

# SYCAMORE TREE

The Monthly Newsletter of Sycamore Congregational Church

December 2016

Volume 112 No. 12

## From our Pastor

**D**ear Sycamore Family: Sometimes being overwhelmed is a *good* thing. I began my Prayer of Dedication during our Thanksgiving Service with the words, "Loving God, I don't know where to begin, there is so much for which to be grateful this day!" Advent is an appropriate season to be overwhelmed at the depths of God's love for us, as heralded by the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago. The same love shines in each of you today, and you share it both within and beyond our community of faith.



It has been a hard year for our country *and* we will continue to spread Jesus' message of love and justice for all as a transition of power occurs in our nation's capital. We will open our doors even more widely and engage more deeply with our communities. Why? Because we are united in spirit and inspired by God's grace – grace that first found us.

We welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all. Why? Because we are followers of Jesus. Our Savior is about to be born. Prepare to be overwhelmed, with joy and the hope of an even brighter future for everyone. Amen.

p.s. thanks to Yoshioka Sensei for designing our beautiful new logo!

## From the Moderator

By Georgia Fujikawa

**I**n November we had another New Beginnings meeting that was well attended and resulted in a lot of great discussion. This is a process by which we are attempting to discern a future direction for Sycamore Church -- specifically what ministries or activities should have our focus and where our energy and passion is best spent. This has been a chance to talk about long range strategies as well as to consider what it is that we do now that we want to continue doing, and what are things that are ripe for a change. What is most encouraging is the love and care that people bring to the discussion. We clearly share a passion for the church community, and for what it means to each of us.



I think that the other thing that is becoming clear, is how much commitment each one of us has towards making the world a better place. It is not enough to be a community that comforts itself, there is a strong need to do good in the world. It makes me proud to be part of this kind of a community. If you have insights to share, or would like to hear more of the discussions, please let Pastor Kevin or Yoshioka sensei know. You can give us your input or attend meetings. We would love to hear from you in whatever way works best.

## Schedule of Events

- Monday and Wednesdays 3:00 – 5:00 pm; Tuesday and Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 pm: AIUEO (Japanese language classes)
- Thursdays 6:00 pm Interfaith Meditation at *Sycamore* (change of location starting Dec. 1)
- Saturdays 9:00 am – 4:30 pm: Sycamore NIN (Japanese language classes) until Dec. 10
- Saturdays 12:30 – 5:40 pm: Soroban/Abacus Classes until Dec. 17
- Sundays 10:10 – 11:50 am: Tomodachi Time

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 3 9:00 am: Advent Retreat at Fujikawa residence</li> <li>• December 4 Mochitsuki Sunday</li> <li>• December 15 7:00 pm: Church Council Meeting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 17 10:00 – 4:00 pm: Silver Bells Craft Fair*</li> <li>• December 18 12:15 pm: <b>Short New Beginnings Discussion</b></li> <li>• December 22: Newsletter articles due</li> <li>• December 29 4:00 pm: Newsletter mailing</li> </ul> |
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## Hold the Date

Please plan to attend a short New Beginnings discussion with important updates on December 18

\*Saturday, Dec. 17 – Silver Bells Craft Fair, 1111 Gough St., S.F., 10-4 pm. Stacey Kamada will be a vendor at this event. For more information, go to [http://www.kimochi-inc.org/news\\_events/ki\\_calendar.htm](http://www.kimochi-inc.org/news_events/ki_calendar.htm)

Saturday, Dec. 24 4:00 pm (early!) Bilingual Christmas Eve Service, with handbells and Preschool choir

January 8 Bilingual Service followed by Shinnenkai Talent Show & Potluck

## Women's Fellowship *by Joan Matsuoka*

### Thanksgiving Boutique

Our Thanksgiving Boutique was very successful and we thank Karen Nishikawa, Sam Lee, and Joan Matsuoka for cashiering, Eiko Matsuoka, Gloria Morita, Roslyn and John Kartychak, and Kurt Buss for baked offerings, Jan Fabini for jars of teriyaki sauce, Bea Nomura for hand towels, Stacey Kamada for earrings, and Gloria Morita, Yumiko Shimamori, Pamela Milin, and Joan Matsuoka for assorted gift tags. Beautiful table decorations were provided by Gloria and Barbara Morita. Part of our proceeds will be donated to the Bay Area Rescue Mission.



