

Centenary Chimes

NEWSLETTER
CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2019

Pastor's Pen



Rev. Sunyoung Lee

I don't know about you but I can't believe it's already September! Didn't the Special General Conference of the United Methodist Church take place only a few weeks ago? (If you recall, it happened in February.) Time surely doesn't stand still for anyone. Recently, I was attending a planning meeting for the upcoming Japanese American Convocation in October when someone asked how long I've been serving at Centenary. As I responded that I had just started year number four, both she and I could not believe that three summers had passed since I first arrived in Little Tokyo. (Actually, FOUR summers by the time this article reaches you.) Although I do not feel that it was only yesterday that I began my pastorate at Centenary, it surely doesn't feel like I'm on my fourth year either.

As I look forward to what God has in store for us in this new annual conference year, I wonder if I could encourage all of you to consider getting to know me better. I know that this may sound a little weird for some, especially since I have been the pastor of Centenary for not just one or two but three years. However, I feel that I still haven't met many of you who read our church newsletter. I know

that Centenary Chimes reaches a lot of people who no longer are able to attend Sunday worshipservice but still hold Centenary dear to their heart. If you are one of them and I haven't had the chance to get to know you yet, would you please consider meeting with me? I will meet you anywhere you prefer at your convenience. Whether it be at your house, coffee shop, restaurant, during the day or in the evening. Just let Jane at the church office know that you are interested in having me visit you, and we'll coordinate for it to happen.

If a visit from me doesn't work for you at all, I would like to at least pray for you. Would you please share with me what you would like for me to pray about? You are more than welcome to email me your prayer requests or call Jane at the church office if you don't use email. Once I receive your prayer requests, I will set aside a time to be in prayer for you. My email is pastorsunnie@gmail.com and the phone number for our church office is 213-617-9097.

I honestly hope to hear from many of you. Oh! If I already do know you, please don't feel that this invitation does not pertain to you. I would absolutely love to visit with you and pray for those of you that I have had the honor of getting to know for the past three years. All of you are more than welcome to ask for a pastoral visit from me. Looking forward to getting to know you much better!

Peace,
Rev. Sunyoung Lee

Joys and Concerns

We "Thank You" for your donations for the renovation of the youth room

Please pray for the healing and recovery of:

Hisako Shohara
Brian Kurushima
Carole Sasaki
Mary Nakajima
Mary Enomoto

We lift up prayers for the families of:

Dr. Ben Tamaki who passed away on July 26, 2019.
Mary Toma who passed away on July 21, 2019.
Fumi Tadakuma who passed away earlier this year.
Ray Tadakuma who passed away in May, 2019

Upcoming Church Activities & Meetings

- Sept. 8 SPRC, 12:30 p.m.
- Sept. 15 Rally Sunday
- Sept. 15 Finance Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- Sept. 27 Centenary's 26th Annual Golf Tournament, Montebello Golf Course
- Oct. 6 Church Council, 12:30 p.m.
- Oct. 13 Worship Committee Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- Oct. 20 Anniversary Sunday, Joint Worship 10:45 a.m.
 with guest preacher Bishop Roy Sano
- Oct. 27 English Praise Worship, 10:45 a.m.
- Oct. 27 Board of Trustees, 12:30 p.m.

Regular Church Events

Sunday Mornings:

- + Japanese Language Personal Prayer Time, 8:30 a.m. in Chapel
- + Nihongo Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. with Rev. Ryohei Kawano
- + English Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
- + 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.

