

**VOLUME XXIX**

**NUMBER 2**

***February 2022***

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, Kauai.

*Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-  
Percival Pastor*

**(808) 338-9962**

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

**P.O. Box 457**

**Waimea, HI 96796**

**Sunday Morning Worship  
Service, 10 a.m.**

**Tuesday Morning Bible  
Study, 9 a.m.**



# THE CONNECTION

**A Publication of Waimea UCC**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I had an epiphany on Epiphany! Yes, Epiphany is the holiday in the church that marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas. It is said to be the day when the three wise men came in from the East to visit the Christ Child. It is also traditionally the day when the Christmas décor comes down and is put back in storage until next year.

Some years ago the church switched from using a live Norfolk pine to a Martha Stewart Kmart artificial tree. It is kept in a huge box in the sanctuary attic and weighs eighty-six pounds. Two steep and narrow curving staircases must be traversed to bring the heavy box down and then back up again.

The epiphany: the tree comes apart into four pieces. Take the pieces up to the attic one by one, put it in the box there, and done! For the last decade it has required two people and much effort to move the box—not ever considering that it was a lighter task if broken into sections.

This idea is even biblical. God put the Creation together in pieces one day at a time. Noah brought the animals onto the Ark two at a time. Jesus sent His Disciples out also in two's to cover a larger area for the ministry at hand. It is much easier to eat an entire package of Fig Newtons one Newton at a time. Truly an epiphany!

How are we going to bring the church back to where it was before the pandemic? That is going to be a very heavy lift! But actually, we have been doing this one little piece at a time already. Every Sunday more returning eyes and new eyes are seen above the masks. The number of printed programs increases then increases again. The number of cups of coffee in the urn at Aloha Time is rising.

A few Sundays ago children were playing "red light/green light" outside of the children's nursery during Aloha Time. I had to smile at the realization that what we have been doing during this pandemic is so very much like that silly children's game. "Red light," a possible Covid surge. "Green light," fully vaccinated and boosted. The children made the end of the game the mock orange hedge at the lanai. Is there an end in sight for the rest of us playing this game? Yet, little bit by little bit we are coming closer to the finish line.

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## Scriptures and Sermons for February

- 6 Feb Luke 5:1-11  
"Discipled"
- 13 Feb Luke 5:12-16  
Jared Preaching
- 20 Feb Luke 5:17-26  
"Take Up Your Bed"
- 27 Feb Luke 5:27-39  
"Eating with Levis"
- 6 March Luke 6:1-11  
"Lawfully"



## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Jackie Matsumura

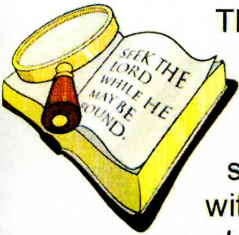
**Deacon:** David Somers

**February Deacons:** Jacob Matutino, Vickie Mercado, Joy Whitehill, Beth Hanashiro

**Church Council Meeting:** February 13, 2022 @ 11:30 via zoom/hybrid

Condolences to the Somers Family upon the recent passing of Lois unto heaven. We will all miss her, but know she is happy with Larry up in heaven again, Condolences to

Cindy H. and family upon the loss of her father recently, continued blessings for her mother in this difficult time, Norman and Nanci Lewis both passed in last two months. rest in peace, David Hanashiro's father, Elaine Ganeko's brother, passed away, prayers for the Hanashiro Family, Pastor James of the Waimea Baptist Church was in hospital for five days after a spider bit him--full healing, please, Jill Faye, cancer recovery, Gladys Okada for continued good health, Robert for torn ligament in leg, Beth to stop headaches, Kristen to fight infection, Mike Matutino -- keep cancer away now, Bill Woodall -- sarcomas and heart, Janice's friend Ron recovered from cancer, Mahea's mother Pamela for stroke recovery, Jared's father, stroke recovery, Leinani Springer (cancer free), Galen Kaohi (remain cancer free), Norma & Mary Watanabe (keep cancer away), Helen's mother, Priscilla's mother (heart), An end finally to the pandemic, Healthcare workers, Our local, state, and national leaders, our men and women in the military fighting terrorism, and a speedy end to wars everywhere.



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:

**February 6**--"Jesus in the Hood" car ministry will after worship. If you want your tires pumped up, please park closer to the lanai as the air hose can only go so far. Thanks.

**March 12**— --Our sister church, the First Marshallese Church UCC, will celebrate 12 years in the building we gave them on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. An open invitation to our church members for that day has been extended.

