

*VOLUME XXX*  
*NUMBER 8*  
*August 2023*

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

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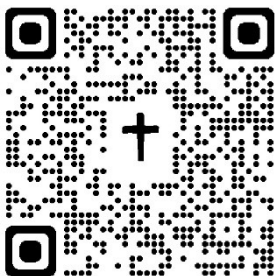
[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)

PO Box 457

Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship,  
10 am

Tuesday Morning Bible  
Study, 9 am



# THE CONNECTION

## A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As one drives up the road from Kekaha to Waimea Canyon, one crosses a bridge over the gully of the first box canyon. That bridge has a low concrete wall that has a graffiti in large violet letters that reads "Waimea Canyon is not the dump!" No, it is not. Yet, as the tall guinea grass that has grown along that highway dries out from the rainy season by the heat of summer, one can see the amount of garbage that has been left on the roadside is significant.

The public landfill is free to use for residents on the island. It is closer to major population centers than the road up to the canyon. This begs the question as to why we see so much garbage along the roadside to Kokee. Why would anyone choose that road to dump garbage?

I actually have a possible answer. As a previous firefighter and first responder, at times we were called out specifically to suit-up with secondary breathing apparatus to pick up garbage on the side of the road. Criminals would have mobile meth labs in their cars, cook the drugs on the side of the road, and then leave the chemical waste product right there. Taking the garbage to the proper dump might lead to an easy arrest as the landfill workers are told to specifically look out for the smell of ammonia in garbage that might be from illicit drug production.

2 Peter 3:16-18 states, "There are some things hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction. . . beware that you are not carried away with the errors of the lawless. . . but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Praise God that it was into such a "twisted" world that God sent our salvation through Jesus Christ. Consequently, we have a choice to merely focus on the bad news all around us or to focus on the Good News that Christ came to share with us. Although the road to Kokee is littered, the goal of reaching the beauty at the top is sublime.

Yes, the trek up to Koke'e is a valid metaphor for our longing for reaching the spiritual heights with God. It can be long. It can be hard. The road is steep and winding. We cannot be distracted with others' messes along the way. We seek the view from the top instead.

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## Scriptures and for August 2023



## Sermons

- Aug. 6th Helen H-P preaching  
Aug 13th Luke 22:31-38  
"Christ Prays for Our Faith"  
Aug. 20th Luke 22:39-62  
"When Faith Fails"  
Aug. 27th Luke 22:63-71  
"Son of God"  
Sept. 3rd Luke 23:1-17



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

## "Auto-Pilate"

## News from the Pews

### Mahalo:

Special thanks to Youth Missionary Jared for stepping in to lead worship for two Sundays while pastor was away in Malaysia and Cambodia. What spirit-filled messages! Everyone is raving about them! Cannot wait until Jared preaches again!

Boxes of theological books were donated by MaryJo and Jim Douglass from Jo's personal library. Come check out the new selections on the Narthex book cart! Thank you, Jo!

Welcome home to Kay & Kevin Christian after many weeks away to the East Coast and Caribbean. Missed you guys!

## Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Jared Morsey

Deacon: Michael Herrick

Church Council Meeting: August 13, 2023  
via Zoom hybrid



~~Irwin Oyama for heart and surgeries; Melissa B. healing; Margaret's brother, cancer; 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); Berenice's mother Hortencia (stroke); Helen's mother (heart); 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.

Blessings and fast healing for Jackie M. after her most recent eye surgery. Thank you also for working on this newsletter before you went under the laser and for those who completed the mailing!

Pastor Olaf, Skyler and Archie were invited to bless the new construction at the public library here in Waimea.

Rest in Peace David Hanashiro's Uncle Paul. We will miss him. Condolences to the family.

A special offering will be taken August 6<sup>th</sup> for the Kokua Fund to help the homeless.

# Hau'oli la Hanau!



August 1	Caleb Chronister
August 6	Mahea Morse
August 8	Yukie Okino
August 13	Tavis Kagawa
August 15	Jaxon Kagawa
August 16	Rick Foulks
August 20	Carolyn Hoeckmann-Percival
August 20	Courtney Chronister



August 20 Marina Galiza

Book Club Debby Santmyer will host via Zoom on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm HST. *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare

Pooley, is centered around Iona Iverson an advice columnist for a magazine who, after 30 years working in her field, must find a way to be more relevant. A single event on her morning commute leads to her getting to know the strangers on her train commute. She not only learns about others; she learns about herself.

## Ohana Camp Wrap-Up at Waineke Cabins

Although only 13 of us found our way up the mountain, that was a good number, kind of like Jesus and His crew. We arrived in pieces, some of us staying overnight, and others driving down the mountain and coming back again. The first night featured wonderfully previously frozen chimichangas with beans, rice, salad, guac, and salsa. The worship after dinner was about Zacchaeus climbing a tree to see Jesus—not unlike our driving to Kokee to find Christ. We sang the Zacchaeus song from Sunday school, too. While we were worshipping, the fire in the fire pit was burning into embers that were then perfect for making s'mores. Is it true that there were some there that had never roasted a marshmallow? Aye, but now with marshmallows ablaze. Night-bowling followed by filling empty plastic water bottles with water and glow sticks. Merrick got a perfect strike. Sami salvaged the glow sticks to later make silly hats.

The next day was graced with fresh pancakes and eggs for breakfast. Morning worship was followed with t-shirt designing and a scavenger hunt. If you were in worship the Sunday after, you saw a couple of the shirts on display. In the afternoon we donned our hiking gear and headed off to find new flora and fauna. Melissa B. had the idea to have all the colors of Kokee on her t-shirt, so the kids found every manner of flower and berry to rub into her shirt. The morning worship had been about the

Kingdom of God being like yeast, so dinner was “make your own” pizza, starting with mixing the yeast with sugar and water and watching it rise. The kids then used up whatever energy they had left to knead up the dough. We had salami, plain, and vegetarian pizzas in the end. The evening was spent with more worship, more s'more s'mores, then movie night with Vegetables and popcorn.

The final day, the breakfast was fried rice made with everything that was leftover in the fridge—hodgepodge. The last worship was about packing all our stuff into bigger barns, then we packed all our stuff into the cars overflowing. The last challenge was to completely clean out the cabins for the next group coming right in after us. At that time, Pastor Olaf brought out his long-handle ax, explaining how he had chopped all the firewood for the Ohana camp—just to motivate everyone to do the hard work and that work can be fun too.

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Thank you to Helen Percival for filling in for Pastor Olaf in the pulpit as he is away to Germany again for memorial services for his dear Uncle who passed recently unto the Lord. Safe travels and mercies

*Continued from front page*

We had a glorious time of retreat at the end of June at our Waineke cabins at Koke'e. We now

are invited to celebrate this ministry restart with our brothers and sisters from around the islands on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. We plan on a

blessing ceremony and worship up there after the official "first flush" of the new septic system. With great thanksgiving for all the work and donations that have gone into getting the camp open again, we have great cause to celebrate. The future looks bright for the ministry at Waineke again.

Please plan to attend if you are able.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

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



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