

# SYCAMORE TREE

The Monthly Newsletter of Sycamore Congregational Church, U.C.C.

February 2016

Volume 112 Number 2

## From our Pastor

### *More Than We Can Ask or Imagine*

**A**S I BEGIN my fifth year at Sycamore, I am noticing how much I enjoy the relative calm of January and having the time to thoughtfully plan for the year to come. The major activities and successes of 2015 were the Nichigobu's success in maintaining momentum while waiting for Rev. Yasutaka Yoshioka and his family to arrive, his graceful integration into Sycamore, and the parsonage renovation. The first was a reminder of the spiritual discipline of faithfully waiting in hopeful expectation, the second brought a sense of renewal, and the third was like an extended Bazaar. Nichigo and Eigo members planned, worked hard and celebrated together; we were one church, one Body in Christ!



The parsonage renovation was an example of our leaders and members coming to grips with and successfully addressing a long-term need. Doing so, whether in our individual lives or as a church, can be emotionally difficult, but it is both restorative for the soul and liberating. This year we will address other areas of church life, with the same honesty, faith, and creativity. One of these is the upcoming retirement of Reiko Kamada as our Preschool Director and your Preschool Board has been working diligently for this transition. Other areas of church life may present themselves as well. Often in the English services we offer prayers of the people using a hymn written by Richard Colligan that contains the words, "More than we can ask or imagine". God and you, Beloved Community, offer more than we can ask or imagine as we take care of long-term opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal. I am so grateful for your faith and love!☺

*-Pastor Kevin*

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## From the Moderator...

*By Georgia Fujikawa*

This month has had a number of activities related to the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 24. This is a once-a-year opportunity to meet as a whole congregation and reflect on the previous year while looking forward to the new one. It is a responsibility that we have as members of a congregational church, which operates as an autonomous body within the denomination of similar autonomous churches.



This meeting gives us a chance to study the budget for a better understanding of our income and our spending. It is a chance to look at a year's worth of activities and make sure that they are reflective of the values that we share. It is also a chance to celebrate the things we are proud of, and to recommit to those things that we still have to do. All of these activities go on year round through the process of monthly council meetings, but even the attendees at council meetings find a need to step back and look at the bigger picture occasionally. We are a busy church, filled with hard working and busy people. Slowing down and stepping back is an opportunity to catch our breath before diving back into the ongoing and upcoming events. We are blessed to have each other for support, for friendship, and for sharing both the burdens and the joys, and I am glad of the reminder of this blessing.☺

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# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

## 11 a.m.



February 7, 2016 *Communion Sunday/Transfiguration*

Preacher: Rev. Kevin Omi  
 Liturgist: Roslyn Kartychak  
 Musician: Satoko Fogarty

February 21

Preacher: Rev. Kevin Omi  
 Liturgist: Eli'jah Carroll  
 Musician: Joan Matsuoka

February 10 *Ash Wednesday Service*

Preachers: Rev. Kevin Omi & Rev. Yasutaka Yoshioka

February 28 *Memorial Sunday*

Preacher: Rev. Kevin Omi  
 Liturgist: Geoff Baughman  
 Musician: Eli'jah Carroll

February 14

Preacher: Rev. Kevin Omi  
 Liturgist: Karen Nishikawa  
 Musician: Satoko Fogarty

## Schedule of Events

Thu, Feb. 4 Worship Committee Mtg., 7 pm  
 Thu, Feb. 18 Newsletter articles due (short edition)  
 Thu, Feb. 18 Church Council Mtg., 7 pm  
 Thu, Feb. 25 Newsletter mailing, 4 pm

*Save the Date:*

Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm  
 Mar. 19 Benefit Concert for Japanese earthquake survivors, 7:30 pm  
 Mar. 27 Easter Sunday, including Pancake Breakfast  
 Sat, May 21 Sycamore Rummage Sale (El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale, 9-3pm)

## Sycamore's Annual Rummage Sale

Mark your calendars today!

