

VOLUME XXXI
NUMBER 8
August 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.

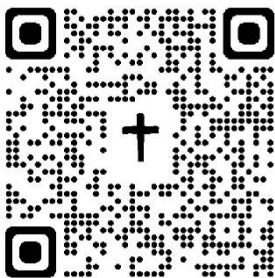
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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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,

Here it is the morning after the big fire in Kaumakani. I am so relieved that our sister Methodist Church and the Aloha Sweet Delites doughnuts are safe! Prayers are answered. I know that we all have our stories about how that afternoon and evening played out. Some were trapped on the wrong side of the fire from home and/or work. Others suffered from the long power outage. Some even this morning may not have internet; the church office is still without in fact. Did you know computers still work without being online? Ha ha ha.

For the most part, it was a hosting event for us. Around three in the afternoon, Kay C-L. and her out-of-state guests decided to evacuate (as ordered) and were invited to come to the parsonage for safety. The kids were still in summer school at PMRF, but Kevin would bring them, and two other families that were trapped on the Westside unable to go home.

The kids had a fun time playing together. The adults mostly stood on the cliff over the Waimea Valley looking at the flames and smoke. Two boxes of Aloha Sweet Delite doughnuts that had been bought earlier in the day were set out on the counter in the kitchen. "Save the boxes! They may be keepsakes if the place burns down." Then, word came that the store had burned. We ate our doughnuts carefully savoring every precious bite. Later it was shown that the rumor was not true, thankfully.

I had planned to make stroganoff for dinner that night. Hmmmm, I would have to stretch the recipe for more sudden guests. I grabbed more chicken from the freezer and found larger pots. One of our serendipitous guests commented that they were the best noodles ever! Well, noodles are always fine at a fire party.

As the evening progressed, word came that the high school next door was going to be the emergency shelter for our side of the fire. One of the teachers came over and asked if I might go and say a prayer for the Red Cross there. I found about 50 tourists and a few locals hunkered down in the cafeteria. I spoke German with a couple of young ladies who found the whole shelter scenario to be quite exciting. That's the spirit.

As it was getting dark, I brought out the emergency generator and prepared to connect it once more to the house. I had just the day before put it away from the last outage! I went to the riding mower and harvested extra gasoline from its tank as well. We were ready for the evening. One of the children had already picked out her bed for the night. Then, we saw traffic moving on the bridge again. All of our guests decided to go back home as the fire came under control and was duly extinguished. I never even had to start the generator. I went to bed.

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Scriptures and Sermons for 2024

- August 4th Romans 8:26-30
"Searching the Heart"
- August 11th Romans 8:31-39
"Never Separate from Love"
- August 18th Romans 9:1-18
"Children of the Promise"
- August 15th Romans 9:19-29
"Mercy Me"
- Sept 1st *Rev. Dale Vallejo-Sanderson*
"Listening that Invites Change"



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:

Outdoor worship on the Lanai will be **August 18th**, followed by a potluck meal and bingo. Please bring your bingo prizes and food to share. Our sister Marshallese Church will be joining us on that day.

The annual **KVMH Hour Thank You Hospital Staff Coffee** has been scheduled for **Friday September 20th at 2:30pm**. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring goodies or call Kathy U.

Mahalo

- * Thank you Skye for baking the mango pizza the following Sunday for fellowship! It was delish. The recipe has been uploaded to the church's Facebook page if you would like to make it yourself.
- * Thank you, Susie S., for videography of the worship while Mike M. was away!
- * Thank you to Jackie W. for filling in for Diane F., our organist while she was away in Scotland.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Sara Hornbuckle

Deacon: Vicky Mercado

August Deacons: Joy Whitehill, Kevin Christian, Mary Hayes

Church Council Meeting: August 11, 2024, via Zoom hybrid at 11:30 am



For our firefighters; Vicky's mother, Rest in Peace; Cinthy's mother, Rest in Peace

Winona, Rest in Peace; Helen Masaki; Irwin

Oyama for heart and surgeries;

Melissa B., cancer recovery; 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

- * Thank you to Jared and Olaf for doing the repair work on the eave of the church where the mina birds had nested!



