



# 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

September 2014

**West Los Angeles  
United Methodist Church**  
1913 Purdue Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Phone: 310-479-1379  
Email: [wlaumc@aol.com](mailto:wlaumc@aol.com)  
Website: [www.wlaumc.com](http://www.wlaumc.com)

## Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9 AM 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](mailto:obagary@gmail.com)

**Rev. Janet Cromwell**, Associate Pastor  
Email: [jlcromwell8@gmail.com](mailto:jlcromwell8@gmail.com)

**Rev. Rebecca Hirata**, Local Pastor  
Japanese Language Ministry  
Email: [pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:pastorwlaumc@yahoo.co.jp)

**Lina Yamaguchi**,  
Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator  
Email: [wlaumc@aol.com](mailto: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.

## *Imagining an End to Homelessness*

We have some unsung heroes in our congregation, persons who by their actions embody the life of Christ. They do their work in the name of the church and don't seek to draw attention to themselves. It's time to bring their work out into the light.

This month's spotlight falls on our Imagine LA team. Imagine LA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower families to transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency. The vision of Imagine LA's founder, the Rev. Mark Brewer, is to imagine a day when the 8,000 homeless families in LA could partner with the 8,000 faith communities in LA, and together find a way to end homelessness. West LA UMC has made a two-year commitment to be one of Imagine LA's faith partners.

Our team is headed by Stanley Shimotsu, who serves as the liaison between Imagine LA and the church. Other team members include Kay Yang, Elaine Sunoo, Gregg Omori, and Stacey Hirose. The church has been assigned a single mother, whose name is Elelta Melake, and her four year-old son, Abel.

Since the church began its commitment to the Melake family in February, the team has provided Elelta and Abel with social and psychological support, assistance with finding medical and dental care, research into special education, assistance in finding employment, and help with budgeting and financial planning. Team members also arranged rides to help Abel attend VBS.

Elaine's efforts as Elelta's mentor have been especially noteworthy. She has helped Elelta with her reading and writing skills, helped her pass the DMV written test, and driven her to doctor's appointments. Imagine LA recently recognized Elaine as one of their outstanding volunteers. Joyce Lee of Imagine LA wrote to Elaine, "We are so impressed by your consistency and compassion in your mentorship. You are always supportive of your mentee and you walked her through difficult tasks and new challenges. We have seen how much time and effort you have put into creating a strong and caring relationship with your mentee."

Many other members of our church have assisted the team in its efforts. Together they are helping to end homelessness in LA. They are demonstrating what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Gary Oba*

# 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 to receive a complete list of Prayer Requests – Joys and Concerns – please contact the Church Office.

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## Lectionary Readings for September

*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.*



*Parents will want to read the exciting story of Moses to their children during the coming weeks. By reading from an children's illustrated Bible, children will discover how God guided Moses as a leader among God's people.*

Sep. 7	Exodus 12:1–14 Psalm 149 or Psalm 148	Romans 13:8–14 Matthew 18:15–20
Sep. 14	Exodus 14:19–31 Exodus 15:1b-11, 20–21	Romans 14:1–12 Matthew 18:21–35
Sep. 21	Exodus 16:2–15 Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45 or Psalm 78	Philippians 1:21–30 Matthew 20:1–16
Sep. 28	Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm 78:1–4, 12– 16	Philippians 2:1–13 Matthew 21:23–32

# Worship & Studies

Growing in Faith through Worship and Study

## September 9:30 AM Worship Services

### **September 7 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost/ Family Worship and Holy Communion/ New Choir Robes dedication**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Exodus 12:1-14  
Theme: Remember the times God saved you.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

### **September 14 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost/ Rally Day/ Sundaes on Sunday**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Exodus 14:19-31  
Theme: God will shield us from our enemies.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

### **September 21– 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Exodus 16:2-15  
Theme: God will provide what is sufficient for each day.  
Rev. Janet Cromwell giving children's message.

### **September 28 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost/ Worship with Praise Band**

Rev. Gary Oba preaching. Text: Exodus 17:1-7  
Theme: God will provide water to the thirsty.  
Special guest giving children's message.

