

# Beacon

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4 Rev. Mia's Celebration Potluck!

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April-May 2024 • Vol. 45, #4 • [blaineonline.org/beacon-news](http://blaineonline.org/beacon-news)



## STUDENTS



Scholarship  
Season  
is now!



## BYG

Appreciating  
God's Gifts



### Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church



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*Keiko and Susan Yanagihara anxiously await for Easter worship to begin.*



*Yoshi L. gets ready to place a flower on the cross.*



*The Blaine Youth Group served a delicious Easter Breakfast consisting of eggs, fruit, pancakes, and sausages in support of Blaine's Camping Ministries.*



*(Top) Adrien Piro helps her son organize Easter eggs while (right) Jason Lew and Howard Nakase carry in the Flowered Cross into the Sanctuary during Easter Sunday Service.*



# Hallelujah, rest and renewal during Eastertide

By The Rev. Karen Yokota Love, photo by Ryan Kozu

**H**allelujah! Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Christ is risen, indeed! I greet you with the miracle of Easter during this Eastertide season.

Thank you to each of you who attended Blaine's Easter Sunday festivities this year! For the second year in a row since the pandemic, the Blaine Youth Group (BYG) worked passionately to prepare a delicious Easter Breakfast with all the fixings – scrambled eggs, mini smokies, fruit, cinnamon rolls, and much more. The altar was covered in lilies with white and gold touches. Howard Nakase, Jason Lew and Ron Nobuyama carried in the flowered cross during the processional. It magnified the sanctuary. Our Church School Teachers and BYG filled and hid 450 Easter Eggs in the Courtyard. The sun was shining and it was a perfect Easter morning – incredibly special with Christ's love surrounding us with breakfast, the flowering of the cross, a dynamic worship service and an Egg Hunt. Thank you for a special Easter, Blaine Memorial. Christ Is Risen, Indeed!

During this Eastertide, and after serving full-time as a United Methodist minister for the past 10 years, I am taking a one month vacation with Jesse for rest and renewal in May. This is the first extended vacation that I am taking since my appointed time at Blaine Memorial UMC and it is fully supported and encouraged by SPRC.

Rest and renewal are deeply entrenched biblical principles; Jesus himself would often take time from active ministry to be with God. In the same way, I am grateful that the SPRC Team encourages to provide rhythms of rest and restoration to your spiritual leaders at Blaine. I plan on using this time to let the Holy Spirit teach myself as well as the congregation to guide us and prepare us so that we can be ready to do vibrant ministry for the upcoming year. I ask for your prayers



*The Rev. Karen Yokota Love and Jesse Love celebrate Easter Sunday, placing flowers on the cross at Blaine Memorial UMC.*

for me and our staff and worship team here at Blaine Memorial UMC. I believe that God has great things planned for us!

Rev. Mia will oversee all duties at Blaine Memorial from May 1-31, 2024. On March 17, 2024 during worship, Arlene Naganawa, our esteemed SPRC Chair, announced that Rev. Mia MiKyung Park is to be appointed to Redeemer United Methodist Church in Kingston, WA as of July 1, 2024. Rev. Mia's last day at Blaine Memorial UMC will be on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. From now until then, she will focus on wrapping up her work with current ministries that she oversees with the Children and Youth. I'm grateful for all of Rev. Mia's work and her heartfelt ministry and I ask that we continue to enjoy her gifts, graces and presence. May God grant us faith and love as God leads us through this transition. Please come to her celebration send-off party on Sunday, June 9 with one of Blaine's famous potlucks! Take a look at page 4 for more information.

During the month of May, there *will not* be a June printed newsletter. Our next newsletter will be the July/August issue. Any pertinent news will be emailed through Realm during this time. If you'd like to receive emails,

please contact the Blaine Office at [blaineoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:blaineoffice@yahoo.com).

In addition to the talented staff and leaders, many others will step in to fulfill areas of my role. I am fortunate that our ministers and staff are more than capable and ready to take on preaching, pastoral care, and administrative responsibilities. SPRC and Ad Board will also be available to support the ministers and staff in whatever ways necessary during this time. Our chairpersons are well-equipped to handle their various ministry teams, and our staff members are ready to help our ministries succeed to the fullest. I appreciate being at a church that cares about my self-care. I know that I can take a month off with a peaceful heart and mind because the church is not only in good shape, it's also in good hands.

