

Connect with Blaine!

5 | Bazaar 2023!

6 | BYG: JHC & AC pics!

10 | Innovation Hub update!



*Reflecting on the past...*

## WHAT KIND OF ANCESTORS DO WE WANT TO BE?

*Rev. Karen reports from  
Camp Minidoka in Idaho*



*Planting for the future.*



*VBS provides fun through learning!*

### Spiritual Pilgrimages & Summer Memories

*VBS • Camping • Retreats*



*Rev. Mia's summer reunion!*



*Meeting new friends at VBS 2023!*



*Zephyr Point Retreat in Nevada brings JA congregants together!*



Blaine Memorial UMC members gather around the newly revamped Miniidoka Honor Roll with an additional 150 names added.

## News from our Senior Pastor Summer pilgrimage offers reflection on gratitude

By Rev. Karen Yokota Love, additional photos by Ryan Kozu, Roger Tanioka, and Kai Yamamoto

*Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. Matthew 17:7-8*

**W**e are deep into the summer months now as we approach mid-August.

For many people it is a time of rest and relaxation, some are enjoying the last few days of vacation, and, for some, school is beginning.

Why do we look forward to vacations so much? Even if we enjoy our regular routine, whether at home, school, or in the office, we also enjoy doing different and fun experiences. We even use an interesting word to describe these events. We call them, "recreational."

As I reflect on that word, *recreation*, it means to "re-create" or "create anew." It implies that what is being re-created in your life is, well ... *in need of*



(L-R): Rev. Karen, Lynne Onishi, and Marina Kozu enjoy Karaoke Night at the pilgrimage.

*it!* After all, things wear down, and our own energy and spirit can wear down over time as well. A few days away from our usual daily routine can help us develop a different overall perspective that can come from a relaxing time at the beach, or

a hike to see a beautiful and scenic mountainside, or just about any great vacation place.

Even staying at home for a "staycation" can help! Matthew 17:7-8 offers something that will *never fade, never diminish, and never wear down*. Jesus knows his disciples are about to enter a secular world to bring the message of salvation and love to a sometimes, hostile world. Jesus knows it will be hard and stressful work at times. He wants them to rely on something that will always be at full strength for them wherever they are.

Jesus took several of his closest friends to a mountaintop and was *transfigured* before them. No one today knows exactly what happened,

but the testimony of his disciples was that it was wonderful. They never forgot it and it stayed with them for the rest of their lives. Jesus replicated that event through the holy ritual of Holy Communion. Jesus continues to be the *daily bread* that sustains the disciples in all of their future adventures – no matter how stressful.

The very best “re-creation” comes from time spent with Our Lord! We had the opportunity to *recreate* ministry adventures this summer and bring a new twist on everything!

Many of our youth went to Jr. High

Camp and Asian Camp and had a wonderful time connecting with new and old friends while growing deep in their faith with Christ. I’m also grateful for a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) which proved to be another successful year with this year’s theme, “Food Truck Party.”

I also had the opportunity to serve as a faith leader at this year’s Minidoka Pilgrimage. Around 250 pilgrims journeyed to Twin Falls, ID, 131 miles southeast of Boise.

The three-day event consisted of

educational lectures, and workshops at the College of Southern Idaho. We shared meals and made new friends. On Saturday, we hopped on charter buses to visit the Minidoka Incarceration site in Hunt, ID. Stories were told – tragic stories, as well as stories of great healing. Today, the site continues to hold a mixture of memories and strong emotions – feelings of denial, distrust, shame. There is also a keen sense of joy and recognition of community and love

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*Continue to “Summer Blessings”, page 4*



*Our Blaine Memorial youth pose for a snapshot while listening to an Asian Camp reflection story at Camp Lodestar.*



*VBS Leaders and Shepherds lead the VBS campers with Food Truck Party in song and dance!*



*National Parks Services Regional Director Anna Tamura (right) explains to the group that they are in a barracks that multiple families inhabited while incarcerated during WWII.*

## Summer blessings continue

*Continued from previous page*

who care for each other. This year's pilgrimage theme was grounded with the question, *"What kind of ancestors do we want to be?"* (The typography on the front cover is created by Artist and Designer Erin Shigaki.)