Our boutique on Thanksgiving Sunday is shown above with Jan Fabini, Karen Inouye, and Sam Lee looking on.

### Future events Planned

We are busy planning for our fall programs and events, such as the Barnes & Noble gift-wrapping fundraiser project and our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Luncheon on December 11. The Barnes & Noble sign-up sheet for 6 days—December 19–24—has been filling up very nicely as we accepted this prime choice of days for this year.

The luncheon sign-up sheet has already been available to all—please sign up by Sunday, December 4. The cost is \$15, including tax and tip. We decided to return to Little Hong Kong Restaurant in El Cerrito, as our choices for last year's menu were greatly enjoyed. Please see Karen Inouye or Karen Nishikawa for any questions.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE (in English) at 11 a.m.**

**December 4: Communion & Mochitsuki**

Matthew 3:1-12  
 Preacher: Pastor Kevin  
 Liturgist: Georgia Fujikawa  
 Musician: Joan Matsuoka

**December 24 Bilingual Christmas Eve Service**

Scripture TBA  
 Preachers: Pastor Kevin & Yoshioka Sensei  
 Musician: Satoko Fogarty

**December 11 Women's Christmas Lunch**

Isaiah 35:1-10 and Luke 1:46b-55  
 Preacher: Pastor Kevin  
 Liturgist: David Inada  
 Musician: Hitomi Yoshioka

**December 25: Christmas Day Service**

Isaiah 9:2-7  
 Preacher: Pastor Kevin  
 Liturgist: Moses Canales  
 Musician: Satoko Fogarty

**December 18: Memorial Sunday**

Scripture TBA  
 Preacher: Moses Canales  
 Liturgist: Karen Nishikawa  
 Musician: Satoko Fogarty



***Happy December Birthdays!***

*We name and celebrate those born in December for, as revealed by the prophet Isaiah, God says: "I have called you by name, you are mine." (Isaiah 32:1)*

	<u>Day</u>
Sharon MacArthur	1
Yoshihiko Wada	2
Maurice King	7
Sam Suttle	8
Sayuri Espeleta Hiramatsu	8
Kentaro Burress	14
Karen Nishikawa	15
Yumiko Shimamori	18
Jane Tanamachi	20
Patricia Sato	24
Akiko Taylor	28
Brian Welty	28
Elizabeth Leung	30



**Memorial Sundays**

Those in the Sycamore Community who passed away during each month will be remembered in both services on the last Sunday. Family members are encouraged to bring photos of their loved ones and join us for worship and a time of remembering. Please let Pastor Kevin ([revkevinomi@gmail.com](mailto:revkevinomi@gmail.com)) know about any additions to the list below and family contact information.

***In Remembrance*...we honor Sycamore members, their relatives, and friends of Sycamore who died in the month in November (after publication): Sharon Lynn Pair-Taylor, Alan Henmi; December: Saburo Sasaki 1918, Tsunejiro Ushigusa 1946 Hirosaburo Mori 1952, Tadashi Morita 1953, Teiichi Kirihara 1954, Sawano Matsutani 1959, Morizo Takei 1960, Fude Kasai 1966, Marie Tsuji Toguchi 1960, Hide Sato 1972, Masae Orimo 1973, Amy McGinnis 1973, Willard Tyler 1980, Aiko Murakami 1984, Kyozo Matsui 1985, Dr. Kazuo Orimo 1985, George Mitsuyasu 1987, Rev. Vance Gier 1988, Mae Iwai 1990, Charles Umemoto 1991, Sumie Kuramoto 1992, Chizuko Sunada O'Gara 1992, Rev. Lt. Col. Peter Uno 1992, Terry Mitsuyasu Nakashige 1995, Kathie Lynn Goto 1995, Hiroshi Endo 1996, Rev Lt Col Roger Harano 1996, Henry Ishizuka 1998, Francis Takeshi Kagawa, 1999 Katsumi Endo 2001, Bob Mizokami 2001, Rev. Casper Horikoshi 2001, Yozo Endo 2006, Gregory Sato 2006, Kimiko Vincek 2007, Waldeen Buss 2009, Tokuji Maeda 2010, Kazuo Inouye 2010, James Michio Takahashi 2011, Marc Fuller 2012, Sean Kartychak 2014, Hilde Gettner 2014, and those known to God.**

*"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.*



### **Sycamore Preschool** by *Yoshimi Kinoshita*

On November 15 and 16 we celebrated Shichi-go-san. It is a traditional event in Japan that celebrates the growth of children of ages 7, 5, and 3. At Sycamore, we celebrate this day for all children. We had a special worship time with the Pastors. We give thanks to God for the children's good health during the year and prayed for their health, well-being, and growth in the next year. On November 20th, many of the preschool families joined the Thanksgiving church service and the preschool children sang three songs. The children were very excited to perform for everyone

and gave a great performance.