This year, the Rummage Sale will be on May 21, 2016, the same day as the El Cerrito citywide garage sale. Start looking around your house for things that have been gathering dust or are just not needed anymore--we need them for the Rummage Sale!



## February Birthdays



3 Pat Dea	20 Akiko Kobayashi
5 Nori Hashimoto	20 Inori Fukuda Trant
6 Eiko Matsuoka	25 Norihisa Kobayashi
6 Yuka Kobayashi	26 Bob Fabini
10 Mari Kakei	27 Gene Tanaka
10 Taeko Maeda	28 Delma Yee
10 Wendy Matsutani	
12 Alex Janss	
15 Haruo Uyeda	

Please let us know if we missed any February birthdays - contact Pastor Kevin at [revkevinomi@gmail.com](mailto:revkevinomi@gmail.com).

## Women's Fellowship

After enjoying a wonderful Christmas Luncheon in December, Women's Fellowship helped in producing a great Shinnenkai program to start off the New Year.

### Shinnenkai

This year's Shinnenkai was ably emceed by





Eli'jah Carroll and showed off some great talent that made for an enjoyable New Year beginning for 2016 for the church

family. The participants in the program included: Seiya Adam - bugle call opening, Kiyoko Bischof - piano solo, Matthew Sakiyama - violin with one piece accompanied by Satoko Fogarty on the piano, Eli'jah Carroll - vocal solo, Paki Muthig and Judy Kalse - flute and silimba duet, and Ric Reed - vocal solo. We thank them all for their time and talents.

We recently met for our periodic meeting and will provide information on future projects as soon as we can. ☺



## Sycamore Christian Preschool

By Reiko Kamada



There are many events we celebrate at the preschool in February. The first one is called *Setsubun*. This is the tradition of throwing beans at the *oni* (ogre) to chase away evil spirits and bring good fortune to the homes. The children will shout "*oni wa soto*" (ogres go outside) and "*fuku wa uchi*" (happiness into the homes) as they throw the beans. The children have already made *oni* masks and cups to hold their *mame*, beans. We will hold this activity on February 2nd and 3rd. February is also the



month for celebrating Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, President's Day and Black History month. We are planning a variety of activities for the children to enhance their

learning about these different events.

School will be closed February 15-19 for President's Week recess. We are now accepting registration for the fall semester. There are only a few spaces left so if you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact us soon. Call (510) 527-9522 for more information. ☺



### A letter from Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy:

*"Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*Thank you for the generosity of spirit and warmth you extended to Pacific School of Religion during my visit on November 15, 2015. I enjoyed our time together immensely, and I appreciated the opportunity to be in worship with you and share PSR's bold new vision of preparing theologically and spiritually rooted leaders for social transformation. This work cannot be done without partner congregations like yours, and we look forward to deepening that partnership through prayer, sharing resources, and serving God together.*

*We would love to share with you what's happening at PSR as we serve the church and move forward with hope into our future. If you would like to be on our email list, please visit us at [www.psr.edu](http://www.psr.edu). If you would prefer to receive mail from us by postal mail, please contact John Aney, Associate Advancement Director, at [janey@psr.edu](mailto:janey@psr.edu) or at 510-849-8260.*

*Blessings to each of you and the congregation's ministries,  
David Vasquez-Levy, President  
Pacific School of Religion"*



**From Pastor Kevin Omi...**

*Open Door Meditation*

Our Thursday 6 pm gatherings at Mira Vista Church (corner of Ashbury and Stockton), have been going really well since we started in December. During our meditation time, we often focus on short phrases from the wisdom of Jesus to create gentle, loving and open space. Newcomers from any or no faith tradition are always welcome. If you simply need 45 minutes of quiet breathing space in your life, come join!

*Where's the Kingdom of God?*

I will offer a Bible Study during Lent centered around the sayings of Jesus about the "kingdom of God". We'll explore Bible stories about yeast, mustard seeds, sowing seeds, buried treasure and more...and their implications for our lives of faith. Please plan to come on Tuesday nights at 7 pm starting on February 16. Several folks have already signed up; so please let me know if you can join us.