The pilgrimage was attended by former incarcerated, their family members, friends, and allies. It offers an opportunity to safely revisit the land and the memories amidst family, friends, supporters, and National Park Service officials. On the final day of the pilgrimage, the National Park Services unveiled a revamped Honor Roll of those who were incarcerated who served in the military. The Honor Roll listed an additional 150 names. We also learned about the existential threat that Minidoka currently faces from the massive Lava Ridge wind farm. If the wind farm is built, it will destroy the sacred land of Minidoka and that could erase the preservation and sacredness of the site.

At the end of July, I was honored to serve as the primary speaker at the NCJCCF Zephyr Point Church Retreat at Lake Tahoe, NV. I spent a week guiding 50 participants through a journey about *aging*. Aging can happen through three areas of life that we all need to face which encompasses moving through our grief, having gratitude, and seeing God's grace. The week was woven together with pilgrims' faith journey stories, golfing, swimming, line dancing, learning about other church ministries, Japanese card making, and learning how to use the Apple iMovie software program to create and edit video! Blaine's very own Dale Kaneko taught the group how to use iMovie



*(L-R): Jesse Love, Rev. Karen Yokota Love, Anna Arakaki-Lock and Dale Kaneko enjoy God's beauty at the Zephyr Point retreat.*

and folks were asked to create 30-second videos. The week proved to be a time to get deep with our small group friends, and closer to Christ, and, of course, to have fun!

As we look towards autumn, I'm excited to announce that we're having our well-known and much anticipated **Blaine Memorial Bazaar!** This year's Bazaar is on **Saturday, October 7, from 11am-5pm.** We'll have our favorites which include BBQ chicken, udon, curry, baked goods and a Farmer's Market.

Among my prayers this month is for August to be a month of summer blessings. May your time with each other be relaxing and joyful. May the arrival of autumn also be a time of celebration and hope.

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

Save the date

Blaine Memorial UMC's

# Bazaar

...is back!

**October 7, 2023 | 11am-5pm**

Come join us for some homemade Japanese food!

BBQ Chicken • Curry • Udon • Homemade Pies • Baked Goods

Check out our Farmers Market!

Produce • Plants

More details to come!

Please contact Lesley Okura with questions!



The BYG leadership team poses for a group photo at their leadership retreat last year (August 2022). We couldn't do BYG without our leaders and directors!



The JHC campers and adult chaperones gather for a photo at the airport before taking off for camp.



Kaylee and Michelle support BYG's Bake Sale!

year of BYG!

BYG is also planning a Bake Sale this August! As the youth are already preparing to go to camp next summer, the funds from this bake sale will help provide the youth and their families an opportunity for them to go to camp! Thank you for all your support and we hope to see you at the bake sale!

As fall is rapidly approaching, the BYG leadership team will be preparing for the next school year. Like last year, the leadership team will gather for a retreat to reflect on past years of BYG and begin plan for this next year of BYG. BYG leaders will continue to meet throughout this summer and brainstorm ideas for future BYG nights and events.

BYG will not meet on Sunday mornings throughout the month of August. We encourage youth and families to attend worship together at 10:00am in-person or via live stream!

*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*

# BYG UPDATE BLAINE YOUTH GROUP

By Kai Yamamoto

## Upcoming Events

Bake Sale	BYG Leaders Retreat	Rally Sunday	Camping Ministries Sunday
Aug. 27	Sept. 9	Sept. 10	TBD

As we progress through the summer, the Blaine Youth Group has been taking a break from our regular Sunday morning meetings. Although we have not been meeting on Sundays, our youth have been able to gather and fellowship together!

Prior to BYG's summer break and youth leaving for Junior High Camp, BYG gathered one last time to

fellowship and prepare for the summer!

This past June, we sent eight youth to JHC, where they were able to spend a week together growing and developing their faith together at Camp Lodestar in California.

Our BYG also helped at Vacation Bible School this year! They did a wonderful job guiding the campers in their faith journeys and walked alongside Jesus throughout the week. At

VBS, the youth could be found shepherding and helping as station teachers.

BYG also held a room cleanup day! We gathered the youth together for fellowship and clean the BYG room as we prepare for next year. It is always great to start the new year with a clean room! We organized several different drawers and bins. We also vacuumed and cleaned the furniture and floors to give us a fresh start for the new



Everyone smiles for a whole Asian Camp photo in the camp T-shirt!



