



West L. A. Connections

Where **N**urturing **E**mpowerment **W**elcoming **S**ervice Happens!

A Monthly Publication of the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

April 2014

**West Los Angeles
United Methodist Church**
1913 Purdue Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Phone: 310-479-1379
Email: wlaumc@aol.com
Website: www.wlaumc.com

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9AM to 1 PM

Pastors' Office Hours

Rev. Gary: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM
Rev. Janet: Tues-Fri, 9 AM to 1 PM
Rev. Becky: Sat, 10 AM to 12 PM

Sunday Worship Services

◆ 9:30 AM

English Language Worship
Child Care and Sunday School

◆ 10:30 AM

Fellowship Time for both congregations

◆ 11:00 AM

Japanese Language Worship

Staff

Rev. Gary Oba, Senior Pastor
Email: obagary@gmail.com

Rev. Janet Cromwell, Associate Pastor
Email: jlcromwell8@gmail.com

Rev. Rebecca Hirata, Local Pastor
Japanese Language Ministry
Email: pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp

Lina Yamaguchi,
Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator
Email: wlaumc@aol.com

Our Mission Statement

Our Mission is to promote spiritual growth - Building a community of faith and making disciples of Christ by reaching out with compassion, forgiveness and love. At West LA UMC, building a community of faith is what we are about.

West LA UMC Joins Campaign to Eliminate Malaria

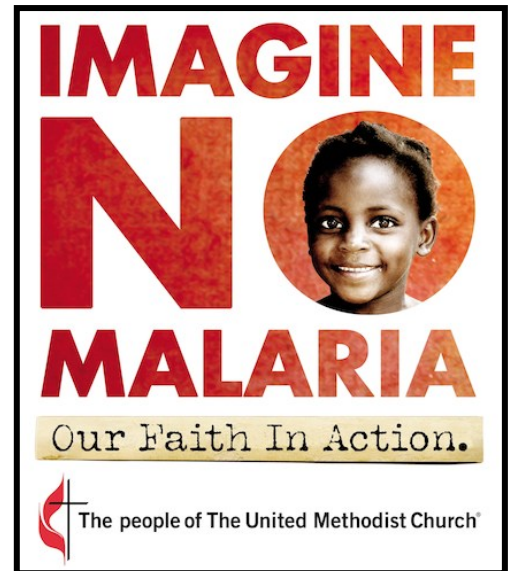
The West LA UMC Administrative Council has approved the church's participation in The United Methodist Church's *Imagine No Malaria* campaign, and has pledged to raise \$13,000 by the end of this year for this effort.

Malaria is the main reason one in five African children never reaches a fifth birthday. In fact, 90% of the 650,000 people who die from malaria each year live in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria consumes 40% of public health funds and is responsible for 60% of outpatient clinic visits. By overcoming malaria's burden, progress can be made in the fight against other diseases of poverty like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Imagine No Malaria is a program that seeks to eliminate malaria in sub-Saharan Africa through prevention, treatment, education and communication. Right now, more than 5,800 community health workers are on the ground in Africa helping families install bed nets, improving conditions of clinics by providing malaria medication, educating the community and providing radios and improved radio programs.

The United Methodist Church has pledged to raise \$75 million by 2015 to support *Imagine No Malaria*. The California-Pacific Conference has heard the call and pledged to raise \$3 million. It is estimated that \$3 million can prevent as many as 300,000 deaths from malaria.

If you would like to contribute towards the church's \$13,000 pledge for this effort, please make your check payable to West LA UMC and write on the memo line *Imagine No Malaria*. Let's do our part to end this disease. Thank you!



Prayers

Connecting and Nurturing through Prayer

As a community of faith, we support one another through prayer. To add or remove a prayer request, please contact one of the pastors or the church office.

If you would like a copy of the joys and concerns that are listed in the Sunday bulletin, please contact Church Secretary Lina Yamaguchi at 310-479-1379.

