



VOLUME XXXIII
NUMBER 4
April 2026

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
PO Box 457
Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship,
10 am
Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 am



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As one storm front after another thundered over our island last month, I began to notice a pattern. On Monday, the drenching was treacherous, but by Tuesday when we had morning bible study the sun was shining. Later when I drove out to Lihue to do the afternoon bible study at Puakea the drive there and back was dry too. Only when I was inside, it rained. What luck!

By Thursday, the next drenching had come, but when it was time to have bible club at the middle school, I walked all the way across campus without getting wet. During bible club, the rain came down very hard. However, walking back to the van it was dry again. Que fortuna!

That Friday was the Kauai Veterans' Memorial Hospital staff appreciation coffee hour. I was quietly dreading what it would be to carry all that food from the hospital parking lot to the conference rooms inside through pouring rain. By one o'clock the rain was gone. Little pockets of blue skies could be seen as the sun shone down. Just after the clean-up at the hospital and while returning various items back to Baird Hall at the church the rain started up again. It just could not have been timed any better. Charmed life!

That Saturday was the memorial service for Gladys Shirai out in Lihue. Yup, the rain let up again for that special time. So, I noticed that when the Lord's work was being accomplished, the skies were happy. Outside of those times, last month we received well over a foot of rain!

Coinkydink! Right now in Germany, where it can typically rain for eleven months out of the year, the number one best selling author is Clara Lösel with her book *Wehe Du Gibst Auf*. (Woe You Give Up) The book is all poetry. Her central theme is that maybe we experience many rainy days, but we do not give up our hearts to the woe. This idea is not about believing everyday will be sunny.

This is more just that maybe we can, with God's help, avoid the worst drenchings on stormy days. I find this outlook to be practical—even plainly German in essence. We cannot be happy all the time, but we need to give up on the woefulness. Life is still a blessing from God. Just staying dry when surrounded by storms can be miraculous.

Aloha ke Akua, Practically Pastor Olaf



Scriptures and Sermons for April

- Apr. 5 John 20:1-8
"I Will Be Alive!"
- Apr. 12 James 1:1-11
"Joy in Trials"
- Apr. 19 James 1:12-18
"Perfect Gifts"
- Apr 26 James 1:19-27
"Spotted"
- May 3rd James 2:1-13
"The Discriminating Christian"

By request, we are starting the Book of James right after Easter!



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

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK Come join the Passover festivities with a traditional Last Supper of Christ. The date is **April 2nd**, starting at **5:30pm in Baird Hall**. Please help if you can by bringing a soup to share. (Please no pork or yeast products) We need children to find the hidden afikomen, too!

EASTER SUNDAY--Sunrise Service will be at the **Pavilion at Kukukiolono Golf Course** with a view to the sea at **6:00am** with all the other westside churches.

10am Worship at the Stone Church will have special music and the traditional decorating of the Easter Cross. Please bring beautiful blossoms to place on the Cross.

11am Keiki Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Garden



Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

Deacon: Joy Whitehill

April Deacons: Joy Whitehill, Marlene Matutino

Church Council Meeting: April 12, 2026 via Zoom Hybrid

Barbara Burtch, Rest in Peace; Yuki Okino, heart Bradford Afong; Gia, recovering from broken neck; Natalie for bone marrow match, cancer; Marilyn Ueno, surgery; Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama, back pain; Robert Medieros surgery 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; Sue's friend Martha for Cancer recovery; Jared's father (stroke); Lucia's son Michael for healing; Mahea's mother (stroke); Helen's mother (heart); Kristen to fight infection; Rob Carlson; Beth Hanashiro (ulcer); 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.

Calendar Notes

April 26th 5pm **Waimea Governor's Palace's 200 year Birthday** at the Parsonage

5:00pm--**Welcome**, String Quartet, Pupus, Cake, Picture Taking.

6:00pm--**History Talks** by Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival & Story of Governor Kaikio'ewa by Author/Historian Chris Cook

6:45pm Presentations and Blessing

Hauoli La Hanau!

April

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



Talk Stories

April's book selection will be *Hawaiiki Rising*: Hōkūle`a, Nainoa Thompson, and the Hawaiian Renaissance by Sam Low. Jackie Matsumura will host on April 19th at 3:00 pm HST. A confluence of individuals and the rising interest in Hawaiian culture and identity somehow came together to create the Polynesian Voyaging Society. It was the late 60's when artist Herb Kane began exploring what a Polynesian voyaging canoe looked like and began rendering drawings. At the same time there began a resurgence of interest in the Hawaiian culture and language.

It is interesting how the Polynesian people were sailing the wide Pacific Ocean and populating far-flung islands at the same time as European sailors were merely clinging to the land for fear of monsters.

"The vision of Hōkūle`a was conceived in 1973. . . . Sam Low, the author, has sailed on three voyages, written numerous articles and after 10 years of work has written *Hawaiiki Rising*. The book is an important part of the story of Hawaii.

Youth Retreat Wrap-Up

If you would like to read about the Spring Youth Retreat in Kokee, a wrap-up of the event is available by clicking this link <http://www.waimeachurch.org/trustcamp.pdf>

News from the Pews

- Great to see Jared's family from California; that is, his father & mother, sister, and nephew, who liked to catch lizards.
- Calvin & Patty Luce came to visit from Washington State, actually spending an afternoon at the after school open gym—and also coming to worship.
- Kitty C. is back on island with friend Kristen, also a mountain climber!
- The Austins were visiting again from Oklahoma; Ted gave a great witness in Church on March 15th.
- Later Pastor ran into them at Costco while buying food for Youth Camp. Ted wanted to pay for all the food for camp! However, Pastor explained it was covered already by a grant from Mabel Wilcox Foundation.
- The ladies of the church made a beautiful "healing quilt" for Robert M. as he undergoes cancer treatments. We all prayed over it in worship for extra blessings.
- Although no one in the church is ever older than 39, happy 95th birthday to Joanne W.
- Great to see Jake and Daniela from Honolulu, too!
- One Great Hour of Sharing collected over \$500. Donations are still coming in. Mahalo.
- Kevin's mom Patty was with us also last month and will hopefully return soon. She had to go back to the mainland for a family emergency, taking Kevin and Hana along.
- What a great job Dee did in making a sideshow of her mother's life for the celebration of life for Gladys Shirai! We loved all the baby pictures!
- Thank you to David and Susie S. for the incredible decorations of palms for Palm Sunday! Well done indeed.
- Mahalo to all who came together to host the Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital staff appreciation coffee hour.
- Special kudos to Kathy U. for all of the planning and set up.
- Extra special kudos to Russel and Berenice for the flavored coffee drinks!

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

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