

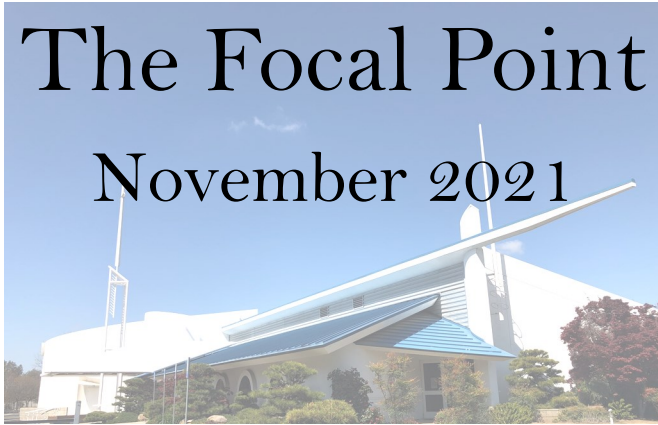


United Japanese Christian Church



136 N. Villa Avenue, Clovis, CA 93612

559-322-0701



Pastor

Rev. Akiko Miyake-Stoner

Church Secretary

Stephanie Sumi

Clerical Specialist

Kathie Sakamoto

Financial Recorder

Yukiko Hijioka

Media Specialist

Nathan Nakamura

Office Hours

Mon-Thu 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

CLOSED ON FRIDAY

REV. AKIKO'S DAY OFF—TUESDAY

NATHAN NAKAMURA'S DAY OFF—MONDAY

Email: info@ujcllife.com

Website: www.ujcllife.com

Worship Schedule

In-person Worship: 10:30 am

Online Worship at www.ujcllife.com

Pastor's Page

Dear UJCC,

Louie Giglio writes, "Our generosity is the reflection of what we have personally come to know about Jesus." Randy Alcorn also says, "Stare at Jesus long enough and you will become a giver. Give long enough and you will become like Christ." These two quotes were included in Rene Schlaepfer's book *Richer Life: How The Generosity Mindset Transforms You & Changes The World*. This is the book we explored in our Richer Life book study and then in our Generosity Movement sermon series last month.

It's become tradition at UJCC for October to be our Generosity Movement in which we talk about God's generosity and how we respond with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Yet, it's not like being generous is only something we do in October. We don't put our generous spirits away like we put away our summer clothes when the weather gets cold. We don't end our commitment to being kind as soon as Christmas is over. Yes, being generous is a state of mind, a state of heart, a state of being!...something we strive to do in every month and in every moment. We ask God to continue to spark new excitement and inspiration within us to be more generous in thought and action.

Of course, there are many ways to be generous...and everyone wears their generosity in different ways! This year, UJCC has two ongoing opportunities with which to give thanks and to express our generous spirits:

First, the UJCC Sunday School's Mission Project! This year, the kids are supporting the Ronald McDonald House. The Sunday School offering will go to support families who have a child in the hospital. In addition to monetary support, the Sunday School is also collecting items from their wish list. We invite everyone in our church family to participate in this collection. Please find the wish list following in this newsletter.

Secondly, the All-Church Gratitude Project, brought to us by the Generosity Committee and Community Care Team, kicked off on October 10 with bins of fabric to be laundered and ironed. This is the first step in preparing lap blankets that will be ready for UJCC folks to take to give to others in need of some TLC and comfort. All the fabric has now been picked up and people are already returning the fabric all nice and ironed! The next step will be cutting the fabric into squares; if you would like to help with this, please contact Diane Honda, Community Care Team member.

This is the month of giving thanks; we celebrate Thanksgiving at the end of November and there's a lot of talk about being grateful and reflecting on the many blessings of our lives. However, like living

generously, giving thanks should be something we focus on all year around.

Maybe this November, start a new spiritual practice around gratitude. Maybe it could be starting a gratitude journal and committing to writing down 5 things everyday that you're grateful for every morning or evening. Maybe it could be making appreciation more a part of your routine: if someone's action impresses or touches you, tell them! If you're overwhelmed by a beautiful moment or humbled by something impossible coming together, stop in that moment and thank God! The more we are thankful, the more we won't be able to help living abundantly and generously.

This church and you are among the items on my "gratefuls" list. Thank you for all you do and all you are!

Thanksgiving blessings to you!

