



Chapel Chimes

727 T Street, Sacramento, CA • December 2023

Dear Friends,

I made my first trip “across the pond” to England for my 3rd year of college. The phrase, “coming home to a place I’d never been before” described my experience that year as I became enamored with all things English. The charming accents and hospitable people, the green countryside intersected with stone fencing older than time itself, the signs that said, “Mind (not watch) Your Head” and the ever-civil, “Do Not Allow Your Dog to Foul the Pavement.” It was in England that I discovered my true calling as a cookie connoisseur. Though they call them biscuits, not cookies, the massive quantity I consumed that year – with countless cups of tea – no doubt earned me a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

I was reminded that Chelsea inherited this cookie-appreciating gene from me when I got a call from her recently as she was trying to track down her favorite childhood Christmas cookies. “Mom, they were in a green bag. Let me send you a picture.” “OK,” I said, “but you know the best Christmas cookies ever are Archways Bells and Stars.” “No way,” she said, “these are the ones I loved. I used to rip the bag open, and it would tear down the side, and I’d eat them while I was playing Playstation.” I looked at the picture of the Christmas cookies she sent and yes, they looked familiar. But I also saw the bold type overlay on the picture that said SOLD OUT. We wouldn’t be ordering them this year. But when it comes to tracking down cookies, the Naves are not easily thwarted. “Why don’t you call the company and see which stores sell them.” “Will do,” she said, “I really want some!” That’s my girl!



Chelsea is hankering for Christmas sugar cookies chock full of memories and preservatives.

What do you get nostalgic for when the holidays roll around? When our extended family gathers around a holiday table, the meal isn’t complete without my mother’s cranberry salad. My oldest sister makes it now, but when we taste it, it’s like Mom is at the table with us again. For some of us, it’s music that stirs up seasonal memories. Not the 24/7 holiday songs we’ve been hearing in every store since before Halloween. Majestic carols or Handel’s artistry, accompanied by brass, that transport us back to midnight mass or Christmas Eve services filled with Santa’s-on-the-way hopes and holy mystery. For me, hearing Nat King Cole sing about roasting chestnuts conjures up the smell of a white pine, since we always had his Christmas album on while decorating our tree.

What makes us feel “at home” may depend on a variety of things, but we all know it when it happens. We feel safe, and accepted, and part of the family. Despite the twinkling lights in holiday windows, when we look out at the world these days, it can seem so dark. War, violence, hunger and misery seem to be everywhere. This can make us feel anxious and helpless. What can we do in our little corner of life that can have any effect on world events? The usual answer is: nothing. So we’re tempted to opt out and join the hand-wringers with a Bah! Humbug! that only compounds the despair. We need to rediscover the courage it takes to see possibilities for hope and healing. To take back the power and creativity God has given us to bring renewal and encouragement to our world. There is huge spiritual energy that opens when we focus our intention towards God and transformation. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

What if, along with the baking and decorating and wrapping and gifting this year, we decided to bring the power of prayer and blessing with us wherever we go? What if we choose to focus on being forces of renewal, agents of transformation, powered by God’s Spirit, and by Christmas cookies and holiday beverages? Could we welcome others who feel unloved and unchosen and make them feel “at home”? Nostalgia is a powerful thing. So is blessing. What if this holiday season we each think of ways to strengthen the presence of God’s blessing we carry through the world? What if we filled our homes and our lives with a spirit of welcome and kindness that makes others want to relax and stay a while? And create some magical memories while we were at it? “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1)

God bless us every one, that we may be a blessing,
Pastor Sarah

News

Report from Session

At the November 16 meeting of Session, the following matters were reported, voted upon, and/or discussed:



- Healing Prayer Expenses – Voted to reimburse Pastor for additional expense of \$1,675 incurred for healing prayer workshop number three;
- Social Hall Lighting Update – The lighting fixtures that will replace the existing fixtures in the social hall are still being researched. Several of the existing fixtures cannot be repaired and the light coming from them is inadequate, especially at night. Hobrecht Lighting and other vendors will be contacted for advice and assistance. Initial research shows that new fixtures will be costly. Session agreed that the purchase will be paid from the reserve as a capital expenditure;
- Parkview's Donation to Ukrainian Church – the recent fundraising for Pastor Bilborus' church raised \$2,075. Session agreed that the wire transfer fee of approximately \$40 will be paid from the funds raised;
- Safety and Security Grant Update – William Yee reported that Parkview has received a bid to replace the existing wooden fence with a wrought iron fence. Outdoor lighting will soon be installed;
- Staff Evaluations – currently being conducted by the Personnel committee whose members are Lori Hart, Jonathan Sakakibara, Judy Fukuman, and William Yee;