Above: Rev. Mia preaches a sermon about how “we all have obstacles in our lives” at Jr. High Camp. The theme was based on Disney’s Ratatouille.

Below: Two group photos of the Blaine Memorial youth campers at Jr. High Camp.



# Asian & Jr. High Camps: Thank you!

By Kai Yamamoto

**T**hank you for your continuous love and support. This year, we sent eight campers along with two adult chaperones to Junior High Camp, and six campers and two adult chaperones to Asian Camp! We could not do this without you! Thank you for buying our bake sale goods, candles, cards, donating, and praying for us.

Year after year, youth continue to look forward to camp – a space to grow spiritually and strengthen bonds with friends from Blaine Memorial and churches in Oregon and California. Youth participated in a variety of activities including worship, small groups, and games with fellow youth around the same age.

Parents also look forward to sending their kids to camp. They know it’s a space where their kids are cared for and will make memories to cherish forever. As our youth are already preparing to attend camp next year, we are starting to plan more fundraisers to support our youth to attend camp! Please look out for future fundraisers in the coming months! Thank you so much for your love and support!

*Kai Yamamoto serves as an Associate Co-Director for the Blaine Youth Group.*



Our BYG campers enjoy a fun week of Asian Camp with plenty of outdoor games, worship, workshops, and the “messy day” experience.





Tala C. and Miriam Tong lead VBS 2023 in song.



This year's VBS provided quality time with our young people and adults alike. What was your favorite moment?



Kaila A. leads singing during the VBS Debrief Meeting.



It's time to cool off at VBS 2023!



Sally S. and Terri P. provide healthy meals for our children.



Cody S. is ready to get someone wet!



Dr. Stephen Sumida presents a story.

**T**hank you VBS leaders, participants, parents, and attendees! During the week of Vacation Bible School, volunteers gathered every morning for devotion and prayer. It was a truly humbling experience to serve alongside a diverse group of individuals, both seen and unseen, who dedicated their time and efforts to this year's VBS. The collective contribution of these volunteers was instrumental in creating a memorable and impactful event.

There were countless individuals who played vital roles behind the scenes, working hard to bring everything together. From the talented hands that crafted the decorations, including the food truck, to those diligently creating the daily special signs and lending their fish kites, their selfless acts of service were



The children at VBS learned about science, too!



Rev. Karen helps John create a container to weave a yard.

## VBS 2023 Food Truck Party inspires and uplifts!

By Rev. Mia MiKyung Park

evident. Additionally, there were those who generously donated decorations, and others who invested their time and energy into setting up the gym. The commitment and dedication of various leaders and volunteers were one of the main strengths at our VBS. Station leaders,

section leaders, shepherds, lunch chefs, and those involved in making name tags and sending out communication emails, all played crucial roles in the smooth operation of each day's activities. It truly took a village to serve VBS.

As the days progressed,

it was amazing to witness the transformation of the children, particularly the younger ones, as they engaged and interacted with their peers. VBS provided a nurturing environment where they could grow, learn, and connect with one another. The seeds of faith and friendship

were sown, and it was a joy to see these young hearts blossom as they participated in various activities and embraced the teachings.

Reflecting on VBS 2023, I am reminded of Psalm 126:5-6, which beautifully captures the essence of our experience: "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves."

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and be a part of VBS 2023. The collective efforts of volunteers, the enthusiasm of the children, and the blessings we experienced have left an indelible mark on my heart. May the spirit of VBS continue to inspire and uplift us, as we carry the lessons learned and the joy shared into our lives beyond this memorable week.

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



**T**his summer has been full! June and July were jam-packed with activities, youth camps, hikes, and film screenings. I also attended our Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Session in mid-June, celebrated Pride Sunday with other Seattle-area reconciling UMC congregations and attended my first Minidoka pilgrimage. I've also been inundated with a series of Supreme Court rulings that have devastating consequences for young people of color, students of all ages, and queer folks. It's been joyful, frustrating, uplifting and exhausting all at once.

