



ACRS Executive Director Michael Byun and Rev. Karen Yokota Love hold up Church Member Glenn Mitsui's special edition ACRS art print. You can purchase your copy at ACRS.org.

# News from our Senior Pastor Celebrating the Harvest

#### By Rev. Karen Yokota Love

"Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Festival of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field."

– Exodus 23:16

June is here, which means that summer is just around the corner! Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit. There is just nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer cherry. Could we say, it is like a taste of heaven? Summer is known to be 'harvest time' in the Pacific Northwest with the cherries, blueberries, marionberries to name a few. Farmers are busy, reaping and bringing in the fruits of their labors.

We, too, at Blaine Memorial are busy celebrating the hard work of our students and teachers as June signals the end of another school year. This month, we are celebrating our high school and college graduates, Church School teachers, BYG directors and leaders, dads, and father-figures alike. It also marks the season of summer activities including the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus' Jr. High Camp and Asian Camp, as well as, Blaine Memorial UMC's Vacation Bible School. You are invited to celebrate our dads and father-figures at our Sunday, June 18 worship service with a special lunch provided for all of our father and father-like figures.

Thank you to our Church School teachers, BYG directors and leaders for all the flexibility, commitment, and love that you've demonstrated this year to our growing children and youth. You've all done a fantastic job continuing to share God's good news!

We also celebrate the fruits of the harvest as we honor and celebrate the good work in The Pacific Northwest Conference:

May 24, 2:00pm	PNW Clergy Session (online)
June 2 & 3, 6:00pm	• PNW Focus Sessions (online)
June 13, 9:00am	PNW Opening Worship
June 13-15	PNW Plenary Sessions
June 13, 7:00pm	PNW Memorial Service
June 14, 11:30am	PNW Retirement Service
June 15, 11:00am	<ul> <li>PNW Service of Commissioning and Ordination</li> </ul>
June 15, 6:00pm	GNW Closing Worship

Each of these meetings and worship services are both inperson and online this year and will be available for your viewing at a later date. This year's PNWAC representatives are Ron Nobuyama, George Yates, Lynne Onishi and myself. Rev. Mia MiKyung Park is a member of the Oregon-Idaho Conference so she will be attending her Annual Conference prior to the PNW Conference Sessions. Please visit https://pnwumc.org/ac2023 for the full schedule.

Finally, Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) Walk for Rice is on Saturday, June 17 at Seward Park from 9am-12pm. Walk with Blaine for a great cause to help those who are experiencing food insecurity. Join Team Blaine and continue reading for more information.

During this season, continue to celebrate joys and lift up your concerns. Continue to pray for friends, family, and the stranger. Together, may we grow into all that Christ longs to pour into us, Christ's body. May we continue to pray and shout for joy as we cover everything we do with God's guidance, presence, and love to transform lives in every way possible.

May the Holy Spirit continue to open our hearts to receive God's abundant grace, that it may flow through us, offering healing and hope to everyone around us.

Rev. Karen Yokota Love serves as the Senior Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.



Last year, Team Blaine raised over \$8,300 to help support local food banks with a special focus on the Asian Community. Now is the time to help! Reach out to Justine or Audrey Hwang for more details!

## Support Walk for Rice Now! By Justine, photos by Audrey Hwang

The 33rd annual ACRS Walk for Rice will be on 6/17/23, 9a-12p at Seward Park!

Blaine Memorial UMC has a special connection to the Asian Counseling and Referral Service Walk for Rice. In 1990, Sam Mitsui, with Herb and Bertha Tsuchiya, wanted a way for everyone to help feed the community. Team Blaine continues to honor Mitsui's contribution through the Walk for Rice, commemorating 33 years of service.

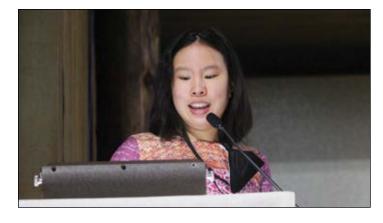
This year's Walk for Rice will be in-person at Seward Park on Saturday, June 17, 2023! We need you!

The ACRS Food Bank remains one of the busiest food banks in King County, distributing more than 1 million pounds of food annually to 5,700 clients. More than half are children under the age of 18 or seniors over 65, and many people served by the ACRS

Food Bank are low-income. Proceeds from the Walk for Rice allow ACRS to buy many of the culturally familiar foods that its Asian clients rely on: tofu, noodles, and produce like bok choy. Don't forget, rice!

