

***VOLUME XXX***  
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***April 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

(808) 338-9962

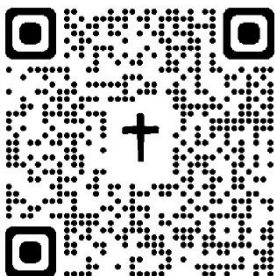
[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)

PO Box 457

Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship,  
10 am

Tuesday Morning Bible  
Study, 9 am



# THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to talk about mosquitoes. With all the rain we have had recently, the mosquitoes around us are growing and multiplying. I mentioned recently in the children's talk during worship, the "Mini-Hune Message," that of the ten mosquitoes that left their marks on me only one came back to thank me for their bloody lunch! The scripture that morning was the *Parable of the Ten Lepers*. Only one of the ten lepers came back to bow before Jesus in thanksgiving for the healing grace.

Of course, that was a bit of humor because a mosquito would never come back to thank us for the lunch we just served up for it. Let us face it: mosquitoes are just bloodsuckers. That children's talk actually led to some very deep theological debate on the lanai during aloha hour. Why did God make mosquitoes? What are they good for anyway? Wouldn't the world be a better place without them? Are they actually from God, seeing as how they are not mentioned in Genesis?

All of this intrigue regarding mosquitoes may be applied to other organisms, including the COVID virus we have all suffered with these last three years. One of the prime questions with COVID was "How long does the virus live?" If we can simply outlast the virus, then we can be relatively safe in an infected environment. The little virus only lives for around three days in most cases. A mosquito only lives about two weeks—unless you can slap it first! It seems crazy that something would last only such a short time—a whole lifetime in three to fourteen days! Our beloved chicken population on-island only lives for about four years per generation.

Do mosquitoes get a shot at eternal life in heaven then after only two weeks? Will there be mosquitoes in heaven? Did Jesus die on the Cross for mosquitoes too? Will there be chickens in heaven? Okay, from the Bible we see that chickens and mosquitoes were not created in God's image—a profound clue to the prospects of mosquito redemption.

I like the comment from Saint Paul to the Church in Rome in which we read, "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. . . .whom he justified he also glorified" (Romans 8:29-30). So, we are part of God's Family and therefore have a shot at redemptive glory as Jesus was resurrected at Easter. I cannot imagine mosquitoes being glorified in this way! Just because a mosquito may carry a bit of my blood, that does not mean it is part of my family!

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## Scriptures and Sermons for April

- April 2 Luke 18:31-43  
**“Towards Jerusalem” (Palm Sunday)**
- April 9th John 20:1-18  
**“What It Means for Us” (Easter)**
- April 16th John 20:19-23  
**“So I Send You”**
- April 23rd Luke 19:1-10  
**“Today Salvation Comes”**
- April 30th Luke 19:11-27  
**“Kingdom Investments”**



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:

**Maundy Thursday is April 6<sup>th</sup> Seder Supper** (Traditional Last Supper of Jesus) April 6th, **6pm**, please bring your favorite soup to share for the meal.

**Easter Day is April 9th**

- ☞ **Sunrise Easter Worship** at 6:30am at *Methodist Church Kaunakani*
- ☞ **Decorate the Flower Cross and Special Music 10am Worship**
- ☞ **Egg Hunt and Special Fellowship Time** at 11am

**The Kauai Association UCC Aha Mokupuni** (Annual Meeting) will be held over two days at the Kapaa First Hawaiian Church, **May 5th & 6th**. The fun starts with all of our churches on-island sharing music with an Aha Mele. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm, singing starts at 7pm, on that Friday night. The meeting continues at 8am the following Saturday morning with the State Council of Hawaiian Churches, then the Annual Meeting.

## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Rob Carlson

**Deacon:** Jared Morsey

**April Deacons:** Michael Bennet, Joy Whitehill, Beth Hanashiro

**Church Council Meeting:** April 16 via Zoom hybrid at 11:30



Irwin 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.

