THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

VOLUME XXVIII
NUMBER 8
August 2021

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

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P.O. Box 457
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Sunday Morning Worship Service, 10 a.m.
Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I had a truly great time in July visiting family and friends in Washington and Germany. I thank you for allowing me the time off to be with extended family. I am thankful for Jared, Helen and Phoebe giving stunning Spirit-inspired messages which were recorded, so I could see them, too. Thank you to all.

I wanted to share just one experience with you from my journey. On the Sunday that I was still in Germany, I worshipped in the morning at the Christuskirche on the Kaiserstrasse in Mainz. In the afternoon Patrick and Anja Hirsch drove in for a visit from the town of Unna, which lies about 2 hours northwest by car. These are the parents of Niklas Hirsch who was an exchange student here in Waimea sometime back.

I need to set the scene for you. Patrick is a well-honored homeopathic doctor. Anja is an editor for the Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper and has just published her first novel to rave reviews. Their home in Unna is wall-to-wall books. My Uncle Olaf is the foremost maritime archeologist in Germany, author of the historical-critical work *Antique Sea Voyages*, and previous curator of the German Museum in Mainz. My Aunt Ursula is the foremost authority on Etruscan ceramics and was a university professor at the University of Mainz. Their simple apartment overlooking the Rhine River contains an estimated 3,000 books on shelves covering most every wall. These people have their own German Wikapedia pages, if that means anything! Now, add to the cabal a simple pastor from Waimea.

That afternoon we gathered around a table for the traditional German "Kaffeetrinken," equivalent to English high tea but with strong coffee instead. I thought it would be fun to Americanize the setting by getting Dunkin' Donuts to serve along with the usual German cakes. I served Patrick a "Mr. Monster Donut," a blue frosted doughnut with a bit of crushed Oreo on it and a happy face. Anja was served a "Mrs. Monster Donut" that was pink with Chips-Ahoy. The doughnuts were consumed with knife and fork as is the German custom. I wondered if this would be my only contribution to the "Kaffeetrinken."

To wit, the conversation ensued not just in rapid-fire German but with Latin phrases, a smattering of Greek, and the obligatory French phrases "*bien sur.*" My jet-lagged head and decidedly rusted-over German barely kept up despite the extra energy from a yellow "smiley donut," eaten out of hand in proper American fashion.

Scriptures and Sermons for August

August 1	Hebrews 6:1-12 **"Confident of Better"**
August 8	Hebrews 6:13-20 **"God's Promise"**
August 15	Hebrews 7:1-10 **"Order of Melchizadek"**
August 22	Hebrews 7:11-28 **"Intercess"**
August 29	Deacons' Sunday
Sept 5	Hebrews 8 all **"Now"**

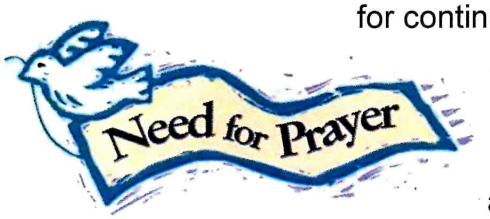
August Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Jackie Weber

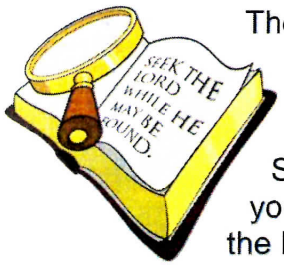
Deacon: Joy Whitehill

August Deacons: Mahea Morsey, Kevin Christian, Lauren Starner, Marlene Matutino

Church Council Meeting: August 8th at 11:30 am via zoom



Jill Faye, throat cancer; 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; Mahea and Jared to have a child; Leinani Springer (cancer free); Galen Kaohi (remain cancer free); Norma & Mary Watanabe (keep cancer away); Helen's mother; Janice's mother—health; Priscilla's mother (heart); 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:

Upcoming: KVMH coffee hour—date to b set for September

Special offering to collect funds for Kumu's Cupboard which supports teachers and students by providing needed supplies

Mahalo:

Thank you and kudos to Jared Morsey for providing a heartfelt sermon in July 11. You are a blessing to our church family.

