

Connect with Blaine!

2 | Pastor reappointments!

4 | Bazaar 2023 + Pre-Order QR

5 | Innovation Hub update!



The Blaine Potluck Celebration Returns in 2023!



**NEW KIMBALL
OPENS!**

SEE PAGE 2

**THE VISION
OF BISHOP
BRIDGEFORTH**

SEE PAGE 3

**SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS!**

SEE PAGE 8





Celebrating the reappointments of our pastors for the 2023-2024 year. From (L-R): Deacon Rev. Dr. Mark C. Hearn, Associate Pastor Rev. Mia MiKyung Park, Senior Pastor Rev. Karen Yokota Love and Deacon Rev. Dr. Jeney Park-Hearn.

News from our Senior Pastor

New beginnings

By Rev. Karen Yokota Love, additional photos by Jesse Love

One of the fun things about this time of year is seeing the “first day of school pictures” that are being taken in my neighborhood as I walk for my daily exercise. The children are gathered on the front step or in the driveway of the home, sometimes with the family dog, and mom or dad has the cell phone in hand capturing a few pictures of the “first day” that will likely end up on Facebook or Instagram.

The younger children are usually full of energy with big smiles on their faces and the older youth may not have quite the big smile, but there’s usually some energy in their eyes revealing their eagerness to get back to school to be with friends, etc. A part of the excitement, I hope, is the anticipation of what the children and youth will learn, the new experiences they’ll engage in, and the ways they’ll

grow. I’m sure those thoughts aren’t in their mind, but that’s always an aspect of new beginnings ... and the first day of school is certainly a new beginning.

We recently celebrated the beginning of the new school year at Blaine Memorial with Rally Sunday! We introduced our Church School and BYG directors, leaders and teachers to the congregation. We also blessed backpacks and briefcases.

After three years of witnessing the demolition of the old building at Kimball Elementary and the construction of the new building, our church was invited to attend the grand opening of the new Kimball Elementary School. A group of us walked from Blaine to Kimball (a block away from the church). It was great to be a part of the festivities. The new classrooms, library and cafeteria were some of my favorites.



Rev. Karen and Jesse at the potluck celebration!

Thank you to the Staff Parish and Relations Committee (SPRC) who hosted the first-ever post-pandemic *All Church Potluck* celebrating the reappointments of the pastoral staff. It was so nice to have an abundance and a diverse amount of food from a sushi bake, to pork belly char siu, kimchi fried rice and a lechon (plus, much more)! It was absolutely wonderful to celebrate with members and meet new faces. Thank you, friends, for celebrating and feasting with us!

On **Saturday, October 7**, we’ll have our first **Blaine Memorial Bazaar** since prior to the pandemic. We’ll grill our well-known BBQ chicken. We’ll also serve other popular favorites including udon, curry, ohagi and baked goods. A portion of the proceeds earned will benefit Maui Relief and Recovery through UMCOR.



Blaine Memorial UMC members attended the grand opening of the new Kimball Elementary School. Kimball kept the original sign which is at the front of the entrance.

During the end of September and throughout October, we'll discuss more about Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth's vision for the Greater Northwest Area. Throughout the 2023 Annual Conference season across the Greater Northwest Area, Bishop Cedrick offered a series of messages to provide direction to the area. He uses the acronym, M.I.L.E., and grounds it in the scripture passage from Luke 10:25-37.

M: Ministry that Matters.

Ministry that Matters is about how churches and ministry settings can go outside of themselves to turn from the mirror and look out the window to be part of their communities. Specifically, Bridgeforth preached about the need to be engaged in the work of houselessness and health in our communities.

I: Itineration and location.

Bishop Cedrick encouraged churches to be window people, not mirror people, and spoke about Itineration [and Location] as it relates to clergy who are called to lead and the ministry settings in which they serve. In his sermon, he asked people to think about how we might address inequities in the itineration system within The United Methodist Church to best suit the pastor, church and community in which they are all serving.

L: Lay Ministry Enhancement.