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## **Rally Day**

### **Sundaes on Sunday!**

Sunday, September 14, 9:30 AM

West LA UMC will celebrate the start of a new school year with Rally Day on Sunday, September 14. Bibles will be presented to our 4<sup>th</sup> Graders during worship and a fun combined Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School class will be held in the Social Hall. Children and youth will enjoy games and activities that celebrate learning about God and making new friends.

For even more Rally Day fun, everyone is invited to make a **Sundae on Sunday** during Fellowship Time in the Social Hall.

Plan to join us for Rally Day as we look forward to an inspiring year of growing in faith and knowledge!

## Sunday School and Bible Studies

### **Children's Sunday School**

Sunday School guides children in learning about God, the life of Jesus, and important lessons in the Bible. Children and youth are encouraged to come each week!

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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.*

In September our lessons continue the theme "The People of God Set Priorities". The lessons look at the church at Corinth in order to learn how to build and maintain community among believers. The women take turns facilitating the class discussion using the Adult Bible Study series. New members welcome! No meetings on September 1 and 22.

### **Men's Bible Study Group**

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

The Men's Study Group is resuming 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 morning'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 class will continue its discussion of selected readings from the book of Genesis for six more sessions. See Rev. Gary Oba for the reading assignments. New persons are welcome. No meeting on September 18 due to preparations for the Bazaar.

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### **West LA UMC 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 like an updated copy of the Prayer List, contact Lina Yamaguchi, Church Secretary at 310-479-1379.



# Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Supporting Families in Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

## Children Sing Broadway Songs

WANTED: Children ages 4-12 who love to sing, dance, act, and have fun!

The children of West LA UMC have an exciting opportunity to perform in the church's first Broadway Benefit Concert on October 12, at 2:30 PM. The concert will showcase many of our talented congregation members, including the youth and the children! The children will perform two songs during the concert: "Under The Sea" from "The Little Mermaid" and "So Long Farewell" from "The Sound of Music."

Children began learning the music during Vacation Bible School and will continue in the Children's Choir. There will be two dress rehearsals on Sunday, October 5 at 12:15 PM and Saturday, October 11 at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Please mark your calendars for this exciting Broadway performance on October 12! The proceeds from the concert will benefit *Imagine No Malaria*.

*Musically Yours,  
Ashley Ramsey, Music Director*



## Asian Camp Participants

Asian Camp participants Justin Yamaguchi, Stephanie Kinoshita, Sean Kohler, and Makito Takahashi enjoyed a fun and faith-filled week at Asian Camp in July. They returned to LA on August 1 and described their experiences during worship on August 3. We give God thanks for these students and the Asian Camp leadership!

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## Surprising Book Facts

I come from a family with a lot of teachers; people who are committed to life-long learning. Recently, one of them sent me some surprising – or should I say “shocking” – statistics about books. It stated that 33% of High School graduates never read another book the rest of their lives, 42% of college graduates never read another book after graduating, and 70% of US adults have not been in a bookstore in the last 5 years! In an age of on-line information, perhaps these statistics should not be so surprising yet they indicate a change in values that can be devastating to personal growth.

Numerous studies have shown that reading to infants and children contributes to healthy brain development. Even the youngest infants benefit from listening to their parents' voice and hearing new words. Educators believe that the more a child reads, the likelier they are able to understand the emotions of others and express empathy. Reading opens children to a broader scope of experiences and assists them in creative problem solving.

Reading is foundational to personal growth *and* faith development. As we actively read books and news sources *alongside* scripture and faith-based texts, we discover similarities between our lives and Biblical people. In hearing and reading scripture stories, children, especially, learn important values of trust, love, service to others, and hope for the future.

West LA UMC is blessed with an expansive Church Library that can assist you and your family to read and enhance your spiritual journey. Come, read, and grow in faith!

*Rev. Janet Cromwell*

## All-Church Halloween Party and Up-Coming Holiday Events

Saturday, October 25, 6:00-8:00 PM



It is hard to believe that summer is over and Halloween is around the corner! Mark your calendar for West LA UMC's annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 25 in the Social Hall. Find your favorite costume and get

ready for a hauntingly good time from 6:00-8:00 PM! Goblins of all ages are welcome!

