

Centenary *Chimes*

NEWSLETTER | CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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OCTOBER 2018/NOVEMBER 2018

Pastor's Pen



Rev. Sunyoung Lee

In light of what's been happening in the recent weeks, I would like to share the article written by Rev. Kira Schlesinger as we consider gender equality and a world free of sexual harassment.

Peace.

Rev. Sunyoung Lee

"WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH ANGRY WOMEN?" by Rev. Kira Schlesinger

Women are angry. As we near the one-year mark of the allegations of serial sexual assaults by Harvey Weinstein, and as we are embroiled once again in a public conversation brought up by the Kavanaugh Supreme Court hearings, women are angry and tired at not being believed.

On Monday (Sept. 24, 2018), women and men dressed in black and walked out in support of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's allegations against Judge Kavanaugh and, more generally, in support of believing survivors.

Earlier this month, Serena Williams made headlines when she was penalized by an official for smashing her racket and vociferously protesting a call at the US Open. Critics condemned her behavior, and then there was a backlash against the criticism, calling it sexist and arguing that men received fewer penalties for similar behavior. While such behavior is less tolerated now, "bad boy" behavior from male athletes and coaches is normalized and is even seen as amusing. But an angry woman, and particularly an angry black woman, is frightening and deserving of punishment.

Like many women, I was socialized to rarely, if ever, show my anger. I learned that when women raise their voices, they are seen as "hysterical" (a sneakily sexist word derived from the Greek word for "uterus"), but men who raise their voices are passionate. This cultural phenomenon is usually compounded in the church, where "good Christian girl" is synonymous with being sweet, gentle, and compliant. Unfortunately, those very qualities also have the potential to make women the perfect targets for assault and abuse.

It has been a journey for me to accept and claim my anger, to realize it is a valid emotion just like any other and to know I

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Upcoming Church Events

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| October 3 | Youth Ministry "Expressions", (6 p.m. dinner, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. program) |
| October 6 | Yard Sale, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. |
| October 7 | "Blessing of the Animals" English Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting, 12:15 p.m. |
| October 14 | Anniversary Sunday, 10:45 a.m.
Finance Committee Meeting |
| October 17 | Youth Ministry "Expressions", 6 – 7:30 p.m. |
| October 20 | Men's Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. |
| October 21 | Charge Conference w/ D.S. Nakagawa, 12:30 p.m. |
| November 4 | All Saints Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
Holiday Boutique, 12:30 p.m.
Church Council Meeting, 12:30 p.m. |
| November 7 | Youth Ministry "Expressions", 6 – 7:30 p.m. |
| November 11 | Prayer Shawl Ministry, 12:15 p.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting, 12:30 p.m. |
| November 18 | Commitment Sunday, 10:45 a.m.
VIT Meeting, 12:15 p.m. |
| November 21 | Annual Turkey Dinner Mission Project Preparation |
| November 22 | Annual Turkey Dinner Mission Project Distribution |
| November 25 | Christmas Crafts Day & Hanging of the Greens, 11:45 a.m. |

Regular Events

Sunday Mornings – Nihongo Worship Service, 9:30 a.m. with Rev. Ryohei Kawano
Adult Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. with Dennis Park
English Worship Service, 10:45 a.m. with Rev. Sunyoung Lee

Monday Night Bible Study, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday Night Praise Band Practice, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Thursday Eastside Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.
Chikara Practice every Sunday – 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.



Our Prayers

In Celebration...

Congratulations to Barbara Asazawa & Manny Nava on their June 25, 2018 nuptials, officiated by Rev. Sunyoung Lee.

Congratulations to Emma Nishinaka and Tim Beal on their recent wedding, August 18, 2018, officiated by her uncle, Robert Nishinaka.

Congratulations to Grant Nishinaka and Sheryl Sabater on their September 27, 2018 marriage.

Our prayers for those who continue to heal...

Dorothy Goerke

Yo Serizawa

Mary Enomoto

Pastor's Pen

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am not wrong or bad for feeling it or expressing it in healthy, appropriate ways. Psalm 37:9 implores us to "Refrain from anger; leave rage alone," and not to worry ourselves about evildoers because true justice comes from God. Ultimately, yes, this is true, but anger at the denigration of God's beloved creatures is surely justified. Jesus himself certainly appeared to get angry during his earthly ministry in cases where it was warranted. However, it is also true that our anger can be unproductive and self-serving, turning into bitterness and hardness of heart. On my best days, I pray to God for the grace to use my anger at the world's injustices productively, and I try not to let rage work me up into a froth of self-righteousness.

For churches that use the Revised Common Lectionary, this Sunday we will hear Jesus tell the disciples in the gospel of Mark that anyone who puts a stumbling block in front of these little ones would be better off being thrown into the sea with a millstone around their neck. In a world where war rages, where racism and gender inequality run amok, where economic inequality is only growing, where our leaders work to divide and not unite us, Christians should stand with the anger of the vulnerable, of the little ones, of those who are most affected by injustice in the world.



