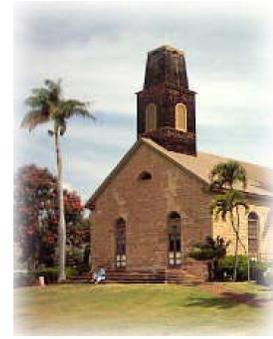


THE CONNECTION

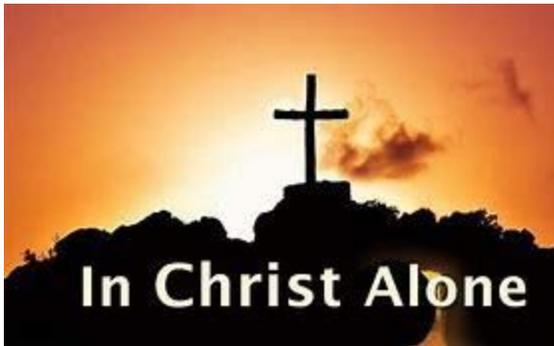
A Publication of the Waimea United Church of Christ

July, 2019



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Christ and Christ alone who lives in me. . .” were the words that Paul the Apostle spoke to the early church (Galatians 2:20). I have found these words again in a book I picked up to read by the missionary to India Stanley Jones entitled *Christ of the Indian*



Road. Likewise, these words were repeated a few Sundays ago by Ted Snyder in worship before he shared a solo with the congregation: “There is only one reason that we are here today, that is Jesus, only Jesus. . . .” Wow, triple testimony to the core ideal of our faith!

We do become caught up in the tangled nets of other people’s personal and political agendas. When that happens, we need to humbly recall this ideal. My values are placed firmly on a core belief in Jesus Christ.

Let me apply this value in an example: James 4:6 states “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” We will be hearing this scripture again soon enough in our summer sermon series on the *Book of James*. When I hear that the month of June is “Gay Pride” month, and that some non-gays want to host a counter-movement called “Straight Pride,” my singular Christian response is simply that pride is a sin. The rest is pure nonsense, like saying I am proud I have two nostrils when I am quite sure that God made me that way. I just continue to breathe humbly.

Keeping centered on Christ, and keeping you up to date, I assume that many of you are still waiting to hear the outcome of the vote for the new conference minister that I mentioned last month in this column. He was confirmed by a 74/26% vote at the Aha Pae Aina. I was heartened that a strong opposition was raised to his candidacy by our church and so many others. The fact is borne out now that the “pastor to the pastors” in the United Church of Christ Hawaii Conference uses profane language and displays pornography on-line unrepentantly.

He argued in his defense that this was a “post-liberal theological form of speech.” He noted that his profanity was designed to catch the interest of the oppressed and draw them into conversation. His follow-up point was that since we were not necessarily part of that oppressed group, we would not understand the use of profanity, and therefore should never have read his on-line writings at all. *[Continued on next page]*

To a certain extent, I understand his logic. Where I grew up, the best burrito restaurant was a hole-in-the-wall establishment with a sign above the door “El Burrito Mojado.” *Mojado* is a derogatory term in Spanish for an illegal immigrant. I would never call any latino a *mojado*. Yet, that term above the door caught the local interest to try their food. It worked as a marketing tool. (I apologize if you are offended by the term.)

In light of the era in which we live, and from my core value of Christ and Christ alone, I view the use of profane words and images as merely an egotistical ruse to get “clicks” on a weblog. The marketing ploy for burritos translates into a hurtful theology.

Where does our church go from here now with the new conference minister? Christ and Christ alone! We stay true to our Christian call. Truly we have so much ministry to do here on the Westside that this all seems like a devilish distraction.

Yet, we do have some decisions to make. We need to pray about this and seek a way forward. To this end, I would like to call some prayer sessions with our sister churches who are also wondering about the path forward, and whether it means departing from the United Church of Christ altogether. Also, I am going to recommend that we decline to host the 2020 Aha Pae Aina that we have already been preparing in honor of 200 years of ministry here in Waimea. My reasoning is simple: it is like planning for your fiftieth wedding anniversary when you know you may be heading for a divorce. It is utterly disingenuous, especially if we would not allow the new conference minister into our pulpit – as I know I could not. We need to politely allow the conference time to make other arrangements for next year’s Aha.