Thank you in advance for your understanding, and for playing your part while Jesse and I are away. May you be blessed every step of your path by the great God of light. I will see you upon my return and I'll be ready to serve! Peace to you.

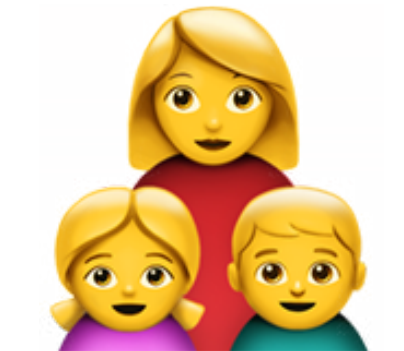
*The Rev. Karen Yokota Love serves as the Senior Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC.*

# Important Announcements!



## Zoom Christian Parenting Webinar • May 9, 2024

Join us for a special Zoom Christian Parenting Webinar on Thursday, May 9 at 7 pm. Our guest speaker is Rev. Dr. KilJae Park from the Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church. Contact Rev. Mia for more details.



## Celebration Farewell Potluck for the Rev. Mia • June 9, 2024

It is such a great joy to celebrate and send off our Associate Pastor, Rev. Mia MiKyung Park as she receives a new call and embarks onward to her new appointment at Redeemer UMC in Kingston, WA on July 1, 2024! We'll honor Rev. Mia's ministry by sending her off well. In addition, we will also celebrate our graduates and confirmands on June 9.

What better way is there to show our appreciation and love to Rev. Mia, our graduates and confirmands than by having a Blaine potluck? We are asking folks to contribute! (If you are single, just bring one item.) We hope you can join us!

<b>A-H:</b> Main Dish/Dessert	<b>I-S:</b> Main Dish/Salad	<b>T-Z:</b> Main Dish/Rice
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## Mother's Day Brunch • May 12, 2024

Join us as we honor the women and those who identify as women at Blaine Memorial UMC on Sunday, May 12 from 8:30am-10am and then again, after worship. During this time, we will honor, remember, and show our love to our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts, sisters, cousins, wives, teachers, mentors, and all the women in our lives that have influenced and shaped us into the people who we are today. We need your help all men and those who identify as men at Blaine Memorial to prepare the breakfast beginning at 6am. Thank you to Howard Nakase for chairing this year's Mother's Day breakfast!

## Summer Youth Camps Schedule • See Dates

<b>Jr. High Camp</b> <b>Incoming</b> <b>6th-9th grade</b>  <b>June 23-28, 2024</b> Camp Lodestar 6135 Blue Mountain Rd. Wilseyville, CA 95257	<b>Asian Camp</b> <b>Incoming</b> <b>10th-2nd year college</b>  July 14-19, 2024 Camp Gilmore 26801 Dorothy Dr. Calabasas, CA 91302
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For inquiries, please email [blainememyouth@gmail.com](mailto:blainememyouth@gmail.com).

## Vacation Bible School 2024 • Four Sundays

Save these Sunday dates for VBS!

<b>July 28</b>	<b>August 4</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>August 18</b>

**Theme:** Operation Restoration - Mending God's World  
**Time:** 10 am to 12 pm, including lunch.  
**Registration:** \$20 per Sunday per child.  
**Location:** Blaine Memorial Church School Classroom.  
**Email [blainevbs@gmail.com](mailto:blainevbs@gmail.com) to enroll now!**



# Educational Scholarships 2024

Application period open through **May 15, 2024**

By Michelle Vaughan

**T**he 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.

We are blessed to offer these scholarships under the following criteria:

### **Vera Ing Community College/Trade School Scholarship**

Established in 2016. Award(s) will be made to those pursuing continued education through community colleges and/or technical/trade schools.

**Other Eligibility Opportunities/Community Based Internships:** There is also opportunity for a scholarship to support an internship for a nonprofit or community organization.