After Thanksgiving, we will start talking about Christmas and preparing for the Pageant. Shortly, the children will be deciding which roles to play. The Christmas Pageant will be Saturday December 17th, 10am to 4pm with potluck lunch to follow. The preschool will be closed from December 19 to Jan 2nd.

### **From our Minister-in-Training** by *Moses Canales*

As your Minister-in-Training through May of next year, I have been enjoying a most challenging, moving, and deeply spiritual experience here at Sycamore Church. Pastor Kevin has been mentoring me through Sunday morning sermons; administrative council meetings; and helping me to discern and articulate my continuing faith and service in Christ.



On Saturday morning at 9 AM, December 3, I am honored to present an Advent Retreat for Sycamore members, friends and families at Georgia's beautiful home at 1402 Navellier St. I, together with Satoko san on piano and others, will be singing songs, sharing stories, and strengthening our faith together as we await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My learning and serving experience here at Sycamore has already generated special memories that I will hold with me the rest of my life. I am learning so much, so quickly! I cannot thank this congregation enough for all the wonderful energy, spirit and devotion you have shown and shared with me at this great congregation. Blessings to everyone!

Love always,  
Moses

### ***Let Us Remember in Our Prayers***



Ever-present, Ever-becoming, Eternal God: We ask you to continue to be with the families of Alan Henmi and Sharon Lynn Pair-Taylor as they and we mourn their passing just before Thanksgiving. We pray for those in our Sycamore family who deal with health challenges, including Pat Dea, Penny Fujii, Yo Nagata, Jeanne Williams, Philip Jones, Mabel Kazato, and Isaac Kazato as well as those known only to God and their families. We thank you for Marilyn Head's healing and pray for wholeness of mind, body and spirit of all. We also ask you to lift up the hearts of those who care for all persons needed extra care and love. We thank you for inspiring us as we continue to seek your will for a New Beginning; and for all those who work with so much love to sustain and enliven the church we love so dearly. More broadly, our Loving Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer: we pray for our country, including those fearing deportation; for all displaced persons and those suffering from violence and injustice around the world. We pray that your realm of peace and love continue to grow; and thank you for opportunities to help bring your vision into reality. Amen.

## CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!! *By Georgia Fujikawa*

Have you ever thought about how you might contribute to the ongoing running of Sycamore Church? We are in need of church officers -- all positions are open to interested people who may not have served before. If you would like to help but are not sure how, talk to Pastor Kevin, or Georgia, or any member of the Church Council and we can probably find something that would fit your schedule and interests. This is also a chance for people who have filled one position but would like to change to a different position. A number of these positions could be *shared* between two people, so consider asking a friend share a position with you.

**Please, come talk to us.** The church only works because of the dedication of all the people like you. The new church year begins after the Annual Meeting at the end of January.



## Meditation Practice Moving to Sycamore

*Pastor Kevin*

In conjunction with Rev. Dr. Melinda McLain and members of Mira Vista UCC, several of us have been meeting faithfully for about a year on Thursday nights from 6:00 – 6:45 pm. Starting on December 1, we will meet in the sanctuary at Sycamore, offer additional forms of meditation over time, and publicize this joint offering to members of the wider community. Sitting quietly with others is especially helpful during hectic times of the year!



## Carrying out the Good News at GRIP

*By: Eli'jah Carroll, MDiv.*

*... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' - Matthew 25: 35-36*

Mission's main goal this year was offering meals one Sunday every other month to the tenants at GRIP. These services did not happen without their own challenges; challenges of coordinating with the staff at GRIP. And, these challenges were always met with an exuberant passion to continue to offer ourselves to this community, no matter what.