**Church Officers and Leaders for 2016-2017**

**Officers**

Moderator: Georgia Fujikawa  
 Vice Moderator: Karen Inouye  
 Council Recorder: Kathleen Louie  
 Church Clerk: Karen Nishikawa  
 Treasurers:  
     Receipts: Silvia Akinaga  
               Stacey Kamada  
     Disbursements: Chris Aptaker  
     Memorial, Parsonage,  
     Prop. Maint.: David Inada  
 Nichigo Moderator: Roy Adam  
 Nichigo Assoc. Moderator: Naoko Okahashi  
     Nichigo Treasurer: Osamu Kumao  
 Nichigo Secretary: Chieko Endo  
 Fujinkai Chair: Yumiko Shimamori  
 Fujinkai Treasurer: Akiko Taylor  
 Tomonokai Chair: Osamu Kumao  
 Tomonokai Treasurer: Chieko Endo

**Boards**

Trustees: Kurt Buss (Lead Treas.)  
           Osamu Kumao  
 Stewardship: Kurt Buss  
               Georgia Fujikawa  
               Sumi Wu  
 Church Life:  
     Worship: Georgia Fujikawa  
               Chieko Endo  
               Osamu Kumao  
     Hospitality: Chris Aptaker  
                   Mark Endo  
                   Akiko Taylor (Rcpn Ch)

Christian Ed.: Jan Fabini  
                   Ellen Inada  
                   Muts Nishino  
                   Yoshimi Kinoshita  
                   Toom Noble  
                   Patricia Sato  
                   Shenya Sato  
 Missions: Eli'jah Carroll, Chair  
               Jimmy Louie  
               Reiko Kamada  
               Muts Nishino  
               Ellen Inada  
               Marianne T. McDonald  
 Newsletter: Joan Matsuoka

Recognizing and Affirming Standing Committees and Special Representatives/Officers:

- Preschool Director: Reiko Kamada
- Women's Fellowship Representative to Church Council: Karen Nishikawa
- J-SEI Representatives: Georgia Fujikawa, Rev. Kevin Omi
- PAAM Representative: Rev. Kevin Omi
- Pastor Kevin's Pastoral Relations Committee: Georgia Fujikawa, Chris Aptaker, Reiko Kamada, Chieko Endo, Kathleen Louie

*Let us remember in our prayers...*

*Caring God: We pray for those we love in our Sycamore Family who deal with health challenges, including Doug and Pat Dea, Haruo Uyeda, Toshiko Kenji, Jeanne Williams, Ray Matsunaga; and those in Jimmy and Kathleen Louie's circles of love. We also lift up the hearts and souls of those who care for all persons needing extra care and love. We lift up our prayers for the extended Nihei family as another loved one has passed.*

*More broadly, Loving Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer: we pray for those affected by environmental disasters, those fearing deportation and refugees of all kinds from Central America, Syria and around the world. We pray that your realm of peace and love continue to grow. Amen.*

\* \* \* \* \*

GENERAL ACCOUNT FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
Year Ending December 31, 2015			
Receipts	YTD	% to Budget	Budgeted
Pledges	\$60,125.92	93%	\$65,000.00
Offerings	\$10,746.76	74%	\$14,500.00
Holiday Offerings	\$10,144.00	85%	\$12,000.00
Bazaar	\$22,040.40	96%	\$23,000.00
Church Events/ Fund Raiser	\$7,989.23	61%	\$13,000.00
Facility Use & Sundry	\$4,368.13	134%	\$3,250.00
Preschool & Language Class	\$32,024.50	100%	\$32,000.00
Total Receipts	\$147,438.94	91%	\$162,750.00
Disbursements	(\$151,084.21)	86%	(\$175,067.00)
Disbursements. Exc. Receipts	(\$3,645.27)	30%	(\$12,317.00)
Beginning Cash Balance.	\$31,012.74		
Disbursements Exc. Receipts	(\$3,645.27)		
Special Missions - to be transferred out	\$340.76		
Ending Cash Balance	\$27,708.23		