At the opening of the PNW Conference, Bishop Bridgeforth preached about the importance of lay

ministry enhancement as the church changes shape. Laity are already a critical resource in our congregations and ministry settings, but there is a need to equip and empower laity to be a more active voice in our churches and communities we serve.

E: Eliminating Racism.

As people of faith, we need to renew our efforts to eliminate the racism that is pervasive not only in society, but within our congregations, ministry settings and the institution of the church in general. During this sermon at the close of Annual Conference season, Bridgeforth laid out plans for resources to be developed to engage churches and ministry settings in meaningful discussions and evaluate practices that lead to institutional racism and societal harm.

We'll spend most of the end of September and early October on a sermon series that discusses Bishop Bridgeforth's vision of the M.I.L.E. which will lead to discussions on how we, as a local church can implement this vision.

As I watch all of the children head off to school, it also makes me wonder, in what ways am I seeking to learn and grow in the coming year? My belief is there is always something new to learn and ways to grow, so we as human beings should always be stretching, learning, and growing in life and also in our faith.

For us who are Jesus followers,

we realize Jesus was constantly stretching people to think in new ways. In fact, Jesus tended to challenge the people of his day who seemed to act like they had all the answers. After all, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and his Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6) are teachings in which Jesus is saying some pretty bold things and turning people's world or understanding upside-down.

One of the phrases

Jesus speaks in Matthew, Mark, and Luke in the New Testament of the Bible, is "To the one who has ears, let them hear." In a sense it is Jesus' way of challenging people to think in a new way, to gain some new life and faith truths, to hear something new that God might be saying to them. Those words about one's ears just might also be a way of Jesus gently, or not so gently, asking the question, "Is your mind and heart open to the whispers or the voice of God?"

As the children, youth, and even some adults from our community go back to the classroom to learn and grow, may we each reflect for ourselves on learning and growth in our lives.

After all, I believe Jesus is still speaking the words, even to us today, "Let the one who has ears, let them hear." In this upcoming school year may we pick up the Bible, connect with a church member, participate in a small group, or find an online class to take (this is the one I'm putting extra energy into). May we keep on learning, growing, and allowing God to speak into our lives.

As Jesus followers, there is always something new to learn or a new way to grow as we seek to live into God's Kin-dom here on earth. Go in peace and be the hope for our future! To the one who has ears, let them hear!

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



**BLAINE
MEMORIAL UMC'S**

BAZAAR

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7
11AM-5PM 2023

**CHECK
OUT OUR
FARMERS
MARKET!**

.....
plants, produce and more!

**COME JOIN
US FOR SOME
HOMEMADE
JAPANESE FOOD!**

.....
BBQ chicken, Curry rice, Udon,
Homemade pies, Baked goods

A portion of proceeds will be
donated to Maui Relief and
Recovery through UMCOR

TAKE OUT ONLY!

Limited seating available



**PRE-ORDER
HERE**



BLAINE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3001 24th Ave South 98144 206.723.1536

As the summer winds down and we get ready for fall, the Innovation Hub continues (in true innovative fashion) to create spaces for new expressions of ministry. We hope you enjoy some of these photos from our most recent events and the things we're trying!

Kubota Garden Walk

On August 12, a group of congregation members carpooled to Kubota Garden and enjoyed a peaceful morning walk through the park. We talked about the spiritual significance and symbolism in a Japanese garden and then set out for a time of silent reflection. When we came back together as a group, it was interesting to hear what stood out to folks most. We each experienced the silent reflection time in different ways!

Some mentioned seeing wildlife like turtles and blue jays, while others reflected on the peace that accompanied a few minutes of slowing down. I took notice of the flowers blooming around the garden and the way some of them were growing in unexpected directions. I think we all gained something meaningful from setting aside that intentional time for silence and reflection. It made me wonder about how I might find ways to have a snippet of this kind of silence in my everyday life.

