

VOLUME XXIX
NUMBER 1
January 2022

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.

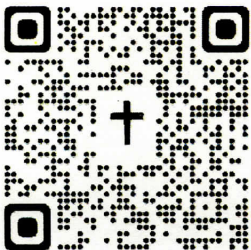
WAIMEA UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
located at the corner of
Makeke and Tsuchiya
roads, Waimea, Kauai.

*Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival*
Pastor

(808) 338-9962
www.waimeachurch.org

P.O. Box 457
Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship
Service, 10 a.m.
Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 a.m.



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

While sitting in the band room at Waimea High School waiting for Bible Club kids to show up, I noticed the list of songs the band was going to play at its "Winter Concert," which sadly would just be performed on the school's front lawn during lunch the last day before break because of Covid. In the list was "Mary, Did You Know?" I had to ask the band director, Kahu David Leong about this. Generally speaking such a religious song would be blocked by school administration. He put it in anyway. Pastor David also made a stained glass nativity scene on the band room door--you rock it, Kahu!

So, about this song "Mary, Did You Know?" Of course, Mary knew! She knew, as the song goes, "that her baby boy would save our sons and daughters." She had an angel from heaven come and tell her--the Annunciation. The heavenly host was singing at the time of the birth. A light shone down from heaven. Shepherds came to affirm the Savior's birth. Three kings came bearing gifts to the new King of Heaven. Hmmm, that seems to me that Mary must have figured it out.

Come to think of it, when in all of Biblical history did God ever before make anything *more* clear than the birth of the Messiah?! The only thing I can imagine that would be more clear to humanity would be the Revelation, when Jesus comes again. There would certainly be no missing that time!

Not too unlike the Revelation to come, Christmas is a direct revealing of God to the world. God just says, "Here I am. I have come to you now." "But, so that you are not so scarred out of your britches by Me, I am going to come to you in the most humble form I can be." Would it not have been hilarious if God had decided to come as a Tyrannosaurus instead of a baby? This the wonder and fascination of Christmas.

Yes, Mary knew that her baby boy. . . ! Yes, we know that too! God reveals the plan for our salvation in that moment of perfect heavenly grace when Jesus is born in the stable, and that is affirmed and confirmed by angels, natural wonders, and the witness of all humans present. Please know Jesus this Christmas as Mary did, the Son of God delivered into the world for saving of us all. This is the greatest gift for us and the greatest sign of God's love for us.

Mele Kalikimaka, Pastor Olaf



Scriptures and Sermons for January 2022

2 Jan. 22 Luke 2:25-38
"Simeon & Anna"

9 Jan. 22 Luke 4:1-13
"Tempting"

16 Jan. 22 Luke 4:14-24
"Rejected"

23 Jan. 22 Luke 4:31-41
"Healing"

30 Jan. 22 Luke 4:42-44
"God's Reason"

6 Feb. 22 Luke 5:1-11
"Discipled"



Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: **James Beardmore**

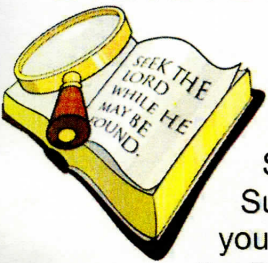
Deacon: **Marlene Matutino**

January Deacons: **David Somers, Helen Hoeckmann-Percival, Jared Morsey, Mahea Morsey**

Church Council Meeting: January 9, 2022 @ 11:30 via Zoom—Hybrid

Jill Faye for cancer recovery, Gladys Okada for continued good health, Robert for torn ligament in leg, Beth to stop headaches, Kristen to fight infection, Mike Matutino -- keep cancer away

now, Bill Woodall -- sarcomas and heart, Janice's friend Ron recovered from cancer, Mahea's mother Pamela for stroke recovery, Jared's father for stroke recovery, Leinani Springer (cancer free), Galen Kaohi (remain cancer free), Norma & Mary Watanabe (keep cancer away), Helen's mother, Priscilla's mother (heart), An end finally to the pandemic Healthcare workers, 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.

Calendar Notes:

January 15th 8:00am church & cemetery clean-up day. We will be taking down the Christmas decorations then, too.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation is January 30th after worship. The meeting will be on-line and in-person. Please use the church website zoom link to attend starting at **11am.**

January 25th at 5:30pm will be a General Meeting of the Kauai Association of the United Church of Christ, of which our own Phoebe is currently President. The meeting will be via Zoom. Please use the church website zoom link to attend. Simply go to waimeachurch.org and click on "Zoom."

Covid, the Mother of Invention: How to blow out candles at the Christmas Eve service when everyone is masked up? We discovered a new use for communion cups--to smother Christmas candles!

Mahalo:

Message from Janice Oyama
Dear Congregation Members,

I would like to thank you all for your prayers for my mother, Tsurue Hashimoto. Mom passed on December 14th at the age of 100. She lived a long and good life. She is now with the Lord and in peace. I am grateful for your prayers and your warmth to welcome her when she attended church with us.

Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas Fund Offering (aka Veterans of the Cross). The offering was collected on Christmas Eve, but if you would like to give after the fact you are welcome to simply indicate on your check or if giving on-line add "xmas" after your name in that webpage field.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

January 4	Janice Oyama
January 4	Kathy Uyeda
January 5	Rochelle Kawahalau
January 6	Skylor Kagawa
January 8	Happy Snyder
January 9	Clint Snyder
January 12	Jonathan Galiza
January 15	Janet Kawamura
January 26	Emily Evans
January 26	Ruby Doi
January 29	Barbara Burtch



Congregational Meeting

The congregational meeting will be held after worship services on January 30, 2022. It is important that we have members participate so that we can meet the requirements for a non-profit. All positions are open. The slate of nominees for the positions will be presented and the budget will need to be approved.

Please prayerfully consider participating as a member of the council (moderator, vice-moderator, treasurer, assistant treasurer, recording secretary, cemetery, buildings and grounds, music and worship, Christian education, stewardship, fellowship, at-large members of finance board, missions, & personnel).

The on-line version of the 2022 Annual Meeting booklet will be posted on the church's website www.waimeachurch.org under the "Links" tab. Thank you as always for saving paper and the environment.

Check the Narthex for the book *Ku 'E Petitions, The Lahui Against Annexation* gifted to our congregation by the Pua Foundation on Oahu. In the book, you may read the initial history of the Hawaiian sovereign government and the attempt to annex the islands to the United States. In the latter section of the book you will find color print plates of the original petitions that were signed against annexation. They are arranged geographically. Flip to Waimea, or a nearby town, to see if your family signed one of the petitions. In the very least you will surely recognize some of the surnames that are still represented in our community today.

Essential

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" – Matthew 11:2-3 (NRSV)

Last year, my Corona-induced "prison stay" shifted the day I saw the Sunday NYT headline, "An Awakening in America is Prying at Racism's Grip." We opened our church building to be a sanctuary for protesters on the south side of Washington Square Park. We couldn't not offer bathrooms and water bottles and support for the protesters. My job as an elder was to stay inside and clean the bathrooms, while all masked up. Protesters took their sanctuary turn outside, standing six feet apart.

During the virus' initial months, I often felt that I was not an essential worker. The solidarity of the protests broke the solitude of self-protection. Maybe that is what John wanted to see too. He wanted solidarity with Jesus or someone or something that broke the human logjam of one against the other.

My little jail was a kind of hyper self-consciousness. Being a pastor who didn't have an audience, a counselor who didn't see body language, a zoom officiant who didn't bury. All my hatching, matching and dispatchings were disrupted.

My little bout feeling like a non-essential worker might have been one John and Jesus faced too. What is essential? The rag and the bathroom and the sanctuary? The open door, even with danger lurking? I think so.

"Is it you, Jesus, or shall we wait for another?" Jesus answers both, as he shows up again and again. He appears in solidarity, the kind that challenges solitude. He appears in rags, bathrooms and water bottles. He draws near, one Advent after another.

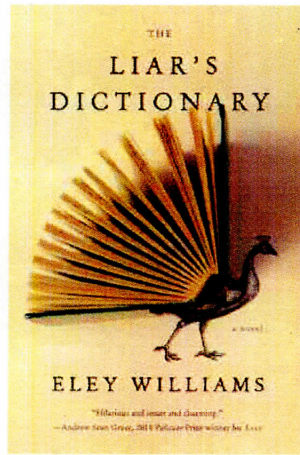
Prayer

Wake us up again and again, O God, and don't make us wait so long between visits. Amen.

Donna Schaper is Pastor at the Orient Congregational Church on the far end of Long Island, New York. Her newest book is *Remove the Pews: Spiritual Possibilities for Sacred Spaces*, from The Pilgrim Press. by [Donna Schaper](#) : published on Dec 23, 2021

Your 2021 Statement of Giving will be mailed out directly to you. If you do not receive it by the end of January, please contact the church office for a duplicate.

Book Club—Helen Hoeckmann-Percival will host January's selection, *Liar's Dictionary*, by Eley Williams. Who would have thought that we would be reading TWO novels about the creation of dictionaries and thoroughly enjoying them? January's entry is about a young 20th century intern tasked with removing false definitions placed by a love-lorn Victorian man who was dissatisfied by life. A debut novel cleverly highlights the vagaries of language and the difficult task of trying to make language understandable. The young intern must contend with a threatening phone caller while combing through many entries. We will meet possibly in-person with zoom hybrid on January 16th at 3:00 pm HST.



February's selection will be *Project Hail Mary*:by Andy Weir. A lone astronaut must save earth from disaster in this science-based novel. A science mystery but also an homage to those heroes who endlessly problem solve/trouble-shoot so that life can go on. Jackie Matsumura will host in February.

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

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