Please contact the Church Office for details of Receipts and Disbursements.  
Kurt A. Buss, Trustee/ Treasurer

*In Remembrance...*

We remember and pay our respects to Sycamore Church members, their relatives and friends of Sycamore who died in the month of February: Sumi Morita 1954, Yuriko Urabe 1956, Kuzo Tsukahira 1957, Mitsue Domoto 1962, George Niizawa 1963, Beatrice Mizote 1965, John Ishikawa 1966, Rev. Masayoshi Ohmura 1974, Sadao Hamada 1974, Kasuye Hotta 1974, Mieko Yoneda 1984, Rev. Francis Hayashi 1987, Takeshi Yatabe 1989, Frank Kagiwada 1995, Yoshiko Nakazawa Takei 1995, Shigeru Tamai 1995, Rev. Sedoris McCartney 1995, Bill Yamamoto 1996, Calvin Yamashita 1996, Rev. Michael Angevine 1999, Phillip Noble 2001, John Matsutani 2007, Chieko Harano 2007, Ethel Jordan 2007, George Akinaga 2008, Joyce Yorozu 2010, Yoshiko Katayanagi Takahashi 2012, Hackie Honda 2013, Margaret Hilton, 2013, Masae Wada Sumimoto 2014



*"These all have died in the Faith... pilgrims on earth... seeking a homeland... therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city." (Hebrews 11)*

In honor of Hiro Katayama

## Acknowledgments for December 20, 2015–January 17, 2016

*Sycamore is proud to be a self-supporting church - all operating and ministry expenses are funded by donations from members and friends of Sycamore and from special fundraising efforts. Thank you!*

### General Fund

Silvia Akinaga  
 Michael Chavez  
 Chieko Endo  
 Jan Fabini  
 Georgia/Dr. Mark Fujikawa  
 Ray/Maureen Fuller, in memory of  
 Marc Fuller  
 George/Midori Goto  
 George/Midori Goto in celebration of  
 birth of great-grandson  
 Parker Ryan Seufert  
 Dr. Harlan/Marilyn Head  
 Hiramatsu Family, in memory of  
 Joemar Ayrello  
 David/Ellen Inada  
 Tom Inada  
 Karen Inouye  
 Shingo/Reiko Kamada  
 Stacey Kamada  
 Roslyn Kartychak  
 Akiko/Nori Kobayashi  
 Osamu Kumao  
 Rev. Deborah Lee  
 Kathleen/Jimmy Louie  
 Tina Matsuoka  
 Eiko Matsuoka  
 Rev.Dr. Fumitaka Matsuoka/Rev.Dr.  
 Sharon Thornton  
 Joan Matsuoka  
 Kay Matsutani  
 Marianne Tomita McDonald  
 Marianne Tomita McDonald, to use  
 as needed  
 Ann Menzie  
 Gloria Morita  
 Alan Nagata  
 Karen Nishikawa  
 Muts/Dr. Philip Nishino  
 Toom Noble (Noble Family)  
 Stan/Bea Nomura  
 Riko Shinohara  
 R. Sonoda, in memory of John  
 Takeuchi  
 R. M. Sonoda for New Year's service  
 Wayne/Debbie Takahashi, in memory  
 of James Mich Takahashi,  
 Fumi Takahashi  
 Hiro Taniguchi  
 Akiko/Kenyon Taylor  
 Ken Urabe  
 Rev. Dr. Randi Walker  
 Sherry Watson  
 Sumi Wu  
 Rev. Yasutaka Yoshioka/Hitomi

Yoshioka

### Nichigobu

Roy Adam Family  
 Satoko Fogarty  
 Dr. Harlan/Marilyn Head  
 Hidaka  
 Kyoko Homma  
 Taichi Ito  
 Roslyn Kartychak, for Rev. Yoshioka  
 and family  
 Etsuyo Nishikimi  
 Saori Ogura  
 Naoko Okahashi  
 Shinohara  
 Akiko/Kenyon Taylor  
 Sumi Wu  
 Tasha Yorozu/Sam Suttle  
 Anonymous

