



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5396

SEPTEMBER 2025

September Service and events:

- 9/14/2025 - Fall Ohigan/September Shotsuki/Dharma School
- 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Patti Oshita

- 9/20/2025 – CC Nenbutsu Gathering, Fresno Betsuin
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; “How the
Nenbutsu can Enrich Your Life” – Rev. Kodo
Umezu (see flyer & registration sheet below)



Guided by Amida's Vow

In September, we observe the autumn Ohigan. During this week, centered around the Autumn Equinox, the sun rises due east and sets due west. As the season shifts and the days grow shorter, many of us find ourselves putting our hands together in gassho, quietly remembering loved ones who have passed.

In Buddhism, life in this world is described as this shore (shigan)—a place filled with delusion and desires. The awakened realm of peace is called the Other Shore (higan). The path that connects these two worlds is explained in the Pure Land tradition as the “White Path.” This White Path is narrow, but steady—bright and firm underfoot, even as danger rages on both sides.

This White Path is illustrated in the Contemplation Sutra. It runs straight through a frightening and unstable landscape—flames of anger on one side, waves of greed on the other. But through the working of Amida, this single path stretches from the world of delusion to the realm of awakening. It is not a path we carve out through our own effort. It is already there, given to us by the Vow of Amida.

Still, we often try to forge our own way—trusting only our limited strength or cleverness. When our plans slip beyond our control, we lose our temper, fall into confusion, or swing to emotional extremes. That’s just how human beings are.

But there is a Buddha who calls out gently to us: “It’s all right. Just entrust yourself.” That Buddha is Amida.

And when we look back, Shakyamuni Buddha too is there—smiling, reassuring us from behind, gently nudging us forward on this path.

Amida does not abandon us in our weakness. Amida continues, without rest, to guide us so we do not stray or fall away from the Path.

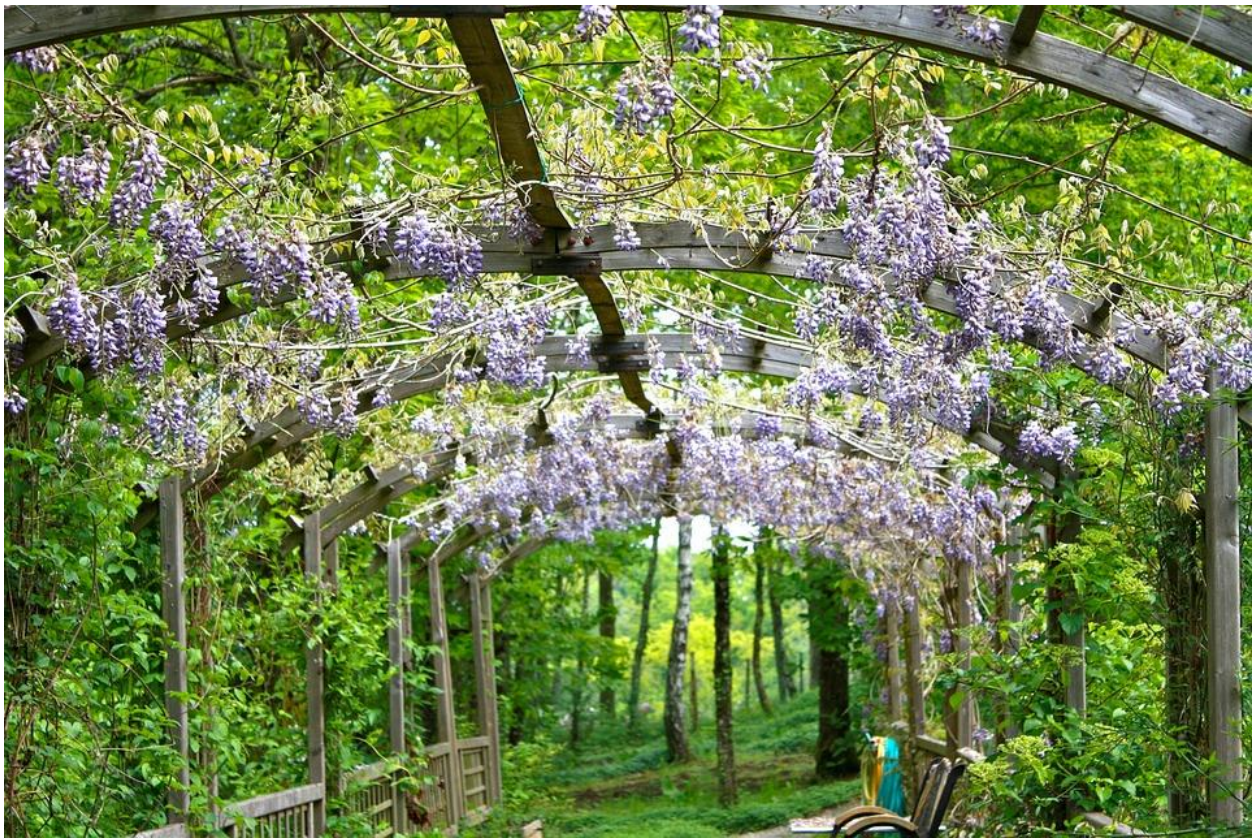
The White Path is not something we build through effort or discipline. It is the path we walk when we are guided by Amida’s Vow. And once we realize that truth, we can walk with a deep sense of assurance and peace.

