

Pastoral Letter

Dear UJCC families,

The first few days of school tend to be messy. Kids were so used to the sleep-late-and-wake-up-late pattern during the summer vacation and moved like sloth in the morning. Mom woke up with a sigh because she didn't like the reality that she had to pack lunches every day. The daddy was stressed to chase the kids and get them washed and dressed for school. He promised himself not to yell at the kids in the morning but regret came after bellowing out, "Brush your teeth, now!" "Back to school" means "back to reality." Indeed, vacation is over. It is a time to get back to the normal circle of life.

Obviously, the "normal circle of life" doesn't sound as exciting as "vacation." No one is excited to go back to a mundane, tedious, and ordinary routine of life from an exciting, refreshing, and rejuvenating vacation. However, we all know that we cannot stay in the high mountain. We have to go back to where we are called to be.

When the three disciples, Peter, James, and John, went to a high mountain with Jesus, they experienced something extraordinary. The Scripture records the scene as below:

"There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus." (Matthew 17:2-3, NIV)

This uncanny moment seemed too great to grasp for Peter. That place was just fantastic to him. So, he said to Jesus, "*Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.*" Peter just wanted to stay there. He was willing to make three shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Perhaps he wanted them to stay there forever. Perhaps he wanted to stay there forever, in that high mountain where extraordinary things can happen.

However, that was not the will of Jesus Christ. He had to come down from the mountain. He had to come down to the place where the troubles of life were waiting. The first thing Jesus and his disciples had to face after coming down from the mountain was that there was a demon-possessed boy and the other disciples could not drive it out because of their lack of faith. He had to come down to see the "unbelieving and perverse generation"(v. 17). It is because

Jesus was not only the Son of God transfigured in the high mountain where extraordinary things can happen, but the Messiah in the midst of the broken world where mundane and ordinary same old problems existed. His calling was to die *in* the world to save the world. Therefore, we also have to come down from the high mountain.

I would like to think that September is the month when we go back to the “normal circle of life.” A lot of wonderful things happened during the summer at UJCC. We had Manatsu No Gakko, Junior High Camp, VBS, Asian Camp, Rummage Sale, Youth Mission Project, and Luau. It was a busy summer filled with great events. A lot of youth members experienced what we might call “camp high” or “mission high” during the summer. Now, our challenge is to figure out how we may bring that fresh energy to invigorate our routines in our life and in our church.

Starting from the Rally Sunday, on August 27, the Sunday school and youth are going to start a new curriculum. This year we use the curriculum called, *Dig-In*, to follow the footsteps of Jesus Christ throughout the year. Together, we will explore the question of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in our age. Every Sunday, we will do the same thing. We will sing praises, learn about Jesus, discuss questions, offer our life to God, and be sent to the world to make disciples for the transformation of the world. This will be our “normal circle of life.” How exciting?!

Since school started, every morning is pretty hectic. However, there is something that makes every morning special for me. Everyday, no matter how upset or tired, I try to make sure I say “I love you” to our kids before they go into their class. When they get in the classroom, I cannot but think to myself, “how they’ve grown so much by now?” I know I’m just getting started as a parent but to me it is pretty amazing that Lucy is going to kindergarten this year. I don’t necessarily recognize it everyday but I know that what makes them grow each and everyday, is the seemingly mundane, tedious, and ordinary routine of life.... with love. I believe that love is what makes us grow. It is what makes our ordinary life extraordinary. Together, let us continue to build our Beloved Community.

With love,
Rae

Joys and Concerns

“Enlighten our vision, God, so we may not only see and receive your mercy, but also notice the places in our world where you call us to extend mercy.” (adapted from *Common Prayer*) When we pray as a Body of Christ, our vision is broadened as our hearts are filled with empathy and compassion for all of God’s creation. It is in this spirit, we lift prayers for...

Elaine Omachi	Paras Family
Frances Kurushima	Roy Omi
Hisaye Naito	Yoshiko Baba
June Kishi	

We pray for concerns in our church community...

- For all with health concerns, including Richard Genz (the Swezeys’ neighbor with esophageal cancer), Matt Sakaguchi (who had his first of seven radiation treatments at the beginning of August), and Carol Contreras (mysterious skin troubles and lethargy);
- For those on hospice care, including Laverne (Carol Swezey’s friend);
- For those recovering, including Frances Kurisu (heart attack and mini-stroke), Anthony Contreras (recovering from knee surgery), and Kay Nakashima (Norma Uragami’s auntie from successful heart surgery and is recuperating at her home in Livingston);
- For all who have experienced personal tragedy, including Denise (Joyce Dessert’s friend) who had a house fire; praise God that the three kids and dogs all escaped safely;

For those who grieve...

- For the loved ones of Tami Ramage-Lopez’s childhood neighbor who recently passed away;
- For the family of 89 year old Pauline Chew (Kathy Yamamoto’s mother) who passed away peacefully evening August 9;
- For the loved ones of Sab Yamada (Larry Yamada’s father) who passed away Friday, August 4;
- For the loved ones of 22 year old Billy East, Iris Hiraga’s friend and colleague, who passed away at the end of July;
- For the family of Doris Fletcher of Sonora (Mike Yamamoto’s brother-in-law’s mother who passed away at 98);

For our wider community and world...