Acknowledgements

Donations May 1, 2019 to August 11, 2019

MEMORIALS

Kubo, Ruth - in memory of Loved Ones
Manaka, Tim and Marion - In memory of Mark Kiguchi
Matsuno, Lori - In memory of Dr Ben Tamaki
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - In memory of Leonard Smith
Peterson and Sawano Families - In memory of Yasuko Sawano
France Yanai Wong - In memory of mother Mrs Satsuyo Yanai
Yamanaka, Laura - In memory of Dr Ben Tamaki

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Asazawa, Judy - Peace with Justice
Asazawa, Judy - Youth Room Project
Edwards, Susan - Building Maintenance June and July
Emoto, Hiroshi and Junko - Birth of Grandson
Hansbrough, Lilia - Peace with Justice
Haruta, Steve and Jan - Kid City
Hayashi, Karin - Kid City
Helm, Shoko - Fujinkai
Kasuyama, Terry - Peace with Justice
Kim, Nancy - Youth Room Project
Kitabayashi, Setsuko - Fujinkai
Kuruma, Harry and Carole - Peace with Justice
Kuruma, Harry and Carole - Kid City
Kurushima, Brian - Kid City
Kushino, Dick and Frances - Peace with Justice
Lee, Pastor Sunyoung - Youth Room Project
Lee, Rev Jongdae and Insook - Special offering
Kushino, Dick and Frances - Kid City

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

(continued)
Leese, Kris and Stephanie - Youth Room Project
Leese, Kris and Stephanie - Peace with Justice
Leon, Vicky - Peace with Justice
Lew, Victor and Cynthia - Peace with Justice
Miyake, Masako - Youth Room Project
Miyashiro-Tsunoda, Theresa - Kid City
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - Peace with Justice
Nishinaka, Robert and Gail - Graduations of Ryan
Sadamitsu, Kelly Sadamitsu, Marissa Vensel, Ryan Tait, Kayla Tait, JJ Rivera, Memo Pinto
Nishinaka, Angel - Kid City
Nobori, Marilyn - Kid City
O'Brien, Gloria - Peace with Justice
Oyama, Jonathan - Peace with Justice
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - Peace with Justice
Oyama, Wendell and Jane - Kid City
Sano, Bishop Roy - Celebrating ministries of Kurushima Family
Sasaki, Skeeter and Carole - Peace with Justice
Takashima, Emi - Kid City
Tanimoto, Tetsu and Kathy - Youth Room Project
Tanimoto, Tetsu and Kathy - In appreciation to Bishop Grant Hagiya and Nishinaka Family
Tokunaga, Carolyn - Peace with Justice
Tokunaga, Carolyn - Kid City
Uyemura, Vicky - Peace with Justice
Uyemura, Vicky - Kid City
Yamada, Ted - Music Ministry
Yamanaka, Laura Kid City
Zaimo, Carole Kid City

Country Store, all profit but lots of preparation

Once a month, our pricing crew of Jan Haruta, Marilyn Nobori, Mui Koike, Joyce Kuruma, Susan Onishi, Betty Quon, France Wong, Karin Hayashi, and Delicia Fabre priced donations. - Hide Goto priced and displayed all of jewelry. Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda unpacked boxes for the pricers

Unusual and unique items often stumped the crew.

Neatly sorted, cleaned and priced, donations were wrapped and boxed for the bazaar.

Thanks to all from an appreciative retiring chair, Carolyn Tokunaga.

Room set up by Terry Kasuyama, Grant Hiramoto, Victor and Cynthia Lew, and Marilyn Nobori.

Yet that was only the beginning of bazaar set up.

Stacked to the ceiling, all the boxes of merchandise were moved out of the closet onto the floor by the set up crew.

Then the pricing crew was joined by John Matsubara, Hide Goto, and Terry's friend Kay unpacked boxes and set out merchandise.

On bazaar day, Mui Koike, Susie Koo, Jim and Donna Jaeger, Steve and Laura Uyemura, John Matsubara, and France Wong staffed the booth.

Really great stuff! Thank you donors! And a big thank you to all of the workers and those who sold when we weren't around!

Everyone thrilled with their new treasures, workers happy so see tables emptied, Goodwill happy to receive some of the unsold merchandise. Arigato!!!

