

VOLUME XXIX
NUMBER 4
April 2022

The mission of the Waimea United Church of Christ is to provide, through Jesus Christ, the means by which people grow spiritually, thereby preparing and empowering them to witness to God's love, to identify the needs of the community, and to minister to them.

WAIMEA UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST

located at the corner of
Makeke and Tsuchiya
roads, Waimea, Kauai.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival Pastor

(808) 338-9962

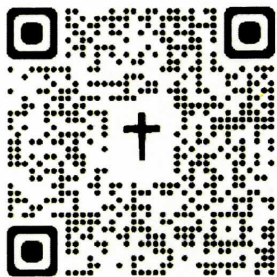
www.waimeachurch.org

P.O. Box 457

Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship
Service, 10 a.m.

Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 a.m.



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I like to start my day, if possible, with swimming laps in the Waimea pool. When I come to swim first thing in the morning very often the wind from the night before will have blown leaves into the pool that then will have sunk to the bottom. This has been especially true in our windiest months of March and April.

So, I have fun diving for the leaves and bringing them up to the water's edge so that the pool filter does not get clogged. The lifeguards appreciate the help because trying to vacuum leaves from the edge of the pool can be a hassle.

But then, I lament the leaves as well. I think about the trees getting enough water here on the Westside to produce the leaves. I hope the soil has the nutrients that can allow for photosynthesis. For sure we always have enough sunshine! Leaves are a magnificent part of Creation. They give us shade. They give us mulch. They give us oxygen so we can breathe and live.

I take in their oxygen deeply before I dive for the now-dead leaves at the bottom of the pool. Everything is quiet and calm underwater. It is indeed a different world. I stop at the bottom of the pool with a handful of leaves to look back up at the other world above the surface. The world from that vantage point is mostly blue sky and sunshine sparkling. Rain dancing on the surface of the water is also great to see. After a minute or so, I have to surface again.

Here is my be-leaf: "Leaves are like God; they give me the air I breathe, but they also take my breath away!" And like how we might take leaves for granted, we tend to not to think about everything God does for us everyday and how we are fully dependent on God. Our lives are just here for a season, but still with good reason.

We notice such things as gas prices, trash pick-up days, and whether our cell phones are charged. Would that we could check for God as often as we check our messages? That we could find that vantage point if even for a few minutes to see God from a different place. And, if we were to see God, we would be left breathless!

Continued on back page



Scriptures and Sermons for April

- April 3rd Luke 6:43-49
Jared Morsey preaching as Pastor is away
- April 10th Luke 23:1-12
"Stirring People"
- April 17th Luke 24:1-12
"Look for the Living"
- April 24th Luke 7:1-10
"Worthy of a Miracle"
- May 1st **David Popham of Hawaii Conference Preaching**



Worship Leaders

Lay Readers: **Teri Sakai & Helen Hoeckmann-Percival**

Deacon: **Jared Morsey**

April Deacons: **Joy Whitehill, Mahea Morsey, David Somers**

Church Council Meeting: **April 10, 2022 at 11:30 am (Zoom and in-person -hybrid)**

Bill Woodall passed unto God, Lois Somers passed unto God, Cindy's Father passed unto God, Susie Somers, cancer recovery, Jill Faye, cancer recovery, Mike Matutino, cancer recovery, Janice's friend Ron, cancer

recovery, Leinani Springer, cancer recovery, Galen Kaohi, cancer recovery, Norma & Mary Watanabe, cancer recovery, Jared's father (stroke), Mahea's mother (stroke), Cindy's mother (grief), Helen's mother (heart), Priscilla's mother (heart), Gladys Okada (blindness), Kristen to fight infection, Robert Medeiros knees, Sue Carlson (hip replacement recovery), Rob Carlson, Beth Hanashiro (headaches), An end finally to the pandemic, Healthcare workers, Those suffering from spiritual distress, Our local, state, and national leaders, our men and women in the military fighting terrorism, and a speedy end to wars everywhere: Vicki for travel mercies on trip to Spain



The **Tuesday morning Bible Study** group meets in Baird Hall at 9 am to discuss the Scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Come share your inspirations and insights with the Pastor. Everyone is welcome.

Calendar Notes:

Mark your calendars already for the **Maundy Thursday, April 14th, West Kauai Ministers' Association joint worship service at the Salvation Army in Hanapepe**. The service starts at **6:30pm**. Part of the worship will include the traditional foot washing as Jesus did with His Disciples at the Last Supper. Don't forget to bring your feet. The message will be given by Reverend Kerry Holder, new pastor at the Episcopal Church.