During this Ohigan season, as we move through ordinary days, may we take a quiet moment to put our hands together and reflect: “Ah... I am being illuminated and protected by the Buddha’s compassion.”

Perhaps that is where the true meaning of higan is found.

This autumn, may we entrust our hearts to Amida Buddha’s unwavering Vow—knowing that we are never alone on this path.

Namo Amida Butsu



あ み だ ね が み ち び
阿弥陀さまの願いに導かれて

が つ あ き ひ が ん む か し ゅ う ぶ ん ひ ち ゅ う に ち い っ し ゅ う か ん た い よ う ま ひ が し の ぼ
9月には秋のお彼岸を迎えます。秋分の日を中日とする一週間、太陽が真東から昇
り 真 西 に し ゅ ず この じ き わ た し た ち は ふ と て あ た い せ つ か た お も だ
り真西に沈むこの時期に、私たちはふと手を合わせ、大切な方を思い出します。

ぶ っ き ょ う し が ん ま よ ぼ ん の う み ひ が ん せ か い い た
仏教では、「此岸」迷いと煩惱に満ちたこの世から、「彼岸」さとりの世界へと至る
道 が 説 か れ て き ま し た 。 じ ゅ う ど お し せ か い む す み ち び ゃ く ど う よ
道が説かれてきました。浄土の教えでは、そのふたつの世界を結ぶ道は「白道」と呼
ば れ て い ま す 。 この び ゃ く ど う か ん む り ょ う じ ゅ き ょ う ひ み ず か こ ふ あ ん
れています。この白道は観無量寿経をもとにあらわされました。火と水に囲まれた不安
な 現 実 の な か を 、 あ み だ つ ら ぬ ま よ せ か い
な現実の中を、阿弥陀さまのはたらきによってまっすぐに貫かれた、迷いの世界からさ
とりの世界へ続く、たった一つの道をあらわしています。

そ れ は 、 わ た し た ち が し ゅ ぎ ょ う き ひ ら ほ と け ね が
それは、私たちが修行によって切り開くものではなく、仏さまの願によってすでに私
た ち に と ど っ て い る み ち わ た し じ ぶ ん ち か ら み ち つ く あ ゆ
たちに届いている道なのです。けれども私たちは、自分の力で道を作り歩もうとしま
す。そして、つい お こ ま よ き ゅ ー だ ん は し げ ん じ つ
怒ったり迷ったり、極端に走ったりしてしまうのが現実ではないでしょ
うか。

そ ん な わ た し だ い じ ょ う ぶ よ ほ と け ね が
そんな私たちに「大丈夫。」と呼びかけてくださる仏さまがいます。それが、阿弥陀さま
で す 。 後 ろ を 振 り 返 れ ば 、 お 釈 迦 さ ま も 「 大 丈 夫 。 」 と や さ し く わ た し う し ょ
後ろを振り返れば、お釈迦さまも「大丈夫。」とやさしく私たちをそっと後から
せ な か お あ み だ ま よ お お よ わ わ た し
背中を押してくださる。阿弥陀さまは、迷い多く、弱く、とらわれてばかりの私たちが
だ っ せ ん や す わ た し み ち び
脱線しないように休みなく私たちを導いてくださいます。

び ゃ く ど う わ た し ど り ゃ く き ひ ら み ち あ み だ ね が み ち び あ ゆ
白道とは、私たちが努力して切り開く道ではなく、阿弥陀さまの願いに導かれて歩
む 道 で あ る こ と が わ か っ た ら も う あ ん し ん ひ が ん じ き な に げ に ち じ ょ う な か
む道であることがわかったらもう安心です。このお彼岸の時期、何気ない日常の中
で て あ わ せ 、 「 あ あ 、 わ た し ほ と け て ま も
と手を合わせ、「ああ、私は仏さまに照らされて護られているのだな。」とありがたく
い た だ ほ ん と う い み ひ が ん い み
頂く。そこにこそ、本当の意味でのお彼岸の意味があるのではないのでしょうか。

あ き あ み だ ね が し ず こ こ ろ あ ず
この秋、阿弥陀さまの願いに静かに心を預けてまいりましょう。

合掌

南無阿弥陀仏

The Shiny Jewels in the Cave

One day, the Buddha and his disciple Ananda were traveling. They spent a night resting in a quiet cave.



