



Chapel Chimes

727 T Street, Sacramento, CA • December 2024

Dear Friends,

Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) in the Western Christian tradition is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. This year, December 21 is the winter solstice, which marks the shortest day, and the longest night, and the beginning of winter. On this day, some congregations hold a service that honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. December 21 is so close to December 25, many of us may dash past the Longest Night on our way to celebrating a bright Merry Christmas with family and friends. Marking Blue Christmas may feel a tad Bah Humbug-ish in the midst of holiday celebrations. But this year, pausing to reflect on the past year and the grief many of us carry about the current world situation seems like an invitation to take a breath and remember God in the midst of it all.

I offer a prayer adapted from a favorite book, "Every Moment Holy," by Douglas McKelvey.

We are grateful, O God, for the happiness we find in life and in relationships, even as we mourn the sorrow that is, even as we stand in the sadness of now empty spaces in heart and home. We know if no sparrow falls beyond the reach of your compassion, that you also, inhabit our sadness, your weeping at the world's brokenness somehow deeper than our own. Be near us, O God. Be near each of us.

O Lord, how long till all is made right? How long till your grace restores all loss and upends every leaving? How long till these hurts are healed and these griefs eternally sealed and set aside by the finally completed work of your redeeming love? Our minds cannot fully trace the deeper mysteries of your eternal mendings, but this we know with certainty: You are merciful and loving, gentle and compassionate, caring tenderly for all that you have made. We know that the final working of your redemption will be far-reaching, encompassing all things in heaven and on earth, so that no good thing will be lost forever. Comfort us in this meantime, O Lord, for the ache of these days is real.

Thank you, O God, for the mercy and beauty incarnated in the words and actions of your people, extended one toward another. Let us journey together, as vessels of that mercy and as stewards of that wild and wondrous beauty that flows from the heart and mind of our Creator. O Lord, make us ever mindful of one another so that we would work in the days to come as those who would tend and encourage the stories of those around us by prayer and friendship and thoughtfulness and conversation, affirming and sharpening and amplifying one another's good works, to the end that your body would be built up, and that your kingdom would be more fully realized in this world. O God, be present in our works and in our words and in our hearts. Be present in the bonds of our community. Be present in our journeys. Be ever at work among us and through us, we pray. Amen.

Responding to God's gracious love and grace to us in Jesus Christ, at Parkview we stand together against discrimination and exclusion, against violence propelled by prejudice and fear. As we move through this world guided by God's Spirit, we know that together we are stronger, wiser, and more fully alive. More able to recognize God-with-us this holy season, and all the seasons of our lives. Merry Christmas!

- Pastor Sarah

P.S. This Sunday, December 15, please come for a special worship service. Parkview's own Christmas hams, portraying Gospel writers Matthew, Luke, and John, will delight you with the Nativity story. They will be joined by an enthusiastic and youthful angel choir. Don't miss it!



News

November Report from Session

At the November 21, 2024 meeting of Session, the following matters were reported, voted upon, and/or discussed:



- **Parkview to Support Outreach**

Ministry: Session voted to approve the use of the church grounds for the Iama Yoga outreach ministry sponsored by the North Central California Presbytery and directed by Rev. Rola Al Ashkar. The Iama Yoga ministry seeks to combine the meditative and healing aspects of yoga to address religious trauma with the goal of enhancing spirituality of the Christian faith. Once up and running in early 2025, the ministry will offer yoga classes, meetings, and monthly dinners.

- **Adoption of Ethical Standards:** Session voted to adopt North Central California Presbytery’s “Life Together, A Policy of Ethical Conduct.” According to the Presbytery, these standards serve as a guide to church leadership as to conduct and behavior that is appropriate and respectful.

- **Repair of Sewage Pipe Near the Kansha:** Session voted to authorize the repair of the clean out area of the sewage pipe which extends from the Kansha house to the sump pump. The repair cost from Bud’s Plumbing is estimated to be \$2,200.

- **Security Grant - Wrought Iron Fence and Surveillance Camera Installation:** William Yee reported that the cameras have been installed around the church perimeter and the fencing is nearly complete. Hardware has been ordered for the gates which still need to be installed. The project will be completed by the end of the year. This project is made possible by a grant from the State of California.