- For the places filled with pain and hurt in our world and for hope in the midst of difficult circumstances, including Florida, Barcelona, Charlottesville, Sierra Leone, and Bloomington, MN;
- For all our transgender siblings, including Ellie Dote. We pray for her family and for all who are close to her in this time of transitioning;
- For all our brothers and sisters affected by wild fires;
- For increased understanding between people of different political and social perspectives and increased empathy and compassion between people;
- For all people and places affected by violence;
- For all who experience trauma and fear due to war;
- For those who struggle with mental illness and those who care for them, that the system might be easier for folks to receive the care they need and deserve;
- For refugees all over the world;

For God's goodness in our community...

- Prayers of blessing as our kids and youth begin a new school year and gratitude for summer experiences;
- Gratitude for everyone who moved furniture, took down and reset chairs the last few weeks for Rummage Sale, Luau, and carpet cleaning;
- For a successful and joyful Luau and for all who made it possible; huge gratitude for chairs David Wong and Fay Nakaguchi;
- For a week of service during the Youth Mission Trip and prayers upon Fresno/Clovis and our neighbors here;
- Gratitude for safe travels this summer, including Psalm Ocampo as he returned to Tennessee to begin his junior year of college;
- For all celebrating birthdays, including Day Kusakai on August 5;
- Joy for a good visit from Deanna Kimura; so good to see her back here in our church family!;
- Thanksgiving for a good week at Asian Camp and safe travels home; gratitude for Mel Imai who not only picked them up, but also made them obento after a week of camp food!
- A prayer of thanks that Jeanette Nishimori's friend, Nancy Kelly, living with stage 4 cancer, was able to fulfill her dream of traveling to Spain and Paris for two weeks.
- Gratitude to Toban F and G for their service and love during the month of August!

If we have made any errors, we apologize and would appreciate any corrections! If you have any changes or additions to our list, please let Akiko know (322-0701 or akiko@ujcclife.com).

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

How volunteers saved the church \$1000:

To prevent children in the playground from getting near a solar powered electrical switch, the church needed to extend a cyclone fence and add a gate. Our first bid from a company with many positive online comments was for \$1,416. Neil Campbell investigated the cost of materials and found them less than \$300.

So, Randy Isogawa, Chad Staebler, Dan Eberly, and Neil's son, Scott, poured the concrete, centered the posts and erected the wire fence. Thank you gentlemen.

The solar parking structure has been capable of providing electricity for months, but has not been approved for operations by PG&E. The reason for the delays has been discussed with the Board of Directors. By the end of August we anticipate that this project will be completed and operational. Only then will the church pay for the remaining \$98,562 needed to building it.

Memorial Brick Path: The laser engraved bricks church members ordered has arrived. Aspiring Eagle Scout, Ryan Kizior, and his Boy Scout leaders and comrades have done much of the foundation work needed to install those 203 bricks. With school beginning for these busy, involved students, we pray the remaining work on this meaningful project will proceed smoothly.

You can still order bricks, so contact Ernie Kazato 559.978.7857 if you have questions.

Ernie Kazato
Property Committee Chairperson

Discover UJCC Classes

Sundays September 17 and 24th; October 1; 12-1:30pm

Come learn more about UJCC during our membership class series: "Get To Know You and Get To Know UJCC," "History and Theology of the UMC/UCC," and "Nuts and Bolts of Membership." Come ask questions and meet church folks and others interested in membership. Even if you are already a member, you are welcome to attend and learn more about our church! Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office (322-0701).

SPRC

The **Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)** is comprised of individuals dedicated to addressing issues and concerns specific to our UJCC family. We consider the UJCC family to be members and non-members, long-time attendees as well as those new to UJCC. The UJCC Mission and Shared Values Statement are our guidelines in navigating the church through the many issues we face as a Christian community. To ensure that we are truly doing our best to meet the needs and concerns of the UJCC family, we need to hear from you. Please add your voice to help us expand our awareness of the areas dear and sensitive to our congregation.

The **SPRC** meets regularly and we welcome you to join us to share any thoughts or concerns you might have. If you prefer a more private conversation, we invite you to approach any one of us and we would be more than happy to listen to your concerns and relay your message to the committee (if you so desire). If you are really shy, we also have a Suggestion Box where you can communicate with us. We kindly ask that you share your name on the slip so we can respond to the correct person(s). Please inform us ahead of time if you would like to attend the meeting so we can put you on the agenda.

Thank you from the **SPRC**: Arlene Eberly, Sheryl Elliott, Jo Katayama, Garrett Masterson, Gaylen Thelander, David Wong, Tom Wong.

