



West Los Angeles United Methodist Church
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Growing More Christlike Together

West Los Angeles UMC is a Reconciling Congregation and
welcomes all persons regardless of sexual orientation or
gender identity.

West LA Connections

West Los Angeles United Methodist Church Monthly Newsletter | December + January Issue

DEC 2025
JAN 2026

NJAUMC CLERGY & LAITY CONVOCATION

Clergy and laity from the National Japanese American United Methodist Caucus congregations joined together for worship, fellowship, and spiritual engagement and calls to action centered on the theme of “Neighbors Not Enemies.” Event chair (and incoming Caucus Chair) Rev. Akiko Miyake-Stoner and the United Japanese Christian Church in Clovis, California hosted the gathering and provided delicious hospitality for the clergy retreat (October 8 & 9) and clergy & laity convocation (October 9-11).

West Los Angeles UMC was represented by Rev. Keith & Viki Inouye, Rev. Becky Hirata, Deaconess Jeri Okamoto-Tanaka, NextGen Ministries Director Kiana Hertogh-Nicholson, and Claremont School of Theology seminarian and field education intern Lynne Onishi (also of Blaine Memorial UMC); retired WLAUMC clergy Rev. Gary Oba and Rev. Mark Nakagawa also attended.

The convocation concluded with a heartfelt worship service recognizing the many JA-caucus churches served by Rev. Keith & Viki and their dedication throughout their decades in ministry.



Group photo of Clergy and Laity from a collection of historic JA UMC Churches across the west coast, Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest, and Colorado.



A Young Adult Panel discusses topics of faith and justice for the next (and current) generations. The panel was moderated by Rev. Allison Mark (Faith UMC). Panel speakers (from left to right) include: Rev. Eric Iki (Chatsworth West UMC), Pastor Kiana Nicholson (West LA UMC), Evan Hamada (United Japanese Christian Church), and Lynne Onishi (Blaine Memorial UMC).



Bishop Grant Hagiya delivers a powerful sermon: “How to Survive the Next 3.5 Years.”



Jeri & Lynne lead a workshop & discussion session “On Being a Reconciling Congregation”

Aloha Celebration of Ministry

REV. KEITH & VIKI INOUE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

9:30 AM FINAL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH REV. KEITH & VIKI

1:00 PM RETIREMENT CELEBRATION PROGRAM

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

SAVE THE DATE! REV. KEITH AND VIKI'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION!

JOIN US! Sunday, December 21st will be a day of celebration (and a few tears) as we honor, thank, and bid Aloha to Rev. Keith & Viki Inouye upon their retirement from WLA UMC and active ministry. Rev. Keith will preach at their final Sunday worship service at 9:30 am. A special Aloha program will begin at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary, featuring tributes, music, and good cheer. A treat-filled holiday reception will follow. (Rev. Keith will give his final pastoral message at the Christmas Eve service.)

For more information about the event and how to share your gratitude and best wishes with Rev. Keith & Viki, please contact Jeri Okamoto-Tanaka at jotwlaumc@gmail.com. To contribute treats to the reception, please contact Susan Tsukahira at susantsukahira@gmail.com.



NICHIGO MINISTRY PASTOR'S NOTE FROM REV. BECKY

Rev. Rebecca Hirata



「2025年の恵み」

2025年も終わりに近づいている。今年は10月に女性初の総理大臣を迎え、新しい時代を感じている。アメリカでは移民者に厳しい年でもあるが、問題に直面しながら、主の恵みを覚え感謝で終わりたいと思う。

感謝祭ターキーディナーが終わると、クリスマス、年末、新年と教会は大忙し。12月6日(土)は南加日語教会市民クリスマスコンサートの大イベント。30近くの日本語教会が集まり、キリストの誕生をお祝いする。WLA日語聖歌隊も参加するので、今は毎週の練習が欠かせない時である。そして12月21日クリスマス礼拝では、子どもハンドベル特別賛美と聖歌隊特別賛美が準備されている。また、年末礼拝では餅つきを予定しており、今から楽しみにしている。

来年の1月1日より英語部の牧師が新しく任命される。新しい時代を感じさせる新年を迎える。1月4日は日英合同新年礼拝とポットラックでお祝いである。さあ、主の恵みを覚え感謝で新年を迎えたいと思う。

「いと高き所に栄光が神にあるよう。地の上に平和が御心にかなう人々にあるように。」(ルカ2:14)主の平和が主の心にかなう人々にあるように。

主に栄光を帰し、主の平和と平安が与えられるクリスマスを過ごし、新年を迎える喜びを皆で分かち合いたいと思う。アーメン!

