

VOLUME XXXII
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May 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.

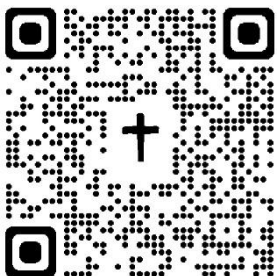
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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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 an incredible surprise it was that you celebrated my 1,000th sermon at Waimea UCC on April 6th! The question came up: "How do you know this is your 1,000th? After all, who counts such stuff?!" Well, the church's web server is the homiletic odometer. Every sermon is simply uploaded to the web with the next number in sequence. Yes, one may in fact go back and read all 1,000 sermons online—should anyone take up the challenge. In physical form, with each sermon being three pages single-spaced in length, that is three thousand pages. If these pages were put into a novel format with 300 pages per book, that would be roughly a fifteen-book set of sermons.

Tom Montanus, God rest his soul, used to read the sermons online before the worship service and always commented on the number in fact. A while back he prodded, "Really, you have preached 800 different sermons—all of them different? How come Jesus only ever preached one in the Bible?" Tom was right. In fact, all of the 1,000 sermons are just one really long sermon on my part. "Jesus is our Savior" has been the same theme over and over again. Tom prodded further, "I am sure you have repeated a sermon in all that time?!" Actually, I have not ever just repeated a sermon at our church. Certain stories I have repeated, I will admit. Because the sermons are searchable online, I can even tell you when I have repeated a story and

typically state as much when I preach it again. Some stories deserve being told again for sure! Even the Bible itself repeats stories!

The strange truth to preaching through longevity is that one never really runs out of ideas or things to say. Sermon stuffs become bottled up inside of me if I do not let them loose. I recall



unshackling a sermon on unsuspecting ears in the waiting area for a flight one Sunday morning at Hartford International Airport. I have told that story before in our church in a sermon! No need to tell it again.

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Scriptures and Sermons for May

4 May	Ruth 3:1-13 "Ruth"
11 May	Luke 2:41-51 "Mary, Jesus' Mom"
18 May	Acts 16:11-15 "Lydia"
25 May	Romans 16:1-2 "Phoebe"
1 June	Acts 1:6-11 "Pre-Pentecost"



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:

—**Graduation Sunday** will be **May 4th**. We will award our Grace Scholars Kendra Suga and Kolai Richards each with a grant for \$1,000. If you would like to read the winning essays by these two fine scholars, you may do so by going to the church website (QR Code on the front) and clicking on the "Links" tab on the second navbar or by simply clicking on these embedded links if you are currently reading this online:

<http://www.waimeachurch.org/kendrasuga.pdf>
<http://www.waimeachurch.org/kolairichards.pdf>

—**MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH** will be **May 11th** after worship. Men chefs are called to be at the kitchen in Baird Hall at 8 am for food preparations. Women are called to be kind when commenting on the man's cooking!

—May 9-10, 2025, for our **SPRING 'AHA MOKUPUNI** to be held at Koloa Union Church, starting with dinner and singing (aha mele) on Friday at 6pm. Please see the official announcement in the Narthex or click here:

<http://www.waimeachurch.org/mokupuni2025.pdf>

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

Deacon: David Somers

Deacons: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival, Marsha Kiest

Church Council Meeting: May 18, 2025, at 11:30 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; Jared's father (stroke); Lucia's son Michael for healing; Mahea's mother (stroke); Helen's mother (heart); Kim H-P for a new job; Kristen to fight infection; Rob Carlson; Sue Carllson's friend Martha (cancer); 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

--**June 12-14, 2025**, for the statewide '**AHA PAE'AINA** to be hosted in Kapaa. On Friday night our Kauai Island churches will host "The Tastes of Kauai" supper. Our church has been asked to bring desserts. Please sign up to help with this! See the sign-up sheet on the back table in the narthex or email/call the church office.

The Spring Youth Retreat was an incredible and meaningful adventure for the kids this year. A write-up with pictures is available at the following link

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

Mei Hau'oli la Hanau!

1st Kirra Park
2nd Priscilla Aguilar
4th Victor Aguilar
7th Erich Bachman
9th Jean Thompson
12th Marlene Matutino
13th Ted Synder
15th Mary Hayes
18th Ellie Synder
20th Diane Foulks
20th Patty Synder
20th Ellen Tompson
27th Kimberly Aguilar
27th Kay Lim
30th Irwin Oyama



Mahalo:

- ♥ Thank you to the chefs of the recent “Food for the Soul” adventure at the church. If you would like to download the recipes from the chefs, please do so at <http://www.waimeachurch.org/recipes1.pdf>
Thank you Phoebe for writing them all down for us.
- ♥ Thank you to the good folks who came out to the church clean-up day on April 12th: Sue, Rob, Marsha, Marlene, Wan, Kim, Olaf, Kev, and Mary. Mahalo Sue for providing sloppy joes for lunch, too! Kudos to David and Susie Somers for providing the palms for the decorating for Palm Sunday, too.
- ♥ –Thank you all for your generosity to the One Great Hour of Sharing last month. Your gifts totaled \$980.00. All of that amount goes to support overseas missions! What a phenomenal blessing!

Talk Stories

Our next book to share and discuss is *The Spy* by Paul Coelho. Sonia Adame will host in Baird Hall at 3:00 pm on May 18, 2025.

NEWS From the Pews:

- ✧ –Melissa B. is back home again after successful cancer treatment in Houston, Texas. Thank you for your continued prayers for her.
- ✧ –Blessings on Jared M. while he instructs a course on Oahu for a Youth with a Mission discipleship training session.
- ✧ –Blessings to Kathy and Aaron taking a vacation in Japan this month.
- ✧ –Lucia has made it back safely to Canada and sends her love to all.
- ✧ –Joanne’s broken collarbone has healed completely, so she no longer is in the sling.
- ✧ –Wan, the Malaysian exchange student staying with the H-P’s, is off to Washington DC for part of his US State Department sponsored program. It is unclear if there will be future students on this program because of cuts to the federal budget.
- ✧ We will host no graduation parking evangelism this year. The ceremony is at Hanapepe Stadium this year rather than on campus.
- ✧ –We welcome Susie and David back from Susie’s surgery in Arizona. Happy healing! (BTW we have been eating your avocados while you were away.)
- ✧ –We are so happy that Jackie M’s broken wrist is healing so that she can type newsletters like this one again!
- ✧ –Blessings on our members who have been seen at local protests against authoritarianism and in favor of respecting constitutional rights. We remember that Christians are called to seek justice out of love of neighbor as commanded by Christ. For upcoming protests being planned, you can view them at www.fiftyfifty.one

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Why do we have only one sermon by Jesus in the Bible? We only have the one by Saint Peter, too, on the day of the Pentecost. The Pew Research Center noted as of June 2019 that the internet has over 66,000 historical and 49,719 contemporary sermons available by search. So, if we do the math, we see that Jesus' message is less than 0.001% of what is available. I pray that is the good spread of the gospel of Christ, otherwise this could be quite diabolical.

Yes, 1,000+ sermons preached in Waimea, but only the singular message of the Good News of Jesus Christ, please.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

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

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