Blessing of the Animals

Blessing of the Animals Sunday

Oct. 1, 2017 during worship (10:30am); UJCC back lawn

Our animals are members of our family! We want to bless them and celebrate the special relationships we share with them. You are invited to bring your pets (on leashes, in carriers, or in cages, please!) or photos (if your animals are not inclined to travel). Your beloved stuffed animals are also welcome! Please also bring photos or mementos of pets who have passed away as we will have a time of remembrance for them as well. We request you also bring supplies to clean up after your pets, if applicable. Thank you! In the case of inclement weather, please bring photos of your pets that Sunday!

World Communion Sunday Circuit Celebration

Sunday, October 1 @ UJCC

4:00pm: Choir practice

4:30pm: Celebration begins

6pm: Potluck

What better way to celebrate World Communion and our unity in Christ as celebrating with our UMC Circuit?! This fun event will include a celebration of our local ministry together, music from our sister churches, a sermon by our District Superintendent Rev. Debra Brady, a pick-up Circuit choir, sharing the Holy Meal together, and enjoying a potluck afterwards. Everyone is welcome to attend...and anyone is welcome to join the all-Circuit choir (just one choir practice at 4pm!). If you have any questions, please see your pastors. Hope to see you there!

Community Care

Coming Events for Community Care

Friday, September 8, 2017 @ 8-10am @ Pinedale Community Fellowship

(7061 N San Pablo Ave, Pinedale, CA 93650) You are invited to come help pack and distribute food boxes for our friends in Pinedale. This is a service of the Community Food Bank. We will be partnering with Good Neighbor Center, Inc., an organization which supports the community of Pinedale through relationships, mentoring, food, and clothing. For more information, please contact Ken Kurokawa.

CROP Walk for Hunger Every Sunday in September, Community Care will collect moneys for CROP Walk. See the flyer about CROP Walk in this newsletter to discover other ways of participating.

July Collection for Pinedale School Every Sunday in July, Community Care set out an orange bucket to collect moneys for Pinedale School to give them a fund for buying school supplies. In early August a check for \$666.08 was sent to Linda Amparano at Pinedale School.

Team Membership If you are interested and want more information about Community Care, please contact someone on the CC Team or chair Ken Kurokawa. The next meeting will be held at UJCC on Sunday, September 24, 2017 at noon.

Friends Care

The Friend's Care Obento volunteers return to "active duty" on Friday, **September 8th** after a break that allowed them to assist with the annual UJCC Luau.

We continue to be grateful for the generous donations that enable us to serve seniors throughout our area.

LAY VISITATION TEAM NEWS

Fall beginnings are taking place all around us as the LVT becomes active once again reaching out to members and friends connected to UJCC. Our every – other- month Committee meeting will take place on Sept. 7, 2017, at 6 p.m. with dinner at Four Seasons Restaurant in Clovis. This planning meeting will kick off activities for the rest of the year and all members are welcomed and needed to attend.

LVT members will lead a worship service at Vintage Gardens on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017, at 4 p.m. The seniors are always delighted to see our faces and worship with us. As we praise God together, we truly witness the love of Jesus among us.

On Monday, Sept. 25, at 10 a.m., LVT members will bring cheer and praise to the many seniors in Reedley at Sierra Vista Senior Homes. These fellowship times are special gatherings of friends who do not otherwise connect with each other. Special music and lunch are favorite items of business in Reedley.

As a Team, we wish to spread our contacts to other groups related to UJCC. Our mission is to bring Christ's presence to those in our community who may be lonely, isolated, or far from home. We wish to share with them how important and essential they are to our church. We surround them with the love of God by praying with and for them, visit them and check in on them regularly. All are welcome to join us in fulfilling this important mission. Contact Marcia Chung (r_mchung@yahoo.com) or June Sakaguchi (junekaysak@gmail.com).

Marcia and June
LVT Co-Directors

UJCC Support Group

Our church family and the individuals that make it up have been through a lot these past couple years. As a Body of Christ, we are called to share our burdens with one another and journey with one another through wherever life takes us. If you are interested in being part of a small group to share your hearts, please contact Akiko (akiko@ujcclife.com or 322-0701). We are hoping to begin an ongoing group in October. All are welcome. Thank you!

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

SIGN-UPS

There is still time to sign up for the Revelation Bible study led by Rev. Kay and June Sakaguchi. If you are interested in either a Monday evening class, or a Thursday morning class, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall before Sept. 17, 2017.

The Monday evening classes will begin on Sept. 18, from 7-8:30 p.m., and will go on each Monday until Oct. 30, 2017. The Thursday morning classes will begin on Sept. 21, from 10-11:30 a.m., and will conclude on Nov. 2, 2017.

Handouts will be available at each class session. Your registration gives us an idea of how many handouts are needed. All sessions will be held at the UJCC. If you have any questions, please contact June or Kay Sakaguchi at 559-274-0262.

Yoriko's Generosity

We lost Yoriko Abiko, a dear member of our UJCC family, earlier this year. She generously remembered our church in her will and has left all her personal belongings to us.