The next morning, as they were leaving the cave, Ananda said, “World-Honored One, I saw something deep inside the cave. It looked like beautiful jewels shining in the dark. Could those be treasures hidden by thieves?”

The Buddha replied gently, “No, Ananda. Those are not jewels. They are poisonous snakes.” A man nearby happened to overhear this conversation. After the Buddha and Ananda walked away, he snuck into the cave. He looked around and—what did he see? Shiny, sparkling jewels everywhere!



“What? Snakes? What nonsense!” the man laughed.

“The Buddha can’t even tell the difference between a snake and a gemstone!”

The man took the jewels, sold them in the city, and started living a rich and fancy life. But soon, his neighbors became suspicious. “He must be a thief!” one neighbor said, and reported him to the king.

The guards came and arrested him. “I’m not a thief!” the man cried. “I found the treasure in a cave!” But no one had seen the jewels in the cave. He couldn’t prove anything. And so, he was sentenced to death.

On the day he was to be punished, the man whispered, “Oh Buddha... now I understand. You were right. Those jewels were snakes. If only I had trusted your words... I wouldn’t be here.”



The king heard his words and was surprised. “What do you mean?” he asked. The man told him about the Buddha and Ananda, and

The king said, “So... now you understand why the Buddha called them snakes. Treasures may look beautiful, but if we keep craving more and more, they can become poison and bring us trouble. You want to learn from the Buddha now. Then I will let you go. Go, and listen to his teaching.”

And the man was pardoned.



Sometimes, we doubt the words of wise people—like our teachers, our parents, or the Buddha. We may think “If I don’t get more, how can I live a comfortable life?” But sometimes, our own thoughts can lead us into trouble.



President's Message

It was certainly a nice experience with good attendance again for the August Shotsuki Service. Rev. Ko'e Umezu gave a very meaningful Dharma message. It was nice to see Rev. Amy, as most of us know her by, continue to carry on the legacy of her grandpa, George Teraoka, and her father the former Bishop, as a supreme Dharma propagator. Thank you to all in the kitchen, headed by Sharon Asakawa, that provided a delicious lunch after the service.

A board meeting was held immediately after the service. The main order of business was to approve the updated bylaws of the CCDC. The bylaws update was approved by the board with no significant surprises. The old bylaws required 4 representative from each temple and that requirement was reduced to two representatives. However at the next CCDC meeting, we will need 4 representatives from each temple to vote on approving the bylaws. The next CCDC meeting is on September 11th at the Fowler church.

Update of church structure:

The City of Fowler is requiring the church to install a new back flow valve for our main water hookup. We have contracted Quality Plumbing to install the new unit. The settling of the

northeast corner of the Hondo will be investigated by a soil compaction study and then it will be decided on whether there is any fault from the City or whether it is feasible to make an insurance claim. We have contacted Krazan Engineering to evaluate the soil. The air conditioning unit for the office and the foyer quit working and a new fan motor in the unit had to be replaced.

Organizations:

The golf club is planning its next tournament, the first half of the fall championship, at Tulare Golf Course on Sept. 7th. The Fowler BC Fellowship Tournament will be on April 25, 2026. We are encouraging golfers to participate in the Nikkei Foundation Tournament coming up on September 27th. The Fowler BWA chapter will be hosting the next CCBWA Conference which will be held in Parlier on March 22, 2026. The Fowler church will need to provide a rider on our insurance to protect our BWA from liability for holding the event on the Parlier premises.

There was a discussion of whether we should hold a food bazaar next year. We have tentatively set a date for the bazaar on February 21, 2026. We will start planning in November.

Just a reminder for church members that use the building for meetings or other events, to please notify President

Gary so that the event can be put on the calendar. Please be sure that the building is secured properly when you close the church.

‘Hope to see you all at the next service, which will be our Fall Ohigan on September 14th. You won’t want to miss it since our native-daughter, Rev. Patti Oshita, will be our speaker. I also encourage you to sign up for this year’s CC Nembutsu Family Gathering on September 20th. The flyer and registration form can be found in this newsletter.

Gassho,

Gary Mukai

In Case You Didn’t Know . . .

