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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  
Phone: (916) 421-1017 Fax: (916) 421-2150  
Website: [www.sacjumc.com](http://www.sacjumc.com) Worship: Sunday at 10:30am

Volume 46

January 2011

No. 1

January is  
Wellness Month

Heart Mind Body Soul

### Winter Small Groups

January 15 - February 19  
Sundays 9:30 and 12:00 noon

### Older Adult Workshops

Starting January 31st

### Nutrition Workshop

Seniors and Children

Tenth Annual  
Crab Feed

February 11, 2012  
Multi-Cultural Hall

Adults - \$40.00  
Children - \$15.00  
(10 & under)

Proceeds to  
Legacy Fund

Doors Open - 5:00 pm  
Dinner - 6:00 pm  
Entertainment - 7:00 pm

The Church office will  
be closed the week of  
December 26th  
through December  
30th.



Phone messages will be checked.



## Invitation to Worship

January 1, 2012

### Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795)  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

January 8, 2012

### Baptism of the Lord

#### First Sunday after the Epiphany

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

January 15, 2012

#### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

January 22, 2012

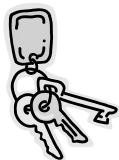
#### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

January 29, 2012

#### Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28



### January Security

#### Tobans:

Art Imagire, Joyce Oshiro,  
Irene Osuga

### Greeters for January

January 1—Eddie Koshino  
January 8—Curtis & Mindy Takechi  
January 15—TBD  
January 22—Lori Lee & Jill Kane-  
masu  
January 29—Sharon Oguro & Mark  
McLean

### Ushers for January

January 1—Mary Nakamura &  
Susan Otani  
January 8—Yoshiko Harper &  
Kumiko Sakata  
January 15—Lincoln Fujii & Yosh  
Kawahara  
January 22—Eddie & Sandy Ko-  
shino  
January 29—Lily Ikami & Atsuko  
Takeda

### Info Table

January 1—Sandy Koshino & Tina  
Weekley  
January 8—TBD  
January 15—TBD  
January 22—TBD  
January 29—TBD



### Young Adults Do Mission Through Justice

**Who is eligible?** If you are between the ages of 20 to 30 and are committed to addressing the root causes of injustice so that the gospel is lived out alongside communities and organizations seeking peace and systemic transformation, consider applying to become a United Methodist US-2 or Mission Intern. US-2s serve in the United States for two years. Mission Interns serve for 16 months in an international setting, then 16 months in the US. Both US-2s and Mission Interns commit to linking their faith to justice.

**Where do missionaries serve?** The settings may vary from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to Detroit, Michigan, but they are always in connection with a United Methodist-partnered organization, faith community, or institution.

**Are missionaries paid?** Both types of young adult missionaries, US-2s and Mission Interns, receive a small monthly stipend. They live and work in solidarity with communities that face systemic issues of injustice.

**How do young adults apply?** Applications are due February 15, 2012. To download more information and an application to become a Mission Intern or US-2, visit the website at: <http://new.qbgm-umc.org/about/us/mp/documents/>.

### Saved the Date for the Summer

#### SJUMC Summer Schedule for 2012

June 13-16 Cal/Nev  
Annual Conference  
TBA Vacation Bible School  
June 25-July 13 Jan Ken Po  
June 23-June 30 Senior High and Young  
Adult Mission Trip  
July 1-6 Jr. High Camp  
July 13-15 Sacramento Japanese Film Festival  
July 17-22 Jr. High SSP Mission Trip  
July 29 to August 3 Asian Camp  
August 12, Aloha Sunday



### Nutrition Workshop

(by Amanda Borgett Diaz., dietitian (Meals on Wheels by ACC)  
Seniors and Children

Jan. 15 - stations for the youth  
come and try out different exercise regiments, and even some nutrition trivia!

Workshop by Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services' Mental Health Promotion and Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Campaign

### Older Adult Workshops

by Rev. Dr. Judith Pruess-Mellow  
Tuesdays 10am to 11:30am

### Positive Aging and Spirituality:

Jan. 31 Happiness is an Inside Job;  
March 6 - Listening to God;  
April 3 - meditation and Prayer in Later Life;  
May 1 - Positivity Tool Kit for Later Life.