The bank will be delivering the contents of her apartment to UJCC at the end of August. On September 3, we invite you all to come and take items that you may be able to use in your home in memory of her. We think that Yoriko would be happy that her church family could use her beloved possessions and gain joy from them.

The remaining items will be donated to an organization that helps furnish homes for formerly-homeless people. If you have any questions, please see Akiko or our Moderator Kevin Watkins. We give thanks for Yoriko's generosity and her spirit that continues to warm our hearts.

Tomodachi Seniors Group and Friends**Ongoing Activities**

Fitness Class: Monday's 9:30-10:15 AM – Luvena Jacobsen, Instructor
We'll meet every Monday in September **EXCEPT** for Monday, September 4th (the office will be closed in observance of Labor Day).

**Knitting Circle: Please Note These Two Dates**

We'll meet on **TUESDAY, September 5th at 10:30 AM** and **MONDAY, September 11th at 10:30 AM**. We'll continue to work on and organize our items for the UJCC Asian Craft Fair; our knitters will once again support the Church by donating proceeds from the sale of our unique, handmade creations.

Game Day: Wednesday, September 13th at 10:00 AM**Past Event****Special Musical Performance by Lillian Garrigus, Irene Ikeda and Larry Honda**

We were treated to a truly wonderful performance on August 7th...Arigato, Lillian, Irene and Larry! Cherished memories of times gone by were reawakened by the beautiful tones resonating from the music of our friends. We thank "Lil", Irene and Larry for taking time from their busy schedules to prepare and lovingly present their heartwarming program. We were singing and swaying to the notes of well-known Japanese songs along with oldies but goodies such as "Sentimental Journey", "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Don't Fence Me In". We will not soon forget this very special day!

We also thank Marcia Chung, Joyce Imai and Helen Shirakawa (reception table); Diane Honda (greeter); Irene Ikeda (copies of musical CD's of Lillian, Larry and Irene performing Japanese songs); Mine Ikeda (succulent plant centerpieces); Gayle Kurasaki (origami crane decor); Kathie Sakamoto (sound technician); Midori Tani (fresh peaches); Gus Pendleton and Gregg Saito (Central Fish obento pick up). Many thanks to everyone who helped clean up after the event, too!

Future Event

Wednesday, September 27th
Tomodachi Lunch Outing



Luna's Pizzeria and Italian Restaurant, Clovis

Let's eat out! Join us for a delicious and hearty Italian pasta meal along with a time of rousing fellowship with friends as we head over to downtown Clovis for lunch at the Luna's family restaurant. A sign up form will be located in the Church fellowship hall—invite a friend!
Buon Appetito!

Save the Date!

**Movie and Lunch at the UJCC
Wednesday, October 25th**

**UJCC ANNUAL HARVEST LUNCHEON 2017**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd
11:45 AM

LOOK FORWARD TO THE FOLLOWING:**Great Fellowship!!!**

Purchase a table of tickets for you, your family, and friends!!!
Relax, enjoy, and have an unforgettable experience with friends and family!!!

Great Food!!!

Catered by Pardini's Catering & Banquets

**Great Service!!!**

Service provided by our own UJCC youth group:

***Look for your invitation in the mail the end September.
Tickets will be available during Sunday fellowship time.
More information to follow in the October Newsletter.***

Purchase your tickets early!!!

Thank you from the
2017 Harvest Luncheon Committee

Girl Scout Troop 305

By Kathie Sakamoto

The Girl Scouts helped with the table setting and decorations for the UJCC Luau and helped the guest to reserve their tables so, they can walk around and look at the dessert and silent auction items. It was a great event and the girls had fun. Thank you, Madison Chung, Mariah Decker and Carly Decker. You are truly an amazing Girl Scout.

Please be sure to stop at the Girl Scout food booth at the UJCC Asian Craft Fair on Saturday, September 16th. We will be selling box lunches. In advance, we would like to thank you for your support!!

Luau Silent Auction/Raffle

By David Wong

The annual LUAU/Silent Auction/Raffle was held at the UJCC on August 12, 2017. The event was again sold out and attended by church members and their families as well as many newcomers who were visiting our church for the first time.

The evening was a huge success, not only because it raised money for the Church's general fund but because everyone left with a prize or a smile on their face. This couldn't have been possible without the generous donation of the silent auction items by individuals and businesses. If you visit these businesses, please thank them and let them know how much fun and successful our LUAU and silent auction was (See attached list of donors).

Thank you to all the other volunteers especially Dan Eberly and the BBQ crew, Fay Nakaguchi and the silent auction crew, Chris Takeda and the dessert auction crew, Carol Visitacion for doing all then shopping and beverages, Neil Campbell and crew for the setup, Tom Sembritzki and family as well as Frances Kurisu for decorations, Reverend Rae and Akiko and the youth group, Boy Scouts Troop 199 and Girl Scouts Troop 305.

MAHALO

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the generous donations by the members of the UJCC..



