

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5387

SEPTEMBER 2026

September – October Service and Event Schedule:

- 9/20/2026 – Fowler Fall Ohigan, September Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10:00 a.m.- Rev. Mieko Majima
- 9/27/2026 – Fowler Dharma Gathering and Dharma Classes – 10:00 a.m
- 10/11/2026 - Eshinni/Kakushinni, October Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Nobuo Miyaji
- 10/25/2026 - Fowler Dharma Gathering and Dharma Classes – 10:00 a.m.

Other Temple Events:

- 10/12/2026 – Fresno Fall Ohigan Seminar – 9:30 a.m.- Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, Rinban Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
“Rituals in Pure Land Buddhism: The Deepening and Expression of Shinjin” *Sponsored by the Yamaguchi Family* (Flyer Attached)
- 10/12/2026 - Tri-Temple Golf tournament – Crazy Horse Ranch Country Club; 4 person scramble;
Contact: REVHOSEI@gmail.com
- 10/25/2026 – Fresno Food Bazaar – 11 – 2:00 p.m. (Flyer Attached)
- 11/01/2026 – Reedley Food Bazaar – 3 – 6:00 p.m.; \$22 Pre-sale only (Flyer Attached)

My Good Friends

Near the end of the *Ōgongē*, a verse found in *The Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life*, we find an important message for all of us.

Shakyamuni Buddha tells us:

“Those who hear the Dharma and remember it well, who see and revere it, and who attain great joy—such people are my good friends.”

The sutra then continues with an especially powerful encouragement:

“Even if the entire world were filled with fire, you should pass through it in order to hear the Dharma.”

Of course, this does not literally mean that we should walk into a fire. Rather, these words express just how precious and important it is to hear the Dharma.

Why is hearing the Dharma so important?

Our lives are limited. To be born into this human life and to encounter the Buddha’s teachings are not things we should take for granted. Opportunities to encounter the Dharma are precious. These powerful words express Shakyamuni Buddha’s deep wish that we not let such an opportunity pass us by.

But what does it mean to “hear the Dharma”?

If we look at the Japanese word 聞く (*kiku*), “to hear,” we find that one of its meanings is a voice or sound coming into our ears. In this sense, hearing the Dharma is not simply trying to understand the teachings with our minds. It is allowing the heart of the Buddha, which reaches us, to enter our lives just as it is.

Yet we cannot remember forever everything we hear. What we learn or think we understand soon begins to fade from our memory. Even something that deeply moves our hearts may gradually fade away.

我が善き親友

『仏説無量寿経』の「往観偈」には、私たちにとって、とても大切なことが説かれています。その終わり近くに、たいへん印象的な言葉があります。そこには、

「法を聞きて能く忘れず、見て敬い、大きな慶びを得るならば、その人は我が善き親友である。」

と説かれ、さらに、

「たとえ世界中が激しい火に包まれていようとも、その火の中を通り抜けてでも、必ず法を聞きなさい。」

というお釈迦さまの強いお勧めが続きます。

もちろん、これは文字どおり火の中へ飛び込みなさい、ということではありません。それほどまでに「法を聞く」ということが大切なのだ、と私たちに語りかけているのです。なぜ、それほどまでに法を聞くことが大切なのでしょう。

私たちの命には限りがあります。そして、人として生まれ、仏さまの教えに出遇うことも、決して当たり前なことではありません。だからこそ、この貴重な機会を逃さず、法を聞いてほしい。そのお釈迦さまの切なる願いが、この言葉には込められているのでしょうか。そして、その後には次の言葉が続きます。では、「法を聞く」とは、どういうことでしょうか。

「聞」という言葉を漢字辞典で調べてみると、声や音が耳に入ってくる、という意味があります。つまり仏法を「聞」ということは、ただ頭で理解しようとするだけでなく、私のところまで届いてくる仏さまの心を、そのまま聞かせていただくことでもあります。しかし、私たちは一度聞いたことを、いつまでも覚えていられるわけではありません。頭で覚えたことも、分かったと思ったことも、しばらくすると忘れてしまいます。心を動かされたことさえ、いつの間にか薄れていきます。だからこそ、「法を聞きて能く忘れず」と説かれているのでしょうか。

「忘れず」とは、一度聞いたことをすべて記憶しておく、ということではないと思います。忘れてはまた聞き、忘れてはまた聞く。繰り返し、繰り返し、法を聞かせていただく。その中で、仏さまの教えが少しずつ私たちの身に届いてくるのです。そして、聞かせていただいた法を敬い、その法に出遇えたことを喜ぶ。そのような人をお釈迦さまは、「我が善き親友なり」と呼んでくださいます。

私たちは、何度聞いても忘れ、同じ間違いを繰り返します。それでも、また法を聞かせていただく。その歩み続ける私たちをお釈迦さまは「我が善き親友」と温かく迎えてくださっているのです。

限りあるこの人生の中で、何度でも、繰り返し法を聞かせていただきましょう。

南無阿彌陀仏

The Two Arrows

One day, the Buddha taught about **two arrows**.

