

VOLUME XXXI
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March 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.

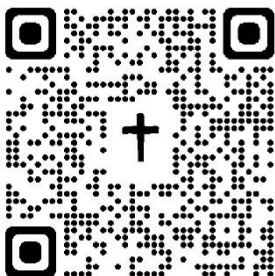
Waimea United Church of Christ

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

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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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,

What a surprise it was at the last "Pseghetti Night for da Keiki" on Valentine's Day to have one of our oldest youth show up, Joanne W. (92 years young). She came early to see what the ministry was that we were doing. She had seen it listed in the Sunday program and Newsletter and talked about among some members, so she wanted to see for herself.

What did we do on Valentine's? I thought it might be nice to share with the rest of you who might be wondering. The parents dropped off the keiki one by one in the parking lot. Car doors flew open as newcomers were greeted with broad smiles and hugs by the other children. They jumped up and down while hugging one another, so excited to be together.

On the lanai was a large piece of cut plywood resting on a sheet of plastic. The plywood had a heart cut out of the middle and scooped edges. Paint and paper cutouts were waiting for the kids to come decorate the Valentine's picture board. Sofia painted her hand and pressed it to the board. Josephine drew stick figures. Sammi painted hearts all along the base. Aunty Helen coordinated and finished up the painting. All this time the boys were playing ball and running around.

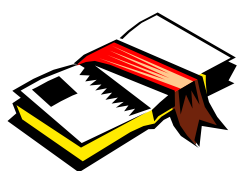
As the painting was mostly finished, all the keiki gathered in a circle to pray over the food. Sammi volunteered to pray over the pseghetti. Michael H. and I had prepared baked spaghetti with meatballs, a salad with homegrown tomatoes, honeydew melon, and french bread. Every child was allowed two meatballs. Some of the kids inhaled the spaghetti quickly so that they could go

back for more meatballs. By the time the adults came to serve themselves, alas the meatballs were all gone. The kids all sat around two tables pushed together and giggled about "boogies coming out of their ears" and other orifices.

For dessert, Michael H. had baked some heart-shaped sugary cookies that the keiki could decorate with plenty of frosting and sprinkles. Some were more frosting than cookie. A few children got the idea to press the frosting and cookie all together into a yucky ball before eating them.



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Scriptures and Sermons for March 2024

- March 3rd Psalm 119:137-144,
John 14:6
"Truth"
- March 10th Leviticus 16:18-22,
1 John 4:10
"Atonement"
- March 17th Genesis 4:8-11,
Romans 8:18-25
"Death"
- March 24th John 12:12-16
"Small Triumphs"
- March 31st (Easter 10am) John 20:1-18
"Life"



Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

Deacon: Joy Whitehill

March Deacons: Vicky Mercado, Jacob Matutino

Church Council Meeting: March 10, 2024 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); Russell and Berenice's daughter Selma (stomach); 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.

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:

FRIDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE CLUB at the Ed Center at 2:30pm in the fireside room—every week. Youth welcome! We are currently watching "The Chosen" on video, eating snacks, singing, and having a great time.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule (March 24-31st)

Palm Sunday 10am worship with special palm decorations.

Maundy Thursday Foot Washing 7:00pm West Kauai Ministers Association at St. John's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunrise 6:30am West Kauai Ministers Association at Kaumakani Methodist Church

Easter Worship with Flower Cross decorating and Egg Hunt for the keiki.

MEP Camp is on **March 19-22nd**. That MEP stands for Metaphoric, Euphoric, Parabolic Camp. This is the annual Kauai Association Spring youth camp held up at our Waimeke site in Kokee. See Pastor Olaf or Jared M. to sign up. Space is limited. See the flyers in the sanctuary or click here if you are reading this online

<http://www.waimeachurch.org/YOUTHRETREAT.pdf>

One Great Hour of Sharing offering is March 10th. This is the offering that is used to support all of our UCC, Disciples of Christ, and Presbyterian missionaries overseas in other countries. Please be generous in consideration of this special offering as a dollar can go a really long way overseas!



