

VOLUME XXX
NUMBER 1
January 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

www.waimeachurch.org

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,

How does one become a legacy? All who knew Dr. Fukino would agree that he was a legacy as the regular Emergency Room doctor at KVMH hospital for so many years. Even outside of the official hospital setting, when we had medical questions we could go to him and confidently repeat his advice, "Well, Dr. Fukino says I should. . . ."

When I found myself in need of emergency care, he was there to attend me. A countless number of times I have been in the ER offering prayers to others when Dr. Fukino has walked in and bowed his head with us.

At those times when the hospital was in trouble financially, and even in threat of closure, it was his efforts that rallied the community together to save the hospital. He even got me to carry a "Save KVMH" sign at a demonstration at Hofgaard Park downtown once. I got my picture in the newspaper and everything.

Everything he did for us, he really did for God. God called him to heal others and to relieve their pain. God gave him the gifts he needed to do this. Even when he was diagnosed as terminally ill, he turned his palliative care into a time in which he could share his faith with others and help them to accept the grace of Jesus in difficult times.

In a way, Dr. Fukino was not just making his own legacy, but rather continuing the legacy of the doctors who went before him on this island. We all recall the legacy of Dr. Smith who came to the island as a missionary and was the first doctor to serve the people of Kauai. It is interesting to note that the present Fukino's homestead in Waimea is indeed the former home of Dr. Brennecke who has become a legacy in his own right. There is even a beach in Poipu named after him. I wonder if we will see a "Fukino" beach one day?

In regards to legacy, I once took a course on leadership that started with the question "What do you want on your tombstone?" That used to be a slogan for the Tombstone pizza company. Yet, it also raises a sincere thought about how we should be remembered in this life. Do we even get a tombstone at all? Maybe not. In which case, how we are remembered in heart and mind is all the more dire.

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Scriptures and Sermons for January 2023

- Jan. 1 Luke 14:15-24
"Don't Turn Down God's Invite"
- Jan. 8 Luke 14:25-35
"Cost of Discipleship"
- Jan. 15 Luke 15:1-10
"God Leaves the 99"
- Jan. 22 Luke 15:11-32
"The Prodigal"
- Jan. 29 Luke 16:1-13
"Management"
- Feb. 5 Luke 16:14-18
"The New Stop Light"



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:

"Jesus in the Hood" car ministry will be on the third Sunday in January, **January 15th.**

Annual Meeting January 29th after worship.

Giving Statements will be mailed out this month. If you do not get one or believe it to be mistaken, please let the church office know.

Mahalo:

Special thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Eve Program: Ukuleles: Helen H-P, Russell, Berenice, Glenn, Margarete, Robert, Jake, Marlene, & Kathy. Hula: Skyler & Shelbi. Keyboard: Jackie W. & Lee. Guitarist: David H. Audio-Visual: Kim & Sunday School kids. Christened: Baby Abigail. Three kings in costume: Jake, Skye, Joanne. Reader: Helen H-P. Bible passages: Vicky, Rob, David H, Jackie W., John. Fire suppression: Mike (sat in the back with the fire extinguisher and made sure the fans were off for the lighting of the candles). Rob & Sue for evangelism mailings. Aloha & games: Olaf.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Berenice Wagner

Deacon: David Somers

January Deacons: Jared Morsey, Jill Whitehill, Jake Matutino

Church Council Meeting: January 8 at 11:30 am 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.

Dear Pastor Olaf, Russell Wagner and the Parishioners of the Waimea United Church of Christ,

On behalf of the executive leadership team, department leaders, employees and providers of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, Kauai Region -- Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital, I want to thank all of you for taking time from your busy schedules to sponsor an employee coffee hour for us.

The various hot and cold beverages courtesy of Russel Wager as well as a gift box of tasty treats for each member of the KVMH team were refreshing and welcomed with aloha by all.

We are so grateful and blessed!

Sincerely, Lance K Segawa, Regional CEO

Hauoli la Hanau!

January 4 Janice Oyama
January 4 Kathy Uyeda
January 6 Skylor Kagawa
January 8 Happy Snyder
January 9 Clint Snyder
January 12 Jonathan Galiza
January 15 Janet Kawamura
January 26 Emily Evans
January 26 Ruby Doi
January 29 Barbara Burtch



Cemetery News

"When is the best time to plant a tree? Twenty years ago. The next best time? Today." This was from one of our reads at book club, and advice I have tried to follow. The cemetery has seen several new trees over the past few years, mostly along the back wall. The rainbow shower, tecoma and velvet seed, and African wisteria trees have been planted and are doing well. There were attempts at some native Hawaiian trees that unfortunately did not survive. In addition, the jacaranda, milo and naio trees are also thriving in other areas of the cemetery grounds. These trees will hopefully provide much needed shade, beauty, and life to the area for years to come.

In tribute to these special forms of life, I recall a poem that has been meaningful to me since I was young:

Trees

by Joyce Kilmer (1886-1918)

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

----Submitted by Teri Sakai

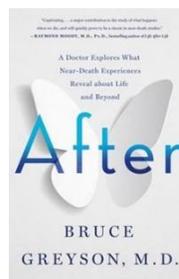


News from the Pews

- ❖ Prayers of healing for Owen and Marilyn who both came down with Covid recently.
- ❖ In the Honolulu Marathon last month, Youth Missionary Jared placed somewhere around 3,000th out of 27,000! Good job!
- ❖ On the last day of school before the winter break the youth at the after-school program were just so smiley and giddy! You all should have seen how happy they were.
- ❖ Thanks to the Mabel Wilcox Trust Foundation for two grants! One to the Waineke Cabins for the septic repair, and another to YWAM for help with the Ed Center.
- ❖ Blessings on Rob & Sue Carlson for preparing the mailing of a couple of thousand postcards that went out to families in Waimea and Kekaha for the Christmas Eve worship service.
- ❖ Russell and Berenice's new house in Hanapepe Heights was blessed last month. Now we can all feel safe dropping in any time night or day.
- ❖ Thank you Margaret for making all those cute teacup planters that were shared at the Christmas Cookie exchange.
- ❖ Blessings on Sammy and Melissa spending Christmas in Florida this year!
- ❖ Little Abigail Anh Christian was christened on Christmas Eve by candlelight.

Book Club

On January 22, Cindy Horton will host the discussion of *After* by Bruce Grayson, MD. Grayson reveals his journey about rethinking the nature of death, life and the continuity of consciousness. His first experience was when he was a young doctor, fresh out of medical



school. A young woman who had tried to commit suicide reveals to him details about a meeting with her roommate in another room while she was unresponsive. This begins his journey into a formal study of near death experiences.

February's book will be *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn hosted by Debbie Santmyer.

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Dr. Fukino was a man who exemplified Christ's healing ministry. He was a true disciple and follower of Christ. So, we remember his legacy among us as we consider our own callings in Word and Deed before God. We know when we die that we live in heaven with our Lord, but we also continue to live in the hearts and minds of those who are left behind.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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P.O. Box 457
Waimae, HI 96796**