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## **Lectionary Readings for April**

*These readings serve as the foundation for the Wednesday morning Bible Study and Sunday morning Worship Services. By reading these scripture lessons during the week, you can prepare your heart and mind for Sunday worship.*



|          |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                      |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 6  | Ezekiel 37:1-14<br>Psalm 130                                              | Romans 8:6-11<br>John 11:1-45                                                                                                        |
| April 13 | <b>Liturgy of the Palms</b><br>Matthew 21:1-11<br>Psalm 118:1-2,<br>19-29 | <b>Liturgy of the Passion</b><br>Isaiah 50:4-9a<br>Psalm 31:9-16<br>Philippians 2:5-11<br>Matthew 26:14-27:66<br>or Matthew 27:11-54 |
| April 20 | Acts 10:34-43<br>Psalm 118:1-2,<br>14-24                                  | Colossians 3:1-4<br>John 20:1-18<br>or Matthew 28:1-10                                                                               |
| April 27 | Acts 2:14a, 22-32<br>Psalm 16                                             | 1 Peter 1:3-9<br>John 20:19-31                                                                                                       |

## **West LA Prayer Ministry**

Join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary to pray for persons on the church's prayer list. If you would an updated copy of the Prayer List, contact Lina Yamaguchi, Church Secretary at 310-479-1379.



*"God does nothing but by prayer,  
and everything with it."  
~ John Wesley*

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Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Studies

April 9:30 AM Worship Services

April 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Family Worship and Holy Communion

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Theme: Don't despair over death!

Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

April 13 – Passion/Palm Sunday

Readers Theater directed by Jack Ong.

Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

April 18 - Good Friday

Services at 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM

The pastors will lead scripture readings and hymns at the morning service. The choir will present the Passion Story at the evening service.

April 20 – Easter Sunday Breakfast

7:30 to 9:00 AM, Social Hall.

A free will offering will be accepted at the door.

April 20 – Easter Day

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: John 20:1-18

Theme: God has raised Christ from the dead.

Hallelujah!

Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

April 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Worship with Praise Band

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: John 20:19-31

Theme: Serve the Lord with courage and confidence.

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## **Holy Week and Easter**

*April 13 through April 20*

Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating on Easter Sunday, is among the most meaningful times in the Christian year. Nourish your soul and deepen your faith through the special services being offered at the church. Invite your friends to join you throughout the week.

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West LA Street Closures

Sunday, April 27

Due to 2014 Run for Hope 5K Run on Sunday, April 27, many streets surrounding the church will be closed between 7:00-10:30 AM. To get to the church, please take Santa Monica Blvd. and turn south on Butler Avenue, to Nebraska, to Purdue. Please give yourself enough time to come to travel to church on this day.

To see a full map of the Run for Hope Route and all street closures, go to www.ourhouse-grief.org/events/run-for-hope/event-information/.

Sunday School and Bible Studies

Children's Sunday School

Sunday School helps children to learn about God, the life of Jesus, and important lessons in the Bible.

Infants & Toddlers	Nursery (next to the sanctuary)
Age 3 to Pre-K	Cool Kids Room 1
K to Grade 3	Explorer Room 3
Grades 4-8	Trekker Room 2
Grades 9-12	Youth Room 8 (located upstairs)

Women's Bible Study Group

Mondays 1:00-2:30 PM in Room 9.

This spring we begin a series of lessons exploring connections between Jesus and the Hebrew Scriptures. The four lessons in April explore a variety of texts that make connections between the reign of David and the lordship of Christ. The women take turns facilitating the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. New members welcome!

Lenten Study

Tuesdays, 9:30 AM, in Room 2 or

Wednesdays, 6:30 PM in Learning Center.

We will continue the study using "The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life," considering the spiritual and practical aspects of caring for our health through eating nutritious food, exercising, and mutual support. See Rev. Janet Cromwell for more information.

Men's Bible Study Group

Tuesdays, 7:15-8:15 PM in Room 2.

The Men's Study Group is resumed on periodic Tuesdays. Contact Fred Hifumi for dates and times.

"Alive Now" Study Group

Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15 AM in Room 2.

This study focuses on the lectionary text that will be the basis for Sunday's sermon. (See page 2 of this Newsletter for a list of scripture lessons.) New members are always welcome to join the conversation. See Rev. Gary Oba for more information.

Thursday Bible Study

Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 PM in Learning Center.

The group continues its study of the book, "The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Dr. Ken Harada is leading the study. See Rev. Gary Oba for more information.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19 at Stoner Park



The church and community Easter Egg Hunt will be held once again at Stoner Park on Saturday, April 19, from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. There will be games and crafts as well as the egg hunt. A hot dog lunch will

be served. This is a joint venture with Parks and Recreation, but is organized and run by Dave Cook, our Youth Group, and our many volunteers.