The year 2025 is coming to an end. This year, Japan welcomed the first female Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi. Many felt a new era was upon us. Also, this year has been a tough one for immigrants, like us Issei in the United States. But even as we face challenges, we want to remember the Lord's grace and end the year with gratitude.

After the Thanksgiving turkey dinner and all-church Zosui day, the church will be busy with Christmas, "Nenmatsu" (the end of the year), and "Oshogatsu" (the New Year).

Saturday, December 6th, will be the Southern California Japanese Church Christmas Concert, a major event for Nichigo. Nearly 30 Japanese-speaking churches will gather to celebrate the birth of Christ. The WLA Japanese Choir will be participating. (Yes, we do practice weekly!) For the Christmas service on December 21st, we will enjoy Kodomo handbell music and the choir special music. Also, our annual Mochi making will take place right after "Nenmatsu" service on December 28th.

On January 4th, we will begin the year 2026 with "Shinnen reihai" and the all-church potluck.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, among men with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14).

Let us give glory to the Lord, as we enjoy Christmas and welcome Oshogatsu with joyful hearts. Amen!

平田

12月6日(土)CafeAlohaシニア弁当

教会ではイエス様の誕生日をお祝いし、シニアにお弁当を届けます。ご希望の方は教会オフィスまでご連絡ください。

Café Aloha Senior Bento Delivery on December 6th (Saturday)

Café Aloha ministry would like to reach out to seniors 70 and older by delivering Christmas Bento. If you are interested, please sign-up or contact Church office.

メニュー：おかず各種、味噌汁、菓子、フルーツ

1月10日(土)11時CafeAlohaシニアミニストリー&弁当

教会では新年を感謝し、70才以上のシニア向けに、ランチ、賛美、体操、聖書のお話しの集会をします。参加できない方には、お弁当を届けます。ご希望の方はサインアップ、又は教会オフィスまでご連絡ください。

Café Aloha Senior Program & Bento delivery on January 10 at 11am

To celebrate Shin-nen, Café Aloha ministry would like to reach out to seniors 70 and older. We will meet at Church Fellowship Hall for lunch, music, exercise and Bible story. Also, we can deliver Bento to those who cannot participate. If you are interested, please sign-up or contact Church office.

メニュー：寿司、味噌汁、菓子、フルーツ

Menu: Sushi, Miso-soup, Kashi, fruits



sacred space: "Praying through Advent"



Wednesdays in December
7PM over Zoom

12/5 - Hopeful Resistance
12/10 - Peaceful Accompaniment
12/17 - Joyful Advocacy
12/24 - Christmas Eve Service (in-person)

Advent is a season of watchful and active waiting for the coming of Christ on Christmas. As a church, we want to engage in practices that help us lean into the Christmas Story, to take moments of pause and reflection so that we can sense the ways God's Spirit is moving in our own lives. On the Wednesdays in December, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, we invite you to come discuss the Advent theme for the week, and discuss the previous Sunday's sermon. Each week will have a theme, focusing on Hopeful Resistance, Peaceful Accompaniment, and Joyful Advocacy. We hope you join us on Zoom at 7PM! Please RSVP or express interest by emailing the church office at info@wlaumc.com for the link.



Christmas Eve Cookies Needed! Please sign-up at the purple table, or email info@wlaumc.com if you are able to contribute to our coffee and cookie refreshments after our Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 24th, at 7PM.