Last year, Team Blaine raised over \$8,300, which put us in third place! This year, ACRS hopes to raise \$325,000 and Team Blaine's fundraising goal is \$7,000. You can also support us by joining Blaine Memorial at Seward Park on June 17th at the Walk for Rice celebration!

Go to: https://give.acrs. org/team/498138 (or scan the QR code, far right) to donate online or join our team as a walker! You can also mail your donation (checks made out to "Walk for Rice", memo: "Team



Team Captain Justine makes a Walk for Rice announcement during Worship. Scan the QR code below, now, to donate!

Blaine") to the Blaine office.

Thank you in advance for supporting ACRS Food Bank - every dollar counts!

Justine serves as Team Captain for the ACRS Walk for Rice, representing Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.





#### By Lynne Onishi, BYG Director

**It's almost summer!** When we asked the youth what they were most excited about in the upcoming weeks, we heard over and over again how much they're looking forward to the end of the school year and the arrival of summer break. As this school year winds down, BYG is excited to celebrate our graduates and return to summer camps once more!

This is also a time of much transition for our leadership team. In April, Lawrence Paltep stepped down from his director position and we have since welcomed our two new associate directors: Kaylee Yokoyama and Kai Yamamoto! Let's hear how they came to lead BYG...



**Hello, my name is Kaylee Yokoyama.** I am currently a sophomore at the University of Washington studying psychology. I have been a Blaine Youth Group leader for the past two years, and I am excited to step into this new role as an Associate Director of Youth Ministries.

I have been attending Blaine since I was three years old, and Blaine to me is a welcoming faith community, where I grow in my faith and have developed many meaningful relationships. In my experiences as a youth, I have felt the warmth and guidance that BYG provided me. As a youth, I always admired my leaders and directors. I hope to provide the same comforts to the youth as an associate director and contribute to fostering a community of inclusion.

I am excited about supporting the youth in their passions and engaging in opportunities to continue growing BYG. I hope to contribute to making BYG a community where youth can explore their faith through service, relationships, and curiosity.



**Greetings, Blaine Community, my name is Kai Yamamoto,** and I am excited to be working with Lynne and Kaylee as an Associate Director of Youth Ministries!

I have been attending BYG since 6th grade and have been a part of BYG ever since. BYG has always been a special place for me, as it was a community of people who were around my age that also cared and looked out for me. After I graduated high school, I became a BYG leader to help facilitate and preserve this community.

When Lawrence and Lynne approached me about this opportunity, I decided I wanted to take on this role, to ensure that this community will be there for both our current youth and future youth. I am excited to be working with Lynne and Kaylee to plan different events and work with our youth to keep our community thriving!

As you can tell from the testimonies of both Kai and Kaylee, the BYG ministry has been deeply impacting in the lives of our congregation's young people. Thank you for continuing to support our youth and our leaders in this time of transition. We ask for your prayers as the BYG embarks on many exciting summer adventures!

#### **Important dates for June 2023**

•	
Sunday June 4, 2023	Saturday June 17, 2023
<ul> <li>Graduation Sunday</li> </ul>	• BYG Graduation Party, I:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Sunday, June 18	June 25-30, 2023
<ul> <li>Last BYG Sunday Gathering of the school year</li> </ul>	• Junior High Camp

BYG meets on Sundays at 10:00 AM. We will gather in the sanctuary for the beginning of worship service before transitioning over to the Nishida Room for BYG time after the children's message. Our last Sunday BYG Gathering of the school year will be on Sunday, June 18. BYG will be on break over the summer!

Blaine Youth Group (BYG) is a place where youth (6th-12th grade) are invited into a loving community and celebrated as they are. BYG provides a safe environment for youth to build lasting friendships, grow spiritually, learn acceptance of self and others, express compassion for the world, and develop a love for God and neighbor. BYG has a space for any person who is interested.

Director of Youth Ministry: Lynne Onishi, lynneonishi@gmail.com Associate Directors of Youth Ministry: Kai Yamamoto, kai.yamamo@gmail.com and Kaylee Yokoyama, kaylee.yokoyama1@gmail.com



A few of our young adults explored Discovery Park in Magnolia to resume our hiking ministry for the summer!