Amid all this, I've been thinking a lot about how the Church often fails to connect with young people. My conversations with Blaine young adults, my fellowship cohort in DC, and other ministry colleagues across the country have led me to question the way the Church often frames these struggles. I see churches asking, "How do we attract more young people? How do we convince young people they need the church? How do we get young people to commit to the church?" Though these are valid questions to ask, I don't think they get to the heart of the matter.

I'd like to see the local church asking more self-reflective questions, like: "What's the role of the local church? What is the purpose of our particular church community in this neighborhood at this time in history?" Once a church can identify its context



*The Innovation Hub hosted a viewing of "UnUnited: Fighting for LGBTQ Inclusion in The United Methodist Church" with discussions and fellowship.*

## Innovation Hub Update

# Continuing talks, connections

By Lynne Onishi

and solidify its calling, it can begin to ask different questions. For example, a church may discern that their purpose is to foster community and connect people to the Divine. They may identify that they have a unique calling to be multi-generational, but they are missing a generation of young people. Instead of assuming young people need the church, what if the church asked young people what they needed? The church could ask young people how they want to be welcomed into community or how they connect with God. This leads to an entirely different model of ministry that's rooted in the local church's identity and purpose but doesn't make incorrect assumptions about young people.

During our PNW Annual Conference session in June, I listened along as Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth boldly proclaimed that the Church

is getting out-churched by other organizations and groups that are reaching young people far more effectively. And I must agree. There's so much the Church can learn from other communities. The Innovation Hub team at Blaine Memorial is in a unique position to listen to the needs of young people, learn from other community organizations, and find ways for the church to provide for these needs. But we hope this spreads beyond our small team. To sustain the goodness happening at Blaine Memorial, we need to begin asking different questions on a church-wide, neighborhood-wide, community-wide scale!

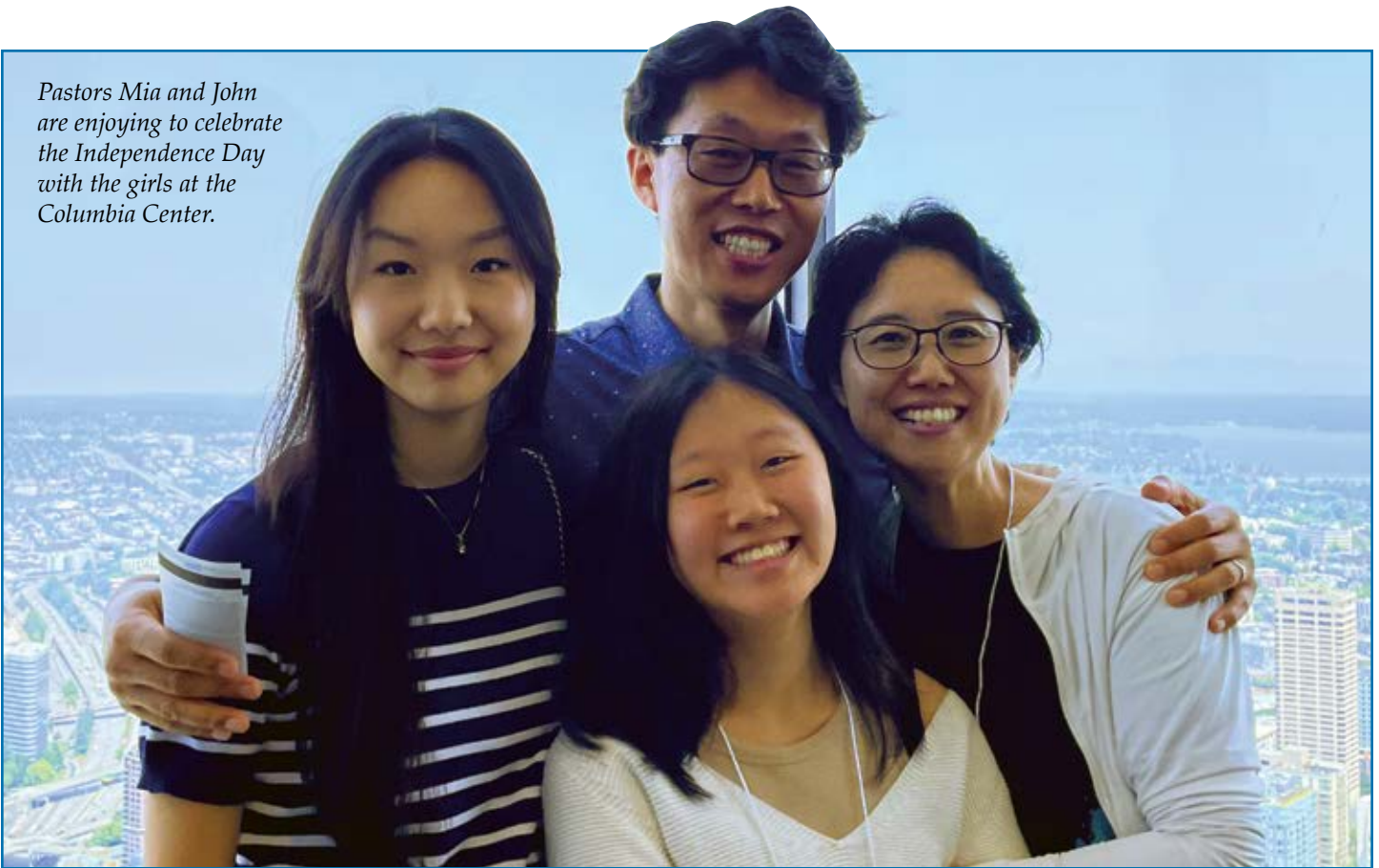
The IH team and RM Task Force are always looking for new folks to join us. If you feel called to lend your voice to these important ministries, we invite you to join us at our