Pastor Sarah Reports:

- Holy Listening Sessions will begin in January 2024. Four sessions are planned that will last from 1 to 1-1/2 hours. Time will be spent in quiet prayer and reflection;
- Evacuation Drill – an evacuation drill will take place on November 19 so that the congregation can learn the escape routes and become sensitive to the importance of such practice drills;
- Unhoused Individual Update – kudos to Pastor Sarah, Kris Sazaki, and Hach Yasumura, for their assistance with Joseph, who had been living in a tent in front of Parkview for the past several months. The city removed his belongings that blocked the sidewalk and Joseph has moved. Many calls to city officials were made to assist Joseph with his move;
- Water Leak – Despite diligence with water usage, another leak of unknown origin has been detected.

- Kris Sazaki continues to research this issue;
- Parkview's Wooden Sign – the sign has been beautifully refurbished by Stan Umeda and we are determining where it should be hung;

Future Events:

- January 2024 – fitness event to be held on 2 Sundays after worship to be led by Pastor Sarah;
- Summerfest 2024 – June 23, 2024

- Terri Bowman, Clerk of Session
Steve Hanway, Pattie Hashimoto,
Donna Komure-Toyama
Irene Uno, William Yee

Winter Warmth Collection

Throughout the month of December, Parkview is collecting **NEW** clothing items throughout the month of December to distribute to people living in tents and in the parks.



Volunteers will then create blessings bags that the church family can give to people in need. Blessings bags will also be given to the Respite Center at Westminster Church and WIND Youth Services. Items we are collecting:

- warm hats
- gloves
- ponchos
- scarves
- socks
- outerwear like vests and jackets, any **adult size**, including XL-XXL sizes

Bring them during worship service or contact officemanager@parkviewpc.org to arrange a drop off. Thank you in advance for these blessings you are sharing!



News

Thanksgiving Showtime Showcases Talent

On November 12, the second annual Thanksgiving Showtime was held in our sanctuary. There were lots of smiling faces and an air of joy and excitement at what has become one of Parkview's favorite events. There were several musical performances, a poem recitation, the sharing of photos on the screen, dancing, and even exercise! The showtime was followed by the sharing of the "baking talent," and it was so fun to indulge in the eating of cookies and sweets. Here are a couple of comments from our own members:



- "I enjoyed all of it. I would not change anything. It's always fun to see the people's performances of all ages and various cultural backgrounds. Our church is fortunate to have so many talented people."
- Linda Yasumura
- "I especially like the diversity of performances/exhibits and the inclusion of young performers. There was joy and fun in our shared time together. Fellowship after was so nice."
- Judy Yee

People's gratitude for the season was shown by the donation of \$2501 to Parkview during the Showtime.

You can view the slideshow at <https://parkviewpc.org/2023/11/17/2023-thanksgiving-showtime-is-one-for-the-books/>.



Miko Kumagai performs taiko and teaches the kids, too

Many thanks to the performers for their participation:

- Cap City Brass Group
- Tia Kilpatrick
- Liam Wright
- Miko Kumagai
- Jonathan Sakakibara
- David Fong
- Hannah Davis
- Haruko Sakakibara
- Photography Club
- Sakura Chorus
- Donna Komure-Toyama
- Titus Toyama (emcee)
- Judy Fukuman, Tak Fukuman (ushers)

- Submitted by Haruko Sakakibara

Parkview Thanksgiving Celebration

On November 19, the casual coffee hour evolved into a wonderful Thanksgiving feast everyone enjoyed! Many thanks to Jana Nakase-Lee, who volunteered to make two big turkeys in the kitchen, a fond reminder of how the Nisei women used to do it. All the trimmings came together quickly, and our tables were covered with an amazing array of delicious food and desserts to celebrate Thanksgiving. The fellowship was just wonderful. Many thanks to Carla Hart, Jana Nakase-Lee, Miko Kumagai, Christine Umeda and PPW for making this happen!! You can view the slideshow at <https://parkviewpc.org/2023/11/20/celebrating-thanksgiving-together/>.

- Submitted by Haruko Sakakibara



Jana Nakase-Lee preps one of two turkeys, with other organizers working in the background.