Financial Report

Giving report for June/July 2019 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	Jun-Jul Actual	Jun-Jul Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges	\$29,209	\$35,202	\$85,324	\$123,205
Unpledged Giving	\$5,956	\$5,550	\$18,029	\$19,425
Holiday Offering	\$-	\$-	\$10,738	\$10,000
Bazaar (net)	\$24,535	\$36,000	\$24,535	\$36,000
Other Income	\$9,172	\$5,883	\$43,117	\$20,592
Transfers from Merrill Lynch	\$750	\$9,617	\$16,650	\$29,683
TOTAL	\$69,622	\$92,252	\$198,393	\$238,905

Apportionments & Quotas	\$12,558	\$8,372	\$25,116	\$29,302
Operations/Program Expense	\$57,845	\$54,293	\$203,327	\$201,227
TOTAL	\$70,403	\$62,665	\$228,443	\$230,529

Other Income includes parking lot, facility use, miscellaneous and Sunday lunch revenues.
If there are any questions regarding details of the above report please contact Gail Nishinaka at centenaryumcfinance@gmail.com or call the church office.

Handcrafted Booth

A belated thank you to all of our crafters – we appreciate the gift of your time and talents. A new crafter joined our ranks - Sachi Mori made the colorful bags that hung on the closet doors and Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda beaded socks. Hideko Robinett made the Donburi Bowl Cozies.- France Wong and friend decorated the denim aprons. Katrina Werner joined the crafters by making jar openers and Microwave Bowl Cozies..Shari Nishi crocheted the towels – a craft that was lost with the passing of Marian Nishitsuji. Carolyn Tokunaga continued struggling through the towel projects.

Thank you to our set up and preparation crew: Michele Nagata, Ted Yamada, Marilyn Nobori, and Hide Goto; and to our bazaar day helpers: Delicia Fabre, Allison Tokunaga, Katrina Werner, Vicky Uyemura, and Jane Oyama.

We also thank all who patronized the booth, often for gifts. Our Holiday Boutique will be held in December so begin to think about your Christmas List. New crafters are always welcome as are new ideas. Surprise us!

Carolyn Tokunaga, Handcrafted Booth Chair.

REMINDER

*United Methodist Youth Fellowship Room Dedication
September 15th is RALLY SUNDAY
at Centenary United Methodist Church*

Our Centenary Family gathered on Saturday, July 13 for our third Wise Up! program. Wise Up! was an afternoon of learning, inspiration and fun. Our English and Japanese congregations; youngsters to Seniors; and friends from other churches joined in our learning sessions and fellowship. Breakout groups were comprised of a mix of congregations and ages—not by design but by interest. It was definitely an added benefit to our Wise Up! experience.

Dr. John Holbert, a retired United Methodist Church pastor and professor of religion at Texas Wesleyan University started the afternoon off with a discussion that the basic concern of the book of Job is about more than the history surrounding and the suffering of Job's life. It is about understanding God's love through all of God's creation – trusting that he has created and sustained the entire universe – and that understanding determines how we understand our relationship with God.

After his presentation, the attendees participated in one of four diverse presentations:

- An introduction to Tai Chi was presented by our Assistant Pastor for Japanese Ministry, Rev. Dr. Ryohei Kawano. After giving some background of Tai Chi, he led the group in a Tai Chi routine.
- Carole Sasaki presented a summary of reports from the "Commission on a Way Forward" and from the 2019 Annual Conference concerning Human Sexuality and the Unity of the United Methodist Church. Other Centenary delegates from this year's Annual Conference offered their comments. Guests from Faith and West Los Angeles UMCs also provided input on what their respective churches were doing and how they were approaching the reports and information.
- Our resident chef, Wendall Oyama, taught the youth how to prepare Russian Potato Salad, Chinese Chicken Salad and Gazpacho. The youth helped Chef Wendell to prepare these dishes which were served at the evening dinner.
- Heidi Sasaki and Judy Asazawa led youth and adults in games and a hand-painting craft.