next team Zoom meeting. Please contact Lynne or any of the other team members for more information.

Our Innovation Hub film ministry and Reconciling Ministries teams hosted a documentary and discussion event. We watched the film "UnUnited: Fighting for LGBTQ Inclusion in the United Methodist Church," which chronicled the story of the 2019 General Conference. The film included several interviews with United Methodist pastors and church leaders from across a spectrum of viewpoints. We learned about the UMC's struggle to include and advocate for LGBTQIA+ persons, and we had thoughtful discussions about our role as a United Methodist congregation.

Contact Lynne Onishi (lynneonishi@gmail.com) with questions about the Innovation Hub team or Reconciling Ministries.

Pastors Mia and John are enjoying to celebrate the Independence Day with the girls at the Columbia Center.



## Associate Pastor's Spiritual Reflection

# The Beauty of Responding and Reflection

By the Rev. Mia MiKyung Park



Life is a series of anticipated and unexpected events that shape and test our abilities to resist, adapt, and be flexible. How we react to these events greatly influence our overall well-being and growth. While our initial reactions may be instinctive and immediate, it's essential to learn the beauty of responding and reflecting, so we may navigate life's challenges with grace and wisdom.

I love to plan out events, so when I encountered an unexpected event or when something doesn't go as planned, I become upset with overwhelming annoyance, fear, or frustration. This summer, I experienced many events that did not go as I planned.

My plan to have my mom and a sister in June ended up including my mom, three sisters, and one brother-in-law. During the pandemic, my family's ability to host guests diminished. I thought having two guests at a time would be manageable and thought it would become a great opportunity to begin hosting families in the future.



The family drove alongside the Columbia River Gorge area where the family kept shouting, "It's so gorgeous!"

Having five guests at once for three weeks was a challenge for sure, especially when they had to adjust to a different time zone. It created so much stress and frustration, that I began to blame the situation that I couldn't control or to

Continue to "Making positive changes", page 12

# Aug-Sept Lectionary

Season After Pentecost

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 • Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b  
I Kings 19:9-18 • Psalm 85:8-13 • Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

Genesis 45:1-15 • Psalm 133 • Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Psalm 67 • Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

Exodus 1:8-2:10 • Psalm 124 • Isaiah 51:1-6  
Psalm 138 • Romans 12:1-8 • Matthew 16:13-20

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023

Exodus 3:1-15 • Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Jeremiah 15:15-21 • Psalm 26:1-8 • Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023

Exodus 12:1-14 • Psalm 149 • Ezekiel 33:7-11  
Psalm 119:33-40 • Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20



*The Revs. Mia and Karen take a break at VBS 2023*

## Rev. Mia: Making positive changes

*Continued from previous page*

resent something that I feel I created. My spouse John and I had a couple of intentional conversations because of what we observed from each other in those situations caused us overwhelming stress and frustration. We remembered Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Later, we managed to respond to situations with more gratitude and flexibility by learning to pause, take a step back, and objectively assess the situation instead of reacting with frustration and annoyance. This allows us to make an appropriate response, rather than being driven by our immediate emotions as a reaction.