Also, a great thank you for Phoebe Liu-Eng and Helen Hoeckmann-Percival for their "talk story" discussion/sermon on July 18. We appreciate your sharing of your thoughts and learning journey.

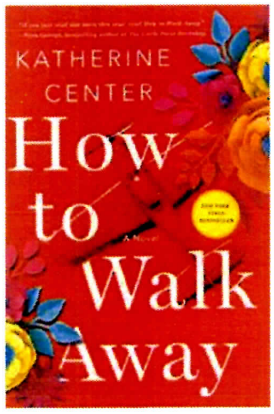
Mahalo to the green thumbs among us for sharing their excess produce.

Readers Wanted!—Please consider signing up to be a liturgist (fancy word for the scripture reader). There is a sign up in the Narthex.

Kanakapila—Ukulele Play Along During Aloha Time: Every third Sundayt bring your ukulele to join with Robert and Phoebe in playing and singing Kaua'I favorites, oldies (but goodies), and worship songs!

Hau'oli la Hanau!

August 1	Caleb Chronister
August 6	Mahea Morsey
August 8	Yukie Okino
August 13	Tavis Kagawa
August 15	Jaxon Kagawa
August 16	Rick Foulks
August 20	Carolyn Hoeckmann-Percival
August 20	Courtney Chronister
August 20	Marina Galiza



August's book will be hosted by Debbie Santmyer via Zoom on the 15th. Her selection is *How to Walk Away* by Katherine Center. The protagonist of the novel seems to have the perfect life and a wonderful future until something terrible happens and throws her life into chaos. What she thought she knew about the people around her is challenged. Anyone is welcome to join our discussion (even if you haven't finished the book).

Often the themes of the novel lead to connections to the book club participants lives.

September's selection is *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins which will be hosted by Sue Carlson.

The Bible's Church Growth Plan

By **Jennifer Brownell** | published on Jul 30, 2021

Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. – Acts 9:31 (NRSV)

You probably don't ever have these conversations where you are (cough, cough), but the church people I hang out with spend a fair amount of time thinking, reading, and talking about plans or programs designed to get the church to grow. Screens or no screens. Small groups or leadership training. One kind of music or another kind. And whatever the attractive program or plan is, it must lure the elusive "young family," seldom seen in the wild and not easily captured.

What if church growth, though, was less about a plan or a program and more about an orientation, an attitude, a way of being?

What if the most attractive feature of your church to young families (and old singles and all the configurations of humanity in between) was that you had the kind of true peace that confronted conflict in a healthy, unafraid way?

What if the most appealing growth plan was a commitment to faith so unabashedly reverent that it looked something like awe?

What if the best church growth program of all was a community of people giving and receiving the kind of comfort that can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit?

I mean, I don't know if it would work. But if your church is anything like mine, you've tried everything else. Maybe the plan we've been seeking has been with us all along, hidden in plain sight right here in the thirty-first verse of the ninth book of Acts.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, give us comfort. Christ, grant us awe. Creator God, bring us peace. Amen.

About the Author

Jennifer Garrison Brownell is pastor of Vancouver United Church of Christ. Her writing appears in the collection, ***The Words of Her Mouth: Psalms For the Struggle***, available from The Pilgrim Press.

Continued from front page

Then, most unexpectedly, I had more to contribute. In discussion of Anja's new novel that spans three generations of the same family, it was noted how it seemed that the mistakes of one generation were passed down "epi-genetically" to the next and the next after that. I mentioned that this was a biblical concept found in many citations. Here was my shot, my chance, to bring God and Jesus to the table.

The conversation veered into the spiritual. My uncle shared about his mother, my grandmother, facing soldiers with guns pointed at her in order to get the children to safety onboard a train headed away from the front during his childhood in Hitler's collapsing Third Reich. Tears came to his eyes, and to all of ours, as he recounted her bravery and sense of sacrifice—that which we also garner from those who have preceded us. We are not just leaving our children Covid and climate change; we are leaving our faith in action, our sacrifice, and our brave decisions to make the world a more Godly place.

Our table needs those smiley doughnuts. Amen.

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DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL

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