### Winter Small Groups

January 15 - February 19  
(come all or once!) Free  
Sundays 9:30 and 12:00 noon

*Disciplines 2012* brings together diverse voices to share messages of hope, challenge, and joy with its' readers as they meditate and reflect daily on the word of God. The rich meditations written by readers, theologians, and spiritual guides, weave together scripture and life experiences with spiritual practices.

## UMW Report

The 1st UMW meeting of the new year will be held on January 8, 2012.

The purpose of the meeting will be to install the 2012 UMW Board, discuss the UMW Budget for 2012 and there will be some short presentations on the "Walk to Emmaus". The next "Walk to Emmaus" retreat will be in Sacramento.

### 2012 UMW Board

- Co-Presidents - Loretta Ashizawa and Emi Alicaya
- Co-Vice Presidents - Kimi Ronay and Jayne Rasmussen
- Secretary - Alice Kubo

• Treasurer - Shigeko Shibata  
As your outgoing UMW co-presidents, we would like to thank you, the UMW members, for the support you have given to us during these last 2 years. We may have been the "faces" of the UMW but this organization could not have continued if not for the guidance, ideas and support we received from Loretta Ashizawa (Vice President), Barbara Kado (Secretary) and Irene Osuga (Treasurer) during these past years. Thank you again the and future of the UMW is in great hands.

Elaine Maeda and Yvonne Kato  
2010/2011 UMW Co-Presidents

### SJUMC is on Facebook!

Please join us on facebook



Join us during Lent



February 27 - Ash Wednesday  
Small group studies will be forming  
and continuing through lent.  
Easter - April 8, Sunday

## Sharing our Reflections & Testimonials Booklets

Inasmuch as I truly enjoyed doing the project of publishing the SHARING OUR REFLECTIONS AND TESTIMONIALS booklets, I could not have done it without the help of some special people. Firstly, thank you to all who shared your stories of your faith.

Special thanks to Robyn Jovalis, our very busy Administrative Assistant of the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, who made time to use her special skills in designing of the cover and using her expertise in doing the layouts.

Many thanks to the Sharing Our Reflections and Testimonials Committee, including Kiku Ito, Margaret Saito, Arlene Hagiya, Amy Kawahara and Tina Weekley for typing and retyping all the stories, making corrections, selecting and purchasing the appropriate papers and ribbons, running copies of the stories and helping with the distribution of the booklets.

My heartfelt thanks to you all.

Helen Blaisdell

## Notes from the Pastor



*So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.*  
(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday and you joined us for both Christmas Day and New Year's Day service :) We have a very exciting year ahead of us! January is our wellness month. Please see another box for more information. We want to pay attention for health of our spirit, mind and body! Please join the short term Winter Small Group (Jan. 15 to Feb. 19) to grow spiritually.

Three students went through confirmation class and by the time you are reading this, they will be confirmed. Thomas Jovalis, Ryland Fernandez and Sachiko Mayeda are amazing young people. They went through 5 classes including overnight confirmation retreat, and had sessions with their parents and mentors. They inspired me for many wisdoms and insights they had. We are thankful for our young people who commit their lives for Jesus Christ, our Lord!

During the annual Church Planning Day, fifty-five church leaders gathered to discern the future of the church. Dr. Mary Maaga, our guest speaker, did an excellent job of leading us with *Peter as Disciples*. Participants talked about what a kind of church we want to be on top of our four pillars (Jesus Christ (Gospel), Mission (Serving the community), Discipleship (Growing Spiritually) and History). Many of wonderful ideas were shared and recorded. The Church Council will appoint a task force to continue the visioning process. I thank God every day for this wonderful church and great honor to serve you as your pastor. Let us continue to work together to make a greater church with our Jesus. May God bless you.

