

# Centenary *Chimes*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER CENTENARY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
300 S. CENTRAL AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013

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MARCH 2017

## LENT—WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and our forty day Lenten journey to Easter. Lenten spiritual practices include Fasting, Almsgiving/Serving, and Prayer.

We think of Lent as a time to give up meat or chocolate or some other indulgences. But a fast is the opening of our hearts and stripping ourselves of everything that is an obstacle to the gift of God's grace. Fasting is disposing ourselves; to empty ourselves in order to be full of Christ Jesus and God. What if we gave up judgment, greed, fear, lies, gossip, anxiety, evil, apathy, discontent, discouragement, and hatred?

Almsgiving is more than the act of giving. It is an attitude of the heart; a heart that is humble, repentant, merciful and compassionate. Almsgiving is often expressed by serving God and others with discernment, sacrifice, love and care. It may be reflected in the giving of canned goods to the food pantry, sharing old glasses that bring improved sight to someone in the world, donating to causes that bring healing to a hurting world, or recycling to conserve resources and our earth.

In prayer we allow ourselves to be loved by God, as we open ourselves in an attitude of listening and conversation – being present to God. Prayer is a time when we unite ourselves to Jesus and to the Church, and a time when we open ourselves to the breath of the Holy Spirit who makes all things new. Prayer is a

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### Church Events

- March 1st—Ash Wednesday Service, noon and 5:30 pm
- March 5<sup>th</sup>—Bazaar Meeting
- March 5th—Lenten Study 9 am
- March 5th Prayer Shawl meeting

### Regular Events

Nihongo Bible Study 11 am Sun

Chikara Practice 1:30 pm Sun,  
Monday Bible Study 6:00 pm

Japanese Dance Class, TW  
Karate 7:30 pm MW

# Susan Kazue Imoto—Nominated for 2017 Woman of the Year

Rev. Richard Kuyama and Rev. KarenFay nominated Susan Kazue Imoto for 2017 Woman of the Year. The Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of the Japanese American Citizen League and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California has hosted an annual Women of the Year Luncheon since 1963. Their selection criteria are based on service to the community, contributions to perpetuate the Japanese culture, career professionalism, as well as the strength and courage of women who have held a family together in the face of adversity. Susan K. Imoto, aka Imoto Sensei, of Kotobuki No Kai, Minyo dance that practices at Centenary UMC, is very deserving of this nomination and honor.

## Biography

Imoto Hoshunjyu was born on October 28, 1944 to Michiko Kawagishi and Yoshiaki Fujinami, who was serving in the army in Shinkyo, Manchuria, China at the time. In 1946 at the age of two, the family returned to Kushimoto-cho, Tahara, Wakayama, Japan where both the Fujinami and Kawagishi families were from. There, she attended Tahara Elementary and Junior High Schools, and Koza High School.

In 1960 the Fujinami family moved to the United States and settled in Boyle Heights, California. She attended Roosevelt High School and graduated in 1964. Through church Bible studies and social events, she met Ted Takafumi Imoto, and in 1967 they married. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

While raising three children, she attended East Los Angeles College in the evenings and received an Associates of Arts degree in Child Development. She began working as a head teacher at the International Institute of Los Angeles. Subsequently, she worked at Keiro Retirement Home where there was a high need for a Japanese bilingual social worker.

She retired at the age of 50 when her first grandson was born.

As a mother of Japanese descent, she wanted to instill Japanese cultural values and experiences for her children. Her son took kendo lessons and is now a sensei. Her two daughters joined the Fujima Kansuma Kai, a Japanese classical dance group, and they both have their Natori statuses. It was with the Fujima Kansuma Kai that she developed a greater passion for odori (dance). For about 25 years she supported her girls in odori by taking them to classes and performances, making costumes and props for the group, and learning how to dress them in their kimono costumes and apply kabuki style make up.

After her daughters married and had their own family lives, she began her own personal learning of dance from Kawamura Sensei with the Nippon Minyo Kenkyu Kai from 1993 to 2009. Under Kawamura Sensei, she achieved her Natori and Shihan statuses as Imoto Hoshunjyu, and continued to dance until her sensei's retirement. In the Spring of 2009, Imoto Sensei opened her own Minyo dance group, Kotobuki No Kai, and became the head of the Los Angeles Nippon Minyo Kenkyu Kai. The group currently practices at Centenary United Methodist Church in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.