### **Yasuda Scholarship**

Award(s) will be made to high school seniors or college undergraduate.

### **William S. Yorozu Scholarship**

Awards will be made to a college sophomore, junior or senior and to a graduate student.

### **Robert and Lucy Sato Scholarship**

Award(s) will be made to a college undergraduate and/or graduate student pursuing a degree in Engineering, Mathematics, Nursing, Science, Technology or related fields of study.

### **Blaine Memorial Scholarship**

Award(s) will be made to high school seniors, community college, technical/trade school, and/or college undergraduate or graduate student.

Applications are available through emailing **BlaineUMCScholarships@gmail.com** or through the church office. All scholarships will consider, but are not limited to, elements such as grades (if applicable), personal essay, church participation and finances.

Applications and two (2) letters of recommendation must be received no later than May 15, 2024 for consideration. We are looking forward to applicants excited about pursuing their education.

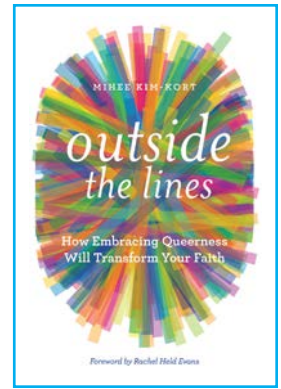
*Michelle Vaughan serves as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee at Blaine Memorial UMC.*

## Easter Lily Contributors 2024

<p><b>Barbara &amp; Dick Nagaoka</b> In loving memory of Hiram &amp; Helen Akita; Pat &amp; Wayne Miyahira; Jane Akita</p>	<p><b>Elaine &amp; Michael Chin</b> In loving memory of Akemi Kurushima; Bill &amp; Sani Maekawa; Shig &amp; Marianne Tada; Linda Chin</p>	<p><b>Pearl Yamamoto</b> In loving memory of Satoshi Yamamoto</p>	<p><b>Mike &amp; Marcia Takahashi</b> In loving memory of Yuki Takahashi; In honor of Rumi Takahashi.</p>
<p><b>Christine Yorozu</b> In loving memory of Richard Smith; William &amp; Yae Yorozu</p>	<p><b>Betty Iwamoto</b> In loving memory of Rev. Ed Iwamoto</p>	<p><b>Mark &amp; Melanie Mitsui</b> In loving memory of Sam Mitsui and Tami Mitsui</p>	<p><b>Dorothy Rutherford</b> In loving memory of Ed Zumoto</p>
<p><b>Margaret Inouye</b> In loving memory of Paul &amp; Ann Inouye</p>	<p><b>Steve &amp; Yuki Sofronas</b> Happy Easter!</p>	<p><b>Marti Murakami</b> In loving memory of Chet Murakami</p>	<p><b>Paul &amp; Carmen Tsuboi Chan</b> In loving memory of Frank A. &amp; Dorothy Tsuboi; Ngan Yung Chan</p>
<p><b>Rev. Mia MiKyung Park</b> In loving memory of my Father, Soon Jae Park</p>	<p><b>Cal &amp; Lorraine Hoshibata</b> In honor of Blaine Memorial UMC's Technology Team</p>	<p><b>Rev. Karen &amp; Jesse Yokota-Love</b> In honor of Itsuo &amp; Liz Yokota; Arthur &amp; Irma Love</p>	<p><b>Anne Arakaki-Lock &amp; Steve Lock</b> In loving memory of Elaine &amp; Yasuo Arakaki</p>
<p><b>Bruce &amp; Judy Yasutake</b> In loving memory of Bill &amp; Shiz Watanabe; Tosh &amp; Fumi Yasutake</p>	<p><b>Lesley &amp; Brian Okura</b> In loving memory of Betty Maekawa; Pam Okura; Tomoko Kuwanoe</p>	<p><b>Carol Okano</b> In loving memory of Bob Okano &amp; Bob Klimek</p>	<p><b>Kim Akimoto</b> In loving memory of Fusako Akimoto</p>
<p><b>Revs. Jeney Park-Hearn, Mark Hearn, with Emma</b> In loving memory of Rev. Dr. Sung Sang Park</p>	<p><b>Dale Watanabe</b> In loving memory of parents, Bill &amp; Shizue</p>	<p><b>Donna &amp; Bob Sekijima</b> In loving memory of Harpo &amp; Toki Sekijima; Bob &amp; Mariam Watanabe</p>	<p><b>Susan Yanagihara</b> In loving memory of William Hayashi DeOliveira; Talia Jaide Ni Dufaigh</p>
<p><b>Masami Blowers &amp; Aka Pasoquen</b> In loving memory of Hugh Blowers; Naeyo Blowers; Norman Blowers; Grandma Pasoquen; Grandpa Pasoquen; Mykelti Scanlan</p>	<p><b>Steve &amp; Karen Koza</b> In loving memory of Sam &amp; Aya Koza; Jerry Suzuki; Fumi Kojima</p>	<p><b>Fay Tanagi</b> Happy Easter!</p>	<p><b>Pam &amp; David Yorozu</b> In loving memory of William &amp; Yae Yorozu</p>
<p><b>Lucille &amp; Prentice Henry</b> Happy Easter!</p>	<p><b>Liza Hicks</b> In loving memory of Margie Smith</p>	<p><b>Miriam Smith</b> In loving memory of Margie Smith</p>	<p><b>Debbie Hisayasu &amp; Ken Ronan</b> In celebration of Easter</p>
<p><b>Grace Fukutomi</b> In loving memory of Frank Oki, Hisako Oki, Ken Fukutomi, Paula Oki</p>	<p><b>Anonymous Donor</b></p>	<p><b>Keiko Hart</b> In loving memory of Miyoko Kodama &amp; Kei Yasuhara</p>	