Akiko

Joys and Concerns

"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

May we answer the call to be grateful through everything for we know God is faithful. In this spirit, we lift prayers for...

Hisaye Naito
June Kishi
Paras Family

We pray for concerns in our church community...

- For peace and wholeness for those with health concerns, including Michal Masada (Marion's daughter who had a biopsy for a lump found in her breast), Cyndi Fletcher (Mike Yamamoto's sister with cancer), for loved ones of Tami and Margaret Goddard-Ramage who have health concerns;
- For all in transition, including Brenda Nagata who will be moving to be closer to her kids; she will split her time between San Jose and Hawaii. We pray for her as she navigates this transition and give thanks for her time with us at UJCC; she shares appreciation and gratitude for the many blessings she has received with you all;
- For those recovering, including Arnold Nakamura (from quadruple bypass surgery), Melanie Do (Marion Masada's friend), and Becky Messer's grandma;

- For Florence Watana's daughter, age 40, that her pregnancy go smoothly and that her baby is healthy (Florence is a friend of Marion Masada);

For those who grieve...

- For the loved ones of Marsha Okada, who passed away October 10; Marsha is the sister of Kerri Katayama and the cousin of Gail Yamamoto;
- For the family and friends of Hiroshi Inouye, who passed away October 11; Hiroshi is Jean Yang's father and Yukio Inouye's brother;
- For the loved ones of Jeff Teranishi, Gregg Saito's cousin, who passed away October 7; we lift special prayers for his only sister, Leah;
- For the family and friends of Marion Matsuo, who passed away October 3;

For our wider community and the world...

- For rain;
- For peace: in our hearts, in our communities, in our world;
- For safety and protection against COVID-19 and for our essential workers;
- For our veterans and service personnel;
- For increased understanding and empathy between people with different perspectives;
- For all who experience trauma and fear due to war;
- For those who struggle with mental illness and those who care for them;
- For refugees all over the world;

For God's goodness in our community...

- Joy and blessings for Gabe, Tom and Sandy Ramage's 25 year-old grandson, who has Asperger's, who recently graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia; he will begin a volunteer position at a museum with his knowledge of history;
- Gratitude for Becky Messer's time as UJCC Music Minister; blessings as she begins a new chapter;
- Thanksgiving for the 100th birthday of two special women: For Toshi Hirose (Julie Moore and Sammy Liff's auntie) on September 26 and for Kiyo Taniguchi (Arlene Eberly's mom) on September 27;

- Gratitude for a smooth transition for Joyce Dessert's brother and sister-in-law who have recently moved to Wichita from Stockton to be closer to their daughter and family;
- Thanksgiving for Alisa Masada, Marion's daughter, whose Social Security benefits were reinstated.

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

A Note from the Moderator

This month brings to us the day of thanksgiving and prayer. Growing up... I remember this day where we would celebrate with a huge family meal, followed by watching the Thanksgiving Parade and hours of football. Together, we share this as a day to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts, and thankfulness for the celebrations of the blessings of the year. Each day I am thankful for good health, family, and friends. I am forever thankful for all that UJCC has shared and taught me, and most grateful for each of you and all that you give to our community. I am thankful that after so many months of closure that we were once again able to open our doors in 2021 and bring back some of our annual activities and celebrations. I am thankful....

Info, updates and more:

- Music Ministry** – In mid-October, we bid farewell to Becky Messer as our Music Minister. We wish Becky the very best as she enters a new chapter in her life and career. This now leaves us with a vacancy on our church staff. SPRC led by Kevin Watkins has begun this search process by posting the position and putting out inquiries.
- All-Church Gratitude Project:** Led by Community Care Team, and Generosity Committee, this project will most definitely include all of us together! The goal is to make as many as 150+ lap quilts over the course of the year where members of our congregation can give to someone who is need of the comfort these quilts can provide. See how you can join in and get involved! Learn more about this effort at <https://youtu.be/KfkessxzQB4>
- HCI (Healthy Church Initiative):** Each time you hear about HCI, or read about HCI, my hope is that you too will join us in this mission. Our mission is to reach out to young families, seek to meet their needs, and to establish and strengthen our relationships. We hope to bring young families together and create a community of

support. With each of our discussions, we question throughout ... “how will this be helpful or meaningful for young families”. In 2022, we are planning to kick-off the 1st project in January with an 8-week series utilizing the “Financial Peace Jr. curriculum” (Dave Ramsey). If you know of any young families, please invite them to participate in this event.

