

VOLUME XXXI
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February 2024

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

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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,

The usual humming and buzzing noises in the sanctuary were missing this last month. We all worshiped multiple Sundays without the ceiling fans on because of the cold mornings. Even some of the windows remained closed. One of the noted side effects of this is that the organ actually sounds fuller. Did you notice? Folks were coming to church wearing fashionable double-knit sweaters, too! And real shoes with socks and everything! No mittens or scarves, however.

I recall once facing the risk of freezing to death. I was with high school chums in Germany in winter. We had hiked on cross-country skis into the alps to a small cabin that had been rented for the weekend. We trudged through snow and wilderness for half of a day to reach the small farmhouse. Upon our arrival we were told to "get lost" ("hau ab" in Bavarian dialect) by a drunken group of elders who claimed that they had rented the cabin for that time. As it was already getting dark, the option of getting lost in the snow at night was very real to us.

At that moment, my friend Martin noticed that there was a separate barn behind the farmhouse. We all agreed that this was our only hope of making it through the freezing night. We came into the relative stillness and warmth of the barn to discover there were actually three cows inside. Above the cattle was our utter salvation—a loft filled with hay. We would not have to sleep on the cold mucky floor. As we scurried up the ladder and tucked our bodies under the hay, we at long last felt warm. This was aided by the enormous amount of animal heat emanating from the cattle beneath as well as from a bottle of Himbeergeist that Sabina had brought along.

The next morning, we huddled in the warm hay and breakfasted on bread and jam. Outside, the morning sun reflected off the fresh snow and heated the ambient air nicely. We knocked on the farmhouse door to let the elders know we had survived and were back on our way down the mountain. The elders were more sober but complained that their fire had gone out in the middle of the night and that they were freezing now in the morning. We suggested of course that they should go to the barn to be warm. As the snow was crisp, and the journey downhill, we made it to the cars very easily on our skis.



Scriptures and Sermons for February 2024

- Feb. 4th Exodus 20:1-17,
Matthew 5:17-20 "Law"
- Feb. 11th Deuteronomy 6:4-5,
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a "Love"
- Feb. 18th Genesis 9:8-13,
1 Corinthians 11:25-26 "Promise"
- Feb. 26th Genesis 8:1-8,
Luke 9:1-8 "Hospitality"
- Mar. 3rd Psalm 119:137-144,
John 14:6 "Truth"

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:

Grace Scholarship Available for College Students

The last day of March is the deadline for the 2024 application for a scholarship. For instructions and even a sample application, please visit the church's website, click on "Links" in the navbar and scroll to "Grace Scholarship." (If you are reading this online, just click here

<http://waimeachurch.org/graceapp.pdf>)

Spring Youth Camp

A Spring Youth Camp up at Waineke Cabins in Kokee is being planned for the school break from March 19th-24th. This will be an association-wide camp, including other UCC churches. If you are interested in attending, please set these dates aside. More information and applications will be available soon.

Pseghetti Night February 14th!

The next time for the keiki to come for a night of food and fun will be 14 February, 2024, 5:30pm.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Michael Herrick

Deacon: Michael Herrick

February Deacons: David Somers,
Kevin Christian

Church Council Meeting: February 11 at
11:30 via Zoom Hybrid

Helen Masaki; Tom
Montanus for
breathing; Jackie
Webber for
healing from
fall; 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.



Mahalo:

Thank you, Deacon Michael, for sweeping the water off the lanai after the big sideways storm in January. And blessings for doing it again right after the second blast!

Thank you to Dakota, Kayla, Elijah, Jen, Emily, Kahuany, Teri & Ken, and Pastor Olaf for trekking up the mountain for the recent Waineke workday. Besides cleaning, they repaired two interior lights, replaced the front lock on Cabin B, capped a plumbing issue under Cabin A, ate Andrea's Portuguese soup and the most amazing coconut macaroons, and generally had a grand time!

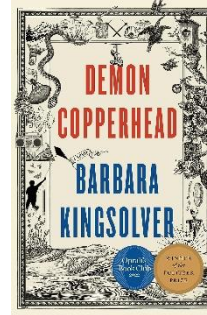
Hau'ōi'a Hanau!

Feb 1	Helen Masaki
Feb 9	Grant Kagawa
Feb 10	Lyle Ceballos
Feb 11	Kiana Okino
Feb 22	Melissa Campbell
Feb 22	Beth Hanashiro
Feb 24	Bergen Ceballos
Feb 26	Glenn Molander
Feb 27	Alana Kanahele
Feb 27	Glenn Kagawa



News from the Pews

- ♥ A question from Christmas Eve: “Why does it say on the side of the box that these are dripless candles?”
- ♥ Pastor Olaf’s sister visited last month; you may have noted a female version of him in the pew.
- ♥ Welcome to Kevin’s mom visiting from Pennsylvania just in time for his birthday.
- ♥ Yes, David H. really does have a sledgehammer named “hank.”
- ♥ The Waimea pool water of late has been so cold, 62 degrees, baptisms will have to take place later in the year, please.
- ♥ Special blessings on January’s liturgist Kahuany who stayed up all night Saturday practicing her English so that we could better understand the Word of God! That in itself is an amazing testimony of faith!
- ♥ Special thanksgiving to God for Jared and Mahea’s ministry of fostering children in need. As this season has come to an end now, bless them with comfort and grace.



Book Club February’s selection, hosted by Diane Foulks, is *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. With a nod to Dickens David Copperfield, Kingsolver presents us with a modern

American story set in rural Kentucky. The titular character, Demon, tells of his upbringing among people who are generous and devious; heartbreaking and loving. It is a homecoming novel for Kingsolver who in an interview said, she wanted to write about the fact that the people who live in Appalachia “are the most resourceful Americans you’re probably going to find anywhere.” Kingsolver, who was raised in rural Kentucky and now lives in rural Virginia, said she wanted to explore the shame she had internalized from her choice of a place to live.

Congregational Meeting Notes

January 28 was our annual meeting. The following people have taken on church leadership positions: Kay Lim-Christian-Moderator, Michael Herrick,-Vice-Moderator, Margarete Kagawa-Treasurer, Jackie Matsumura-Secretary, MarleneMatutino-Assistant Treasurer, Stewardship-Sue Carlson, Buildings and Grounds-David Somers & Rick Foulks, At-large Board of Finance—Diane Foulks & Susie Somers, Music & Worship-Helen Hoeckmann-Percival, Missions-Phoebe Liu-Eng, Fellowship-Kathy Uyeda, Deacons-Joy Whitehill, Rob Carlson. We still have unfilled positions—one deacon for the 2027 class, Cemetery, Personnel, and Christian Education. Please consider volunteering for a position.

The budget was approved. There was discussion regarding the expiration of the lease for the Ed Center and Marshallese church property. As it stands now, the situation is status quo. The Marshallese are looking to improve the classroom building so that it will be usable for Sunday School and other activities. YWAM and community groups continue to use the Ed Center as well.

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The warmth of our church is not so much like the fire that burns for awhile but rather the heat generated by the herd and our coming together and engulfing ourselves in the hay of the Word of God. No one is left out in the cold. Everyone is helped up the ladder to the lofty love, hope, and joy of knowing salvation in Christ. Come and feel the warmth even on the chilly mornings we have right now.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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