We would also like to thank the following businesses in our community who have donated their products and services for our Luau & Silent Auction. "Mahalo Nui Loa"

Business Donations: (as of Aug 9, 2017)

Taye Abe	Girl Scouts	Garrett Masterson-
Bargain Party	The Grape Tray	Ceramic Artist
BJ's Kountry Kitchen	Habit Burger	Midori Tani
Bullard Pharmacy	Hair Central	Me-n-E'd's Pizzerias
Central Fish	Pat Hunter Artist	Mr. and Mrs. Joey
Cheesecake Factory	In-N-Out Burger	Somawang
CABI Maria Duran	Jack and Pearl Coon	New Wrinkles
Dennis Falk DDS	Japanese Kitchen	Pat Oji- Artist
Arlene and Dan Eberly	JAQ of All Trades-	Quilters Group
Edo-Ya	Steve Mukai	Ryan & Darlene Orian
Enchanted Nails-Fran	Jewelry by Suzanne	Radiance Salon-
Enchanted Nails-	Kenzo	Donna Graham
Rochelle	Kikku Restaurant	Riverside Golf
Fairwinds Retirement Home	Kiku Floral	Course
Fastway Chicken	David & Angela Kreller	Sakura Chaya
Fig Garden Golf Club	LADodgers	San Francisco Giants
Figaro's Mexican Grill	Lulu Ave Jewelry	Shelly Saito
Fresno Ag Hardware	Handmade original art	Sierra Nut House
Fresno Chaffee Zoo	Dealer-	Urban Chic Salon
Getables	Leilani Wing-Shimizu	Yamasaki Handcrafts
Ginza Asian Bistro		Tomo Yebisu
		Zeniya

UJCC ASIAN CRAFT & FOOD FAIR 2017

Our UJCC Asian Craft & Food Fair is just a few weeks away – how fast it creeps up on us! We hope you are saving the date - September 16th from 10:00am-4:00pm to come out and support this fundraiser for UJCC. This annual event has become a wonderful community event as well, that brings our friends from near and far to shop for unique items and fellowship with one another. ☺ We are very grateful to be able to host such an unique fundraising/ community event. Without our church/friends volunteers, our crafters and food groups – this event would not be possible! Here is some info to pass on to you about our fundraising event....

VOLUNTEER INFO

As we are quickly approaching this all-church fundraising event, we wanted to outreach to the members to see if you would be willing to help on any of the below dates...

September 10, 2017 (Immediately after service) – Need helpers to clear out the sanctuary, narthex, fellowship classroom and bring in grids.

September 14, 2017 @ 6:00PM – Need helpers to setup tables and canopies. Please bring gloves.

September 15, 2017 @ 4:00PM-8:00PM – Need men to help vendors unload.

September 16, 2017 (Shifts begin at 7am-6pm) Helpers needed throughout the day. Please contact Gayle Matsubara, Laurie Wong or Vivian Takeuchi if you are interested in helping. ☺

CRAFTERS INFO

We received some bummer news late Spring time, that the popular Sacramento show “Jan Ken Po” moved their September 23rd date to our September 16th date, creating a conflict for the crafters to have to choose between shows. We are very very thankful for all of our crafters who made the decision to participate at our UJCC show!! To make up for loss of some of the vendors – thankfully, we were able to get several new crafters this year who will be joining us for the first time. ☺ If you get a chance, please extend a warm welcome and thank our crafters for coming – they love the warmth and friendliness of our church and we believe that it is one of the reasons the crafters chose to participate at our UJCC show. ☺

****FOOD VENDORS****

Our food groups will be providing some yummy foods to sell at our event!
Please come out and support our food groups....

UJCC Welcome Group – Chili Over Rice

UJCC Womens Group – Assorted Sushis

UJCC Youth Group – Chicken Bowls

Girl Scouts Troop 305 – Chicken/Beef Bento Box

Cub Scouts Pack 199 – Fried Rice, Chicken Salad, Hurricane Popcorn

Boy Scouts Troop 199 – Chinese Food Plate

Kogetsu-Do – Assorted Manju and Sno-Cones

Rosa’s Ice Cream Truck – Assorted Ice Creams

We hope everyone is getting excited about the craft and food fair – we thank you in advance for helping, shopping and eating – to help raise funds for our wonderful UJCC ministries and programs!! Any questions, please contact: Gayle Matsubara, Laurie Wong, Stephanie Sumi or Vivian Takeuchi.

Cub Scout

Cub Scouts, Pack 199 would like to thank David and Becky Wong for their time and leadership during their role as Cubmaster. With 3 kids, 2 jobs, a household, and the SF Giants, I know it was challenging to find the time to do all that they did! We truly appreciate their dedication to the boys and our Pack. They have much more experience with Scouting than John and I so we only hope that we can pick up where they left off and help grow our Pack. With that said, if you know anyone who is between 1st and 5th grade and would like to join our Pack, please contact me at trumickeyfan@yahoo.com.

In July, we had our end of the year trip to the USS Hornet. Not only did we visit the USS Hornet . . . we got to stay aboard overnight! We went on a guided tour with Robert, our tour guide, who was very thorough! Before it was time to go to sleep, the kids could either choose to watch a movie about the ship or go hear about spirits aboard the ship. Everyone had a great time! As Robert said, “we slept on beds where many heroes slept!”

