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Sacramento Japanese
United Methodist Church
6929 Franklin Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95823



The Sakura Dayori is published once a month by the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church to provide updates to our members and our constituents.

SAKURA DAYORI

桜便り



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church Newsletter

Senior Pastor: Rev. Motoe Yamada
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. George Nishikawa
Nichigo Ministry: Rev. Shiro Kazato, Youth Director: Gayle Kurasaki
Choir Director: Eileen Boyd, Pianist: Daniel Skaggs
Office Manager: Robyn Jovalis & Cathy Mayeda
Phone: (916) 421-1017 Fax: (916) 421-2150
Website: www.sacjumc.com Worship: Sunday at 10:30am

Volume 45

April 2011

No. 4

Japan Relief Efforts Continue

Thank you so much for your prayer and support. We are planning to send a mission team to Japan in late April or May. In addition we plan to send teams throughout the summer. We will have a Fundraiser on April 16, which will have different Exercise Classes all day.

To support Mission Teams to Japan, Make a check payable to SJUMC - memo line Mission Trips
To support humanitarian needs in Japan, Make a check payable to SJUMC (memo line UMCOR
or online <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/>

*Would you like to be a part of the team to Japan? Would you like to help out? Please send an email to JapanRelief@sacjumc.com (with your name, phone number, email address). Orientation for those who want to go to mission trips to Japan will be: March 31, Thursday at 6:30pm and April 9, Saturday at 1:30pm. Leaders training April 23, Saturday 8:30-4pm)



April 17, Sunday - Palm Sunday

10:30 am - Worship

April 21, Thursday - Holy Thursday

7:00 pm - Worship

April 22, Friday - Good Friday

12:00 pm - Worship with SSIP

7:00 pm - Worship with Parkview Presbyterian

April 24, Sunday - Easter Sunday

8:30 am - Worship - Issei Garden

8:30 - 10:00 am - Easter Pancake Breakfast

10:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am - Worship



AND
EASTER
SCHEDULE



Invitation to Worship

APRIL 3, 2011

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

APRIL 10, 2011

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

APRIL 17, 2011

Palm/Passion Sunday

PALM SUNDAY READINGS
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11
PASSION SUNDAY READINGS
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 (27:11-54)

APRIL 24, 2011

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 (or Matthew 28:1-10)

To offer flowers for morning worship, take note of the new Flower Chart on the wall in the entryway. You may offer flowers as a remembrance or in celebration. Instructions are available on the table next to the sign-up sheet.



Greeters for April

April 3—Patty Honbo, Kent & Kathi Nakashima

April 10—Joanne Mikami & Les Wataji

April 17—Yoshi Kawahara & Laura Katayama

April 24—Frances Lee & Margaret Saito

Ushers for April

April 3—Susan Otani & Ning Thongkhao

April 10—Hiroko Arimoto & Chiyoko Chida

April 17—Roy Sato & Philip Yuki

April 24—Eddie & Sandy Koshino



April Fellowship Tobans

April 3—UMW

April 10—TBD

April 17—UMW

April 24—MYF



April Security Tobans:

Les Ouchida, Andy Dong and Jim Williamson. Thank you for helping to keep our facility safe and secure!



Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church

Spring Food Sale, Pre-Sale Only
Order before April 3, 2011

Pick-up on April 9, 2011 – Saturday
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

6929 Franklin Boulevard, Sac, CA 95823
(916) 421-1017



Teriyaki Chicken (Chopped)	@ \$ 6.00 = \$
Teriyaki Chicken (Un-Chopped)	@ \$ 6.00 = \$
Sushi (4 Maki, 2 Age)	@ \$ 6.00 = \$
Sushi (6 Age)	@ \$ 6.00 = \$
Udon	@ \$ 4.50 = \$
Chow Mein (Qt)	@ \$ 5.00 = \$
Chow Mein (Pt)	@ \$ 3.00 = \$
Sesame Chicken Bento	@ \$ 6.50 = \$
Korean Short Ribs Bento	@ \$ 6.50 = \$
Total.....	\$

Please keep this side.

Order and pay by mail or order on-line at: www.sacjumc.com

Thank you for your order and your support!

SJUMC Spring Food Sale Pre-Sale Only
****Order before April 3, 2011** Pick up on Saturday, April 9, 2011**

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



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Korean Short Ribs Bento	@ \$ 6.50 = \$
Total.....	\$

Please send your check payable to SJUMC with this part of your order form before April 3, 2011, to:
6929 Franklin Boulevard, Sacramento CA 95823.

**Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
Finance Recap
February 2011**

		General Fund	
Beginning cash balance 01/31/11		\$ 50,195.83	
Cash Inflows			
Pledges	12,813.00		
Offerings	1,848.00		
Other Receipts	348.52		
MYF Receipts	50.00		
Total cash inflows		14,657.52	
Cash Outflows			
Capital Improvements & maintenance	(8,165.00)		
Apportionments	(2,755.00)		
Operations	(19,842.88)		
Total cash outflows		(30,762.68)	
Ending cash balance 02/28/11		\$ 34,090.67	

		Legacy Fund	
Beginning cash balance 01/31/11		\$ 48,145.08	
Cash Inflows			
Pledges	5,820.00		
Interest, Dividends & Capital Gains earned	229.98		
Total cash inflows		5,849.98	
Cash Outflows			
Multi-cultural hall mortgage payment	(8,320.00)		
Qtrly Advisory Fee	-		
Total cash outflows		(8,320.00)	
Ending cash balance 02/28/11		45,675.06	
02/28/11 fair market value of stocks		101,109.52	
Total Assets in Legacy		\$ 146,784.58	

		Special Events	
Beginning cash balance 01/31/11		\$ 349,222.87	
Fair Market Value of Stocks 02/28/11		213,887.70	
Checking Account		31,705.67	
Parsonage Loan balance			
Money Market 01/28/11		61,844.42	
Wish List sanctuary		25,000.00	
Automatic Gate Opener		1,500.00	
Ashizawa Gift - Restricted		12,109.72	
Total Assets in Special Events		\$ 345,827.51	

Notes from the Pastor

"Did you hear about the earthquake?" My sister's shaking voice over the phone was when I learned about the largest earthquake in Japanese history and the fourth largest in the world. I called her to brainstorm ideas for my mother's birthday gift, and my heart sank hearing she could not get hold of our family. Phone lines were intermittent throughout Tokyo, and it took some time to reach both of my parents. My father answered the phone and said, "It's still shaking!" Although I was relieved to find out that my family was safe, the phone lines suddenly went down and remained down for the next 14 hours.

Some of the SJUMC members have family in Japan and so our office called Japanese-speaking (Nichigo) people to assist in finding out if their families were safe. On Friday, March 11, the day after the earthquake, the church held a special prayer service for people who were affected by the earthquakes and tsunamis. Rev. Aart Van Beek from Parkview Presbyterian Church joined us. The service included members who have not been able to find their family in Sendai, the area most affected from the quake.

Rev. Atsuko Fujinami, the Japanese-speaking former pastor of Pine UMC, sent an email to the Japanese American Clergy to report her earthquake experience in Tokyo, and gave a link to the Kyodan (United Church of Christ Japan) church list. There are churches completely flooded by tsunami, where dirt and oil cover the floors. A pile of five cars was left in front of the sanctuary door of one, stacked on top of each other. At that church, 30 of its members were missing, and the church's kindergarten playground was destroyed. The structural walls of the sanctuary were cracked. With all of the destruction and chaos, some churches were still able to have Sunday worship services. Worshipping in their gardens with a damaged sanctuary, losing altars ripped away by the tsunami, and having sanctuaries without roofs or ceilings – worship services were still held



and the celebration of our faith continues.

We are hearing that the people in earthquake/tsunami-affected areas are facing shortages of food and clean water. Many areas are experiencing rolling blackouts, and thousands are living in fear in shelters. Many are still trying to find their loved ones.

Rev. Isamu Koshiishi, Moderator of National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ), wrote in his email, "We are still in the early stages of assessing the damages, but have been encouraged and strengthened by the many messages of support from Christian brothers and sisters all over the world."

Please continue to support the Japan Relief Effort. If you are interested in joining a mission team to Japan, send an email with your name, phone number, and email address to japanrelief@sacjumc.com. SJUMC is working on sending team(s) to Japan through Volunteers in Mission. We are also planning fundraising events for Japan Relief. The church is very thankful for prayers, phone calls, emails, and personal visits from people from the community.

We continue to pray for victims and survivors of this terrible disaster. Situations are changing even as I write this article, due to the uncertainty at the nuclear power plants. **Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."** (Matthew 25:40) Let us reach out to people in need. (Rev. Motoe Yamada's article (written on March 15) for the California/Nevada Annual Conference Newsletter)



We will continue to pray for people who are affected by the big Earthquake and Tsunami.