- D. **2021 Charge Conference/Annual meeting:** this will take place on November 28th at UJCC. As a precaution, our Charge Conference will convene strictly as a Charge Conference and not an All-Church Conference as has been our tradition. Attendees will include our current Board of Directors, and retired pastor – Hope Kawashima. Preparations have been taking place to prepare for this meeting: reports have been written for the Annual booklet; Administrative Committees and Ministry Committees have been updated; vacated positions have been filled; along with a multitude of other details. Thank you to all our chairpersons for turning in their reports timely. Thank you to our office staff of Kathie Sakamoto, and Stephanie Sumi in gathering and collating the multiple reports for the publication of the UJCC Annual Charge/Meeting booklet.
- E. **Livestreaming!!!**- Property chair, Ted Uyesaka, and Media Specialist, Nathan Nakamura are working together in ordering necessary equipment to update our video and audio systems. How exciting as UJCC moves towards the availability of Livestreaming Sunday Services, possibly memorial services, and other events. Many thanks to the Property Committee, Ted, and Nathan!!!
- F. **Holiday Tomodachi Drive Thru December 8, 2021** – Tomodachi will be hosting another Drive-thru Lunch and Christmas Blessings event. Don't forget to fill in the flyer and get your order in!!!
- G. **LUAU-** I am delighted to share that the LUAU is back and has been scheduled for 2022! David Wong is already starting on the details and preparations of this event. Due to Covid concerns, the LUAU this year will be a **take-out dinner** with a **virtual silent auction** and **raffle** on **January 23**. Stay tuned, as more details will follow!!!

Let's continue to do our part in keeping ourselves and those around us as safe as possible by wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands, etc.

Stay Safe everyone!!!

Arlene Eberly

559-960-4044/arlene.eberly@sbcglobal.net

Community Care Happenings

Past Events for Community Care A meeting of the Community Care Team was held on October 6, via Zoom to plan events for the fall/winter. Several projects were approved and initiated. See below for events and donations being implemented.

Halloween Event at FIRM The Community Care Team collected candy for the FIRM Halloween Event that occurred on Friday, October 29, at FIRM. Fay Nakaguchi led a group from UJCC to sponsor a booth with a beanbag toss and distribution of candy.

UJCC Richer Life Generosity Project Diane Honda will be coordinating this joint project for CCT and the Generosity Committee. The idea is to make lap quilts for UJCC members to participate in the creation and the distribution. Several steps will involve volunteers: washing and pressing the fabrics, sewing the squares together, and giving away the quilts as needs are identified. In addition, volunteers are asked to create and/or purchase cards to be given with the quilts.

Food Distribution The Good Neighbor organization will be working with Suncrest Bank, recently merged with Citizen Bank. The food distribution will be mainly produce and possibly be held at the Pinedale School. Not as many volunteers will be needed.

There will be a special Christmas event to donate to 2-3 families in need. Ken will coordinate with Good Neighbor for this project, with CCT donating up to \$250 for the families.

Dakota Eco Village Holidays CCT will be buying a Thanksgiving Dinner for 12 at Boston Market for residents at Dakota Eco Village. Ken Kurokawa will be coordinating this event.

Also, CCT will donate \$1000 for our annual donation to Dakota Eco Village, including funds for their Christmas event.

Earth Angel Mission Baby Project Diane Honda reported that Helen Clark made a thank-you video. Helen also took 60 quilt tops, finished 30 and donated to FIRM; 30 others will be finished. She also dropped off squares to be made into quilt tops. Anyone who wants to volunteer to sew, please contact Diane.

Future Events for Community Care If anyone is interested in joining the Community Care Team, please contact Larry Honda or anyone on the committee. The next CCT meeting will be held on November 3, 7:00 pm.



Tomodachi Seniors Group and Friends

Welcome, splendid November! Enjoy readying your lives and abodes for the arrival of the brisk and beautiful Winter months. We're thinking of you as we honor our military Veterans and as we celebrate and offer our Thanksgiving for the bountiful blessings that God has bestowed upon us.

Until we meet again in December, enjoy the myriad of November National Days! HAPPY NATIONAL "World Kindness Day", "Author Day", "Calzone Day", "Cook for Your Pets Day", "Housewife's Day", "Educational Support Professionals Day", "Doughnut Day", "Deep Fried Clams Day", "Child's Day", "French Toast Day", "Day of Giving", "Men Make Dinner Day", "Saxophone Day", "Play Outside Day", and "Sundae Day"!