Checking In Ministry's 13th Anniversary

VIT's Checking In Ministry celebrated its 13th Anniversary with an appreciation luncheon for all those who participate in this program. Thank you to Vicky Leon for providing the delicious lunch and gift totes, Janice Date for handcrafting the beautiful invitations, Madeline Chandler for gifting all with original flowered hair clips, and Arline Lew for helping with set up and clean up. This was a time for Shepherds and Callers to share experiences and their ideas to make this ministry more efficient. We really can accommodate many more "Callers" and can expand to those outside our church family.

If you live alone, participating in this simple ministry can bring such peace of mind. If you have friends or know of people who live alone, invite them to join this ministry. It is so simple for "Callers" to dial an assigned number on their telephone, and when prompted, give their first and last name and then hang up.

Each day a volunteer known as a "Shepherd" will check the telephone tape to make certain everyone has checked in for the day. Checking in time begins at 5 a.m. and ends at 12 noon although most shepherds will check the calls by 10:00 am.

This ministry is open to everyone and costs nothing. This small gesture on the part of the "Caller" each day provides assurance to families that loved ones are safe. It also assures the Caller that if something were to happen, someone would know within the day, not a week later. The Shepherd will not be satisfied until she knows that the Caller is well and going about his/her daily routine.

VIT (Vision Implementation Team) is indebted to our Shepherds who check the message center daily to make sure all of our Callers have checked in and are okay. Without these volunteers, this ministry could not happen. We thank captains: Gail Nishinaka, Karin Hayashi, and Vicky Leon and our shepherds: Angel Nishinaka, Arline Lew, Carolyn Tokunaga, Gail Nishinaka, Karin Hayashi, Madeline Chandler, Martha Nishinaka, Monica Cruz, Mui Koike, Vicky Leon, and Wendy Raksin.

Think about joining us – we can accommodate many more "Callers" than those now participating and can always use new "Shepherds." Join yourself, contact your friends and neighbors. Please pick up applications from Vicky Leon or Carolyn Tokunaga or you may contact the church at (213) 617-9097. We welcome all new participants.

Finances

Giving report for July and August 2018 from Gail Nishinaka, Treasurer.

	July-Aug Actual	July-Aug Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledges	\$22,959	\$25,666	\$88,058	\$102,666
Unpledged Giving	\$6,573	\$5,975	\$43,604	\$33,101
TOTAL	\$29,532	\$31,641	\$131,662	\$135,767
Apportionments & Quotas	\$10,916	\$10,916	\$43,664	\$43,664

wiseup

Wise Up – a family evening of learning and fellowship

On July 27, 2018, Centenary held an all church family evening, Wise Up, - which began with dinner and interactive mixers and was highlighted with 4 informative workshops that brought new learning experiences for the 64 attendees. The workshops were planned to accommodate the interests of the group that ranged in age from 5 to 80 +.



The four topics were:

Creative Arts – building a story using collage and puppet making – led by Leslie Grey, Centenary’s internationally know visual artist and puppetry designer

Cooking – two sessions – 1. Planning a meal of suimono (Japanese soup) and Tilapia with Garlic and Lemon Sauce, and 2. Making an Apple Tart with a perfect Pie Crust led by Centenary’s resident Chef, Wendell Oyama

Wise Options for Financial and Legal Security to protect your assets – led by Jill Hiraizumi and Peilin Ngo, Estate Planning Attorneys

Matters of Maturity – elder care issues and senior living options – led by Kevin Onishi, Program and Innovation Manager for Keiro

A delicious meal of Fiesta Taco Salad, assorted fruits and gourmet cookies was prepared by Judy Asazawa, Caitlin and Gloria O’Brien. Mixers were organized by Pastor Sunnie Lee.

Evaluation surveys indicate that the evening was a worthwhile event with many requests for another Wise Up evening – to give us “wisdom” on several different topics of interest. Watch this space for information regarding the next Wise Up event to be held in January, 2019.

Thanks to our presenters; Leslie Grey, Wendell Oyama, Jill Hiraizumi, Peilin Ngo, and Kevin Onishi, and to the planning committee; Judy Asazawa, Gloria O’Brien, Elaine Nakano, Grant Hiramoto, Pastor Sunnie Lee and Carole Sasaki for this enjoyable evening which we hope will be an ongoing ministry for Centenary’s members and community.



Donations

July 9 to September 16

MEMORIALS

Yas and Joyce Aochi - In memory of Miko Matsui
Judy Asazawa - In memory of Art Furuno
Judy Asazawa - In memory of Fumi Nakamura
Madeline Chandler - Memorial
Steve and Jan Haruta - In loving memory of Susan Haruta Stokes
Osamu Hongo - In memory of Sammie
Sumi Kramer - In memory of Mark Kiguchi
Ruth Kubo - In memory of Jim Nishitsuji
Ruth Kubo - In memory of Esther Fujita
Masako Miyake - In memory of Fumi Nakamura
Robert and Gail Nishinaka - In memory of Esther Fujita
Marilyn Nobori - In memory of Amy Nagata
Carole and Skeeter Sasaki - In memory of Fumi Nakamura
Ben Tamaki - In memory of Shizue Takagaki
Carolyn Tokunaga - In memory of Art Furuno
Carolyn Tokunaga - In memory of Amy Nagata
Tomi Yano - In loving memory of dear sister Ki Tsuda
Sumi Yonemoto - In memory of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Nagasawa

