

**VOLUME XXXI**  
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**April 2024**

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

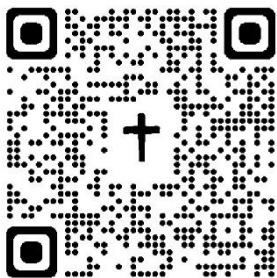
[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)

PO Box 457

Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship, 10  
am

Tuesday Morning Bible Study,  
9 am



# THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the parsonage we have a cat named Liam. He has been with us for over ten years, having been rescued from the humane society. Every night he jumps up upon the sofa in the living room and plaintively meows, trying to catch anyone's attention. When he is on the couch in the evening, it is his time to be brushed. He craves a good brushing more than fresh canned cat food in his bowl, more than pouncing upon a lizard on the window screen, more than a leftover sticky bowl that once had ice cream in it.

I have wondered what it must be like for Liam the cat to have a giant hand with a rigid brush from a completely different mammalian lineage stroke his fur. What would it be like to even have such a fur coat? How much must it itch to want it to be brushed so lustily?

After ten minutes or so of being thoroughly stroked, Liam the cat simply curls up next to me. He is at rest and at peace finally. The brush is right next to him always in the event that he should awaken from slumber and need a quick extra brushing before squinting back to sleep as cats do. The soft breathing tells that he is content; no more loud meows.

As Liam rests, my curiosity gets the best of me. I take his brush and run it through my own hair. The bristles cut paths down to my scalp. The brushing does feel good. It reminds me of when my mother would stand over me and comb my hair as a boy before going off to school.

I imagine that this is like the hand of God upon my own life. At the end of the day, I cry out for the hand of God to be upon me. God opens the door for me to come in. I feel God's hand touching me softly but with the firmness of grace and truth.

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## Scriptures and Sermons for April

- 7 April Romans 1:1-15  
"So Eager"
- 14 April Romans 1:16-32  
"Not Ashamed"
- 21 April Romans 2:1-11  
"Excuse Me?"
- 28 April Romans 2:12-16  
"Secrets Revealed"
- 5 May Romans 2:17-29  
"What to Preach?"

Looks like a series through the Book of Romans on the horizon, an exciting theological adventure!



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:

- \* Thank you to all who came to help on clean-up day: Mike H., Helen, Jackie M., Patty C., Kevin, Lucia, Kathy U., Olaf, Marlene, Zion, and Margaret and Skye. The spiders were back making their webs the next morning, but at least they are fresh and clean webs now!
- \* Thank you to Somers for the palms on Palm Sunday. Great to see Karin Somers from Massachusetts visiting, too.
- \* Thank you, Deacon Mike H., for taking care of the needs of the seniors in driving out to Lihue for shopping and doctor's appointments!

## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Mary Hayes

**Deacon:** Vicky Mercado

**April Deacons:** Kevin Christian, Mary Hayes, Jsared Morsey

**Church Council Meeting:** April 14 at 11:30 via Zoom Hybrid



Helen Masaki; Tom Montanus for breathing; Jackie Webber for healing from fall.; 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); Russell and Berenice's daughter Selma (stomach); 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:

- \* Chaplain Zach of KCCC Prison Ministries expressed sincere thanks for the recent monetary gift and prayers sent to support the outreach.

### Calendar Notes:

Pastor Dale S-V., emeritus, will be here preaching in September!

*First Installment of Camp Experience*  
**Metaphoric Euphoric Parabolic KAUCC  
Spring Youth Camp**

"Hey, I can see my own breath! Looks like I'm smoking!"

"Yup, you smokin' alright."

Besides the very cold mornings, the days were warm and bright at Spring Camp at Waineke Cabins. The bane of any camp experience is rain, but by the Grace of God we were sunny for four full days in March up at Kokee.

