

Centenary *Chimes*

NEWSLETTER | CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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FEBRUARY 2018/MARCH 2018

Pastor's Pen



Google Photos is a storage service on the internet that I use to save all my digital photos; it is a convenient and easy tool to preserve those special photos in my life. One cool feature that Google Photos has is called "Rediscover this Day," which brings up a photo that was taken on the same day from the previous years. Last week, I was notified by "Rediscover this Day" that I had gone to Italy with my mother eight years ago, so I started to browse the photos from the trip and fondly reminisced my very first ever mother-daughter trip. What a remarkable yet crazy time I had on that trip. Here's a little snippet of what took place:

1. I sat next to an Armenian Christian man on my flight to London, who talked about the challenges of being a Christian in Turkey. (It was enlightening and educational, but he talked NON-STOP for 13 hours straight!)

2. I got my wallet stolen on the first day in Rome. (Thank goodness, I didn't have much cash; and thank you, VISA, for sending the replacement card within a day!)

3. We got stopped by some fake police, saying that there was a crime the night before, involving some Chinese. They demanded to see our passports. (When I insisted on seeing their ID, they drove away.)

4. At the Milan airport, I first helped my mother check into her flight home to Korea and then we went over to the other side of the airport for me to check into my flight home to California. Upon getting my boarding pass, I noticed that my mother was no longer holding her purse, and we quickly realized that she had left her purse near her ticket counter. To this day, my mother says that she has never seen me run that fast. (Praise God that her purse was still there where she left it.)

One of my favorite moments of this trip was the day we visited the Catacombs of San Sebastiano in Rome. The weather was cold and dreary, which turned out to our advantage, because my mother and I received a private tour. We had the tour guide all to ourselves and had the freedom to ask all kinds of questions.

It was quite surreal to see the very places where the first Christians buried their dead and to hear of some of their stories as to how they did not want to compromise their faith in Jesus Christ. It made me wonder what I would have done if I had lived in that time period. It also reminded me of the Armenian man that I met on the plane and the intensity of his struggles to live a life of integrity in a country where Christians were being persecuted. While all these different thoughts were going through my head, there it was, the footprint of Jesus.

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Our Prayers

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

Tom Kitagawa passed away on December 9, 2017. A memorial service will be held at Centenary UMC on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 1 p.m. officiated by Rev. Sunyoung Lee.

Tsugio "Chug" Saito passed away on December 16, 2017. A memorial service was held on January 13, 2018 officiated by Rev. Sunyoung Lee and District Superintendent Mark Nakagawa.

Miriam Smith, wife of Rev. Dr. Dale K. Smith passed away on January 3, 2018. An informal service of sharing and remembering Miriam was held on January 27, at Mount San Antonio Gardens in Pomona.

Pauline Sakata passed away on January 9, 2018. A memorial service was held at Rose Hills Chapel on January 23 officiated by Rev. Sunyoung Lee.

Please pray for the healing and recovery of Steve Haruta

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 4 Nihongo Worship, 10:45 a.m. English Worship Service Souper Bowl Sunday Lunch
- Feb. 14 Ash Wednesday, 12 noon service & 5:30 p.m. service
- March 25 Palm Sunday Service, 10:45 a.m.
- March 29 Maundy Thursday Dinner with communion, 6 p.m.
- March 30 Good Friday Service, 5 p.m.
- April 1 Easter Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m., Easter Worship, 10:45 a.m.
- May 5 Arigato Bazaar

Pastor Sunnie will be leading a Lenten Bible Study Series every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. beginning Feb. 18 in room 203.