News

Mission Possible: SSIP

The mission of the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership (SSIP) Food Closet is to provide emergency food and assist in alleviating food insecurity for our Sacramento neighbors. In 2023, SSIP provided nutritious food for a record number of clients, projected to be 65,000 households by the year's end. This is a 43% increase from last year! It is a daunting challenge, and at times we wonder where the food and help will come from. Yet for over 50 years, the resources have materialized and our mission accomplished.



As one of the faith-based partners in SSIP, Parkview has a core group of volunteers who help organize, pack, and distribute approximately 30 lbs. of food for each of the more than 250 families who come to the door each day. Thank you volunteers! And thank you to everyone who has provided boxes, egg cartons, and rubber bands. More volunteers would be appreciated. If you would like to join the spirit of goodwill and giving, please contact SSIP's volunteer coordinator at <https://www.ssipfoodcloset.org/volunteer>.

The generous donors who recognize the great needs of the community in these demanding economic times are another reason for the success of SSIP's mission. Our donors keep the food on our shelves so that we can put food on the tables of our low-income neighbors. You may donate at <https://www.ssipfoodcloset.org/give>. Please see SSIP's 2022 Annual Report to see the impact of your donation: <https://www.ssipfoodcloset.org/impact>.

- Submitted by Carla Hart



Volunteer Spotlight: Luda Wright

Parkview is fueled by its volunteers, many working behind the scenes to keep the church going.

Luda has served the church as a greeter and usher. She also prepares delicious foods for coffee hours and special events. Thank you, Luda, for all you do!



Lights, Camera, Fencing - Update

The main focus of the safety and security team is to improve the safety and security around Parkview Presbyterian Church. The California State Nonprofit Security Grant awarded to Parkview will provide needed funds to make some major security improvements. Based on the vulnerability assessment report that was prepared for Parkview by the Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit of the Central California Intelligence Center, the safety and security team has reviewed and considered the recommendations to address our outdoor security needs for lighting, cameras, securing exterior doors, and fencing.

The lighting project is proceeding as a priority with plans to brighten up the front entrance and around the building at night by installing new light fixtures to increase security. As we solicit bids from electricians for the project, we will also take this opportunity to assess our electrical needs to properly install the selected light fixtures. We hope to begin the light installation project within the next month.

The security camera project turned into a learning experience for the security team because of the many camera systems available that range from simple to complex with an abundance of options. Just deciding the number of cameras needed and the level of technical options for the camera and recording system will take extra time. Having received security camera system bids ranging upwards to \$35,000, the team will be deciding how best to allocate the security grant funds to select a camera recording system that will provide adequate coverage for the church grounds.

For the security fencing project, wrought iron fencing will replace the existing wooden fences, and new fencing will be installed in front of the Kansha. No doubt, the existing wood fencing has given Parkview a design scheme that reflects the church's distinct character and heritage over the years. However, the choice for wrought iron fencing material is strongly recommended by the vulnerability assessment report to strengthen the security around the entire church property.

- Submitted by
Safety and Security Team Members
Maurine Huang
Lois Van Beers
Hach Yasumura
William Yee

Upcoming Events

Worship with Us In Person or Online:

You can find login info for worship and Zoom meetings as well as worship programs at <https://parkviewpc.org/>.

Dec: No Bible Study.

Bible study resumes. Jan 9.



Dec 10: Poinsettias for Parkview!

Starting December 10, please bring a poinsettia to church to help decorate the sanctuary. Tags will be available, if you would like to donate your poinsettia in honor of someone or something. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Dec 10: Worship Service. 10 am.

Worship Leader - Titus Toyama
Japanese Reader - Mieko Davis
Pianist - Nancy Arata-Fong
Zoom Moderator/Greeter - Judy Yee
Sound System - Kazu Nozue
Parking - Tak Fukuman
Parking Barriers (Sat) - Russ Hart
Ushers - Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Greeters - Judy Fukuman, Pattie Hashimoto
Altar Flowers - Jerry & Marilyn Champa

Dec 10: Gingerbread House Decorating

Bring your friends and family to create unique gingerbread houses. Cost is \$15 per house. Pay on the day of the event. Contact Cathy Nishizaki, if you wish to participate: tel. 916.207.7168 or email cathyjnish@gmail.com. Click here to view the full-sized poster. Many thanks to Hannah, Sora, and Mieko Davis for the wonderful poster!



Dec 13: **Worship Team Meeting.** 5:20 pm via Zoom.

Dec 13: **Choir Practice.** 7 pm in the social hall.

Dec 14: **Session Meeting.** 1 pm in the social hall.