We did an Open House with Girl Scouts on August 27th. We had a few boys join that day! It was wonderful. The kids enjoyed the water slide and the inflatable jousting. In September, we had our first official meeting. The kids went over knots and fire and safety while camping to get ready for their 1st camping trip which is scheduled for this month. We will be going to Camp Edison with the Girl Scout Troop on October 14th and 15th. Wish us luck and say a little prayer!



UNITED JAPANESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

19th Annual

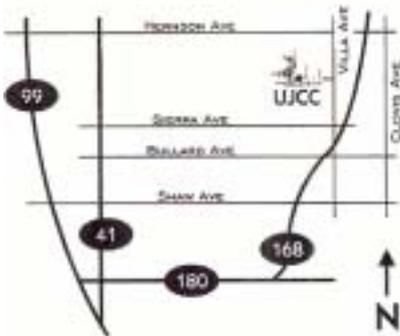
ASIAN CRAFT & FOOD FAIRE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

UNITED JAPANESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
136 N. VILLA - CLOVIS, CA 93612
(559) 322-0701



UNIQUE
*Asian Crafts, Artwork, Jewelry,
 Clothing, Home Furnishings & More!!!*

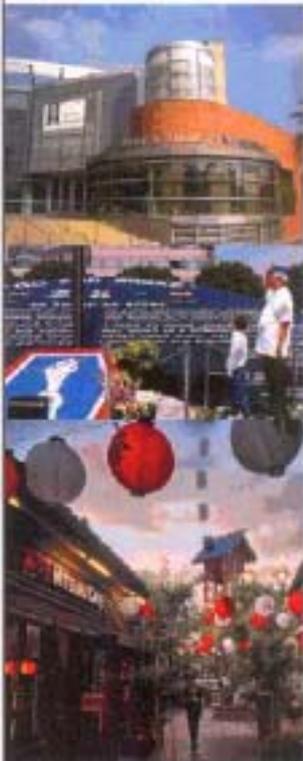
New Vendors!

Delicious Japanese Food!

W/VA. MASTERCARD & DISCOVER CARDS. ALL WELC!



Fresno Japanese American Citizens League
Central California Nikkei Foundation
Japanese American National Museum



Donation: \$35.00

[Includes: Bus Fare, Admission & Refreshments]

Join us, as we visit the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, CA. We will explore the museum, pay our respects at the 442nd Go for Broke National Monument, and end our adventure at Little Tokyo's Plaza for shopping and good food!

Date: Saturday- October 7, 2017

Depart: 7:00am & Return: 8:30pm

**Location: Fresno Family Dharma Center
2690 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno, CA 93720**

No refunds after
September 22, 2017

Thank you for your understanding

"Let's travel together!"

Please Contact Blake Honda for Tickets & Information

Office: 559-237-4006 (or) blakeh@ccnf.org



or call 888-297-2767.

2017 Fresno / Clovis CROP Walk for Hunger

at Memorial United Methodist Church
1726 Pollasky Ave.
Clovis, CA

Sunday,
October 15, 2017

Register 1:30pm
Walk 2:30pm

Recruiter Meeting:

Sunday, August 27 3:00 PM
Memorial United Methodist Church
1726 Pollasky Ave. Clovis

To Register online:

www.crop hungerwalk.org/fresnoclovis



For more information, contact your group's recruiter, or

Organizing Committee Contacts:

Memorial United Methodist Church,
memumc@meth-umc.org
559 299-4615

Jan Broadbent,
jan.broadbent@gmail.com

Kim Leslie kimbrough@tbcglobal.net

Janet McQuillan,
janet@mcquillanfamily.net

Al Evans, evansalca@comcast.net

For information about CROP Hunger Walks or the work of Church World Service visit www.cropwalk.org

Ways to Participate

There are many ways you can participate in the CROP Hunger Walk:

- Walk the 3 mile route
- Support a Walker with a generous donation
- Use the online CROP Walker option
- Be a Spirit Walker – raise funds though unable to Walk
- Be a volunteer helper on Walk Day
- Serving on the Organizing Committee for the Walk
- Recruit and promote the Walk in your church or group
- Pray for the CROP Hunger Walk and for the poor and hungry.



2 out of 5 children in the San Joaquin Valley go hungry every day.

Be a part of ending hunger in your community. Be a C.R.O.P. Walker!

C.R.O.P. is an acronym for "Communities Reaching Out to People." CROP Hunger Walks are community fund-raising events sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), an International relief, development, and refugee resettlement agency. Money raised by CROP Hunger Walks nationwide is used by CWS to provide food, medical care, disaster relief, and self-help development for needy people around the world.

Join Us!

To participate in the 2017 CROP Hunger Walk, contact your church or service organization. The recruiter there will provide you with a Donation Envelope and additional information. Ask family, friends and group members to support you with a generous donation.