Rev. Motoe Yamada

### The General Conference of the United Methodist Church

Rev. Motoe has been elected as a delegate reserve by the California/Nevada Annual Conference to the UMC General Conference. Equal number of lay and ordained Delegates are elected according to memberships of each annual conference. From our annual conference, three ordained delegates (Rev. Odette Ockwood-Stewart, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, and Rev. Dale Weatherspoon) and three lay delegates (Mr. Randall Miller, Ms. Emily Allen and Mr. Yoshiro Nakajima) were elected. She wanted to share some information every month about General Conference, we can learn together.

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body, **the General Conference**, will gather April 24-May 4 in Tampa, Florida. Nine hundred and eighty-eight delegates from around the world will set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other business. General Conference is the only entity that speaks for The United Methodist Church. Some 4,000 people will serve in a variety of volunteer roles such as greeters, registration officials, marshals, pages, translators, hosts and hostesses, guides, drivers, musicians, technicians, reporters and emergency-response volunteers. (gc2012.umc.org)



## Fellowship 2012

It's here! It's here! The fellowship schedule for 2012! This is a very important ministry for SJUMC and shared among the committees and groups. If you are new to SJUMC or have ever wondered how all the food "appears" each week...here's how it works: a group or committee is assigned to a particular Sunday; they decide what they want to serve and are responsible for purchasing food, setting up (getting the coffee, tea, table, etc. ready), preparing food, serving, and cleaning up. Funds are included in the budget for fellowship so reimbursement may be claimed. That's it!

Below is the schedule for January and February. We have left some of the Sundays open as families and friends have requested that they be able to participate. So, if your family or a group of friends would like to take a Sunday, you may sign up on the schedule in the social hall (on the bulletin board), or you may contact Robyn Jovalis (421-1017), Jill Kanemasu (391-1359) or May Ukita (444-9381). You can call any one of us if you have any questions also!

### January Fellowship Tobans

January 1—Senbei & Tea

January 8—Trustees

January 15—Finance

January 22—UMW

January 29—TBD

### February Fellowship Tobans

February 5—Souper Bowl Sunday-MYF

February 12—SPRC

February 19—Stewardship

February 26—UMW



### *Comfort and Prayer for the families and friends of:*

Marian Drown (11/3)  
Shig Shimazu (11/14)  
Beverly Miyasaki  
Sam Murakami  
Helen Tanigawa  
Paul Lew  
George Takeuchi



### *Special Prayers*

Alice Ichiho  
Bobbie Crighton  
Clif Toyama  
Gerry Takehara  
Kathy Taketa  
Suzanne Curtis  
Sandy, Jason Weekley's mother  
Motoko Kobayashi  
Florence Shikasho  
People who are facing surgery.  
People who are going through tough times.

### **Would you like to be counted?**

California Nevada Annual Conference is requiring all churches to report the following numbers each week starting on January 1 for determination of vital signs.

- 1 # of worship attendance
- 2 # of Sunday school attendance
- 3 # of small group attendance
- 4 # of mission work participants
- 5 - amount of pledging and offering that week

VitalSigns is an easy, intuitive way to set expectations and accountability for your churches, as well as a place to discuss, and act on, the important issues we all face.

<http://vitalsignsumc.org/>

VitalSigns defines the aspects of a successful ministry and offers a real-time way to measure against it. VitalSigns trends key indicators to uncover important insights, so you can react faster and share successes.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (con't)

### LEGACY FUND

As of November 27, 2011  
THANKSGIVING  
Hosoume, M/M John  
Inouye, Tim  
Okino, Marie  
Takechi, M/M Curtis



### **11 steps to a joyful you!**

Cheryl B. Fell, RN, aka "Nurse FUNshine," of Scott, LA, composed "The Self-Kindness Connection: Steps to a Joyful You."

