

Centenary Chimes

NEWSLETTER

CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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MAY/JUNE 2019

Pastor's Pen



Rev. Sunyoung Lee

Dear Centenary Family and Friends:

I would like to share with you the statement from the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops in response to the recent Judicial Council rulings. Please read the following and prayerfully walk with us at Centenary as we support and challenge our denomination to envision a new Church that exemplifies the ways of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Rev. Sunyoung Lee

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church has ruled on the constitutionality of the plan known as "The Traditional Plan" that was passed at the Special Called Session of General Conference 2019 (St. Louis, Missouri). In its ruling, some of the petitions were ruled constitutional while others were ruled unconstitutional, and a petition related to a plan for churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church was ruled constitutional. With humble gratitude, we acknowledge the diligent and faithful work of the Judicial Council. The decision, made during the Council's April 23-26 meeting, means that less than half of the Traditional Plan will take effect in the U.S. on January 1, 2020, with Africa, Europe, and the Philippines taking effect twelve months after the next General Conference. The petition on a gracious exit goes into effect immediately. You may review the Judicial Council's Ruling No. 1378 at <http://bit.ly/JCR1378> and No. 1379 at <http://bit.ly/JCR1379>. An explanation of both rulings is available at <http://bit.ly/UMNSApr26>.

While graciously received, the intent of the Western Jurisdiction remains the same as was stated on the floor of General Conference 2019: to live in the spirit of "One Church." The Mission Cabinet and the delegations of the Western Jurisdiction endorsed the One Church Plan before the Special Session, believing it to be the best option for allowing faithful United Methodists of differing theological perspectives to be in ministry together. We believed the One Church Plan was an expression of Wesleyan values that we practice in the West. In the wake of the Judicial Council decisions, we continue our commitment to live into Beloved Community as one church in each of the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction.

Even now, efforts are underway to coalesce our plans and energy to help forge the future of our church. If you are interested and energized in assisting, we invite you to visit the Western Jurisdiction website to volunteer and join this movement. (<http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/ahomeforall>)

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Joys and Concerns

Celebrating Nellie Mitani turning 100 years old in January.

Please pray for the healing and recovery of:
Brian Kurushima, Ray Tadakuma and Lily Yamaguchi

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

Kenji Yamamoto
Candance Miyamoto Oshita
Fumi Tadakuma
Ellen Kawa Imaizumi
Masaaki Hayano
William Yamaka
Arthur Sakakura



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.

Preparing Manju for the Arigato Bazaar



Acknowledgements

Donations February 18, 2019 to April 28, 2019

MEMORIALS

Serizawa, Yoichi - In memory of Emi Serizawa
Asano, Gary - In memory of Hideko Asano
Kunishige, Dora - In memory of Migiwa Takahashi
Bernard
Kuruma, Harry and Carol - In memory of Kenji
Yamamoto
Kurushima, Brian - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto
Liu, Mr and Mrs Fred - In memory of Shinyu and
Haruko Gima
Matsuoka, Dassy - In memory of parents Tome and
Taneo Yasunaga
Matsuoka, Dassy - In memory of my sister Mary
Maruyama
Miyaoaka, Mush and Grace - In memory of Kenji
Yamamoto
Miyazaki, Lynn and Shu - In memory of Fumi Tadakuma
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - In memory of Kenji
Yamamoto
Tokunaga, Carolyn - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto
Wong, France - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto
Yasui, Emmie - In memory of Kenji Yamamoto

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

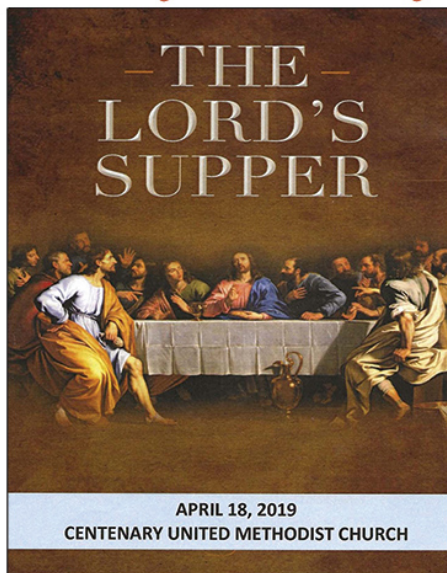
Edwards, Susan - Donation towards bldg. maint.
(monthly)
Fukute, Kathleen - Easter