Imoto Sensei shares her passion for Minyo by volunteering her time to teach anyone who wants to learn to dance. These include her regular Kotobuki No Kai students, as well as Keiro Retirement Home residents, Nisei Week public dancers, members of the Taiwan Center, and some private students. Through Minyo she and her students perform throughout the Southern California area at such venues as



Tanabata Festival, Cherry Blossom Festivals, Long Beach Aquarium, Kite Festival, Asian Expo, Wakayama Kenjinkai Picnic, Annual Kenjin Kyogikai Charity Show, and Nanka Minyo Kyokai Aki No Minyo Show.

In addition to her dance, she has served as a Trustee for Centenary United Methodist Church, the Treasurer of Wakayama Kenjin Kai Women's Club, and the Secretary of the Nanka Minyo Kyokai. She also enjoys cooking, sewing, singing, crafts and travel.

Centenary friends, members, members Kotobuki No Kai, friends from the minyo and odori dance communities, we hope you will celebrate Centenary's 2017 Woman of the Year nomination and attend the annual luncheon on Sunday, May 7, 2017, noon and luncheon is \$40. Please see Vicky Leon, Michele Nagata or Martha Nishinaka to reserve a seat or table.

*NOTE - Other Centenary women who have received this honor: AnnaMae Takamaki 1992, Mary Meri Kurushima 1999, Judy Miyake Asazawa 2002, Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young 2006, Vicky Nishinaka Leon, 2007, Marilyn Nobori 2010, Martha Nishinaka, Carolyn Tokunaga 2016*

# Pastor's Pen

As we enter the season of Lent, I would like for us to reflect on what it means to be a church. I understand that the nature of the Church is the living Body of Christ. By gathering in the name of Christ, the Church recognizes Jesus as the head of the community of believers; together its members celebrate the grace of God shown in Jesus Christ, as the Church exist for the glory of God. I often think of the Church in the image of burning coals. Coals, when burning together, become a powerful unit that can produce sufficient and useful energy. When burning individually, coals lose their strength and soon die out. Together we can work to carry out the Church's mission in this world.

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (BOD ¶120). The Church is the foretaste, the sign, and the instrument of the kingdom of God; also, it is called to be faithfully obedient to the Lord in its proclamations and activities. Thus, the Church needs to embody the work of Christ, so that the message of Gospel is understood by all its hearers. The goal of the Church is not to draw people into its buildings; instead, it exists to transform and send people out into the world to spread scriptural holiness.

Therefore, the primary tasks of the Church are to worship God, faithfully preach the Gospel, reach the un-churched, nurture the believers to be disciples of Christ, be accountable for discipleship, promote social justice and peace, care for God's creation, administer the means of grace, tend to the sick, and advocate for the outcasts, the afflicted, and the marginalized, so that Christ's redemption for the world is carried out in our services. Thus, the Church becomes an instrument for God's restorative work in the world to actualize the Kingdom of God.

Now when you think of Centenary, how are we doing as the Body of Christ? Or more importantly, why do you come to church, THIS church? Why do we continue to support this entity on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Central



in DTLA? Perhaps this could be a conversation starter at our lunch tables after worship services. I invite you to share your thoughts with me.

Peace,  
*Rev. Sungyoung Lee*

## OUR PRAYERS

We lift up prayers for these persons and families:

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

Janet Yoshii passed away in December, 2016. A private family service was held at Fukui Mortuary.

***Of healing and comfort...***

Sam Miyamoto

Ramos-Young Family

Hideko Yamamoto

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Donations received 1/29 to 2/26/2017:

Judy Asazawa, *In memory of Rose Mayeda*  
Madeline Chandler, *Concert Donation*  
Susan Edwards, *Special Offering - Homeless Ministries*  
Mary Enomoto, *Izumi Concert Donation*  
Yoshie Hagiya, *In memory of Rose Mayeda*  
Steve & Jan Haruta, *In memory of Hisako Miyashiro, Rose Mayeda, Aiko Nobori, Special Offering - Kid City Spring Care Package*  
Amy Higa, *In memory of Emi Serizawa*  
Alice & Noboru Kawabe, *In memory of Hisako Miyashiro*  
Clifford & Mui Koike, *In memory of Rose Mayeda*  
Ruth Kubo, *In memory of Bill Murata & Emi Serizawa, Thank you for calendar*  
Dora Kunishige, *In memory of Rose Mayeda & Betty Murata, Special Offering - 80, 88, 90th Birthday Celebration, Izumi Concert Donation*  
Harry & Carole Kuruma, *In memory of Rose Mayeda, Emi Serizawa*  
Richard & Frances Kushino, *In memory of Rose Mayeda*  
Rev. Sunyoung Lee, *Birthday Thank Offering*  
Vicky Leon, *Special Offering - Kid City Spring Care Package*  
Arline Lew, *In memory of Rose Mayeda*  
Michael & Aimee Lockett, *In memory of Bill Murata*  
Kimberley Masumiya, *In memory of Isoe Terazawa*  
Sets Minabe, *In memory of Rose Mayeda*  
Hiroko Minei, *Special Offering*  
Masako Miyake, *In memory of Rose Mayeda*  
Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda, *Special Offering Kid City Spring Care Package*  
Lynn & Shu Miyazaki, *In memory of Emi Serizawa, Rose Mayeda*  
Robert & Gail Nishinaka, *Izumi Concert Donation, Ministers Housing in memory of Rose Mayeda*

James Nishitsuji, *In memory of Agnes Nishitsuji*  
Marilyn Nobori, *In memory of Bill Murata, Emi Serizawa, Rose Mayeda*  
Pat, Gloria, & Caitlin O'Brien, *Izumi Concert Donation*  
Shig & May Ochi, *93 & 90 Birthday Gift*  
Wendell & Jane Oyama, *Izumi Concert Donation*  
Ramos-Young Family, *Special Offering in celebration of Asao & Carolyn's 50th Anniversary*  
Skeeter & Carole Sasaki, *Special Offering - Kid City Spring Care Package, Special Offering - Kid City Spring Care Package*  
Yo Serizawa, *In memory of Emi Serizawa*  
Emi Takashima, *Special Offering - Kid City Spring Care Package*  
Fred & Kaz Togawa, *In memory of Emi Serizawa*  
June Urban, *In loving memory of aunt Ada Togawa*  
Jean Urushima, *In memory of Emi Serizawa*  
Nora & Raymond Yamashiro, *In memory of Emi Serizawa*  
Steven C. Young, *Sanctuary Building Fund*

Thank you to all those who donated soup for the Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser. The congregation enjoyed a variety of delicious soups and over \$300 was raised for the Wesley Health Centers Skid Row Clinic

Sharing   
God's Love

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## IN HONOR OF REV. KAREN FAY

She was hired in June 1999 as our Associate Pastor and worked as a team with the youth worker. Later she assumed all the roles of the youth worker, along with all her pastoral duties. Throughout the years of change, Rev. Karen Fay was consistent and led *Centenary's Youth Ministries* to...

*be relevant; live now*

*be compassionate; offer care*

*be liberal with our care; show kindness*

*be generous with our time; serve others*

*be faith-filled with our actions; share the presence of Christ*

*be willing to listen and be a voice for others; silence is not empathy*

*be bold and proclaim God's love for all; God doesn't discriminate*

*be YOU! You are loved!*

Past MYF presidents, representing the past 10 years, collectively developed a list of United Methodist Ministries, organizations and previous MYF projects and made donations from the youth account, in honor of Rev. Karen Fay.

First of all, they supplemented donations to help pay for new chairs and tables for the church Fellowship Hall. And in honor of Rev. Karen Fay they have made donations to:

1. UMCOR - UM national and international disaster relief
2. Camp Mekokiko - UM Camp Ground on Big Island, Hawaii (mission trip site with Rev. KF)
3. Kid City – United Methodist assistance to college bond youth (Downtown LA UM mission area)
4. La Oportunidad - homeless services/ministries (UM West District, District Superintendent, Rev. Mark)
5. Aiko's Team - suicide prevention & assistance for survivors after suicide (Annual Youth Fundraiser)
6. API Equality - Asian American Pacific Islanders LGBTQ coalition for equitable rights, inclusion and racial and social justice so all people can thrive

Rev. Karen Fay led Centenary to discover spiritual wellness, seek justice & express care. In preparations for her leaving, Rev. Karen Fay did not want any farewell parties, but these gifts in her honor strongly reflect her ministries, leadership, spiritual guidance, commitment to Christ and friendship.