IN-PERSON CHARGE CONFERENCE: DECEMBER 13TH AT 3PM

In the Learning Center

To all chairpersons of committees and leaders of ministries,

We have set our CHARGE CONFERENCE for Saturday December 13th at 3pm but have relocated our gathering to the Learning Center as our Nisei Fellowship Hall will be set up for the Sunday's Creche Walk.

We thank all chairs of committees and leaders of ministries, and church staff who have submitted reports and trust that you will be in attendance as we gather in-person with our District Superintendent Rev. Siosaia Tu'itahi who will preside over our Charge Conference as prescribed by our UM Book of Discipline.

At Charge Conference we approve the appointed clergy pastoral compensation packages; approve our budget and slate of officers, leaders, and committee and ministry members; share and compile ministry and committee reports in the form of a journal for everyone to review and celebrate our ministry of this past year and our hopes and vision for the coming year; and hear the news and concerns of our District and Conference through our District Superintendent!

NOURISHING OUR NEIGHBORS IN WEST LA

West LA UMC continues its collaboration with the West LA Community Coalition (WLACC), Westside Food Bank (WFB), and the 580 Café/Wesley Foundation Serving UCLA in providing boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables to students in need each week. Since this Church's project began in August through October, we have served 527 families and 662 children connected through the 580 Café community (we average 176 families per month and 221 children). Of the students served, 59% are BIPOC, 68% graduate students, 16% professional students, 15% undergraduate students, and 77% are students with dependent children. A few more boxes are set aside for Nichigo families and go to the 580 Café as ingredients in student lunches and snacks.

Although Deaconess Jeri remains the liaison with the WLACC, WFB, and Deaconess Jeanne Roe Smith at the 580, the program is now primarily one of mutual aid, of students helping students by arranging the pick-ups and deliveries, assuring equitable distribution among many students, and keeping the statistics for us.

With grateful hearts, on Sunday, November 2, Team WLAUMC participated in the Westside Food Bank's 35th Annual 5k Hunger Walk along the beach in Santa Monica. Our team raised \$1,675 from the WLA and Culver-Palms congregations, 580 Café Board members, and friends – a small contribution compared with the abundance we receive.

The needs of the food insecure among us are only increasing during the holidays and with the federal government shutdown, job furloughs without pay, elimination of SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits and other hardships. The WFB is always in need of volunteers, especially on the last Friday of the month. Contact Deaconess Jeri at jotwlaumc@gmail.com for more information about volunteering.



Thank you for supporting the Westside Food Bank Hunger Walk! Walkers Pastor Kiana Hertogh-Nicholson, Lynne Onishi, Joyce Patterson, Stan Shimotsu, and Deaconess Jeri Okamoto-Tanaka enjoyed the exercise and fun kick-off festivities at the Ocean View park.

Boxes and boxes of top quality fresh produce are distributed



MID POINTERS - 20'S - 40'S Save the date!

On Friday, December 5th, our young adults and young professionals ministry will be gathering together to go see Christmas Lights in Torrance. To RSVP for this event, or to get more event updates in the future, please contact the church office at info@wlaumc.com

NEWS FROM THE 580 CAFE

Deaconess Jeanne Roe Smith and the student community give thanks to WLAUMC for its ongoing and generous financial and in-kind support of donated food pantry items and grocery gift cards, and coordinating produce boxes from the Westside Food Bank. There has been an estimated 50% increase in students coming to the food pantry this quarter, requiring constant restocking (see list for needs).

This fall, the 580 Café community also mourns the passing of two legendary supporters of this campus ministry and its constituents at the margins – Prof. Kent Wong, former director of the UCLA Labor Center, and Carla Bailey, long-time board member and supporter, and wife of West LA UMC's Bob Bailey. They modeled leadership, activism, and compassion and leave a legacy of hope and inclusive justice for all.