Reconciling Ministries Fellowship Hour Drop-In

The Reconciling Ministries team hosted a drop-in activity and Q&A session during social hour on July 30. The team offered



Blaine congregation members visit Kubota Gardens in a contemplative silent walk to mindfully reflect on the symbolic significance of the beautiful Japanese garden before them.

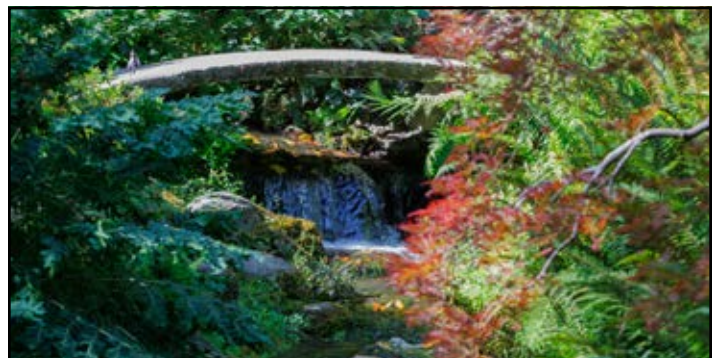
Innovation Hub Update September 2023

By Lynne Onishi

resources, delicious (and beautiful) treats, and space to discuss questions about the reconciling ministry journey. We also asked folks to contribute their hopes for an inclusive future at our church and created a colorful poster with all their responses. We encourage you to check out this poster next time you're in the Social Hall and read about all our hopes and dreams for Blaine Memorial!

The IH team and RM Task Force are always looking for new folks to join us. Please contact Lynne or any of the other team members for more information.

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



Reconciling Ministries drop-in Q&A session.

Scholarship Benefactors

Blaine Memorial UMC

Wishes to thank the families for which the following scholarships are named and the continued support these scholarships give to the youth and families of the recipients.



The Vera Ing Scholarship

The Vera Ing Scholarship has been established to recognize Vera's accomplishments and give a hand up to those with similar circumstances and passion.

Vera was a go-getter, a doer, always engaged in what she set her mind to. When her three children were in grade school, Vera started her college education to quench her thirst for learning more. She attended North Seattle Community College where she earned a degree in Early Childhood Education. She then attended the University of Washington and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Urban Planning. Vera served on the board of the North Seattle Community

College Foundation from 1990 until 1999. She was the board chair from 1994-1997. Vera was the first distinguished alumna in 2002, when the annual award was created. Vera was a strong leader in her community and at Blaine Memorial UMC. She was active in Seattle's International District and in the city since the 1960's. It was important for Vera to give back to the community. This scholarship was awarded to an individual who exemplifies Vera's passion of continuing education to give back and better the community they serve.

The Robert S. Sato Scholarship

The Robert S. Sato Scholarship was established in 2010 at the time of his passing.

The family presented the scholarship to Blaine Memorial UMC as a way to honor him and keep his memory alive. Bob was born in Puyallup, Washington; interned at Minidoka where he was drafted to serve in the 100th Battalion/442 RCT. A Civil Engineer by trade, he earned his degree at the University of Washington and spent a good portion of his career with the Army Corps of Engineers, rising to the position of Assistant Chief of Design. He was both a leader in the Seattle Japanese American community and at Blaine Memorial. He served on the Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, the Administrative Board as Chair, and as co-chair on the Building Committee. He was instrumental in establishing our current Blaine Church facility on 24th Ave South and South Hanford Street. Bob was a wonderful father and husband. He was always a beacon of light for his family, friends, the church and community. His focus on lifelong learning has been instilled in his children, grandchildren and through the scholarship awarded in his name.





Ted and Margaret Yasuda Scholarship

Having arrived at a milestone in their lives – their retirement in 1987 – Ted and Margaret Yasuda established a scholarship at Blaine Memorial UMC, returning this gift to God in gratitude for all the blessings they have received in their lives.