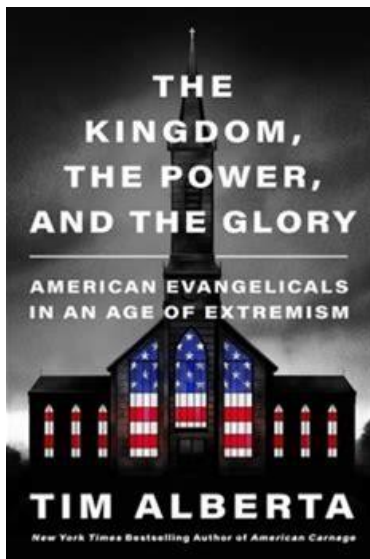
Hauoli La Hanau!

'Aukake

1st Caleb Chronister
6th Mahea Morsey
8th Yukie Okino
13th Tavis Kagawa
15th Jaxon Kagawa
16th Rick Foulks
20th Carolyn Aguilar
20th Courtney Chronister
20th Marina Galiza
23rd Lilly Josephine Collins



Book Club



Helen Hoeckmann-Percival will host a zoom book club meeting on August 18 at 3:00 pm. *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory* by Tim Alberta is a non-fiction discussion about the current state of the evangelical church. The

author is careful to say that he is not writing about all the variations of Christian churches but about the church he grew up in with his father as a minister. He outlines stories by some ministers and their struggles to guide the congregants in an age of extreme nationalism. Tim Alberta is a practicing evangelical Christian who is also a well-respected journalist. He uses the teachings of the Bible and Christ to ring the alarm about how white nationalism is leading people away from the teachings of Jesus. He offers optimism and hope for the church's future.

September's choice is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Diane Foulks will host on September 18th.

News from the Pews

- ♥ Our own Marlene M. was featured in the summer edition of the *Gather Post* (Gather Federal Credit Union) Marlene had been a "student teller." She remembers working out of a little "closet" office at the Masaki building across from the then Dairy Queen. Today Marlene continues to teller for us at the church, too!
- ♥ After worship one Sunday last month, little Zion came up to Pastor Olaf and asked, "Do you know what I want to be when I grow up?" "Nope. . . maybe a race car driver?" Olaf replied. Zion looked incredulously at Olaf and proclaimed, "I want to be a pastor!" "Wow!" exclaimed Pastor. Skye was nearby overhearing the exchange, so Olaf turned to her and asked if she wanted to be a pastor too. "No!" she said with wide eyes! "I want to do the job that Kathy has!" (Kathy's job is Fellowship Chairperson.)
- ♥ How hot is it? Jared and Mahea took a trip back to California last month where they experienced 114f degree heat. That makes Waimea seem cool indeed.
- ♥ Condolences to Cinthy K. & family on the loss of her mother recently. May the promise of eternal life comfort you in your grief.
- ♥ Condolences to Cindy Adams & family on the passing of her mother Aileen Beady.
- ♥ Pastor Olaf's newest book is now available. It is entitled *Waimea, Kauai "We the West."* It is an historical novel about—Waimea! A "meet the author & book signing" at the Talk Story Bookstore in Hanapepe is scheduled for Friday, August 16th from 5pm-8pm.
- ♥ Speaking of birds, please remember to bring a flashlight at night to church starting in September. The church campus will go dark during shearwater fledgling season. The motion activated lighting will still function on Baird Hall during this time.

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Honestly, I was happy with the way the day ended. Nobody was hurt. We all had a nice dinner together and ate doughnuts. We got to know new friends. These moments bring people together and make for lasting memories. The whole island found a way through the crisis with great grace. So, this morning I have the simple and sincere prayer of gratitude to God.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL

Waimaea United Church of
Christ
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