



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5399

December 2025

December Service and events:

- 12/06/2025 – Dharma Discussion with Rev. J. Shinseki
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Fowler Buddhist Church
- 12/07/2025 – Bodhi Day, December Shotsuki and Dharma School service
10:00 a.m. – Rev. J. Shinseki
- 12/31/2025 – New Years Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

Unfortunately, we will not be having Mochitsuki this year.

January Service and events:

- 01/01/2026 – New Year's Day Service – 9:00 a.m.
- 01/25/2026 - Hoonko, January Shotsuki and Dharma School
10:00 a.m.

Future events:

February 21, 2025 – Fowler Food Bazaar –
Pre-order and drive-thru only

“Good and Evil Within Us — Reflections for Bodhi Day”

In traditional kabuki theater, performances often featured symbolic characters representing “Good” and “Evil.” Old woodblock prints often depicted these figures in dynamic, dance-like poses, each with a large character on the chest—one reading “Good,” the other “Evil.” They face one another boldly, almost as if engaged in a spirited dance.

People enjoyed these images because they expressed something universal: the inner tug-of-war we all experience. Human hearts are complex.

Someone who seems selfish may suddenly show deep kindness.

Someone admired for their goodness may act harmfully in a moment of weakness. Good and troubled impulses rise and fall within us moment by moment. No one is entirely one or the other.



This month, we observe **Bodhi Day**, the day Shakyamuni Buddha attained awakening. According to tradition, as he sat beneath the Bodhi tree, “demons” appeared and tried to obstruct his enlightenment. But these demons were not external beings. They were the shadows of fear, doubt, pride, and craving—arising from within his own heart.

By recognizing them clearly and refusing to run away, the Buddha opened the path to enlightenment.

As the year comes to an end, we may also notice the “soot” that has accumulated in our hearts: fatigue, irritation, regret, or quiet worries. We cannot sweep them away perfectly. But we can gently acknowledge them through reflection.

That honest recognition becomes our own **inner year-end cleaning**.

May we close this year with gratitude, and with hands together, whisper *Namo Amida Butsu* in our hearts—the words of thanks that remind us we are embraced just as we are.

Namo Amida Butsu

すすはらい

京都の西本願寺では、毎年十二月二十日に「すす払い」が行われます。一年のあいだにお寺に溜まった煤を払う大掃除です。午前七時、ご門主が四メートル近くある大きなほうきを振られるのを合図に、本願寺の僧侶、そして多くのご門徒が横一列に並び、竹の棒で一斉に畳を叩き始めます。係の人は、舞い上がった埃を二メートルほどのうちわであおぎ、外へと送り出していきます。

この伝統は蓮如上人の時代から、五百年以上続いてきた大切な行事です。一年を振り返りながら、「阿弥陀様、親鸞聖人、今年もお世話になりました」とお礼を申し上げる、尊い御恩報謝の宮みであります。

親鸞聖人は、「無明煩惱しげくして塵数の如く遍満す」と述べられました。自分の都合だけが見え、他のいのちとのつながりを見失っていく私たち。その姿を「無明煩惱」と示され、その煩惱は塵のかず数ほどもあって、この世界に満ちている、と言われました。まさに、叩けば叩くほど舞い上がり、前が見えなくなる埃のようなものです。

すす払いの終わりごろ、お寺に朝日が差し込んできます。その光が空気中を舞う塵に当たり、一本の光の筋となって現れます。光があるからこそ、塵の姿が浮かび上がるのです。

光の筋が見える時、同時に塵も見える。これは、阿弥陀様と私たちの関係に似ています。阿弥陀様の光が明らかになるとき、同時に私の闇、煩惱の姿も明らかになるのです。塵ほどに多い煩惱は悲しむべき事実でありながら、その場所こそが、一筋の阿弥陀さまの光が差し込む場でもあります。

叩けば叩くほどホコリが舞い、前が見えなくなる私たちの人生。しかし、まさにその場所こそが、阿弥陀様と出会うことのできる、ただ一つの場所なのです。

どうぞ、ご家庭で年末の大掃除をされるとき、この一年を感謝の心で振り返り、舞う塵の中に見え

る一筋の光を思い起こして、そっと手を合わせてみてください。

みなさま、どうぞ良いお正月をお迎えください。

南無阿弥陀仏

The Gift of Listening

Sometimes I hear, "My friends want me to talk more at school. But if I say what I really think, maybe they won't like me." Maybe you have felt this too.

Some people say their ideas right away.

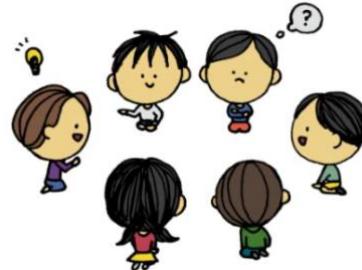
Some people think first and talk later.

Both are good.

If everyone only said, "I'm right! Listen to me!" we would have a lot of problems.

You don't always have to talk a lot.

There is something just as important: **listening well.**



A long time ago, the Buddha had a disciple named **Ananda**. Ananda was the best listener. He stayed near the Buddha, listened carefully, and asked questions. Because Ananda listened well, many Buddhist teachings were saved.

Listening brings you many good things.

When we listen kindly,
we understand people better,
we help our families and friends feel happy and cared for,
and we make our homes and schools happier places.



You don't have to say everything you think. You don't have to speak before you're ready. A gentle heart and open ears are just as precious.

As the New Year comes, think about this:

Did I listen well?

To my mom and dad?

My grandparents?

My teachers?

My friends?



If the answer is "not always," that's okay.

The Buddha is smiling at you and saying,
"You can try again today."



