

THE BROADCASTER

September 28, 2022

Pastor's Piece

It was so good to see lots of you at the Fall Kick-off with our annual dinner which was held Sunday, September 11. It was a very special Sunday as we commemorated the 21st anniversary of 9/11 when we expressed our appreciation to all of our first responders for who they are and what they do for us. Thank you for your participation, prayers, and support!

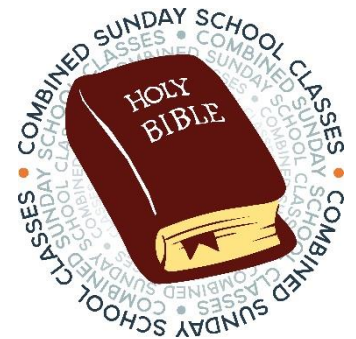
It's certainly an exciting time for us to grow in our faith. We continue to invite the entire church family members and encourage bringing your friends and neighbors to our worship services, Sunday school classes, and church activities. We offer a variety of Sunday school groups for all ages and a few classes that meet throughout the week and cover a range of topics. Those classes always give us an opportunity to learn and grow to be a disciple of Jesus. Rick Warren in his work *Purpose Driven Life* introduces the four Ds how can we be better disciples. The First D is "Decision." We need to make decision today. Second, "Desire." We need to have a strong desire to pursue spiritual maturity. Third, "Discipline." Spiritual maturity won't happen without discipline. Fourth, "Dependent." Spiritual discipline does not depend on you, but it totally depends on God's power and grace. We hope to see the spiritual maturity by trying the four Ds.

We are in the season of beginning, the beginning of a new school year and a new semester. I as a pastor pray for my congregation to be healthy spiritually, mentally, and physically. I encourage everyone to eat healthy, to exercise regularly, and to be fed with the Word of God which is the real nourishment for God's people. If you do not have a weekly group that you participate, I strongly encourage you check out Sunday school classes and other classes that meets throughout the week. We will be happy to assist you in finding the correct classes according to your interest.

Dear family members of FUMCVC, let us tie our shoes again and be ready for another year so that we all together create a new history on faith.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ji





- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jim Boyd | 1 Helen LeBlanc | 2 Martha Underwood |
| 2 Sophie Girtz | 3 Gwyn Clark | 4 Kathy Marshall |
| 5 Ted Schupp | 5 Jill Lipke | 7 Virginia Kerth |
| 7 Tracy Miracle | 7 Zane Devereaux | 9 Leah Newfer |
| 9 Tara Newfer | 10 Don Sayler | 12 Hailee Clark |
| 13 Tony Wilbur | 14 Chloe Schultz | 15 Kelly Taylor |
| 19 Walt Southards | 20 Bethany Lindstrom | 20 Tammy Taylor |
| 22 Charlie Anderson | 23 Kaitlyn Taylor | 23 Linda McCormick |
| 25 Gay Vannaman | 25 Macy Luce | 26 Robert Leewright |
| 26 Morgan Thatcher | 27 Betty Bogard | 27 Hannah Hall |
| 30 Kennedy Stamm Nicholson | 31 Joleen Zivnuska | |



- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 David & Cris Brownlee | 2 Kevin & Emily (Stone) Reamey |
| 3 Shawn & Lynn Williams | 5 Daryl & Vicky Gooch |
| 10 Randy & Pat Stone | 17 John & Roxanne Richerson |
| 22 Fred & Martha Underwood | 26 Don & Judie Myers |

ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, WE PRESENTED OUR SECOND GRADERS WITH
BIBLES. RECIPIENTS OF THOSE BIBLES INCLUDED

NOLAN KOZIOL

PAYTON KOZIOL

QUEYANA RAMOS

OLIVIA SEACAT

CHANDLER SMITH



WEEKLY:

SUNDAYS	MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS
Traditional Worship 9:00a	Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC		Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC		Soul Trainers 10:00a WCC
Sunday School 10:00a	Progressive Class 7:00p FS		JOY Group 9:30a FS		
Contemporary Worship 11:00a			Chancel Choir 5:00p SAN		
UMYF MS & HS 5:00p WCC			WOW ZONE! 6:00p		
			Pastor's Book Study 6:00p CR (ends October 19)		

SPECIAL:

Eat, Pray, Quilt...Whatever
Friday, October 14
11:00 a.m. WCC

Book Club
Wednesday, October 26
6:00 p.m. FS

Lunch & Learn / Anthony
Thursday, October 20

Valley Center's
Trick-or-Treat Street
Friday, October 28
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Church Conference
Sunday, October 30
2:00 p.m. SAN



Eat, Pray, Quilt...Whatever will meet **Friday, October 14** at 11:00 a.m. Please bring a craft to work on and a salad to share.