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 - Christmas Caroling Thank You
Judy Asazawa - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Asazawa Family - in memory of Uncle Mark Kiguchi
Centenary United Methodist Women - Special Offering
Madeline Chandler - Special Offering honoring my Loved Ones
Susan Edwards Soecial Offering - Special Offering - Turkey Lock In
Susan Edwards Soecial Offering - Special Offering - Office Supplies
Susan Edwards Soecial Offering - Special Offering for Office Supplies
Mary Enomoto - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
FIA Insurance Services Inc - Christmas Donation
Yumi Froehlich - Christmas in memory of David & Mary Monji
Brian & Janice Fujita - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Kathy, Ricky & Greg Fukute - in memory of Eugene Fukute
Takeko & James Griffin - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Yoshie Hagiya - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Steve & Jan Haruta - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Steve & Jan Haruta - in memory of Aiko Nobori
Karin Hayashi - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Hillas Family - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Kevin & Julie Hubbard - in memory of Emi Serizawa
Lily Jew - Thank you for the Birthday Card
Paul & Alice Kawabe - Nihongo Christmas Offering in memory of parents Shizu & George M. Shima
Rosanne Krikorian - in memory of Russel Kitagawa
Ruth Kubo - Special Offering to Checking In Ministry
Ruth Kubo - in loving memory of Kay Kubo
Ruth Kubo - in memory of Margaret Kubo
Kubota Nikkei Mortuary - Year-End Donation
Dora Kunishige - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Ford & Frances Kuramoto - Special Offering
Harry & Carole Kuruma - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Harry & Carole Kuruma - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Brian Kurushima - in memory of Ed Kurushima
Brian Kurushima - Kld City Spring School Project
Richard & Frances Kushino - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Grace Kusumi - Centenary Cares Card Ministry Thank You for adding sunshine to my 87th Birthday
Ralph & Elisabeth Lamartine - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Rev. Sunyoung Lee - New Years Thank Offering
Vicky Leon - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Arline Lew - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Victor & Cynthia Lew - Special Offering in celebration of Mary Saito's Birthday
Ray Mayeda - in memory of Rose Mayeda
Tim & Marion Manaka - Special Offering
Mark Maruyama - in memory of Kiyoshi Maruyama
Lori Matsuno - Raymond Matsuno & Chug Saito
Dassie Matsuoka - Christmas in memory of parents Tome & Taneo Yasunaga and sister Mary Maruyama
Sets Minabe - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Mush & Grace Miyaoka - in memory of Mark Kiguchi
Mush & Grace Miyaoka - Remembering Emi Serizawa, June Kumagai, Mary Saru watari, Rose Mayeda
Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Lynn & Shu Miyazaki - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Lynn & Shu Miyazaki - in memory of Rev. Edward Iwamoto
Mary Nakajima - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Mark & Cynthia Nishinaka - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Robert & Gail Nishinaka - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Angel Nishinaka - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Robert & Gail Nishinaka - in memory of Tom Kitagawa
Angel Nishinaka - Kld City Spring School Project
James Nishitsuji - in memory of George & Blanche Nishitsuji
Marilyn Nobori - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Marilyn Nobori - UMCOR - mudslides
Pat, Gloria & Caitlin O'Brien - In celebration of Mary Saito's 100th Birthday
Pat, Gloria & Caitlin O'Brien - Pastors Housing for Pastor Sunnie & Rev. Richard
Joyce Okazaki - Parents Yae & Gen Nakamura, Grand parents Takejiro & Matsu Kusayanagi, Appreciation for Rev. Mark Nakagawa
Barbara Okumura - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Wendell & Jane Oyama - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Wendell & Jane Oyama - in memory of Rev. Ed Iwamoto
Annina Punaro - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Ernie & Jane Rivera - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Ernie & Jane Rivera - in memory of Michi Kamon
Harry & Celida Sait - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Toshiko Saito - Thanksgiving in loving memory of Yanet Yoshii
Yo Serizawa - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
William Shepherd - Thanksgiving Dinner Mission Project
Kumiko Shibuya - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Hisako Shohara - in memory of Husband Sonny Shohara
Stan & Yuriko Suda - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Susan Tamaki - in memory of Marj Tamaki
Anna Mae Tamaki - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Clifford & Linda Tanigawa - Special Offering
Tetsu & Kathy Tanimoto - Special Offering
Janice Teraoka - Special Offering
Naomi Terukina - in memory of Harry Terukina
Steve & Lela Toda - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Fred & Kaz Togawa - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Carolyn Tokunaga - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
Carolyn Tokunaga - in memory of Tosh Hayashi
Carolyn Tokunaga - in memory of Miriam Smith
Asao & Carolyn Tokunaga - in memory of Rev. Ed Iwamoto
June Urban - in loving memory of Ada Togawa
France Wong - in memory of Mark Kikuchi
France Wong - in memory of Joe Kawata - father-in-law of Dulcie Kawata
Jeffrey & Rene Wustman - in memory of Mark Kikuchi