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

(continued)
Hayashi, Karin - Kid City
Helm, Shoko - FujinKai
Hiroshige, Ernest - Kid City
Matsuno, Lori - Kid City
Matsuno, Lori - Congrats for Robert retirement
Miyaoaka, Grace and Mush - Celebration of Robert
Nishinaka retirement
Miyazaki, Lynn and Shu - Chimes special offering
Murakami, Doug and Ruth - Thank you for 80th
birthday celebration
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - Baptism of Masaaki
Hayano
Otani University, Kyoto Japan - Special Offering
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - Kid City
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - Donation to lunch for
Robert Nishinaka
Takashima, Emi - Kid City
Tokunaga, Carolyn - Kid City
Tokunaga, Carolyn - Celebration of Robert Nishinaka's
retirement
Uyemura, Vicky - Kid City
Wong, France - Public Relation for Rafu religion
calendar
Yamaki, June - Special Offering
Yamanaka, Laura - Chime Special Offering

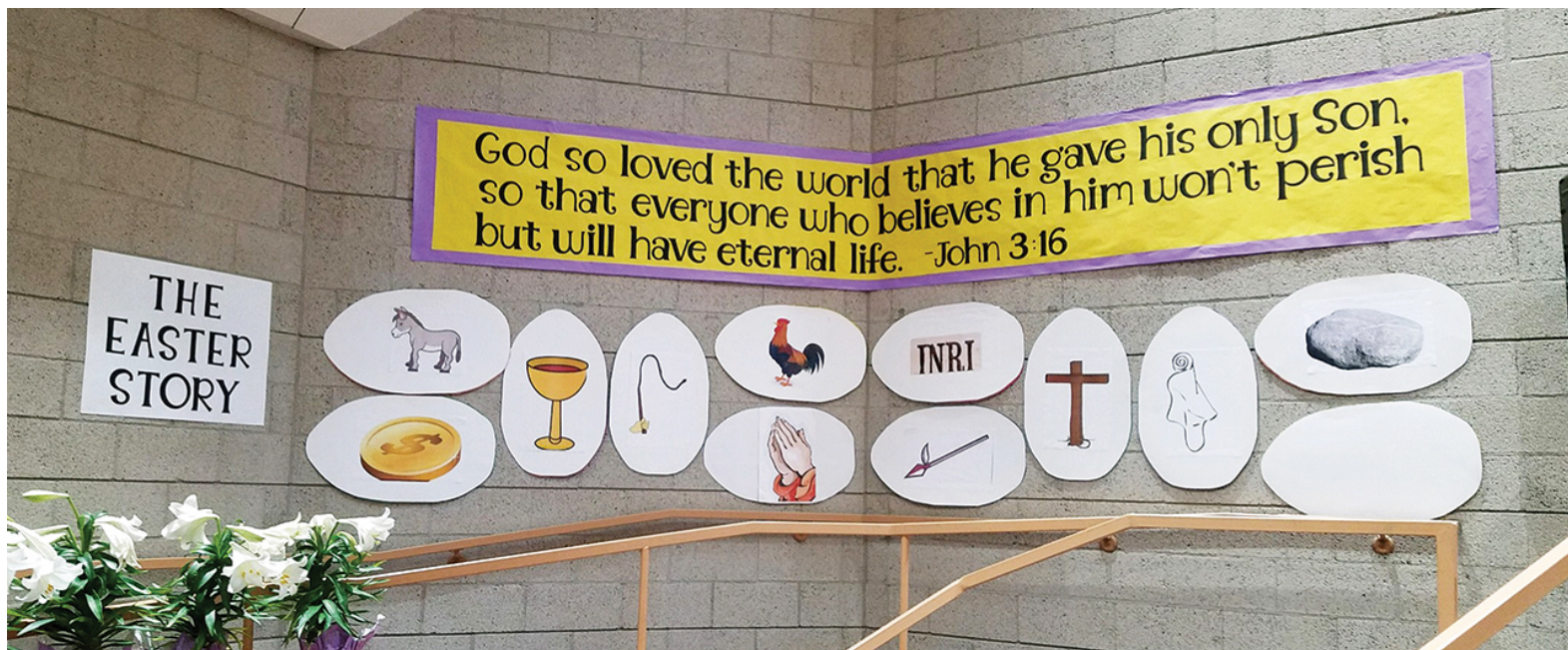
Maundy Thursday

by Jane Oyama



Nineteen worshippers gathered together on the evening of Thursday, April 18, 2019 for Maundy Thursday. Special guests included Becky Oyama and her children Elise and Lydia (Ed Oyama's family). Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is an observation of the Passover meal, the Last Supper, which Jesus had with his disciples. Pastor Sunnie led a worship service that described the Last Supper and its significance.

This was followed by Communion. As in the Passover meal, worshippers shared the bread and the cup, symbolizing the body and blood of Christ. It was done in remembrance of the love of Jesus. After Communion, guests enjoyed a delicious Mediterranean style dinner with food organized by Wendell and Jane Oyama. The meal was concluded with a hymn and with a closing prayer given by Pastor Sunnie.



Good Friday

by Jane Oyama

APRIL 19, 2019



