

VOLUME XXX
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March 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.

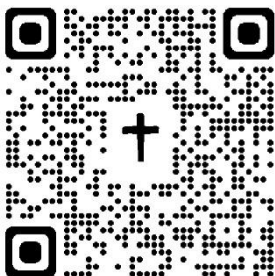
Waimea United Church of Christ

Located at the corner of
Makeke and Tsuchiya
Roads, Waimea, Kaua'i.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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PO Box 457
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Sunday Morning Worship,
10 am
Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 am



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

About 2400 years ago in Israel a great calamity took place. An incredible swarm of locust came and devoured the land. The people had suffered from swarms of locust before, but this time was most severe, so much so that even the grain offerings in the Temple were stopped. Famine spread throughout the tribes. One prophet in the Bible spoke to this tragedy in particular. His name was Joel.

The Prophet Joel must have been a rather pragmatic type of religious leader, for when not a seed was to be found in any granary he did call for a religious fast of repentance across the nation. We can read in Joel 1:14, "Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God." Right? If there is nothing left to eat, fast and go to church!

The Prophet Joel begins to wonder if God is angry with the people of Israel. I am not even sure if today such an idea crosses our minds. Is God trying to get our attention for something we have done wrong? In which case, the Covid 19 pandemic would leave us fine cause to gather again in the church!

The Prophet Joel relates further that the locust infestation and ensuing famine must surely be a precursor to the coming of the "Day of the Lord." This is to be understood as the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. As Christians today we count this as a foretelling of the coming of Jesus Christ of course.

Here comes the most fascinating fact of Joel's Prophecy as it relates to the coming of Jesus Christ. The Prophet Joel notes that when the "Day of the Lord" comes, we shall all be in the Spirit of God (Joel 2:28), "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh." The coming of the Spirit is also foretold by Jesus and happens fifty days after his death on the day of Pentecost. We read of this miraculous coming of the Spirit in the Book of Acts, Chapter 2.

The Apostle Peter, handpicked by Jesus, is given to preaching in that moment when everyone was touched by tongues of flame representing the coming of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh. Although Peter was a mere fisherman in Galilee, is therefore quite uneducated, he is able to recite verbatim and in poetic lines the prophecy of Joel! The prophet's words are ringing out over this time of ecstatic reception of the Spirit of God.

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Scriptures and Sermons for March

March 5th Luke 17:11-19
“Leaping Lepers”

March 12th Luke 17:20-37
“Do Not Go There”

March 19th Luke 18:1-14
“Losing Heart”

March 26th Luke 18:15-30
“Childish”

April 2nd Luke 18:31-43
“Towards Jerusalem”



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:

Kauai Association Youth Bowling March 3rd from 6-8pm in Lihue. Free. See Pastor for more details.

Our **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be collected in church on Sunday, **March 19th**! The keiki already have their little giving boxes for the coins. Remind them to bring the boxes to church on that Sunday. The OGHS offering goes to help overseas ministries. This year there is a special designation to help the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkiye and Syria.

The Lenten Study of the Prophet Joel

March 16th, Thursday, 7pm at the Waimea Baptist Church

March 23rd, Thursday, 7pm at YWAM, Ed Center Waimea

March 30th, Thursday, 7pm at the Episcopal Church Kekaha

April 6th, Thursday, Passover Seder to take place at Waimea UCC at 6pm (Mark your calendars).

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

Deacon: Joy Whitehill

March Deacons: Jacob Matutino, David Somers, Beth Hanashiro

Church Council Meeting: March 12, 2023 @11:30 am via hybrid Zoom

Jo Douglas, hospice; 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); Pastor's Uncle Olaf; 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.



Teri Sakai will host on May 19 at her home and via hybrid Zoom at 3:00 pm. Her selection is a mystery by William Kent



Krueger entitled *Fox Creek*. A woman experiencing a “rough patch” in her marriage seeks guidance from an “ancient” Ojibwe healer, Henry Meloux. Meloux has a vision of danger and leads the Dolores Morriseau and Rainy O’Conner into the forest to elude men who are hunting Dolores. Native American issues and lore are in the forefront of this thrilling mystery.

Jackie Matsumura will host in April—Beth Allison Barr’s *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth*.

The Body and the Gifts

By Christian Savage of YWAM

God has designed the Body of Christ to be made up of many different parts, each person has a unique set of giftings and spiritual gifts. These gifts are meant not for ourselves, but for serving others (1st Corinthians 12:7, 18-20).

The Bible challenges us to discipline ourselves in our giftings to be prepared in season and out of season. So that we are always ready to be God's hands and feet to this world. We are called to use our gifts and we are warned not to neglect them (1 Timothy 4:14).

We should also discipline ourselves by practicing our gifts in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:1-2). By using our gifts, we are bringing glory and praise to God (Revelation 19:6-8).

We should take hold of the giftings he has given us and use them to serve and bless others! Every time you give generously, lead zealously, or show mercy cheerfully you are literally making yourself beautiful to God, and he is glorified by this!

We should make every effort to grow in our giftings and to use them for God's glory. Always remember that your gifts are meant to be used to serve others, if you never serve others, it's possible you may never use your gifting.

Application: Read through the verses below and ask God to highlight one of the gifts that he wants you to use. • Romans 12:6-8 • 1 Peter 4:10-11 ESV • 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Hau'oli la Hanau!

March 10	Kent Mizuguchi
March 10	Melissa Kagawa
March 13	Joanne Watanabe
March 14	Samantha Campbell
March 17	Mike Matutino
March 20	Kimberly Hoeckmann-Percival
March 23	Jared Morsey
March 26	Rob Carlson
March 27	Shawna Kanahale



News from da Pews

- ❖ The last keiki Pseghetti Night was a scream—just a lot of screaming as kids ran around in the dark with glow sticks screaming. Thank you to Jordyn, Kay, Kev, and Helen H-P for being the designated adults.
- ❖ Our prayers are with the Toma Family at the passing of Gert. A memorial service was held on February 25th.
- ❖ It was nice to see Dee H. back in church with us while she made a short visit to her mom, for whom we also pray good health.
- ❖ Congrats to Jared Morsey who completed a UCC Polity course online through Eden Seminary. He plans to continue his theological education with more online courses with Colorado University.
- ❖ Blessings on Hanna Kevorkian, former exchange student with Teri and Ken Sakai who was back for a visit and was in church on the 12th of February.
- ❖ Blessings on the new pregnancy of Christian and Hannah Savage! And for Christian birthing a beautiful sermon February 12th. What a gifting!
- ❖ We remember fondly and celebrate the life of our sister in Christ Gladys Okada who passed peacefully last month. Her service will be held March 4th at 11am at our Sanctuary.
- ❖ Thank you to Helen H-P for bringing in super soup on Super Bowl Sunday. It was truly a souper bowl!
- ❖ Condolences to Pastor Inok Lautej of our sister Marshallese church on the passing of niece from a stroke recently.

"LOL Youth Camp is moved to June because the septic rebuild will not be ready by the Spring Break." Stay tuned to find out the new date for camp.



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What should all that mean for us today? Are we once again in that time leading up to a most prophetic moment? Are we being called to gather once more before God with fasting and repentance? Find out the answers to these questions and much more on Thursday nights in March during the Season of Lent. The West Kauai Ministers Association is hosting sessions of prayer and study on March 16, 23, & 30th. Look for the announcement in this newsletter for the various sites to meet.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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