### Mahalo:

- ❖ Thank you to Helen H-P for running over to Ishihara Market before it closed forever in order to fight with the crowd for one last “poke bowl” for a dear resident at Kauai Care Center.
- ❖ Thank you Pastor Olaf for replacing the broken window in the sanctuary. You always take great panes!
- ❖ Thank you to all who gave generously to support overseas mission work through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering!

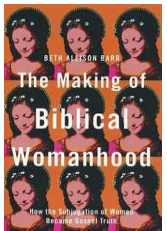


## News From da Pews

- ❖ Pastor Olaf has been called up for jury duty on May 1st. This may mean the cancellation of Bible Studies on the following Tuesday. Won't know until the Friday before if the case will go to trial then.
- ❖ Our annual Easter Egg Hunt with the Keiki is planned for after 10am worship on Easter. **If you can help stuff eggs and hide them, see Helen H-P.**
- ❖ We welcome to the world little "Koa" born to Tadjia and Seth, grandson of Russell and Berenice.
- ❖ Pastor Olaf preached his 900th sermon here on the 12th of March.
- ❖ Bubbles! The keiki are blowing bubbles at us during the Aloha time after worship!
- ❖ Special blessings on the family of Jo Douglass for comfort in their time of mourning her loss. Another angel in heaven is looking down over us.
- ❖ Prayers of comfort for Pastor Olaf and family on the loss of his Uncle Olaf in Germany.
- ❖ Prayers also for Phoebe for the loss of her father, for her to have strength in this difficult time.

April's selection is *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth* by Beth Allison Barr will be hosted by Jackie Matsumura on April 23, at 3:00 PM. Historian Barr "shows that 'biblical womanhood' isn't biblical but arose from a series of clearly definable

historical moments." Interwoven with the historical roles that women have played throughout secular and church history is Barr's personal story of faith. She is a wife of a pastor and grew up in the Southern Baptist church. She is a professor of history and an associate dean of the Graduate School at Baylor University.



## Don't Take the Subway

by Lillian Daniel published on Mar 24, 2023—  
*UCC website*

*Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. – Philippians 2:4 (CEB)*

As a tourist in Dallas, I decided to take the subway, despite the fact that a few local people said it wasn't safe. But I was on a spiritual pilgrimage to the newest Fluevog Shoe store, a holy site that beckons a teeny tiny fan base who fit in a shoe-obsessed snow globe that knows no bounds.

At the ticket kiosk, a kind person asked if I needed help. After explaining Covid-19 instructions and telling me that this was not a "subway" but a "train," I got the chance to invite him to Wilshire Baptist Church where I would be preaching that Sunday.

But getting off the train, I was sideswiped by a person in an Amazon uniform vest. What did he want? Had he come to arrest me for putting too many stupid cat toys and rare hot sauces on my Wish List? I live in fear of anyone from Amazon revealing my bad shopping habits to the world.

Turns out he just wanted to give me some practical advice: "Don't take your iPad out, two folks were stalking you and I've had my phone snatched twice on this train."

Next thing you know, I had a list of local places to eat and he had a brand-new shoe store to visit in Dallas, and as it turns out, he had family in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and well, you know how it goes...

So far, every warning I got against the local train turned out to be a reason to take the local train. There are good people everywhere looking out for each other. And you never know who God is speaking through next.

### Prayer:

Thank you for public transportation and for the public who keep it safe and working.

## Hau'oli la Hanau!



April 1 Emily Minei  
April 2 Russell Wagner  
April 2 Michael Herrick  
April 7 Alan Kennett  
April 21 Irene Kennett

April 23 Marsha Kiest  
April 26 Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival  
April 27 Elsie Hegwood  
April 28 Tekoa Synder  
April 30 Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

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We are also given the grace of longer lives, language, and the ability to love. Yet, we do not live forever in this physical world. Like the mosquito, our lives here might seem awfully short to the eternal God in heaven. So, we focus on the lives of eternal glory that are manifest in the Resurrection of Jesus. That is the glory of Easter that we celebrate!

Happy Eastertide, Pastor Olaf

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