580 Cafe Pantry List

Canned vegetables,
soups, and meats

Pasta, rice, grains,
and boxed meals

Peanut butter,
cereal, and snacks



2026 PLANNING MEETING
WELCOME TO NEW VOLUNTEERS

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
AND MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

THIRD SUNDAY
JANUARY 18, 11:30 AM



SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE + MISSIONS

Third Sundays after worship will continue to be reserved for our SEJM meetings and activities. On Sunday, January 18, at 11:30 am, we will welcome new team members and discuss the 2026 calendar of events. Before we meet, reflect on areas where the needs of our community intersect with your passions, such as housing, immigration & migrant rights, addressing hunger and food scarcity, environmental care, and more. All who are interested in Justice & Missions work are welcome to attend. Kindly RSVP to Deaconess Jeri at jotwlaumc@gmail.com by January 15th (committee members will receive email reminders in January).

HALLOWEEN FUN WITH MR. FUNN!

To celebrate Halloween, the God's Garden children and extended church family gathered for an afternoon of magic and laughter with Mr. Funn. He kept the kids entertained with engaging illusions and tricks, involving them in the fun and sparking smiles throughout the crowd. One of the highlights was balloon twisting, where Mr. Funn created dogs, a giraffe, flowers, and more right before the children's eyes, leaving them amazed and delighted. It was a memorable afternoon filled with joy and laughter—thank you, Mr. Funn, for making it so special!



LINX COLLABORATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY: ADOPT A FAMILY THIS CHRISTMAS

The LINX Collaborative Youth Ministry, which brings together youth groups from Centenary, Faith, and West Los Angeles United Methodist Churches, is organizing a special Christmas event focused on giving and celebrating the holidays.

Youth from the participating churches will gather for a Christmas Lock-in at Faith UMC in Torrance, beginning at 3:00 PM on December 6 and ending at 9:00 AM on Sunday morning, December 7. Throughout the event, attendees will engage in various Christmas-themed activities and games designed to foster fellowship and the holiday spirit.

The highlight of the Lock-in will be a shopping trip, where the youth will purchase Christmas gifts for the children and family members of a family with whom the ministry has established a connection. This family may otherwise not have any gifts to open during the holiday season, making this act of generosity especially meaningful.

To encourage a spirit of giving and responsibility, each youth participant is asked to "earn" \$20 by doing chores at home or finding other ways to contribute. This personal effort ensures that every gift given is a result of thoughtful action and care.

Through this collaborative effort, the LINX Youth Ministry aims to share the joy and true meaning of Christmas by supporting a family in need and fostering a spirit of generosity among its youth members.




SAVE THE DATE

NJAUMC

ASIAN CAMP

DATE: June 28-July 3, 2026

WHERE: UMC Camp Wrightwood
1401 Linnet Rd.
Wrightwood, CA. 92397

CAMPER AGE: Current 6th Grade -
Current HS Seniors

**More Detailed Information
to Follow**





CELEBRATING THE NATIVITY WITH IMAGINATION AND WONDER

During this Advent season, the children of God's Garden have been deeply engaged in learning about the Nativity story. Their preparation for sharing the story in worship on December 14th centers around the program titled, "Remembering the First Christmas with Imagination and Wonder."

Exploring the Nativity Story: The children were encouraged to imagine what the first Christmas might have been like by stepping into the shoes of each character in the story. Using their senses, each child pictured what it might have felt like to be present at that moment. Their reflections and creative thoughts were woven together into a Nativity thread, narrated during the program.

Creative Learning and Keepsakes: Throughout the weeks leading up to the program, the kids focused on learning about different characters in the Nativity story. As part of this journey, they also had the opportunity to make their own Nativity keepsake sets, adding a personal and creative touch to their celebration.

A TEDDY BEAR PICNIC FOR SACRED SEEDLING FAMILIES

The recent Teddy Bear Picnic at Airport Park in Santa Monica was a delightful event, perfectly suited for new parents and their infants. Families gathered for a relaxing and informal afternoon filled with fellowship, where children brought their favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal to share in the fun. Activities included singing songs, playing together, and enjoying lunch outdoors. This picnic provided a wonderful opportunity for parents to exchange valuable parenting tips, insights, and support in a welcoming environment. We had 4 families attend, along with God's Garden representatives Susanne Nagata, Sheryl Enock, Viki Inouye and also Rev. Keith.