- **Welcome Brochure Draft:** Elder Jana Nakase-Lee prepared a first draft of a welcome letter/brochure that could be given to church visitors. Session appreciates this first draft which will be reviewed and discussed.

- **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Sarah reported that Parkview is the beneficiary of yet another generous bequest from the Hoshi Fujioka trust. Previously, in 2021, Parkview received initial, generous bequests from this trust. Under the direction of Session and with the invaluable assistance of our treasurer, Betsy Eskridge and our financial advisory

team, these funds have been carefully invested and have helped the church pay for its numerous expenses, such as maintaining the church building and grounds. As part of its responsibility to be a good steward of Parkview’s finances, Session will be meeting in the coming months to further discuss the wise use of these additional funds to continue the ministry of Parkview.

- **Pledge Report:** As of November 21, Parkview has received 16 pledges in the amount of \$48,220. All are encouraged to return pledge cards so that budgeting for 2025 can be reliable.

- **Nominating Team:** Meeting to be held on November 26, to discuss the Elder class of 2027.

- Submitted by
- Terri Bowman, Clerk of Session
Pattie Hashimoto, Jana Nakase-Lee,
Donna Komure-Toyama,
Irene Uno, William Yee, Gary Younglove

Financial Report as of October 31, 2024:

	October	Total Yr 2024
Income:	\$6,947.00	\$138,801.10
Expenses:	\$14,016.52	\$161,152.13
Difference:		(\$22,351.03)

Financial Report as of November 30, 2024:

	November	Total Yr 2024
Income:	\$27,290.30	\$166,091.40
Expenses:	\$16,531.94	\$177,684.07
Difference:		(\$11,592.67)

News

Calling All Coffee Hour Enthusiasts!

If you have been enjoying our monthly coffee time after worship service and would like to join one of the monthly teams who provide the snacks and make the coffee, please contact Carla Hart at carlah.hart@gmail.com or 916-709-3305.



Volunteer Spotlight: Lois Van Beers, William Yee

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

We are so grateful for Lois Van Beers and William Yee for their special supervision of the installation of outdoor lighting, security cameras, and exterior doors (Lois) and of the security fencing (William). They have been at the church for hours at a time over the past several weeks, ensuring that everything regarding installation went smoothly. Everything should be installed and working properly by the time you read this newsletter. Thank you, Lois and William, for all you have done to implement the safety and security grant and for all the other duties you fulfill.



Pledge Cards Accepted Until Dec 23.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to fill out a pledge card for 2025, you can do so until Dec 23. Knowing what people plan on donating throughout the year is very helpful in planning the year's budget. We are already so grateful for the 22 pledges of \$68,460 received as of December 11.



In Memoriam

Thomas George Tambara

Beloved Parkview Member

June 16, 1957 - November 7, 2024

Per Tom's wishes, there will be no memorial service.

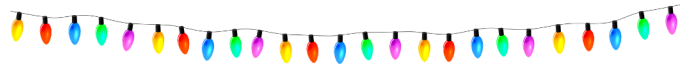
Help the Reaching Out Christmas Event Dec 21

Parkview will be joining Faith Presbyterian Church, Bethany Presbyterian Church, and Mercy Ministries on December 21 (please note this revised date), from 1-3 pm to host Reaching Out, a resource fair to improve the quality of life for folks in need.



Reaching Out is held once a month, weather permitting, in the Bethany Courtyard at 5625 24th St., next to the SSIP check-in. Non-food items (pet food, school supplies, clothing, books, toiletries, more), warm snacks, showers, companionship, prayer, music, and a loving place for community to gather are provided. Together we can bring joy to our neighbors who need a helping hand. How can you help? Volunteer from 1-3 pm.

Contact Carla Hart for more information: carlah.hart@gmail.com or 916-709-3305. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.