It was their hope that in this way, others may be helped and encouraged as their children were. When the scholarship established, Ted and Margaret wrote, *“Education has been very important to us. As our father said to us during World War II, education of Japanese Americans when we lost everything, ‘put education and knowledge into your head... no one can take that away from*

you.” Margaret Yasuda graduated from Garfield High School and was interned at Minidoka Internment Camp during World War II. Leaving Minidoka to attend Seton Nursing School in Colorado, Mrs. Yasuda was a member of the Nisei Cadet Nurses of World War II. She received her Bachelors of Science in nursing from the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her degree in Public Health Nursing from the University of Washington. Mrs. Yasuda was a nurse with the King County Public Health Department where she worked in the well-baby clinic, on travel immunizations and the visiting nurse division. She married Ted Yasuda in 1950 and they were blessed with 58 years of marriage. Mrs. Yasuda passed away in 2009. Ted Yasuda was interned at Minidoka and served in the 442nd RCT. Mr. Yasuda attended the University of Washington, graduating with a degree in Eastern Asian History and a Masters Degree in Librarianship. Mr. Yasuda worked for Boeing for over 30 years as a Technical Librarian. Mr. Yasuda enjoys gardening, photography, and coming to church. He served as Financial Secretary at Blaine for many years, was involved with Boy Scout Troop 55 and was instrumental in the building of Blaine Memorial UMC at our present site.

The William S. Yorozu Scholarship

William S. Yorozu was a Nisei member of Blaine Memorial UMC from his early youth.

He graduated from Garfield High School in Seattle and earned his degree in Horticulture/Landscape Design from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. After college, he was the owner of a full service landscape, maintenance and construction company, T. Yorozu Gardening Co., started by his father. During his summer months, he hired many Nisei and Sansei high school and college students. He was a firm believer in a good education and was proud that some student employees graduated to become doctors, attorneys and business leaders. The family of William S. Yorozu feels it is fitting to honor his name through scholarships at Blaine Memorial UMC. The scholarships promote a connection with God and help students to achieve their educational goals.



The Blaine Memorial UMC Scholarship

The Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church Educational Scholarships are designed to support the mission of the church through supporting a multitude of educational opportunities.

We are proud to have helped students in their pursuit of continuing education since 1968. We encourage all applicants, from those just entering their next phase of education to those returning to complete or pursue continued education, to apply.

Scholarship Award Recipients 2023!

Congratulations to the 2023 Scholarship Award Recipients! Scholarships were awarded this year to six very deserving young people who are pursuing their higher education. Their awards were based on their demonstrated academic achievement as well as their commitment to church and community.

Kaylee Yokoyama

Awarded a Blaine Memorial UMC Scholarship and a William S. Yorozu Scholarship. Kaylee is the daughter of Jeff and Shelly Yokoyama.



Dear Blaine Congregation and Yorozu Family, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Blaine congregation and the Yorozu Family for their generous support towards my education. I will be heading into my Junior year at the University of Washington, pursuing a degree in psychology. I am planning on using this scholarship towards tuition and textbooks. I am grateful that Blaine's support allows me to pursue my goals and passions in college, becoming a child clinical psychologist. I am super appreciative and take comfort in knowing I have a loving community within Blaine. Thank you again for awarding me these scholarships, and allowing me to pursue higher education.

– Kaylee Yokoyama

Allison Hall

Awarded a Blaine Memorial UMC Scholarship and a Ted and Margaret Yasuda Scholarship. Allison is the granddaughter of the late Rev. Ed Iwamoto and Betty Iwamoto.



Hello, I'm Allison!

I am attending Case Western Reserve University starting this fall, pursuing a degree in Nursing. I am so thankful towards the Blaine Memorial Congregation and to the Yasuda family for their generous support. I will put these Scholarships towards my tuition. Once again, I just wanted to share my gratitude for this support and investment in my higher education. Thank you very much!

– Allison Hall

Kai Yamamoto

Awarded a William S. Yorozu Scholarship and a Robert S. Sato Scholarship. Kai is the son of Dick and Susan Lee Yamamoto.