Have a wonderful holiday season!

Namo Amida Butsu.

President's Message

We had such a wonderful time hosting Rev. Henry Adams over the November 22nd weekend. Our Dharma discussion with Rev. Adams was very well attended. The discussion was stimulating and informative. We even had visitors from other temples as well. We followed up with a very well attended Sunday service, again with visitors from other temples. Rev. Adams, one of the most accomplished Dharma speakers in the BCA, gave a wonderful Dharma message. I learned a lot about Rennyo that I didn't know before. This format will be followed this month when Rev. Jay Shinseki will be our guest on the December 6-7 weekend. We again will have a Dharma discussion on Saturday at 4:30 – 6:00 and then have the privilege of hearing Rev. Shinseki give the Bodhi Day message on Sunday.

Rev. Majima would like to keep this kind of format for future guest speakers, so when she asks for a Sunday guest speaker to come, we hopefully will have the opportunity to have an informal Saturday Dharma discussion, as our schedule permits. Rev. Majima is also trying to coordinate the Dharma school schedules so that the Dharma schools of Reedley, Parlier and Fowler will hold their

Dharma school services on different Sundays of the month so that Dharma school students will have an opportunity to go to Dharma school every Sunday at different temples. The logistics will need to be worked out as to the schedule of each temple.

After the first of the year, we will be scheduling service twice a month, one service will be our Shotsuki, our observance of the Buddhist holiday that month, and Dharma school, and the other will be a family service with Tokudo or lay speakers and Dharma school. The family service will resurrect the adult Dharma school class as well.

We are still planning for our Food Bazaar on February 21, 2026. It was determined that District 4 will be chairing the bazaar. Be prepared to attend the initial planning meeting whenever District 4 sets the meeting date. The election of FBC officers has been postponed until the next meeting.

Affiliate church organizations are keeping busy. The Golf Club will continue to schedule monthly tournaments at different courses. They treated our Sangha to delicious Loco Moco at our November service. The BWA is busy planning for their Bonenkai on December 13th and planning the CCBWA conference on March 22nd.

The Dharma School is helping the CC chapter to host the BCA FDSTL conference in April 18th in Fresno. Ken Ishimoto may begin Yoga instructor training early next year and may eventually be certified to offer Yoga locally in the later part of 2026.

I hope everyone has a happy and peaceful holiday season.

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 - December

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

District 1/2

Riji

Ken Ishimoto
Rick Miyasaki

Toban

Marlene Miyasaki
Rick Miyasaki

The Shotsuki names for the month of December are:

George Shuji Kato
Gunichi Kanenega
Munjiro Miyasaki
Sumiko Kondo
Komatsu Shimizu
Tom Kamikawa
Machiyo Sakoda
Minekichi Okasaki
Shinichi Tokubo
Tadaichi Morimatsu
Toyojiro Shimamoto
Hiroko Nakahira
Sadahei Mukai
Masato Mayebo
Yoshino Mukai
Tsuna Shimamoto
Hisaaki Notori
Shizuto Shimoda
Suye Kawamoto
Haruo Yoshimoto
Joe Sho Yokomi
Emma Kataoka
Toki Uchiyama
Larry Kazuo Ashida
Wilson Kawaguchi
Sadayuki Bob Nakayama
Sazae Kamine
Donald Hashimoto

November 2025 Donations		\$ 50.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
Year End		In Memory of Masao Fujikawa	
\$ 200.00	Alex & Roberta Araki	\$ 50.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
Obon		In Memory of Kumi Fujikawa	
\$ 100.00	Alex & Roberta Araki	\$ 50.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
Dharma School		In Memory of Henry Fujikawa	
\$ 100.00	Alex & Roberta Araki	\$ 50.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa
Eitaikyo		In Memory of Harry Yasuo Fujikawa	
\$1000.00	Richard & Eileen Fujikawa	\$ 50.00	Earl Honda
In Memory of		\$ 50.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
Masao Fujikawa		\$ 50.00	Maryann Miyasaki
Kumi Fujikawa		\$ 50.00	Hitomi Sera
Henry Fujikawa		\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
Harry Yasuo Fujikawa		\$ 30.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 100.00	Alex & Roberta Araki	\$ 30.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 50.00	R/M Kodo Umezu	\$ 30.00	Carol Takahashi
\$ 50.00	Steven Teraoka	\$ 30.00	Cindy Inouye
\$ 40.00	M/M Gary Keithley	\$ 30.00	Cindy Inouye
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama	\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan Hayashi
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto	\$ 20.00	Barton Ashida
\$ 30.00	Janie Yuen	In Memory of Kenneth Hashimoto 1 year Memorial	
Eitaikyo/Shotsuki Service		\$ 300.00	The Hashimoto & The Teraoka Family
\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa	\$ 50.00	Kerry & Jeri Nakagawa Family
Shotsuki		\$ 50.00	Robert & Lynn Miyake
\$ 100.00	Ann Kondo & Michael Kondo	\$ 50.00	Doren & Kathy Lee

\$ 40.00 Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 20.00 Ken & Arline Yokota
\$ 20.00 Richard & Janis
Hashimoto
\$ 20.00 M/M Gerald Nakayama
\$ 20.00 Barton Ashida
\$ 20.00 Kim Hashimoto

In Memory of Russell Matsumoto

\$ 50.00 Susan & Kamal Driss

Special Donation

\$ 100.00 Nakayama Social Club
Annual Memorial Service

**In Memory of Yoshio Honda,
Ayako Honda & Shirley Honda**

\$ 300.00 Earl Honda
\$ 30.00 Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 20.00 M/M Gerald Nakayama

