

VOLUME XXXII

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December 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.

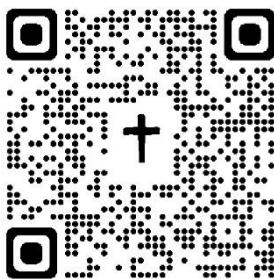
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

Located at the corner of
Makeke and Tsuchiya
Roads, Waimea, Kaua'i.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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PO Box 457
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Sunday Morning Worship,
10 am
Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 am



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This last month I took part in an anti-racism class online that is now required for all pastors in our churches. The course was led by a professor from Vancouver Theological Seminary, Canada, who is a native Cree. His main supposition seemed to be that unequal relationships between people are inherently abusive and therefore ungodly. I am more of the mind that most relationships are unequal in one way or another, but they can still be loving and therefore godly.

Truly one of the most godly moments our hearts ever experience is when we realize how lesser we are in our lives to the life of Christ. We bow down before His glory and His grace over our lives. That is why we state that Christ is Lord of our lives, head of the church, and even display the bumper sticker "He>I." This is such a profoundly beautiful sentiment.

Bowing down to another person, showing respect and honor, is critical to our personal faith. That is why at Christmas we are amazed and delighted to witness not just shepherds but also three kings bowing to the infant Jesus. They were wise men indeed, for they understood that someone sent by God was better than they were. All of this takes place while angels are singing in heaven "Glory to God."

Equality in human relations is a considerable goal; however, a humble heart in modest self-estimation might serve the world better. Being a servant to God, and being useful to Christ's ministry, means flipping the world upside down. Jesus said as much in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor. . . " or "How difficult it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God." In this light, a poor child born in a humble stable is exalted as the greatest of all. In this case I am of less worth than the hungry child just surviving in war-torn Gaza.

Our friend Pastor Zoughbi from Bethlehem, who was with us at this time last year, reminded me of all of this recently in conversation. He is reaching out to provide Christmas gifts to two hundred needy children on the West Bank, i.e. Palestine. Our church council responded by sending \$200 from mission funds and spreading the invitation to help to all who read this newsletter. You can donate to this Christmas miracle at the following website: www.waimeachurch.org This is not about some greater justice issue, racial equality or what; this is about loving a child and trying to lead godly lives ourselves. It is about putting a child in Bethlehem first in our world.

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Scriptures and Sermons for December 2025

Dec. 7 Isaiah 11:1-10
“Spirit Shall Rest Upon Him”

Dec. 14 Isaiah 35:1-10
“Love Will Blossom”

Dec 21 Matthew 1:18-25
“Emmanuel”

Dec. 24 (7pm) Luke 2
“A Christmas Story”

Dec. 28 Isaiah 64:1-9
“New Year’s Promises”

Jan. 4 Exodus 20:1-12
“Resolved by God”

Starting in the new year, we will be looking specifically at God’s commandments to us that help us live our lives in godliness.



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



Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Rick Foulks

Deacon: Jared Morsey

December Deacons: Kevin Christian, Jackie Matsumura

Church Council Meeting: No meeting this month—work on budget requests and end-of-year reports.

Please pray for these members and friends: David Somers, hip surgery; 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.

Christmas Fund offering (Veterans of the Cross). Every year we have the opportunity to give a little extra cheer to our retired clergy who have given their lives for the ministry.

The offering will be collected at the **Christmas Eve** service, but giving envelopes will be in the pews before then. If you are giving on-line, please use the drop-down menu to choose “Christmas Fund.”

Paghetti Night for Da Little Santa Elves will be on Thursday, December 17th, at 5:30pm.

Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for **February 1, 2026**.

Calendar Notes:

November 30—Hanging of the Greens
December 7—Blue Christmas Service
December 14—A Persian Christmas Tea—during Aloha Hour. Bring your favorite cookies to share. Food, games, prizes. Dress Mediterranean
December 21—Sunday School Christmas—during worship service. Our keiki will share what they learned about Christmas.

December 21—Book Club

December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7PM. Come and experience “Voyages: Following Hokulea” the Christmas story in Olelo Hawaii, performed by the Kumu Ola Children’s Choir.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

6th Jordon Parongao
9th Jaron Paoangao
9th Margarete Kagawa
20th Aviyah Synder
20th Vicky Mercado
24th Bradley Ceballos
27th Ian Oyama
29th Ryan Collins



Talk Stories

Instead of sharing a book this month, we will be sharing our favorite Christmas Stories.

Any story, poem, essay is welcome. It is a chance to gather and share food (**potluck**) and stories. We will meet in Baird Hall on **December 21st at 3:00 pm**. All are welcome

January's selection is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Lucia Laidlaw will host.

News from the Pews

- ♥ Blessings on the beloved child Kingston Michael Kaiuli Akuna Allen who was christened in worship November 30th!
- ♥ Sammi has been stricken with strep throat, but antibiotics got her voice back.
- ♥ Wrap-up from guest speaker at Aha Mokupuni, Peasipa Namo: "Oceanic theology starts with the understanding that we live in the 'blue continent' in which people and ideas of faith are connected by the sea rather than land. Islands are just our anchor points."
- ♥ One day Pastor and Kathy U. kept running into each other: church, post office, market. Finally, Kathy's car would not start, but the pastor was there to give her a jump! Divine appointment?
- ♥ The Steeple Rebuild Project is underway if you were wondering about the shingles in the driveway! Pray for the safety of the workers so high in the air!
- ♥ Would you like to ring bells for the Salvation Army? Click here <https://www.registertoring.com> (Sorry this link was cut off in last month's copy.)

- ♥ Lucia is home in Waimea for her extended winter stay! Welcome back!
- ♥ Ever since Pastor Olaf started the sermon series on Joseph from the Old Testament, Helen H-P has been humming the soundtrack to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," if you were wondering what that melody was!
- ♥ If you saw the kids after worship running around with paper bag quivers of arrows, they were reenacting the story of Jonathan and David in the Bible when Jonathan shot arrows as a warning message to save David's life (1 Samuel 20). Shootz, thank you Mahea for teaching!
- ♥ Christmas Eve Worship Invitation postcards are on the back table in the Narthex and the mailbox outside the church office. Please take a bunch and pass them out to your friends, family, and neighbors. If you are going to mail them, please place them in an envelope and add postage. They will also be distributed to the local hotels. See you Christmas Eve!

Mahalo:

Mahalo for your generous gifts to the Neighbors in Need national UCC offering! We raised \$395 to help homeland missions.

Thank you for observing the evening blackout for the shearwater season. Outside lights will be back on this month.

Thank you to all who showed up for the Waineke workday: Olaf, Jared, Mahea, Kingston, Marsha, Melissa B., Ken & Teri! We mowed the lawn, scrubbed the walls, fixed the firebox flu, repaired lights and windows.

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I am asking that we all bow down our lives at Christmas and recognize in all humility that our Savior came into this world wrapped in swaddling cloths, sleeping in a stable with animals.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Olaf

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

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Christ
Waimea United Church of