Looking ahead, your family will want to help make Thanksgiving Cards after worship on November 16 and create Christmas Ornaments on November 30. Rather than a traditional Christmas Pageant this year, West LA UMC will hold a Family Christmas Worship Service on Sunday, December 14 at 9:30 AM. This special service will include a re-telling of the Christmas story through readings, music, and tableau. If your children would like be a part of the nativity tableau, please notify Rev. Janet and your children will be included.

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### Please Note:

Ohana 2.0, our gathering of families with young children, will not meet in September. Please look for news about the next Ohana gathering in the Church Bulletin and October Newsletter, or contact Jane Shimotsu for more information.

# Outreach & Social Service

Serving Our Community and World

## **Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow: How Should the Church Respond?**

Saturday, October 4, 9:00 AM

A free Workshop by the Task Force on Mass Incarceration Justice and Compassion Essential Ministry Team of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be presented on Saturday, October 4, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Hamilton United Methodist Church located at 6330 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, California 90003.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Edward Blum, Associate Professor of History at San Diego State University and author of "Reforging the White Republic: Race, Religion, and American Nationalism" and co-author with Paul Harvey of "The Color of Christ: The Son of God" and "The Saga of Race in America." This conference will include a panel discussion on Mass Incarceration and Solitary Confinement and a number of vital and relevant workshops. Lunch is included.

For more information, contact Rev. Gary Williams at [fcministry@aol.com](mailto:fcministry@aol.com), or Rev. Frank Wulf at [frank@uuc-la.org](mailto:frank@uuc-la.org). Plan to attend this workshop to learn more about this important justice issue.

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## **Habitat for Humanity Donations**

In August, Habitat for Humanity staff person Chris Untiet picked up 48 "Welcome to Your New Home" caddies filled with cleaning products, a candle, and one individually decorated potholder! These useful gifts are being distributed to families who are moving into new (or newly renovated) homes, thanks to Habitat for Humanity volunteers and our West LA UMC Vacation Bible School participants! Thanks to Allison Brush who coordinated this year's VBS Mission Project, everyone who donated items for the caddies, and all of the children for packaging them during VBS. God will surely bless the recipients through these gifts!



## **Stop Hunger Now!**

On August 23, West LA UMC members joined other local UM Churches to package meals for Stop Hunger Now. Over 230 volunteers packaged 54,000 meals! Bravo to all of the volunteers! Many children and families to be blessed with a nutritious, hot meal thanks our volunteers' time, energy, and commitment to ending hunger in our lifetime.

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## **Seminar on Estate-Planning and Charitable Giving**

Sunday, October 26, 11:30 AM

On Sunday, October 26, Rich Yang, Chair of our Administrative Council and practicing attorney, and Gregg Omori, Chair of our Finance Committee and practicing CPA, will conduct an interactive seminar on estate-planning and charitable giving. Rich's topics will include Living-Family Trusts, Wills and Health-Care Directives. Gregg's topics will include making gifts to the church and charities, both during one's lifetime and afterward, and the tax benefits of the different types of gifts (cash, stocks, or property).

The Seminar will be held from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM in the Learning Center. It is free and open to everyone. A light lunch and beverages will be served, so please RSVP to Rich or Gregg.

Come and learn ways to prepare for a strong and faith-filled financial future.

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## **Lay Ministry Academy at Claremont School of Theology**

Are you looking to grow in your faith and engage in a spirituality nurturing experience to further your journey of faith? Are you seeking a deeper relationship with God? Do you feel God calling you to serve? The Lay Ministry Academy offers 6 Courses throughout the year at Claremont School of Theology. Stan Shimotsu has attended the Academy and is happy to share his thoughts and experiences with interested individuals. Contact Stan at 310- 433-8324.

## Fellowship Time Refreshments

Everyone loves Fellowship Time following worship! From the tiniest tots to our most honored seniors, everyone looks forward to welcoming guests, chatting with friends, and enjoying a delicious treat (or two!).

Individuals and families are invited to bring refreshments for Fellowship Time. It's easy to do: pick a date and then either contact the Church Office or sign up on the Refreshment Calendar in the Social Hall. Ideally, sign-ups should be made 2-3 weeks in advance. What you bring is up to you – cake, cookies, chips and salsa, tea sandwiches, a fruit bowl are just some of the possibilities!