### Memorial Fund

Joan Matsuoka, in memory of John  
 Takeuchi  
 Chieko Endo, in memory of Katsumi  
 Endo

### Property Maintenance

Eiko Matsuoka, in memory of Ed  
 Matsuoka

### Facilities Use

Georgia/Dr. Mark Fujikawa  
 Sycamore Christian Preschool  
 Huntington's Disease Society of  
 America

### UCC Christmas Fund

Silvia Akinaga  
 Georgia/Dr. Mark Fujikawa  
 Dr. Harlan/Marilyn Head  
 David/Ellen Inada  
 Tom Inada  
 Shingo/Reiko Kamada  
 Rev. Deborah Lee  
 Eiko Matsuoka  
 Marianne Tomita McDonald  
 Gloria Morita  
 Karen Nishikawa  
 Toom Noble (Noble Family)  
 Stan/Bea Nomura  
 Hiro Taniguchi  
 Rev. Dr. Randi Walker  
 Anonymous

### Hospitality Fund

Rev. Kevin Omi  
 Kimiko/Ellen Brewer

### Christmas

Roy Adam Family  
 Silvia Akinaga  
 Kamiyama/Beadsley

Thomas Burford/Dawn Kawamoto  
 Allison/Andrew Chung  
 Chieko Endo  
 Satoko Fogarty  
 Georgia/Dr. Mark Fujikawa  
 Matthew/Nancy Fujikawa  
 George/Midori Goto  
 Hidaka  
 Homma/Lee Family  
 Virginia Hotta  
 David/Ellen Inada  
 Tom Inada  
 Eric Inouye  
 Karen Inouye  
 David/Susan Janss  
 Stacey Kamada  
 James Koharazawa  
 Osamu Kumao  
 Rev. Deborah Lee  
 Kathleen/Jimmy Louie  
 Taeko Maeda  
 Eiko Matsuoka  
 Joan Matsuoka  
 Martha Matsuoka  
 Tina Matsuoka  
 Gloria Morita  
 Kenneth/Reiko Nabeta  
 Diane/Gene Nakamura  
 Shigeru/Sakiko Namba  
 Fumi Nihei  
 Karen Nishikawa  
 Etsugo Nishikimi  
 Toom Noble (Noble Family)  
 Stan/Bea Nomura  
 Naoko Okahashi  
 Mary Orite  
 Shenyua/Patti Sato  
 Charles/Masaye Sumimoto  
 K. Shinohara  
 Nozomi Taketa  
 Hiro Taniguchi  
 Mei Tsutsumi  
 Ko/Laurie Ushigusa  
 Haruo Uyeda  
 Randal Woo  
 Sumi Wu

*By Silvia Akinaga*

## Sycamore Annual Meeting

By Georgia Fujikawa

This past Sunday we held our annual meeting following services and an outstanding lunch prepared by Mark Endo and Chris Aptaker. This was an opportunity to talk about the full extent of what the church does in a year. We also voted on the new budget and church officers.

In addition to the reports, we also talked about the "big picture" of the church's financial position and its long term planning. Here are a few of the highlights.

### In assets:

- We are blessed in that we have no mortgage and no debt, due in large part to the generations before us who strongly believed in staying debt-free.
- We have an endowment of approximately \$285,000 that earns interest and that we have agreed will not be tapped for more than 6% of its value in any year.
- We have money in several accounts that has been specifically donated and set aside for a new preschool building.
- We received a generous contribution to be used towards a lift for the building between the upper and lower floors.

### In needs:

- We would like to start planning a new preschool building
- We have a large amount of deferred maintenance on the church property, starting with the parking lot surface.
- We would like to explore the possibility of a lift to make it easier for people to move from one floor to the other.
- We would like to be able to fund greater mission and outreach activities.
- We are beginning to look more strategically at income and expenses.