SPECIAL OFFERING

Elston and Verna Carr - Grandson Miles Carr 18th birthday Aug 4th
Madeline Chandler - Prayers for Damon
Madeline Chandler - Prayers for Damon
Madeline Chandler - Pray for Damon please
Madeline Chandler - Pray for our Family
Susan Edwards - Donation towards utility bill
Sandee Furuta - Expression Youth Ministry
Ron Hayashida - Special donation
Robert and Gail Nishinaka - Wedding of Emma Nishinaka and Timothy Beal
Hisako Shohara - Thank you to checking in ministry
Kenji Yamamoto - Celebrating Kenji's 101st birthday
Ramon and Akiko Yamamoto - Thank you for Chimes
Tomi Yano - Celebrating Mary Yonemoto's 101st birthday

KID CITY

Judy Asazawa
Karin Hayashi
Harry Kuruma
Masako Miyake
Angel Nishinaka
June Yamaki

Beautify!



Anyone interested in helping Rev. Kawano beautify our church?

Annual Turkey Dinner Mission Project

Fall is in the air and we're starting to prepare for our annual "Turkey Dinner Mission Project" taking place on November 21st and 22nd. This long-running tradition involves preparing and cooking about 100 turkey dinners that are delivered on Thanksgiving to residents in the nearby retirement and low-income homes.

We are asking for your support of this project through donations of items and / or your time. Requested items include:

- Turkeys
- Russet Potatoes (we make mashed potatoes from scratch)
- Boxed Stuffing
- Canned Turkey Gravy
- Canned Yams
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Corn
- Canned Pumpkin
- Yellow Cake Mix
- Chicken Broth
- Butter / Eggs / Evaporated Milk

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make checks out to "Centenary UMC" with the notation "Turkey Dinner Project". All donations should be received at the church by Sunday, November 18th.

We also need volunteers to help with preparing / cooking the food on the evening of November 21st and packing / delivering meals on Thanksgiving morning, November 22nd. It is a lot of work, but it is also a great time of fun and fellowship for all those involved.

Keep an eye out for the Donations / Volunteer Sign-Up lists at church starting in October. For more information or if you have questions, please see Michele Nagata or contact the church office.

Kid City Thanks You

These are some of the notes of appreciation from the Kid City Students. College is a wonderful experience but also a stressful one as they try to keep up with studies and financial obligations. Each year there are college graduates from the program and even more high school graduates headed to college. The care packages we prepare make a difference!

"Thank you for all that you do for us! The care packages are REALLY helpful during college days. It makes a huge difference in my life, and it inspires me to also be as helpful as I can, because it can change someone's life for the better. Thank you for taking the time to support us in our journey through college!"

Karina Morales

"Thank you for everything you do for Kid City! I always look forward to receiving a care package. It reminds me that there are people who care about us and want us to succeed! You are an inspiration to us all! Thank you for everything."

Petrona

"Kid City students are so grateful for the care packages you provide and make! I received one when I was going through a tough time and the snacks, notebooks (helped out not only me, but my sisters). Thank you for the love and support."

Daisy

"Thank you so much! I love receiving your care packages every time I come to Kid City, love that you care for us college students. The struggle is real!!! My college experience has been better and everything has been handy. I am glad there are people who take their time to help us. You are the best. Just like you take care of us, now let us take care of you by appreciating you and thanking you!!!"

Joselyn Del Nigel

"Thank you so much for your support. The care packages are honestly big life savers during those tough times in college. I am glad Kid City has supporters who are kind, dedicated, helpful."

Best wishes, Diana Roque

"Thank you! Just a big ol' thank you. Your care packages are such a great contribution to Kid City. Although I haven't received one, I have heard positive things about them. Just walking through Kid City, I have heard things like "that care package was cool," or "this made college a little easier." You're appreciated. When you help people in similar situations as me, I will always be thankful."

Edward M. (Kid City high school student eagerly awaiting his turn)





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Mission Outreach - Water

Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

For our homeless neighbors on Skid Row, life often feels bleak and hopeless but they have found ways to survive and to care for each other. The problem is so big, we can only do small things to make a difference. Distributing cold water on a very hot day was a way to serve and share God's love.

Those who attended the Community Open House donated over 400 bottles of water and snacks for our homeless neighbors. Dennis Park, Terry Kasuyama and Wesley Nishinaka loaded the cold cases of water onto the pickup truck, filling its bed. Moving away from the concentration of people on Skid Row, driver Wesley found smaller clusters of tents where water and snacks could be given (potato chips and beef jerky were favorites). Terry and Wesley were joined by Carolyn Tokunaga, Gloria O'Brien, Heidi Sasaki, Kristi Bala, , Martha Nishinaka and Vicky Leon to pass out donations. Appreciation was expressed with "thank you" and "bless you." Care of community was shown when two people asked that water and snacks be left in a neighbor's tent who was away from her home.

Each person shared and participated in their own way. Generous donations of water and snacks allowed others to interact with the homeless. As Paul said to the Corinthians, "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