For Good Friday service, the aisle of the sanctuary was draped with a dark runner symbolic of the darkened path that Jesus took to the cross. Scattered red petals represented the blood spilled at the crucifixion. The scripture passage described the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, the denial of Jesus by Peter, the sentence of death and the crucifixion of Jesus. There was a dramatic procession of the cross. Joshua Nishinaka carried the cross down the dark path to the altar. Parishioners then read a meditation. The service was held at dusk and the light of sunset streaming through the stained glass highlighted the solemnity of the day.

Easter at Centenary

by Carole Sasaki



Easter Sunday at Centenary began at 8:00 am with a delicious breakfast of homemade casseroles, meats and homemade pastries thanks to chairmen Michele Nagata, Lori Matsuno Forgey and committee.



Following breakfast, the Easter Worship experience began with inspirational messages from Pastor Sunyoung Lee and Rev. Ryohei Kawano. Then, Baptism and Transfer of Membership of 5 persons in the Nihongo congregation was celebrated!



The worship concluded with a meaningful portrayal of the Easter story as presented in the "Resurrection Eggs" play dramatized by the Sunday School. This worship experience also included beautiful Easter renditions by the Chancel Choir, Praise Band, Ukelele group and Chikara Taiko. We thank Cynthia Nishinaka and the Education Committee for the several weeks of preparation which culminated in a stirring telling of Jesus' Resurrection.

The Easter story came alive with meaning to us as Christians - spiritually touched with God's love and with feelings of hope and victory in Him!



Kid City by Carole Sasaki

KID CITY'S "LEADER SUMMIT – CREATING YOUR JOURNEY"

Centenary's Mission Outreach Committee hosted Kid City's "Leader Summit – Creating Your Journey" Conference on April 13, 2019. High school students attended workshops and networked with professionals from a variety of fields.