**GREATER RICHMOND  
INTERFAITH PROGRAM**

[www.gripcommunity.org/](http://www.gripcommunity.org/)

I could not help but feel so proud of our Sycamore family this year, as we raised hundreds of dollars to feed the hungry at GRIP. And, we showed up in GIANT numbers to make this happen. There were some GRIP services where 15 people from our Sycamore family would show up to feed the GRIP tenants. It was simply mind-blowing to see children working with adults, Nichigo and Eigo working hand-in-hand to carry out the message we read in Matthew 25: 35-36. Your faith really shined at GRIP this year. Your faithfulness to this vital work tells me that you have such a passion, and heart for God to do the work of Christ in the greater community. It has been a truly heart-warming experience. I am looking forward to the potential of continuing our work at GRIP in the coming New Year.

**Acknowledgments Oct 23 - Nov 13, 2016****General Fund:**

Silvia Akinaga  
 Silvia Akinaga in memory  
 of Misao Joe Akinaga  
 and Rosalie Carlyon  
 Costco TRUiST  
 Chieko Endo  
 Barbara Essex  
 Jan Fabini  
 Satoko Fogarty  
 Georgia & Dr. Mark  
 Fujikawa  
 George/Midori Goto  
 Dr. Harlan & Marilyn Head  
 Hiramatsu Family  
 David/Ellen Inada  
 Tom Inada  
 Karen Inouye  
 Shingo/Reiko Kamada  
 Stacey Kamada  
 Roslyn/John Kartychak  
 Akiko/Nori Kobayashi  
 Osamu Kumao  
 Annette Matsunaga  
 Eiko Matsuoka  
 Rev. Dr. Fumitaka  
 Matsuoka/Rev. Dr.  
 Sharon Thornton  
 Joan Matsuoka  
 Kay Matsutani  
 Kay Matsutani thank  
 offering for Kristy  
 Matsutani for birthday  
 Gloria Morita  
 Gloria Morita in memory of  
 John Takeuchi  
 Fumi Nihei in memory of  
 Den Nihei  
 Karen Nishikawa  
 Muts & Dr. Philip Nishino  
 Toom Noble (Noble  
 Family)  
 Stan/Bea Nomura

Naoko Okahashi  
 Rev. Kevin Omi  
 Gene/Janet Tanaka  
 Akiko/Kenyon Taylor  
 Rev. Dr. Randi Walker  
 Sherry Watson  
 Rev. Rodney & Delma Yee  
 Rev. Yasutaka Yoshioka &  
 Hitomi Yoshioka  
 Anonymous donations

**Nichigobu:**

Roy Adam Family  
 Anonymous  
 Chiba Family  
 Kaori/Darold Davis  
 Satoko Fogarty  
 Dr. Harlan & Marilyn Head  
 Hiroko Kilburg  
 Osamu Kumao  
 Rie Webster  
 Saori Yamaguchi  
 Tasha Yorozu/Sam Suttle

**Neighbors in Need:**

Stefanie Head

**Facilities Use:**

Satoko Fogarty/singing  
 group  
 AIUEO Class  
 Soroban Class  
 Japanese Language Class  
 Piano lessons  
 Sakura Ren

**OGHS:**

George/Midori Goto

**Event/Bazaar Fund for  
bazaar equipment:**

Rev. Kevin Omi

**Property****Maintenance/Lights:**

Rev. Dr. Randi Walker

**Property****Maintenance/Building****Fund:**

Tom Inada  
 Georgia & Dr. Mark  
 Fujikawa

**Hospitality:**

Karen Nishikawa

**Thanksgiving:**

Georgia & Dr. Mark  
 Fujikawa  
 Roslyn/John Kartychak  
 Martha Matsuoka  
 Gloria Morita  
 Muts & Dr. Philip Nishino  
 Rev. Kevin Omi  
 Miwako Tan  
 Gene/Janet Tanaka

Thanks



# Thank you everyone for a wonderful Thanksgiving Sunday!

Photos by: Kurt Buss, Eric Inouye, and Karen Inouye

## Boutique Set Up



## Thanksgiving Breakfast & Nichigobu Rummage Sale



## Bilingual Worship Service



# Sycamore Tree 月刊



11月20日（日）収穫感謝礼拝  
賛美するシカモア幼稚園の子供達

## 「暗闇の中で気づく光」 吉岡恵生

「光は暗闇の中で輝いている。」（ヨハネによる福音書1章5節）

ある子供がお父さんに尋ねました。「ねえパパ、お空の星はお昼の間どこに行ってるの？」お父さんは答えます。「お昼の間もお空にいるんだよ」。するとその子はしばらく考えてからこう言いました。「そうか、星はそこにいるけど空が明るいから見えないんだ。星の光は暗くならないと見えないんだね…」。