- Keep up to date on what’s happening at the Buddhist Church of Fowler by reading the White Path (monthly newsletter) online. Visit: fowlerbc.org

Dues

In case it slipped your mind, this is just a friendly reminder that your church dues for 2025 are now being accepted. Dues have not increased and remain:
\$225.00 – individuals; \$450.00 couples/family.

Board of Governors - September

(A new District order starts at the beginning of each year.)

District 3

Riji

Aiko Kamine
Craig Sakaguchi

Toban

Aiko Kamine
Irene Hara

The Shotsuki names for the month of September are:

Shotaro Arasuna
Miyako Ezaki
Chisa Kikuta
Hideo Kikuta
Kaichi Matsuoka
Masao Nakamura
Teruko Nakamura
Iwazo Shimamoto
Hatsujiro Sugimoto
Fumi Takasaki
Misao Takemoto
Sawataro Teraoka
Toshi Uchiyama
Inema Wada
Sampachi Yokomi
Naohiko Yoshimura
Sumiye Shimoda
Alice Honda

Alta Matsuko Kikuta
 Suno Onaka
 Faye Fumiko Namba
 Nakayo Nakamoto
 Jane Tsuruko Hashimoto
 Masao Fujikawa
 Masako Higuchi
 Takashi Ideta
 Masako Tema Yosako
 Masao Ishimoto
 Sue Sumie Kageura
 Ann Ayano Ideta
 Betty Harumi Tokubo
 Rev Shodo Toyoji Jim Yanagihara
 Edward Toshio Hirasuna
 Kimihiro Sera

CONDOLENCES

The Buddhist Church of Fowler
 to the Hashimoto family on the
 passing of George Hashimoto.

May you always find comfort in the
 Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu



August 2025 Donations

Obon/Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Janie Yuen

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00	Janie Yuen & Family
\$ 50.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 50.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 50.00	Kerry & Jeri Nakagawa & Family
\$ 40.00	Nakamura Family
\$ 35.00	Brian Nagata
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 25.00	Eiko Ii
\$ 25.00	Earl Honda
\$ 20.00	Yoshiye Ii

In Memory of Mary Teraoka, 7th Year Memorial

\$ 300.00 The Teraoka Family

Youth Fund

\$1000.00 M Tokubo Family

Special Donations

\$1000.00	CCYBA
	Hot Dog Sales
\$ 32.00	In Memory of Kenny Hashimoto & Kevin Nagata

FOWLER B.C., Dharma School,
Buddhist Women Association, Fowler
Golf Club

Thank you for the Past, Present and
Future Support of Blake.

Blake is starting a New Chapter in life
as Rev. Blake Honda, he is assigned to
Oxnard and Santa Barbara Buddhist
Church.

Blake, Craig and I appreciate the
members' support, guidance, and
donation toward Blake's Ministry
journey.

Thank you also to the congregation for
the future growth of our Sangha. Please
come to our future gatherings and bring
your friends.

Gassho,

Craig and Tayoko Honda

Rev. Blake Honda

Center of Buddhist Education | Living the Dharma Committee

Finding My Path as a Young Adult With Cancer



Guest Speaker

Paul Daisuke Goodman

Creative Director,
Eight East Productions

Paul Daisuke Goodman is the creative director at Eight East Productions and the writer and director of the award-winning film, No No Girl. He is also an editor at the popular online Buddhist school, Everyday Buddhist and has contributed to publications such as Lion's Roar and Pacific Citizen. Paul is a three time cancer survivor and began making feature films after his initial diagnosis in 2016.

17 September 2025

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM PT

Virtual via Zoom

Please register to receive the link →

Register Today!



bit.ly/ltd0917



Central California Nembutsu Family Gathering
(Fowler, Fresno, Hanford, Parlier, Reedley, Visalia)

Saturday, September 20, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fresno Buddhist Temple

Please complete your registration by Friday, Sept. 12, 2025
Register online by clicking or scanning the QR code



Payment options for registration fees:
-by check payable to CCDC and mail to:
CCDC c/o 2690 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno 93720 or
-by cash or check the day of the Nembutsu Family Gathering

Schedule

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Family Dharma Service in the Hondo Children’s Dharma Talk--Guest speaker, Rev. Kodo Umezu
10:15 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	Children’s Workshop and Bounce House
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Adults move to the Family Dharma Center (FDC)/Refreshments
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Adult Seminar: “How the Nembutsu Can Enrich Your Life” with Rev. Kodo Umezu
12:00 p.m. – 12:05 p.m.	All attendees in the FDC: Closing remarks and Gassho
12:05 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch: Hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixings Reedley’s Papa Murphy’s Pizza Shave Ice by the CCYBA (donation)
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Sangha Social for Everyone Bingo with cash prizes and fun prizes 50/50 Raffle

Registration

Registration Fee includes: Lunch, Bingo, and Bounce House
\$5/person (11 yrs. and older) \$3/child (3 yrs. – 10 yrs.)