Many people like to provide refreshments to celebrate a special occasion, such as a birthday, anniversary, or other milestone event.

If you have any questions, please contact Lina Yamaguchi in the Church Office at 310-479-1379, or speak to one of the kitchen hosts and hostesses. Your contribution will make Fellowship Time even more fun!

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## All Church Clean-Up

Saturday, September 6, 9:00 AM

There will be an All Church Clean-up on Saturday, September 6, at 9:00 AM in preparation for the upcoming Bazaar and our many fall programs. We will need members and friends to help in this cleanup process. Ken Harada, Bob Bailey and Rose Honda are in charge and have made a list of items to be cleaned by location and/or Room number. The lists will be posted on each of the doorways.

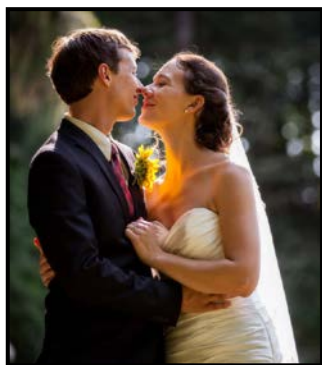


All cleaning materials will be provided by the Trustees so we just need your presence. A signup sheet will be available on Sundays so that we can get a head count. Thank you!

Submitted by Otto Nakano  
Chair, Board of Trustees

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## Congratulations and Best Wishes



West LA UMC extends our best wishes to Eric Passarge and Jamie Thierman upon their wedding on August 5 near Corvallis, Oregon. Jamie is a PhD student at UCLA and Eric is working in sound engineering. We are delighted that they have chosen West LA UMC as their home church as they reside in LA.



## Japanese Film Night

Friday, September 26, 7:30 PM, Sanctuary

Japanese Film Night on Friday, September 26, will feature "Photo Album of a Village" / "Mura no shashin-shu." Written and directed by Mitsuhiro Mihara, this film digs deep into our sentimental 'sweet spots' with an outstanding and tender ode to family and community service. This 2004 film is 111 minutes in color.

Gregory Shikata, Japanese Film Night Coordinator, provides an interesting 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.

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## "Sing and Imagine!" Benefit Concert

Sunday, October 12, 2:30 PM, Sanctuary

Broadway is coming to West LA UMC! Save the date of Sunday, October 12 at 2:30 PM for an entertaining afternoon of Broadway Show Songs presented by West LA UMC's children, youth and adults!

This concert is a benefit for *Imagine No Malaria* campaign. To date, United Methodists have raised over \$62 million of the \$75 million goal. West LA UMC has made a pledge of \$13,000 to this important international effort. Through this Broadway Concert and individual donations, we look forward to reaching our goal to eliminate malaria!

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## West LA UMC is on Facebook



See the latest church news and photos by "Liking" West LA United Methodist Church on Facebook.

# Asian Cultural Bazaar

Saturday, September 20, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

## Have a Great Day the Bazaar!

Our annual West Los Angeles United Methodist Church **Asian Cultural Bazaar** will be held Saturday, **September 20**, from **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM** with food, entertainment, children's games and crafts, a silent auction, plants, door prizes and cultural displays!

In preparation for the Bazaar, you may want to clear out your cupboards and attics to donate new or like-new items to the **Silent Auction**. Ideal Silent Auction items include:

- Antiques, collectibles, and vintage items
- restaurant gift cards
- retail/store gift cards
- online gift cards
- vacation condo/resort
- professional services
- your special gifts and talents (hosting a gathering, cooking, baking, entertainment – be creative!)
- theater, concert, and/or movie tickets
- amusement park tickets (Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm, etc)
- sports event tickets

The church is also collecting items for **the Second Chance Store**, such as household items, toys, camping gear, and new clothing (with tags). These items can be brought to the church and placed in the Youth Room. See Kay Yang and Elaine Sunoo if you have any questions about either the Silent Auction or Second Chance Store.

