

***VOLUME XXXII***

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**####202#**

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

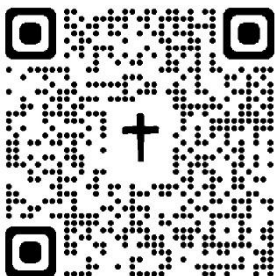
[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)

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,

When the first missionaries Samuel Whitney and Samuel Ruggles were brought before King Kaumualii in 1820, Kauai was still an independent Kingdom fending off attempts by King Kamehameha to conquer the isle. The missionaries were very young, just out of college. They bowed and then knelt before King Kaumualii to explain their faith to him and their desire to minister to the people in Waimea. The response from the great king was to simply ask: "Will you stay?" As it was, ships and crews had come and gone from Waimea Bay, but very few had stayed for any length of time. The king knew that his people could only benefit if the missionaries stayed. When the missionaries promised that they would stay in the kingdom to help the people, King Kaumualii prepared a great feast for them and offered to build them a house to stay in.

How important it is to stay. I have always said that the first rule of ministry is to "be there." That is why Jesus came in human form down to earth—so that God could "be there" with us. That is why we call Jesus "Emmanuel," or "God with us." Staying with people means showing up to the hospital emergency room in times of need, sharing joyous occasions such as weddings and baptisms, and making time in one's schedule for personal spiritual counseling. Staying means being at the chancel of the church every Sunday, mopping floors on Mondays, and being woven into the warp and weft of others' lives.

A few months ago, at the Middle School Bible Club, the current student president, Bryanna, came up to me and showed me a picture of her mother and father being married. "There you are!" she exclaimed while pointing to a much younger me as the officiant. She then went on to state that I had baptized her as a child. Bryanna's mother is Anna, the granddaughter of former member Anna Kona.

I gazed at the picture and replied, "That is right. I knew you even before you were born and were just a twinkle in your mother's eye. And I held you as a baby in my arms to baptize you." She smiled broadly and gave me a hug.

This is not an isolated incident in so far as I have re-met many grown children whom I have held in my arms to baptize, have taken to Waimeke youth camp, or had to chastise at the after-school open gym. There is one young woman at the hardware store who always recounts how I saved her life when she and some other youth had gotten lost in the forests of Kokee during a youth retreat.

*Continued on back page*



## Scriptures and Sermons for August

*We continue our summer vacation travels with Saint Paul, following his whacky adventures spreading the gospel Truth around the Mediterranean Sea!*

Aug 3 Acts 20:7-12  
"Dead Asleep in Church"

Aug 10 Acts 20:25-38  
"Saying Goodbye"

Aug 17 Acts 21:17-26  
"Visiting Just James"

Aug 24 Colossians 2:1-5  
"Let's Not Go There"

Aug 31 Acts 22:6-16  
"Time of Change"

Sept 7 Acts 22:22-29  
"Arrested on Holiday"



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; 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.



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

Pastor Olaf has once more been called into jury duty on August 11th. We will soon know if the trial will go forward or not. . . .If so, then Bible Studies will need to be cancelled.

### Mahalo:

Thank you Jared for preaching a wonderful sermon on July 20th about strengthening ourselves.

### Calendar Notes:

#### KAUAI ASSOCIATION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Sunday, August 24, 2025, 4:00 - 7:00 pm**  
YOUTH GATHERING

Middle and High School Youth  
Come meet youth from other UCC churches around the island. Games. Fellowship. Pizza Dinner. **Where:** Parsonage of Koloa Union Church, 3322 Waikomo Road, Koloa

**RSVP** by Thursday, August 14

auntytiffkuc@gmail.com text: 808-651-1397

**August 24th 10am SUPER Outdoor Worship, SUPER Pot-Luck SUPPER, & SUPER bingo with SUPER prizes on the Smith Lanai**

Please remember to bring super prizes and a supper dish for all to share. Our sister Marshallese church brothers and sisters have been invited to share in the super fun, too. .

‘Aukake

Hauoli la Hanau!

1<sup>st</sup> Caleb Chronister  
6<sup>th</sup> Mahea Morsey  
8<sup>th</sup> Yukie Okino  
13<sup>th</sup> Tavis Kagawa  
15<sup>th</sup> Jaxon Kagawa  
16<sup>th</sup> Rick Foulks  
20<sup>th</sup> Carolyn Aguilar  
20<sup>th</sup> Courtney Chronister  
20<sup>th</sup> Marina Galiza  
23<sup>rd</sup> Lilly Josephine Collins



### News from the Pews

- ♥ On July 6<sup>th</sup> we were blessed with a visit by John Lewis, son of Norman and Nancy Lewis, who has been living in Bern Switzerland for the last 40 years. He even remembered exactly where his parents used to sit in church!
- ♥ Robert Medieros is scheduled for surgery this month at Straub for the removal of kidney stones. We are praying all goes according to the doctors' best plans.



♥ We celebrated Pastor Olaf's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the church by bedecking him with 20 leis! He is now permanently hunched over in humility before the Lord! Mahalo to all the folks who

brought leis.

- ♥ Greetings from the Next Guy, "Hi everybody! If you take the last paper towel or stick of tp, please help by replacing it. If you turn on a light or fan, please help by turning it off again afterwards. Thanks, from the Next Guy."
- ♥ Our heartfelt sympathies to brother Glenn Molander on the sudden and unexpected loss of his son Leif, who was just 49 years young. Our faith is strong that he is with Sally up in heaven in the presence of Jesus, looking down on us.



- ♥ A note from Waipahu UCC: "We are extraordinarily grateful for your hospitality during the Waimea history tour. You and your family were the highlight of our time on Kauai. Prayers of gratitude and blessing for you and your congregation." Dale & Dan.
- ♥ Delegates at the United Church of Christ's (UCC) 35<sup>th</sup> General Synod overwhelmingly passed an emergency resolution, condemning the ongoing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids.
- ♥ Jared & Mahea are in hot water! Thanks to Jared, David S, and Pastor Olaf for replacing the solar water heater at the Huakai house. This meant re-piping the copper lines that go to the solar panels, re-wiring, and rebuilding the outdoor shed that houses the tank—really a lot of work!
- ♥ —Jacob M. was back on island celebrating his birthday last month! He is "thirty-something" and jokingly carping about getting old!



### Talk Stories

August's selection is *Everything is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection* by John Green. Jackie Matsumura will host on August 17, 2025. Tuberculosis is one of the oldest diseases to infect people. There has been a cure for TB for decades, yet it still is deadly to many. It is one of the leading causes of death from an infectious disease. Green tells the story of one African young man illustrating the failure of governments to unify to eradicate this disease. Instead, it has evolved to be deadlier. Green's book tells how this disease created towns in the west and influenced writers and fashion.

Continued from front page

Recently Jared M. mentioned to me that the modern common work ethic states that one should change jobs every three years to chase a better position and higher salary. Lifeway Research states that the average pastor now only stays a little over three years in a church. It is also currently estimated that 200 pastors leave their ministries every **month** in the US. I have sincere regret for those who do not stay. They are missing the best part of ministry: staying.

Thank you all for celebrating the 20th anniversary of my being called to Waimea! I really appreciated this. Staying has been the greatest blessing!

Staying Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

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

Waimea United Church of  
Christ  
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Waimea, HI 96796