RSVP Information

Please RSVP to Viki Inouye at viki.inouye@gmail.com and provide the age of your child(ren) as well as the total number of people attending. We look forward to seeing you and sharing this special time together!

Ongoing Gatherings

The group will continue to meet twice a month, offering regular opportunities for parents and their children to connect and share experiences. We warmly welcome grandparents and other caregivers to join these gatherings, fostering a supportive and inclusive atmosphere for all caretakers involved in the children's lives.

What to Bring:

- A blanket for sitting on the grass
- Your own lunch
- A favorite stuffed animal

Location:

Airport Park - 3201 Airport Park, Santa Monica, CA. 90405





EXPERIENCE THE “CRÈCHE WALK” THIS ADVENT SEASON

Refocusing on the Meaning of Christmas! The secular celebration of Christmas often brings with it an overwhelming list of tasks and obligations. By the time December 25th arrives, many of us find ourselves exhausted from decorating our homes inside and out, trimming the Christmas tree, shopping for and wrapping gifts, baking cookies, attending and hosting parties, and preparing special meals for gatherings with family and friends. With so much to do, it can be difficult to find moments of peace and reflection. How can we “unplug” from the busyness of the season?

Amid the commercialism that has taken us far from the true meaning of Christmas, the “crèche,” or Nativity set, serves as a powerful reminder of the hope, peace, love, and promise this holiday represents. The simple image of a couple and a baby in a manger offers a calming contrast to the hustle and bustle that often characterizes this time of year.

The “Crèche Walk” is a display featuring a variety of Nativity sets, each one an artistic expression reflecting the creator, culture, and country from which it originates. This walk is designed to actively engage viewers, encouraging their participation and involvement throughout the experience. The central goal is to create an environment where everyone feels drawn in and connected to the Nativity scene. We invite you to join us for a time of meditation, introspection, and awe. The Crèche Walk will be set up and displayed in the Nisei Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 14, as an extension of the message of God’s Garden’s children’s Christmas program.

Share Your Nativity Set! If you own a nativity set, we invite you to share it with the congregation. A special “Crèche Walk” information table will be available for you to sign up. Our planning team will record and log your set upon receiving it and will arrange it for the Sunday display. Nativity sets may be dropped off on November 30 and December 7. If you have any questions, please contact Viki Inouye.



THE BEGINNINGS OF A CHERISHED TRADITION

It all began with a single Nativity set. While serving their first appointment in Visalia forty years ago, Rev. Keith and Viki found themselves captivated by an adorable crèche featuring animal characters. They purchased this unique piece from a local Hallmark store, not knowing that it would mark the start of a meaningful tradition.

Over the years, their collection has expanded to include crèche sets from various countries, each crafted from different materials and reflecting a range of cultural artistry. These Nativity scenes have come to symbolize the diversity and wonder of the Christmas season for Rev. Keith and Viki. As they prepare to move and downsize, Rev. Keith and Viki have made the decision not to take all their cherished crèche sets with them. To honor their collection and spread the joy it has brought them, they are sharing some of these sets with the church community. During the upcoming crèche walk, select sets from their collection will be included in a special raffle. Each visitor will receive tickets, which they can place in containers beside their favorite sets. At the end of the event, the names drawn will be given the opportunity to bring home a crèche, continuing its legacy in a new household. The hope is that each Christmas, the new owners will be reminded of the simple awe and joy of the season. Perhaps, for some, this will spark the beginning of their own crèche collections, fostering a tradition that celebrates the true spirit of Christmas year after year.

LYNNE ONISHI - FIELD EDUCATION UPDATE



It's hard to believe the end of the year is so quickly approaching! As I conclude my first semester of field education as your seminary intern, I wanted to share a few reflections with you all. It's been life-giving to learn from WLAUMC's immensely knowledgeable, wise, and creative ministry staff and impressively devoted congregation members! I have greatly enjoyed participating in many of the diverse ministries of this congregation and learning from you all about what makes this church special.