Want to lend a helping hand? **Volunteers** are needed on Friday morning, September 19 to set up canopies and tables in the parking lot and Social Hall, and to assist with food preparation. Additional volunteers are needed during the Bazaar to work at food booths, as cashiers, and with clean up. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Valerie Harada at vah884@yahoo.com or 310-871-8164.

The annual **Asian Cultural Bazaar** is a fun day for people of all ages! It provides a wonderful opportunity to welcome our friends and neighbors to our church. So, mark your calendar and invite your friends and family to a joyful day of faith, food, music and more!

## Children Love the Bazaar!

The Bazaar offers lots of fun activities for children, including games, crafts, and face painting. They may find a toy at the Second Chance Store or a delicious treat at the Baked Booth!

Bringing children to the Bazaar is a great way to introduce them to the church and the many family-friendly activities that happen throughout the year.



*You'll find fresh produce and delicious food at the Bazaar!*

## Supplies Wish List

The following items are needed for the Bazaar. If you would like to donate an item, please notify Frances Uchida, 310-478-6996, or sign the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall with your name and donation.

### Food Items

Barley Tea & Green Tea Bags  
Granulated Sugar – 5lb or 10l  
Mirin & Shoyu  
Soft Drinks (can) and water (bottle)  
SPAM

### Paper Supplies

Chopsticks  
Cold Cups – 8oz, 9oz  
Hot Cups – 8oz, 9oz.  
Masking Tape – 1", 1 1/2", 2"  
Napkins  
Paper Lunch Bags  
Paper Towels  
Plastic Wrap Rolls  
Plastic Forks  
Trash Bags – 13gal. & 33gal.  
Wax Paper Rolls  
Ziploc Bags – sandwich, quart, gallon bags  
Brown grocery paper bags with handle

### Other Items

Charcoals  
Plants  
Postage Stamps  
Raffle Prizes

## Help Publicize the Bazaar

Colorful posters and half-page fliers are available at the church for you to post at your favorite shops and distribute to your friends.

# United Methodist Women

Women Learning, Growing, and Serving Others

## UMW Appreciation

We are thankful that Lois Tateishi continues to improve after her recent surgery and gratefully acknowledge her "thank you" donation to the UMW for all the members who participated in preparing "Meals on Wheels" while she was incapacitated. She said she really enjoyed all the delicious food.

A special thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Paul and Hisako Terasaki for their very generous appreciation donation to the UMW.

Thank you to Sets Yamashita for a generous monetary donation for the Alaska layette project.

Thank you to all the members who baked and prepared goodies for Coffee Fellowship in the month of August: Eleanor, Grace, Toshie, Lova, Marjorie, Sadie, Diana, Lina, Valerie, Aiko, Aki, Fudge and Yae.

Thank you to Fusako, Kathi and Frances for preparing luncheon for the Holiday Boutique workshop in August.

## All-Church Bazaar September 20

Bazaar tickets are now available to pre-purchase. Please see Sadie Hifumi or Lois Tateishi.

Many of our members are already assigned to tasks for the Bazaar but if your name was somehow overlooked and you would like to help, please contact Valerie Harada at vah884@yahoo.com or 310-871-8164 and she will find just the job for you.

Chirashi Shushi is in need of workers so please let Keiko Takahashi know at 310-818-6029 or misaot@aol.com that you are willing and able to help. The Bake Booth always counts on and appreciates UMW members who bake cookies, cakes, pies, etc. Let Allison Brush know at allisonb@brushmarksllc.com or 213-248-2478 or that you will bake something.

Let's all support our All-Church Bazaar!

## Looking Ahead

Our next Holiday Boutique Workshop is scheduled for Friday, October 17, at 9:30 AM. The October workshop will be our last chance to finish up projects and turn in any crafts that you have created so they can be priced and tagged. Due to Bazaar preparations, there will be no workshop in September.

Takuan Workshop date will be announced soon.

Holiday Boutique will be Saturday, November 1. Set-up is on Friday, October 31, at 9:00 AM.

Election and Planning Meeting and Luncheon has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 9, at 11:00 AM. This is the year for the changing of the guard so please give serious thought to who our next chairperson will be.

## Women's Wellness Conference

Keiro Senior HealthCare is presenting its third Women's Wellness Conference, "Reimagining Life: Empowering Women for Lifelong Vitality," on Saturday, September 27, at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, 200 South Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802.