Dec 17: **Worship Service.** 10 am.

Worship Leader - Christine Umeda

Japanese Reader - Miyo Uchida

Pianist - Nancy Arata-Fong

Zoom Moderator/Greeter - Aki Kumagai

Sound System - Tom Tambara

Parking - Phillip Chew

Parking Barriers (Sat) - Jonathan Sakakibara

Ushers - Maurine Huang, Donna Komure-Toyama

Greeters - Tia Kilpatrick, Irene Uno

Altar Flowers - Tom Tambara, Wade Tambara

YES - Julie Chew

Dec 20: **Choir Practice.** 7 pm in the social hall.

Dec 24: **Worship Service.** 10 am.

Worship Leader - Jonathan Sakakibara

Japanese Reader - Michael Wright

Pianist - Janet Hill

Zoom Moderator/Greeter - Lori Hart

Sound System - Lois Van Beers

Parking - Carl Odell

Parking Barriers (Sat) - Neil Matsuoka

Ushers - Betsy Eskridge, Irene Uno

Greeters - Pattie Hashimoto,

Gary Younglove

Altar Flowers - Lynn Yamamoto

Coffee Time - PPW Circle 2

Dec 25: **Pastor Sarah on Vacation.** Thru Dec 29.

Dec 27: **Choir on Break.** Resumes Jan 10.



Upcoming Events

Dec 31: Worship Service. 10 am.
Worship Leader - Phillip Chew
Japanese Reader - Michael Wright
Pianist - Janet Hill
Zoom Moderator/Greeter - Lois Van Beers
Sound System - Jonathan Sakakibara
Parking - Russ Hart
Parking Barriers (Sat) - William Yee
Ushers - Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove
Greeters - Leah Nishizaki, Cathy Nishizaki
Altar Flowers - Sue Goodwin

Dec 31: Newsletter Deadline. 5 pm. Email photos and/or articles (350 word max.) to officemanager@parkviewpc.org.

Jan 2: Prayer Team Meeting. 7:15 pm.

Jan 3: Holy Listening in 2024. Noon and 5:30 pm at Parkview.

On Wednesdays in the month of January. Gather for times of Holy Listening at Parkview. Holy Listening? What's that? Holy Listening is prayer. We hear so many voices in our daily lives—24/7 news feeds, voices at work and school and in our homes; we hear our own voice with us all day and night. We're in desperate need of hearing a voice that's beyond all voices—God's voice—breaking through all the other voices, speaking wisdom and truth to us. By faith we believe God is with us always, actively listening and caring. But when we're surrounded by stress and despair and illness and bills, at times it can feel like we're alone in the dark. So, in January, on Wednesdays at noon and 5:30pm, we're going to gather for Holy Listening sessions. We'll sit together for an hour of active listening to God in prayer. Holy listening isn't a monologue or a Christmas wish list, but a time of waiting and listening to hear what God has to say. Together we'll tune in, we'll turn toward God. We'll make ourselves available to hear what God wants to tell us. We'll open our hearts and minds and ask God to speak to us. Without an agenda.



We'll pray. And listen. Together. Everyone is invited! Come to any, or all, of the Holy Listening sessions. Give us ears to hear you, God, we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jan 7: Worship Service. 10 am. Communion will be celebrated.

Worship Leader - Betsy Eskridge
Communion Elders - Carla Hart, Pattie Hashimoto
Japanese Reader - Haruko Sakakibara
Pianist - Haruko Sakakibara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter - Lois Van Beers
Sound System - Titus Toyama
Parking - Gary Younglove
Parking Barriers (Sat) - Titus Toyama
Ushers - Terri Bowman, Julie Chew
Greeters - Bill Grissom, Herning Grissom
Altar Flowers - William & Judy Yee
YES - Kishwer Vikaas

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the following events. Details to follow in future weekly emails and/or the newsletter.

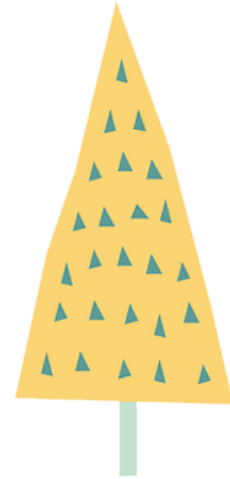
- Jan 15. PPC Legacy meeting
- Jan 21. Congregational meeting
- Feb 04. Udon sale



Donations

2024 Stewardship Pledge Cards

Pastor Sarah recently reached out to Parkview: “We have within us the power to change the world. Parkview is strong as we each grow, as we each give, as we each live our lives in God’s love and service. Will you join with others in our church family who are making small and large changes in living and giving that will support the ongoing work of Parkview Church?” Go to <https://parkviewpc.org/2023/11/06/making-small-and-large-changes-in-living-and-giving/> to read her letter in full. You can print out this pledge card, if you would like to make a pledge for 2024. Just return it to the church by December 15. Thank you so much!




