

# THE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2015

## FROM THE PASTOR

As many of you know, Tom and I just returned from a two-week trip to Japan. Our first day in Tokyo we toured Aoyama Gakuin University, where Hikari and Junta Tani are students (They and their father Akihiro were baptized in our church back in 2001). The school began as a girl's school in the late 1800's, founded by a 23 year old American missionary. Today it is one of the most prestigious private schools with about 20,000 students from kindergarten through graduate school. They provide a liberal education and introduction to Christian faith for many students.

We also toured Doshisha University in Kyoto, another Christian school founded by a Japanese missionary, Joseph Hardy Neeshima. For hundreds of years, Japan was closed off to foreigners, and Christianity was suppressed by the government. But Neeshima managed to stow away on a ship to the United States as a teenager. He attended high school in Boston and was baptized. He went on to study at Amherst College and then

Andover Newton Seminary. In 1874 he was the first Japanese man to be ordained as a Protestant minister. When he returned to Japan, he helped establish the Doshisha English School which later became the University. Today we were told that while only about 3% of the college freshmen enter as Christians, about 20% identify as Christian by the time they graduate. We also noticed that in this Christian school, there were no crosses in the chapels, or anywhere on campus. We were told it was because the cross was associated with victory and domination. They prefer to use the crown of thorns as the symbol of their faith.

Less than 1% of the population of Japan is Christian. Most of the Protestant churches are small with many elderly members. We visited the largest Protestant church in Kyoto, the Marutamachi Church (U.C.C.) on October 25<sup>th</sup>. They are about the same size as our church, with a small Sunday School of 5 to 10 children. They were happy to welcome us, and we enjoyed conversations during lunch after worship.



## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: WED., THUR. & FRI.  
9 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. & 1-2:30 P.M.**

They host an all-church lunch every Sunday and it is a good time for people to connect and build community.

Our second Sunday in Japan we visited a smaller church in Nagoya, the Nihan Kirisuto Kyodan. We stayed in an apartment owned by the church, with a friend of mine who has been living in Japan for the past 40 years. He introduced us to another side of Japan, inviting us to march in the Nagoya Gay Pride. Continued on Page 2

## HEADLINERS

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**HOLIDAY FAIR,** See pages 3, 4, & 5

**KOREAN HAND-EMBROIDERY EXHIBIT - NOVEMBER 15,** More information page 2

**CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION NEEDS YOUR HELP,** See page 8

From the Pastor (continued)

Parade, and to lead a Saturday evening Bible study for people who identify as a sexual minority (lesbian, gay, and transgender). Most of the Bible study participants do not attend any church, but are interested in learning more about Christianity. And we helped to convey the message of God's welcome to all.

Besides the universities and churches, we visited five different shrines and temples, three museums, two castles and one island, Miyajima. We were especially moved by the Peace Museum in Hiroshima which documented the horrendous effects of the atomic bomb. Japan is a beautiful country whose people have lived through much hardship and disaster. Still, they have a rich history and deep spirituality, and it was an honor to be able to visit and experience it for ourselves.

Blessing,  
Debra Given

### **Korean Hand-Embroidery Exhibit**

A month long exhibit of traditional Korean Hand Embroidery by Kumjoo Ahn will begin on Sunday November 15, 2015 at the Presbyterian Church in Leonia..

Bo-ja-gi dates from the Cho-Sen dynasty (1392-1910). in Korea. Traditional Korean hand embroidery is made by tiny needles and only by hand. Bojagi is not only the top of the textile art and the composite art but also expresses a prayer by women for their family and descendants to succeed, live long, be healthy, and be wealthy. These hand-embroidered works, using everyday humble items- such as thimbles, needle cushions and key rings, are regarded as important works which have the auspicious symbols directly related to securing one's good fortune.

The opening of Kumjoo Ahn's exhibit will be followed by a reception in the Fireplace Room after the morning Worship Service.

Kumjoo Ahn (K.J.) will also be conducting workshops. Dates will soon be announced. She has conducted workshops and lectured in New Zealand, Korea, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Malaysia and France.

For further information please contact the Church at 201-944-1358 or Kumjoo Ahn at [ahnkumjoo@gmail.com](mailto:ahnkumjoo@gmail.com), [kjooahn@empass.com](mailto:kjooahn@empass.com).



