

VOLUME XXX
NUMBER 5
May 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.

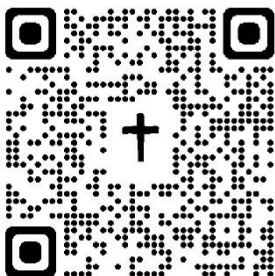
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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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,

I have to admit to some vain jealousy on my part when I scanned my Facebook feed to see that a pastor friend of mine in Zurich, Switzerland, had been named the "Holy Protector of Beer" for the municipality. How does one become a "Holy Protector of Beer"? What are the qualifications?

As an aside, I should remark that church and beer have a long history together. In the Middle Ages the production of beer was controlled and taxed by the church. All of the flavoring ingredients were controlled as well; even lowly juniper berries were taxed. The great Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther, 500+ years ago decided that he would produce a beer using hops for his un-papal brew, considered by most at the time to be a weed and was thus not taxed by the church. The flavor we have today in our Pilsner was revolutionary at the time! The flavor of revolt, but not a revolting flavor.

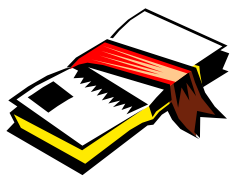
Ah, to be named a Holy Protector is an historic largesse, no longer enjoyed by clergy except in satire. I would be the Holy Protector of the Fig Newton if you were to dub me such. This would be part of the "cake and fruit" revolt of 2023!

Interestingly enough on that same day I got a text from brother Jared sharing Ezekiel 22:30, "I sought for anyone among them who would repair the wall and stand in the breach before me on behalf of the land. . . ." Herein Ezekiel is looking for someone to intercede, "stand in the gap," be a holy protector. Apparently nobody heard the call.

We are always in need of intercession, others who will help us stand for what is godly and right in this world. We need people to pray for us and put that spiritual protection on our lives. That is a huge part of being the church. We do not just pray for ourselves, but rather we spend our time with God in prayer lifting up others in need of God's protection in their lives.

"Holy Protector of Beer"? I think I can protect my own beer adequately, thank you. I am not going to bother the Almighty with that one; however, we all can pray over each other's infirmities and spiritual needs. We can all be "holy protectors" of each others' lives. We can all intercede for others in need and be those angels sent by God. Start protecting others today in the name of the Lord.

Happy Blessings, Pastor Olaf



Scriptures and Sermons for May

May 7 Luke 19:41-48

"A House of Prayer"

May 14 Luke 20:1-8

"The Real Authority" (*Mother's Day*)

May 21 Luke 20:9-19

"Cornerstone"

May 28 Acts 2:1-13

"Filled" (*Pentecost*)

Please wear red to church on May 28th to signify the flames of the Holy Spirit coming down on the day of Pentecost.

June 4 Luke 20:20-26

"The Trap"



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:

May 14--The Mother's Day Aloha Time will be a full-on egg, sausage, and pancake brunch prepared by the men of the congregation to celebrate all that the women do!

Mahalo:

- Thank you Mahea for bringing in the best coffee for Aloha time.
- Thank you Jared for replacing the window on the top side of the Education Center that was broken.
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering raised an incredible \$1,605 --this is the most ever! Thank you to all who gave.
- Thank you Chad for the beautiful piano solo "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" in church.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Rick Foulks

Deacon: Michael Herrick

May Deacons: Mahea Morsey, Vicky Mercado, Jacob Matutino

Church Council Meeting: May 21st via hybrid Zoom at 11:30 am



liwin 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.

What is Pentecost?

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

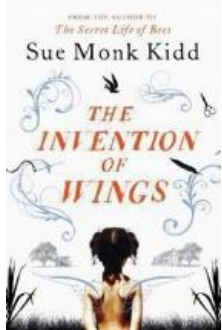
Hau'oli la Hanau!

May 2	Priscilla Aguilar
May 4	Victor Aguilar
May 7	Eric Bachman
May 9	Jean Thompson
May 12	Marlene Matutino
May 13	Ted Snyder
May 15	Mary Hayes
May 18	Ellie Snyder
May 20	Diane Foulks
May 20	Patty Snyder
May 20	Ellen Thompson
May 23	Tom Montanus
May 27	Kimberly Aguilar
May 27	Kay Lim
May 30	Irwin Oyama



Book Club

Helen Hoeckmann-Percival will host May's selection, *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd, on May 21st. *The Invention of Wings* is a fictionalized biographical account of the Grimke sisters as they become trailblazers in the abolition movement and early leaders in the fight for women's rights.



The story takes place in the pre-Civil War era and begins on a plantation in Charleston. On the occasion of Sarah Grimke's eleventh birthday, she's presented with her own slave, ten-year old Hetty "Handful" Grimke. Sarah has always been uncomfortable with this tradition. At first, Sarah and Handful are more like sisters and playmates as they develop a friendly companionship. As the story progresses, Sarah leaves Charleston to join her adventurous and fearless sister, Angelina, in the north as early pioneers in the fight for abolition and women's rights. We follow Sarah's and Hetty's journeys for thirty-five years as both women strive to carve out a life of their own and navigate a close and complex relationship. (Summary from Reading Ladies Book Club Blog)

June's selection will be "*The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett*" by Annie Lyons hosted by Diane Foulks.

News from the pews:

- Congratulations on the solemnization of nuptials (marriage) of Ryan and Elyse! May God bless you with marital bliss forever! The church presented them with a leather-bound family bible as a gift.
- --Lucia has taken flight back to Canada for the summer. Blessings! See you again soon.
- --Calvin and Patty Luce from Washington State came for two Sundays last month. Aloha.
- Super great Easter fun was had by all-- thanks to the egg-stuffers, musicians, fellowship providers, flowery people, and even the sermon was okay.
- Because of recent vandalism (graves opened, water left on, Easter banners slashed), Deacon Michael H. will be on site watching over the church in the evenings. In the olden days that person who cared for the church was called "the parson." Michael is the now the parson person. Thank you, Michael!
- --Pastor Olaf is still on-call for Jury Duty starting May 1st, and so is Jackie M.!
- --Helen H-P was away on the mainland visiting Kim & Carolyn. In the summer she will be away visiting fam in Malaysia.
- --Margarete was off to Japan last month with the family, too.
- --Our church has gifted 15 Na Himeni songbooks to the Episcopal Church as a makana.
- --Yeah, Phoebe is back on island again!
- --Kevin has been back in Poland on work assignment again. Travel mercies.
- --Travel mercies to Joanne Watanabe for going back to her grandson's graduation at Clemson U. in S.C.
- Why does little Hana from Sunday School call the pastor "Oscar Pastor"?





Pentecost Sunday
is May 28, 2023

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

Waimaea United Church of
Christ
P.O. Box 457
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