I can't believe summer is just around the corner! The young adults are excited to pick up our hiking ministry, enjoy sunshine and fellowship in God's creation, and work with our film crew about the possibility of more outdoor movie nights in the courtyard! The Reconciling Ministries team is excited about all things during Pride Month!

I'm getting ready to wrap up my one-year Ministry Innovation fellowship at Wesley Theological Seminary. Throughout the year, I've been learning about church innovation alongside a cohort of young adults. Together, we've spent the last several months connecting with pastors and church leaders who want to see new life in their ministries. I've gained so much from synthesizing what I've experienced in this program with my ministry work at this church. Perhaps most importantly, I've learned that we are not alone in our struggles. Churches all across the country are having the same conversations we're having about the future of the Church, sustainability, the ever-changing culture, and the irrelevance of the Church in young people's lives.

Now is a critical period in which the Church can respond to these needs and problem-solve. But that requires a shift in how Church happens. It requires that young people lead these conversations and, in return, the Church listens to and believes young people. That's much easier said than done.

Our Young Peoples Survey from 2022 revealed that only half of those who grew up in a faith community were still active members as young adults. We heard stories of both beautiful community and heartbreaking pain young people experienced within churches and youth ministries. And we heard calls from young people for the church to respond to today's crisis in a way that communicates to the world who Jesus is and what God stands for.

As we prepare to take a vote on our affiliation with the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), I am mindful of the many fears that accompany making a public declaration. But this is a path many of our neighbor churches and Japanese American Caucus churches have already walked. We are not

alone in this. Participating in the RMN is an opportunity to align our mission with what Jesus calls us to do as Christians – to side with the marginalized and oppressed and resist evil in all its forms (racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, etc.).

Churches join the RMN by voting to adopt a reconciling statement, which must receive support from 75% of the congregation. This statement is a declaration to both one another and the public that our congregation is committed to inclusivity and justice:

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

To believe this statement is only part of the story. To declare this statement is another. To declare this belief means that we will be held accountable for acting like we believe it. And I believe that we are ready to proclaim this Good News to our community!

The IH team and RM Task Force are always looking for new folks to join us. If you feel called to lend your voice to these important ministries, we invite you to join us at our next team zoom meeting. Please contact Lynne (lynneonishi@gmail.com) or IH team members for more info.

#### **Important dates for June 2023**

Sunday, June 25
 Friday, June 30
 Pride Sunday, Reconciling Ministries
 IH Film and Discussion Night

### Thank You!

Celebrating our Church School, BYG Leaders,

and Graduates of 2023!

By Rev. Mia MiKyung Park, Associate Pastor

As we rapidly approach the end of the fall 2022-Spring 2023 school year, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Church School teachers and youth group leaders. Throughout this post pandemic year, we have encountered numerous challenges, twists, and turns, but we have navigated them all with God's grace and integrity. I am truly grateful for the entire church community coming together, united in faith. I want to extend a huge thank vou to our Church School teachers and the members of the BYG Leadership team. Their dedication and love for our children and youth are immeasurable. When I think of Christian Education, the lyrics of the Hymn of Promise come to mind:

"In the bulb, there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free."

I am filled with hope as I witness our children and youth growing in God's love and grace, knowing that they are nurtured by our care and prayers. It brings me immense joy to reflect on another abundant and blessed year, and I want to take this opportunity to give a resounding shoutout to our Church School teachers and BYG Leadership team once again! Thank you so much for your dedicated hearts, all teachers and leaders!

## **Church School**



**Sai Hanaoka** Church School Superintendent



Susan Lee
Teacher



Kim Furugori Helper, not pictured

"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."