Parkview Rallies for Immigrants

An energetic group of Parkview's church family attended the People's March & Rally to Stop Mass Deportations and Protect Immigrant Californians on Monday, December 2 at the State Capitol. There were three main goals: 1) do not use state lands for mass detention, 2) stop the transfer of immigrants and refugees from state prisons and county jails to the deportation camps, and 3) have Governor Newsom use executive action to pardon immigrants and refugees with criminal records who have served their time. Thanks, Parkview Church, for your active commitment to supporting human dignity and rights for all God's children. Go to <https://parkviewpc.org/2024/12/11/parkview-supports-immigrants/> to view the slideshow.



- Submitted by Pastor Sarah

News/Upcoming Events

Fence Installation Complete!

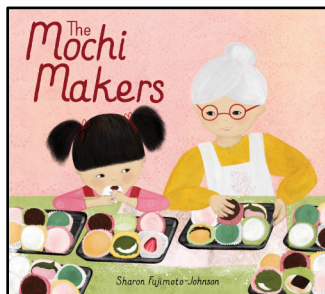
Come by the church and see the beautiful new iron fencing! Stan Umeda and his team have worked diligently to save many parts of the original fencing to repair the remaining wooden fencing at the front of the church. The church is now more secure! Many thanks to the fencing team: Phillip Chew, Russ Hart, Dave McGill, Jonathan Sakakibara, Stan Umeda, William Yee, Gary Younglove.



Mochi Event at Parkview!

Please join us at Parkview on January 12, 2025 as we ring in the new year with mochi making and a book reading!

Local writer Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson, the author and illustrator of "The Mochi Makers," published by Simon & Schuster earlier this year, will read her book. Sharon will stay to sign her books, which will be available on site to purchase (\$20 or \$15 each for multiple copies). Afterward, children and adults can make their own mochi in the kitchen. This event is free and open to the community, so invite your family, friends and neighbors! Go to <https://www.sharonfj.com/> to read more about our guest author Sharon.



A WORD For The Year Ahead . . .

Do you like to make resolutions at the start of a new year? I used to do it faithfully, but like so many others, by the end of January, my resolutions would be pushed aside. A few years ago, I read an article by a Christian writer about how she chooses one word for each year. I have found it to be a powerful guide, and much more successful than resolutions were. It's NOW, during Advent, as I prepare for the gift of Jesus at Christmas, that I try to set my intention for what difference that gift of Jesus will make in my life for the coming year. It's a process of thinking - "What do I want in the new year? What do I hope to have accomplished by this time next year? What do I feel my life is missing?" And it involves prayer and listening for "What does God want for me in the coming year?"

Each year, after devoting a bit of time and energy, something powerful emerges. One year, for example, my word was "FORWARD." I felt a need to focus on moving ahead, rather than worrying about what was behind. The word could apply to healthier habits, emotional work, decluttering home, etc. (You can hear remnants of those old resolutions, can't you?!) But somehow, the word, inspired by God, helped me to focus, and by the end of the year, I could celebrate the many ways I had moved forward with God's help. Early in the year, I painted a rock with the word on it, and it lives in my bathroom even now as I am reminded to move forward with God each year. So, what might your word be for 2025? As we prepare our hearts for Jesus during Advent, perhaps we can prepare our hearts for one small word that helps us move into the new year with intention, relying on God's guidance. Whether you share your word with someone else or not, I pray that it will bring you into closer fellowship with God, not just during this holy season but all year long!

- Submitted by Sue Goodwin



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 15: **Worship Service.** 10 am.

Worship Leader: Sue Goodwin
Japanese Reader: Mieko Davis
Pianist: Janet Hill
Online Moderator/Greeter: Aki Kumagai
Sound System: Jonathan Sakakibara
Parking Barriers (Sat): Dave McGill
Parking: Dave McGill
Ushers: Donna Komure-Toyama, Miko Kumagai
Greeters: Carla Hart, Irene Uno
Altar Flowers: Lynn Yamamoto

Dec 15: **Gingerbread House Making.** After worship service.

Cost is \$15 per house.
Please email order to Cathy Nishizaki (cathyjnish@gmail.com).



Dec 17: **No Weekly Bible Study.** 6 pm via Zoom.

Dec 18: **Choir Practice.** 7 pm in the social hall.

