
Elston & Verna Carr	Dick & Frances Kushino	Robert & Gail Nishinaka	Ms. Suzuko Takahata
Jun & Janice Date	Mrs. Grace Kusumi	Mr. James Nishitsuji	Mrs. Emi Takashima
Mrs. Fudge Fujioka	Mrs. Victoria Leon	Alan & Marilyn Nobori	Mrs. Anna Mae Tamaki
Mrs. Dorothy Goerke	Victor & Cynthia Lew	Mrs. Emi Nogawa	Ms. Mary Tamaki
Mrs. Yoshie Hagiya	Tim & Marion Manaka	Patrick & Gloria O'Brien	Mike & Grace Terauchi
Frank & Elsie Hamamura	Mrs. Irene Mano	Shigeru & May Ochi	Asao & Carolyn Tokunaga
Steve & Jan Haruta	Mr. John Matsubara	Michael & Denise Okamura	Mr. Stanley Uragami
Ms. Karin Hayashi	Mr. Ray Mayeda	Mrs. Sakae Okuda	Kris & Robin Vensel
Ms. Patty Hiram	Mrs. Setsuko Minabe	Randall & Susan Onishi	Mrs. Marion Wada
Sam & Peggy Hirasawa	Mrs. Masako Miyake	Wendell & Jane Oyama	Ms. France Wong
Ernest Hiroshige	Mrs. Toshi Miyamoto	Mr. Dennis Park	Mrs. Fumie Yahiro
Mrs. Beverly Iba	Masashi & Grace Miyaoka	Ms. Wendy Raksin	Mrs. Lily Yamaguchi
Takafumi & Susan Imoto	Mr. Ed Miyashiro	Ernie & Jane Rivera	Mrs. Michi Yamaguchi
Kendric & Lauri Kajikawa	Mrs. Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda	Mark & Kathy Sadamitsu	Mrs. May Yamahata
Mr. Alan Kamei	Shu & Lynn Miyazaki	Mrs. Mary A. Saito	Mrs. Lillian Yamaka
Mr. Roy Kaneshiro	Mrs. Hideko Mochizuki	Ms. Stephanie Saito	Russell & Barbara Yamanaka
Albert & Amy Keimi	Hideo & Marian Murata	Mr. Tom Saruwatari	Mrs. Emmie Yasui
Mrs. Marye Kimoto	Rev. Mark & Pamela Nakagawa	Akira & Carole Sasaki	Mrs. Sumi Yonemoto

Centenary United Methodist Church  
ANNIVERSARY OFFERINGS 2017  
For Period: 01/01/2017 to 11/13/2017

Ms. Judy Asazawa	Mr. Terry Kasuyama	Mrs. Masako Miyake	Ernie & Jane Rivera
Loose Cash	Mrs. Ruth Kubo	Shu & Lynn Miyazaki	Mrs. Mary A. Saito
Mrs. Madeline Chandler	Harry & Carole Kuruma	Mark & Cynthia Nishinaka	Akira & Carole Sasaki
Ms. Mary Enomoto	Mr. Brian Kurushima	Robert & Gail Nishinaka	Mrs. Miriam Smith
Mrs. Dorothy Goerke	Rev. Sunyoung Lee	Alan & Marilyn Nobori	Mrs. Emi Takashima
Steve & Jan Haruta	Ms. Arline Lew	Patrick & Gloria O'Brien	Tsuneo & Tomoko Takasugi
Ernest Hiroshige	Victor & Cynthia Lew	Wendell & Jane Oyama	Asao & Carolyn Tokunaga



# THANK YOU AIKO'S TEAM 2017!

We were 67 strong (runners/walkers, taiko players and supporters)  
And we raised just over \$9,500 for the Suicide Prevention Center!  
Congratulations!



Your support over the 14 years has been amazing! The deep gratitude I feel to each of you is beyond words. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for remembering Aiko and so many others who struggle each day. You have help provide life saving services and hope for them. Please continue to support Stephanie and Kris as they captain Aiko's Team. Hope to see you next year!

With much love,  
Alan and Marilyn

On October 15, the Starlites Girls' Club gathered for a reunion to reconnect and catch up.



Looking at old scrapbooks and reliving memories of the past.



Front Row - Advisors Candace Oshita, Carolyn Tokunaga, Nancy Bowers, and Shari Nishi  
Back Row - Starlites Sandy Terui Law, Donna Arase, Vicki Motonaga Iwata, Vicky Uyemura, Lori Yasukochi Naka, Carla Fujimoto, Eileen Tawa Nakamura

As part of worship on October 8, there was a "Blessing of God's Creatures"





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

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