

**VOLUME XXXII**  
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**July 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.

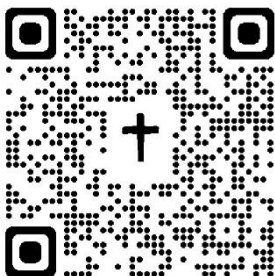
**Waimea United Church  
of Christ**

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

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-  
Percival, Pastor

(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,

This last month saw the statewide United Church of Christ gather at our sister churches in Kapaa. This annual gathering is called the Aha Pae 'Aina and has been taking place for nearly two centuries. This means that originally folks would have travelled on ships and on horseback to attend. The initial gatherings would have lasted two weeks, but this long stretch has been shortened up to about four days.

For the final worship time together on Saturday, all of the churches on Kauai were asked to share communion cups and plates to represent all the congregations coming together as the body of Christ. Pastor Kalani Wong (Kamehameha Schools chaplain) offered the familiar words of institution to the delegates and visitors. He turned around to see twenty-plus communion sets on the altar table behind him. He could have chosen from any of them, or he could have mixed and matched them, but in fact he picked up the plate and chalice from our church. Wow.

I had also brought the 1843 silver chalice that is normally kept in our history display in the sanctuary, but Pastor Kalani lifted up the koa wood chalice and plate that former member Bill Woodall (rest in peace) had handcrafted in remembrance of former member Larry Somers (rest in peace) that had been commissioned by his wife Lois before her passing. Surely Pastor Kalani had no idea how much personal history from our church he was holding. Nor did Bill ever imagine while making the wooden communion set that it would be the featured centerpiece of the Aha Pae Aina in the future.

The shortcoming of large gatherings is that there is no time for the sharing of personal stories (mo'olelo). Even in the listing of "*Saints that Have Gone Before*" in the Pae Aina booklet there was no space for the biographies of Elsie and Lee who passed last year from our church. Apparently only names and dates fit the format. I was left wondering about the lives of all those who were listed in the necrology, their families, their ministries, and their love of Jesus. We are missing so much! I wanted to jump up and tell the stories. I wanted to sit quietly and hear the stories of our kupuna.

*Continued on back page*



## Scriptures and Sermons for July

### "Summer Travels with Paul!"

July 6th Acts 17:16-27, 32-33

"Going to Mars-Hill"

July 13th Acts 18:1-11

"From Now On. . ."

July 20th Acts 18:18-28

"Strengthening"

July 27th Acts 19:21-41

"What a Riot"

Aug 3rd Acts 20:7-12

"Dead Asleep in Church"



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

### Mahalo



Mahalo to all who brought special baked goodies for the statewide Aha Pae Aina "Taste of Kauai": Kim, Olaf, Kevin, Sue,

Kara, Shelly, & Teri. We offered Ube brownies, Apfelstrudel, choco-cream cake, choco-revel bars, pumpkin crunch, malasadas, pineapple squares, fudge brownies, manju, cinnamon buns, and carrot cake—well over 200 individual desserts

A MAHALO note from Kahu Rennie Mau, leader of the Kauai history tour for the Aha Pae Aina reads: "Mahalo for the insightful tour of the church and parsonage. Everyone said it was the highlight of their trip to Kauai. Thanks for your hospitality and snacks and the books!"

## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Jackie Matsumura

**Deacon:** David Somers

**July Deacons:** Jared Morsey, Kevin Christian

**Church Council Meeting:** August 10, 2025, via Zoom Hybrid



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.

## Calendar Notes

**Sunday 13 July** will be the next "Jesus in the Hood" car ministry

Outdoor worship and Picnic with Bingo are scheduled for **August 24th**. Please start collecting bingo prizes to share at that event.



# Hau'oli la Hanau!

1<sup>st</sup> David Laidlaw  
 5<sup>th</sup> Melissa Bachman  
 6<sup>th</sup> Sara Thompson  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Cindy Chronister  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Mahina Graham-Laidlaw  
 24<sup>th</sup> Jacob Matutino  
 25<sup>th</sup> Joy Whitehill



June 25<sup>th</sup> "Psggetti Night" was all about Jonah and the Whale. The kids are acting out the story, being the big fish.



## Talk Stories (Book Club)

*Mysteries of Danger Island* by Daren Jenner. The book has been written as a cautionary reminder of the "preciousness and fragility of life." The stories are ones that those who have lived on Kaua'i for many years may remember reading in the newspaper and seeing on the news. There are many incidents involving people who have been last seen going on a hike and never returning. Other stories highlight the hazards of some of our beaches and streams. Some who are missing may have chosen not to be found. They are all a mystery. Join us on July 20<sup>th</sup> for a lively discussion and probably some personal stories of island hazards.



## News from the pews

- ♥ "Wow, Pastor, I was just reading the church newsletter as you pulled up in the church van!" Beth H. exclaimed as Pastor Olaf announced himself at the back door. "Funny how that worked!"
- ♥ Sadly, Russell and Berenice's cafe in Hanapepe has lost its lease. Hopefully, the community can enjoy their coffee at another site soon.
- ♥ Once again Pastor has been called to serve on jury duty, starting August 11th. Romans 8:1, "There is no condemnation now for those who are in Christ. . . ."
- ♥ Yeah, Zion is spending summer with Marlene & Mike in Kekaha!
- ♥ Congrats on Merrick tasting his first communion last month! And, he won the prize for finding the most empty communion cups in the pews afterwards!
- ♥ Great to see Joanne's daughter Shari, staying for a couple of weeks.
- ♥ Kathy found hundreds of empty grocery bags in Baird Hall; Please, bring mangoes and avocados to fill them all for others!
- ♥ Marilyn U. has endured successful knee replacement surgery. Now to survive the physical therapy!
- ♥ Alicia H. has retired from teaching at Canyon School. She has blessed so many young lives there. Everyone is going to miss you.
- ♥ We share in the sorrow of Mary losing her little dog "Lilly." The dog is in heaven now waiting on the rest of us. Lilly is especially missed in Tuesday morning Bible Study.
- ♥ At this year's Aha Pae 'Aina in Kapaa, our church was presented with an official certificate from the Hawaii Conference for 205 years of ministry.
- ♥ During the Aha Pae Aina history tour at our church, we were presented with a Hawaiian/English altar bible by the Kawaiahao Church in Honolulu in honor of our bicentennial. We are truly thankful for this wonderful gift!

*Continued from front page*

I feel that it is truly important to remember the saints from our own church that have preceded us. Even though Jesus says, "Behold I am doing a new thing" (Rev. 21:5), He refers to Old Testament persons over sixty times. Yes, do new! Just recall the ones who went before, too. Our church has the longest history of any church on this island, and so let us celebrate our saints!

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

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

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