

VOLUME XXXIII
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May 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.

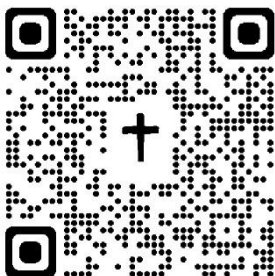
Waimea United Church of Christ

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

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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Sunday Morning Worship,
10 am
Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 am



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since I was a young boy growing up in the church, I have been reading the bible. I had my favorite memory verses that I would practice; e.g., "love your enemies. . . ." I read commentaries early on and learned how to use *Strong's Concordance*. I learned the biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew. I also studied Latin and read Martin Luther's original translation in German.

In all of this I was aware of the greatest caveat of all in biblical studies: "One should only ever read the Word of God out of the Bible and not read anything into the Bible that does not exist." This is commonly known as relying on exegesis rather than eisegesis, a rule of biblical interpretation attributed to Philip Henry (1631-96, a Puritan theologian).

In a recent Newsweek article, I read that the US Secretary of Defense led a chapel service at the Department of Defense in which he quoted a prayer supposedly from Ezekiel 25:17 in which the word "LORD" was replaced with the name of a warplane, an A10 craft used for combat and search and rescue. "They will know that I am the LORD, when I lay my vengeance upon them" was replaced with "They will know my callsign is Sandy 1, when I lay vengeance upon them." ("Sandy 1" is the callsign of the lead aircraft in the mission.)

Romans 12:19 "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Not Sandy 1. We worry for the collective soul of our country as at the end of Bible in Revelation 22 we must acknowledge the warning that if anyone adds to the Bible, "God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. . . ." So, I now pray that God will forgive the Department of Defense.

These times have been heartrending, for it is wonderful to offer prayers for a successful combat search and rescue. We are thankful that a soldier's life is spared. Could this have been done without changing the verse in the Bible, adding context, or maybe choosing something more apropos? "Seek and you shall find" (Matthew 7:7) seems just as fitting in fact. At least we do not have to change any words in the Bible.

We need to continue in our fervent prayers for peace and understanding between the various cultures of the Middle East—something I have also been doing since I was a young boy growing up in the church. We pray that vengeance will be left up to the Lord and that no one side takes it upon themselves to further the conflict out of hatred. We pray that our enemies can, through God's love, be made our brothers and sisters again so that we may live in heavenly peace with one another.

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Scriptures and Sermons for May

May 3 James 2:1-13

“The Discriminating Christian”

May 10 James 2:14-26

“Barren Faith”

May 17 James 3:1-12 |

“Bridle the Tongue”

May 24 James 3:13-18

“Wisdom from Above”

May 31 James 4:1-12

“Friendship with the World”

June 7 James 4:13-17

“Plans for Tomorrow”

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:

Mother’s Day Brunch will be after worship on **May 10th** (Mother’s Day). Men are expected to be at Baird Hall kitchen for cooking duties at 8am that day.

KAUCC Aha Mokupuni at Church of the Pacific Saturday May 16th from 9am - 3pm. Theme: “The Forgotten Path” James 3:2

Mahalo

- ♥ Mahalo to all those who showed up for the workday at the church just before Palm Sunday: Kathy, Helen, Marlene, Marsha, Lucia, Olaf, Kevin, Susie, David, Owen, Aaron, and the entire Aka Family! And, the lunch was a very fine meatloaf and mashed potatoes.
- ♥ Thank you to David and Susie S. for the incredible decorations on Palm Sunday!
- ♥ Mahalo to the ukulele group for singing during the Easter Cross decorating in worship!
- ♥ Mahalo Diane F. for the amazing Easter fanfare on the organ! It was brilliant and sounded like the Resurrection
- ♥ Thank you to Helen & Kim H-P for stuffing all of the Easter Eggs for the crowd of kids we hosted on the Egg Hunt. There were three “golden eggs” that were found by Sammi, Skyler, and Archie.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Berenice Wagner

Deacon: Marlene Matutino

May Deacons: Marlene Matutino, Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

Church Council Meeting: May 17, 2026, via Zoom hybrid at 11:30 AM



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 to all those who brought soups and other dishes to the Maundy Thursday Seder Supper: Kay, Jared, Olaf, Mary H., and Pastor James. It was wonderful to have the real lamb on the Seder plates. Rabbi Olaf did a passable job with the Hebrew blessings. Thanks also to Diane for leading the singing on piano and Margarete for the decorations. It was little Hana who found the Afikomen, and Graceleanor was the eldest female who lit the Shabbat candles for us at age 98. “Next year in Jerusalem!”
- ♥ Mahalo to the Cassel Family for donating all of the heliconia, ginger, banana blossoms and more for the Easter flower Cross and sanctuary decor! And, thank you to everyone who remembered to bring in flowers and helped to create the blossoming blessing.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

May

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



Talk Stories

Buckeye by Patrick Ryan is May's book club selection. Cal Jenkins, who was not able to serve in World War II, has a fleeting transgression with another woman. This becomes a secret that binds two families together in surprising ways. Set in post-World War II Ohio and the backdrop of America's booming growth and change in the subsequent decades, the consequences of that one transgression ripples through the next generation. It is also described as a coming-of-age novel.

Teri Sakai will host on May 17th at 3:00 pm. All are welcome to join in what will be a lively discussion.

Community Notes

Kauai Community College graduation will be held on May 15th on the lawn fronting the social sciences building at 4:30 PM.

Waimea High's graduation ceremony will be at 6:00 PM at Hanapepe Stadium on May 22nd.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ☆ It was great to see Jared M's brother Justin come to visit with wife and three beautiful children.
- ☆ The leftover Vienna sausages from the Easter morning Aloha Time were put into a one-gallon freezer bag and brought to the after-school open gym. The keiki there, instead of eating it themselves, gave it to one of their own friends whom they knew was homeless and had not eaten and was in need. What a blessing!
- ☆ Congrats to Ada Koene (Hanapepe Hawaiian UCC) for being named the grand marshal of the Koloa Days Parade.
- ☆ Thank you David S. for doing not one but two massive dump runs with garden waste. Soooo, appreciated!
- ☆ Already missing Lucia who has returned home to Canada.
- ☆ Blessings on Bennett, Forrest, and little Brooks, off to Arkansas. Next time we see them "they will be a family of four" (Bennett's words)
- ☆ Wow, as a thank-you to our church association for hosting the Spring Youth Retreat, the youth from Nuuanu Church convinced their church council to pay for registration fees for youth from Kauai to attend camp in June on Oahu! What a blessing.
- ☆ The computer was doing funny things in the church office. It would without warning suddenly "sleep." After diagnostics and driver updates, nothing seemed to help. Finally, it was noticed that the "sleep" button on the keyboard was broken! Fixed! Make sure your sleep button is working.

Make sure to give Diane F. your mother's favorite hymn for Mother's Day selection!



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Now I also will pray for understanding between the various “cultures” right now in America, too. I pray that we can all at the very least accept that we share one Word of God that is immutable. No one should change the Word of God as given to us to mollify a political base or justify a political position. Even Jesus himself stated that he did not come to change the Law (i.e., the ancient Scriptures) but rather to fulfil them (Matthew 5:17).

We accept the Word of God over our lives—not the other way around. Blessings for peace, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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Christ
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