October's Lunch and Learn takes us to Anthony, KS. Details are still being worked out, but we know we will go on **Thursday, October 20**. Contact the office to get your name on the list! **SPACE IS LIMITED!**



October's Book Club choice is *The Do-Right* by Lisa Sandlin. 1959. Delpha Wade killed a man who was raping her. Wanted to kill the other one, too, but he got away. Now, after 14 years in prison, she's out. It's 1973, and nobody's rushing to hire a parolee. Persistence and smarts land her a secretarial job with Tom Phelan, an ex-roughneck turned neophyte private eye. Together, these two pry into the dark corners of Beaumont, a blue-collar, Cajun-influenced town dominated by Big Oil. We will meet **Wednesday, October 26** at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. ***If you would like the church to purchase a copy for you, the cost is \$5.00 and requests are due to the church office by Friday, September 30.***

UMYF High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers are going to participate in a Monthly Mission. The first Sunday of most months, we will have a table set-up in the main foyer to accept donations for that month's mission project. Those donations will then be taken to the organization the next day. All the organizations are local. Some are even in Valley Center. Please help as you feel led.

October's giving is HALLOWEEN CANDY. The candy will be used for Valley Center's Trick-or-Treat Street and to pack goodie bags for The Lord's Diner. Candy can be brought to the church office anytime before noon **Friday, October 28**.



Church Conference The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council. All members of the charge conference must be members of the local church. The charge conference must meet at least once per year. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry. (Source: *A Dictionary for United Methodists*, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press. Used by permission.) FUMCVC's Church Conference will be **Sunday, October 30** at 2:00p in the Sanctuary.



GUESS THE WEIGHT OF ME! During the month of October, we will have several pumpkins decorating the main foyer. You will have the chance to win them! Each Sunday, you'll be able to guess the weight of the pumpkins on display. Our winner(s) will be announced **Monday, October 31**.

November's Monthly Mission is Weather Related Items for the Homeless Resource Center. Items needed are Shower Liners (used for bed rolls to prevent moisture from getting on blankets/sheets), Ponchos, Hats/Gloves, Thermal Underwear, Hand Warmers, and Freezer Bags. Items can be brought to the church on **Sunday, November 6**.



PIONEERS IN METHODISM: ZENRO HIROTA

In Western cultures, a pioneer is often thought of as the first individual to do something or the leader of a new movement.

But the use of this word in earlier times suggests otherwise. The word “pioneer” derives from the French word “pionnier,” meaning “foot soldier.” A pioneer is someone who works diligently alongside others over a long period to achieve a common mission that prepares the way for others who will follow them.

The Rev. Zenro (Zenjiro) Hirota was a pioneer in Methodism in exactly this way. He was not the first Japanese-American to be ordained or received as a pastor in the Methodist Episcopal Church. That was Kanichi Miyama in the California Conference in 1887. Nor was he the first person to pastor what was already the largest church in the Pacific Japanese Conference, Pine Street Japanese Methodist Church in San Francisco. Neither was he the first to teach or be a leader at the Anglo-Japanese Training School attached to the church. But he was a pioneer as a “foot soldier” for Methodism, serving for 45 years among Japanese-speaking people in Hawaii, California, and Washington.

In the late 1800s, the first Japanese immigrants came to the United States following Japan’s emergence from isolation through newly established diplomatic relations. Zenro Hirota, born in Japan on Feb. 8, 1868, moved with his family to work in the sugar plantations in Hawaii while he was a young child. While there, he became a member of the Methodist mission (called the Sandwich Islands Mission, the name given to these islands by James Cook). He arrived in San Francisco in 1886 at age 18. Though he had come from Hawaii, he was considered an immigrant from Japan because Japan held the Japanese families in Hawaii under its protection at the time. This was prior to the United States annexing the Hawaiian Islands in 1898.

From the time of his arrival, Hirota became connected with the Methodists in San Francisco, and soon started on the path to becoming an ordained elder.

Soon after being ordained a deacon, now Rev. Hirota was sent to serve as an evangelist with the same Japanese Methodist mission in Hawaii where he had become Methodist. The 1891 Annual Report of the Methodist Episcopal Church Missionary Society notes, “Rev. Z. Hirota, an old member of the mission, went forth to the Sandwich Islands as an evangelist. He has been very successful. Scores have been converted and baptized.” His primary place of service while there was on Maui. There he became the founder of The Methodist Episcopal Church’s work to assist and evangelize people arriving on Maui from Japan.