1. Work towards a healthy sense of self. Remind yourself that you are striving for progress, not perfection!
2. Jump start your heart with an attitude of gratitude. Count your blessings daily. Practice random acts of kindness.
3. Choose to live in the "now." Let go of yesterday and quit worrying about tomorrow. Slow down and enjoy life.
4. Let go of hurts and disappointments. Make some mistakes. Learn to forgive yourself and others. Forgiveness means freedom.
5. Smile at yourself in the mirror. Smile at others. Give compliments generously. Receive compliments gracefully.
6. Gently poke fun at yourself. Silliness will help you relax and become more spontaneous and less self-conscious.
7. Hang around with positive, optimistic, fun-loving people.
8. Set realistic goals on a regular basis. Beginnings create exciting energy and new experiences rejuvenate us. Take time to celebrate accomplishments; then give yourself a break from the hustle and bustle of life.
9. Try to keep your life balanced by prioritizing your wants and needs. Pray for wisdom and courage. Practice saying "no."
10. Take risks using healthy, compassionate humor with your family and friends. Make joyful connections in your world.
11. Feed your soul once a week by doing something you love.

Taketa, Catherine  
Taketa, M/M Bill  
Takuma, Fumi  
Tanaka, M/M Frank  
Tanaka, M/M Russell  
Tanihana, June  
Tanimoto, Dr/M Jun  
Tateishi, Seiko  
Toyama, M/M Evan  
Toyama, M/M Kenneth  
Uno, M/M Dick  
Uyeda, Vicci  
Williams, M/M Frederick  
Wong, M/M Steve  
Yamadera, Mickey  
Yee, M/M Wilfred  
Yokoi, M/M Feb  
Yoshikawa, Junko  
Yuki, M/M Philip

### UKULELE MINISTRY

Kai, Smiley

### UNITED METHODIST STUDAY DAY

Anonymous  
Fong, M/M Larry  
Imagire, M/M Art  
Nakashima, Roger  
Otani-Curtis, Susan

### UMCOR

Fong, Karen  
Japan Adult Mission  
Riverside United Methodist  
Church  
Japan Mission  
Sakamoto, Sayuri

### YOUTH MISSION FUND

fried rice fund raiser  
Anonymous

### CHOIR FUND

In Celebration of Amy Kawahara's Recovery  
Taketa, M/M Bill

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### GENERAL FUND

As of November 27, 2011

In Celebration of birthday

Ishisaka, Mitsue

In Celebration of Paul & Shizue Ito's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Sakahihara, Ben

In Celebration of Austin's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday

Takechi, M/M Curtis

In Celebration of Garden Angels

Taketa, M/M Bill

In Memory of Shigeru  
H.Shimazu

Asahara, Francis

In Memory of Marion Drown  
Ashizawa, M/M Winston  
Sumida, Frances

In Memory of Beverly Miyasaki  
Honbo, Dr/M Wesley

In Memory of Shig Shimazu  
Kashiwagi, Sue

In Memory of father Thomas  
Kujubu

Miyasaki, Anne

In Memory of sister Alberta  
Hiratsuka & father Al Wing  
Fong

Nakashima, M/M Kent

In Memory of George Yamadera

Yamadera, Mickey

### THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Alicaya, M/M Chuck

Aoki, Thomas

Arimoto, Hiroko

Asahara, Francis

Blaisdell, M/M Farrington

Chambers, M/M William

Chung, Scott

Dingley, Bernice

Fernandez, M/M Richard

Fong, Alvon

Fong, Karen

Fong, M/M Larry

Fujimoto, Mary

Fukutome, Lily

Hagiya, M/M Mark

Hamai, M/M George

Hamakawa, Mayumi

Harada, Jeff

Harper, M/M David

Hayashi, Alice

Hiruo, M/M Harry

Honbo, Dr/M Wesley

Hoshisaki, M/M Tom

Ida, Keisuke

Inouye, Margaret

Ishihara, Ruli

Ishima, Amy

Ishisaka, Mitsue

Ito, Belle

Ito, M/M James

Ito, M/M Paul

Ito, Yasushi

Iwata, M/M Joe

Kado, M/M Clarence

Kamei, M/M Nob

Kanemasu, M/M Russell

Kanemoto, Jean

Kashiwagi, Sam

Kashiwagi, Sue

Katayama, M/M Lawrence

Kawaguchi, Michiko

Kawahara, M/M Yoshio

Kazato, Dr/M Shiro

Kobayashi, M/M Jinji

Kobayashi, M/M Richard

Kohaya, Mae

Koshino, M/M Eddie

Koyama, Patty

Kubo, M/M Edwin

Kunibe, M/M Thomas

Kushi, M/M Tom

Laing, Michiyo

Lee, Clint

Lewis, M/M Tony

Maeda, Dr/M Melvin

Maeda, Elaine

Matsuo, M/M Ben

Matsuoka, M/M Walter

Mikami, Joanne

Miller, Kiyoo

Mizoguchi, M/M Max

Mizuno, M/M Tom

Murai, Marion

Nakashima, M/M Kent

Nakashima, Roger

Nakata, Keiko

Niimi, M/M Herbert

Nishihara, M/M Susumu

Nishikawa, Rev/M George

Nitta, Ruby

Oguro, M/M Keith

Okamoto, M/M Roy

Oshiro, Joyce

Oshita, Edith

Osuga, M/M David

Otani-Curtis, Susan

Ouchida, M/M Kenneth

Ouchida, M/M Lester

Raska, Judy

Rasmussen, M/M Scott

Robinson II, M/M Norman

Ronay, M/M Kelvin

Saito, Margaret

Sakahihara, Ben

Sakahihara, Diane

Sakahihara, Tom

Sakata, M/M Don

Sakauye, M/M Jiro

Sakauye-Tom, Vickie

Sasaki, M/M Robert

Sato, M/M Roy

Shiba, K.

Shibata, M/M Victor

Shibata, M/M Victor

Shimazu, M/M Glen

Silvernail, M/M Dave

Sugiyama, Elaine

Sumida, Frances

Takeda, Atsuko

Takehara, M/M Gerald

## Youth News



I can't believe it's already 2012!! Happy New Year everyone! With the New Year comes a new start, a fresh beginning, and resolutions! What is your 2012 New Year's resolution?

**In January** we kick off with our annual **ski trip** up to Tahoe! This year we are going to **Homewood ski resort** and the youth will have a full day of skiing, snowboarding, and just plain rolling in the snow! We will come back to the church and have a great dinner together and then the youth will stay the night at the church and we will have activities and worship before bed.

January is **Wellness Month**, so on the **15<sup>th</sup>** we will be having a day of stations for the youth to come and try out **different exercise regiments**, and even some nutrition trivia! Wellness isn't just for the body, so I will incorporate things for the soul and mind as well! It should be a day of great fun! On the 15<sup>th</sup> is also the night for our youth **small group meeting**. We are still in the Why series and everyone is welcome to join us Sunday night from 5-6pm in the youth room. We



start with a small check-in, go into our study, watch over one another in love, and then finish up with a meal together. As always we will have Open Gym on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, and since we are blessed with 5 Sundays this month, we will have a special treat on the 27<sup>th</sup>! Come out and see what it is!!

**February** will be a crazy busy month! Opening the month on the 5<sup>th</sup> is **Super Bowl Sunday!** Every year on Super Bowl day, the youth make soup and have a fundraiser for SSIP our local food closet! This year we will be collecting all forms of donation! That means, bills, coins, checks (made out to SSIP of course) and canned goods! The youth will be coming around with large pots to collect the donations and we will have a special table for the collection of canned goods.



February is the month of LOVE!! So we will have a **Valentine's Day Babysitting Night on the 11<sup>th</sup>!** This is offered to all parents who want to go out and have a date night without the kids! The babysitting will be offered from 5:30-8:30pm, drop off and pick up will both be in the fellowship hall as the children will need to be signed in and out. We will follow the babysitting with a dance!!

In November, we had our **first joint Circuit youth worship** and we would like to see those friends again! We will be inviting the youth from those churches to dance the night away with us in the gym! Lent begins on the 22<sup>nd</sup> as does the YOUTH's new schedule for Sunday school! Instead of having Sunday School at 9:30am, we will have the youth start in service and then come out after the Children's Message to go to Sunday School! This will only be for Lent and it ends on Easter with all of us remaining in service. We will close this month with Open Gym and burn off any energy we may have left after this full month! Remember to check your emails, and the youth webpage for further details and information!