*The Founder's Gate at Kyoto's Higashi Hongan-ji Temple was a magnificent sight!*



**Spring Reconciling Ministries Book Study**

The Reconciling team is hosting a book study this Spring. We're reading the book Outside the Lines by author and pastor Mihee Kim-Kort.

Kim-Kort's book explores the relationship between queerness and spirituality. Queerness is not only an identity that many of us hold but a lens through which we can begin to understand God's love for us.

This book study is open to anyone who would like to participate! The Book Study Group will meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM on Zoom throughout the month of April. We will read and discuss one chapter per week and open up space for questions, reflections, and sharing with one another. Contact Lynne for more information.

## Innovation Hub Update

### A Yonsei's Journey to Japan

By Lynne Onishi

Upcoming Events		
<p><b>Book Study Meetings</b> Thursdays (Zoom) 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Bob Ross Painting Night</b> Saturday, April 20 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Young Adult Hike</b> Date &amp; Time TBD</p>

**T**adaima! I'm home from Japan! I had the immense privilege of visiting my ancestral homelands for the first time in February and March. Along with a couple of friends, I got to sightsee, explore cities, eat delicious food, and learn about the history and culture of a place and people I've long felt disconnected from as a Yonsei (fourth-generation Japanese American). I had hoped this trip might help me discover new facets of myself.

Though I anticipated new experiences, I was unprepared for my time in Japan to re-affirm what I already felt and knew about myself, my family, and my community. In this new country where I could barely grasp the language at all, I was surprised each time something felt familiar or reminded me of home. Whether it was the hospitality I received at a small ryokan (inn) or the community care I saw firsthand as strangers helped an elderly rider board the train, I couldn't help but notice the way these experiences reinforced what I've always wanted to believe about people: humans really do care for one another.

It can be hard to believe that when our news feeds are full of violence, war, and death. But I pray we are all part of a community which actively reinforces these truths about humanity through the way we care for one another and our neighborhood. The love we share and steward in this faith community is evidence of God's kin-dom here on Earth. May it continue to be so.

**Young Adult Hiking Ministry is Back!**

The Young Adults went on a hike at Rattlesnake Ledge near North Bend in March. They enjoyed time together and a meal afterward. As the weather warms up this Spring and Summer, join them for future hikes on some of our area's most beautiful trails!