Hello Blaine community,

Thank you so much for your support as I continue my education at Bellevue College. I would also like to give a special thank you to both the Yorozu and Sato families for sponsoring the scholarships! Although I am entering my third year of college, I am also entering the final year of my program! This Spring, I will be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Cybersecurity. I am very grateful to be able to experience college and take all the amazing classes I have been able to take so far! I can't wait to continue classes this fall and graduate this year!

– Kai Yamamoto

Joshua Santos

Awarded a Blaine Memorial UMC Scholarship. Joshua is the son of Rev. Cruz Edwin Santos and Alma Santos.



Hello Blaine Community, I would like to thank everybody at Blaine Memorial UMC for giving me the opportunity to go to the University of Washington and earn my Bachelors Degree. I will be pursuing a degree in Film. I hope to be able to work on Films and TV Shows after I graduate. I will also use the knowledge I learn to help other churches with video projects, equipment set up, etc. I would also like to thank you for treating us like family. I'm glad to be a part of Blaine and seeing what the future holds for us.

– Joshua Santos

Kobe Yamamoto

Awarded a Blaine Memorial UMC Scholarship and a William S. Yorozu Scholarship. Kobe is the son of Dick and Susan Lee Yamamoto.



I would like to thank the Blaine congregation for their support over the many years in helping me pursue my dreams. I would also like to give a special thanks to the Yorozu family, for the financial support. Blaine has been instrumental to my growth as a student and as a person. Currently, I am a rising Junior at the University of Washington, majoring in Accounting and Information Systems, as well as minoring in Real Estate and the Jack and Ann Rhodes Professional Sales program. The scholarships I have received will go towards paying for tuition and textbooks.

– Kobe Yamamoto



Michelle Yokoyama

Awarded a William S. Yorozu Scholarship. Michelle is the daughter of Jeff and Shelly Yokoyama.



Dear Sato family and Blaine Congregation, I would like to extend my deep appreciation for always supporting me on my academic path to pursue higher education. Thank you to the Sato family for their generosity of the Robert S. Sato scholarship! I will be attending WSU Spokane's location to achieve my degree in the Master of Science Coordinated Program in Dietetics, Nutrition, and Exercise Physiology. I will use the money towards tuition, housing, and books. My career goals are to become a Registered Dietitian and acquire my American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Certification. The pathway I am interested in is to become a clinical dietitian by using my knowledge of nutrition to assist clients. The ACSM Certification will allow me to utilize an exercise plan to help clients with chronic diseases to better their life through nutrition and exercise intervention. My desire is to be able to educate clients in a collaborative and compassionate manner so they can make healthy lifestyle choices. With sincere appreciation, thank you for the scholarship which will help me achieve my goals. I truly appreciate your support!

– Michelle Yokoyama

The Blaine UMC Scholarship Committee

Chair:

Michelle Vaughan

Members:

Collin Ikeda, Joey Ing, Lynne Onishi, Rachel Ono-Lim, Joan Sato Hernandez, Emi Suzuki, Rev. Karen Yokota Love and Christine Yorozu



Pastors John and Mia enjoyed the sunset at Deception Pass on one of their Sabbath days in July.

The Fruitfulness Project Team concluded after about 18 months. They delivered the donations and sandwiches to Tent City 3 and had a final meeting enjoying shaved ice.



Associate Pastor's Spiritual Reflection

“Never place a period where God has placed a comma!”

By the Rev. Mia MiKyung Park

This quote is attributed to comedian Gracie Allen in a letter she wrote to her husband, which was found after her death. As I reflect on this quote, it recalls numerous occasions when I attempted to impose a *period* when God was putting a *comma*. Additionally, I contemplate my intentions of adding *commas* where God was putting a *period*.