- Gayle



## Letters to SJUMC

Dear SJUMC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for allowing me (via your scholarship grant,) to return to Asian-American Summer Camp for my final eligible year. I had a great time worshipping and socializing, seeing old friends again and making new ones. It was very enjoyable, and I owe it to you.

Thanks again.  
Austin Takechi



Dear SJUMC Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the scholarship to Asian Camp. Even though this was only my second time going, this time was much better than last year because I knew more people. Thanks for helping me to enjoy camp once again!

From,  
Mitchell Takechi

## Arigato!

Thursday At The Movies Group would like to thank Chewy Ito and Anonymous for their support of our Wish List. An order is in place for a larger screen which will greatly enhance our monthly cinema at SJUMC.



## Volunteer Trip to Japan

February 26, Sunday to  
March 8 (Friday), 2012



A team is going to Tokyo (UMW Wesleyan Center), Asian Rural Institute in Tochigi, the Tohoku Disaster Center and the Ishinomiaki Center in Tohoku for rebuilding from the Earthquake. Estimated Cost per person : \$3000 . The team is doing fundraising events. Please support them!

Yuri Kimura (Team Leader), Mary Nakamura, Paul Nakamura, Yvonne Kato, Betty Hirata, Joyce Oshiro

## RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

R E M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**January 5 for February issue.**

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

## Baptism and Transferring Membership

Would you like to be baptized or join the church officially?

This Spring, the membership class will be a bit different! If you are interested, please go to "coffee with Pastor" then find out more. Only requirement is to join the small groups during Lent. Please contact Rev. Motoe if you are interested.



## UPDATE ON SSIP FOOD CLOSET PLEA

Thank you to everyone who remembered to bring a nonperishable item(s) for the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet. We yielded 213 items the first Sunday, November 18, when the "We Can" drive began. The second Sunday there were 75 items.

Thank you again for all your donations and remember, "We Can" is a year-round project for the SSIP – not just during the holidays. So, if you can remember to bring one (1) item each Sunday, the people we are helping to put food on their tables will be grateful and appreciative. If you want to experience the "good" feeling of helping someone, volunteer to help any day of the week for 2-1/2 hours. Please call Frances Lee (427-7983), Jane Combs (443-2639), or June Tanihana (393-1355). They will tell you how wonderful you will feel.



## KIDS CAN

SJUMC will be participating again this fall in Kids Can, a canned good drive taking place at local schools. The SSIP Food Closet will receive a portion of all canned goods collected by the schools. We would love to have your help sorting the canned goods by type and putting them into boxes labeled as such. If you are interested in helping, why not bring a friend - the more volunteers that can help, the less time it will take. Once sorted the canned goods will be taken to the SSIP Food Closet where they will be distributed to families in need. Please check the Sunday bulletin for the church website for details on when we will need help sorting.

## New Assisted Listening System

A new Assisted Listening System (ALS) has been installed in the Sanctuary. We have 6 new receivers with different types of hearing devices that can be used. The new devices are available at the Welcome Table. We have:

1. standard single ear bud that can be inserted into the ear,
2. head phones that can be worn over the ear for those that have hearing aids or just need some assistance in hearing the Worship Service,
3. a neck loop that is worn around your neck. This is a feature available with the newer hearing aids and requires a special T-Switch to turn this feature ON/OFF on your hearing aid. Please check with your Audiologist to see if your hearing aid has this feature available. The neck loop is worn like a necklace and it transmits the audio signal to your hearing aid.

The old ALS system has been installed in the Multicultural Hall and is available for function held in the MCH.

We should thank the UMW for funding this through the Beulah Grant that we received last year for programs for the aged which also funds the Senior Exercise Program.

## Kids at SJUMC

We had a wonderful Christmas program on December 11th telling the story of Jesus' birth and making ornaments on Sunday, December 18th. After the holidays, we begin meeting again preparing for Easter! Join us after the children's time in worship as we sing and get to know each other and God better!

