

VOLUME XXXI
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September 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.

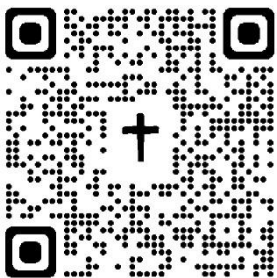
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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,

My hope is that as you are reading this that Helen and I will find ourselves happily climbing the ascent to the Acropolis in Athens. The first gate that one must get through to reach the Parthenon is dedicated to Athena Nike, that is the goddess of victory in ancient Greek mythology. Yes, "nike," like the shoe brand, means "victory." Buy the shoes, and maybe you will win the race?

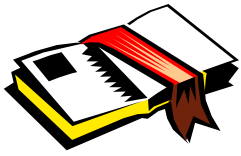
Last month as we were reading through Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:37), we came to the statement that "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." The term "more than conquerors" is actually in the Greek ὑπερνικος ("hyper-nikos"), which reminds me of my dog Nikos who was always really hyper. Nikos the dog would yank his leash on our long beach walks. So, because Christ loved us, I can be like my hyper dog and pull out in front like that.

I was thinking about this verse that we had just read the week before our "Olympic Sunday" outdoor worship. For the opening of worship, Jared M. in shorts and track shoes carried our Olympic torch from the steps of the stone church to the Lanai where we were gathered. Diane F. played the Olympic theme on the keyboard. All of a sudden everyone was out of their seats with their arms waving, whooping him on. This was really an exciting way to start worship indeed.

Jared M. came under the Lanai to the finishing line, a piece of orange construction tape stretched between two pillars. "Go Jared!" "Chihoo!" "Whop-whop!" He ran into the orange ribbon, but amazingly it did not break. The tape just seemed to stretch around him. He twisted and turned to bust the tape until he was doubly wrapped in stretchy orange. He backed up to release the tension of the tape and finally stepped out of the loops that fell to the ground. He was free.

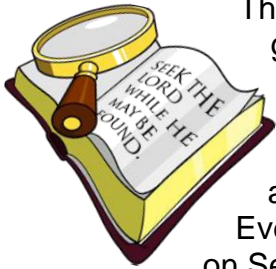
We always presume to know what victory through Christ is going to look like. This can be kind of a trap that entangles us. WE thought the victory would be quick and easy. We never thought of the entanglements or that the cheering might fade by the time we are actually set free from this world. Please reference here the cheers of "hosanna" for Christ on the occasion of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the weeping of the women at His Cross.

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Scriptures and Sermons for September

- Sept 1 **Special Labor Day Worship by Church Leadership Team**
- Sept 8 “1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Before You Hit the Wall” Jared Morsey
- Sept 15 Romans 9:30-33
“Strive for Faith”
- Sept 22 Romans 10:1-13
“We Are Enlightened”
- Sep 29 Romans 10:14-21
“Holding Hands with God”
- Oct 6 Romans 11:1-10
“Grace Above Me”



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. (No meeting on September 3 and 10—Pastor is away)

Calendar Notes:

KVMH Hospital Staff Appreciation Coffee Hour will be Sept 20th at 2:30pm (please bring food at 2pm latest) in Conference Rooms A&B. Check with Kathy U. to see how you can help with either donating goodies, set-up, or meeting and greeting staff.

Pastor will be away for the first two Sundays in September to visit family and friends in Germany and Greece. On September 1st there will be a special worship service. Youth Missionary Jared Morsey will preach on the 8th.

No Tuesday Game Night until September 17th, please. Tuesday Bible Studies will also take a break until then!

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Kevin Christian

Deacon: Rob Carlson

September Deacons: Joy Whitehill, Mary Hayes, Jared Morsey

Church Council Meeting: September 15 at 11:30 via Zoom Hybrid



Prayers for Dale Vallejo-Sanderson as he travels to be with his mother as she is transitioning to be with the Lord. For our firefighters; Marsha Kiest healing from hip surgery;

Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama for heart and surgeries; 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); 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.

Mahalo:

- ♥ –Super thank-you to **Kathy U.** (fellowship chair) and all who helped to make the Olympic Sunday potluck meal soooo fantastically delicious. Somehow the balance of salads, main dishes, and desserts always works out perfectly! The best part is taking home the mixed leftovers, too.
- ♥ –Thank you to **Susie and David S.** for donating a full seven large boxes of bingo prizes for our time after the potluck!

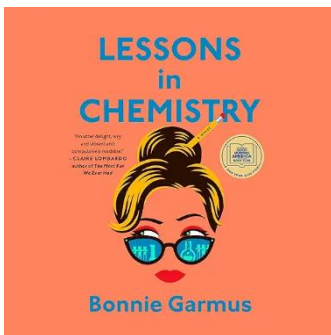
Hau'oli la Hanau!

Kepakemapa

7th Jackie Matsumura
11th Kevin Aguilar
8th Cinthy Kagawa
18th Abigail Christian
22nd Cyndi Ceballos
27th Brian Ceballos
27th David Somers
28th Carin Somers
30th Adam Somers



Book Club



Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus is Diane Foulks' selection for September's book club. Set in the 1960's, the novel follows the misogyny that protagonist, Elizabeth Zott a brilliant chemist, suffers. She struggles to be seen as a colleague in the lab she

works in. Because she did not receive her PhD (due to sexual harassment and her fighting back)—she is regarded as a mere lab assistant and go-fer. When the eccentric and brilliant Nobel nominated chemist, Calvin Evans, notices her surreptitious research and its potential, he asks her to collaborate with him. A quirky romance ensues, a child is born, and tragedy strikes. The novel not only highlights the challenges women have struggled with in the workplace but shows how resilience and intelligence can help one move forward in unexpected ways.

The Women by Kristin Hannah will be October's selection. Sue Carlson will host.



News from the Pews

- Blessings on Pastor Inok of our sister Marshallese Church on being awarded a lovely quilted clerical stole on the occasion of his being recognized as having standing in the Kauai Association UCC. The stole was made by Helen H-P and Jackie M.
- We pray for quick healing for Marsha K. after emergency hip replacement surgery at Wilcox. Soon she will be riding her bike again.
- Happy 50th wedding anniversary to David & Susie S! What an inspiration!
- Welcome back from Scotland, Diane F!
- Sammi C. was featured in two different pictures in the recent edition of the Hawaii Conference "Friend" periodical. She is even quoted directly about her responsibility as a youth representative to the Aha Pae Aina and having the responsibility of voting as a delegate from our church.
- Pastor Olaf appreciates all the support from members in coming out to the "We the West" book signing last month at the Hanapepe Talk Story bookstore. Thank you to all who ordered the book online as well.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing for overseas missions offering will be coming up in October, but the children's giving boxes are available in the Narthex already. Some were already handed out at the Olympic Sunday worship service in the "Olympic Boxing" competition.
- Pastor Olaf has been called to jury duty again on Sept 23rd. Maybe. Again. God knows.
- Congrats to Jared and Mahea on being selected to host a new foster child!
- Remember that evening lighting at the church will be doused for shearwater safety until November. Please bring a flashlight.

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Victory through the one who loved us, the “more than conquering” or “hyper-Nikos,” might come in a moment of soul-searching and realizing the need to forgive and be forgiven. It might come in a time of repentance. It might come when you suddenly feel the love of Christ binding your heart. Truth be told, this is more than a victory!

Thank you, Jared, and all of you that Sunday morning for allowing me to see a bit more clearly what that victory might actually look like—a struggle, entanglement, and even a bit of humbling laughter.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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Christ
P.O. Box 457
Waimaea, HI 96796**