We need volunteers to help with welcoming guests, games, and serving lunch. If you can help, please let Dave or Emily Cook know. We always like to have many adults present at the event for security purposes, and to show the community that we are happy to welcome them to this fun-filled day. So we encourage all members of the congregation to join us at Stoner Park. Please wear your purple WLAUMC T-shirts or sweatshirts.

We are also in need of prizes for the games and egg hunt. If you can donate prizes (Easter baskets, toys) or food items (condiments, chips, cookies) for the lunch, please let Dave Cook, Valerie Harada or Wayne Nomi know, and bring them to church by April 13.

Stoner Park is located on Stoner Ave. between Missouri and Nebraska in West Los Angeles.

Submitted by Toshie Setoguchi

Asian Camp News

Asian Camp is designed for youth and young adults to meet new friends and grow in Christian faith. This year, Asian Camp will be held July 27-August 1 at Camp Sierra. This camp is open to students who have completed 9th Grade through their second year in college. Registration materials will be available soon. Plus, fundraising ideas are being considered to cover expenses.



On April 12, the Junior High Asian Camp staff will host an information session at Faith UMC at 3:30 PM for families with incoming 6th to 9th graders in the 2014-2015 academic year. This session will provide an opportunity for potential campers to experience what the camp environment will be like with our local counselors and for parents to become better informed about camp with the directors. There will be an opportunity for both campers and parents to have their questions answered. Refreshments will be provided.

Vacation Bible School



West LA UMC will host Vacation Bible School on July 21-25! Join us for a fun-filled week of Bible stories, great music, crazy games, cool crafts, awesome science projects, and delicious snacks and lunch!

Volunteers to help throughout the week are welcome! Please contact VBS Director Jeri Okamoto Floyd if you would like to help and in what capacity.

More information and Registration Forms will be available in the coming weeks. In the meantime, mark your calendars and plan to come!

Ohana 2.0: Families with Young Children

Parents and grandparents are invited to bring their young children (newborns – Pre-K) to the Ohana 2.0 gathering on Saturday, April 5, at 10:30 AM in the Social Hall. Enjoy play time, meaningful conversation, and a delicious potluck lunch! See Jane Shimotsu for more information.

Become a Master Greeter!

On Saturday, March 15, we were treated to a fun and insightful workshop by Master Greeter, Rich Liedtke of Washington. Through Rich's presentation, participants learned how to warmly reach out and greet newcomers, whether it is at church, school, or work. He offered the following tips that are easy to do:

- One of the simplest ways to greet someone is to extend your hand and say, "Hi, my name is _____" and then wait for the person to respond with their name.
- Carefully listen to their name and remember it by saying, "Hi _____. It is a pleasure meeting you." Repeating their name and writing it down will imbed new names into your memory. Also, by exchanging names, you've moved from being strangers to becoming friends!
- Introduce your new friend to others in the congregation. Help them to grow their friendship circle.
- Tell people that they are appreciated. Everyone enjoys knowing that their contribution is meaningful and helpful.
- If your new friends are gone a few weeks, let them know they were missed. It is nice to let people know that we notice when they are gone and always welcome their return.
- Share your praises and prayers requests. Together, we grow in faith when we describe the good things that God is doing in our lives and the prayer concerns on our hearts.

Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World



Two Spirits - One Heart

On Sunday, May 4, Marsha Aizumi will share her compelling story of parenting a young woman who came out as a lesbian, then transitioned to male. Her book, *Two Spirits, One Heart*, chronicles Marsha's personal journey from fear, uncertainty, and sadness to eventual unconditional love, acceptance and support of her child who struggled to reconcile his gender identity.

Marsha Aizumi is a mother, educator, author, and LGTB Community Advocate, who serves on the PFLAG National Board of Directors. Aiden Aizumi is an activist who is recognized by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and The Trevor Project Youth Advisory.

WLA UMC Social Action Commission feels it is very important to present and discuss the connection between important social issues and our faith. The presentation and book signing will take place at West Los Angeles UMC on May 4, at 1:00 PM in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Cooke Sunoo or any Social Action Commission member.