I am grateful that God placed a *period* on my ordination process, the Fruitfulness Project, all the summer activities at the church, and a couple of projects with the family during this summer. These events are now closed with a resounding *period*. Additionally, I experienced a situation where God placed a *comma* where I thought there was a *period*. I lost contact with one of my good seminary friends who had supported me greatly during my time in seminary. One night, probably in my second semester, a few of us were preparing for final exams and writing final papers together in the downstairs lounge of the dormitory where we used to study, talk, play ping-pong, and have late-night snacks. That night, I was feeling discouraged by the constant pressure from studying away from the family more than usual. My friend not only prayed for me with other friends but also proofread one of my papers voluntarily before he completed his paper for the same class, enabling me to move on to the next assignments. I was deeply moved by his friendship. However, some difficult challenges arose for him, preventing him from completing his studies. He left the campus during our last semester, but we lost contact with him. It was deeply

heartbreaking for us to disconnect from our dear friend and couldn't help him. I thought it was the end of our friendship. Surprisingly, we reconnected with him in the middle of August when he reached out to one of our group friends. We will soon set up a Zoom meeting to see each other, including my friend, who hadn't been in contact for over four years. What a surprising gift of a *comma*! What I had thought was the end of our friendship turned out to be just a *comma*, and I am very grateful for God's *comma*. When I think it's time for a *period*, God's *comma* opens my mind if it's God's timing for a *comma*. This punctuation pause allows me to take a deep breath, inhale the freshness and excitement of the moment, and oxygenate my mind. Also, God's *period* helps me to move on from the previous situations, knowing and grounding in confidence that God will take care of every situation. Sooner or later, I come to realize from all those experiences of *periods* and *commas* that God has other plans that are way beyond my thoughts and expectations. Those experiences have taught me to open my mind and ground myself in the affirmation of the Bible verse, “*My plans aren't your plans, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans.*” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

For the September's Bible memorization in the Church School, we'll be focusing on **Jeremiah 33:3**: “*Call to me, and I will answer you and reveal to you wondrous and hidden things that you have not known.*”



The BYG youth held our first Bake Sale of the new school year providing delicious treats to help raise funds for our summer camp ministry expenses.



Rev. Mia led a group of youth to make sandwiches for residents at Tent City 3.



We replaced old BYG room ceiling tiles with the help of parents and adult volunteers.

BYG UPDATE BLAINE YOUTH GROUP

By Kai Yamamoto

As the summer is wrapping up and fall is coming upon us, the youth are going back to school, and we are kicking off a new year of BYG! We are very excited to get back into the swing of things and meet on Sundays. Our first BYG meeting was on Rally Sunday, September 10. We also hosted a parent meeting after service during coffee hour to introduce parents to our leadership team and kickoff the new year of BYG. Our BYG leadership team has been hard at work, planning and preparing for the new year of BYG.

Throughout the summer, our BYG leadership team continued to meet and brainstorm a variety of activities for our youth to

participate in this school year. We are so excited to share these activities with our youth. Our team participated in a retreat on September 9th. We used this time to reflect on this past year of BYG, continue to brainstorm, bond, and prepare ourselves for this upcoming year of BYG. Lynne, Kaylee, and I really appreciate the time and dedication our leaders put in to make BYG successful. Without them, BYG would not be the same!

Upcoming Events

BYG Night	Camping Ministries Sunday
Sept. 23	Oct. 15

To prepare for the new school year, the youth took a day to help clean the BYG room. We organized cabinets, drawers and cleaned furniture. We also decorated the room with photos and décor to give new life and a refreshed feeling to our space. Additionally, with the gracious help of parents and adult volunteers, we were able to replace old ceiling tiles. The room has never felt so clean and prepared for a new year of BYG!

But before the youth return to school, they participated in a few activities. In August, Rev. Mia led a group of youth to make sandwiches for residents at Tent City 3. Along with the sandwiches, the youth helped to deliver goodie bags that were made at the Mission Station during VBS for Tent City 3. The youth also held a bake sale at the end of August. The youth always bring their "A" game, baking delicious treats to help sell at our bake sales. Thank you to everyone who attended the bake sale!

We are very excited to kick off the new school year with the youth and we cannot wait to spend an amazing year with them! We hope to see everyone at future events and cannot wait to share more information about our youth events throughout the year.

BYG meets on Sundays at 10:00 AM. We 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.