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(The footprint at the catacombs)



(The replica at the Church of Domine Quo Vadis)

If you had ever seen a movie called "Quo Vadis," you may remember the story about the footprint of Jesus, but just in case you haven't seen the movie or read the book, here's the legend behind it all. St. Peter, one of the original disciples of Jesus, was trying to run away from his persecutors in Rome because they wanted to kill him for his practice of Christianity. When he was making his way out of the city, he meets the risen Christ on the road. "Quo vadis? (Lord, where are you going?)" Peter asked, to which Jesus replied: "Romam vado iterum crucifigi (I am going to Rome to be crucified again.)" With these words, Jesus disappeared and left his footprint. This encounter with Jesus gave Peter the realization that his mission is not to abandon Rome and run away from his ministry, but to go back to the city to face all the challenges that were awaiting him. Peter is known to have been martyred in Rome by being crucified upside-down.

Having been so impressed with the movie "Quo Vadis" as a young child, I could hardly contain my excitement when I finally got to stand in front the famed footprint of Jesus. (See how the picture on the left is blurry, because, I was not able to stand still to take a decent picture!) I was awestruck, but soon brought back to reality because the tour guide ended the story of Quo Vadis with, "Peter courageously went back to Rome even though he knew he would get crucified. He followed Jesus."

At the time I couldn't help but to feel that God was sending me a message, and it made me think... 'Am I faithfully following Jesus, the one doesn't run away from his mission? Can I obey him willingly even though his ways may lead to some hardship?' Or rather, instead of asking Jesus, "Lord, where are you going?" am I telling Jesus, "Lord, look where I am going!" Now eight years later, looking at those pictures, I feel the Holy Spirit gently reminding me again to renew my calling to be the servant of God.

Friends, the season of Lent is soon upon us. It is a time for us to draw closer to God and examine our Christian walk. As you prepare for the Lenten journey ahead, I invite you to ask Jesus, "Lord, where are you going?" and see where Jesus is leading you. I pray that we all can follow Jesus without any reservations.

Peace,

Rev. Sunyoung Lee

Transitions at Centenary

Carolyn Tokunaga has served as the Financial Secretary for Centenary United Methodist Church for a little over 10 years, and she has decided that she wants to fully enjoy her retirement and watch her grandson grow. We, at Centenary, are deeply grateful for Carolyn's generous heart and wish God's immeasurable blessings to her as she begins a new chapter of her life. Please remember to show the Centenary gratitude to Carolyn.

Starting February 1, 2018, Brian Kurushima will be taking on the role of the Financial Secretary for Centenary. We are thankful that Brian has prayerfully discerned to serve the church in that capacity and look forward to having him on the staff.



Centenary Finances

Giving report for November and December 2017 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer

	Actual Nov-Dec	Budget Nov-Dec	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Pledges	\$48,750	\$26,167	\$174,444	\$157,000
Unpledged Giving	\$17,030	\$11,800	\$70,884	\$86,600
Thanksgiving/Christmas	\$23,438	\$24,700	\$23,763	\$24,700
TOTAL	\$89,218	\$62,667	\$269,091	\$268,300

NOTE: \$23,325 of the actual year to date (YTD) pledges include pre-paid 2018 pledges.

94% of apportionments were paid for 2017 totaling \$73,095. We anticipate paying 100% in 2018.