Proverbs 22:6



Arlene Mitsui
Teacher



Sylvia Wong



Dawn Sakaguchi-Tang
Teacher



Lawrence Paltep Outgoing Director



Lynne Onishi



Kaylee Yokoyama Assoc. Dir. Youth Ministries



Kai Yamamoto

## BYG Leaders, Helpers, with Graduates of 2023



Michelle Yokoyama



Malia Yamamoto



**Mariko Ronan** 



**Kobe Yamamoto** Leader



Collin Ikeda Advisor



Lorissa Ricord Advisor



Jarrett Shirouzu Advisor



Jenna Tong Advisor



Joshua Santos New Leader



**Edwin Santos** New Leader



Allison Hall H.S. Graduate

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6



# Associate Pastor's Spiritual Reflection

# Summer: We are together again!

By Rev. Mia MiKyung Park, Assoc. Pastor

I am grateful to share that my mom, three older sisters, and one brother-in-law will be visiting us for the first time in early June. Even though time seems to be moving slowly, I'm grateful for the chance to prepare for their arrival. Seeing my mom's smile when she arrives will bring me so much joy. I cannot wait for her to witness John's and my ministries in the U.S. Although it was difficult for my mom to accept our decision not to return to our home country, she is beginning to understand that God works beyond our experiences and expectations.

Living far away from my mom and siblings has been challenging. Not being able to support them physically created feelings of guilt and resentment that have lingered for a long time. However, after witnessing how God has brought my family to know God and attend church, I've learned to trust that God is always there, guiding and protecting them through every step of their journey.

My mom's childhood was difficult, as her family faced financial challenges. Only her brothers were able to attend school, so she didn't learn how to read until she was in her mid-70s. When she started attending church, my mom became curious about the Bible. She was determined to learn how to read so she registered for a basic reading class at the senior center. Now, she can read hymns and the Bible, even if she doesn't fully understand the meanings. I believe that the Holy Spirit inspired my mom to achieve her lifelong wish of learning how to read.

During their visit, I plan on taking my family to see the iconic Space Needle and explore Pike Place Market, where we can get my mom's favorite fresh seafood. I'm also excited to show them around the church and visit some of the local parks and beaches, where we can spend quality time together and enjoy the beautiful summer weather.

As I prepare for my family's visit, I'm filled with gratitude for this opportunity to spend quality time with them and create new memories together. I know it will be a time of joy and laughter, but also a time for us to reflect on our shared experiences and the ways in which our faith has brought us together. I'm excited to see how this visit will deepen our connection and strengthen our bonds as a family. I've been looking forward to this moment for a long time, and I can't wait to show them the beauty of Seattle and the Blaine Memorial campus, which has become another home for me.

As summer begins, I am thrilled to announce that we will be offering special time for our children and youth through VBS and camps. This year's VBS theme is "Food Truck Party On a Roll with God," and it will run from Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14, from 10 am to 3 pm. Registration for VBS is now open, and you can visit **blaineonline.org** to register your child or children.

I am excited to memorize John 10:10 with the children in June. The verse states, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I (Jesus) came that they may have life and have it abundantly." My prayer is that our children and youth will experience the abundant life that our Lord provides, and that they will be filled with His peace.

In May, we were able to accomplish so much together, and I am truly thankful for all the hard work and dedication that was put into all ministries. We have so much to be grateful for Work party, Sukiyaki, uplifting worship services, etc. As we move into June, I am filled with anticipation for what's to come and the new opportunities that await us. I am confident that with our collective efforts and God's guidance, we will continue to grow and thrive as a community. Let's make this next month even more amazing than the last!

The Rev. Mia MiKyung Park serves as the Associate Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.

#### **June Lectionary**

#### First Sunday after Pentecost June 4, 2023

- · Genesis I:I-2:4a
- Psalm 8
- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Matthew 28:16-20

#### Second Sunday after Pentecost June 11, 2023

- Genesis 12:1-9
- Psalm 33:1-12
- Hosea 5:15-6:6
- Psalm 50:7-15
- Romans 4:13-25
- Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

# Third Sunday after Pentecost June 18, 2023

- Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- Exodus 19:2-8a
- Psalm 100
- Romans 5:1-8
- Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

#### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 25, 2023

- Genesis 21:8-21
- Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
- Jeremiah 20:7-13
- Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18
- Romans 6:1b-11
- Matthew 10:24-39



Scan the QR code above to register now for VBS 2023!