"A Mother's Prayer"

*I pray you'll be my eyes and watch her where she goes
and help her to be wise help me to let go*

*Every mother's prayer
every child knows
lead her to a place
guide her with your grace
to a place where she'll be
safe*

*I pray she finds your light
and holds it in her heart
as darkness falls each night
remind her where you are*

*Every mother's prayer
every child knows
need to find a place guide her with your grace
give her faith so she'll be safe*

*Lead her to a place guide her with your grace
to a place where she'll be safe.*

By David Foster and Carole Bayer Sager



Genki Conference: Caregiver's Edition

Sunday, April 27

Venice Japanese Community Center

Caring for a loved one can be physically and emotionally challenging. But knowing what to do, what to expect and who to depend on may help lighten the load on your shoulders. This conference offers tools and practical resources with compassion for current and future caregivers.

Registration, lunch and a Resource Fair starts at Noon and the program runs from 1:30 to 4:30 PM. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please register by one of the following methods:

1. Online at www.keiro.org/genki-conference-registration;
2. Email kkusano@keiro.org with the subject "Conference Registration" and include your name, phone number, mailing address, your first and second choices of breakout session, and indicate if you would like consultations from an attorney or a pharmacist;
3. Call 323-980-2353;
4. Mail the registration form to:
Genki Conference: Caregiver's Edition
325 Boyle Avenue, LA, CA 90033

For more information and to register by mail, pick up a flier in the Social Hall. Co-presented by Keiro Senior HealthCare and the Westside Conference Organizing Committee.

Ralph's Community Program

Ralph's Community Contribution Program provides support to non-profit organizations. By showing your Ralph's Reward Card every time you purchase groceries, a portion of your purchase is donated to the church! There is no extra cost to you, and it's easy to participate by registering your Ralph's Rewards Card on-line at www.ralphs.com or in the store with West LA UMC's organization number.

The good news is, between December 1 and February 28, West LA UMC received \$293.49 from Ralph's Community Program! This is a result of just 40 West LA UMC households participating in the program! Imagine how much more money could be raised if more families participated.

These funds are designated for the Social Action Commission to sponsor guest speakers and host other informative programs throughout the year.

Easter Lily Orders

Easter lily orders may be placed from now through April 13. Order forms are available in the Social Hall. Please submit your order form and payment of \$10 for each plant in the envelope in the Social Hall. The lilies will be set up in the sanctuary on Saturday, April 19 for Easter Sunday. Please contact Kazie Kame with any questions.



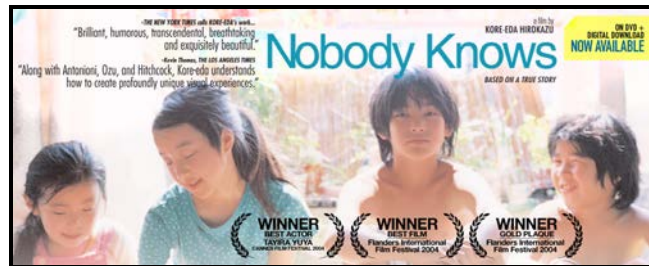
In addition to Easter lilies, church members are invited to bring cut flowers from their garden to adorn the Flower Cross on the patio on Easter morning, April 20. The Flower Cross serves as a beautiful symbol of the new life that emerges from Jesus' death on Good Friday.

Tanoshimi-Kai

Our next outing is Tuesday, April 8, to tour the Gamble House in Pasadena and Descanso Gardens in Flintridge.



Tanoshimi-Kai trips are designed for the senior members of our church and their friends to discover new parts of Southern California, learn about important historic sites, and to enjoy fellowship with others. For more information or to sign up, please contact Eleanor Nakano.



Japanese Film Night

Friday, April 25, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Japanese Film Night on Friday, April 25 will feature "Nobody Knows"/"Dare mo shiranai," directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda. This 2005 film is 144 minutes and in color.

Gregory Shikata, Japanese Film Night Coordinator, will provide an introduction to the film, including information on the director and actors.

These films are free and open to the public. Come, bring your friends, and enjoy a marvelous evening of Japanese culture through film.

GO GREEN!

How blessed we are in SoCal to enjoy great weather and sunshine. With Daylight Saving Time and Spring, now is the ideal time for "Spring Cleaning" and environmental columnist Amanda Wills offers some handy tips...



