

**VOLUME XXXII**

**NUMBE 4**

***April 2025***

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, Kaua'i.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-  
Percival, Pastor

(808) 338-9962

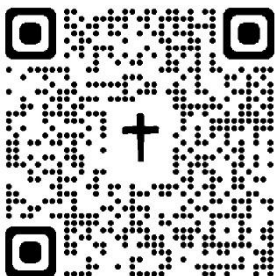
[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)

PO Box 457

Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship,  
10 am

Tuesday Morning Bible  
Study, 9 am



# THE CONNECTION

**A Publication of Waimea UCC**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently brother Jared shared a book with me entitled *Before You Hit the Wall* by Danny Lehmann that he is using to prepare for a class he will be teaching on Oahu for Youth with a Mission (YWAM). About in the middle of the book I came across the thought, "The true power of God comes when we get down on our knees in prayer before God. . ."

This really struck me as the Christian talking points in the media of late have been about "Christian Nationalism" or as the German theologian Dorothee Soelle called it first, "Christo-Fascism." This is the idea of Christianity projecting secular or political power. I recall Mahatma Gandhi's statement while facing the army of the British Empire, "The only real power in the universe is spiritual."

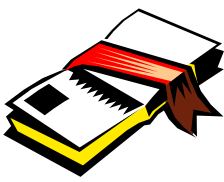
In this time of Lent leading up to Easter, I am especially reminded that Jesus defeated all earthly powers by surrendering his body to the Cross and his Spirit to God. In this surrender we acknowledge the total defeat of the Roman Empire, the Kingdom of Herod, and our own hearts. The life of one man, Jesus, has overcome the world.

Now, I am a *Mayflower* descendant through the Alden line. I understand that colonial America was founded by Separatist Christians seeking to "separate" themselves from the earthly authorities of the Papacy and the Archbishop of the Church of England who served at the pleasure of the King—who was the self-proclaimed head of the Church of England. Thusly the very founding of the country we know and love as America was in opposition to the comingling of government and Christian Faith.

Who was the priest or pastor that came with the Pilgrims? Oh yeah, there was no one. They enjoyed the priesthood of all believers and held that the only authority was Jesus as represented in Holy Scripture. When decisions needed to be made, they voted as a congregation. Pastors could be hired, but they were to be the servants of the congregation only. Jesus was and is today still the absolute Head of His Church.

In recognition that Jesus never built a church building, the congregationalists met in "meetinghouses" with no cross on the top that could be seen as an idol (symbol of earthly power). That is why our church has no cross on it. The missionaries who came over two hundred years ago believed this.

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## Scriptures and Sermons for April

April 6	Psalm 67:2-5 "Prayers of Blessings"
April 13	John 12:1-8 "Bethany's Passion" Palm Sunday)
April 20	John 20:1-18 "Magdalena's Joy" (Easter)
April 27	Judges 4:4-7 "Deborah's Faith"
May 4	Ruth 3:1-13 "Ruth's Love"

**West Kauai Ministers' Association Sunday Evening Lenten Worship Series** continues on April 6th at 5:30pm at Hanapepe Hawaiian UCC. What an incredible blessing it has been to have the churches on the Westside come together. Jesus must be smiling in heaven to see the love reaching out from church to church. The last Sunday evening worship is April 6th in Hanapepe.



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:



All-Church Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 12th at 8am for setting up for Palm Sunday. Please come to help. Lunch will be provided.

*As a special request stemming from our sermon series on Esther and to celebrate Mother's Day in May, we will be looking at famous women of the Bible starting with Mary of Bethany on Palm Sunday and continuing up until Pentecost.*



Please bring flowers for our traditional Easter Cross on Easter Sunday.

## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Berenice Wagner

**Deacon:** Marlene Matutino

**April Deacons:** Kevin Christian, Jackie Matsumura

**Church Council Meeting: April 13, 2025 at 11:30 am via Zoom hybrid**



Elsie Hegwood, rest in peace;  
Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama, back pain; Melissa B., cancer recovery; Susie Somers, cancer recovery; Ruth's daughter, Carol Alvesos (brain tumor); Mike Matutino, cancer recovery; Leinani Springer, cancer recovery; Galen Kaohi, cancer recovery; Norma Watanabe cancer recovery; Jared's father (stroke); Lucia's son Michael for healing; Mahea's mother (stroke); Helen's mother (heart); Kim H-P for a new job; Kristen to fight infection; 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.

Memorial Service for Elsie Hegwood will held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at WUCC.

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 12, 8am Setting out palms

Sunday, April 13, 10am Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17, 5:30pm Foot Washing at Salt Pond with Westside Churches. Meet at central lanai at 5:30 pm. Bring your feet.

April 20, Easter Sunday, 6am Sunrise at Kukuilono

10am Easter Worship (bring flowers for Cross)

11am Easter Egg Hunt for the kids after worship. Please see Helen H-P or Kim to help hide eggs.



## Hau'oli la Hanau!

### Apelela

- 1<sup>st</sup> Emily Minei
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Wagner
- 7<sup>th</sup> Alan Kennett
- 21<sup>st</sup> Irene Kenett
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Marsha Keist
- 26<sup>th</sup> Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival
- 28<sup>th</sup> Tekoa Synder
- 30<sup>th</sup> Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

### News from the Pews

- ❖ The Austin Family visiting from Oklahoma on 16 March shared with Pastor Olaf that their pastor back in Tulsa preached a very similar sermon from Psalm 32, the same Scripture! "How wonderfully blessed by the Spirit is your church," blessed the mother of the family.
- ❖ –It was great to see Gerda Faye with her friend Anne on March 23rd. Both commented on how well maintained the church has been kept. Of course, we had just repainted the narthex, so it still smells like fresh paint!
- ❖ The Pastor's family has welcomed an exchange student named Wan from Malaysia.
- ❖ Thank you Helen H-P, for painting a new sign for our church and the Hawaiian Church. And thank you Phoebe for paying for it!
- ❖ Thank you to all who participated in the "Alive in '25 'n Thriven" Mokupuni Youth Camp at Waineke Cabins in Kokee over the Spring Break. Special thanks to Pastors Olaf & Jared, Sam (Riverhouse Church Idaho), Clyde (Church of the Pacific) and Cheri (Lihue Christian Church) for spiritual leadership and guidance. Blessings on Andrea Kaohi (Hanapepe Hawaiian UCC) for being the chef extraordinaire. Shout out to Ella (Door of Faith Church) for her music! What a beautifully blessed time it was.



Headphones are now available in the sanctuary for the hearing impaired. They are kept in the front of the church. To operate, hold the power button on for three seconds. Check to see the red light is on. The broadcast is on the "red channel." If you hit the power button again, it will change the channel, and all you will get is static. One can adjust the volume with the buttons right above the power button. If you need help, please flag down one of the deacons or the pastor himself. Please do not take the headphones home. They only work in the church.

### Talk Stories (Book Club)

April's selection is *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande. Diane Foulks will host on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Grande's memoir describes her early years where she was torn between two parents and two countries. Her father leaves for the United States to try to earn enough money to build a home for his family. He then sends for her mother to help him. Reyna and her siblings (who are less favored) are left with her father's mother. All are welcome to join in the discussion.

May's selection will be *The Spy* by Paul Coelho hosted by Sonia Adame.



*Continued from front page*

Clearly, our forebears' faith was in Christ alone, escaping the trappings of Christo-Facism. This is affirmed in the prime basis of the US Constitution, the First Amendment, which states *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof*; This was the very first point that had to be made! We do not want our government telling us what to believe! We leave that up to Jesus and the Bible, thank you! That is why we got on the *Mayflower* in the first place. The only victory we need and want is the victory of surrender to Jesus at the Cross. The only real power anyone can know is to be garnered in that moment when bowing down to Jesus.

Blessings, Pastor Olaf

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**DOMINOES**  
**TUESDAY, 7-9 PM**  
**AT BAIRD HALL**  
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P.O. Box 457  
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