何気ない会話ですが、ここでこの親子はとても大切なことを話しています。星は常にそこにあるのに、その光は明るい中ではなかなか見えないのです。しかし暗くなると、星はようやくその存在感を発揮して光を放ちます。

聖書が示す神の存在とはまさに、この星の光と似

ています。イエス・キリストが誕生した時、天使ガブリエルはイエスのことを、「その名はインマヌエルと呼ばれる」と言いました。それは、「神は私たちと共におられる」という意味でした。神はイエス・キリストの誕生を通して、いつも私たちと共にいる存在であることを示されたのです。

しかし、その希望あるメッセージに、私たちはなかなか気づけません。特に、人生が輝きに満ちている時、私たちは神の光になかなか気づけないのです。しかし、私たちの人生が暗闇に満ちた時、その光はようやく存在感を発揮して私たちの心に照り輝きます。その光を、私たちの人生が輝く中でも感じられたら、どれほど幸いなことでしょうか。

日語部 ページ12月号



2016

シカモア組合教会集会所内 どの集会所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全曜日 午後7時

☆Sycamore FC 随時

☆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



## サンクスギビングサンデー

## 収穫感謝祭



11月20日（日）は、サンクスギビングサンデーでした。午前8時より10時半までパンケーキ朝食会が持たれ、多くの方々と共においしい朝食をいただいて一日を始めることができました。

またこの時同時に、毎年恒例の婦人会栗まんじゅうと、Women's fellowshipのベークセールやクラフトも販売されました。さらに今年は、来年日語部が予定しているトゥーリーレイクとマウントシャスターへのスタディー&リトリート

ツアーの資金集めのために、ミニラメージセールなども行われました。

午前11時から日語部英語部合同の礼拝がささげられ、礼拝の中ではシカモア幼稚園の子供たちによる賛美が行われました。教会と幼稚園に連なるファミリーが共に、日々与えられる神様の愛と恵みに感謝の思いを抱く時を過ごすことができました。



## 幼稚園



先日、園児のおばあちゃんが春に向けて球根を植えましょうと提案してくださり、子どもたちと一緒にいろいろな色のフリージアを植えました。ひと雨ごとに土の中で大きくなり、緑の芽が出てくる日を皆で待ちたいと思います。感謝祭にちなんで、子どもたち一人一人に感謝したいこと、ありがとうと言いたいことを尋ねました。いつも使っているおもちゃ、自分を乗せてくれる車、美味しい食べ物、飼っているペット。そして、一番多かったのは、「お父さん、お母さん、兄弟、姉妹」でした。子どもたちは、「ありがとう」という気持ちを思う時に、大好きな家族のことを想うのだと思います。そして、みんなに家族の絵をシェアする時のちょっと恥ずかしげな笑顔と、誇らしそうな表情に、聞いているみんなも嬉しくなるのでした。これから幼稚園もクリスマス心を待ちにしながら、ページェントの練習に取り組んでいきます。12月17日（土）午前10時からクリスマス会を行います。12月19日（月）から1月2日（月）まで冬休みになります。年明けは、1月3日（水）から保育を再開します。（木下佳美）

# トゥーリーレイク&マウントシャスターへ スタディー&リトリートの旅

2017年5月頃の予定です!

日語部では、第二次世界大戦下において日本人強制収容所があったトゥーリーレイクと、大自然の神秘が眠るマウントシャスターへ、スタディー&リトリートの旅を計画しています。参加者の費用を補助するために、天ぷらうどんセールなどを通して資金集めをしていますが、皆さんからのドネーションも併せてお願いしています。ドネーションをおささげくださった方にはもちろん、シカモアロゴのステッカーをプレゼントします!!ぜひご協力をお願いします。この旅にはどなたでもご参加いただけます。日程が決まりましたらご案内いたしますので、今からぜひご予約ください。



ドネーションいただいた方にはもちろんシカモアステッカーをプレゼント!

予  
告

## オカンの 学ぶ会

もちろん  
オトンも  
どうぞ!

