

***VOLUME XXIX***  
***NUMBER 3***  
***March 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**

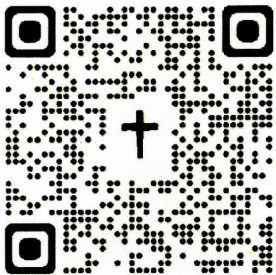
**[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)**

**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,

We were blessed this last month with Jared giving the message on February 13<sup>th</sup> in worship. The scripture if you recall was Luke 5 about how Jesus cleansed a leper of his disease. I have been pondering this story for how it relates so much to our own time. Jesus does not just heal the leper. He actually touches the leper.

We know from the myriad healing stories in the Bible that Jesus does not necessarily have to touch a body to heal it. As with the story of the healing of the Centurion's servant, see Matthew 8:5-13, Jesus can even be in the next town over and still cause the healing to happen. So, why did Jesus actually touch the leper in Luke's story?

I have actually been to an active leper colony. This was while serving in Thailand as a missionary with my wife. Across the street from the leper colony was a Christian school for the children of those suffering from Hansen's Disease (the correct way to refer today to leprosy). I had been invited at first only to visit the school to help instruct the teachers there, but then at lunch time I was invited to cross the highway to actually visit where the parents were quarantined.

With great trepidation, fear not just for myself but for my wife and young daughter back home, I accepted the gracious invitation. I was asked to wear a mask, something we are all familiar with now, but was unsure if that little piece of paper over my mouth and nose was sufficient. The parents gathered as a group in front of me and "wai'ed" in polite Thai fashion. I put my hands together as if in prayer and bowed in response. I never touched anyone (or anything for that matter.) The meeting was short, and I was relieved when we went back to the school-side of the highway to eat lunch.

Jesus actually touched a leper.

With the Covid pandemic, this same kind of Christ-like sacrificial love has been displayed in families in which children have cared for their elders who have the virus. They willingly sacrifice out of love.

*Continued on back page*





## Scriptures and Sermons for March

March 6<sup>th</sup> Luke 6:1-11

“Lawfully”

March 13<sup>th</sup> Luke 6:12-26

“Blessed”

March 20<sup>th</sup> Luke 6:27-36

“Out of Your Circle”

March 27<sup>th</sup> Luke 6:37-42

“Judging Others”

April 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke 6:43-49

Jared Morsey



## Worship Leaders

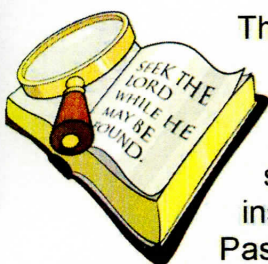
Lay Reader: **Robert Medeiros**

Deacon: **Helen Hoeckmann-Percival**

March Deacons: **Joy Whitehill, Jared Morsey, Mahea Morsey**

Church Council Meeting: **March 13, 2022 at 11:30 am via hybrid Zoom**

Lois Somers passed unto God, Cindy's father passed unto God and for her mother now, Norman and Nanci Lewis both passed in last two months, rest in peace, 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:

**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** will be our annual ONE GREAT Hour of Sharing Offering. It needs to be GREAT too because our overseas ministries rely specifically on the funds raised in this offering to continue the GREAT Commission to take the Message of love and salvation out to all nations. If you are giving online, be sure to write “OGHS” right after your name in the same form field. Thanks for helping our missionaries!

Mark your calendars already for the **Maundy Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**, West Kauai Ministers' Association joint worship service at the **Salvation Army in Hanapepe**. The service starts at **6:30pm**. Part of the worship will include the traditional foot washing as Jesus did with His Disciples at the Last Supper. Don't forget to bring your feet. The message will be given by Reverend Kerry Holder, new pastor at the Episcopal Church.

Niches are available in the new columbarium. Call the church office if interested.

\$2,000 per niche for the general public

\$1,500 per niche for WUCC members

## Unknown Sailors

As the story goes, many who sailed the seas became ill during their time on board ship and sought medical care on Kauai. They were brought on shore for treatment and when the care did not cure, they were given burial in our Waimea Cemetery. Custom would have had them buried at sea. However, if the ship had already sailed, it has been surmised that they would have been buried on land. At what point did these sailors arrive on Kauai and then have an end to their earthly existence?

Per historian Aletha Kaohi, she was told of the sailors and their situation as a child, prior to the 1930's. Were these men afflicted by contagious diseases? Perhaps the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918? Were they left here for other reasons? There is so much that we don't know about these individuals and many, many others in our Cemetery. All we do know is that we have been tasked with keeping the area in a respectful manner, and we are all doing our best. The “Grave of the Unknown Sailors” is located in the mauka area near the high school and soap berry tree. At this point the grave site is unmarked but can be identified by its rock border.