*The Innovation Hub and Reconciling Ministries Teams 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. Questions? Send an email to [lynneonishi@gmail.com](mailto:lynneonishi@gmail.com)*

# BYG MERCH UPDATE



## How can we appreciate God's gifts?

By Kai Yamamoto and Kaylee Yokoyama

### "Gratitude for the Lenten Journey"

Lent, a time of reflection, a time to develop your relationship with God and those around you. In BYG, we learned about the three pillars of Lent, which are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We also talked about what is one thing we could do for Lent that focuses on one of these pillars.

This year for Lent, I gave up playing video games (fasting). I play video games mostly to pass time and socialize with my friends. I really missed this social time with my friends, as some of my friends live in another state, so I am not able to do much with them while school is in session. But the thing I missed most was that I was able to pass time and mindlessly play video games, without worrying too much about what is going on in the world around me. This past week, while I was reading a chapter about Lent in a book called "Soul Feast" by Marjorie J. Thompson, the author talks about forms of fasting which are not related to food, such as abstaining from using social media, or for me abstaining from playing video games. The author stated, "abstinence is to learn rightly to enjoy God's gifts." After reading the chapter, this sentence stood out to me. I thought about how grateful I am for video games. Although I get mad and upset at these games, I should always be grateful for all the people who poured in their time and energy to create these games. And I should be grateful for every single person who helped me get to



*What are some things we took for granted during Lent that we appreciate having now?*

the point of enjoying video games.

But as I began to think more about "learning rightly to enjoy God's gifts," I thought about my current role in BYG. I reflected on my time as a Youth, and how everything ran so seamlessly. Everything was so smooth, and there was no hiccups in our events and activities. And now that I help to plan these events and activities, I found a new appreciation for everyone who helped to make each event and activity successful. - Kai Yamamoto

Edwin Santos, Lynne Onishi, Katelyn N., and Emma H. all sport Blaine Youth Group T-shirts!

### "Confirmation Classes and Blaine Merch!"

Throughout April and May, the Blaine Youth Group will hold confirmation classes led by the Rev. Mia MiKyung Park. The purpose of the confirmation classes are for youth to reflect on their relationship with God and to reaffirm/understand the meaning of Christianity. There are a total of eight confirmation classes that will help Blaine's youth explore their faith through journaling, watching videos, and reading scripture. At the end of the confirmation classes, BYG will head to Camp Indianola where the youth can further their understanding of God by spending time with one another, scripture reading, and participating in other faith-focused activities.

The Blaine Youth Group is also excited to announce that we are selling BYG merchandise! This includes t-shirts, hoodies, hats, tote bags, and stickers. BYG is planning on selling our merch to fund-raise for camping ministries. Thank you to Jem Tong for your time and talents in creating this amazing BYG merch!

Thank you Blaine for supporting youth throughout various events! Please make sure to keep a look out for upcoming BYG events, news, and announcements.

- Kaylee Yokoyama



Contact members of the Blaine Youth Group to purchase your own shirts, hoodies, and more in support of camping ministries!

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.

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. BYG has a space for any person who is interested and all are welcome.

### Upcoming Events

Zoom Christian Parenting Webinar  
May 9

Confirmation Class Session 5  
May 12

Confirmation Class Session 6  
May 16

Confirmation Retreat Session 7 & 8 @ Indianola  
May 26-27

### Contact Information

Director of Youth Ministry  
Lynne Onishi  
lynneonishi@gmail.com

Associate Directors of Youth Ministry  
Kai Yamamoto and Kaylee Yokoyama  
kai.yamamo@gmail.com, kaylee.yokoyama1@gmail.com





## Associate Pastor's Spiritual Reflection Nurturing the Faith and Spirit of Blaine Memorial UMC

By the Rev. Mia MiKyung Park

**T**he blooming of flowers heralds the arrival of warm and gentle weather, bringing a rush of excitement to my heart. Amidst the ministries at Blaine Memorial and with my family, I find myself brimming with gratitude in this spring—from Lent, through Easter Sunday, and into this time of Eastertide. One particularly sunny morning during Lent, with the air filled with promise, I decided to go outside and spend time with Nooni, our ten-month-old puppy, whatever satisfied us both. I allowed Nooni to play while I set about pulling weeds and admiring the flowers. The soil yielded easily, the tiny weeds' shallow roots offering little resistance. After about 30 minutes of diligent weeding and tending to the flowers, a portion of our front lawn looked revitalized. Despite not being a gardening expert, I derive immense joy from caring for plants and trees. Through trial and error, I've learned valuable lessons, gradually becoming more adept at tending to the plants surrounding our parsonage.