UIN S 2012 Sevents on this calendar may have changed during time of publication. Contact the Blaine Office for questions. The Church Office is open Tuesday-Friday (10am-12pm, 1pm-4pm). If you have questions, please call 206-723-1536 or email blaineoffice@yahoo.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	• Newslatter	2	3
Save the dates fo July 10-14: Vacation Bibl July 23-28 Asian Camp	<b>iave the dates for events in July:</b> • July 10-14: Vacation Bible School, 10am-3pm. Register now: blaineonline.org • July 23-28 Asian Camp (for incoming 10th grade - 2 years post-high school). I	now: blaineonline.org ars post-high school). Register I	Register by June 25.	July remainment submissions due • 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball		Celebration of Life and Reception (Open to the public)
Graduation and Teacher Appreciation Idam, Hybrid Worship with Communion Idam, Church School Ilam, VBS Volunteer Mtg	• 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, EYC1 Basketball • 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	<b>6</b> • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	• 9am, Coffee & Prayer • 10:30am Pickleball • 6:30pm, SPRC Zoom Mtg • 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting	• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	•	• Ilam, Private Celebration of Life and Reception (Sanctuary and LAC)
• 10am, Hybrid Worship • 10am, BYG • 10am, Church School • 1pm, Blaine Basketball	• 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, EYC1 Basketball • 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal • 9am, Coffee & Prayer • 10:30am Pickleball • 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting • The Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Sessions (Visit pnwumc.org/ac2023 for more info.)	13 • 9am, Coffee & Prayer • 10:30am Pickleball • 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting hwest Annual Conference Sessions g/ac2023 for more info.)	15 • 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	91	• 9am, ACRS Walk For Rice @ Seward Park • 1:30pm, BYG Graduation Party (Social Hall)
Father's Day  • Ioam, Hybrid Worship • Ioam, BYG • Ioam, Church School • Ipm, Blaine Basketball	19 • 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, EYC1 Basketball • 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	20 • 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	• 9am, Coffee & Prayer • 10:30am Pickleball • 7pm, Zoom Ad-Board Meeting • 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting	• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball	23	• Ipm, Private Event (LAC)
25  Junior High Camp (Visit h	25 • Junior High Camp (Visit https://www.njaumccamps.org/junior-high-camp for m	27 Junior-high-camp for more info.)	28	29	30	31
Music Sunday  • Ioam, Hybrid Worship  • Ioam, Church School  • Ipm, Blaine Basketball	• 10am, Zoom Yoga • 11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga • 6:30pm, EYCI Basketball • 7:30 pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting	• 7pm, Choir Rehearsal	<ul> <li>• 9am, Coffee &amp; Prayer</li> <li>• Ilam, Private Memorial Service (Sanctuary and LAC)</li> <li>• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele • 6:30pm, Blaine Basketball		

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**June 2023** 

## Connect with Blaine! (7 0

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#### All are welcome here!

Our core belief is that each person is a beloved child of God - whose giftedness we value and whose presence and participation are a blessing to our community, and to the Kin-dom of God in the world.

Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church affirms our core value of Radical Hospitality, and as a community, we are an inclusive Church that welcomes and extends every part of its ministry to all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, income, age, generation, political affiliation, theological stance, sexual orientation or gender identity.

#### Ministry Staff Team

Senior Pastor, Editor Associate Pastor Choir Director Church School Superintendent BYG Director BYG Associate Directors

Pianist Office Assistant Bookkeeper

#### Lay Leadership Team

Administrative Board Ad-Board Vice-Chair Staff Parish Relations SPRC Vice-Chair Board of Trustees Finance Committee Lay Leaders Annual Conference Delegates Rev. Karen Yokota Love Rev. Mia MiKyung Park Eugene Onishi Sai Hanaoka Lynne Onishi Kai Yamamoto Kaylee Yokoyama Kathy Onishi Yuki Sofronas

Mimi Mar

Brad Miyake Lisa Mar Sally Sekijima Arlene Naganawa Ron Nobuyama, Brian Okura Bob Sekijima, Gayle Miyake Eugene Onishi, Kathy Onishi Ron Nobuyama, George Yates

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**Ways to Give** "Every person must bring a gift in proportion to God's blessings upon you." (Deut. 16: 17)

- ONLINE: Click the Realm logo at blaineonline.org or scan the QR code on the left.
- MOBILE: Download the free "Realm Connect" app. Use your sign-in and click GIVING. Contact the Church Office, blaineoffice@yahoo.com. for a Realm sign-in.
- TEXT: Text BLAINE to 73256. Click the link you receive and follow the prompts.
- MAIL: Mail a check to: Blaine Memorial UMC at 3001 24th Ave S. Seattle, WA 98144.