Raise Funds Online

www.crophungerwalk.org/fresno.ca

You can email family and friends anywhere in the world to help you end hunger and poverty.

How Funds Are Used Locally
Up to 25% of the money raised in our CROP Hunger Walk is distributed to local hunger-alleviating agencies in the San Joaquin Valley. These agencies are chosen by the local CROP Hunger Walk Planning Team to receive funds. This year, the local recipient for funds will be the Fresno Community Food Bank. Following the CROP Hunger Walk, each participant should turn in their Donation Envelope with the funds raised to their Recruiter within two weeks.

**Ending hunger
one step at a
time!**



The following congregations and organizations have supported & participated in the Fresno / Clovis CROP Hunger Walk in recent years:

Bethel Lutheran Church of Fresno
Butler Ave. Memorial Church of Fresno
Clovis Tennis Club
Community United Church of Christ, Fresno
FJLW, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries
First American Presbyterian Church of Fresno
First Baptist Church of Fresno
First Congregational Church of Fresno
Fresno Buddhist Temple
Friends of Phredale
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Fresno
Holy Family Episcopal Church of Fresno
Hope Lutheran Church of Fresno
Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Clovis
Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis
Mennonite Community Church of Fresno
Northwest Church of Fresno
St. Paul Newman Center, Fresno
Temple Beth Israel, Fresno
Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno
United Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Fresno
United Japanese Christian Church of Clovis
Unitarian Presbyterian Church of Fresno
Wesley United Methodist Church of Fresno
Westside Church of God, Fresno

“Testify to Love... Your Story Matters”

Reflections of the 169th California Nevada Annual United Methodist Church Conference

Burlingame CA - June 21-24, 2017

By Norma Uragami, UJCC UMC Lay Representative

I had the privilege of attending the conference with Rev. Sungrae Kim, Reverends Mas and Hope Kawashima and Lay Representative Carol Visitacion. I witnessed historical changes and the continued legislation that have prevailed the UMC government for decades. During daily services, heartfelt old Methodist hymns were sung that filled the room with the Holy Spirit ... what a memorable, sacred experience!

Many interesting topics were deliberated over during our voting sessions. There were 30 diverse items to be voted on... from human rights amendments such as Single- Use Restrooms, Advocating the Rights of Children, Welcoming Migrants in Our Midst, LBGTQ Justice to international amendments to Support Peace Between North and South Korea.

What we took away from the sessions was that we all have a responsibility as mankind to preserve and protect the natural planet and its people which God has created. “LIVING FAITH, SEEKING JUSTICE, and PURSUING PEACE” were words that brought me comfort.

The Rev. Shinya Goto, Japan immigrant to the USA at age 12, was appointed District Superintendent for the ElCamino Real district, the newly created fifth district of the California Nevada Conference.

Highlights of the Conference:

*I met newly appointed Bishop Minerva Carcano.

*Dr./Rev. James Salley lectured on the 25th anniversary of building of the Africa University, which the UMC has generously supported. Thousands of lives have been changed when these young graduates return to their villages to improve and educate their people. Because of United Methodist affiliation, there is a vision to spread Christianity internationally.

*Erin Hawkins (General Secretary of Religion and Race): She brightened our minds to bring out the true meaning behind this year’s conference theme “Testify to Love... Your Story Matters”. Each and every one of us has a story to tell. Reaching out to others on a personal level can bring closeness, acceptance, compassion, humility, and most importantly love.

*The commissioning of our very own Jonathan Visitacion, son of longtime church members Carol and Jaime Visitacion. True joy was heartfelt, because I’ve known sweet Jon since he was an infant...what a glorious celebration for all!

It was inspiring to see young and old representatives with contrasting life experiences coming together as brothers and sisters in faith. We enjoyed several inspirational speeches from youth giving personal testimonies of their faith. An important message conveyed was that... "young people want to feel accepted and loved in the church." They are the future of our church!!

The importance of us laity was highly stressed. Ordinary folks involved in the works of the church are just as important as clergy. We lay people are all "ministers" of God. The Bishop emphasized our need to serve others by sharing our testimony of God's Love. She stated that we need to actively encourage fellow laity to participate in church activities and to enthusiastically welcome newcomers to church.

What an exhausting week, but I gained so much from this experience. Though I was a bit scared attending the conference for the first time, I soon realized Jesus was right there by my side. All in all, it was a meaningful week of personal reflection and spiritual growth.

World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 1 is designated as World Communion Sunday wherein Christians around the world of many denominations affirm their unity in the body of Christ by participating in the holy sacrament of Communion (also known as "The Lord's Supper" and "The Eucharist").

For us at UJCC, a special offering is collected which seeks to offer resources and services on a more far-reaching national and global scale through our denominational ties (the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ). Please consider giving generously toward this special offering.

For our United Methodist portion (50%), your World Communion Sunday donation will provide scholarships for US (racial and ethnic minority students) and international students on both undergraduate and graduate levels. The other 50% will go to support the general fund of the UCC Northern California Nevada Conference toward ministry and mission. Thank you for your support!

