

VOLUME XXXII
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February 2025

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.

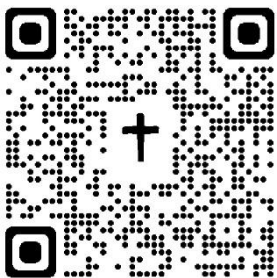
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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,

I had a great conversation with one of you just before worship recently. We were talking about all of the church gurus who have published books and lead national sessions on church leadership. Some are relatively well known, while others do not earn a following. It struck how many regular pastors have given up the pulpit to become a church leadership expert of some kind.

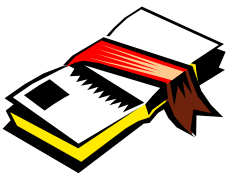
Without giving up the pulpit, and with decades of observing church leadership, I have to say that our church has an amazingly proficient leadership core. Our church council members get the job done ahead of schedule and with stellar results. I really love our church council people. Each one is in his/her own right a great Christian leader.

I find three crucial gifts from God are key to Christian leadership: wisdom, competency and spiritual discernment. Wisdom is always based on experience and knowledge. The combined years of church leadership in our present council is about four centuries. Some have served on church councils in other ministry settings or in differing community capacities. Some have great biblical knowledge, others might have legal training, teaching experience, and the like. I suspect that our church council hosts the wisest circle of thinkers on this island. The council's combined knowledge is truly profound. Rarely is a question posed that is not met with opinion and yet definitive response. The simple but miraculous: "Okay, this is how we are going to handle it!" is spoken aloud.

Of course, it is too easy to have an opinion. The question is whether the stance has merit. This is where competency plays its role. Outside resources may be brought in. By-laws, procedures, and protocols are reviewed. Church history is deftly remembered, and the church's future is imagined. It means moving from idea, to action, to task completed. It means working with outside vendors, other churches and organizations, and deciding sometimes it is best to proceed on our own. This is the competency I have seen in our council.

Lastly, I lift up the profound spiritual discernment that our leadership engages. God is watching us. God is empowering us. Nobody on the council ever has to restate the obvious: We are the body of Christ in the world. Often the question before the council is "How can we be more Christlike and give more of ourselves?" Being with like-minded Christians to discover the answer is a true joy and blessing.

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Scriptures and Sermons for February

- Feb 2 Romans 15:26-33
"Refreshed in Company"
- Feb 9 Romans 16
"Scope It Out"
- Feb 16 Psalm 63:1-8
"Honor God"
- Feb 23 Psalm 139:13-18
"Thank God"
- Mar 2 Psalm 89:9-17
"Pray for Strength"



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:

Hey Keiki and Parents! Guess what? The next **Psaghetti Night** is **Wednesday, February 12th, 5:30pm**
Kauai Association Spring Youth Retreat at Waineke

March 18-21 at Waineke Cabins in Kokee. See Pastors Olaf or Jared to sign up!



The **Grace Scholarship** is once more being offered this year to a college-bound student. The application is available on the church website on the "links" tab on the navbar. The deadline is March 31st.

Mahalo:

Thank you to Jared for not just putting up the Christmas lights, but also for taking them down again! Thanks to Rich Teter for the really tall orchard ladder, too

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Magarete Kagawa

Deacon: Kevin Christian

February Deacons: Mary Hayes, Jared Morsey

Church Council Meeting: February 9, 2025, via hybrid zoom



Danny Smith, Rest in Peace; Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama, back pain; 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.

Future Dates to remember:

- * –One Great Hour of Sharing offering for world missions on March 30th.
- * –Pastor Olaf will preach his 1,000th sermon at Waimea on April 6th—God willing.
- * Statewide Aha Pae’Aina at Kapaa June 12-14th. Our church will participate in the "Taste of Kauai" Friday evening.

Hauoli la Hanau!

Pepeleua!i

1 st	Helen Masaki
9 th	Grant Kagawa
10 th	Lyle Ceballos
11 th	Kiana Okino
22 nd	Melissa Campbell
22 nd	Beth Hanashiro
24 th	Bergen Ceballos
26 th	Glen Mollander
27 th	Glenn Kagawa



News from da Pews

- * –Welcome to Sandy, Col. Vince’s significant other!
- * –Welcome to Helen H-P’s childhood friend Nalini from Malaysia via Australia!
- * –Our sister in Christ Elaine Ganeko fell and broke her hip, but she is now recovering at the Kauai Care Center with a new hip. Blessings on her healing.
- * –The new president of the Waimea High School Bible Club is now Amy as Isaiah had to resigned due to his modified schedule. Blessings on Amy’s leadership.
- * –Yes, the fishpond is being slowly filled in and will become a memory garden for the spreading of ashes.
- * –Blessings on baby K. for rolling over on his own! Soon to be crawling!
- * –Great job everybody for learning the Lord’s Prayer in Hawaiian for worship!

Book Club

February 16 at 3:00 pm HST book club will meet on Zoom as Debbie Santmeyer is hosting from New Mexico. Her selection is *The Long Winter* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Set during the winter of 1880-81, the novel chronicles how the Ingalls family and the small settlement that they lived in survived a winter that lasted for seven months. All are welcome to join in the discussion

Congregational Meeting

Waimea United Church of Christ held its annual congregational meeting on February 2, 2025. The minutes, reports and the budget were approved. These items are contained in the annual report that is posted at: waimeachurch.org (Click on LINKS)

The executive positions continue for another year: Kay Lim as Moderator, Margarete Kagawa as Treasurer, Jackie Matsumura as Recording Secretary, Marlene Matutino as Assistant Treasurer, Sue Carlson as Stewardship Chair. Diane Foulks and Susie Somers continue as at-large Finance Committee members and David Somers and Rick Foulks continue as Building and Grounds members. Phoebe Liu-Eng continues as Missions Chair. Helen Hoeckmann-Percival continues as Music & Worship and Kathy Uyeda is joined by Shelly Pascua as Fellowship Chair. David Somers re-ups for another three-year service as a Deacon and Jackie Matsumura, Marsha Kiest have volunteered for the class of 2028. Helen Hoeckmann-Percival is filling a vacancy in class of 2026 and Marlene Matutino is filling a vacancy in class of 2027. We still have several vacancies on the church council—please prayerfully consider volunteering for a vacant position: Cemetery, Vice-Moderator, Personnel, and Christian Education.

After the meeting we enjoyed an overflowing bounty of potluck dishes and a fun Jeopardy game created by Pastor Olaf.



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Some of you may envision that church leadership is frustrating and thankless, and in some churches that may be true. But by the grace of God, the opposite is operative at our beloved church council. We have come to enjoy each other's company and the challenges of ministry leadership in this present age. As the Apostle Paul likes to say again and again in his letters "I thank God for you!"

Okay, maybe you only get a box of chocolate covered macadamia nuts once a year at the Annual Meeting, but the council really is very precious to me!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

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

**Waimaea United Church of
Christ
P.O. Box 457
Waimaea, HI 96796**