Decluttering your life doesn't need to be daunting! What do you toss? What should you donate? What can be reused? And, finally, what can you recycle? Just do it!

- **Keep It:** A good rule of thumb to remember is if you have used it in the past year, chances are you'll use it again.
- **Donate It:** Taking an inventory of your belongings shows you that tastes change and upgrades happen. Even though these things are disposable to you, they may have many useful miles left. Keep items out of overcrowded landfills by asking family and friends if they have use for any of your unwanted items.
- **Recycle It:** Commercial mail, old magazines, and unread books – all of these common clutter items can be recycled. Consider this: A family of four uses 1.25 tons of paper per year on average, and the U.S. EPA reports that recycling 1 ton of paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, as well as enough energy to power the average American home for six months.
- **Trash It:** Landfills should be used for items that truly have no other useful purpose. Be cautious when disposing of hazardous materials, as inappropriate distribution can cause toxic components to leach into the soil and groundwater. But even if something isn't recyclable, chances are it may be reused in some creative capacity.

Spring Clean the Natural Way!

You can most likely find "green" or "natural" cleaning products at your grocery store. But you can save some money and make your own cleaning product from supplies you already have.

- For spray cleaner: Combine and store in a spray bottle 2 cups water 1/4 cup white vinegar; 1/4 tsp. tea tree oil; 1/4 tsp. lavender oil.
- For deodorizing cleaning: Mix one part vinegar and one part water in a spray bottle to clean countertops, floors, stovetops and other appliances. Scrub dishes, surfaces and stains with a lemon that has been cut in half and sprinkled with baking soda on the flat side.

Submitted by Jack Ong



Have a good green tip? Please send it to jack@jackong.com.

REPAIR! REDUCE! REUSE! RECYCLE!

West District Committee on Lay Servant Ministries



The West District Lay Servant Ministry Committee announces the class schedule for the Spring 2014 Lay Servant Ministries School. We will be offering the Basic Class and three Advanced Classes, "Lay Servants Lead Worship", "Class

Leaders, Reclaiming a Wesleyan Tradition" and "Spiritual Growth through Daily Disciplines."

The classes will be held on Saturdays, May 10, 17 & 24, 2014, from 8:30 AM–1:00 PM at, Wilshire United Methodist Church, 711 South Plymouth Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005. The Registration Fee is \$35.00 and the Early Registration Deadline is April 19, 2014.

These classes are ideal for persons wanting to deepen their faith and expand their leadership skills. For more information, call Janet Mercer at 310-617-9930 or look on-line at www.calpacwestdistrict.org.

Alan O'Day One Year Memorial

Saturday, May 17

It has been nearly one year since the passing of singer songwriter Alan O'Day. Alan's widow, Yuka O'Day, has been attending West LA UMC, and invites the congregation to join friends of Alan in an afternoon of music to celebrate, honor, and remember his life and musical contributions. The celebration will take place at the church on Saturday, May 17, with a luncheon from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM, music in the sanctuary from 1:00-4:00 PM, and snacks throughout the afternoon in the Social Hall.

If you would like to attend this celebration, please RSVP by May 1 to Yuka at yukamae1@gmail.com.

84th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, May 25 – One Worship Service at 9:30 AM

West LA UMC will mark its 84th Anniversary with a special joint worship service and luncheon on Sunday, May 25, beginning at 9:30 AM. Randy Sakamoto, our church historian, will retell the story of the church's beginnings. Rev. Becky Hirata will translate portions of Randy's message into Japanese.



Following the service, the congregation will enjoy a sandwich luncheon in the social hall, to be coordinated by the church's United Methodist Women.

Please plan to join the celebration of our church's rich history!



West LA UMC Sawahata Scholarship

Applications are now available for the Sawahata Scholarship for high school students who have been active in the church youth group and are going on to higher education. For applications, or if you have any questions, please see David Cook or Yosh Setoguchi. Applications may also be requested from Lina Yamaguchi in the church office. The deadline for submitting applications is April 30.