# Hau'oli La Hanau!

March 10	Kent Mizuguchi
March 10	Melissa Kagawa
March 13	Joanne Watanabe
March 17	Mike Matutino
March 20	Kimberly Hoeckmann-Percival
March 23	Jared Morsey
March 26	Rob Carlson
March 27	Shawna Kanahele



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.  
But the greatest of these is love.— 1 Corinthians  
13:13

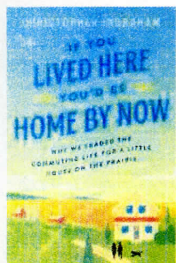
Our **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS) offering will be on Sunday, March 27, and will support UCC partners in places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck. This ministry of compassion is a result of the love Paul called the church to in 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson of the national UCC's Wider Church Ministries described UCC's OGHS recent work this way:

*Over the last year, there were communities needing a little more compassion, love and support. Tornadoes, wildfires, earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes ravaged communities worldwide, in some cases, destroying everything, and leaving behind devastation, and tribulation. Drought, violence and COVID wreaked havoc in communities, leaving people without food and resources for themselves and their family. When members of the United Church of Christ heard of these disasters, they responded and even invited friends to participate in providing much needed help.*

If you would like to give to this year's OGHS offering, please write "OGHS" on the offering envelope or check, or if donating online, type "OGHS" after your last name in the donation form.

This week we will also be contacting the UCC National office to see if our Kaua'i churches can learn more about how OGHS donations were used in 2021. If we are able to arrange a Zoom session, please let Pastor Olaf or Phoebe Liu-Eng know if you'd like to join. Mahalo!



*If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home*  
By Now by Washington Post data journalist, Christopher Ingraham, is March's selection to be hosted by Diane Foulks. Ingraham wrote an article about the best and worst counties to live in based on data gathered by the census bureau. He is challenged by residents

of the lowest ranked county to visit—he does and this results in a huge change in his family's lifestyle. The book challenges the reader to consider more than the just the data or demographics of a place. Ingraham moves to Red Lake County Minnesota and discovers the warmth, humor and hospitality of small town life.

Cinthy Kagawa has chosen *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles as April's book.

## News from the Pews

- ❖ The last Sunday that Jared Morsey preached in the pulpit, the bulletin simply said "Message, Jared Morsey." Seeing Pastor Olaf was there that Sunday, a member asked, "Pastor, are you preaching about Jared this morning? What are you going to say?"
- ❖ --Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to Bill Woodall. Bill is still in our prayers as he has returned to Kauai and will be entering hospice care. While Bill was undergoing cancer treatment at City of Hope, our own Lee Miller sang Bill a "happy birthday" song in the Kukui Grove Mall Center Courtyard on that Friday night to honor this special birthday. It was recorded and sent so that Bill and June could enjoy when they were in California.
- ❖ We welcome into the world little Noelle Savage, first child of Hannah and Christian Savage. She was born on February 14<sup>th</sup>. What better Valentines gift?
- ❖ A private familial memorial service was held for Lois Somers at her home in Makeweli on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Our sincere condolences and prayers of comfort to the entire family.
- ❖ (From Mahea) In Sunday school after the lesson on John the Baptist, and how he ate grasshoppers, all of the children complained that they were hungry for grasshoppers too. Their current memory verse is Matthew 22:37, the GREAT Commandment.
- ❖ Pastor Olaf will be away from April 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles for his niece's wedding. On that Sunday, Jared will be preaching.
- ❖ Easter plans are underway with Helen H-P in charge of the Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to hide some eggs or stuff them, please let Helen H-P know. She is asking for help.
- ❖ Congratulations to Helen H-P on being named the new chair of the Kauai Association UCC Committee on Ministry. That is a huge responsibility! The job includes the licensing of pastors and churches on island. It is noteworthy that others from our church also serve in roles at the Association level: Phoebe is currently president, Pastor Olaf is secretary, Teri S. serves on the Waineke camp committee, and Robert M is a member the Committee on Ministry. Blessings on you all!

*Continued from page 1*

The World Health Organization estimates that over 200,000 healthcare workers worldwide may have died due to exposure in the workplace. That number does not include teachers, police, first responders, and even plumbers who have sacrificed their own safety. Oh, and maybe a pastor or two as well.

Are we willing to put our own lives on the line out of Christian faith? Are we willing to heal others even at the cost of self-sacrifice? Can we be as selfless and loving as Jesus? Could I ever have enough faith in my own heart to touch a nameless leper as Jesus did? And, is that not the faith that is needed to save the world?!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

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

**Kokua Thrift Shop at Hanapepe UCC**  
Open Dates: All Mondays (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>) and Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 am. There are some changes to the \$5 bag. Covid-19 precautions are still in effect.

**Waimaea United Church of  
Christ  
P.O. Box 457  
Waimaea, HI 96796**