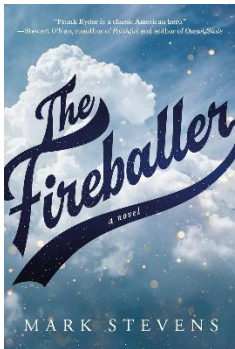
Hauoli la Hanau!



March 10	Kent Mizuguchi
March 10	Melissa Kagawa
March 13	Joanne Watanabe
March 14	Samantha Campbell
March 17	Mike Matutino
March 20	Kimberly Hoeckmann-Percival
March 22	Archie Kagawa
March 23	Jared Morsey
March 26	Rob Carlson
March 27	Shawna Kanahele

Book Club

March's selection is *The Fireballer* by Mark Stevens. Cinthy Kagawa will host on March 17 at 3:00 pm. It is a a "poignant story about hopes, dreams, and how far one man's talent takes him before he realizes it's about what you do—and how you do it."



Frank Ryder is unstoppable on the baseball field—his pitches arrive faster than a batter can swing, giving his opponents no chance. He's being heralded as a game-changing pitcher. But within the maelstrom of press, adulation, and wild speculation, Frank is a man alone. Haunted by a tragic

incident from years past, he yearns to be the best but cannot reconcile the guilt he carries with the man everyone believes him to be. Frank's path to redemption leads him on a journey back to where his life changed forever, to visit his family, his high school coach, and his brother. Through reconnection and reconciliation with those also deeply affected by the devastating event of Frank's youth, he finds peace and his place in the world both in and outside the game."

Church clean-up day is planned for Saturday, March 16th, 8:00am. Please come to help get the cobwebs out and straighten out the hibiscuses.



News from the Pews

- ♥ Andrew Evans is engaged to be married to Hillary Alvarez. And, they are expecting a child. Blessings all around.
- ♥ Rick Foulks was featured as a very dunkable science teacher at the recent WAFF carnival at the High School. Pastor Olaf paid the \$3 and re-baptized him on the third throw.
- ♥ "Love My Church" was written in chalk by one of the kids at the Pseghetti Night on the patio just as you enter Baird Hall. Yuo, good idea.
- ♥ Farewell and "a hui hou" to Tom Montanus who has returned to Florida for medical treatment. We all hope for your swift return. Helen is waiting for you here! Dominoes are waiting for you, too!
- ♥ Sue Metivier's ashes will be interred in our columbarium on Sunday, March 3rd. She passed unto the Lord several years ago, but the family is now able to gather for a final farewell.
- ♥ A note on the white board at the Ed Center says "Remember Elijah!" How can we forget Kayla, Koty, and little Elijah from the last YWAM team? Never.
- ♥ We received the annual Christmas letter from former pastor Ken's wife Betty. She shares that all is well in Washington. Now Christmas is over.
- ♥ Travel mercies for Melissa B. who needed to fly back to California to be with her father in an emergency. Prayers for Jim Ryan, her father, for healing and care.
- ♥ We welcomed Kathrin Mertes from Mainz, Germany, on Sunday, February 28th. She was staying with the H-P family for Waimea Community Days celebrations. So, she got the official tour of the parsonage, former governor's palace.
- ♥ Teri Sakai made it safely back from her mission trip to Battambang, Cambodia. She delivered medical supplies to the "Hope for Cambodia" base there. She was blessed to travel with Pastor Glenn Frasier from our sister church in Princeville.

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The kids were then asked to stand behind their creation for picture taking. Their smiling faces shining through the cut-out heart in the middle. These pictures were then quickly printed on cardstock paper in the office and made into Valentine's cards for the parents.

At the end of the time together, the sidewalk chalk was brought out, and the keiki had fun making street art. While waiting for the parents to reappear at the end of the night, some watched a Veggie-Tales video in the children's playroom. When the parents did come, more pictures through the heart board were taken with families together. The keiki hugged each other without jumping this time as they left.

Thank you for the adult supervision: Helen H-P, Michael H., Jared M., Hiroko M., Patricia C. for all of your love and grace over the kids! The parents had a great night! Thank you Joanne W. for coming by and looking in, too! Next time stay for meatball-less pseggetti!

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

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

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Christ
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