The JOY of Christmas
Bento and Blessings Drive-Thru Celebration
Wednesday, December 8th
12:30 PM Pick Up at the UJCC



We would love to see you at our Christmas JOY Bento and Blessings Drive-Thru event! Jingle Bell your way over to the UJCC to pick up your box lunch, catered from the Sakura Chaya Japanese Restaurant.

Lunch will include chicken teriyaki, salmon teriyaki, tempura, California roll sushi, salad and rice. Dessert, too!

This event is at no charge to you, compliments of the UMC 2021 Beulah Grant for Older Adult Ministries awarded to the Tomodachi Seniors Group ministry.

Please let us know if you would like a lunch delivered to you. We have many gracious volunteers who can drop by with your lunch while saying a socially-distanced "hello".

Please complete the attached RSVP form and mail it to the Church by December 3rd or call Janelle Saito (313-0489) and leave a message to reserve your lunch.

Ho, Ho, Ho...Hope to see you soon!



Tomodachi Seniors Group and Friends
The Joy of Christmas Bento and Blessings
Drive-Thru Pick Up at the UJCC on Wednesday,
December 8th at 12:30 PM
(RSVP Due by December 3rd)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

of Lunches: _____

_____ Please call me regarding my request for special delivery arrangements.

(Please mail this RSVP to: UJCC, 136 N. Villa Ave., Clovis, CA 93612)

Senior Care Response Team (SCRT) Ministry

Please don't hesitate to contact the Senior Care Response Team for support. **Contact:** Arlene Eberly (960-4044) or Janelle Saito (313-0489). We'll reach out to the Church's myriad of resources to assist you.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, support and donations; this ministry is ongoing and will continue well into the future.

DVD copies of the Sunday worship services are available upon request. Please contact Janelle Saito (313-0489) if you are interested or have questions regarding this outreach. Also, let us know if you are in need of a device to view the DVD--we can loan you an easy-to-use DVD player so that you are able to view the worship services via this format.

LUAU

Mark **January 23, 2022** on your calendars. After a one and a half year hiatus due to Covid, the UJCC Luau, raffle and silent auction will be back on January 23, 2022. Since Covid will not go away completely anytime soon, the LUAU will be a takeout dinner without the usual entertainment. We will still have the raffle, dessert sale along with an online silent auction.

Raffle tickets will arrive in the mail soon. They are for you to purchase and sell. Additional raffles are available at the church office if you need more. If you don't plan to buy or sell them, consider returning them to the church office so they are available for others who need more.

LUAU tickets will be on sale online as well as at church on December 12, 2021. The tickets are \$25 if purchased on or before Sunday January 9 and \$30 beginning January 10.

The LUAU, silent Auction, and raffle are fundraisers for the Church's general fund. As always, we need the church member's help. In past years, the majority of the funds raised were from the silent auction items donated by church members. Consider asking a business you frequent to donate an item or gift certificate. If you have a vacation home, consider donating the use of it for a few days. If you have a business, consider donating your services or an item. If you are talented (photography, cooking, cleaning, crafts, music, babysitting), be creative and use your talents to raise money for the church. You can also make a gift basket or bake a dessert for our dessert sale. A copy of a Donation Request Letter to present to businesses will also be available next to the ticket sales table starting December 12. Businesses who donate will be listed as donors in the LUAU program as well as the February newsletter. And last but not least, consider volunteering to help with the LUAU by contacting David Wong or Fay Nakaguchi.



Cub Scouts Pack 199

by Doug Tanaka - Cubmaster



The Cub Scouts are continuing to work hard. The scouts participated in a Bully Defense Class sponsored by Ultimate Martial Arts. Each scout and siblings learned how to defend themselves both physically and mentally against bullies. Everyone had a great time and learned some cool moves. The Cub Scouts also want to welcome a new scout, Troy! The scouts are planning to have a campout at the church to get more experience camping.



BOY SCOUT

The Ninjas made BBQ pizza for the troop on Sunday October 10 and on that same day the Troop reorganized the troop shed under the guidance of the new Quartermaster Ryan Sano.