I have been given the opportunity to practice new skills like preaching and planning worship services – skills that we expect most pastors must have to some degree! But I have also learned that much goes on behind the scenes in a local church.

Ministerial leadership requires a diverse skill-set acquired through time and experience! And while I am learning valuable information through books and classes, the practical experience gained from attending committee meetings, joining senior fellowship, or coordinating intergenerational book club has been an equally important aspect of my education.

I want to thank this congregation for being so supportive of me as I learn about local church ministry in a fully immersive way! I am grateful for the way you have welcomed me and supported my journey. And I'm looking forward to my second semester of this field education internship in 2026!

WLAUMC FUNRAISING COMMITTEE

The WLAUMC FUNraising committee would like to thank everyone who participated and supported our Pew Plaque Memorial project and Neighborhood Eats fundraising events during the year for our church General Funds. We were grateful that we could support our local restaurant businesses as well as enjoy great food and community together. Special thanks to Rev. Keith and staff for welcoming our church family and friends at Marie Callendar's for the entire day with their special aloha!

We are also grateful to Rev. Becky and her team for leading, preparing and cooking our A Taste of Café Aloha Bentos that allowed all of us to taste the various Japanese dishes that are enjoyed by our monthly Café Aloha participants! Lastly, we are thankful for all the special donations, treasures and the hard work and support that everyone provides for our annual Antique Shop and Yard Sale that represents our annual major WLA UMC fundraising event!

The FUNraising committee members appreciate all of your support throughout the year and look forward to more activities in the new year!

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY



Every donation counts!

Together, we make a
difference!



Senior Fun Day: Friday Dec 12th Christmas Party!

Our Senior Fun Day gatherings are so much fun! We play board games, enjoy lunch together, play some inventive team challenges, and have really meaningful times sharing about our lives. Please come! We meet in the Nisei Fellowship Hall at church. Our December Senior Fun Day will be a Christmas Party! Contact Rev. Keith if you plan to come so we can plan the appropriate amount of food.



Thursday Breakfast Bunch: Dec 4th at 8 AM

Anyone in our church is welcome to join us for breakfast on the first Thursday of every month! You don't have to be a senior; just an early riser hungry for breakfast and fellowship! The **Marie Callender's restaurant** is located at **11324 National Blvd, Los Angeles, CA** near the corner of Sawtelle and National Avenues. If you need a ride, we will do our best to provide transportation for you. Please call Rev. Keith at (408) 355-0837 cell so he can coordinate transportation. RSVP to Rev. Keith if you are able but know that you can just show up as well. All are welcome!

Grief Support Group

Grief Support Group Luncheon: Dec 11th

Our next Grief Support Group will be a Christmas luncheon on December 11th at **U-Zen Sushi Japanese Restaurant** located at **11951 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025**. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30am. RSVP to Rev. Keith at (408) 355-0837 cell.



Setting Intentions for the New Year Workshop: Jan 25th

All are welcome to start the New Year with us as we set our intentions for 2026: the year of the Horse! We'll gather at 11:30 am in the Learning center for this interactive workshop. Please contact Deaconess Jeri Okamoto-Tanaka to RSVP by Jan. 15th.

CAFE ALOHA REPORT & MEMBER CARE

This ministry is a dedicated outreach program that serves older adults aged 70 and above within our church community. Rooted in compassion and respect, our mission is to affirm the inherent dignity of our elders by providing regular care, meaningful connections, and a reminder that they are loved – both by God and their church family.

Each month, we provide a free, nutritious, home-cooked Japanese meal to our Issei, Nisei, Sansei members and their caregivers. Meals are delivered directly to recipients' homes throughout the year. We provide health-related articles in both Japanese and English, brain-stimulating activities, and a spiritual message that reminds them of God's love and faithfulness. In addition, we host three "in-person" luncheons in our church fellowship hall to encourage social interaction, provide a spiritual message, and reduce isolation. These meals are prepared with attention to cultural preferences and dietary needs, fostering both physical and emotional well-being. Our program addresses the growing needs of an aging population, particularly among Asian older adults who may be experiencing increasing social isolation or health challenges.

