

VOLUME XXXII
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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.

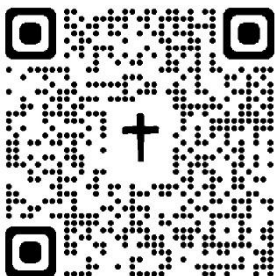
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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,

Recently I was visiting another church in Lihue when the topic of homelessness came up. I believe I may have had this topic come up at one time or another with every pastor on the island. The church had engaged a local towing company with a flatbed truck to come to remove three vehicles that had been abandoned by homeless folks from their parking lot. One of the cars had even been stripped with no tires left. The cars were otherwise unsalvageable and were to be crushed for scrap. Each vehicle cost the church \$350 to remove.

Up until that moment I had been of the opinion that one of the best things we could do for a homeless person was to give him/her a vehicle in which to find shelter and a way to get around the island for work and other benefits. A car is a secure place to keep belongings and much safer during inclement weather than a tent or ramshackle structure on the beach.

Our church has gladly given away donated vehicles when they have become available, making necessary repairs first. Everyone who has ever gotten a car through us has claimed that it was the greatest blessing. In hindsight, I have never thought to ask one critical question: "Are you going to just leave the car abandoned somewhere when you are done using it?" Is this blessing going to become another's burden?

I wish we had perfect answers in this life to every issue and injustice. Yet, Jesus himself noted "The poor you will always have with you" (Mt 26:11). The homeless will continue to be homeless until they have homes. The hungry and poor will be hungry and poor until. . . you get the picture. Our calling as believers in Christ is to help as we may. Jesus' statement about always having poor among us means that we will always have the opportunity to do good by loving our neighbors as commanded by Jesus.

Unfortunately we often see unintended negative consequences of doing ministry and helping others. Sadly 2024 saw a thirty percent increase in the number of violent deaths of aid workers in the field (Vatican News). According to Doctors without Borders (Medicins sans Frontier), over one thousand healthcare workers have been killed in Gaza alone. Should that mean that we should not care for others anymore? Or, does that mean that we understand that loving others as Jesus did can mean sacrifice—as Jesus did?!

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Scriptures and Sermons for September

Sept. 7th Acts 22:22-29

"Arrested"

Sept. 14th Acts 23:23-25, 31-35

"Under Guard"

Sept. 21st Acts 25:9-11, 23-27

"Appeal to Rome"

Sept. 28th Acts 27:9-26

"Guardian Angel"

Oct. 5th Acts 28:1-6

"Malta Meal"



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

Mahalo:

- ❖ Mahalo to all and everyone who helped with the outdoor worship in August. Thanks to the ukulele group for special music. Thanks to Kathy and Shelley for all of the food planning. Thanks to everyone who brought delicious dishes to share. Thanks to all who read scripture.
- ❖ Thanks to Kim H-P for being the resident artist to draw our Jesus Super-Hero on the whiteboard. Thanks to all who brought bingo prizes.
- ❖ Thanks Helen and Kim for being the bingo callers. This was also the last Sunday for Pastor Inok of our sister Marshallese congregation, so we honored him and his family with special leis and a monetary gift.
- ❖ Mahalo Teri S. for bringing two trays of brownies over to the after school kids in the gym!

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Margarete Kagawa

Deacon: Skyler Kagawa (assisted by Margarete Kagawa)

September Deacons: Marsha Kiest, Joy Whitehill

Church Council Meeting: September 7at 11:30 via zoom hybrid.

Please pray for these members and friends:

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.

"Sometimes life is so hard
you can only do the next
thing. Whatever that is
just do the next thing. God
will meet you there." –
Elisabeth Elliot

News from the Pews

- ♥ Mary H. underwent cataract surgery last month, and we pray that her vision is getting sharper.
- ♥ Robert M. "Gave birth," as he calls it, to kidney stones last month and is now in recovery.
- ♥ Glenn M. travelled back to the mainland to be with family and to celebrate the life of his departed son Leif.
- ♥ Helen, Kim H-P, and Carolyn A. completed an Alaska cruise last month
- ♥ Great to see Rick F. back from the mainland for a short stay.
- ♥ Great job Cheryl and Brandi for serving communion for the first time last month.
- ♥ Healing grace to Merrick who is getting over strep throat.
- ♥ Welcome back to Sammi after a month visiting grandparents in Florida, and kudos to her for reading the bible in worship for us!
- ♥ Blessings on Ryan C. who started teaching first graders in Kekaha this school year! – Yeah, little Kingston is now walking on his own! Next comes swim lessons, piano, SAT, student loans, jury duty, taxes, and . . . He just celebrated his first birthday, too.
- ♥ Thank you Ken and Teri for expertly trimming Bill Laidlaw's memorial tree in the cemetery.
- ♥ Why was Zion throwing oversized golf balls at the pastor after church one Sunday? I guess you had to be there.
- ♥ Dee H. is visiting from the mainland and pops into the Tuesday afternoon bible study at the Regency Pua Kea. She is of course here to be with her mother, Gladys S.
- ♥ For some reason Marsha K. keeps getting all the double numbers at Tuesday night dominos, so she has gained the nickname "Double Trouble."
- ♥ For the first time ever we were allowed to announce the Waimea Canyon Middle School Bible Club over the Public Address system at the school! And, we had over twenty youth show up for the first meeting! Thanks to student leaders Lollie and Bryana!
- ♥ Pastor Inok of our sister Marshallese congregation has been reassigned by the JRD to a new parish in Oklahoma.
- ♥ Shearwater evening darkness protocols will be in place starting September 15th. You may wish to bring your own light to the church!
- ♥ Organist Diane away to Europe (Germany, Switzerland) in September
- ♥ Vicky M. is back from her European adventure
- ♥ Please note: Church Council will meet on the first Sunday in September (the 7th) rather than the second.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

Kepakemapa

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



Talk Stories

September will be hosted via **Zoom** by Deborah Santmeyer. Her selection is *Real Americans* by Rachel Khong. The novel is divided into three novellas—spanning three generations of a family. The first deals with Lily, an unpaid intern who meets and marries the heir to a pharmaceutical company fortune. The second is Nick, her son, who does not know his father and seeks to find him, and the third focuses on May, Lily's mother—a scientist who escaped communist China. We will meet at 3:00 pm HST.

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This world is not any easy place to live in. We try to make it through this life with as much grace and love as God can bless us with. God help us when we try to help others!

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Olaf

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

Waimaea United Church of
Christ
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Waimaea, HI 96796