

VOLUME XXXIII
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March 2026

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

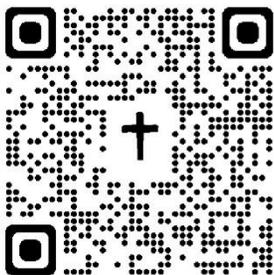
www.waimeachurch.org

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,

I saw Melissa's big Jeep Rubicon come onto the parking lawn in front of the church that Sunday, make a U-turn, and suddenly stop. She and Sammi got out and came up to the doors of the church. "I think I just lost my power steering," Melissa exclaimed. We still had ten minutes before church, so I asked her to go open the hood so I could look at it quickly. Sure enough, the serpentine belt looked like "pseghetti" night after the kids throw the noodles at each other.

Was this a good happenstance or a bad one? Of course, a car breaking down is always troublesome; however, breaking down in front of the church is lucky, too! After church I drove Melissa and Sammi back up the valley. The next morning was fortunately a federal holiday, so we were free to work on the Jeep. Around 9am Melissa and friend Kekoa were back at the church with the replacement belt in hand. Kekoa fished out all of the strands of old belt from around the pulleys on the front of the engine. The moment of truth was at hand. I spun all the accessory pulleys. The water pump locked up.

Was this a good happenstance or a bad one? Good that we knew the real problem. Luckily the local Napa parts dealer in Hanapepe was open despite the holiday. Miraculously they had the replacement water pump right on the shelf waiting for us. Kekoa drove to Hanapepe to get the part. Meanwhile I began to disassemble the front of the engine for the water pump replacement. The first bolt I tried to remove was over torqued and already stripped. Fortunately, I had just a few months prior purchased a new tool that could carefully remove the stubborn bolt. That was in my mind another miracle!

With great precision Kekoa cleaned the mating surface on the engine of the old water pump gasket. Melissa just happened to have acetone solvent in the Jeep! Another miracle! The new gasket did not want to stay in place, but I just happened to have a new tube of RTV gasket sealant to hold it. Another miracle for sure. The new belt was mounted. The last thing was to see if the battery had died (battery would not charge without a belt). A quick prayer before the key was turned in the ignition. The Jeep jumped back to life. Another miracle! No leaks. We bled the air out of the radiator and refilled the coolant reservoir. *(Continued on back page)*



March Scriptures and Sermons

- March 1 Matthew 8:22
"Follow Christ"
- March 8 Matthew 18:15-17
"Tell Him His Fault"
- March 15 Luke 12:7
"Fear Not"
- March 22 Luke 21:19-26
"Be Patient"
- March 29 Luke 19:35-38
"Peace in Heaven"
- April 5 John 20:1-8
"I Will Be Alive"



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:

Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church 2-day **Spring Rummage Sale** (in downtown Hanapepe) **Friday 13 March**, 1:00 – 6:00 pm; **Saturday 14 March**, 8:00 am – NOON

"The **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will take place on **Sunday, March 15th**. This special national offering supports the mission work around the world."

Health Fair Help support Waimea High School Academy's Health Fair, **Saturday 28 March** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (Link below)
https://www.waimeahigh.org/apps/news/show_news.jsp?REC_ID=1002873&id=0

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd 5:30pm at Baird Hall, come enjoy a traditional Passover Meal very much like the Last Supper with Jesus and His Disciples. Other West Kauai Ministers' Association Churches will be joining us.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Rob Carlson

Deacon: David Somers

March Deacons: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival, Jared Morsey

Church Council Meeting: March 8 at 11:30 via Zoom hybrid.



Recently departed for Heaven, Barbara Burtch; Yuki Okino, heart; Bradford Afong; Gia, recovering from broken neck; Natalie for bone marrow match, cancer; Marilyn Ueno, surgery; Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama, back pain; Robert Medieros surgery 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.

Mahalo:

- ❖ Thank you Ken Sakai for installing a new faucet at the back of Baird Hall
- ❖ Mahalo to Lucia L. for leading us in the "Lord's Prayer" in Hawaiian.
- ❖ Thank you to the mission team from Michigan that helped clean up the cemetery and build the beginnings of an ash garden.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

Makiki

10th Kent Mizuguchi
10th Melissa Kagawa
13th Joanne Watanabe
14th Samantha Campbell
17th Mike Matutino
20th Kim Hoeckmann-Percival
22nd Archie Kagawa
23rd Jared Morsey
26th .Rob Carlson



Talk Stories

Debbie Santmyer will host our book club on March 15, 2026, at 3:00 pm via the church's website Zoom account. Her selection is *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Theo, an elderly man who grew up in Portugal, arrives in Golden, Georgia and begins buying the portraits of local residents that have been created by a local artist. He contacts each portrait subject via an elegantly written letter and asks to meet. As he learns their stories, we only catch glimpses of his story. His generous gift to each of the recipients changes the lives of many of the citizens. "*Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted story about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the far-reaching possibilities of anonymous kindness."

Help Wanted

Blessings to those who have volunteered to serve in a church position. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of these open positions: Vice-Moderator, Stewardship, Personnel, and Cemetery.

Youth Retreat "Trust Camp" at Waineke Cabins in Kokee. March 17-20. Please note that Pastor Olaf will be unavailable at that time! Blessings to our campers and leaders!

News from the Pews

- ❖ Congratulations to Sammi for being a featured singer at the Waimea Canyon Middle School Valentine's concert.
- ❖ Josh Gobbel and family paid us a visit on February 15th, all the way from Salem, Oregon. He was the past leader of YWAM on-island before Jared and Mahea took over.
- ❖ We mourn with the family of Pastor Shem Korn, a Marshallese Pastor who served the Waimea church in 2011, who passed away this month.
- ❖ Mark your calendars for Easter sunrise worship at Kukuilono Golf Course this year! More Easter plans will be in next month's news.
- ❖ Work on the steeple continues with the addition of copper flashing in delicate areas, and the picture on the front Sunday bulletin has been updated to show the new shingles.
- ❖ A group has been gathering at 2pm on Thursdays to play mahjong. See Helen H-P, Lucia L., or Margarete K. if you are interested.
- ❖ If you want to know how to live a Christian life, see the display in the children's Sunday school room!

Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

Mahalo for showing up to church that Sunday! We actually ran out of bulletins, communion cups, and had just enough food at fellowship time. Moderator Kay worked hard to keep the meeting moving along, taking 14 minutes (our record is 13 minutes). Pastor Olaf used up the most time thanking leadership with the gifting of Spam musubi kits (I guess you had to be there). We came out ahead last year financially and accepted the new budget. The newly elected church council members are Jackie M. (Moderator), Margarete K. (Treasurer), Helen H-P (Secretary), Diane F. (Worship), Phoebe E. (Missions), Kathy U & Shelley P. (Fellowship), Kevin C. (B&G).

Continued from front page

Was the Jeep breaking down at the church a bad thing? One miracle after another seemed to manifest itself. Any car can break down at any time. What happens thereafter is when trust and faith are shown. At this time of Lent before Easter we are faced with the same question. Jesus was going to die. Like any human, he would suffer and cease to be. Look though, the miracle happens that leaves us questioning "was Jesus' going to the Cross a good thing or a bad thing?" The Jeep was resurrected, and so was Jesus! The bad is just what comes prior to the good! The suffering leads to the miracle. In this we trust and keep our faith. Maybe that is why we have a car ministry at the church? Ha ha.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL
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Christ
P.O. Box 457
Waimaea, HI 96796**