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.yamamoto@gmail.com and Kaylee Yokoyama, kaylee.yokoyama1@gmail.com

Sept-Oct Lectionary

Season After Pentecost

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Exodus 14:19-31 • Psalm 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 • Genesis 50:15-21 • Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12 • Matthew 18:21-35

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

Exodus 16:2-15 • Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11 • Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30 • Matthew 20:1-16

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

Exodus 17:1-7 • Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 • Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13 • Matthew 21:23-32

A Thank You letter from Church Member Pearl Yamamoto

Dear Blaine Memorial UMC Friends,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you for the outpouring of prayers, love and care over the past several months. It has been overwhelming. I cannot put into words how much I appreciate all of you.

The power of prayer was my sustaining grace through this process. Through your prayers and through our two granddaughters' encouragement for Satoshi, to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he said, YES!

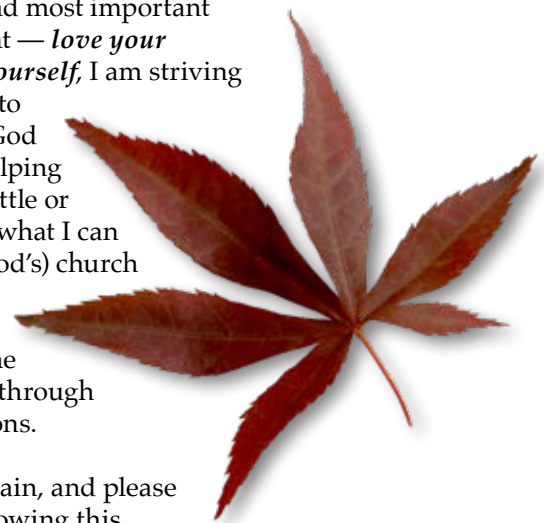
I am at peace now knowing that Satoshi (my late husband) is in Heaven and I will meet him again when the Lord calls me. Now, I cannot sit back and wallow in my sorrow.

I will never forget the 51 years of marriage that we shared together. Nor will I forget the seven years prior to marriage that we spent when we hung together sharing our joys including two wonderful children and three grandchildren. We also walked through many trials together. I will continue to persevere. As the Word of God says:

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.' (Matthew 22:37b-40)

In God's second most important commandment — *love your neighbor as yourself*, I am striving to do all I can to do wherever God leads me in helping others. With little or no skills, I do what I can to help our (God's) church reach out to let others know about the love of Christ through everyday actions.

Thank you, again, and please join me in following this important commandment and doing all you can to support Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church and the people it serves.



Spiritual Formation

The Farmer

By Anne Arakaki-Lock

We can never say thank you enough. Gratitude is magical. It's so therapeutic. I will strive to make gratitude my go-to, my pick-me-upper tool as I felt lifted up by simply experiencing thanksgiving first-hand on an almond farm.

One only needs to talk to a hard-working farmer to see the utmost respect and gratitude for God's creation, as expressed by a caring spirit. The other day I had the privilege of witnessing a farmer's labor of love. He showed me his 30-year old almond grove, rows and rows of trees painstakingly nurtured. They were healthy and robust, having produced nuts year after year for market. Proudly, the farmer shared the importance of good soil, the need to control weeds, the value of fertilizing (even to the point of including his son's chemistry knowledge to research a recipe for fertilizer).

Then there were the precious tractors for every need — the mower to contain the grass and weeds, the raker, the fertilizer, the tree shaker, the harvest gatherer (I forgot the name of that one). I learned the value of the rams, lubricants and belts, and duh, the need for a sweeper attachment in front of and behind the big wheels so that the harvested almonds shaken to the ground would not get crushed by the tractor. Of course, there is always attention given to water, too — the wells, the river source, and the climate.



Susan and Jim Tanioka from Merced, CA visit with Anne to explain the labor of love that they dedicate their lives to!



Mr. Jim Tanioka explains the balance of nature as he labors to produce almonds for the past 30+ years!

"I sing for joy at the works of your hands. How great are your works, O Lord, how profound your thoughts!"
Psalm 92:4-5.