## **COME, LET US WORSHIP GOD...**

### **Sunday, November 1 10:30 a.m. All Saints Day**

Service for the Lord's Day, will include  
Lighting Candles of Remembrance  
Rev. Fran Thiessen will preach

After Worship: Choir Practice & Bible Study

### **Sunday, November 8, 10:30 a.m.**

Service for the Lord's Day will include a  
celebration of the Lord's Supper  
3-5 p.m. Japanese Language Worship

### **Sunday, November 15, 10:30 a.m.**

#### **PLEDGE SUNDAY**

Service for the Lord's Day

### **Sunday, November 22, Christ the King Sunday**

**10:30 a.m.** Service for the Lord's  
Day

### **Tuesday, November 24**

**8:00 p.m.** Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
at Leonia Presbyterian Church

### **Sunday, November 29, 1st Sunday in Advent**

## *Happy Birthday*

November 8	Hannah Chen
November 18	Irene Ziganto
November 19	Laura McGarry
November 21	Phyllis Sharpe
November 27	Stephanie Laboy





## JAM SESSION

Player or audience, everyone is welcome! Bring your instruments and play with pros. Don't worry, any level of player is welcome! If you don't know Jazz, or you don't have any plans on **Friday, November 13, 8-10 p.m.**—you are welcome to play or just listen. A small donation will be accepted to cover utility costs. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m.

Led by:

- Michael Hinton (Piano)
- Yoshi Koyama (Sax)
- April Johnson (Keyboard)
- Yoshi Hosuke (Base)
- Shai Rodriguez (Drums)
- Mike Ito (Guitar)

## PLEDGE SUNDAY

Don't forget to put **Stewardship Sunday, November 15th** on your worship schedule! Please bring your annual pledge to church that day and join us for light refreshments after worship as we await the total amount pledged. If you can't be there on the 15th or if you live at a distance, you may mail your pledge information to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Shanno at 201-944-4603.



## HOLIDAY FAIR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 9:30 to 3:00

**COME JOIN THE FESTIVITIES.** Do you need baked goods for Thanksgiving? The Fair is the perfect spot to pick up pies, breads and all kinds of delicious treats. Are you trying to figure out what gifts you need for Christmas? Check out the Christmas craft table for wonderful decorations or that perfect gift you need for someone special. Do you think it's going to be a long, cold winter? Stock up on some books from the book table. Hungry? Come and enjoy our homemade soup, chili and sandwich luncheon. Feeling lucky? Take a chance on our large assortment of themed baskets at the Tricky Tray raffle. Be sure to bring the little ones; there will be things to keep them busy for a time while you shop, shop, shop!

Remember lunch will be served from 11:30 to 1:00. You will also be able to buy homemade soups or chili to bring home and enjoy.

If you would like to volunteer your time, please fill out a sign up sheet in the bulletin and hand it to Karen Peters or leave in the offering plate. The Holiday Fair is the church's biggest fundraiser that contributes to the church's budget. Please support your church home and bring your friends and family!

# HOLIDAY FAIR

*SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015*

*9:30 A.M. - 3 P.M.*

*SOUP, CHILI, SANDWICH LUNCH - SERVED 11:30 - 1 P.M.*

Your generosity, support and time is needed to help us make this  
annual major fundraiser a success!

**Please sign up to assist in one of the following ways:**

I am willing to:

- ☐ 1. Help set up Friday night (11/21) at 7 p.m.
- ☐ 2. Help clean up Saturday beginning at 3 p.m.
- ☐ 3. Help in the kitchen with the Lunch on Saturday ( Karen Peters)
- ☐ 4. Help serve lunch
- ☐ 5. Help clean up after lunch on Saturday
- ☐ 6. Help sell at any table on Saturday - \_\_\_\_\_ (hours I can work)
- ☐ 7. Bake for Baked Goods table - can be dropped off Friday from 7-9 p.m. or Saturday morning
- ☐ 8. Make soup, chili or California Rolls for lunch (please circle which you will make)
- ☐ 9. Post fliers around town (in stores, etc.)
- ☐ 10. Loan a card table for lunch seating

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please consider donating some of these needed items:**

BAKED GOODS: Popular items are breads, muffins, pies, jellies, jams, cookies and brownies

BOOKS/CDS/DVDS: Please **NO** text or professional books

BOTTLE TABLE: New **unopened** bottles containing anything - *from shampoo to champagne!*

KIDS CORNER: New or **very** gently used toys, books and games. Any toys not sold at the Fair will be given to a charity or daycare facility

TRICKY TRAY RAFFLE BASKETS: New or unopened, gently used gifts/items to be used in theme baskets (i.e. Thanksgiving, baking, photo) which will be raffled off ~ **please provide these items by Nov. 18.**

We already have a few wonderful raffle prizes, but if you have a business or work for one that will generously donate something to raffle, please let us know!