UNITED JAPANESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS****7/24/17 thru 8/27/17****SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

Taro Asami: In Memory of Joy Asami

D/M Greg Matsubara: In Memory of Joy Asami

M/M Leo Oliver: In Memories of Yoriko Abiko, Ben Honda, Lilyan Kiyomoto, & Alvin Togo

M/M Mark Wilson: In Memory of Rose Komoto

M/M Jaime Visitation: In Memory of John Inouye

M/M David Yamasaki: In Memory of Yoriko Abiko

D/M Wallace Yang: In Memory of Frank Abe

Anonymous: Community Garden, Pinedale School Supplies

Peace Fresno: for Hibakusha film

Mae Morita: Prayers for complete recovery

Sally Nagata: Jon Visitation's commissioning, Building Fund, Nichigobu, Boy & Girl Scouts, Asian Craft Fair, Community Care, Tomodachi, Sunday School

M/M Dick Naito: In Memory of Lilyan Kiyomoto

The Kiyomoto family: Thank you for your help

D/M Ken Kurokawa: Community Care

Mae Morita: Celebration of the membership of the UJCC Mr. & Mrs. Tony Ishii

Doris Nii: Ryan Kizior Eagle Project

M/M Bob Okazaki: Building Fund

M/M Emery Sagrado: Youth Leader Fund

M/M Yukio Tani: Youth Group

Jo Ann Royce Griffin: Donation

Sonoko Katagiri: Donation

M/M Gary Kozuki: Donation

M/M David Kreller: Donation

Lestari Surjapurnama: Donation

M/M Arnold Nakamura: Donation

M/M Chris Ramage-Lopez: Donation

M/M Clarence Suzuki: Donation

IN MEMORY OF BEN HONDA

D/M Richard Asami

M/M Yukio Inouye

M/M Dick Naito

IN MEMORY OF ALVIN TOGO

M/M Kenichi Bunden

M/M Dick Mayeda

M/M Dick Naito

IN MEMORY OF AIKO UYEOKA

Anna Aoki	D/M Greg Matsubara	Aiko Snavelly
D/M Richard Asami	M/M Keith Matsumura	M/M Chad Staebler
Taro Asami	M/M Joseph Matsuo	Alberta Steitz
David Branagh	Kaye Migaki	Stephanie Sumi
Tina Chan	Fae Minabe	M/M Glenn Takayama
M/M Robert Chung	Mae Morita	M/M Mitz Takayama
M/M Dan Eberly	Stan Morita	Aiko Takeda
Coline Halbert	Louise Nakaguchi	D/M Lindsay Takeda
M/M Larry Honda	Dennis Nakamura	M/M Victor Takeda
M/M Mel Imai	M/M John Nakamura	M/M Yukio Tani
M/M Yukio Inouye	Tomoko Naito	M/M John Tateyama
M/M Tom Kaku	Kiyoko Nosker	D/M Ken Tsutsui
R/R Mas Kawashima	M/M Dennis Okamura	M/M Ron Uragami
Marlene Kubota	M/M Leo Oliver	M/M Jaime Visitacion
Lisle Funeral Home	R/M Kay Sakaguchi	M/M Brian Wong
R/M Saburo Masada	Jane Shoji	Sue Yamasaki
		D/M Wallace Yang

IN MEMORY OF SABURO YAMADA

D/M Richard Asami	Day Kusakai	R/M Kay Sakaguchi
Taro Asami	Lisle Funeral Home	Stephanie Sumi
M/M Robert Chung	R/M Saburo Masada	M/M Yukio Tani
M/M Dan Eberly	D/M Greg Matsubara	M/M John Tateyama
M/M Larry Honda	Tom Miyake	D/M Ken Tsutsui
M/M Mark Hurst	Mae Morita	M/M Ron Uragami
M/M Mel Imai	Stan Morita	M/M Larry Yamada
M/M Tom Kaku	M/M Norman Ocampo	D/M Wallace Yang

FRIENDS CARE

The Harada family: In Memory of Jack & Faye Harada
 Trudy Hiraoka
 Eiko Holmes
 Eujeanne Kawasaki
 Shizu Kunishige
 Lisle Funeral Home
 Carole Masumoto
 Tamiko Mimura
 Sally Nagata
 M/M Wayne Stogbauer: Appreciation bento to Satoko Tsutsui
 Marie Taniguchi

MEMORIAL BRICK FUND

Dorothy Hirasuna
Mine Ikeda
D/D Ernest Kazato
M/M Calvin Ng
Jeanette Nishimori
Takako Renge
M/M John Tateyama
M/M Lindell Yoshimura

LUAU

Anna Aoki
Sidney Cox
Mae Morita
Sally Nagata
Tomoko Naito
Toshi Sakai
John Sato
D/M Ken Tsutsui

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

M/M Arnold Nakamura: Rummage Sale
Sally Nagata

TOMODACHI

M/M Gregg Saito: In Memory of Aiko Uyeoka

PAAM

Irene Takahashi
D/M Ken Kurokawa
R/M Sungrae Kim