My field trip to the almond farm made me feel and get to know God even more. I saw more humbly the brilliance of His creation and the intricacies of what it takes to maintain and grow Nature. Of course, my little brain cannot even come close to truly, truly understanding all of God's miracles and His design of our world.

But the weekend made me thankful and brought me so much closer to our Master Farmer. I feel like I know God a little more now.

Thank you, Mr. Tanioka, for opening my eyes to the love and work it takes for me to enjoy God's almond. Rev. Karen's wonderful uncle from Merced, CA was my weekend farmer-teacher.

"I give thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart." Psalm 138:1

This page is
intentionally
left blank.



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 had a Celebration of Life service on September 2, 2023 at Centenary UMC in Los Angeles, CA.
- **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. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church or charity of your choice. On August, 2, 2023, a burial service was held at Sunset Hills Memorial Park and Funeral Home followed by a Celebration of Life service and reception at Terry's Kitchen in Bellevue, WA.

Those in cancer treatment or remission

- Jennifer Lew • Tony Yasuda • Lesley Cuninham
- 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 • Bernie Pitts • Its Yokota
- Greg Ogata • Suma Yagi • Wyman Martin
- Marcia Takahashi • Rev. Shigeharu Ago

Celebrations

- Congratulations to all who are celebrating **September birthdays and anniversaries!**
- Congratulations to the Blaine Memorial UMC scholarship recipients!

- Congratulations to all of our students who returned to school! Study hard! Have a wonderful year!
- Congratulations to Blaine Memorial UMC for the celebrations and the reappointment of our pastors: Rev. Karen, Rev. Mia, Rev. Jeney and Rev. Mark!
- Congratulations to Kimball Elementary School on the completion of the new building and new equipment! May our children learn and grown exponentially!

For our United Methodist Church

- We continue to pray for the safety of our LGBTQI+ siblings and for a just, inclusive future within The United Methodist Church. We pray that we are guided by the Holy Spirit with love and hope. We pray for a world where all people are celebrated and loved, where their rights are secured and where their sexual and gender diversity is valued.

For our community, nation, and world

- Prayers for the death of a neighbor in the recent shooting on 25th Ave. S. and McClellan Street. We pray for the families who grieve this neighbor, including the Blaine Memorial community. Our hearts are broken with pain for these senseless deaths caused by gun violence. Let our voices be raised by asking our legislators to enact gun laws to protect all in our society, especially those most vulnerable.
- Prayers for our unhoused siblings in our neighborhood, in the City of Seattle, in our state, and across the country. May we improve the systems so that our unhoused can be housed. May they receive the care and support necessary to find adequate housing.
- Prayers for the thousands of people who have perished in the Eastern Libya floods on September 10. Prayers as the death toll continues to be on the rise. We pray for the survivors as they grieve the loss of their loved ones and as the begin to rebuild from the floods.
- Prayers for the thousands of people who entered eternity after a devastating 6.8-magnitude earthquake in Morocco on September 8. We pray for family and friends who continue to search for loved ones. May you guide and comfort our Moroccan siblings during this tragedy.
- Prayers to the fire victims, family, friends and ohana in Lahaina, Maui, due to the raging wildfires. We pray for all of the people who perished in the fires and for each person who continues to search for those who are missing. We pray for financial support and aid so it can help in the rebuilding and recovery of Lahaina.
- Prayers for justice and fairness for those worst hit by our changing climate. We know people living in extreme poverty around the world are worst hit by the climate crisis but have done the least to contribute to it.

Change service requested

September 2023

Connect with Blaine!

(206) 723-1536 • blaineonline.org • blaineoffice@yahoo.com • Instagram: @blaineumc_seattle • onrealm.org/BlaineMemorial



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

Rev. Karen Yokota Love
Rev. Mia MiKyung Park
Eugene Onishi
Sai Hanaoka
Lynne Onishi
Kai Yamamoto
Kaylee Yokoyama
Kathy Onishi
Yuki Sofronas
Mimi Mar

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

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



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.