Proceeds of \$141 from sales of poinsettias was given to World Hunger and Poverty Ministry.

Kid City



It's time for our Spring Care Packages for Kid City. Of the 100 Back to School Bags we did in August, 50 of them went to new high school graduates who are heading off to college. They were so excited to receive them - their hard work has moved them to this place in their lives and they join the other 150 students in the program. Kid City now has 225 participants in college!

We are preparing 100 bags of School Supplies for the students that were missed in the Fall. We are asking for donations of Chapstick, pens in different colors, breakfast or granola bars, individual trail mix bags, fun size chocolate bars, individual packets of Tylenol or Advil, Chamomile Tea bags, and deodorant for men and women. We have 300 spiral

notebooks from the Back to School sales that will be included in their bags.

We will be collecting donations during all of February. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please write Kid City on the memo line of your check.

Thank You For Your Contributions.

CHRISTMAS

For Period: 03/01/2017 to 01/14/2018

Ms. Joyce Adachi
Yas & Joyce Aochi
Ms. Judy Asazawa
Mr. Duane Baba
Elston & Verna Carr
Mrs. Annette De La Torre
Clifford and Mi Doi
Ms. Mary Enomoto
Richard & Kathy Fujita
Mrs. Lily Fukunaga
Mr. Larry Furukawa
Roger & Wendy Furuno
Mrs. Dorothy Goerke
Mrs. Yoshie Hagiya
Steve & Jan Haruta
Mr. Ron Hayashida
Ms. Patty Hiram
Ernest Hiroshige
George & Linda Holtz
Mr. Akira Inaba
Mrs. Sumi Iwasaki
Ms. Barbara Kamon
Dr. Dolly Kaplan
Mr. Terry Kasuyama
Denby & Sets Kawahara
Albert & Amy Keimi
Mrs. Marye Kimoto
Clifford & Mui Koike
Mrs. Susie Koo
Mrs. Ruth Kubo
Mrs. Dora Kunishige
Harry & Carole Kuruma
Mr. Brian Kurushima
Mrs. Mary Kurushima
Dick & Frances Kushino
Mrs. Grace Kusumi
Rev. Sunyoung Lee
Kristofer & Stephanie Leese

Mrs. Victoria Leon
Ms. Arline Lew
Victor & Cynthia Lew
Mrs. Louise Manabe
Mr. Tim R. Manaka
Mrs. Irene Mano
Terry & Jane Matsumoto
Mrs. Setsuko Minabe
Ken & Ellen Minami
Mrs. Masako Miyake
Masashi & Grace Miyaoka
Mr. Ed Miyashiro
Shu & Lynn Miyazaki
Albert & Pauline Morita
Douglas & Ruth Murakami
Hideo & Marian Murata
Mark & Pamela Nakagawa
Mrs. Mary Nakajima
Mrs. Chieko Nakamura
Ms. Elaine Nakano & Grant
Hiramoto
Mrs. Seiko Nakayama
Takeshi & Patricia Nakayama
Ken & Shari Nishi
Mrs. Angel Nishinaka
Mark & Cynthia Nishinaka
Robert & Gail Nishinaka
Wesley & Martha Nishinaka
Mr. James Nishitsuji
Alan & Marilyn Nobori
Mr. Eugene Oba
Patrick & Gloria O'Brien
Ms. Dorothea Okada
Mrs. Helen Okazaki
Randall & Susan Onishi
Ms. Kathy Onoye
Mr. Jonathan Oyama
Wendell & Jane Oyama

Mr. Dennis Park
Patricia Pena
Mrs. Betty Quon
Ernie & Jane Rivera
Mark & Kathy Sadamitsu
Ms. Stephanie Saito
Mrs. Toshiko Saito
Ray & Mits Saruwatari
Akira & Carole Sasaki
Todd & Joyce Sasaki
Mr. Yoichi Serizawa
Jack & Jean Shigetomi
Mr. Darren Shirai
Mrs. Hisako Shohara
Mrs. Terry Sugamura
Mr. Dean Sugano
Ms. Suzuko Takahata
Mrs. Emi Takashima
Mrs. Ruth Takata
Mrs. Anna Mae Tamaki

