



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5398

November 2025

November Service and events:

- 11/22/2025 – Dharma Discussion with Rev. Henry Adams
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Fowler Buddhist Church
- 11/23/2025 – Eitaikyo and November Shotsuki Service and
Dharma School
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Henry Adams

Board Meeting 12:00 noon (Youth Bldg.)

CCDSTL Conference Planning Meeting
12:00 noon

December Service and events:

- 12/06/2025 – Dharma Discussion with Rev. J. Shinseki
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.– Fowler Buddhist Church
- 12/07/2025 – Bodhi Day, December Shotsuki and Dharma
School service
10:00 a.m. – Rev. J. Shinseki

Unfortunately, we will not be having Mochitsuko this year.

一水四見 (**Issui Shiken**)

In Buddhism, there is a well-known teaching called **“Issui Shiken” (One Water, Four Views)**. It illustrates how the same “water” can appear completely different depending on who is perceiving it.

For example, what humans see as water is perceived by heavenly beings as a land made of precious jewels. Beings in hell see it as a river of filthy water, while fish see it as their home. One reality, seen from four perspectives — each shaped by the viewer’s conditions and standpoint.

This idea also applies to human relationships. A landscape that moves one person deeply may seem unremarkable to someone else. A person admired by some may be disliked by others. Each of us sees things differently, depending on our perspective, values, and emotional state.

In Japanese, there is a proverb that expresses a similar idea: **“A crab digs a hole that fits its shell.”** A crab with a large shell digs a large hole; a crab with a small shell digs a small hole. In other words, people act and think according to the “size of their own capacity.”

In the same way, we view the world through the measure of our own hearts. A person with a large, generous “vessel” looks at others warmly and can see their good qualities. On the other hand, when we label others as “bad” or “disagreeable,” it may reflect the narrowness or coldness of our own gaze.

From the perspective of people in the past, our modern lives are more luxurious than those of kings and nobles. We enjoy delicacies from land and sea, live in homes with heating and air-conditioning, and drive wherever we wish. If someone from a time of cold and scarcity were to see our lives, they would surely view them with amazement and envy.

Yet, we often take this abundance for granted and even find ourselves thinking, “It’s not enough.” There is no end to looking upward, and no end to looking downward. Living with fewer desires and a heart that knows contentment is timeless wisdom — but it remains difficult to practice in any age.

“Issui Shiken” invites us to reflect on how we see others and the world, and to examine the capacity of our own hearts. At the end of the day, may you quietly put your hands together and recite Namo Amida Butsu. In that gentle silence, may deep peace visit your heart.

Namo Amida Butsu

一水四見

仏教には、「一水四見」という言葉があります。これは、同じ「水」という対象を見ても、見る者によってまったく違う姿に見える、という考え方を示しています。

たとえば、人間が水と見るものを、天人は宝石でできた大地と見なし、地獄にいる者は汚れた水の流れる川ととらえ、魚たちにとってはそれが住み家となります。同じ一つの「水」を、それぞれが異なる視点と立場から見ているのです。

この考え方は、人間同士の関係にもあてはまります。ある人が「美しい」と感動する風景も、別の人には何の感慨もないことがあります。ある人が「素晴らしい」と評価する人物を、別の人は「気に入らない」と思うかもしれません。ものの見方は、それぞれの立場・心の状態・価値観によって大きく異なるのです。

日本のことわざにも、「カニは甲羅に似せて穴を掘る」という表現があります。甲羅の大きなカニは大きな穴を掘り、小さな甲羅のカニは小さな穴を掘る——つまり、人は自分の器量に合った考え方や行動をする、というたとえです。

わたしたちも、結局はそれぞれの「器」で物事を見えています。器の大きい人、すなわち包容力のある人は、温かい目で人を見守るため、相手のよいところを見つけることができます。逆に、「あの人が嫌い」「あの人は悪い」と決めつけるとき、それはわたしたちの見る目が狭く、冷たい視線になっているのかもしれません。

現代に生きる私たちの生活は、昔の人から見れば、まさに王侯貴族以上でしょう。山海の珍味を日常的に味わい、冷暖房完備の住宅に住み、車で自由に出かけられる——そんな生活を、寒さに震える時代の人々が見たら、きっと驚きとうらやましさを感じたに違いありません。

けれど、わたしたちはその豊かさを「あたりまえ」と思い、さらに「もっと、もっと」と欲をふくらませてしまいます。上を見ればきりがなく、下を見てもきりがありません。欲を少なくして、いまの暮らしに「足る」を知る——これは、いつの時代にも通じる大切な教えでありながら、実践するのはとても難しいことです。

「一水四見」は、他者や世界をどう見るか、そして自分自身の「心の器」を見つめ直すヒントを与えてくれる言葉でもあります。一日の終わりに、そっと手を合わせてお念仏をとる——その静けさの中に、深い安らぎが訪れますように。

合掌

The Rich Man and the One More Cow

A long time ago in India, there was a very rich man who owned ninety-nine cows. One day, he thought to himself, “I have 99 cows. If I had just one more, I’d have 100! It’s so disappointing to be missing one.” Once this thought entered his mind, he couldn’t stop thinking about it. He became restless and desperate to get one more cow. Finally, he came up with a plan.