Now I am reflecting on my family's visit, which I couldn't ask for more. The visit was blessed, beautiful, but chaotic. Each day was full of sharing, laughter, and tears. There were some days when I just needed a separate break from the family, which reminded me that what I feel and experience is important, but it's even more important how I express it.

2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, "So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!"

During the time of reflection, I ask myself: How did I respond initially, and why? Did my response align with my values and long-term goals? What can I learn from this event? By contemplating these questions, I gain self-awareness and clarity, enabling me to make positive changes and avoid repeating past mistakes. The time of reflection provides me with an opportunity to learn from my experience, gain valuable insights, grow as a new creation, and deepen my understanding of the sovereign God.

We recently finished Vacation Bible School 2023. It was certainly a time of growth as individuals and as a community through the lessons of our "Food Truck Party". I am grateful to all who participated with hands to serve, time, donations, and prayers.

The August Bible memorization of the Church School is Micah 6:8, "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

I express my gratitude to all who serve and love our children, youth, and young families.


Let us continue to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God!

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

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# August 2023

Events 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](mailto:blaineoffice@yahoo.com).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Blessing of the Animals</b> (Outdoor Worship) &amp; <b>Holy Communion Sunday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am, Hybrid Worship</li> </ul>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>8</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm, Praise Team Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<p><b>9</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am, Coffee &amp; Prayer</li> <li>• 10:30am Pickleball</li> <li>• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> </ul>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:30am, IH Kubota Garden Meditation Walk (Meet at Blaine)</li> </ul>
<p><b>13</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>• 10am, Church School</li> <li>• 1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> <li>• 1pm, BYG Mission Project with Tent City 3</li> </ul>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm, Zoom Ad Board Zoom Mtg.</li> </ul>	<p><b>16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am, Coffee &amp; Prayer</li> <li>• 10:30am Pickleball</li> <li>• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>• 7pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>• 10am, Church School</li> <li>• 1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm, Zoom Bazaar Mtg.</li> </ul>	<p><b>23</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am, Coffee &amp; Prayer</li> <li>• 10:30am Pickleball</li> <li>• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>24</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>• 7pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:30pm, Shizue Watanabe Celebration of Life and Reception (Open to the public)</li> </ul>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Scholarship Sunday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>• 10am, Church School</li> <li>• 11am, End of Summer BBQ in the Courtyard</li> <li>• 11am, BYG Bake Sale</li> <li>• 1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am, Coffee &amp; Prayer</li> <li>• 10:30am Pickleball</li> <li>• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>• 7pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<p><b>September 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter articles due!</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Communion Sunday</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>• 10am, Church School</li> <li>• 1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <p><b>Labor Day</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Church Office Closed</b></p> <p><b>(Labor Day Holiday)</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9am, Coffee &amp; Prayer</li> <li>• 10:30am Pickleball</li> <li>• 8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>• 7pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dates to Remember</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 10: Rally Sunday and Parents' Meeting after Fellowship Hour</li> <li>• September 17: Celebrating our Pastors who've been reappointed to Blaine! We'll have a Blaine Memorial UMC Potluck! More info. to come!</li> <li>• October 7: Blaine Bazaar from 11am-5pm!</li> </ul>	



# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

*As a Church and people who believe in the power of prayer, let us continue to lift up these persons in the joys and concerns that they are experiencing in their lives.*