Dr. Ben Tamaki
Tetsu & Kathy Tanimoto
Jun & Chi Fung Tanisaki
George & Naomi Terukina
Fred & Kaz Togawa
Ms. Susan Togino
Asao & Carolyn Tokunaga
Mrs. Jean Urushima
Ms. Vicky Uyemura
Mrs. Marion Wada
Ms. France Wong
Ms. June Yamaki
Kenji & Hideko Yamamoto
Ms. Laura Yamanaka
Russell & Barbara Yamanaka
Mrs. Fumi Yano
Mrs. Emmie Yasui
Mrs. Sumi Yonemoto
Mrs. Carole Zaima

THANKSGIVING

For Period: 11/26/2017 to 01/14/2018

Ms. Joyce Adachi
Mrs. Lily Fukunaga
Mr. Roy Kaneshiro
Albert & Amy Keimi
Harry & Carole Kuruma
Mrs. Grace Kusumi
Victor & Cynthia Lew
Terry & Jane Matsumoto
Mrs. Masako Miyake
Mark & Pamela Nakagawa
Mrs. Angel Nishinaka
Ms. Dorothea Okada

Mr. Jonathan Oyama
Patricia Pena
Ernie & Jane Rivera
Ms. Stephanie Saito
Bishop Roy Sano
Norman & Susan Senzaki
Mr. Darren Shirai
Mrs. Emi Takashima
Jun & Chi Fung Tanisaki
Ms. Laura Yamanaka
Mrs. Emmie Yasui

Peace Out 2017

Peace Out 2017, an informative and entertaining program which presented an authentic depiction of the Muslim community in our midst, was held at Centenary on December 14, 2017. The event was hosted by Vigilant Love, MPower Change, and Centenary's Mission Committee in hopes of building greater understanding of the Muslim community and understanding of Islamophobia.

The program began with a documentary screening of "Watched" which tells the story of two Muslim students preyed upon by an undercover NYPD officer who came to Brooklyn College to spy on Muslim and other political students. The story is an example of surveillance of the Muslim community similar to the surveillance experienced by the Japanese American community during the World War II internment experience.

The program continued with a poetry reading by Suhaiyah Manzoor-Khan, a 23 year old Muslim woman who writes and speaks about politics, race, gender, feminism, Islam, being visibly Muslim, and more. With Islamophobia on the rise, Suhaiyah Manzoor-Khan points out that the media tends to combat bias by highlighting extraordinary Muslims – world-class athletes, TV stars, good Samaritans and inspiring activists. She argues for acceptance not just because their lives are relatable or valuable because they are recognizable. Instead she challenges people to love Muslims just the way they are even when they are lazy or poor, when they are unemployed or failing in school. Or when they don't have the right color passports and speak proper-sounding English.

The evening ended with a shared meal, a chance to reflect on the film and poem, and a chance to interact with Manzoor-Khan. Representatives of NCRR (Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress) and of JDL (Jewish Defense League) were present and spoke in support of the VigilantLove Coalition.

VigilantLove is a solidarity community against violence and Islamophobia. MPower Change is a grassroots movement rooted in diverse Muslim communities throughout the United States who are working together to build social, spiritual, racial, and economic justice for all people.

We thank VigilantLove and MPower for including Centenary in this program and Wesley Nishinaka, chair of Centenary's Mission Committee for arranging the evening.

Christmas Crafts Day

Centenary members and friends enjoyed two Christmas Crafts Day. On November 26, they made string ornaments, nativity decorations, Rice Krispies Christmas trees, candy tube presents, and gingerbread houses. On December 9, Christmas carolers decorated gingerbread men cookies and the candy tubes. Special thanks to Wendell Oyama for making the gingerbread men & Rice Krispies Christmas trees and Michele Nagata for the string ornaments.





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

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