Kid City is a program of the Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation. It was launched in 2008 as an afterschool program for children and youth and has evolved into a year-round program extended to high school and college students. Over the years, Centenary has supported the college students by assembling school supply bags twice a year. As the program has grown, more high school students have sought support at Kid City - seeking after school tutoring or mentoring, personal statement help, joining SAT study groups, making college visits, and getting FAFSA assistance. Kid City college students return to share experiences and give advice as they continue to receive Kid City support.

wiseup NEWS by Carole Sasaki

On January 12, 2019 Centenary held a family event of dinner, games, and workshops including



Cyber Security with Eric Meyers



Hints in Reading the Bible with Rev. Sunyoung Lee



Cooking for Kids with Wendell Oyama



Wise Up Program Leaders

Other workshops included
 Funeral Planning with Russell Martinez
 Self Defense with Art Ishii
 Cooking for Adults with Wendell Oyama
 Games for Kids of All Ages with Heidi Sasaki

July 12, 2019 – SAVE This Date!!

A Summer Wise Up event will be held on July 12, 2019.

Watch this space for more details!



Centenary Church and Society members, Kris and Stephanie Leese, Heidi Sasaki, and Gloria and Caitlin O'Brien attend a Vigilant Love vigil at the JACCC Plaza to honor the Muslim, Black, and brown lives that were tragically lost in Christchurch New Zealand. Courtesy of Carol Sasaki

"Families Belong Together" Quilt by Carole Sasaki



Group photo of quilt squares

Pastor Sunnie



Frances and Dick Kushino



Marilyn Nobori's quilt square

On Palm Sunday, Centenary and community members gathered together to create squares for the "Families Belong Together" Quilt. The Nikkei Progressives Quilt Project seeks to raise awareness and support for families and children suffering from detention and family separation at the border. It is part of a national Never Again is Now Campaign which draws parallels between the Japanese-American concentration camp experience and the detention/incarceration experienced by many immigrants and refugees today.

Nikkei Progressives is a multi-generational group that believes in bridges - not walls, registries or travel bans. They believe families belong together, children must be reunited with their parents, and migrants and asylum seekers deserve safety and freedom from violence and modern day prison camps. We thank our Church and Society Committee for hosting the quilt workshop and allowing Centenary's voice to be added to those of the community. The quilt and banners will be displayed at community events, rallies, and marches in support of immigrants and against detention.



Pastors Pen continued from page 1

We commit to be true to John Wesley's tradition of the entire world being our parish. We will continue to relate with one in another in such a way that all people may find our United Methodist Church to be their spiritual home. We will remain united in our determination to make our Jurisdiction a home for all.

Next month, on May 17-18 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and May 20-22 in Leawood, Kansas, persons of courage and faith from the Western Jurisdiction will participate in discussions that are happening and are connecting with representatives from Conferences around the world about the next steps for our Church. Those discussions will continue as annual conferences convene this summer and when our Western Jurisdiction leadership gathers in the fall.

The ruling by our Judicial Council will spark new discussions in our churches and in our Annual Conferences and across the connection. We anticipate that difficult decisions will take place during General Conference 2020. Thus, the road ahead may feel like a wilderness. But we, your bishops, are prayerfully in conversation in many places, with many individuals and groups about your hopes and your vision for being Church in this challenging time. We remain committed to ministry as one church for all and we ask for your prayers for the church and for the future of the love and grace as we travel this road together, not knowing where it will lead us, yet, but confident in God's presence with us.

Faithfully, The Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church

Active

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, President
Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño
Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Bishop Elaine J.W. Stanovsky
Bishop Karen P. Oliveto

Retired

Bishop Wilbur W. Y. Choy
Bishop Calvin D. McConnell
Bishop Melvin G. Talbert
Bishop Roy I. Sano
Bishop Elias G. Galvan
Bishop Mary Ann Swenson
Bishop Beverly J. Shamana
Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr.



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Finances

Giving report for February/March 2019 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	Feb-Mar Actual	Feb-Mar Budget	Jan-Mar Actual	Jan-Mar Budget
Pledges	\$26,134	\$35,303	\$36,182	\$52,954
Unpledged Giving	\$5,092	\$6,050	\$8,107	\$8,826
TOTAL	\$31,226	\$41,353	\$44,289	\$61,780
Apportionments & Quotas	\$12,558	\$8,372	\$12,558	\$12,558

Note: The budgeted January apportionment of \$4,186 was paid in February.