## Those mourning the passing of loved ones

- **Akemi Sanaye Kurushima** passed away on August 1, 2023, at the age of 3 months old. She brought immense joy to her family and their friends. She is survived by her parents, Dean and Kara (Chin) Kurushima; grandparents, Michael and Elaine Chin, Jeff and Carol Kurushima; her aunts, Taryn Chin and Kacy Kurushima (Daniel). She's at peace now with our Lord in heaven and being cradled by her family preceding her in death including her namesake and great-grandmother, Sanaye 'Sani' Maekawa and Bill Maekawa. The family will have a Celebration of Life service on September 2, 2023 in Los Angeles, CA.
- **Homer Yasui**, age 98, passed away on July 25, 2023. He is survived by his three children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was born in Hood River, OR, and lived most of his life in Portland, OR. He was a medical doctor and Korean War veteran. Homer will be greatly missed by his family and friends.
- **Satoshi Yamamoto**, 78, passed away at home surrounded by loved ones on July 17, 2023, after a brief but hard-fought battle with a rare aggressive form of cancer. Satoshi is survived by his wife of 51 years Pearl, son Tate Yamamoto (Sayoko), daughter Tara Hiura (Timothy), granddaughters Teia and Talia Hiura, grandson Ryley Yamamoto, siblings Setsuko Hamamoto, Fusako Kamihara, Masaru Yamamoto (Kathleen), Yasuko Yamamoto, Katashi Yamamoto (friend Julie) and preceded in death by parents Hideo and Hide Yamamoto, siblings Noboru Yamamoto, Tadashi Yamamoto, Yoshiko Ishimitsu and Ichiko Ishii. Satoshi was a dedicated husband and father. Working swing shift, he took a large part in raising their two children; teaching them to ride bicycles, practicing sports, and playing in the park. Satoshi was also constantly working around the house while also finding time for his hobbies. He built and maintained the Japanese garden at their home, he continued to customize cars and attend car shows. Satoshi was the ultimate DIY guy. He never failed to go above and beyond to help others. A Celebration of Life service and reception was held on August 2, 2023 at Terry's Kitchen in Bellevue, WA.
- **Shizue Watanabe**, 98, passed away peacefully at Valley Medical Hospital and she was surrounded by her children on Thursday, July 13, 2023. Shizue is survived by her children, Judy Yasutake (Bruce), Glen (Jody), Wendell, Sharon, and Dale (Bif); four grandchildren: Curtis (Joline), Ben, Lucas and Hannah. Shizue was predeceased by her husband, Bill. Shizue enjoyed Minyo dancing, crafting, playing games like "Go Fish" and Hanafuda. She loved her cats and anything that was cat-related. She also loved her family with all her heart. Shizue also was a Tuesday Lady. *A public Celebration of Life service will be at Blaine Memorial UMC on Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 1:30pm.*
- **Tami Mitsui**, 93, passed away peacefully at her home in Renton, WA, on Thursday, July 13, 2023. Tami was surrounded by her family. She is survived by her children, Nancy Fredrick, Jan Davis, Mark Mitsui (Melanie) and Glenn Mitsui (Arlene); seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Sam, in 2019. Tami ran several marathons when she was in her 60s. She ran with Sam throughout her life. A Celebration of Life service and reception was held on August 5, 2023 at Blaine Memorial UMC.
- **George Aoyama**, 96, passed away on April 12, 2023. He is survived by his sister, Anne Moriyasu; daughters, Cindy (Gary) Shimizu, Tami McClincy and Lori Ricord; grandchildren, Drew and Alec Shimizu and Lorissa and Logan Ricord. George grew up in Seattle as a teen and his family was incarcerated at Camp Harmony in Puyallup, and later sent to the Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho during World War II. As a youth and young adult, George played baseball, and later enjoyed bowling at Imperial Lanes in Seattle. He was an avid golfer, a member of the Bayview Nisei Golf Club, and a member of the Nisei Veterans Committee. George served in the U.S. military and was honorably discharged in 1947. George worked in the shipping industry, first for C.T. Takahashi & Co and later retired from Mitsui & Co. George will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

## Those in cancer treatment or remission

- Tony Yasuda • Lesley Cunninham • Duong Nguyen
- Quy Phi • Nikki Palmer • Linda Perry • Doris Fraley
- KT Aegerter • Chuck Sitkin • Dean Tsuchida

## Those in nursing homes or care facilities

- Dorothy Akiyama

## Those with health concerns, recovery

- Madison Kelly, niece of Michael and Elaine Chin
- Bernie Pitts • Its Yokota • Connie Sekijima
- Greg Ogata • Suma Yagi • Wyman Martin
- Marcia Takahashi • Rev. Shigeharu Ago



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**August 2023**



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Ron Nobuyama, George Yates

### 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.



### 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](http://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](mailto: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.