UNITED JAPANESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9/27/21 thru 10/24/21

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Ronald Bell: In Memory of Bessie Bell
M/M Ed Brewer: In Memories of Takashi Morita & Anne Brewer
M/M Dan Eberly: In Memory of Marsha Okada
M/M Charles Garrigus: In Memories of Taro and Joy Asami
Paulette Hiraoka: In Memory of Robert Hirasuna
Robert Hirasuna: In Memory of Kiyomi Hirasuna
Robert Hirasuna: In Memory of Robert Hirasuna
Irene Ikeda: In Memory of Jeff Teranishi
Thomas Iwatsubo: In Memory of Kazue Iwatsubo
Marion Masada: In Memory of Ron Kiyuna
Gail Renge: In Memory of Ayako Renge
M/M Frank Tamura: In Memory of Kazue Iwatsubo
Jereann Tanaka: In Memories of Kiyoto & Fumiko Saiki and Howard Saiki

M/M Dan Eberly: In Honor of Kiyo Taniguchi 100th Birthday
M/M Yo Katayama: In gratitude for Rev. Akiko
Charlene Kiyuna: Helping Hands
Marlene Kizer: Earth Angel Mission
Jeannie Matsumoto: for appreciation of the Arts show
Mae Morita: Congratulations to Lauren Sembritzki and Michael Galli,
Birth of Charles Mike Yang
Mae Morita: Congratulations to M/M Gordon Honda's birth of grandchild
Mae Morita: Roberta Barton's son; Certified a physical therapy's assistant
Mae Morita: Robert Archuleta; Hip replacement
Mae Morita: Office Supplies

Tamar & Janna Bedoyan: Donation
Lisa Mochizuki: Donation

IN MEMORY OF ETSU KATSURA

Mine Ikeda
Hiroshi Inouye
Marlene Kubota
D/M Greg Matsubara
M/M Dick Naito
Tomoko Naito
Faye Nishioki
M/M Leland Okubo
M/M Mike Ridgway
M/M Chad Staebler
M/M Victor Takeda
D/M Wallace Yang

IN MEMORY OF FIBBER HIRAYAMA

M/M Dan Eberly
M/M Charles Garrigus
Brian Hirayama
Colin Hirayama
M/M Kevin Hirayama
Mine Ikeda
Hiroshi Inouye
Hope Kawashima
M/M Mark Kizior
Marlene Kubota
M/M Donald Kunimitsu
D/M Ken Kurokawa
Lisle Funeral Home
Marion Masada
D/M Greg Matsubara
Janis Saiki
M/M Chad Staebler
Stephanie Sumi
M/M Victor Takeda
M/M Yukio Tani
D/M Ken Tsutsui
M/M Brian Wong
D/M Wallace Yang
M/M Mike Yatabe

IN MEMORY OF HIROSHI INOUYE

Charlene Kiyuna
D/M Ken Kurokawa
Marion Masada
Kaye Migaki
Brenda Nagata
M/M Dick Naito
M/M Yukio Tani
M/M Brian Wong

IN MEMORY OF MARION MATSUO

D/M Gordon Honda
D/M Ken Kurokawa
Day Kusakai
Marion Masada
Kaye Migaki

IN MEMORY OF COSH NG

M/M Charles Garrigus
M/M Chad Staebler

CHOIR FUND

M/M Charles Garrigus
M/M Larry Honda
Tiffany Ikeda

CRAFT FAIR

D/M Ken Kurokawa
Marion Masada
Mae Morita

FRIENDS CARE

Eujeanne Kawasaki: In Memory of Etsu Katsura
Tim Ikeda: In Memory of Pat Grossi

TOMODACHI

M/M Dan Eberly: In Memories of Etsu Katsura and Hiroshi Inouye
M/M Charles Garrigus
Roxana Hing
M/M Gregg Saito: In Memories of Marion Matsuo and Fibber Hirayama
M/M Gregg Saito: In Celebration of Kiyo Taniguchi's 100th birthday
Emi Takizawa: In Memories of Etsu Katsura and Cosh Ng
Rhoda Woo

Puzzle!

Use the food key to complete Acts 14:17, NIV.

KEY

THANK YOU, LORD



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_ e p _ _ vi _ es _ _ _ wi _ _ ple _ _ _



_ f f _ _ d _ _ _ fi _ _ s _ _ _ _



_ e _ _ _ s wi _ _ _ j _ _ ."



A C T S 1 4 : 1 7 , N I V

Answer: "He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14:17, NIV