Two West LA JACL Scholarships

The first is the Chiyo M. Hattori Memorial Scholarship for students entering their first year of Medical School. Applicants must:

- Reside in southern California within the past 5 years
- Have an active membership within the JACL, preferably West LA chapter
- Be of at least 50% Japanese ancestry
- Provide proof of acceptance to, present enrollment in, or continued registration in, an accredited medical school program

For more information contact westlajacl@yahoo.com.

The second is \$500-\$1,000 scholarships for High School Seniors who will be entering college this Fall. Applicants must be:

- High school senior, entering college Fall 2014,
- Currently reside in West LA area and/or attend a high school in the West LA area,
- At least 50% Japanese-American ancestry,
- A current Japanese American Citizens League West Los Angeles Chapter member. If applicant is not already a JACL member, they can join by registering at www.jacl.org/member/index.

For more information, contact Marisa Choi at choi.marisa@gmail.com. See the West LA JACL website for details.

Completed applications for both scholarships must be submitted by May 1, 2014 to: WLA Japanese American Citizens League, PO Box 251436, Los Angeles, CA 90025-9325.

Wear Your Nametag

The church is blessed by the presence of many guests and friends at worship and activities. Please wear your nametags in worship and during Coffee Fellowship to help everyone learn names and warmly greet one another.

United Methodist Women

Women Learning, Growing, and Serving Others

More New Members!

We are very happy to welcome two new members, Kuni Ishiwada and Keiko Kikuta to our UMW. We look forward to working with you on our mission projects and enjoying fellowship with you.

If you would like to join the United Methodist Women, please see President Sadie Hifumi. Annual dues are \$10 (which goes to the District for administration and missions) and participation in one or more of the many UMW mission and fellowship events during the year.

PATH Dinner

With Chefs Eleanor Nakano and Frances Uchida, UMW members met on Monday, March 10 to cook dinner for thirty people at the PATH facility on Cotner Avenue. They made a delicious dinner of creamed chicken with rice, green salad, and a vegetable medley of broccoli, cauliflower and carrots. For dessert, Grace Seto baked Jell-O Cream Cheese Cake and Pam Sase Ryder baked a cheese cake. Thank you to assistant cooks Fusako Hamamoto, Sadie Hifumi, Rose Honda, Michi Matsuda and Lois Tateishi. And thank you to Keiko Takahashi and Otto Nakano for helping to serve the dinner.



In April, Keiko Takahashi and Makito Takahashi will prepare the meal for the PATH. We are looking for volunteers to help serve the food on Monday, April 14. Please contact Michi Matsuda or Rose Honda if you can help. We are still looking for volunteers to help cook and serve the meal in December.



Mission to Ghana

At our workshop meeting on February 21, UMW members brought two carloads of clothing, school

supplies, athletic equipment and adaptive equipment for the Mephibosheth Training Center in Ghana. We also gave Mariko Yamazaki, who was preparing to take all the donations to the school, a check for \$1,000.00 toward purchase of a bus for the school.

Thank you to all the UMW members for their generosity and caring hearts. We will look forward to a report from Mariko upon her return.

More Mission Projects

At our workshop meeting on Friday, April 25, we will be packing layettes for newborn babies in Nome, Alaska and packing toiletry bags for homeless UCLA students and for PATH.

If you would like to donate items for the layettes or toiletry bags (hotel-size shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.), please see Grace Seto or Sadie Hifumi by Easter Sunday, April 20. We welcome all donations!

In addition, we will continue working on craft projects for the Holiday Boutique so bring your ideas!

Looking Ahead to May

UMW members have been asked to coordinate the WLA UMC 84th Anniversary Luncheon on Sunday, May 25. Therefore the tentative program with speaker we had scheduled for May 18 is cancelled. We will notify members on ways they can help at the Luncheon at our April meeting.



West LA UMC's Women's Retreat

Thirty-two women enjoyed the overnight Retreat at the lovely Aldersgate Retreat Center on March 22-23. Through Bible study, small group discussions, and personal reflection time, participants experienced God's grace in their lives. By tasting different types of chocolates, they discovered the sweetness of Jesus' miracles! New friendships were formed over delicious meals in the dining room and late-night conversations.

Many thanks to the United Methodist Women for their financial support for this year's Retreat and for the Planning Team's wonderful work!

Special Offerings

Giving to God through our Tithes and Offerings



If you would like a copy of donors and donations,
please contact Church Secretary Lina Yamaguchi at
310-479-1379.

