

# ST ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, 11th Bishop of Utah

The Rev. Michael Carney, Vicar

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM**



*Maria Art Empowers sign pandemic style*

## Social Distance Summer Camp

The Art Empowers Summer Camp has always been a highlight for local young people, but gathering with dozens of kids as young as six wasn't possible this year. As our leaders thought and prayed about this, we wondered if a group of eight teens and two adults could meet safely and have fun together. We thought it might be a good learning experience for teenagers to adapt to wearing masks, washing their hands frequently and maintaining social distance.

While our programs ordinarily welcome siblings, cousins and neighbors, we decided that this camp needed to be by invitation only in order to manage the number and ages of participants. We planned two week-long sessions and invited every teen who'd been at Art Empowers during the past year. A core group attended while others chose not to come due to discomfort with gathering, family camping trips, sleeping too late and other reasons.

The motto of the camp was simple: "Be Safe and Have Fun!" Our assumption was that those two goals could coexist, which seems to have been the case. All the reports from campers have been positive, and they displayed their creations proudly. Wearing masks all day was a challenge, but Becca said it got better after the first day. "The youth showed patience and maturity," she said, "in wearing their masks and waiting for the tables to be wiped down (again)." These sound like valuable learnings for young people.

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## Indian Values

It is my understanding that many native people have always strongly believed in a Creator God and God is central to everything. It is this one primary belief that enabled the native people to survive all elements and all genocidal efforts to eliminate them from the earth.

Native people would consider the first commandment the most important of all. It has a very powerful message. The message is to stay connected to God the Father/Mother. He/she should be central to all things - all events, all aspects of our lives, from daybreak to sundown. This has relevance to the topics of money issues, abundance, and theology - Faith & Finance.

The problems we are facing today are the result of disconnection from God, our Creator! Because of this disconnect, we have created a culture of greed, violence, and corruption/disruption. Many people of our current culture have replaced God with money. They now worship money! Money and power are the engines of corruption. The corporate world reeks of these ingredients and continues to infect our institutions and our livelihood. This is unfortunate because it is through God that abundance is accessed, expanded and multiplied exponentially.

All of God's creation are sacred - each of us, our neighbors, the earth, plants, animals, and all living things! This has relevance to stewardship, gratitude, and our reverence of the earth.

Many native people believed strongly that the earth, like our spirit, was a sacred gift from God, our Creator. After the earth was formed, God created plants, animals, eventually humans. Humans did not create the earth! We thus have no right to destroy it! On the contrary, it is our responsibility to take care of this sacred gift, the earth and all of its manifestations. Therefore, gratitude to God for the earth and all its blessings is central and all-important to native beliefs and ways. Gratitude is at the core of this stewardship reality.



*Forrest speaking*

It has been my experience that "giving and sharing" are premier values of native people. In the book 2012, by Carlos Barrios, he explains that he has traveled the Western Hemisphere top to bottom and discovered that most, if not all, native people share this same basic value. And it is a principle that defines their culture and relationship the earth. Many tribes have "give-away" ceremonies, usually during a powwow, the end of a funeral, or other event to commemorate a birth or accomplishment, in which a family is grateful or appreciative of an act or deed that was carried out or culminated.

We have taken too much for granted these days. We take leadership for granted as though it is easy to achieve. We have taken for granted that we have enlightened leadership in this country; consequently, at

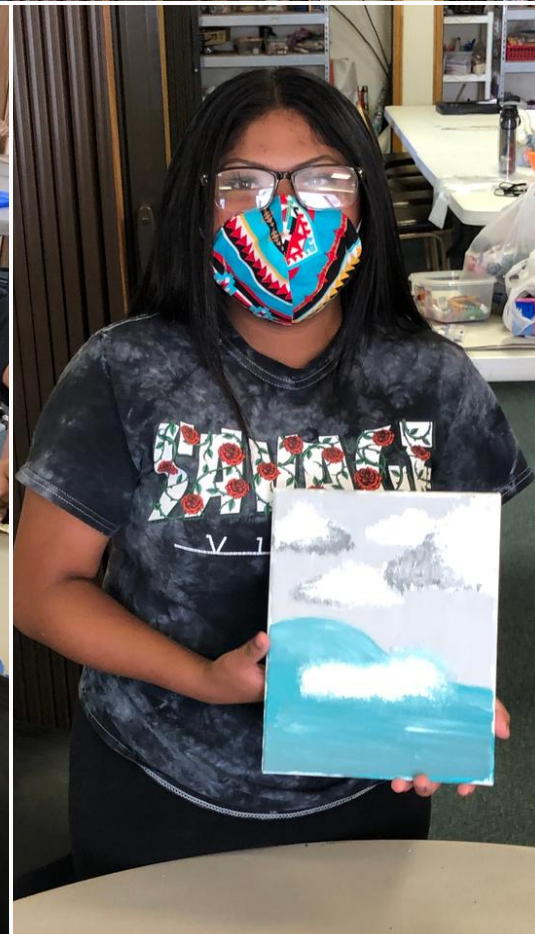
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*Summer Camp, from page 1*