My mother is an expert in caring

for plants and boasts an impressive collection in her living room, each lovingly tended to with care. She speaks to her plants (I know some of you do the same), treating them with the same tenderness she shows to loved ones. Her approach emphasizes the uniqueness of each plant, acknowledging that a one-size-fits-all approach simply won't do. With careful attention to detail, she ensures each plant receives the specific care it needs, whether it's cleaning their leaves, fertilizing the soil, providing enough sunlight and water, or less, etc. And when pruning is necessary, it's done with the plant's well-being in mind rather than its appearance.

In the quiet moments spent tending to plants, I find joy and gratitude for the wisdom passed down from my mother. I'm reminded of the profound truth that growth, whether of plants or souls, requires patience, care, and diligence. It's a reminder of the divine interconnectedness that binds us all together and the importance of nurturing the roots of faith to produce bountiful fruits of love, compassion, and understanding.

As the days grow warmer and Mother's Day draws near, I'm reminded of the valuable lessons my mother imparted on plant care. As a pastor, I find myself drawing parallels between nurturing plants and nurturing souls. Just as a plant requires the right conditions to thrive, so do individuals. People require spiritual guidance, support, and love to flourish in their faith journeys.

Church School's May memorization is John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." My prayer for our children is for them to root their faith in our risen Christ, grow healthy, and produce abundant fruit in their future.

May God continue to bless our ministries at Blaine Memorial and I pray for your well-being and wish you a blessed spring!

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

### Upcoming Events

#### **Vacation Bible School Sunday** Sundays, 7/28, 8/4, 8/11, and 8/14 10am-12:30pm (with lunch)

This year's theme is "Operation Restoration - Mending God's World"

Registration for each Sunday per child will be \$20  
(Note: siblings will have a different fee, TBD.)

#### **Zoom Christian Parenting Webinar** Thursday, May 9, 7pm

For all Church School and BYG parents!  
Guest speaker: The Rev. Dr. KilJae Park from  
The Greater New Jersey Conference  
of The United Methodist Church.

# Lectionary Readings



*During this Easter season, what purpose can we serve while reflecting on the meaning of Resurrection?*

## Spiritual Formation Center Do you love me?

By Anne Arakaki-Lock

**D**uring Lent we read about several New Testament characters and their transformation after the Resurrection. In “The Third Day: Living the Resurrection”, author Tom Berlin made reference to **John 21:15-17. Three times Jesus asks “Simon son of John, do you love me?” When Peter answered yes, Jesus told him to feed his sheep.**

I had read this passage several times before, but during this Lenten study, God’s voice was loud and clear. Maybe it was because we were working on the Sukiyaki dinner and in planning it, we said over and over we want to reach the community. Or maybe because we’ve been playing pickleball and I’ve been excited about all the new people coming to the Lee Center during the week to play. It’s been a *sports ministry*. Or just maybe, I had been working on my aunt’s eulogy that I would be giving in Hawaii. My sweet, generous, loving Auntie was the example of kindness, lover of all babies, caretaker and second parent to struggling nieces and nephews all her life. When she passed away, my cousins and I knew that we had a duty to take all that love we had received from Auntie and had the job to give it back to others. We had a purpose, like Peter.