Dec 22: **Worship Service.** 10 am.

Worship Leader: Jonathan Sakakibara
Japanese Reader: Haruko Sakakibara
Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara
YES: Cathy Nishizaki
Online Moderator/Greeter: Judy Yee
Sound System: Dave McGill
Parking Barriers (Sat): William Yee
Parking: Phillip Chew
Ushers: Betsy Eskridge, Irene Uno
Greeters: Pattie Hashimoto, Gary Younglove
Altar Flowers: Wade Tambara

Dec 22: **Coffee Time.** After worship service.

Many thanks to
PPW - Circle 3.



Dec 24: **No Weekly Bible Study.** Bible study returns Jan 7.

Dec 25: **Christmas Day.** No service, no choir practice. Choir practice returns Jan 15.

Dec 29: **Worship Service.** 10 am.

Worship Leader: Phillip Chew
Japanese Reader: Michael Wright
Pianist: Nancy Arata-Fong
YES: Julie Chew, Cathy Nishizaki
Online Moderator/Greeter: Lois Van Beers
Sound System: Titus Toyama
Parking Barriers (Sat): Neil Matsuoka
Parking: Titus Toyama
Ushers: Diane Younglove, Gary Younglove
Greeters: Tia Kilpatrick, Diane Younglove
Altar Flowers: Sue Goodwin

Dec 29: **Newsletter Deadline.** 5 pm. Email photos and/or articles (350 word max.) to officemanager@parkviewpc.org.

Upcoming Events

Jan 5: Worship Service. 10 am. Communion will be celebrated.

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

Jan 7: Bible Study. 6 pm via Zoom.

Jan 7: Prayer Team Meeting. 7:15 pm via Zoom.

Save These 2025 Dates!

Jan 9: Session Meeting.
Jan 12: "The Mochi Makers"
Book Reading. See [page 4](#).
Jan 19: Congregational Meeting.
Feb 13: Session Retreat.
Feb 19: The Mariners' Lunch
Annual Meeting.



Video Available to Borrow

If you did not get a chance to watch "Kintsukuroi," Hach Yasumura bought a copy for Parkview. It is the compelling drama of two families who lost everything except their dignity during the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII. You can check out the video at the mailboxes in the entry of the church. Thanks, Hach, for this gift!



Thank You for Your Support!

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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.

In Celebration of Jay's 21st Birthday: Phillip & Julie Chew

In Celebration of Rick's Retirement: Rick & Irene Uno

In Celebration of Sandra Wong's 95th Birthday: Jerry & Marilyn Champa

In Memory of Jean Inouye: Stan & Stacey Inouye

In Memory of Tom Tambara: Jerry & Marilyn Champa, Carla Hart, Jerry & Maurine Huang, May Lee, Neil Matsuoka & Kris Sasaki, Dave McGill, Bill & Linda Nagata, Dwight & Sarah Nave, Jack & Carol Sakai, Titus & Donna (Komure) Toyama, Stan & Christine Umeda, Rick & Irene Uno, Gary & Diane Younglove

Thanksgiving Showtime: Phillip & Julie Chew, Ian & Mieko Davis, Betsy Eskridge & Lois Van Beers, Tak & Judy Fukuman, Russ & Lori Hart, Aki & Miko Kumagai, Bill & Linda Nagata, Jonathan & Haruko Sakakibara, Titus & Donna (Komure) Toyama, Rick & Irene Uno, Victor & Sherri Yee

Thanksgiving Offerings: Terri Bowman, Jerry & Marilyn Champa, Phillip & Julie Chew, Pattie Hashimoto, Brian & Leah (Fujiwara) Kanegawa, Dave McGill, Bill & Linda Nagata, Fumi Nakata, Cathy Nishizaki, Randy & Lillie Shiroi, Stan & Christine Umeda, Hach & Linda Yasumura, William & Judy Yee

Christmas Offerings: Bill & Linda Nagata, Jonathan & Haruko Sakakibara, Randy & Lillie Shiroi

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 payable to Parkview Presbyterian Church. Please do not send cash.

Online: Please go to <https://www.parkviewpc.org/>, 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.