We still should celebrate the coming of the Word of God to Kauai 200 years ago and still invite our sisters and brothers of the faith to come to celebrate with us. This would be the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd, 2020, the actual anniversary date that the missionaries first landed here. We should invite ALL the churches of every denomination here on the island to be part of the celebration. If we truly believe in Christ and Christ alone, then we must see that the missionaries coming to these shores with Christ’s message is a celebration for all believers and not just the UCC!

To this end I have started reaching out to the non-UCC churches, some of which have surprised me by saying that they had already started thinking about the bicentennial themselves. I have contacted Kauai Island Ministries and their board seems excited about the celebration. They recognize that the Christian missionaries who came did so to bring Christ and Christ alone, not any one particular religious denomination.

Meanwhile, I invite you to pray about this situation and how you see the future of your church.

Yours in Christ Alone, Pastor Olaf

Scriptures and Sermons for July, 2019

July 7 th	James 4:1-10	“Friendship With the World”
July 14 th	James 4:11-17	“Judging Others and Ourselves”
July 21 st	James 5:1-6	“Richly”
July 28 th	James 5:7-12	“Yes, And No”
August 4 th	James 5:13-20	“Prayer of Faith”

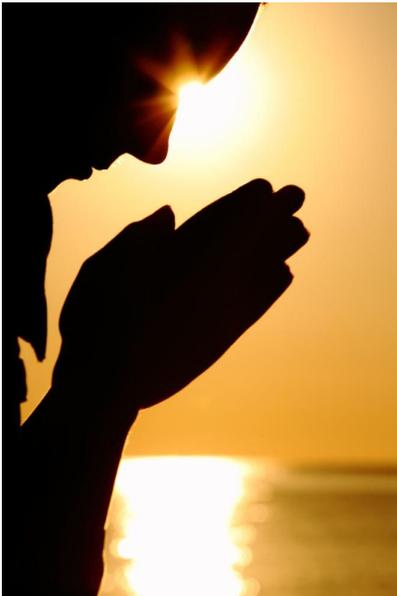
Church Picnic



Sunday, August 18th will be a special picnic-style worship at Salt Pond Beach Park in the main Pavilion. Come and join in the excitement of outdoor worship with camp-style games. Food will be shared all around, so bring something to share. A giant community salad will be made. Soooo, please bring an offering of your favorite salad fixing. Usual worship time is 10am. Memory verse prizes will be awarded, so remember your favorite scripture to recite!

Prayer meeting set for Sunday, July 14th, at 5pm

Please join for a time of prayer in true congregational fashion with our brothers and sisters of other churches of the United Church of Christ searching for God's Word and a path forward into the future of Christ's mission here on Kauai. Here is our mission statement: *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.*



Prayers of the Church

Please continue to keep in your prayers: Those whose lives are affected by cancer, Mark Kennett, Leinani Springer, Gailen Kaohi, Patty's brother Duane, Helen Masaki, Grace's friend Maggie, Norma and Mary Watanabe; for recovery from stroke, Daisy Martin; recovery from surgery, Elsie Hegwood; for blessings in pregnancy, Kev & Kay Christian; To create new life in a child, For gaining strength, Clint & Happy Snyder; strength for our parents, Helen H-P's mother, Priscilla's mother, Beth's father struggling with Alzheimers, Janice's mother; for our national and local political leadership; safety and protection for our service men and women in the military; peace and love in our community.

Our Special Worship Angels for July

Bible Reader: Rick Foulks

Deacons: Joy, Jared, Cinthy, & Mike V.

Please sign up for Nursery Care & Flowers!

NEW OLD BOOKS
CAN BE CHECKED
OUT FROM THE
LIBRARY CART
IN THE
NARTHEX!