Each of us may be transformed when we accept the Resurrection. We give our life to Christ and truly believe and shout, “Christ is risen indeed.” As the author of our Lenten study book says, “we can be certain that like Peter, Jesus has entrusted each of us with a commission. **“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” -Romans 8:28.**

*Anne Arakaki-Lock is a member of Blaine Memorial UMC.*

### Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024

\*Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

### Fourth Sunday of Easter April 21, 2024

\*Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

### Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024

\*Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

### Sixth Sunday of Easter May 5, 2024

\*Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

### Ascension of the Lord May 9, 2024

\*Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

### Seventh Sunday of Easter May 12, 2024

*(If Ascension not observed here)*

\*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

### Day of Pentecost May 19, 2024

\*Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

*\*During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible. On the Day of Pentecost, if the Old Testament passage from Ezekiel is chosen for the first reading, the passage from Acts is used as the second reading.*

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## 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

- Rev. Dr. Hiroyasu Iwabuchi, 83, a beloved clergy member of the United Methodist Church, passed away suddenly on Monday, April 15, 2024. He was at home in Japan with his wife, Hiroko. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Hiroko Iwabuchi in Japan, and their two children: Maya Iwabuchi (Matthias) in Scotland, and Luke Iwabuchi in Japan. Rev. Hiro served at Blaine Memorial UMC for 21 years. Once he retired on June 30, 2020, he continued to meet with Blaine's Nichigo congregation for monthly Zoom Bible Studies where he would teach from Japan. Rev. Hiro embodied a deep prophetic faith and had vast knowledge of the Bible. Throughout his ordained career, he served in Yokohama, Japan, West LA UMC in Los Angeles, and Japanese American United Church in New York, NY.
- Fusako Akimoto, 91, a beloved church member, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2024. Fusako is survived by daughter Kim Akimoto and son Randy Akimoto; sister Luana Yoshino, sister-in-law Alice Uyeda, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. A public Celebration of Life service was held on Saturday, April 20, 2024. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.
- Adelaida "Aida" Corsilles, 79, passed away peacefully on March 31, 2024. Aida is survived by her children: Rev. Dione Corsilles (Sarah); Michael Corsilles (Eunice); Michelle Ambrosio (Paul); and Jay Corsilles; seven grandchildren and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Aida attended Blaine Memorial UMC while Rev. Dione was serving this church and in the process, made many friends. Aida's viewing was held on Thursday, April 11, and her Celebration of Life Service was held on Friday, April 12 at Beacon United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.
- Dorothy Akiyama, 88, a beloved church member passed away peacefully on March 7, 2024. Dorothy is survived by daughter Pamela Akiyama and daughter Karen Williams (George); grandchildren Kyle and Jill Williams; sisters Ruth Schargus and Ida Price. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church.

### Those in cancer treatment or remission

- Jennifer Lew • Tony Yasuda
- Duong Nguyen • Quy Phi
- Nikki Palmer • Linda Perry
- Chuck Sitkin • Dean Tsuchida • Katie Tat

### Those with health concerns, recovery

- Dick Nagaoka • Sumi Yoshioka • Pui Chung Ngao Wong
- Madison Kelly • Greg Ogata • Sam Wakasugi
- Suma Yagi • Wyman Martin
- Marcia Takahashi • Rev. Shigeharu Ago

### Celebrations

- Congratulations to Rev. Mia MiKyung Park who will be appointed to Redeemer UMC in Kingston, WA on July 1, 2024. We celebrate her new appointment and pray for Rev. Mia as she begins the transition process of departing from Blaine and moving into a new ministry context.
- Congratulations on the success of Blaine's Sukiyaki Benefit Fundraiser! Riverton Park UMC Migrant Support Services is this year's beneficiary. Thank you for raising funds to help the migrants who are living outside of Riverton Park UMC and thank you for the abundance of blankets. The blankets were blessed during worship and delivered to the migrants on Friday, March 22, 2024. They were ecstatic upon receiving them. Thank you to all of the volunteers who put their faith and heart into this ministry event!
- Congratulations to all who are celebrating April and May birthdays and anniversaries!