The first youth to arrive were from the other side of the island, a tradition on Kauai. The farthest away are always the first to arrive—and the last to leave. Gathering in a circle on the grass the youth learned one another's names by playing "Name Bingo." The first to get four names in a row on his or her sheet was rewarded with a mini-chocolate bar. "Twix, Twix, Twix, I want Twix!" How come nobody wants the Almond Joy? Then two team captains were chosen to lead the two teams of youth. The captains were Jaja and Junjun—yes, their real names! Jaja's team chose to be called "The Hammahjammahs." Junjun's team was "The Underdogs." They were invited to draw their own team jerseys with markers.

The volleyball net was set up on the front lawn, and the first scores were earned for the teams and logged onto a whiteboard. Points were also awarded for helping to clean, cook, pray, and even singing the loudest praise. By the way, the praise song that got stuck in everybody's head that we had to sing over and over again was "You Are My All-in-All." Every camp has that one song that everybody takes home with them!

That first evening, dinner was by the campfire with roasted hotdogs, chips, melon, and of course marshmallows. Youth Leader Jared (also known as "the cool one") had the week before chopped a pick-up truck full of firewood. Yet, that would not be enough. The next day, after a rousing breakfast of pancakes and sausage, both teams set out on the "community service project" of restocking and stacking the cabins with firewood. The Underdogs did the most tremendous job, earning an extra ten points on the scoreboard.

Once every evening and morning we had chapel service around the fire in Cabin B. The topic was the "Parables of Jesus," with emphasis on how Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God being something small growing into the greatest of all. This included the parable of the leaven of course. That evening's dinner was all about "making your own pizza" from scratch; watching the leaven rise in the starter batter, and then the dough doubling in size, and then doubling again as it baked. The youth were fascinated by the science of yeast, little bugs that float in the air, eat sugar, and then release gas to make the dough rise. "You mean pizza is bug fart?"

## News from the pews

- ♥ Graceleanor Baird was surprised to see Marsha K. at the Kauai Care Center as a new resident. Marsha is recovering from hip surgery.
- ♥ Jared M. cooked up some amazing homemade sourdough waffles for last month's West Kauai Ministers' breakfast.
- ♥ Irwin O. has been officially declared in remission from cancer. He and Janice are back home again in Waimea now!
- ♥ Great to see Emily Evans in church for two Sundays. Andrew and Hilary gave birth to baby Maximilian, too, so Emily is now officially "Aunty Em."
- ♥ Calvin and Patty Luce from Washington came to visit on March 17th. That must have been why we celebrated Saint Patty's Day then!
- ♥ Berenice and Russell W. have just opened their second coffee shop down in Hanapepe. Congrats on the soft opening.

## April's Hau'oli la Hanau!

1 <sup>st</sup>	Emily Minei
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Russell Wagner
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Michael Herrick
7 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Kennett
21 <sup>st</sup>	Irene Kenett
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Marsha Keist
26 <sup>th</sup>	Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival
27 <sup>th</sup>	Elsie Hegwood
28 <sup>th</sup>	Tekoa Synder
30 <sup>th</sup>	.Helen Hoeckmann-Percival



**BOOK CLUB--DUMPLIN':** *Go Big or Go Home* by Julie Murphy is April's selection which will be hosted via Zoom by Debbie Santmeyer. The meeting will be at 3:00pm HST on April 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a YA novel about Willowdean Dixon, the fearless, funny, and totally unforgettable heroine who takes on her small town's beauty pageant.

*Continued from front page*

All through my seminary days way back in the Neolithic era, I was told that church is not supposed to be a “warm fuzzy.” We are supposed to be challenged and put on edge by cutting ideas in critical sermons. After so many years of preaching the Word, I prefer the “warm fuzzy” church. After all, where else in our day and age can we feel care and comfort? The smile, the aloha, the gentle hug we get in church is really a spiritual succor. Sometimes we just need Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs to feel loved and comforted. More power to the warm fuzzy!

Fuzzy Blessings, Pastor Olaf

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



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