After a fun-filled ice-breaker game led by Gloria Fujita-O'Brien, the energized group gathered for dinner prepared by Cynthia and Victor Lew. The crowd was pleasantly surprised and pleased with the delicious salads and soup that Chef Wendell and the youth made.

Additional kudos go to the June Yamaki, our MC, Grant Hiramoto, Elaine Nakano, Dennis Park, Harry Kuruma, Caitlin O'Brien, Skeeter Sasaki, Pastor Sunnie and an array of others who stepped up to help set up, handle registration, and to develop the program. Watch out for details for our next Wise Up! in early 2020.





This is an epic, once-in-a-lifetime celebration honoring our three Japanese American United Methodist bishops – Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, Bishop Roy I. Sano, and Bishop Grant J. Hagiya. We will celebrate each of their ministries and the courage, insight, and sacrifices that they made for the Japanese American community while paving the way for future leaders in ministry and beyond.

Oct. 17-18: Clergy Retreat from October 17-18 at various locations.

Oct. 18-20: The NJAUMC Clergy & Laity Convocation
The primary location will be at Faith UMC in Torrance, CA. The Bishops' Celebration Dinner Reception on October 19 at 6 pm and will be at the Ken Miller Recreation Center located at 3341 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503.

Please click on the registration link <http://bit.ly/njaumc-reg> for more detailed information.

REGISTRATION is due by end of day on Sunday, September 29, 2019!

Church Picnic by Jane Oyama

On Sunday, July 14th, the Church Picnic, was enjoyed by a group of almost 50, including the English and Nihongo Divisions. Music was led by the Praise Band. Following the message from Pastor Sunyoung Lee and Reverend Ryohei Kawano, we had a delicious pot-luck lunch with an abundance of food. Cynthia Nishinaka led us in water balloon games that were filled with laughter. Even Pastor Sunnie showed her skills at water balloon tossing. We also played Bingo with numbers entertainingly called by Robert Nishinaka. The weather was warm and beautiful, adding to a memorable day.

Thank you to the following: Mui and Cliff Koike for securing permits; the crew who moved and set up tents (Ted Yamada, Skeeter Sasaki, and Dennis Park); Ted Yamada for supplying speakers; Praise Band for music; Cynthia and Robert for leading games; Gail and Robert Nishinaka and Wendell Oyama for transporting drinks and ice; Wendell and Jane Oyama, Susie Koo and Mui Koike for donating prizes; Michelle Nagata and Gail Nishinaka for organizing the tables of food; and, of course, attendees for the great food.





Kid City Back to School Project by Carolyn Tokunaga

On July 29, 100 Back to School Bags were delivered to Kid City by Gloria O'Brien and Carolyn Tokunaga (faithful truck driver Skeeter Sasaki missed this delivery). The bags included 3 spiral notebooks, 3 two pocket folders, 3 pens (black and 2 colors), granola bars, Tylenol, EmergenC, bandages, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, deodorant, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, laundry detergent pods, Kleenex, chapstick and feminine hygiene products.

Thank you everyone who participated in this project! A lot of shopping was done in a month's time by Mui Koike, Susie Koo, Lilia Hansborough, Gloria O'Brien, Terry Kasuyama, Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda, Dennis Park, Sandee Furuta, Vicky Leon, Judy Asazawa, France Wong, and some anonymous donors during the back to school sales. Generous monetary donations provided the funding for many of the items.

Karin Hayashi, Susan Edwards, and Terry Miyashiro-Sonoda bagged toiletries, food, and medicines.

Vicky Uyemura, Kris and Stephanie Leese, Karin Hayashi, Gloria and Caitlin O'Brien, Marilyn Nobori, Pastor Sunnie, and June Yamaki came to fill the large colorful bags.

The Kid City program continues to grow. There is always activity and positive energy when you enter Hope Place. It is a place of community, support, compassion and caring. The students are thankful for Centenary's gift of supplies and the encouragement that comes with them. The bags send the message that there are people who care about them and that their education is important.





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

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