In the early 1900s, Rev. Hirota was sent to Pine Street Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church as pastor of the church and teacher (and sometime principal) of the Anglo-Japanese Training School related to the church. This school was regularly referred to by the Pacific-Japan Conference as “the oldest, largest, and one of the best Japanese schools in America.” The school provided training in English and Japanese to Japanese-speaking people in the San Francisco area, high school courses, and Christian religious education.

Also, during his time in San Francisco, Rev. Hirota met and married Toshi Wada, who had been visiting San Francisco from Japan. She could not legally immigrate to the U.S. when they met and married, but she was able to come to visit her husband from time to time. Their son, Albert, was born in California during one of her visits in 1904. Their daughter, Yoshiko, was born in Tokyo in 1908. The family was finally reunited permanently in San Francisco in 1909 when they were permitted to reside in the United States and seek citizenship.

In 1906, the devastating earthquake and fires in San Francisco caused massive destruction to Pine Street Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church, destroying the church, its offices, the school building, the dormitory, and the printing house (also overseen by Rev. Hirota) which provided the educational resources for the Japanese-American Methodist churches along the West Coast.

With Rev. Hirota’s leadership, church members preserved what they could. “At the time of the earthquake and fire in San Francisco, Dr. Herbert B. Johnson [head of the Japanese mission on the Pacific coast], living in

Berkeley, was unable to get across the river. Native Japanese Christians in San Francisco, at the risk of life, entered the church, took some of the most valuable records, a picture of Bishop [Merriman] Harris, and the pulpit Bible, and carried them out in the back yard and buried them in the ground. After the fire was over these valuable records were found uninjured.” (Home Mission Trails, by Jay Samuel Stowell, Abingdon Press, 1920).

It was several years before the rebuilding was complete. During those years, while church attendance continued to grow, school enrollment declined because its temporary facilities were not as close to where Japanese families lived and were too small to accommodate as many students. Despite these setbacks, conference journals in these years praised Rev. Hirota for successfully continuing the church and school and reviving the publications work.

Able to reopen the school in 1908, enrollment began to increase just as another, and in some ways more difficult, challenge arose not only for Rev. Hirota’s church and the school, but also the entire Pacific-Japanese missionary conference and for Japanese people in America generally. Anti-Asian sentiments were making their way into policy and law. Already in 1907, Samuel Gompers, who had lobbied for years to curtail Chinese and Japanese immigration, led the American Federation of Labor to bar all persons of Asian descent from membership in the union.

The following year, in 1908, a “Gentleman’s Agreement” was reached between the governments of Japan and the U.S. to limit total Japanese immigration. While families of Japanese immigrants already in the U.S. could come, such as Rev. Hirota’s own wife and children, all others would be barred entry.

Church attendance at Pine Street remained steady or slightly growing as it had during the period after the fire, but the new legal situation meant a corresponding increase in school enrollment did not happen. Rev. Hirota continued to work with the church, the school, and the publishing house for another nine years.

In 1917, Rev. Hirota was reappointed to a church in Honolulu, as pastor and director of the Japanese mission work on the island. He was well received and remembered as the first missionary to the Japanese on Maui many years before. The Friend, a Hawaiian Christian newspaper, wrote at the 1917 dedication of a Japanese Methodist church in Waipahu, “Mr. Hirota is a happy addition to our Christian forces in Honolulu; he is a forceful speaker and was listened to with great interest.”

In 1921, Rev. Hirota was moved to Sacramento and began serving as president of the Japanese Evangelistic Society. All Japanese-related work would become even more difficult beginning in 1924, when the Immigration Act banned all immigration from Asian countries, including Japan. The Immigration Act was primarily responsible for the closure of the Anglo-Japanese School in 1927.

Still, Rev. Hirota served faithfully where he had been appointed, moving on to churches in Yakima, Washington (1930), and Bakersfield, Calif. (1936), up to the time of his retirement in 1937. Upon retirement, he moved back to San Francisco, where he became active again at the church he had pastored for many years on Pine Street.

In 1942, an executive order signed by President Roosevelt forcibly removed over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their homes. Rev. Hirota, then 74 years old, was sent with his family to a detention camp in Utah’s Sevier Desert (Topaz Relocation Center) until World War II ended in 1945. The clergy roll in the conference journal from 1942 lists all of the Japanese pastors in the “Military Zone,” and notes, in somber tones, that they were excused from ministerial duties while so located.

Returning to his home in San Francisco after release from three years of unjust detention, Rev. Zenro Hirota died on Nov. 18, 1948, at age 80, and was buried at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, California.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-pioneers-in-methodism-zenro-hirota>



Our Lunch and Learn group in Arkansas City
in September. Come join the fun!

The Broadcaster
First United Methodist Church
560 N. Park Ave
Valley Center, KS 67147
316.755.1112
fumvc.org