次 回：12月6日 (火) 午前10時  
場 所：牧師館 917 Galvin Dr El Cerrito  
テーマ：「シカモア教会の歴史パート2」

幼稚園保護者有志によって始められた学び会ですが、幼稚園関係者のみならず、どなたでもご参加いただけます。毎回10名前後集まっており、とても楽しい学びの時間が与えられています。学びの後は、昼食を囲みますので、ご自分のお弁当をお持ちになって起こしてください。

前は、教会設立期から戦後直後の時代までを日系移民の歴史も踏まえて学びました。今回はその続きです。シカモア幼稚園の歴史にも触れる予定です。ぜひお誘い合わせの上ご参加ください。



餅つきサンデー  
12月4日 (日)



杵と臼を使った伝統的な餅つきの体験をすることができます。午前9時から餅丸め作業、午前11時から礼拝、正午から餅つきのデモンストレーションと試食をする予定です。当日のお餅は1パウンド4ドルで販売いたします。

ご注文は教会の注文シートにご記入いただくか、E-mailにてご注文ください。  
E-mail : revyoshioka@gmail.com

クリスマスを楽しみましょう！

シカモア教会のクリスマス



☆桑湾日語クリスマス礼拝 12月8日(木) 午前11時半～ 於・ブエナビスタ教会UMC  
ベイエリアの諸教会から日語メンバーが集い、イエス・キリストの降誕を共に祝います。会場はアラメダのブエナビスタ教会となりますが、ぜひシカモア教会からも足を運びましょう。

☆クリスマスイブ礼拝 12月24日(土) 午後4～ 於・教会  
※例年と時間が異なりますのでご注意ください。  
今年のイブ礼拝は午後4時から始まります。暗闇に優しく輝く光を感じながら、イエス・キリスト降誕の夜を思い起こしましょう。幼稚園の児童による賛美と、ハンドベルの演奏が予定されています。どうぞご家族で起こしてください。

☆日語部クリスマス礼拝 12月25日(日) 午前9時45分～ 於・教会  
クリスマスキャロルをたくさん歌いつつささげるクリスマスの聖日礼拝です。日語部礼拝直後には、日語部メンバーとなる2人の洗礼、2人の入会、2人の幼児洗礼が予定されています。計6名が日語部に加わります。ぜひ皆さんも、この喜びを共にいたしましょう。

12月-1月の予定 どの集会にも、どうぞ起こしてください。



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|---|--|
| 12月 4日(日) 餅つきサンデー<br>餅丸め作業 午前9時<br>日語部礼拝 午前11時<br>餅つきと試食 正午 | 12月15日(木) 教会役員会 午後7時   |
| 12月 6日(木) オカンの学ぶ会 午前10時(牧師館)                                | 12月17日(土) 幼稚園クリスマス 午前10時<br>一麦会 午後5時半(アラメダ)                    |
| 12月 7日(水) 絵本の会 午前9時半  | 12月18日(日) 日語部礼拝(召天者記念) 午前9時45分<br>New Beginnings meeting 午後0時半 |
| 12月 8日(木) 桑湾日語クリスマス礼拝 午前11時半                                | 12月24日(土) クリスマスイブ礼拝 午後4時                                       |
| 12月11日(日) 日語部礼拝 午前9時45分(誕生者祝福)                              | 12月25日(日) クリスマス礼拝(聖餐式) 午前9時45分<br>洗礼式 入会式 午前11時                |
| 12月14日(水) 友の会忘年会 午前11時                                      | 12月30日(金) 日語部忘年会 午後5時(牧師館)                                     |
| 12月15日(木) 教会役員会 午後7時  | 1月 1日(日) 日語部礼拝 誕生者祝福   |
| 12月17日(土) 幼稚園クリスマス 午前10時<br>一麦会 午後5時半(アラメダ)                 | 1月 8日(日) 新年合同礼拝 午前11時<br>新年会 正午                                |



世に希望を！世に光を！

2016年12月

親愛なるシカモアファミリーの皆さんへ

一年の終わりを迎えようとしている今、ふと目を閉じて、過ぎた日々の出来事を思い起こします。この一年も様々なことがありました。私の日常にも、そしてこの世界にも…。喜びもたくさんありました。しかし、私の心により強く迫り来るものは、この一年も多くの不安がこの世界に満ちていたという現実です。世界中で起きた自然災害、憎しみの連鎖を巻き起こす戦争、資本主義が作り出す貧困や差別。今年も多くの命が傷つけられた年であったことを思います。また、世界中に強弁な政治的リーダーが生み出され、人権を軽んじ、差別を助長するような発言が、彼らによって数多く語られていることも思います。まるで、世界は歴史を逆戻りしているかのようです。