Beyond meals, we provide ongoing emotional and spiritual support via mailings of various cards to those who are facing physical challenges, hospitalized, celebrating birthdays, mourning the loss of a loved one, to those experiencing social isolation, Easter and Christmas.

Carole Nakano
Member Care – Café Aloha

CAFE ALOHA 2026

WEST LA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SENIOR BENTO

JANUARY 10 - IN PERSON

FEBRUARY 7 - DELIVERY

MARCH 7 - IN PERSON

APRIL 4 - DELIVERY

MAY 2 - DELIVERY

JUNE 6 - IN PERSON



CAFE ALOHA 2026

WEST LA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SENIOR BENTO

JULY 11 - DELIVERY

AUGUST 1 - DELIVERY

SEPTEMBER 5 - IN PERSON

OCTOBER 3 - DELIVERY

NOVEMBER 7 - DELIVERY

DECEMBER 5 - DELIVERY



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TOSHIO + KEIKO, NAOTO + CHIEKO!

On Sunday, November 2nd, we celebrated Naoto & Chieko's 3rd wedding anniversary and Toshio & Keiko's 40th wedding anniversary - both on November 3rd!



Less is More (Part VII): How to Buy Eco-Friendly Gifts! Pt. 2

For our final chapter in Less is More, I've compiled a list of ideas for completely nonmaterial gifts for the upcoming holiday season. Not only do these type of gifts cut down on waste in the world, but they can come with other great benefits, like potentially supporting local businesses and economies, and spending time with our loved ones.

Self Care: massage, facial, spa, saunas, mani/pedis, babysitting, meditation retreat

Fitness Classes and Memberships: yoga memberships, gym memberships or punch cards, pool memberships, golf memberships, indoor rock climbing membership, beach volleyball/skiing/ sport lessons, session with a fitness trainer, martial arts or self-defense classes, 5k race registrations

Other Classes and Memberships: art/painting/pottery classes, cooking classes, dance classes, music lessons, home brewing class, surfing lessons, foreign language classes, floristry workshop, wine or cheese clubs (I've also heard of coffee and chocolate clubs)

Food: restaurants, ice cream or frozen yogurt, Crumbl, coffee shops, Farmers Market tokens, food tours, brewery tours, wine tasting

Subscriptions and Digital Gifts: Netflix/Disney+/other streaming services, Spotify, Pandora, Kindle Unlimited, Audible, Photoshop, Roblox, an ebook, Apple gift card, Nintendo/ Playstation gift card

Practical Stuff: professional photo shoot, cleaning services, car detailing, bike tune-ups, Door Dash, knife sharpening (e.g. Mison), tailoring

Travel Related: hotel or airline gift cards or points, National Parks pass, RV rental, Airbnb gift card

Fun Stuff to Do: zoos, aquariums, museums, amusement parks, arcades, mini golf, bowling, kayak/paddle board rentals, bike rentals on the beach, escape rooms, axe-throwing, Dodgers game/sport event, concerts, comedy, movies, theatre, ballet, Disney on Ice, ice skating or roller skating, Chuck E Cheese, Sky Zone, Build-A-Bear, mystery dinner show, pirate dinner show, planetarium show, laser tag, paint ball

Go Crazy: Tandem sky diving experience, sailboating excursion, horseback riding, foraging class, cat cafe admission, hot air balloon ride, piloting lessons, cruises, whale watching

Don't forget that you can make your own personalized "gift card" for practically anything: Make a date to hike to the Hollywood sign or go camping, teach someone a craft from your ancestors, cook someone dinner, or watch their kids for an evening. As we grow up and need fewer and fewer material things in our lives, these types of gifts are often the most appreciated.

Thank you for taking this Zero Waste journey with me this year!

-Jamie Thierman



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

In-person Services
9:30 AM—English Worship
11:00 AM—Japanese Worship
Online worship at wlaumc.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Friday
8:30am-12:30 pm
or call the Church Office at
310-479-1379
to speak to the staff

STAFF

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