### For our United Methodist Church

- We pray for the United Methodist Church's General Conference (April 23-May 3) as they gather for a time of holy conferencing. Bless the laity and clergy from around the world who are together in Charlotte, North Carolina. Fill them with your wisdom. Send your spirit of unity and cooperation that together they may faithfully discern your way forward for the church we love.
- We continue to pray for the safety of our LGBTQIA+ siblings and for a just, inclusive future within The United Methodist Church. We pray that we are guided by love and the hope 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 our unhoused siblings in our neighborhood, in the City of Seattle, in the state of Washington, and across the country. May we improve systems so that our unhoused can be housed.
- Prayers for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the violence and war. We pray for peace and reconciliation for people in the Israel-Hamas War. We pray for those who are dead and for the families who grieve. We pray for peace between the two regions.

# April-May 2024

Visit [blaineonline.org/calendar](http://blaineonline.org/calendar) for updates. The Church Office is open Tuesday-Friday (10am-12pm, 1pm-4pm). If you have questions, please email [blaineoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:blaineoffice@yahoo.com) or call 206-723-1536.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>April 14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>10am, BYG Gathering</li> <li>10am, Church School</li> <li>12pm, Girl Scouts</li> <li>1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00am, Coffee &amp; Prayer w/Rev. Karen</li> <li>10:30am, Pickleball</li> <li>6pm, SASC Meeting</li> <li>8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>18</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>6:30pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm, Pickleball</li> <li>7:30pm, Volleyball</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4pm, Private Party</li> </ul>
<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>10am, BYG Gathering</li> <li>10am, Church School</li> <li>1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>22</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>23</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<b>24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00am, Coffee &amp; Prayer w/Rev. Karen</li> <li>10:30am, Pickleball</li> <li>7:00pm, SPRC Meeting</li> <li>8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>6:30pm, Blaine Basketball</li> <li>7:00, Ad Board Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm, Pickleball</li> <li>7:30pm, Volleyball</li> </ul>	<b>27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am, Church Council of Greater Seattle (LAC)</li> </ul>
<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>10am, BYG Gathering</li> <li>10am, Church School</li> <li>1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>29</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00am, Yoga</li> <li>11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga</li> <li>7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<b>May 1</b> <b>First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00am, Coffee &amp; Prayer w/ Rev. Mia</li> <li>10:30am, Pickleball</li> <li>8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>6:30pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm, Pickleball</li> <li>9:30am, CCM Mtg.</li> <li>7:30pm, Volleyball</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am, Pickleball (LAC)</li> <li>6pm, BYG Night</li> </ul>
<b>5</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>10am, BYG Gathering</li> <li>10am, Church School</li> <li>1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00am, Yoga</li> <li>11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga</li> <li>7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00am, Coffee &amp; Prayer w/ Rev. Mia</li> <li>10:30am, Pickleball</li> <li>8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>6:30pm, Blaine Basketball</li> <li>7pm, Zoom Christian Parenting Webinar</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm, Pickleball</li> <li>7:30pm, Volleyball</li> </ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am, Pickleball (LAC)</li> </ul>
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am, Breakfast</li> <li>10am, Hybrid Worship</li> <li>10am, BYG Gathering</li> <li>10am, Church School</li> <li>12pm, Girl Scouts</li> <li>1pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00am, Yoga</li> <li>11:30am, Zoom Gentle Yoga</li> <li>7:30pm, Zoom BYG Leaders Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm, Minidoka Pilgrimage</li> <li>7pm, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blaine Scholarship Deadline</li> <li>9:00am, Coffee &amp; Prayer w/ Rev. Mia</li> <li>10:30am, Pickleball</li> <li>8pm Zoom Church School Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12pm, B.U.G.S. Ukulele</li> <li>6:30pm, Blaine Basketball</li> </ul>	<b>Upcoming Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 1: First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month</li> <li>June 2: BYG Graduation Party</li> <li>June 9: Rev. Mia MiKyung Park's Farewell Celebration, Graduate Sunday, Confirmation Sunday</li> <li>June 13-16: PNW Annual Conference Sessions in Richland, WA.</li> <li>June 23: Blaine's Music Sunday</li> <li>June 30: Pride Celebration at Seattle First UMC and City of Seattle</li> <li>August 25: Scholarship Sunday</li> </ul>	



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**April-May 2024**



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Associate Pastor  
Choir Director  
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BYG Director  
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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 UMC celebrates God’s gift of diversity and values 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.



**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.