Imagine that you are at school. Your teacher asks a question. You raise your hand and answer—but your answer is wrong. Someone laughs. Then another person laughs. Soon, several children are laughing. Your face gets hot. You look down at your desk and wish you could disappear. It really hurts.



The Buddha said that this kind of pain is like being hit by an arrow. **That is the first arrow.** We cannot always stop it. Sometimes things happen that we cannot control.



Finally, school is over, and you go home. You try to do your homework, but suddenly you remember the laughter. You can almost hear it again. Then a thought pops into your head: **“Everyone must think I’m stupid.”** A little later, another thought

comes: **“What if they laugh at me again tomorrow?”** And then another: **“Maybe I should never raise my hand again.”**

But wait a minute. Nobody is laughing now. You are at home. Tomorrow hasn’t even happened yet! Still, your stomach feels tight again, your face feels hot, and you feel almost as bad as you did at school.

The Buddha compared this growing pain to being hit by **a second arrow**. The first arrow came when something painful happened. We may not have been able to stop it through our own efforts. But now another arrow is appearing—not at school, not in someone else’s hand, but in our own mind. We cannot change what has already happened. But perhaps we can notice when that second arrow appears.



You have already been hurt by one arrow.

Would you shoot that second arrow at yourself?

Namo Amida Butsu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dharma messages become more meaningful and memorable when delivered in an entertaining and easily digestible manner. We were fortunate to receive those types of messages in August through a visit from guest speaker and Fowler's own, Rev. Bryan Nagata, at our Shotsuki service, as well as from various speakers and video presentations at the Nembutsu Gathering in Reedley. Both events were enjoyable and made us better appreciate the Buddha Dharma. At the Nembutsu Gathering, former Fresno Rinban, Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, gave us a history lesson, Art Fujikawa, along with 4 other Nisei pioneers on video, reminded us how things used to be at the height of Buddhist practice in the Central Valley. Gordon Misaki and I talked about the activities of the Central Valley Sanghas in the 1960's, 70's, 80's, 90's, and 2000's. Aaron, Dina and Logan Fukuda gave a great talk and slide show about growing up and attending Dharma School, one I think we all could relate to. Thank you to the Nembutsu Gathering committee for putting on a wonderful event. And, thank you

for dedicating this event to the memory of Todd Fukuda, who was a true example of a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist.

September will be our Fall Ohigan, September Shotsuki, and Dharma School Service on September 20th (which happens to be National Fried Rice Day). Rev. Majima will be our speaker. There will be a FBC Board Meeting immediately after the service. Any temple member is welcome to attend. We continue to have fabulous meals after the service. Thank you to Sharon Asakawa and the BWA for providing such wonderful food to top off our services each month. It's definitely been a drawing card for people to come out to our services.

BCA President, Glenn Inanaga (Orange County BC) was in town on the 22nd, to explain the new BCA Catalyst Program, which is a new way in which BCA assessments are to be assigned to each BCA Temple and to listen to his father-in-law deliver the Nembutsu Gathering Dharma talk the next day. Thank you to the Fowler temple members that attended the

meeting. Here's our new incentive to increase temple membership.

Sensei Karen Mukai will be starting her Kyoshi certification training this month. We wish her well in her journey to continue in her training.

Thank you to Gary Keithley for installing new audio equipment in the Hondo. Sound quality is noticeably better now, as long as speakers can remember to use the microphone properly.

It's been a long, hot summer. Now that fall weather is coming, we can return to our routine of attending church every month. 'Look forward to seeing you all on the 20th.

