

**VOLUME XXX**  
**NUMBER 7**  
**July 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.*

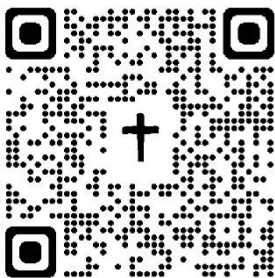
**Waimea United Church of Christ**

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

*Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival, Pastor*

*(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*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*One day last month as I came through the breezeway between Baird Hall and the church office, I noticed a single snail plowing the cement sidewalk traveling in the direction of Kekaha. I could only apprehend that this snail was going on a long fruitless journey across the barren lanai. This somehow saddened my heart. I was tempted to turn the snail around to send it back to the grassy area next to the front wall.*

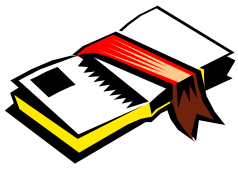
*Then as I turned the corner, I spied another snail coming in from the opposite direction! Were the two snails going to meet in the middle? Were they friends or relatives? Perhaps they were scouts from two opposing snail armies. All of this intrigued me. I wondered if I should patiently chronicle their progress and the eventual outcome. Nah, I looked at their pace, truly a snail's pace, and decided to accelerate their encounter. I picked up the first and then the second and placed them both on the lawn in front of the children's room under the hibiscus.*

*Lo and behold, nothing transpired. I saw no amorous reconnection, no battle royale, not even a nod of acknowledgement between the two. Duties called, and they seemed complacent, and so the great snail rendezvous faded from my interests until the Sunday morning after when I noticed that the Saturday lawn mowing deposited ten or so empty snail shells on the sidewalk in front of the Lanai. I got a broom and swept the carnage back into the grass. Well, not really a carnage as they were all just empty shells. A team of snails have joined the heavenly ranks.*

*Snails are one of the most fascinating creatures of all of God's handiwork. They were seemingly designed to be played with by puddle-jumping toddlers after a rainstorm. They are omnivorous, eating most anything in their path. They might even be able to digest one of my sermons. They have only one foot but not even a leg to stand on. They have ocular tentacles, like possessing eyeballs on the palms of your hands that you could point in any direction. I think this would be very handy while operating motor vehicles in reverse.*

*On my first ever trip to Paris, France, I was challenged by good company to eat snails. When eaten, a snail receives the moniker "escargot," that is somehow to make it more palatable. It was like chewing on a clod of dirt awash in white wine and butter sauce. Once the sauce was subsumed, only rubber remained.*

*Continued on back page.*



## Scriptures and Sermons for July

July 2nd Luke 22:1-13  
"Passover Me" (Olaf)

July 9th John 15:1-11  
"Abide in Christ" (Jared)

July 16th Titus 2:11-3:8  
"By the Grace of God" (Jared)

July 23rd Luke 22:14-23  
"Kingdom Come" (Olaf)

July 30th Luke 22:24-30 "Great,  
"Just Great" (Olaf)



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.

## News from the Hawaii Conference UCC

The June 2023 Aha Pae Aina took place via Zoom teleconference with Pastor Olaf and Phoebe Liu-Eng representing our congregation. During the Aha Makua business meeting a new fifth conference missional team was instituted: "Innovation and Engagement." An emphasis of this new team will be to raise up new pastors from local congregations to address the severe pastor shortage of the denomination. The vote on the Conference budget became intriguing when an amendment to the budget was moved that would eliminate financial support to the Papa Makua position in the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches. The amendment just barely passed, and so the position was defunded

## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Michael Herrick

**Deacon:** Joy Whitehill

**July Deacons:** Beth Hanashiro, Mahea Morse, Vicky Mercado

**Church Council Meeting:** July 9, at 11:30 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.

## Calendar Notes:

Reminder: Pastor Olaf will be away from July 5th-20th. Tuesday Bible studies during that time will be on break.

## Mahalo:

Thank you so much for the chili lunch on Father's Day to Kathy U. and Jackie M. It was super ono and just the right spicy to leave us with that warm feeling all over.

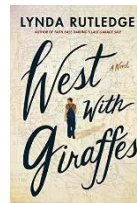


## News from the Pews

- ❖ We wish a fond farewell and mercies to Pastor Nafe and his wife Mele of the Methodist Church on West Kauai. Nafe completed a three-year assignment as pastor and is now taking on a chaplaincy in the Navy.
- ❖ Great to see Winona back in church, having recovered nicely from a fall that saw her in hospital for a short stay.
- ❖ Blessings to Nani Furkino, who is off to Europe with family on vacation.
- ❖ A few Sundays ago Deacon Michael went to make the coffee for fellowship only to discover that we were down to the last few coffee grounds. Quickly Pastor Olaf texted Mahea (who works for the coffee roaster), saying “Help, the church is groundless.” Thank you Mahea for bringing in more coffee grounds right away.
- ❖ The first ever “Artificial Intelligence” sermon was presented at the German “Kirchentag” conference in Fuerth (Germany) last month. When a member was asked how she felt about this, she commented “Who needs artificial intelligence when we have you, pastor?”
- ❖ In Tuesday morning Bible study, Rob Carlson shared his story about “30 minutes with Fidel Castro.” You should ask him about this event in his life!
- ❖ It was great to have Youth Missionary Jared’s family come for a visit! His mother and father came along with wider familial members: Judy, John, Amber, Traci. . . Gilligan, Mr. & Mrs. Howell, the Professor, etc. Okay, we forgot all their names. Too many.
- ❖ Blessings on Kay, Kevin, Hana, and Abigail who are off-island/on-island, vacationing in Trinidad and Tobago. Wonder if they are staying in a Winnebago on Tobago?
- ❖ The Church Council approved an emergency gift out of our Missions line item of \$2,000 to supplement the West Kauai Ministers’ Association’s Kokua Fund that helps needy folks with such things as food, tents, and bus passes. Also, a special offering will be collect the first Sunday of August. Stephanie Funtanila of Nana’s House will come to the church to give a special witness

## *Hauoli la Hanau!*

July 4	Jim Ryan
July 5	Melissa Bachmann
July 5	David Laidlaw
July 6	Sara Thompson
July 6	Winona Steed
July 23	Cindy Chronister
July 23	Mahina Graham-Laidlaw
July 24	Jacob Matutino
July 25	Joy Whitehill



July’s selection is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Cinthy Kagawa will host on July 16 at 3:00 PM.

The novel is inspired by a newspaper story from 1938 about giraffes being trucked across the country to the San Diego Zoo. The protagonist, Woodrow Wilson Nickel, lucks into being the driver and falls in love with the animals and a red headed girl. He tells of the adventure, his first love, the giraffes and the kindness of strangers along the way.

*August’s selection will be hosted by Debby Santmyer via zoom.*

*Continued from front page*

*In Thailand, the women mash up snails and use the snail cream to whiten their skin. This centuries old practice begs the question of who was the first woman who decided to mash up snails to put on her face? Maybe it was the same woman who started chewing betelnut to turn her teeth black?*

*I hope one day to ask God personally about snails along with a plethora of other non-critical questions. "If I was created in God's image, whose image was the snail created in?" At least the one question will be answered by then, "Are there snails in heaven?" "Do they also get angels' wings?" "Are they going to be at the feast as guests or as a side dish?"*

*Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf*

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



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Christ  
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