### Mahalo:

Great thanks to Helen H-P, Kathy U, Jacob M., Marlene M., Robert M., Teri S., Ken S., Marsha K., Olaf H-P, Phoebe L-E, and Lucia L. for helping on January 15<sup>th</sup> clean all the pews, remove cobwebs, clean the lanai fans, trim bushes, mow, and weed the Aloha sign area! On that day a tree dedicated to the life of Bill Laidlaw was planted in the cemetery as well.

The Grace Scholarship is available again this year for any high school or college youth who wishes to apply. The application and rules can be found on the church website under the "Links" tab on the navbar.

### Pastor Dale Recognition:

At the annual congregational meeting Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson was recognized as our Pastor Emeritus. We sent Kaua'i treats, hand-made lei, and bicentennial memorabilia. A prayer of affirmation was offered recognizing Pastor Dale's calling to the ministry, his service and his continuing grace over others' lives.

# Hau'oli la Hanau!

February 1 Helen Masaki  
February 9 Grant Kagawa  
February 10 Lyle Ceballos  
February 11 Bill Woodall  
February 11 Kiana Okino  
February 24 Bergen Ceballos  
February 26 Glenn Molander  
February 27 Alana Kanahale  
February 27 Glenn Kagawa



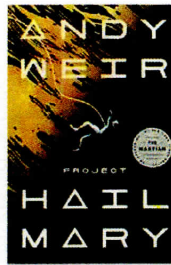
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## News From the Pews

- \* It is great to see Georgette back in church as one of our most cherished snow angels and domino *officianada*.
- \* Congratulations on our new member Vicky Mercado being baptized at the beach last month! It was a beautiful ceremony followed up with Vicky hosting a tailgate party from her SUV.
- \* Travel blessings to Kay, Kevin and Hana as they travel to St. Croix on holiday.
- \* Ukulele practice with Robert continues on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays after worship—getting ready for Easter now! and budget can be found at the church's website
- \* The kids in Sunday school have started a new Curriculum in January from the "Gospel Light" series. Fun videos and music, arty projects, and of course Bible! Thank you Mahea for leading in Christian Education!
- \* Did you notice the new "Welcome" banners on our light poles? We mean it! All are welcome! Especially anybodies!
- \* Christian and Hannah Savage's baby is due in February. Great blessings for a successful birth.
- \* Great to have Alan Kennett visiting from Blaine, WA!

## SCHOOL

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!'



As Ryland Grace awakens from a coma, he doesn't know who he is or where he is, but a mix of calculations, deductions, and slowly returning memories enlightens him: He's a junior high school science teacher on a small spaceship. His mission? Save

Earth. —Adrian Liang, Amazon Book Review

A science fiction novel, *Project: Hail Mary*, is the selection for February. Sorry—no romance for the Valentine's Day month! Although, you might say there is a bit of a bromance between Grace and Rocky, the alien he must collaborate with to save their two planets. Weir introduces many concepts of physics and biology as the story unfolds. It's ultimately a story about friendship and sacrifice. Jackie Matsumura will be hosting via Zoom on February 20, 2022 at 3:00 PM HST. If you would like to join, contact Jackie.

March's selection is *If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home By Now* by Christopher Ingraham. Diane Foulks will host.

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## Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting was held on January 30, 2022. The reports and the budget can be found on the church's website. The following positions have not been filled, Moderator and Christian Education and so the nominations for 2022 have not been closed. However, the following positions have been filled as follows: **Two Year terms:** Secretary-Jackie Matsumura, Treasurer-Margarete Kagawa, Assistant Treasurer-Marlene Matutino, Buildings and Grounds-Rick Foulks & David Somers, Members-at-large on Board of Finance-Susie Somers & Diane Foulks; **(1 more year left of a two-year term)** Vice-moderator-James Beardmore, Cemetery-Teri Sakai, Stewardship- Sue Carlson. The following positions are **1-year terms:** Missions-Phoebé Liu-Eng, Personnel-Robert Medeiros, Fellowship-Kathy Uyeda, Music & Worship-Helen Hoeckmann-Percival. **Deacons** (3-term to expire in 2025) David Somers, Jacob Matutino, Vickie Mercado.

Blessings to all those who are willing to serve.

*Continued from front page*

When Jesus cured the leper, that was a miracle. However, we are left wondering why Jesus just did not just cure all lepers, get rid of leprosy, all diseases and make us whole with God. Bit by bit. It is happening. Jesus' coming to be with us was the start of God's plan for redemption of God's children. It is a lot of heavy lifting. It seems as if it is coming to us in parts.

Blessings and Stay Safe, Pastor Olaf

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

Waimaea United Church of  
Christ  
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