Best of all, they had fun! After being cooped up all these months, getting together with friends and having something to do were welcome changes. Becca said the campers were on time every day and got absorbed in the activities. "The art projects were the most fun for me," she said. "We tried new things and I enjoyed being able to give more individual help."

We're not sure what the school year will look like, and safety first will continue to be a motto for our programs. But thanks to the diligence of Becca, adult leader Sadie Santio and the young people we know it's possible to hold small teen gatherings safely. Stay tuned for more information about Art Empowers' plans for the fall.





# Gratitude

Hundreds of years ago, one of the great Christian mystics got it right: "If the only prayer you ever say is thank you, that will be enough." (Meister Eckhart) Being grateful, noticing and naming our blessings, giving thanks continually changes our outlook on life. Our hearts grow larger, our fears diminish, and light shines from us wherever we go.

Forrest Cuch recently wrote that "Abundance is the consequence of gratitude and appreciation. As my mother told me, 'Always appreciate what you have, and you will have more.'" It seems like that is what's happening at St. Elizabeth's recently. We have so much to be thankful for, and so many blessings are coming to us.

In our last newsletter we congratulated Pepper Alanis on her graduation from Union High School. Though she couldn't participate in the usual ceremonies, Pepper's accomplishments have been recognized. Both the University of Utah and the Episcopal Church have awarded generous scholarships based on what she's already done and the promise of her future. The Rev. Dr. Bradley Hauff, our national Indigenous Ministries missionary, celebrated the fact that "Pepper is a gifted leader already, making an impact in her church and community." Way to go, Pepper! We're so proud of you and our hearts and prayers will be with you at the University.

You've read about the Lunch Makers: Youth Leader Becca Gardner, Pepper and her two sisters, Maria and Nehemiah. They've been faithfully making and delivering lunches to local kids and their families since the pandemic began almost six months ago. We're grateful to all the donors who've reached out to share the costs of this program, with special thanks for the generosity of Roger Hullinger and Mary Coe.



Sometime this month our dedicated team will make their 2000th lunch, an impressive accomplishment! With school starting up again this program will be coming to an end, but its impact will not be forgotten. "We love helping our community and people as much as we can," one of them said. "We all appreciate your donations," said another, "especially because we get to continue what we love doing." It's great to see young people making such a difference in their community.

Because of safety precautions Art Empowers' programs have been limited to small groups of teenagers, but we're eager to get back to full service whenever that's possible. In the meantime we're thankful for the generous gifts we've received from charitable organizations. The Walmart Foundation, Sunrise Rotary Club of Park City, the JEPS Foundation, Moon Lake Electric and Elmer's Helpers have given grants to our program. It means so much to receive this support from the wider community, and we're eager to get our programs back up to speed. Thanks so much to all of you!

*-Michael*

*Indian Values, from page 2*

the present time: we do not! We have taken our prosperity for granted. Consequently, we are struggling economically. We have taken the earth for granted and ignored our responsibility to be stewards. We have become exploiters of the earth! Consequently, we are having to deal with climate change. Most importantly, we have taken all our blessings for granted and come to ignore and disconnect from our Creator. Our good fortune has been taken for granted. Consequently, it is being withdrawn.

Abundance is the consequence of gratitude and appreciation. My mother told me, "Always appreciate what you have and you will have more." As stated above, we have taken these things for granted thinking because we have, we will always have. No! The universe does not work that way!!!

*-Forrest Cuch*



*Pastor Allen of St. E's at the Sundance (1940's?),  
painted by Russell Cuch*



*Aveah and Caley Planting Pumpkins*

## St. Elizabeth's Mission

Noochu (the people) of St. Elizabeth's welcome you to worship, share hospitality and grow in God's love to better serve the church and community.