

# CLARION

God's People Serving the World with Love and Faith in Action  
1913 – 2022



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA  
firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org

Altadena, California 91001  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022  
Volume LXXIV, Number XXV

## Minute for Missions

## OUR CALENDAR

Communion is normally celebrated during worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

### MONDAY, JUNE 13

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

### SUNDAY, JUNE 19

*Father's Day*

*In Person Worship Service*

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

### MONDAY, JUNE 20

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

### SUNDAY, JUNE 26

*In person Worship Service*

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

## LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, June 12, 2022, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Dorothy Kirkland; Scripture, Doug Lee (Isaiah 43: 1-3); music, Kenny Elliott, Ann Kiriyaama, Greg Middleton, Pete Morris, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Kevin Hayashi, Kelly Hokyo, and Jake Matsumoto; and the Rev. Vikki Randall for her sermon, "Bearing the Names".

## WHO'S MAILING

June 20	Volunteers
June 27	Volunteers
July 5	Volunteers
July 11	Volunteers

## STAFF JUNE 7

Editor	Donna Kiriyaama
Printer:	Eva Ramirez
Mailing Crew:	Gini Ishida, Bob and Mae Uchida, and Wade Utsunomiya
Mailer	Bob Uchida
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## Homework for the Teachers

During his engaging mini-plenary, the Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka gave educators attending the annual event of the Association of Partners in Christian Education in Chicago a homework assignment: Memorize Isaiah 50:4 and recite it to the folks back home if they ask what you learned at the "Circle of Faith" event of the organization formerly known as the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.

In case you too want to set the verse to memory, the New Revised Standard Version renders Isaiah 50:4 this way: "The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens — wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught."

Just what defines the tongue of a teacher? Nishioka, the senior associate pastor and director of adult faith formation at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, recalls the wisdom of his seventh-grade social studies teacher, Mrs. Williams. When students complained about too much homework or how they considered certain topics irrelevant, Mrs. Williams would have none of it. "You don't know what you need," she would tell the students. "Do not complain about what you've got."

"That's the tongue of a teacher," Nishioka said. "Brilliant and spot on."

Weary people deserve a word from their teachers, he said, adding, "If we don't have a word to share, what are we doing here?" The word translated "sustain" is the Hebrew verb "ezer," which can also mean "help" or "uplift." In Hebrew it's an imperfect verb, Nishioka explained, which means the action is ongoing and incomplete. As such, "sustain" is a good translation, according to Nishioka: "that I may know how to sustain continually."

"Morning by morning — what does that make us think of," and some in the crowd started singing the appropriate lyrics from the refrain of "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Every day, God wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught, the verse says. Nishioka asked attendees for their interpretation, then offered one himself. "We are called to be lifelong learners. We have the word to share and the tongues of teachers. Every day God wakes us up to listen as those who are taught, to be lifelong learners," Nishioka said. "We need to grow so we can provide a word" to students, whether they're children or young adults, "and we can't do that if we don't have the substance of lifelong learning."

Then he asked, what is the word given to us?

One answer may be found in the hymn "Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken": "Listen to the word that God has spoken; listen to the One who is close at hand; listen to the voice that began Creation; listen even if you don't understand."

"That last line — it is totally messing with you and me as educators," Nishioka said with a smile. "We have prefaced our lives on helping people understand. Here we are hearing we may be called upon to share a word we don't understand." "It is less about you, Nishioka," he reminds himself. "This really is about the nature of God. To be faithful, you share that word and trust that it will sustain the weary."

Again, he asked, what is the word we are being asked to share?

"You have got to have that," Nishioka said. "Our people are weary, and we are being less than faithful to our call if we don't have that word to share." Nishioka brought three words forward as examples. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once said, "All of the Hebrew scriptures can be summarized in one word: Remember!"

Share your word, Nishioka urged conference-goers, and they did not hesitate, calling out "faithful," "enough," "kindness," "trust," "connection," "generous," "Christ," "promise," and other words. "God has given us the word. The sustaining is ongoing," Nishioka said. "It has gone before us; it's happening now and it will continue. Thanks be to God."

Mike Ferguson, Editor, Presbyterian News Service

June 14, 2022

# OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from June 8, 2022 thru June 13, 2022

### Clarion

Ron and Cynthia Dyo (Glendora)

### Deacons

Nancy Castillo,  
In memory of Kurt Matsumoto

### In Memory

Massie Fujii,  
In memory of Ben and Edna Matsumoto  
Frank and Marian Sata,  
In memory of Kurt Matsumoto

### Special, wherever needed

Ron and Cynthia Dyo  
Young Lee (Santa Maria)

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# MISCELLANY

Don't forget, we are collecting non-perishable food items for the June Flavor of the Month. **Canned or packaged main dish items and dessert items.** Think of what you could use to make a delicious main dish for your family, canned meats, chili, stews, Hamburger Helper, spaghetti sauce, pasta, pudding/jello boxes, cake/bake mixes... you name it, we want it! Drop your items in the box in the sanctuary foyer.

**SAVE THE DATE: July 16 and 17, 2022.** The Pasadena Buddhist Temple will be hosting a "Mini Obon" event, with taiko drums, dancing, food, and much more! Due to Covid-19 concerns, there will be some protocols that will be in place, and Saturday attendance will be limited. Please go to their website: [pasadenabuddhisttemple.org](http://pasadenabuddhisttemple.org) for more information.

AND

Odori practice will be starting soon. All are welcome. **Beginning June 27**, practice will be from 7:00 – 8:00pm Monday and Thursday evenings, in the church parking lot. 1993 Glen Ave., Pasadena 91103, So.. come and dance!

## Pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee Together

By: Dorothy Kirkland

Every week in worship we are reminded to ask our Father God to guide our Pastoral Nominating Committee in their search for our new pastor. In the Pastor Nominating Committee process, the key role and responsibility of the congregation is to pray continually for the PNC. Would you like to be a part of a new group praying together to help the PNC in their work?

Let's get together once a week, just before the PNC meetings convene, and ask God to put His wisdom in their minds and hearts, moving their intellect and imagination.

We can meet via an established phone account (and maybe in person in the future) for 15 to 30 minutes as the PNC convenes. Of course, we will continue to pray daily as individuals. And if you have ideas about how we can work together, please let us know.

To join the group on Thursdays at 7:00 pm call in at 978-990-5411 and when prompted, put in the access code which is 4113956#. You will be joined in the group.

Let's cover our hard-working PNC in loving prayer!

*Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. (Philippians 4:6) Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7: 7&8*

## Welcome Baby Callum!



He's finally here! We are blessed to welcome **Callum Bobby Hayashi** to the world, who was born on June 7, 2022. He joins big brother Colten, and is the second son of Tanya and Kevin Hayashi. Mister Callum is grandbaby #5 for Yoshiko and Bobby Hayashi, and ... (drum roll)... great-grandbaby #25 for Elsie Hayashi! (hmmm... forget the dynasty, this could be the start of the city of Hayashi).

## Graduates Wanted!

A longstanding Clarion tradition has been to acknowledge high school and college graduates from our church congregation. We would like to list our graduates in an upcoming issue of the Clarion. Please forward names and schools to the church office, or email them to: [gonzumoto@hotmail.com](mailto:gonzumoto@hotmail.com)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PASADENA, CA  
PERMIT NO.1078

CLARION is Published by  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA  
2775 N. Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001  
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