The conference will highlight eight areas of wellness: physical, financial, emotional, intellectual, occupational, environmental, social, and spiritual. The event will feature expert speakers, breakout sessions, lunch, optional shared interest tables, a Marketplace, and other resources relating to today's women over 50.

The registration fee is \$65 if postmarked by August 30; \$100 thereafter. You may register online at [www.keiro.org/wwc-2014](http://www.keiro.org/wwc-2014). Brochures and registration forms are also available at the church.

## Welcome Gifts for College Students

In recent years, the church has collected small, sample-size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, and other sundries to distribute to college students at the UCLA Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry. These items (like the ones provided at hotels) are assembled in small tote bags by UMW members and youth. You are invited to bring your donations to the church for this ministry of welcome and hospitality.

## Women's Retreat

Our third annual Women's Retreat will be held March 21-22, 2015 at Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades. Cindy Morimoto has already begun planning and welcomes other women to join the Retreat Planning Team. Mark your calendar and contact Cindy or Rev. Janet if you would like to help.

## World Communion Sunday

One Worship Service and All-Church Potluck Lunch Sunday, October 5, 10:30 AM

You are invited to participate in an All-Church potluck on Sunday, October 5, in the church Social Hall following the joint worship service that will begin at 10:30 AM. The occasion is to join with our Japanese language group in celebrating World Communion Sunday. If you are able, please bring a salad, main dish, or dessert to share. If not, a \$1 donation is requested. Sign-Up sheets will be available to help with the planning.





# Special Offerings

Giving to God through our Tithes and Offerings



## Special Offerings

If you would like a list of the Special Offerings, please contact the Church Office.

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## Altar Flowers dedicated in August 2014

If you would like a list of the Altar Flower donations, please contact the Church Office.

## Memorial Offerings

If you would like a list of the Memorial Offerings, please contact the Church Office.

## Ralphs Community Card

Thank you to all who regularly use their "Ralph's Club Cards" on behalf of WLAUMC. Ralph's Supermarkets provides 1-4% of all sales receipts to WLAUMC which is used for the work of our Social Action Commission.

Please note that Ralph's requires customers to re-register their cards every year after September 1. There are several ways to re-register your Club Card. You can register on the Internet at [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) or by taking the following "bar code" to your Ralph's cashier and have them scan it and your Ralph's Club Card or telephone number. Thank you for re-registering your Club Card and for supporting this program!

NPO# 90163  
WEST LOS ANGELES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# Japanese Ministry

Praising and Serving God Together

## 「漫画聖書」

私は、漫画世代で育った一人。「エースをねらえ」「ベルばら」など、漫画は大好きである。今、マンガとアニメが爆発的な人気を誇る時代。日本は勿論のこと、ここ、アメリカでの話しである。

アメリカの本屋に行けば、日本のマンガの英訳版が売られている。それもよく売れている。日本のマンガを読む子供が増えているからである。しかし、子供はずごい。日本語で読み始める子供が増える時代が来た。そのため、日本語を勉強するアメリカ人は、増える一方。2012年、日本語学習者数は16万人。年20%の割合でその数は伸びている。(Amb. John Malott, Japan-America Society of Wa.D.C. April, 2014) 日本のポップカルチャーに魅力され、日本語を学ぶ人口の年齢層は低くなり、今では小中高で日本語を学ぶ子供たちが増えている。

世界的に大ヒットした「マンガメサイア」をご存じでしょうか。去年発売された「マンガジェネシス」、そして今年いよいよ「マンガジェネシスII」が発売された。今、日本で発信されているマンガミニストリーが確実に伸びている。創造主なる神様の愛と希望を伝えることを目標にしたマンガミニストリー。世界21か国以上の言語に訳され、27か国で多くの子供たちに愛されてムーブメントを巻き起こしているのである。漫画家ケリー篠沢姉妹は、子供たちに神様の愛が届くようにと祈りをこめて働いている。私たちも多くの期待を込めて祈りたいと思う。これから子供リバイバルである。

平田



## All Church Potluck in October

On October 5, West LA UMC will have one worship service at 10:30 AM with a guest preacher, followed by an All-Church Potluck. Plan to attend and bring something to share at the Potluck Lunch.