Gary Mukai

Board of Governors – District 4

Riji

Sharon Asakawa
Craig Honda

Toban

Sharon Asakawa
Tayoko Honda

Shotsuki Names for the month of September:

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
George Hashimoto

August 2026 Donations

Obon

\$ 100.00 Ron & Maxine
 Yoshimoto

Ohigan Service

\$ 30.00 Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 30.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 20.00 Ms. Sharon Asakawa

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Lynn & Mitch
 Nakashima
\$ 60.00 Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 50.00 M Tokubo Family
\$ 50.00 Alex & Roberta Araki
\$ 50.00 Lynn & Mitch
 Nakashima
\$ 50.00 Mrs. Janie Yuen
\$ 50.00 Yoshiye Ii
 Eiko Ii
\$ 50.00 Lee Family
\$ 50.00 Kerry & Jeri Nakagawa
\$ 50.00 Mary Mukai
\$ 50.00 Gale & Gene Nakai
\$ 40.00 Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi
 Hiyama

\$ 30.00 Mitsuye Shinkawa
\$ 25.00 Lynn & Mitch
 Nakashima
\$ 25.00 Earl Honda
\$ 20.00 Hitomi Sera
\$ 20.00 Nakamura Family

In Memory of Irene Miyasaki

\$ 500.00 Donald Miyasaki &
 Family





**FALL OHIGAN SEMINAR
SPONSORED BY THE YAMAGUCHI FAMILY**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
@ 9:30AM ~ FAMILY DHARMA CENTER**

**GUEST SPEAKER: REVEREND KATSUYA KUSUNOKI, RINBAN
SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

**"RITUALS IN PURE LAND BUDDHISM:
THE DEEPENING AND EXPRESSION OF SHINJIN"**

FALL OHIGAN AND SEPTEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO SERVICE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
10:00AM IN THE HONDO**

GUEST SPEAKER: REVEREND KATSUYA KUSUNOKI

JOIN US AND LEARN THE DHARMA TEACHINGS FROM REV. KUSUNOKI!

**SERVICE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH IN THE DHARMA CENTER, PROVIDED BY TO-
BAN, FRESNO BETSUIN EDUCATION & PROPAGATION COMMITTEE**

Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki is the Rinban Minister of the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. Born in Nagasaki, Japan, he is the second son of a temple family. Today his older brother Naoya is the 17th generation of their family to serve their family temple.

Sensei is a graduate of Miyazaki University where he majored in primary education and his hobby is to watch and play baseball and softball. While a college student he took a break and spent almost two and a half years in a Japanese volunteer program similar to the Peace Corps in America coaching baseball in Zimbabwe before returning to Japan to complete his studies. After graduating he spent three years teaching 3rd and 6th grade classes before deciding to become a minister.

Sensei's advanced training includes the Hongwanji-ha Rituals course for leaders (Gonshiki). He is a Hongwanji-ha certified Special Rituals Minister, a certificate only he and Rev. Sala Sekiya hold within the Buddhist Churches of America.

Sensei and his wife, Ayano, have a son Yuiya. In 2025, Rev. Kusunoki and his son had the honor of throwing and catching the ceremonial first pitch at the Seattle Mariners game against the San Francisco Giants. This was the first pitch by a BCA minister in a Major League Baseball game.

Rev. Katsu chose the number 18 (referencing the 18th Vow) and Yuiya chose the number 17 (an homage to his favorite player, Los Angeles Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani) as their Mariners jersey numbers.

**** Photo & bio credit to Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple**



FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE

ANNUAL FOOD BAZAAR

“Come for Lunch, Take Home for Dinner!”

Sunday October 25, 2026

11:00am til 2:00pm
Boxes must be picked up by 1:00pm

BOX LUNCH

- Boneless Chicken Teriyaki
- 2 Beef Teriyaki Sticks
- Gyoza
- Namasu
- Edamame
- Rice
- Fruit

Tix must be purchased in advance, by Oct 16

\$25

ALA CARTE MENU

- Sushi
- Spam Musubi
- Shrimp/Vegetable Tempura
- Curry Rice Bowl
- BBQ Ribs
- Chicken Salad
- Desserts
- Beverages

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



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Reedley Buddhist Church
72nd Annual
Food Bazaar

Boneless chicken teriyaki, teriyaki beefstick, chow mein,
namasu, rice, & almond cookie

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

3:00 - 6:00 PM

DINE-IN OR TAKE OUT

\$22 PER DINNER - PRE-SALE ONLY

2035 15TH STREET, REEDLEY, CA 93654

**A limited number of dinners available*

Also for sale: Inari Sushi, Spam Sushi, Desserts, Country Store

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Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

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

Boxed Dinners: _____ x \$22.00 Total Enclosed _____

Deadline: Monday, October 19, 2026

Make checks payable to: **REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH**

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

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