Report from The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) from The Reverend Cynthia Fierro Harvey, Deputy General Secretary, UMCOR

I join you in lifting up the people of Japan in prayer during this time of crisis. We grieve with them and stand with them in solidarity.

Once again, I am struck by the extravagant generosity of United Methodists who are supporting UMCOR's efforts to bring healing and hope to Japan. We have received thousands of phone calls, emails, Facebook posts, and donations from people whose hearts are aching for the people of Japan and who are looking for meaningful ways to respond. Many churches in our connection are collecting offerings to raise money for UMCOR. I want to share with you how we are responding on your behalf to the great needs. **UMCOR's Response:** On Friday, March 11, the General Board of Global Ministries reached out to missionaries and partners in Japan to confirm their safety and ask how we can help. The Wesley Center, affiliated with United Methodist Women, is offering shelter to those who are displaced. UMCOR set up an Advance account for the Pacific Emergency. Once we understood better what the scope of the disaster was, we changed the name to "[Japan Emergency](#)" and updated the description: "UMCOR is working through relief and church partners in Japan to respond and provide immediate assistance and long-term rehabilitation. With these partners, UMCOR is meeting the most basic humanitarian needs in northern Japan such as providing clean drinking water, food, cooking and eating supplies, clothing, and fuel for heating." **Relief Supplies:** Many supplies are available in Japan and sending funds directly to our partners supports the local economy while ensuring that they are getting exactly what they need. An additional concern is that sending an unsolicited shipment into the disaster area runs the risk of hampering relief efforts, clogging runways, and creating an added burden to the system because there is no efficient way to distribute the shipment. Please consider your local thrift store for these kinds of thoughtful donations. **Continued prayers:** UMCOR is committed to standing with the people of Japan into the recovery phase. We will continue working through our church and relief partners to provide shelter, food, and clean water



to survivors of this crisis. Regular updates can be found in the [UMCOR Hotline](#), on our [website](#), and on [Facebook](#).

Please continue to hold the people of Japan in your prayers. I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love into the world

by our UMC.

To support Mission Teams to Japan, Make a check payable to SJUMC (memo line [Mission Trips](#))

To support humanitarian needs in Japan, Make a check payable to SJUMC (memo line [UMCOR](#) or online <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/>)

Would you like to be a part of the team to Japan? Would you like to help out? Please send an email to JapanRelief@sacjumc.com (with your name, phone number, email address).

Once we know the details, we will contact you! Orientation for those who want to go to mission trips to Japan March 31, Thursday at 6:30pm, April 9, Saturday at 1:30pm. Leaders training April 23, Saturday 8:30-4pm)

Strive for Strength Retreat

Where: SASF gym 9040 High Tech Court, Elk Grove, CA 95758

When: April 18, 2011

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm (check in starts at 8:30)

Registration: \$35 per participant before April 1. \$45 at the door.

Open to: Girls only from 12-18 years of age.

For more information contact Striveforstrength@yahoo.com or 916.595.5999

New Deadline for Newsletter Articles

In an effort to get the newsletter out earlier, the deadline to submit articles is now the 5th of every month.

Please submit articles to Joanne Mikami at hankojo@starstream.net



June 15-18 Cal/Nev Annual Conference

June 20-24 Vacation Bible School

June 27-July 15 Jan Ken Po

June 25-July 2 Senior High and YA Mission Trip

July 3-8 Jr. High Camp

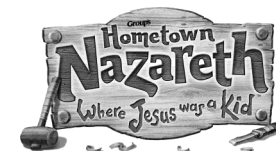
July 8-10 Sacramento Japanese Film Festival

July 17-22 Jr. High SSP Mission Trip

July 28-31 Youth 2011 (Sacramento)

Volunteers Needed for this national conference of 4000 youth.

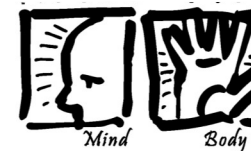
July 31 to August 6 Asian Camp



Vacation Bible School

June 20th-24th

Each day, kids can become part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Jesus' hometown! They'll explore authentic marketplace shops, visit Jesus' mom, Mary, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as they discover more about Jesus' childhood. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate! **Early Registration for church member (by April 10)** One Child (\$50) Two (\$75) Three or more (\$95)



Exercise your Brain and Body

Your brain is like the muscles in your body--you either use it or you lose it. The benefits of physical exercise have positive effects on brain function. Even exercising for 20 minutes helps your brain process information and remember things. Exercise increases heart rate, which pumps more oxygen to the brain and stimulates the growth of new connections between cells in the brain. Take a walk, exercise at home, come to Wednesday or Thursday exercise at the Church (see the SJUMC Calendar) and benefit your brain at the same time. Be sure to check with your doctor before you start doing new exercises.

