

VOLUME XXXI
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December 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.

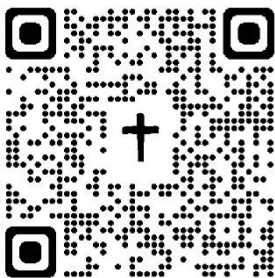
Waimea United Church of Christ

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
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,

Life surprises. We never know what is coming down the pike.

Recently a piglet came into the Waimea pool area and was chased around all over the place by some boys until it left the area. We lap-swimmers just kept on swimming. The dry weather is causing the pigs to come down out of the mountains.

The Ricoh photocopier in the church office died after seventeen long years of service to the ministry. The part that failed, the laser cartridge, is no longer available at any price, so the photocopier was disassembled and taken to the Puhi electronics recycling drop-off. The plastic parts on the machine crumbled in our hands. A new color printer was purchased and installed.

The Resurrection Pond in the cemetery sprung a leak in the waterliner. The poor fish were rescued and given back to the river as the water dried out. We came to learn that the pond was never actually permitted by the County Planning Department, so we will fill it in and make an ash-spreading garden, keeping the cross in its current place.

Christmas is a time of life surprises. Recently I was on the phone with a pastor who asked me about some of the stone features and history of the parsonage. After answering his specific questions, I noted that much of what I shared with him is available with pictures in the book I had just published.

"Oh, I did not know you published a book. I will have to order it right away!" he said.

"No, you won't!" yelled the pastor's wife in the background. She had been listening in on the call that was on speakerphone. "Jeez, you just ruined my Christmas present! I got him the book already."

I apologized for ruining her Christmas surprise and offered to sign the book later.

Surprise! Some very distant relatives in Germany just sent a text saying that they will be on Kauai and are coming for Christmas dinner! We have never even met before.

In Nazareth 2024 years ago: Surprise, Mary, we are going on a long donkey ride in your ninth month of pregnancy. Surprise, there is no room at the inn. We will just have to bed down with animals in the stable. Surprise, the angels are singing overhead, some smelly shepherds are at the door, and three wisemen from the East are coming for a visit. Life is so full of surprises! And by the way, the Lord of the universe is sleeping in your arms!

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Scriptures and Sermons for December 2024

Dec 1 Jeremiah 33:14-16
"Righteous"

Dec 8 Malachi 3:1-4
Jared Morsey preaching

Dec. 15 Zephaniah 3:14-20
"Renowned"

Dec. 22 Micah 5:2-5a
"Ruled"

Dec. 24 Luke 2:8-20
"Christmas Letters"

Dec.29 Luke 2:25-35
"Revelations"



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:

Wednesday, December, 4th at 5:30 pm will be the next

"Pseghetti Night for the kids." Crafts, games, movie, and maybe even a model train set to build!

Christmas Tea

After worship on December 8th.

Bring cookies to share.
Games and Carols!

Sunday School Christmas Program will on December 15th in Worship.



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Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

Deacon: David Somers

December Deacons: Jared Morsey, Joy Whitehill, Rob Carlson

Church Council Meeting: December 8th via hybrid Zoom at 11:30



Betty Smith, (former pastor's wife) Rest in Peace; Nancy P. healing from infection in arm; Marsha Kiest healing form hip surgery; Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama one year check-up; 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); Helen's mother (heart); Kim H-P for a new job; 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 for the incredible teamwork that happened to put together the recent KAUCC Aha Mokupuni at our church. It was the best Aha ever! Special "tip of the hat" to Kathy U., Helen H-P, Russell & Berenice, Mahealani M., Diane F., David S.; but to all who helped a special "God Bless YOU!"
- * Thank you Mahea and Skye for the wonderful hula on Sunday, 24 Nov.!

Hau'oli la Hanau!

Kekemapa

6th Jordon Parongao
9th Jaron Parongao
9th Margarete Kagawa
20th Aiyah Synder
20th Vicky Mercado
24th Bradley Ceballos
27th Ian Oyama
29th Ryan Collins



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7:00pm

Dec. 24th We will be sending out Christmas invitations to all mailboxes in Waimea and Kekaha for the people to come to worship the Lord's birth with us. Please take a

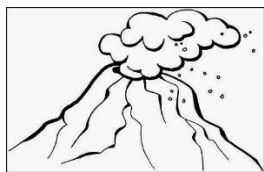


postcard invitation or two from the back table in the Narthex and share with your friends and neighbors! We will be looking at "Letters to Jesus," different historical personages share their thoughts in letters to Jesus on Christmas! Singing and candlelight as well.

News From the Pews

- ♥ Pastor Olaf gave our special visitor from Behtlehem, Zoughbi, some Fig Newtons upon his arrival. He loved them! Now he is addicted. By the way, you can watch the video made of Zoughbi speaking at the church website, click on "Videos of Worship."
- ♥ Nancy P. is planning on moving to Canada. We will certainly miss her.
- ♥ Kim H-P is back with us on-island for the holidays. Yeah!
- ♥ After reading the book *Remember* by Lisa Genova, book club participants were asked to reveal the one most salient point of the book they remembered. . . .hmmmm.

Book Club—*Eruption* by Michael Crichton and James Patterson is set on Hawaii Island and is about—an imminent volcano eruption (of course!).



Unfortunately for the residents of Earth, the army has stored some radioactive chemicals in an ice cave on

the Big Island. The interaction of the radioactive chemicals and the environment unleashes a hazard that is deadly to ALL life on Earth. The mix of characters and a possible romance make for a fun read. It is a thriller mixed with a little Hawaiian culture and geography as well as vulcanology. Teri Sakai will host on December 15 at 3:00 pm.

♥ A Global Witness

"And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven." – Mark 13:27 (NLT)

Ever notice how much of what is now considered standard in our society is the result of international movements which became global?

The American victory over the British in North America served as a great catalyst for the French Revolution in Europe.

The use of nonviolence as an effective weapon of peace in the Indian struggle against British Imperialism inspired the hopes and informed the strategies of Dr. King and all those who still fight against American oppression nonviolently.

And the Christ who brings joy to the world began his earthly sojourn specifically in the ancient Middle Eastern region of Palestine where Jews anticipated the promised messiah.

Great movements of the human spirit have always been bigger than any tribe or nation or region or religion. The grace of God is too amazing to leave anyone outside of its loop, and the love of God reaches every echelon of every being. The people brought together in Mark's vision of God's redemption are those who refuse to lift any religious or sociopolitical doctrine higher than the belief in basic human sanctity.

This is the promise of our common destiny. This is the basis of our global witness. This is the blessed Advent to which we all must now urgently attend.

Prayer

Come Lord Jesus, in winds that move us into genuine communion. Come Lord Jesus, in floods that compel us to seek and share common ground. Come Lord Jesus, in trimmers that teach us how to turn toward each other in mutual reverence.

Maranatha. Amen.

About the Author: Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Decatur, Georgia.

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Surprise!

My goodness, I pray that we all get surprised by what God is doing in our lives this Christmas! Surprises make life so interesting and remind us of how God works in the world. Just when things start to get boring and predictable, God shows up! It can be just like opening up the last gift under the tree with no tag on it to discover a package of Fig Newtons or a can of roasted peanuts. Treasure the unexpected. Relish the spontaneous. Pray to be truly surprised this Christmas by what God is doing.

Mele Kalikimaka,



◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL

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**Waimaea United Church of
Christ
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Waimaea, HI 96796**