Update: As of December 4, twenty families have already pledged \$79,020! Last year, 30 donor families pledged \$97,788.20. Let’s aim for \$100,000 in pledges and help Parkview continue our mission to the glory of God.

Donate Online!

Donating to Parkview has never been easier. You can donate one time or regularly. Just go to <https://parkviewpc.org/> and click on the “Support Parkview” tab. If you haven’t already done so, create a profile and then you’re ready to go! Thank you so much for your continuing support of Parkview.





2024 Stewardship Pledge Card

“Each one must do just as they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

\$ _____ per Week Month Year

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____



eGiving Slips for Offering Plates

Do you donate your weekly offering online but would still like to put something in the offering plate? We have now placed offering slips in the pews, which you can use to place in the offering plate. This allows you to physically participate in this important ritual. Not to worry, the ushers will reuse these slips to reduce waste. No matter how you contribute to Parkview, we are forever grateful. Thank you!

Financial Report as of November 30, 2023:

	November	Total Yr 2023
Income:	\$19,501.47	\$151,741.71
Expenses:	\$15,129.47	\$167,676.16
Difference:		(\$15,934.45)



I GIVE ELECTRONICALLY

I support this church and its mission, programs and activities by giving electronically.

I place this card in the plate as a way of participating in this offering.

Thank You for Your Support!

Many thanks to all of you who contribute to Parkview through your generous pledged offerings! Additionally, thanks so much to the following for their generous special donations. Acknowledgment letters and postings in the *Chapel Chimes* may be in reverse order. Thank you for your patience. Contact officemanager@parkviewpc.org with any questions.

General: Joyce Fujiwara & Timothy Paulson

In Memory of Loy Hart: Russ & Lori Hart, May Mayeda

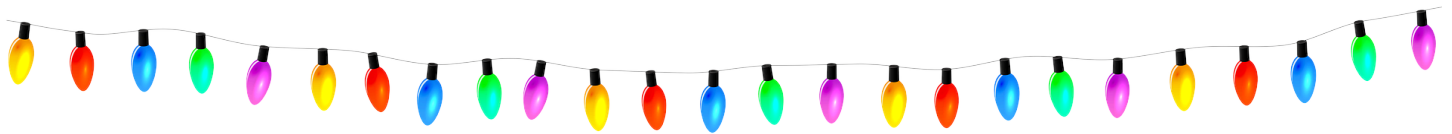
In Memory of Son Kevin Imura: Ed & Lisa Imura

Thanksgiving Showtime: Anonymous, Ian & Mieko Davis, Betsy Eskridge & Lois Van Beers, David & Nancy (Arata) Fong, Tak & Judy Fukuman, Sue Goodwin, Carla Hart, Jerry & Maurine Huang, Aki & Miko Kumagai, Steve & Jana (Nakase) Lee, Fumi Nakata, Jerome Pryor & Kishwer Vikaas, Tom Tambara, Titus & Donna (Komure) Toyama, Victor & Sherri Yee

Thanksgiving Offering: Kevin & Sylvia (Ryugo) Campbell, Terri Bowman, Phillip & Julie Chew, Tak & Judy Fukuman, Stephen & Janet Hill, May Lee, Fumi Nakata, Cathy Nishizaki, Jack & Carol Sakai, Wade Tambara, Rick & Irene Uno, Carey Yamanaka, Hach & Linda Yasumura, Richard & Joyce Yuki

Christmas Offering: Ed & Lisa Imura, Jonathan & Haruko Sakakibara

Thank you in advance for your Christmas offering.



How to Donate:

In Person. You may drop off your donation during worship service.

By Mail. Make checks out to Parkview Presbyterian Church. Please do not send cash.

Online. Please go to <https://www.parkviewpc.org/> and click on the “Support Parkview” tab and select “General Fund.” Use the Notes section to provide additional information about your donation, i.e. “in memory of” or “xx fund.” You can use a credit card or bank transfer; donate one time only or set up regular donations. Thank you for your generosity.