Youth News

We have an exciting month planned. In April we will kick off the month with a lock-in for 30 Hour Famine! We will be fasting for approximately 30 hours to get a very tiny experience of what it feels like to be hungry. This program is designed to promote awareness of hunger in society and get youth motivated to help and do what they can. **Our 30 Hour Famine will be on start at 2:00 pm on April 2nd and end on Sunday April 3rd.**



April 24, Sunday

Easter Pancake Breakfast

There is a full summer ahead of us so please keep checking the Google group and website for upcoming events and opportunities.



Anyone wanting to fill out applications for scholarships need to do so by May 1st and turn them into Gayle in the youth room (next door to the Garden Room) These scholarships will go towards Summer Camps and Mission trips!

Junior High mission trip:

The Jr. High Sierra Service Project 2011 will be the week of 7/17-7/22. We will be doing a hands on project working with tools and construction. A deposit of \$50 is required. The cost this year will be \$335 paid in installments. We will have scholarships available for those who apply. We will be going to Coarsegold, CA it's about 3 hours South of Sacramento and an hour North of Fresno.



High School mission trip:

Our High School mission trip will be in Tucson, AZ coupled with Blaine UMC youth group in Seattle, WA. Their youth have been to Asian Camp and Jr. High Camp with many of our youth. I am waiting for confirmation from their youth director on prices but I will get those out to you as soon as I can. Please keep checking the Google group page for updates.

SJUMC is on Facebook!

Please join us on facebook

UMW Report

Call to Prayer took place on February 20, 2011. Over 35 people attended this event to hear our guest speaker, Eloisa Rivera from My Sister's House, talk about Human Trafficking and how it is affecting our community. Thank you for your generous donation of \$332 for Call to Prayer.

We are still accepting 2011 UMW Pledges so far we have collected \$745.

SAVE THE DATES

UMW General Meeting (May 1)
Spring Rummage Sale (May 7)



MAY 2011 RUMMAGE SALE

It's that time of year again. We will be having our UMW Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday May 7th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. It's the perfect opportunity to clean out your closets, cupboards, garage, and storage areas. We really appreciate all your useable furniture, kitchen items, clothes (men's, women's, children's), workable small appliances, toys, and items you do not need or use anymore (please no TV's, no electronics, no computers).

Also, lend us a hand, we would love to have you join us on Friday, May 6, anytime from 9am-5pm, to sort all our donations. See you there ... thanks!

Comfort and Prayer for the families and friends of

- * Joe Osuga (2/08/11)
- * Bob Yamamoto (2/19/2011)
- * Mark Nakamura
- * Carl Laing (3/9/2011)
- * George Foor (Andy Foor's uncle)
- * mother of Caroline Ouchida

Special Prayers

- * Thomas Jovalis
- * Fumiko Williams
- * Keiko Nakata
- * Gary Ravel
- * Brian Kurasaki
- * Tule Yomogida
- * Motoko Kobayashi
- * Joyce Kimura
- * Florence Shikasho
- * Janis Moore's 11 yr old grandson
- * Sally Kwong's Sister
- * Jonathan D
- * Lisa Murphy
- * Ann Foor
- * people, looking for a job
- * people who are facing surgery
- * the victims and survivors of Earthquake



Spring Food Sale

April 9, 2011

Pre-order only

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Food items include

chicken teriyaki,
sesame chicken, Korean short ribs, chow mein, udon and sushi (maki sushi and inari sushi)



Save the Dates!
**SACRAMENTO JAPANESE
FILM FESTIVAL**
Crest Theatre
July 8, 9, 10, 2011



For more information, visit our website:
www.sacjapanesefilmfestival.net

Thanksgiving

- * Ashley Lewis safe return from Ghana
- * Art and Gloria Imagire (Holy Land)
- * Baby Jaya Gosney (No more blood transfusions)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GENERAL FUND