Please contact Karen Peters (201-592-8413 or [jkmk142@aol.com](mailto:jkmk142@aol.com)) with any questions.

# ABUNDANT JOY, OVERFLOWING GENEROSITY

## ESTIMATE OF GIVING/COMMITMENT 2016

We thank you for your generous acceptance of stewardship and pray you may find the level of giving that is right for you as you progress in your journey of faith. Your pledges and contributions will help make a difference in our church, our community, and our world.

Please complete this estimate of giving, and return it in the offering plate or to the church office. You may change your commitment at any time by notifying Rev. Given.

If you have questions regarding this card, call Susan Shanno at 201-944-4603 or Rev. Given at 201-944-1358.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes! I/We will support the Presbyterian Church in Leonia in the year 2016.**

### **Choose One:**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ weekly for 52 weeks

\$\_\_\_\_\_ semi-monthly for 24 periods

\$-\_\_\_\_\_ monthly for 12 months

\$\_\_\_\_\_ as follows \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_ Per Capita Contribution (\$ 38.15 per member) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like information on how to provide for the Presbyterian Church in Leonia in my/our will.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to give through electronic funds transfer from my/our bank.

**Monthly Schedule for Ushers**

November 1	Susan Dindial, Rae Giannuzzi & Karen Peters
November 8	Linda McGarry, Jack Peters & Tom Topousis
November 15	Jeff Im, Elin Park & Anne Stebbins
November 22	Christine Banas, Kristen Richter & Lisa VanDeWeert
November 29	Hwan Hee Kang, Esther Jeong & Roberta Toolen

**Monthly Schedule for Offering Counters**

November 1	Ginny Brown & Fumio Ito
November 8	Olivia Taylor & David Voreacos
November 15	Jonathan Phillips & Pete Shanno
November 22	Hung Kune Shim & Fumio Ito
November 29	Ginny Brown & Olivia Taylor

**Nursery Volunteers**

November 1	Vicky Li
November 8	Lisa or Joe VanDeWeert
November 15	Kristen Richter
November 22	Sarah Han
November 29	Linda McGarry

**DO YOU NEED HELP?**

The leaves are falling and holidays are coming. Maybe the company you work for needs a person to do cleaning? Delio Castellanos, (201-702-6618) our church custodian can help. Please give him a call and see what he can do for you.

**HOLIDAY FAIR LUNCHEON**

One of the highlights of the Holiday Fair on **November 21** will be the luncheon, where you can take a break from shopping at the Fair and enjoy a delicious meal. Join us between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. The lunch is homemade by our fabulous cooks, and the price is quite reasonable.

Please let us know if you are willing to make a pot of soup or chili, a dessert, or work in the kitchen cooking and filling orders. As always, we will ask our young people to be servers, so those volunteers are needed too. If you are able to help defray the cost of the luncheon, we would appreciate any donation you can make. There will be a sign up sheet, inserts in the bulletin that can be filled out and returned, or call or email Karen Peters (201-592-8413) for any information regarding the Luncheon.



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## CENTER FOR FOOD ACTION

### NEEDS YOUR HELP TO GET THANKSGIVING DINNER ON THE TABLE

Your support is urgently needed now so that thousands of local families will be able to put food on their tables this Thanksgiving.

#### **Giving Locally = Helping Locally**

“A Thanksgiving dinner would not have happened at our house without the wonderful food package you provided. I can’t begin to tell you what it meant to me to put that turkey and all the fixings on the table for my family to enjoy. The left-overs lasted us three days-that too was a blessing. Thank you from the depths of my heart.” - past recipient of a CFA Thanksgiving Food Package.

Here’s what they need:

Supermarket Certificates—\$20, frozen turkeys, hearty soups, canned vegetables & canned yams, gravy, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, pasta & pasta sauce, 100% juice and canned fruit.

CFA is planning to distribute over 3000 thanksgiving meal packages this year!