Putting all of this together, we have three goals for 2016:

1. Try to increase the pledge and plate amounts so that we could cover our recurring expenses with recurring revenue, letting us use funds from fundraisers for extra projects. Right now over 40% of our pledged income is coming from a very small number of families.
2. Work on paying our ministers and staff a fair salary, including benefits.
3. Put together a 5-year strategic plan for property maintenance and new projects, including a preschool building.

There is a printed annual report that is available to anyone who was not at the meeting. It is an impressive document and well worth going through. Please give us your feedback and ideas.

## Rev. Diane Weible to be Installed

All NCNC laity and clergy are invited to attend the installation of the Rev. Diane Weible as Conference Minister at 4PM on Saturday February 20, 2016 at First Congregational Church of Berkeley UCC, 2345 Channing Way. New UCC General Minister and President John Dorhauer will be preaching. If you can only get to one wider church event this year, this is the one to attend!



# Sycamore Tree 日歌



「共感して生きる」吉岡恵生  
 「喜ぶ者と共に喜び、泣く者と共に泣きなさい。」  
 (ローマの信徒への手紙12章15節)

去る1月24日(日)に、2016年度の教会総会が持たれました。総会では、過ぎた2015年度の諸活動報告及び決算報告を承認し、また既に始まっている新たな2016年度の歩みについても予算案を承認すると共に、教会の進むべき方向性について、そのビジョンを共有しました。

日語部は2016年度の主題に「共感して生きる」という言葉を掲げました。主題聖句は、ローマ書12章15節です。イエス・キリストは最も重要な掟として「唯一の神を愛すこと」と「隣人を自分のように愛すこと」を示しましたが、ローマ書を書いた使徒パウロは、その教えをより具体的に実践していくために、「喜ぶ者と共に喜び、泣く者と共に泣きなさい」ということを伝えたのです。

喜ぶ者と共に喜び、泣く者と共に泣くことは、決して簡単なことではありません。しかし聖書は、イエス・キリストの生き方を一つのモデルとして、なおその道を追いかけていくことを促すのです。

イエス・キリストが歩まれた道。イエス・キリストが示す生き方。それは、ひたすら人々に寄り添い、共感する生き方でした。喜ぶ人や泣く人と、イエスはいつも空間を共にし、時にはただ一緒にいることを通して、彼らの心の内にある様々な声に共感していったのです。

私たちには特別な力はないかもしれませんが、しかし私たちは、誰かと空間を共にすることはできます。ただ一緒にいるだけでいいのです。そこからすべてが始まります。そのことを通して私たちは隣人の心の内にある喜びや涙、様々な声に共感する第一歩を歩み出すのです。

今年は、礼拝を中心とした日語部のすべての活動の根底に、「共感」というテーマを置きます。何をするにも、誰かと空間を共にするということを大切にする。そのことの繰り返しの中で私たちは、イエス・キリストと使徒パウロが語った大切な教えを具体化させ、実践していく者になりたいと思うのです。

シカモア組合教会集会案内 どの集会もお気軽にお越し下さい。お問い合わせは吉岡まで。

- ☆日語部礼拝 毎日曜日 午前9時45分
- ☆英語部礼拝 毎日曜日 午前11時
- ☆家庭集会 毎月第4金曜日 午後7時
- ☆聖書を読む会 月一回日曜日 礼拝後
- ☆友の会 毎月第2水曜日 正午
- ☆お散歩会 随時
- ☆絵本を読む会 随時

日語部牧師 吉岡恵生 電話 510-829-2453 メール revyoshioka@gmail.com

日語部ページ2月号



2016



## 【報告】

## 12月末から1月までの出来事…

### 日語部忘年会

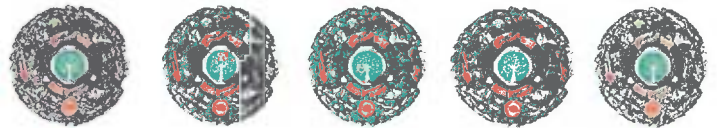
12月28日（月）に、牧師館で日語部忘年会を行いました。前日から24時間煮込んだとんこつラーメンスープは絶品で、その噂を聞きつけてか、幼稚園家族も含めてなんと40名を超える方々が集いました。皆さん、「ラーメン」だけでなく「アーメン」もよろしく！皆さんが礼拝にもお越し下さることを心よりお待ちしております。



