

**VOLUME XXXI**  
**NUMBER 1**  
**January 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

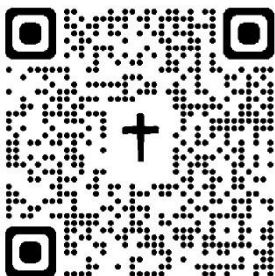
(808) 338-9962

[www.waimeachurch.org](http://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 Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Alongside the road on the way to Hanapepe is a favorite local surf spot known as "Pakalas." The cars line up on both sides of the highway there, and the State has reduced the speed limit for the safety of the surfers crossing. A well-worn trail meanders through the tall *haole koa* jungle down to the waves.

Fifty years ago, the area had a fence for grazing cattle. Surfers would have to jump the fence with their surfboards, hoping that the bull was not nearby watching. I heard the story of a chap named 'Jime (the Japanese name "Hajime" turned into "Jimmy") who decided to ditch work at the Waimea Dairy one early morning because the ocean was pushing perfect barrels. All of his buddies were off work that day it seemed as well.

Unfortunately, the bull was resting nearby, blocking the way. 'Jime was undeterred. Working at the dairy, he felt he had good cow-sense. He could actually hear how perfect the ocean waves were. He had to get across. He lifted his board over the fence while watching the bull out of the corner of his eye. No reaction from the beast. He carefully mounted one of the fence posts, avoiding the barbed wire, and lowered himself down alongside his surfboard. His bruddahs all kept perfectly still as the bull began to rustle. A long snort was heard. 'Jime picked up his board and placed it on his head and ever so slowly began to move across the grass.

Suddenly the bull was up on all fours. 'Jime began to walk a little faster towards the shore. The bull began to charge. 'Jime dropped his board and ran as fast as he could across to the other fence line. Meanwhile his crew on the other side had found a plank and was hitting it along the fence posts to distract the bull. Thank you, Jesus, 'Jime was safely across, but his board lay in the middle of the field.

The others decided to take the longer walk around the fenced cattle and were finally able to enjoy the most perfect barrels at Pakalas that anyone could remember. Indeed, it was the most perfect surfing all of them would remember ever. 'Jime's surfboard was recovered some days later by a paniolo. It had not even been trampled, but by this time the ocean was choppy and brown. Still, 'Jime was thankful that he was alive to tell the story and that his surfboard was intact.

*Continued on back page*



## Scriptures and Sermons for January 2024

- Jan. 7th Genesis 1:1-5 & John 1:1-5  
"Creation"
- Jan. 14th Matthew 1:1-2 & Genesis 22:1-8  
"Sacrifice"
- Jan. 21st Genesis 35:1-21 & John 1:42  
"Naming"
- Jan. 28th Genesis 14:18-20 & Hebrews 6:20  
"Priests"
- Feb. 4th Exodus 20:1-17 & Matthew 5:17-20  
"Law"

After the interest shown in the Old Testament stemming from our sermon series on the Book of Esther, many questions arose about the difference between the Hebrew part of the Bible compared with the Greek, *i.e.*, pre-Jesus and post-Jesus. In the new year, we will have a series that highlights old and new, starting with the Creation stories in Genesis and John. Beware when you sign up to read the Bible in worship that we will have two readings!



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 after worship on **January 14th**.

The **Annual Meeting** of the Church will be on **January 28th** after worship. Potluck meal, please.



## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Kahuany Tufaile

**Deacon:** David Somers

**January Deacons:** Jared Morsey, Vicky Mercado

**Church Council Meeting:** January 7, 2024, via hybrid zoom and in-person at 11:30 am



Irwin Oyama for heart and surgeries; Melissa B.

healing; Margaret's brother, cancer; 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); Berenice's mother Hortencia (stroke); 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.

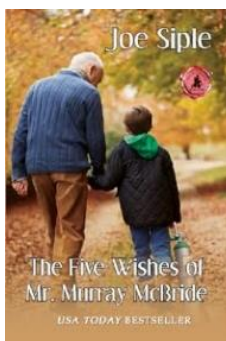
### Help Wanted—a few good men or women

We have positions to fill for our 2024 council and committees. Please kindly consider participating in a church leadership position. The positions are as follows: Two-year terms: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer. One-year terms: Music & Worship, Fellowship, Stewardship, Cemetery, Christian Education, Personnel, Missions, Buildings and Grounds. Three-year terms: Deacons (we vote for three who will join the six who will continue.) We also have two at-large positions for the Finance Committee. Please see Kay Christian if you are interested in serving.

## WE THANK GOD FOR YOU!

- ♥ Janice and Irwin for the beautiful poinsettias for the altar at Christmas and for the Deacons caring for them between Sundays.
- ♥ Margaret and Glenn for the tall new Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- ♥ Hano and pastor for stringing up the very high lights on the Norfolk pine at the church entrance. During the Light Parade families were taking pictures in front of it!
- ♥ Margaret and Sue C. for mailing out a thousand Christmas cards from the church.
- ♥ Pastor Olaf for making peanut butter and jelly for fellowship. –Kim for making shadow puppets for the Christmas Eve celebration.
- ♥ Youth Missionary Jared for preaching on New Year's Eve!
- ♥ Margaret and Sue for sending out reminder letters to help support the ministry.
- ♥ Mahalo to the Sunday school keiki for hosting the Christmas program on December 17th, for their parents who helped so much, and for the ukulele band that "Rudolphed" so nicely
- ♥ "Thank you to Emily, Lewis, Evangeline, Jen, and Megan for being behind the screen operating the shadow puppets on Christmas Eve. Great job! We all laughed when the puppets jumped for joy at the birth of Christ!"

*The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride* by Joe Siple is January's book club selection.



Helen Hoeckmann-Percival will host on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm. With all his family and friends gone, one-hundred-year-old Murray McBride is looking for a reason to live. He finds it in Jason Cashman, a ten-year-old boy with a terminal heart defect and a list of five things

he wants to do before he dies.

Together, they race against the limited time each has left, ticking off wishes one by one. Along the way, Murray remembers what it's like to be young, and Jason fights for the opportunity to grow old.

## Hau'oli la Hanau!

January 4	Janice Oyama
January 4	Kathy Uyeda
January 5	Rochelle Kawahalau
January 6	Skylar Kagawa
January 7	Kairren Park
January 8	Happy Snyder
January 9	Clint Snyder
January 12	Jonathan Galiza
January 15	Janet Kawamura
January 15	Elyse Dufour-Collins
January 17	Crystal Whitehill Park
January 26	Emily Evans
January 26	Ruby Doi
January 29	Barbara Burtch



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- \* Pastor Olaf pulled the church van up to a gas station pump. The man who was tanking up on the next aisle over looked at the church van's sign and read aloud "Waimea United Church." Addressing pastor Olaf, he continued, "Well, at least something in this country is united!"
- \* Blessings to all who have been sharing their garden delights on Sunday morning with the rest of the congregation! "Bok choy to the World!"—Correction from last month: Kay, Kev, and family will be staying on here on Kauai as in the end of some very fervent prayer God granted Kev the position after all! Hana hou!
- \* Pastor Olaf has been called to serve on Jury Duty once again. The notice comes now every three months. This time is January 22nd.
- \* Bill and June Woodall's granddaughter Riley was baptized in the ocean by Pastor Olaf on December 30th. Blessings on the Spirit coming down!

*Happy New Year*

*Continued from front page*

As we look ahead into 2024, let us pray that we avoid the bull, make righteous decisions, and keep safe. May the ocean give us perfect barrels to ride and good friends to make our days memorable.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

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



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Christ  
P.O. Box 457  
Waimaea, HI 96796**