Name(s) _____ # _____ Adults @ \$5.00 = _____

Temple (if applicable) _____ # _____ Child/ren @ \$3.00 = _____

Phone # _____ Donation, optional _____

Email _____ Total _____

Lunch: Vegetarian _____ Please list dietary restrictions: _____

For more information, please contact: fresnobuddhisttemple@gmail.com

YOGA AND BUDDHISM COMMUNITY GATHERING

Workshops and discussions on Yoga and Buddhism

Friday, Sept. 26 - Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Sacramento

Bob Matsueda

Yoga and Wellness Instructor
Yoga Therapist, Government of
India, Ministry of AYUSH



Rev. Bob Oshita & Rev. Patti Oshita

BCA Ministers (Retired)
Co-authors, *Dharma Is Everywhere*
Yoga Teacher Candidates

**Everyone is invited -
any age and physical condition.
No experience or mats are necessary.**

**REGISTRATION IS VERY LIMITED
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**

Information and sign up, please email Rev. Patti Oshita
pattioshita100@gmail.com

**Sponsored by: Buddhist Church of Florin • Buddhist Church of Marysville
Placer Buddhist Church • Buddhist Church of Sacramento • Buddhist Church of Stockton
Walnut Grove Buddhist Church • Buddhist Church of Lodi
Buddhist Churches of America • Center for Buddhist Education
BCA Endowment Foundation's Dharma Forward Program**



*** We are not endorsing gambling, but we appreciate the
venue for the accommodations for this event.



FALL OHIGAN SEMINAR

“BUDDHISM TO JODO SHINSHU”

LEARN FROM BISHOP TATSUYA AOKI

JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA
JODO SHINSHU MINISTER & ACTOR
(RECENTLY ON HULU/FX'S HIT SHOW “SHŌGUN”)



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
9:30AM – NOON

FRESNO FAMILY DHARMA CENTER
2690 E. ALLUVIAL AVE., FRESNO 93720

FREE! ALL ARE WELCOME!

**SPONSORED BY THE FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE EDUCATION &
PROPAGATION COMMITTEE, THE TOSHIE YAMAGUCHI FAMILY
AND THE CENTRAL CALIF. BUDDHIST MINISTERS ASSOCIATION**

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED JOINT SEMINAR WILL BE HELD ON
OCTOBER 11, 2025 AT THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF PARLIER**

(559) 442-4054

INFO@FRESNOBUDDHISTTEMPLE.ORG

WWW.FRESNOBUDDHISTTEMPLE.ORG



THE FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2690 e. alluvial ave. • [fresno ca 93720](#)

GINZA FOOD BAZAAR

Sunday October 26, 2025

11:00am til 2:00pm

Box lunch must be picked up by 1:00pm

ALA CARTE

MENU

Sushi & Spam Musubi
Shrimp/Vegetable Tempura
Curry Rice Bowl
BBQ Ribs
Chicken Salad
Karaage Chicken
Croquettes
Beef Sliders
Desserts
Beverages

BOX

LUNCH

Boneless Chicken Teriyaki
Chow Mein
Gyoza
Namasu
Edamame
Rice
Fruit

Tix must be purchased in
advance

\$22

Raffle Drawing

first \$1000 | second \$500 | third \$250



For information: 559.442.4054
info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org
www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org



Reedley Buddhist Church 71st Annual Food Bazaar

Boneless Chicken Teriyaki, Chow Mein, Teriyaki Beefstick, Namasu, Rice, & Almond Cookie



Sunday, November 2, 2025

Dine-In or Pick Up - 3:00 - 6:00 PM

\$20 each boxed dinner - Pre-sale ONLY

* A limited number of dinners available

Deadline: Monday, October 20, 2025

Send to: Reedley Buddhist Church - P.O. Box 24 - Reedley, CA 93654

Also for Sale:
Inari &
Spam Sushi

Country Store
Home-made items

Desserts - So many
delicious goodies!

Cut and return the bottom portion

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email or cell phone text (for receipt confirmation): _____

Boxed Dinners: _____ x \$20.00 Total Enclosed _____

Deadline: Monday, October 20, 2025

Make checks payable to: REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

Questions: Call Vickie Nishida at (559)903-0317 or email: vlnishida1@gmail.com
or Karen Sakata at (559)284-9885 or email: kgsakata@verizon.net

For more information or to download a form go to: **www.reedleybc.org**