As of February 28, 2011

In Celebration of 45th Anniversary

Asahara, Francis

In Celebration of 85th Birthday
Okamoto, Peter

In Celebration of Stimson's
Recovery

Suzuki, M/M Stimson

In Celebration of Grandson
Nakao, Kimiko

In Celebration of Doris Oguro's
birthday

Oguro, M/M Keith

In Celebration of 1st birthday
Evan Hiraishi Lum & Caitlyn
Kimiko Sauer

Fujita, M/M Robert

In Memory of George Ya-
madera

Ichikawa, Bob

Suzuki, M/M Stimson

In Memory of Paul Kodama
Matsuoka, M/M Walter

In Memory of Donald Yee
Miyasaki, Anne

In Memory of Tokiko Shimada
Oguro, M/M Keith

In Memory of Joseph Osuga
Osuga, M/M David

In Memory of Masako Osuga
Osuga, Michiyo

In Memory of Masako Uyeda
Osuga, Michiyo

Iwata, Grace

In Memory of Robert Yama-
moto

Osuga, Michiyo

Hara, Lori & Jen

Iwata, Grace

Lee, Frances

Nakamura, Mary

In Memory of Ben Yokomizo
Yokomizo, Mary

In Memory of Judge Mamoru
Sakuma

Korshak, Kracoff, Kong &
Sugano, LLP

In Memory of Paul Kodama
Sasaki, M/M Robert

ADULT MISSION

Sakamoto, Sayuri

CHOIR FUND

Honbo, Dr/M Wesley

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Seno, Teruo

UMW FUND

UMW Beulah Fund

SJUMC UMW

LEGACY FUND

In Celebration of Andrew's
birthday

Inouye, Margaret

Inouye, Tim

In Celebration of Mother's
successful test result

Inouye, Tim

In Honor of Koden Team

Yamamoto, Iris

In Memory of Akio Hayashi
Hayashi, Alice

In Memory of Paul Kodama
Imagire, M/M Art

In Memory of Don Yee
Sato, M/M Roy

In Memory of Astor Kondo
Sato, M/M Roy

In Memory of Masako Uyeda
Sato, M/M Roy

In Memory of Robert Yama-
moto

Dingley, Bernice

Ishisaka, Mitsue

Ito, Yasushi

Kashiwagi, Karen
Murakami, M/M Sam
Nishikawa, Rev/M George
Oguro, M/M Keith
Ouchida, M/M Lester
Shibata, M/M Victor
Uno, M/M Dick
Yamamoto, Iris
Yuki, M/M Philip



Ukulele Group at SJUMC

Are you looking for a new hobby or interest? Would you like to play the friendly ukulele and make new friends? Then you will enjoy becoming a member of the newly formed SJUMC ukulele group. The group currently practices on Sundays after fellowship. The members are from SJUMC's youth, young adults and seniors. With a mix of intermediate and beginning players the more experienced encourage and support the neophytes. Our musical repertoire includes church songs, as well as American, Hawaiian, and Asian music. The SJUMC will occasionally request the group to play during church service and/or to accompany the SJUMC Choir. Our primary goal is to have fun playing the ukulele while increasing our ukulele skills. Membership is NOW open and you are invited to join. All ages, youth (minimum age 11 years old) and teens are also invited. Please stop by (usually Garden Room) and check us out.

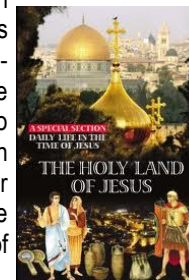
Let us know if you're interested and if you have a ukulele or can borrow one. If there are a number of interested members without ukuleles, a fundraiser may be held to purchase ukuleles and music stands for the church. The plan is for the church to start a SJUMC member's ukulele loan program. Interested SJUMC member(s) would borrow church ukuleles for six weeks (max) while learning to play. Our second future goal is to hold a six-week basic beginners ukulele class. Another planned possibility is to organize a Youth ukulele group – their venue of more up to date songs. Current (and Youth) ukulele Club would provide a wholesome, enjoyable, and learning experience, and most importantly provide an experience in working together, musically and socially.



If you are interested in joining this new ukulele group—or in trying out the ukulele—contact Mary Ann Nakashima (916-427-5105) or church office (916-421-1017). Please provide information, see [ukulele Club sign up form](#), as to whether you are interested in a beginners class and whether you have an ukulele. ALL SJUMC members and friends are all invited.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

This fall we were looking forward to making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, however, given a number of circumstances due to current turmoils and unrest in the surrounding areas around Israel, we decided to postpone the trip. We will plan to have an orientation meeting later this year and hope to reschedule the trip for the fall of 2012.



If you did not have your picture taken, please make sure to fill out the form so we can update our church information. Also we are looking for pictures for the directory. Please send them to Gloria or Robyn. Thank you.