### 教会新年会



2016年最初の日曜日となった1月3日（日）は、日語部英語部合同で新年礼拝をささげました。礼拝後には毎年恒例の新年会があり、おいしいポットラックでのランチと共にタレントショーが行われました。一人ひとりの賜物が輝く新年最初の素晴らしい日曜日となりました。豊かな賜物を与えて下さる神様に感謝します！



### ベイブレードチャンピオンシップ



1月17日（日）には、日本の正月のコマ遊びを思いつつ、ベイブレードチャンピオンシップを開催しました。

子供の部優勝は島守りかちゃん。嬉しそうに優勝トロフィーを掲げていました。惜しくもトロフィーに手が届かなかった子供たちもそれぞれに、健闘をたたえる表彰状と金メダルを授与されました。こうした機会を通して初めて教会に足を踏み入れる方々もいます。大切なアウトリーチプログラムとして、来年も開催したいと思います。





雨が降り続けていますが、ひと雨ごとに春が近づいていることを実感する今日この頃です。2月は、幼稚園でもたくさんの方をお祝いします。最初は、2月3日の節分です。子どもたちはすでに、鬼の面と豆まき用のカップを作り、「おには、そと！ふくは、うち！」と豆まきの日を楽しみに過ごしています。年の数だけいただける豆も楽しみで、「先生はいっぱい食べられていいね〜。」と言うので、「多すぎて食べれないから、福茶を飲むんだよ。」と話をすると、「それも美味しそうだね〜！」と目を輝かせる子どもたちです。寝坊助オニや好き嫌いオニ、風邪引きオニさんたちを追い出して、今年も健康で元気に過ごしていきたいと願っています。旧正月では、餃子やランタンを作ってお祝いしたり、バレンタインデーでは、お友達や家族に大好きな気持ちを伝え合う喜びの日となるでしょう。また、歴代の大統領の誕生日や黒人歴史月間を通して、国の歴史や人物に関心を持つことができる機会を作っていきたいです。



幼稚園は2月15日～19日はPresident's Week として休園となります。尚、現在2016年秋学期からの新入園児を募集しています。空きが僅かとなっていますので、入園を希望されている方はすぐにご連絡ください。お待ちしております。シカモア幼稚園 (510) 527-9522 木下佳美

【予告】

2月もイベント盛りだくさん！どの集会にもぜひお越し下さい！

2月10日（水）からレント（受難節）に入ります。  
イエス・キリストの受難を覚えて過ごしましょう。

ASH  
WEDNESDAY

【灰の水曜日礼拝】

2月10日（水）午後7時～ 於・教会

イエス・キリストの復活を祝うイースターから遡ること46日前の水曜日を「灰の水曜日（Ash Wednesday）」と呼びます。今年は2月10日（水）がこの日にあたり、この日からイースターまでの期間をレント（受難節）と言います。日曜日を除くと40日間となり、イエス・キリストが荒野で過ごされた40日間と自らの歩みを重ねながらこの時を過ごします。

伝統的にこの期間は悔い改めの期間とされ、古代のキリスト者たちは断食をして過ごしました。今日のキリスト教に断食をする習慣はあり

ませんが、人によってはこの期間はお酒を飲まないとか、甘いものを食べないとか、イエス・キリストの苦難を少しでも身に感じるために、自らの欲望を断つことを実践する人もいます。

具体的な過ごし方は人それぞれですが、イエス・キリストが私たちの罪のために十字架にかけられ、私たちの痛み苦しみを負って下さったことはしっかりと覚えながらこの時を過ごしたいと思います。この期間を意味深く歩んでいくために、どうぞ「灰の水曜日礼拝」に足をお運び下さい。