The rich man put on old, torn clothes and went to visit a poor friend who lived far away. This friend owned only one cow and was not wealthy at all. The rich man said with a sad voice, “I have nothing. I can’t even feed my children. Please, help me.” The poor man was shocked and said, “I didn’t know you were suffering like this. I only have one cow, but I can survive without it if I try hard. Please, take this cow and feed your children.” The rich man pretended to cry as he led the cow away. Inside, he was laughing to himself, “Yes! Now I finally have 100 cows!”

Do you think the rich man became happy after getting the 100th cow? The answer is No. The very next morning, he thought, “Great! Now I have 100 cows. Next, I’ll aim for 150!” Then he started counting again. “I still need 50 more cows...,” “I still need 45 more cows...” No matter how many cows he had, he always felt something was missing. His heart was never satisfied. That is not real happiness, is it?



What about the poor friend who gave away his only cow? He experienced the joy of giving. In Buddhism, this is called *dāna* — the happiness that comes from sharing and helping others, not from always wanting more. The rich man’s heart was full of desire, but the poor man’s heart was full of kindness. That kindness made his life truly content and rich.



True happiness doesn’t come from wanting more and more, but from a warm heart that gives and shares with others. At the end of the day, let us put our hands together, say “*Namo Amida Butsu*,” and take a moment to reflect with warm hearts.

President's Message

I am very grateful to all of you that attended our October Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial and Shotsuki service. Our attendance for our monthly services has been very good, but I know we can do even better. Our guest speaker, Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, noted in his Dharma talk all the great Buddhist women that have played an integral role in the history of Jodo Shinshu. That is true in all of our Sanghas, especially for the Fowler temple. How would we survive without the dedicated support of our BWA? More and more we look to the women of our temple to take over leadership roles in the function of our church. After our service, we were once again treated to a tasty teriyaki chicken plate with all the fixings and a dessert table fit for royalty. Thank you, Sharon Asakawa, for organizing these events. Sitting down and socializing after the service serves a vital role in the vitality of the church and encourages regular attendance.

You won't want to miss our November Eitaikyo / monthly Shotsuki / Dharma School service, when our guest speaker will be, Rev. Henry Adams, one of the most dynamic and thought-provoking Dharma speakers in the BCA. We will also have a Dharma Discussion Group led by Rev. Adams on the Saturday, before the Sunday service. The Dharma discussion will be Saturday, Nov. 22nd, at 4:30 pm

and our 10 am Sunday service will be Nov. 23rd. I hope you can attend. There will be a short church board meeting after the Sunday service.

Please try to support the other Valley Sanghas when you can. Reedley's Food Bazaar will be November 2nd. I hope you had a chance to visit the Fresno Betsuin Food Bazaar on Oct 26th.

After the first of the year, we will continue having our regular Shotsuki and Buddhist Holiday Observances monthly, and we will be adding a lay service, including Dharma school on another Sunday every month. Our lay service will be shorter to allow more time for Dharma classes. We will be bringing back our adult Dharma discussion as well.

Recently you may have received in the mail requests for support of the BCA Social Welfare fund and support of the Dana Program that supports the BCA Endowment Fund. Please consider contributing to these worthwhile projects. The Social Welfare Program supports many worldwide humanitarian projects. As an example, it was especially helpful to those in need of relief after the devastating Maui fire, as well as relief from earthquakes in Japan, and those displaced in Ukraine.

Our church is sponsoring Ken Ishimoto (at no cost) as a temple representative for yoga instruction

made available through the BCA, which may eventually help develop an active yoga practice at the church. If any of you are interested in learning about yoga, please talk to Ken.

As we approach the busy winter season, it's time to gather with family, relatives and friends and reflect upon your gratitude for their support throughout the year.

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

Board of Governors - November

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

District 5

Riji

Cherie Nakayama
Gary Mukai

Toban

Satomi Hiyama
Alice Fijikawa

The Shotsuki names for the month of November are:

Hina Tsuboi
Wasa Kuramoto
Shizuno Matsuoka
Mieko Honda
Masajiro Miyake
Tamayo Hirasuna
Mikiye Mukai
Haruso Kimura
Yasuo Fujikawa
Kenji Takimoto
Masuno Nishina
Nobu Shimoda
Itsuyo Iwamoto
Haruko Toyama
Dennis Nakagawa
Yoshimi Nakahira
Matsuso Takeda
Patsy Ashida
Ben Nakamura
Taeko Yamashita
Chizu Miyagawa
Marjorie Yuriiko Miyasaki
Fred Masakiyo Sakazaki
Masami Ray Nishina
Kenji Takimoto
Sachiko Onaka
Shigeru Shig Uchiyama
Kim Nishina
Lily Yuriiko Kato
Russell Shimizu
Toshiko Arasuna
Mitsuro Tomoyasu
Harry Honda
Shirley Honda
Howard Matsumura

A close-up photograph of a pink lotus flower in full bloom. The petals are a vibrant pink color, with some showing lighter, almost white, variegation. The flower is surrounded by large, dark green lily pads. The background is dark, making the flower and leaves stand out.

Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Memorial Service

\$	30.00	Ben & Noreen Yosako
\$	30.00	Ben & Noreen Yosako
\$	30.00	Janie Yuen
\$	30.00	M/M Gerald Nakayama
\$	30.00	Hitomi Sera & Family
\$	25.00	Janis & Wayne Sutow
\$	20.00	Eiko & Yoshiye Ii
\$	20.00	Eiko & Yoshiye Ii
\$	20.00	Sharon Asakawa

In Memory of George Hashimoto

In Memory of Mikiye Mukai and Robert Matsumoto

\$ 50.00 Gary & Karen Mukai



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