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## **Altar Flowers in March**

*In memory of Bill Jernigan and Fusa Mikami  
Eleni Jernigan, and Carole and Ed Brewer*

*In memory of Yasuo Inoue  
The Inoue family*

*In celebration of Rev. Becky Hirata's birthday  
Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)*

*In memory of Rose Ono  
The Ono Family*

*In memory of Takako and Hide Setoguchi  
Yosh and Toshie Setoguchi*

*In memory of Yo Tsuruda  
Fumi Tsuruda and Bob & Gwen Nagata*

*In Thanksgiving – Ihoko Fukuhara*

# Japanese Ministry

## 「アシュラム」

E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973) というアメリカのメソジスト宣教師がクリスチャン・アシュラムを始めた。20世紀初め、インドで瞑想の学びに啓蒙されたのである。Jones 師は日本に来て、アシュラムを広めた。聖書を読み、祈ることを勧めたのである。読書好きの国民性であろうか。日本アシュラムは聖書を深く掘り下げて祈り読むので、神様と時間を過ごすデボーション・タイムとして多く人々に喜ばれた。

先月、南加連盟日語教会のリーダーが集まり、アシュラムの集会に参加する機会があった。私は 30 年以上も前、一度シアトルで、アシュラムを経験した事がある。懐かしく思っていたが、やはり、素晴らしい時が持てた。自分の心の中が、今どんな状態なのか、自分の信仰が読める。まだまだ未熟で霊的にも人間的にも成長が必要である。

さて、8 月にアシュラムは又南カリフォルニアにやって来る。日本より榎本恵牧師（日本基督教団教師、アシュラムセンター主幹牧師）が来られ、集会を予定している。その時には、多くの人に参加出来るように準備されると聞いている。「静まって、わたしこそ神であることを知れ。」（詩編 46:10）と呼ばれる主の素晴らしさを知って欲しいと思う。

平田

## Café Aloha for Seniors

Saturday, May 3

All of our church's seniors (70+) are invited to Café Aloha on Saturday, May 3 in the Social Hall. Café Aloha participants enjoy a simple Japanese meal, fellowship, singing and brief program. Rev. Becky Hirata leads the program. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Frances Uchida so that the correct number of meals may be prepared.

E. Stanley Jones (1884-1973) was a Methodist Episcopal Missionary to Japan. In early 1900's, he learned "Ashram" in India. He was inspired by a deep meditation called "Ashram." When Dr. Jones came to Japan to teach how to read the Bible and pray, he introduced the word "Ashram." Japan Ashram was quickly accepted by Japanese people, because Japanese people love to read and meditate.

Last month, I had a chance to attend the Ashram meeting among Southern California Nichigo church leaders. And I remembered that over 30 years ago in Seattle, I have attended "Ashram" once. This time again, I enjoyed a quiet time, reading the Bible and praying. During Ashram, I saw myself, still immature in faith. I have much to learn and grow in faith.

In August, "Ashram" will be held in Southern California for church leaders and lay people. Rev. Enomoto (Kyodan pastor) is coming from Japan to lead this meeting. I hope many will attend and learn how great it is to have a quiet time with God.

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田



## Nichigo's April Calendar

|          |              |                         |
|----------|--------------|-------------------------|
| April 6  | 11:00 AM     | Nichigo Worship         |
|          | 12:00 PM     | Nichigo Council Meeting |
|          | 12:15 PM     | Nichigo Bible Study     |
| April 13 | 11:00 AM     | Nichigo Worship         |
|          | 12:00 PM     | Prayer Time             |
|          | 12:15 PM     | Nichigo Bible Study     |
| April 18 | 11:00 & 7:00 | Good Friday Services    |
| April 20 | 11:00 AM     | Nichigo Easter Worship  |
|          | 12:00 PM     | Lunch Fellowship        |
| April 25 | 7:30 PM      | Japanese Film Night     |
| April 27 | 11:00 AM     | Nichigo Worship         |
|          | 12:00 PM     | Nichigo Bible Study     |

*Remember, to get to the church this Sunday, take Santa Monica Blvd to Butler Avenue. Many streets around the church will be closed due to the Run for Hope.*