Easter (17 April) Sunrise Service will be at **7:10** in the **Community Garden**. Regular Easter Service will be at 10am with special music by the Ukulele group. Please remember to bring flowers for the Easter Cross. Hot crossed buns will be served for fellowship, and the children will enjoy hunting eggs in the garden.

Sunday evening Bible Studies are set to resume again after not meeting for years because of COVID. The first study will be on the **Book of Philippians** in the Bible and will take place at the church parsonage at 6pm on **April 10th**. Please talk with Pastor Olaf for more information if you are interested in attending.

A **Mother's Day Brunch** will take place after church on **May 8th**. This is the time when the men celebrate the ladies by jumping in the kitchen to make pancakes and sausage and the like. Men, the Pastor needs your help as always!

The dates for the Aha Mele and Aha Moku-puni have been changed because the earlier dates conflicted with high school graduation.

Aha Mele, May 13th at 6pm fellowship meal, **7pm singing** at Kapaa First Hawaiian UCC.

Aha Moku-puni, May 14th at 9am, worship & business meeting, etc via Zoom, hosted by Lihue Christian.

News from the Pews

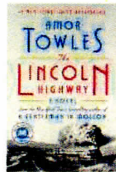
- * Little Hana Christian was recently seen with a t-shirt that says "Big Sis" on it. Yes, Kay is with child and is asking for prayers for a healthy and happy pregnancy.
- * Prayers of comfort to the Woodall Family at the passing of Bill unto heaven. A private family memorial service was held at our church on March 19th.
- * Deacon Inok Lautej of the Kauai First Marshallese Church UCC was made a pastor (pastorized?) on Sunday, March 12th, by laying on of hands and a speech from the President of the Marshallese United Church of Christ (JRD), who attended by Zoom teleconferencing. Congratulations and many blessings on continued ministry as a Pastor!
- * On Tuesday mornings, Mary Hayes can be seen eating a frosted Big Save kine doughnut. She has a unique way of eating it. She cuts it in half and turns the top over so that all the frosting is smashed into the middle. I guess you will have to come to Bible Study to see this trick.
- * Diane Foulks has been called upon to teach computer coding next year at Canyon Middle School in a new pilot program from the State. . . .and she now can make meatless meatballs out of eggplant.

- * We were all blessed to see Jill Faye back in church after her struggle with cancer!
- * Sue Carlson was also back after her hip surgery.
- * Why is Pastor Olaf wearing wrinkled shirts these days?—Oh yeah, Mama Kahu Helen is still away until the 5th of April.
- * A Deacons meeting was held on March 26th after worship to welcome the new deacons and talk about church growth strategy.
- * Pastor Olaf will be away from April 1st through 5th for his niece's wedding in Los Angeles. On that Sunday, Jared will be preaching on Pastor Olaf—for Pastor Olaf.
- * Easter plans are underway with Helen H-P being in charge of the Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to hide some eggs or stuff them, please let Helen H-P know. She is asking for help.
- * Our church council welcomed with unanimous vote David Hanashiro as the new moderator of the church. Hip, hip, hooray! And, don't forget to pray prayers of support for his leadership.



Hau'oli la Hanau!

- April 1 Emily Minei
- April 7 Alan Kennett
- April 21 Irene Kennett
- April 23 Marsha Kiest
- April 26 Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival
- April 27 Elsie Hegwood
- April 28 Tekoa Synder
- April 30 Helen Hoeckmann-Percival



Cinthy Kagawa will host *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles on April 24th at 3:00 pm HST. Set in 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. With his father recently deceased, his mother gone, and the farm foreclosed, Emmett plans to pick up his eight-year-old brother Billy and head to California to start a new life. But two friends from the work farm have stowed away and expect him help them in a quest. May's selection is *Good Ground* by Tracy Winegar. Deborah Santmeyer will host.

Continued from front page

This is so important because like leaves, we are only here for a season and then are swept away—into the pool filter of history or short remembrance. Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6) to “consider the lilies of the field.” They are here, and then they are no more. God creates them. God dresses them in beauty and light. God scatters their seed for the next season.

My be-leaf is that God’s hand is coming for us. We live this life, grow, provide what we can, and fall away. In the depths of our despair the hand of Christ comes to raise us up again. This is the glory of the Easter season that we are not left simply at the bottom of the pool! God gives breath, and takes our breath away!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL
◆

**Waimaea United Church of
Christ
P.O. Box 457
Waimaea, HI 96796**