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## LENT *Continued from page 1*

time of affirming our faith and discovering the presence, wisdom and spirit of God.

As worshippers received the ashes, we entered the season of Lent. It is a time to relinquish old limiting and narrow thoughts about ourselves and others, a time to express the indwelling Christ and to recognize Christ in others - a time to embrace a workable fast: fasting from negative, fearful, limiting words and ways. But Lent is also a time for self-examination, self-discipline, and self-commitment. It is a time to embrace God's mercy with gratitude and to offer thanksgiving with praise, service and a rededication of ourselves to God.

NOTE: originally appeared in Chimes April 2014

# Celebrating Birthdays



80 - Harry Kuruma, Carole Sasaki; 88 - Angel Nishinaka, Mary Enomoto, Sumi Yonemoto, Lily Yamaguchi, Hisako Shohara, Betty Quon; 90+ - Kenji Yamamoto, Hideko Yamamoto, Reiko Yoshinaka, Mary Kurushima, Mary Saito, Shu Miyazak, Marian Manaka, Tim Manaka Ruth Kubo, Fumi Nakamura, Yoshie Hagiya, Mary Nakajima, Masako Miyake, Shig Ochi, May Ochi, Dora Kunishige, Lillian Yamaka, Fumi Yahiro, Marye Kimoto

## SAYING FAREWELL — REV. KARENFAY



Rev. KarenFay offers a A Farewell Litany; and final Children't Moments on February 26th

Presentations:  
 Kamaka 100th Anniversary Special Edition Ukele; by Steve Haruta  
 A song by Harry Kuruma  
 Albums by Michele Nagata and  
 Love envelopes by Vicky Leon



Prayer Shawl Farewell Tea for Rev. KarenKay held February 5th.



# CENTENARY FINANCES

*Giving report for January 2017 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer*

	Actual January	Actual Year to Date	Budget January	Budget Year to Date
Pledges	\$41,314	\$41,314	\$13,083	\$13,083
Unpledged Giving	\$7,054	\$7,054	\$5,525	\$5,525

NOTE: \$28,815 of the pledge amount are from pledgers who have given their total annual pledge.

## Announcement

- Eastside Study Group meets first and third Thursdays, 7:30 pm at Victor and Cynthia Lew's home.
- Monday Bible Group meets every Monday 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Sunnie, will begin Sun March 5 for 5 consecutive Sundays at 9 am in the fellowship hall.
- In you know someone who can benefit from receiving a prayer shawl please let the prayer shawl crafters know.
- After 10 years, this is Marilyn Nobori's last Chimes. Please direct all stories, announcements, etc to the church office.
- Arigato Bazaar Preparation begins. Watch for announcements..

## Upcoming Lent Events

### Wednesday, March 1st

Ash Wednesday worship s at noon and 5:30, joint worship

### Sundays, March 5, 12, 19 , 26, April 2

Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Sunnie, 9: am in the Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, April 9th

Palm Sunday Worship,

### Thursday, April 13th

Maunday Thursday, joint worship at 6 pm

### Friday, April 15h

Good Friday joint worship at 6 pm

### Easter Sunday, April 16th

Easter Worship, joint worship, 10 am.

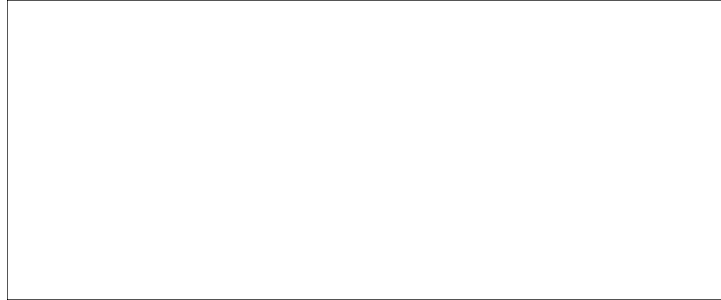




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## SAYING FAREWELL — REV. KAREN FAY *(Continued from page 6)*



Final picture.