## Manga/Anime

Like many children in Japan, I grew up with Manga. Lately, I heard that Japanese Manga/Anime is very popular in America. If you go to the bookstore, you can find J-Manga in English translation. American children read J-Manga. But, children are amazing. They are starting to read J-Manga in Japanese now! The number of Americans studying Japanese is the highest in history. In 2012 there were over 160,000 students at all levels. It is increasing by 20%. (Amb. John Malott, Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C., April, 2014.)

In Japan, Manga Ministry by Kelly's Farm (Manga artist, Kelly Kozumi Shinozawa) is thriving right now. "Manga Messiah" was a big hit and was translated to 21 languages. Many children in the world love Manga Bible stories. Last year, "Manga Genesis" was published, and this year "Manga Genesis II" was published. Ms. Kelly Shinozawa prays that through Manga Ministry, many children will learn about God's love and find Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Chotto matte! Not only children, but grown-up children can enjoy Manga Bible as well!

Pastor Becky Hirata 平田

## Nichigo's September Calendar



Sept. 1	Labor Day	Church Office Closed
Sept. 6	9:00 AM	All Church Clean-Up
Sept. 7	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Nichigo Council Meeting
Sept. 14	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study
Sept. 19	Morning	Bazaar Set-Up and Food Preparation
Sept. 20	Morning	Sushi Packing
	11:00 AM	All Church Bazaar
Sept. 21	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Small Group Prayer Time
Sept. 26	7:30 PM	Japanese Film Night
Sept. 28	11:00 AM	Nichigo Worship
	12:00 PM	Bible Study
Oct. 5	10:30 AM	One Worship Service
	11:45 AM	All-Church Potluck

# September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 Labor Day / Church Office Closed</p> <p>No Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:30am 80+ Women's Lunch</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:15am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg 7:30pm Finance Committee</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00am All Church Clean-Up</p>
<p>7 Family Worship/Holy Communion</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 11:00am Worship in Japanese 11:00am Church Library Open 1:00pm Admin Council Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:15am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00am Bazaar Planning Mtg</p>
<p>14 Rally Day</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth 11:00am Worship in Japanese 12:00pm SPRC Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30am Fat Tuesday Men's Breakfast at Marie Calender's on National</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:15am "Alive Now" Study No Tai -Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bazaar Preparation No Tai -Chi Class</p> <p>No Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bazaar Set Up</p>	<p>20</p> <p><b>11AM – 5PM ANNUAL ASIAN CULTURAL BAZAAR</b></p> <p><b>INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND COME!</b></p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth 10:30am Children's Choir 11:00am Worship in Japanese 11:00 Broadway Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p> <p>No Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:15am "Alive Now" Study 10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>5:30pm Promise AA Mtg</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Newsletter Folding 9:30am Prayer Meeting 10:30am Tai-Chi Class</p> <p>7:30pm Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30pm Japanese Film Night</p>	<p>27</p> <p>(Private Memorial Service)</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Worship in English 9:45am Sunday School &amp; Youth 11:00am Worship in Japanese 11:15am Missions Committee Mtg 12:00pm Broadway Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p> <p>1:00pm Women's Bible</p> <p>6:30pm Kelton AA Mtg</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>				

# Asian Cultural Bazaar

Saturday, September 20

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM



West LA United Methodist Church welcomes the community to this year's Asian Cultural Bazaar. This annual event celebrates coming together as a family and community of faith under God. It is an opportunity to greet friends, have fun, and joyfully demonstrate Faith In Action.

The Bazaar features many delicious food items, baked goods, beautiful plants and flowers, games, door prizes, silent auction, a Second Chance Store, and crafts and face painting for the kids. Live entertainment will be provided throughout the day. Cultural and historical presentations will be on display, along with original creations by our Church artists.

Bring your family and invite all of your friends. Free parking is available at the Trident Center Building with shuttle service to the church. *We look forward to seeing you!*

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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  
[www.wlaumc.com](http://www.wlaumc.com)

Change Service Requested

September 2014

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1913 Purdue Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

West Los Angeles United Methodist Church

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