

VOLUME XXX
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February 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

(808) 338-9962
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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,

I have a minor confession to make to you. Sometimes I pull my tongue into my cheek in situations that most reasonable folk would walk away from just to see if God is doing something in the moment that I should not miss. I weigh the inconvenience of the moment to what might turn out to be a really good sermon example on Sunday morning. I go through life with the little voice in the back of my brain asking hypothetically: "Will that preach?" Every dark cloud might have that homiletical silver lining and every rainbow a pot of gold of God's insight.

Recently I was listening to someone else's sermon that was about "self-control" (one of the fruits of the Spirit mentioned by St. Paul in Galatians 5:22 and on). That pastor pointed out that "self-control" means exactly that—I am in control of myself. I have not ceded an inch beyond my own personal boundaries to another's will, this because other folks will take advantage of my being a faithful follower of Christ.

So in light of this godly wisdom, I started to consider an ongoing service issue with the internet provider at the church parsonage. I have been trying for months for the company to acknowledge and repair an ongoing issue of connection intermittency. I have lost track of how many hours I have been on hold with the call service center in Manila. I have taken a day off to meet the service technician at the house, who never showed up, but then came a day later. I have finally found a real person in Honolulu at the company who assured me that my "faith in the company would be restored—just give them a little grace." This style of verbiage made me quite uncomfortable and even more wary.

If I am in control of myself, then the best thing I could do is hire a different internet provider. Right? Why do I give control of my time and energy to a company that also wants my "grace," "faith," and \$69+ every month? All the time and energy I have spent should have gone to doing God's work in the ministry. All the grace and faith that I can muster is for picking up the Cross of Jesus and carrying it in this world.

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Scriptures and Sermons for

February

- Feb. 5th Luke 16:14-18
"The New Stoptlight"
- Feb. 12th Matthew 25:1-13
"Being Prepared" Christian Savage
YWAM
- Feb. 19th Luke 16:19-31
"Canyon Lookout"
- Feb. 26th Luke 17:1-10
"Repent and Forgive"
- Mar. 5th Luke 17:11-19
"Leaping Lepers"

We are blessed to welcome Christian Savage of YWAM to share the word on February 12th in worship; Pastor Olaf will be sharing communion at our sister church, Lihue Christian that morning.



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:

Pseghetti Night for the keiki is planned for February 15th at 5:30pm! Valentines will be the theme. Parents, you deserve the time away on Valentines too!

Mahalo:

To all who participated in the annual congregational meeting and to those who have volunteered to serve the church.

Grace Scholarship We are pleased to continue to offer the "Grace Scholarship" from our church. This scholarship is granted to a Waimea High School graduate who is in college or will be attending next term. See the church website waimeachurch.org, click "links" and "Grace Scholarship" for more details.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Vicky Mercado

Deacon: Vicky Mercado

February Deacons: Joy Whitehill, Beth Hanashiro, Mahea Morsey

Church Council Meeting: February 12, 2023 @11:30 via zoom hybrid



Melissa B., radiation treatments; Margaret's brother, cancer; Susie Somers, cancer recovery; Ruth's daughter, Carol Alvesos, brain tumor; Jill Faye, cancer recovery; 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); Gladys Okada (blindness); 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.

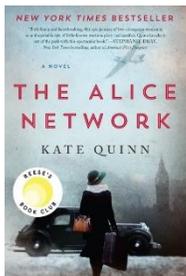
Lent Series on Prophet Joel The West Kauai Ministers' Association is planning on hosting a Thursday evening Bible Study for three weeks during Lent starting on March 16th. The start time is 7pm. A schedule of meeting sites and speakers will be out soon. Mark your calendars!

Hau'oli La Hanau!

February 1 Helen Masaki
February 7 Kathy Ryan
February 9 Grant Kagawa
February 10 Lyle Ceballos
February 11 Kiana Okino
February 22 Melissa Campbell
February 22 Beth Hanashiro
February 24 Bergen Ceballos
February 26 Glenn Molander
February 27 Alana Kanahela
February 27 Glenn Kagawa



Birthdays blew away! Thank you to those who have updated our birthday list that was on the back table in the Narthex until a strong wind blew it away. Another list is out now. Please check again to make sure you are on the list.



Book Club

Debbie Santmyer will host February's selection on February 19th at 3:00pm via zoom. Her selection is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn. 1947. In the chaotic aftermath of World War II,

American college girl Charlie St. Clair is pregnant, unmarried, and on the verge of being thrown out of her very proper family. She's also nursing a desperate hope that her beloved cousin Rose, who disappeared in Nazi-occupied France during the war, might still be alive. So, when Charlie's parents banish her to Europe to have her "little problem" taken care of, Charlie breaks free and heads to London, determined to find out what happened to the cousin she loves like a sister.

March's selection is *Fox Creek* by William Kent Krueger. Teri Sakai will host.

Four positions are open for church governance (Vice-moderator, Personnel, Cemetery, and Christian Education). Positions are described in the by-laws—please consider volunteering.

Congregational Meeting Notes

January 29th was our congregational meeting. Chairpersons, moderator, pastor, and financial chair submitted reports. The vice-moderator submitted the nominees for positions. The annual meeting packet can be found at www.waimeachurch.org under the links tab.

The officers of the church carried over from the previous year as these are two year positions except for vice-moderator. That position is now open.

Moderator—David Hanashiro (ends in 2024)

Vice-Moderator (open ends in 2025),

Secretary—Jackie Matsumura (2024)

Treasurer—Margarete Kagawa (2024) Board

of Finance (2 year terms ending in 2024)

Assistant Treasurer—Marlene Matutino

(2024) **Cemetery (Open ends in 2025)**

Buildings & Grounds--Rick Foulks (2024),

Stewardship—Sue Carlson (2024) Board of

Finance—at large—Diane Foulks and Susie

Somers (2024), Music & Worship—Helen

Hoeckmann-Percival (2024), Missions—

Phoebe Liu-Eng (2024), **Personnel(Open**

ends in 2024), Deacons-(to be selected

within the Deacons) , Fellowship—Kathy

Uyeda, **Christian Education (Open—ends**

in 2024), Deacons:, Kevin Christian (2026),

Jared Morsey (2026), Michael Herrick (2026),

Joy Whitehill (2024), Beth Haneshiro (2024),

Mahea Morsey (2024), Vicky Mercado

(2025), Jacob Matutino (2025), David Somers

(2025), Kauai Council of Hawaiian

Churches—Pastor Olaf attends their

meetings –we are invited but this is not a part

of our council

Following up on old business saw that the "triangle" lot in Kekaha has been sold.

We have a bit of excess funds after we paid

off the loan that had been taken out to build

the Smith Lanai. The financial report is on

the last three pages of the annual meeting

packet.

An item of new business was the approval of Jared Morsey to receive a call

from the church to become an ordained

minister. He will then embark on theological

and ministerial training. Our role as a church

is supporting and mentoring.

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Worldly things would love to take total control of my life. Have I given control over my life to something that is not of God? Does that mean that God is not in total control? When worldly institutions ask for "faith" is that not a form of idolatry? When worldly entities ask for "grace" is that not taking God's name in vain as true Grace can only flow from the Lord?

Our freedom in Christ, is about our having control of the self. We cannot be enslaved to worldly things and situations. So, I am praying that we all have good self control in the coming year--and beyond. That we keep our faith squarely on God. That Jesus is the source of all Grace for us.

For now, I am only waiting for Jesus! Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

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

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