2/17  
日語部  
修養会


★2月17日（日）、牧師館（917 Galvin Dr, El Cerrito, CA 94530）を会場に「日語部修養会」を行います。2016年度の日語部諸活動について、リラックスした雰囲気の中共に

語り合い思いを一つにしたいと願っています。下記をご覧ください、今からご予約下さい。当日は礼拝時間や場所が普段とは異なりますのでご注意下さい。昼食は牧師が愛情をこめて作るカレーライスの予定です。どうぞお楽しみに！

2/17  
太極拳  
入門

★修養会後には、場所を教会のアダムソンホールに移して婦人会主催の「太極拳入門教室」が開かれます。講師は日語部礼拝に毎週のように出席して下さっている日高昌子さんで

す。太極拳は日常の慌ただしさの中で落ち着く暇もない「気」を落ち着かせる効果があると言われていいます。心と体のリフレッシュ&リラックスのために、ご一緒に太極拳をしてみませんか？事前申し込み不要、参加費無料。どなたでもご参加下さい。

2月17日（日）	日語部礼拝	午前9時半～	於・牧師館	
	日語部修養会	午前10時半～	於・牧師館	
	太極拳入門	午後1時半～	於・教会	

→ 昼食にカレーです！

2/28  
桑湾日語  
春の大会

★2月28日（日）には、桑湾日語メソジスト会春の大会がウェスレー教会において開催されます。ベイエリアの日系教会日語部から多くの方々が集い、共に礼拝をささげ、その後

講演に耳を傾けます。講師は吉岡牧師です。関心のある方は吉岡牧師までお伝え下さい。

2月28日（日） 桑湾日語春の大会  
午後1時～ 於・ウェスレー教会  
(566 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112)  
講演「これからの教会を考える」  
～神のダイナミズムの一端を担うために～  
吉岡恵生牧師

今  
後  
の  
予  
定

- 2月4日（木） 礼拝委員会 午後7時
- 2月7日（日） 日語部礼拝（誕生者祝福・聖餐式）ゲスト説教者・近藤誠牧師 午前9時45分  
近藤先生感謝昼食会 礼拝後  
Preschool board meeting 午後1時
- 2月10日（水） 【灰の水曜日】レント（受難週）に入る。  
友の会（ヨガ教室：午前11時、昼食：正午）  
灰の水曜日礼拝 午後7時
- 2月11日（木） 絵本の会 午前9時半
- 2月14日（日） 日語部礼拝 午前9時45分  
聖書を読む会 礼拝後
- 2月18日（木） プエナビスタ聖書研究会 午後0時半（アラメダ・プエナビスタ教会）  
教会役員会 午後7時
- 2月21日（日） 日語部礼拝 午前9時半（牧師館）  
日語部修養会 午前10時半（牧師館）  
婦人会太極拳入門 午後1時（教会）
- 2月26日（金） 家庭集会 午後7時（遠藤千枝子さん宅）
- 2月28日（日） 日語部礼拝（召天者記念）ゲスト説教者・大谷昌恵神学生 午前9時45分  
桑湾日語メソジスト会春の大会 午後1時（サンノゼ・ウェスレー教会）

どの集会にも  
どうぞいらして下さい

SYCAMORE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, U.CC.  
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### Sunday Morning Schedule

9:45 a.m. Nichigobu Worship Service  
10:10 a.m. Tomodachi Time  
11:00 a.m. Nichigobu Bible Study  
11:00 a.m. English Worship Service  
12:00 noon Fellowship Hour

We are Sycamore United Church of Christ...  
Rooted in a legacy of Japanese ministers;  
Rejoicing in the gospel and worship;  
Reaching out to all people;  
Restoring God's peace in our communities and the world.  
Sycamore Christian Preschool  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Extended Day Care, 1 to 4 p.m.  
Phone (510) 527-9522

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