# April 2014

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                                                                    | Tuesday                                                                                                                     | Wednesday                                                                                                                       | Thursday                                                                                                | Friday                                                                             | Saturday                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                           | 1<br>9:30am Lenten Study<br>11:30am 80+ Women's Luncheon @ Hop Li Restaurant on SM Blvd.<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal          | 2<br>9:15am "Alive Now" Study<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>5:30pm Promise AA Group<br>6:30pm Lenten Study                        | 3<br>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>7:30pm Bible Study                               | 4<br>11:00 am Staff Mtg.                                                           | 5<br>10:30am Ohana 2.0: Families with Young Children Mtg.                                                                           |
| 6<br>9:30am English Worship<br>11:00am Japanese Worship<br>11:00am Church Library Open<br>11:15am Social Action Mtg.                                                          | 7<br>1:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg                                                              | 8 Tanoshimi Kai Outing<br>9:30am Lenten Study<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal                                                     | 9<br>9:15am "Alive Now" Study<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>5:30pm Promise AA Group<br>6:30pm Lenten Study                        | 10<br>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>7:30pm Bible Study                              | 11                                                                                 | 12<br>9:30am Altar Guild Mtg                                                                                                        |
| <b>13 Palm Sunday</b><br>9:30am Worship in English<br>9:45am Sunday School & Youth<br>11:00am Japanese Worship                                                                | <b>14 Holy Monday</b><br>1:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg                                          | <b>15 Holy Tuesday</b><br>8:30am Fat Tuesday Men's Group Breakfast Meeting<br>9:30am Lenten Study<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | <b>16 Holy Wednesday</b><br>9:15am "Alive Now" Study<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>5:30pm Promise AA Group<br>6:30pm Lenten Study | <b>17 Holy Thursday</b><br>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>7:30pm Bible Study         | <b>18 Good Friday</b><br>11:00am Good Friday Service<br>7:30pm Good Friday Service | <b>19 Holy Saturday</b><br>8:00am Volunteer Set-Up<br>9:00am Easter Lily Set-Up<br>10:00am Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch at Stoner Park |
| <b>20 Easter Sunday</b><br>7:30am Easter Breakfast<br>9:30am Worship in English<br>9:45am Sunday School & Youth<br>11:00am Japanese Worship<br>12:00pm Japanese Group Potluck | <i>21 Church Office Closed</i><br>1:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg<br>7:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal | 22<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal                                                                                                | 23<br>9:15am "Alive Now" Study<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>5:30pm Promise AA Group                                              | 24<br>9:00am Newsletter Folding<br>9:30am Prayer Meeting<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>7:30pm Bible Study | 25<br>9:30 UMW Workshop<br>7:30pm Japanese Film Night                              | 26<br>9:00am Worship Mtg.<br>4:00pm Praise Band Rehearsal                                                                           |
| 27<br>9:30am Worship in English<br>9:45am Sunday School & Youth<br>11:00am Japanese Worship<br>12:00pm Keiro Caregiving Workshop at VJCC                                      | 28<br>1:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>6:30-9:00pm Kelton AA Mtg                                                             | 29<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal                                                                                                | 30<br>9:15am "Alive Now" Study<br>10:30am Tai-Chi Class<br>5:30pm Promise AA Group                                              |                                                                                                         |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                     |

# **Holy Week and Easter at West LA United Methodist Church**

*Be a part of this meaningful season through these special events.*

## **Palm/Passion Sunday Worship**



Sunday, April 13  
9:30 AM Worship in English  
in the Sanctuary  
11:00 AM Worship in Japanese  
in the Sanctuary

## **Easter Egg Hunt**



Saturday, April 19  
9:00 AM Set-up at Stoner Park  
10:00 AM Crafts, Games, Egg Hunt and  
Lunch

## **Good Friday Worship Services**



Friday, April 18  
11:00 AM in the Sanctuary  
A Service of scripture and hymn singing  
7:30 PM in the Sanctuary  
A Requiem sung by The Choir

## **Easter Sunday Celebration**



Sunday, April 20  
7:30-9:00 AM Easter Breakfast in the  
Social Hall  
9:30 AM Worship in English  
11:00 AM Worship in Japanese

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## **West LA United Methodist Church**

1913 Purdue Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025  
wlaumc.com ☎ 310-479-1379

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*You can also view this newsletter online at  
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April 2014