闇多きこの世界に、神は今どう関わり、何を語りかけておられるのか。いかなる闇にも希望の光を届けてくださる神の力が、この世界にこれからどう働かれるのか。そのようなことを思いながら、今年はいよいよ一層強く、神の光がこの世界に注がれることを願い、クリスマスの時を迎えたいと思っています。

世に希望の光として届けられたイエス・キリスト。その誕生を祝うクリスマスがやってきます。ご一緒に、クリスマスの諸集会を守り、その光を私たちの心に、そしてこの世界に迎えましょう。教会で、皆さんとお会いできますことを楽しみにしています。

日付	教会暦	時間	内容
11月27日(日)	第1アドベント	午前9時45分	日語部礼拝 信仰告白 アドベントキャンドル点燭開始
12月4日(日)	第2アドベント	午前9時 午前11時 正午	もちつき準備 もちつきサンデー礼拝 もちつき実演&試食
12月11日(日)	第3アドベント	午前9時45分 午後1時	日語部礼拝 信仰告白 婦人会昼食会
12月17日(土)		午前10時	幼稚園クリスマスページェント
12月18日(日)	第4アドベント	午前9時45分	日語部礼拝 信仰告白
12月24日(土)	クリスマスイブ	午後4時	日英合同クリスマスイブキャンドルライトサービス
12月25日(日)	クリスマス	午前9時45分	日語部クリスマス礼拝 聖餐式 洗礼式 入会式

神様が皆さんの心に、愛と恵みと慰めに満ちた希望の光を届けて下さいますように...

日語部牧師

吉岡 恵生



Evan Louie,  
welcomed by  
big sister, Ellie

## Welcoming the coming of Jesus

December 2016

Dear Sycamore Family:

What a full year it has been! *Even* as beloved members of our community have passed on into eternity with God, new life has sprung forth. *Even* in the midst of the world's challenges, we continue to open our doors ever more widely, with love for all. "I am about to do a new thing...do you not see it?", cries the voice of Isaiah even now. The Preschool has navigated a major change in leadership. "Sycamore Rocks" made their exciting debut at the Bazaar. New members are joining on Christmas Day. We are on the verge of announcing concrete steps in our New Beginnings process. The Women's Fellowship and Fujinkai and all of you continue to create community and change lives. We welcome the coming of Jesus and his promised reign of hope, peace, joy and love yet again; with renewed strength and courage.

**Come join us** for our special worship services and events, and invite your friends to this season of anticipation. Together, let us watch love break into the world and respond in joy!

Date	Event/Day	Time	Special Activities
Dec. 3	Advent Retreat	9 am	A quiet time of reflection and song led by Moses Canales at the Fujikawas' home
Dec. 4	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Mochitsuki Sunday	11 am noon	Making and purchasing mochi Mochi pounding demonstration and tasting (yum!)
Dec. 11	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	1 pm	Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon 1-3 pm. Contact Karen Inouye at 510-237-5676
Dec. 17 Saturday	Preschool Christmas Pageant	10 am	Traditional Christmas Pageant & Potluck – Everyone is welcome!
Dec. 18	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent/Memorial Sunday	11 am	Short and exciting New Beginnings update
Dec. 24	All Church Bilingual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	4 pm (early!)	Candlelight Service, including Preschool children singing and hand bell choir, followed by sharing of cookies and tea and a visit from Santa!
Dec. 25	Christmas Services	10:00 11:00	Japanese Service English Service Baptisms and New Members Join
Jan. 8	All Church Bilingual Service	11:00	Shinnenkai talent show and potluck

*Make God bless you and yours this season of Advent and Christmas; the best is yet to come!*

*Pastor Kevin*

# Sycamore Congregational Church, U.C.C.

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Rev. Dr. Paul Nagano

## Preschool Director

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Sycamore Tree Newsletter Crew

## Sycamore Tree Mailing Crew

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The Sycamore Tree is published on the last Wednesday of each month. Articles are welcomed. The deadline for articles is nine days before publication and are included as space allows.

For address changes, call 510-525-0727

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website: www.sycamoreucc.org

"Like" us on Facebook: Sycamore Congregational Church

## 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 ministries;*

*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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