

HEART-TO-HEART

We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.



Anniversaries

We like celebrating. We celebrate birthdays, graduations, great accomplishments, and the list goes on. Well, this month we celebrate Alli Oshiro as it's been a year since she joined as co-editor of Heart-To-Heart and contributed her first article. It's been a blessing to have her on board!

On September 28 we also celebrate the hard work of our pastors and their wives in leading our church and look forward to

their continued service to our church at our Aloha Reception.

When we celebrate, our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude. This month let's all celebrate being a part of a wonderful church with good people who serve God with the gifts that God has given to them. There are many people who do things around the church facility and within the "church" to keep things moving along. Figure out who they are and what they do, then express your gratitude to them.

When our heart, mind, and spirit is filled with gratitude we receive many blessings.

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Jesus Had Emotions Too: The Breaking Point

Hebrews 4:15

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Introduction

As we move through the last four months of 2025, we'll take time to notice the very real emotions Jesus experienced during His ministry on earth. This month, we begin with frustration. In the months ahead, we'll also reflect on Jesus' moments of despair, compassion, and exhaustion.

Key Passage: Matthew 21:12–13

Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a den of robbers.”

Observations:

Make at least 10 observations about the passage above, write down everything you see in the passage. (Since this is the first month, I'll start you off with the first 5).

1. Jesus entered the temple
2. Jesus drove out all who sold things in the temple
3. Jesus drove out all who bought things in the temple
4. Jesus overturned money changer's tables
5. Jesus overturn chairs of people who were selling pigeons
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Context:

The temple courts had become a place of corruption. Merchants, working alongside the priests, forced worshippers to buy “approved” sacrificial animals at inflated prices—sometimes five times higher than outside the temple.

This corrupt buying and selling took place in the outer court, the only space where Gentiles were allowed to worship. Not only were they taken advantage of, the noise and chaos made it nearly impossible for them to pray.

Jesus' frustration wasn't only about dishonesty—it was also about exclusion. Quoting Isaiah 56:7, He reminded them: “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” His response pointed to the bigger truth: God's mercy and salvation are meant for everyone.

Journal: Reflection Question

Using the prompt and questions below, please take a moment to journal your thoughts.

Think of a time when you were so frustrated you reached your breaking point.

- What happened and how did you respond?
- How was God present in and after that moment?

Prayer

“Dear Jesus, thank you for showing me that you experienced human emotions too, even frustration. Please help me to turn to you when I am at my breaking point, so you can guide me to respond in ways that reflect Your love, mercy, and grace. Amen.”



The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

Psalms 34:17

Little Aggravations

by Jeanne Nagatani

An excerpt from 60 Days of Prayer – June 30:

“Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

It's often the small irritations that unsettle our peace. God invites us to approach these moments patiently, nurturing a spirit of calm and understanding. The practice of patience and self-control serves as a foundation for peace, allowing us to diffuse tensions and maintain harmony.

Lord, teach me to handle life's little aggravations with grace. Help me respond with patience and love, honoring You with my words and actions.”

I'm a spoiled brat. When I was little, I wanted my way, and I would get upset when things didn't go the way I wanted it to. I used to get all emotional and “habut” (Japanese word for pouty), and I would shout angry words at the person who got me upset. It was never my fault. It was theirs. They made me angry. This followed me into adulthood. If I didn't have control over a situation or others didn't do things how I wanted them to, I would get irritated or upset.

I didn't know God when I was little, in fact, I got to know Him better when I was older and already set in my ways. Throughout my life, He gave me a lot of life lessons that taught me how He wanted me to be - more loving and full of grace. Being stubborn, He gave me the same lesson over and over until I had the “A-ha!” moment. Jesus also gave me family and friends that helped me to get to the “A-ha!” moments quicker. Some changes, like not being so angry, took years for me to learn. I still have moments where I escalate, but it's getting less. I'm still a work in progress.

God has shown me what grace is and how by my words and actions, I can be more like Him by being more considerate and loving others. He has brought JOY into my life by helping me to change and be more like Him.



Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.

– Carl Jung

Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in You. Psalm 86:4



Try this tasty recipe - and share with family and friends!



Scones

Ingredients

Ingredients

- 2 c. Flour
- 2 tsp. Baking Powder
- 3/4 tsp. Salt
- 1/3 c. Sugar
- 4 Tablespoons Butter
- 2 Tablespoons Shortening
- 3/4 c. heavy cream
- 1 egg.

Choose 1 Mix-in (1/2 cup)

- Chocolate Chips
- Cranberries
- Raisins
- Blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- Cream cheese
- Nuts



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Mix well.
3. Cut in butter and shortening.
4. In a separate bowl combine cream and beaten egg, then add to dry ingredients.
5. Stir in mix in of your choice
6. Use ice cream scooper to scoop dough onto cookie sheet OR Roll out and cut into triangles
7. Brush with egg wash
8. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.



Eating and reading are two pleasures that combine admirably.

C.S. LEWIS

Did you know... WOCC has a little library of books that everyone is welcome to borrow. There's a bookshelf on the right-hand side of the sanctuary as you enter from the parking lot. Thank you to Asami Lee for the idea and for maintaining our little library. Please feel free to check it out and borrow a book or two. There's a lot to choose from that may interest you.



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