

VOLUME XXIX
NUMBER 7
July 2022

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.

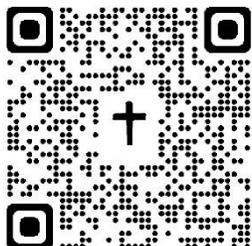
WAIMEA UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
located at the corner of
Makeke and Tsuchiya
roads, Waimea, Kauai.

*Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
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Pastor

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**Sunday Morning Worship
Service, 10 a.m.**
**Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 a.m.**



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Bible we find many examples of people being underwater. The oldest text in the Hebrew Scriptures is the Book of Jonah, and we can all recall how it was that Jonah was thrown overboard from a ship in the Mediterranean and swallowed by a big fish. He survived. At the time of Noah when the floodwaters came up, Noah's family survived with pairs of every other living creature. In the Exodus, Moses and the former Hebrew slaves crossed the Red Sea without drowning, not so for the Egyptian army that followed. Joshua repeated this feat later crossing the Jordan to the Promised Land.

The encounters with water continue in the Gospels with the disciples of Jesus being saved from the storm on Galilee. In that scene, we watch Jesus actually walking over the water. Saint Paul is shipwrecked in Malta and survives with all hands aboard by turning all lives over to God. Furthermore, Jesus himself is baptized in the waters of the Jordan by John the Baptist. This is the sacrament that we employ today to welcome new believers to Faith in Christ.

Despite all of our biblical knowledge on the subject, I have counseled many of late that have come to me saying that they feel as if they are drowning right now. For one reason or another, they are not able to keep their heads above water. Perhaps you have felt that lately, too?

Maybe we are *not* going to keep our heads above water? If you have ever surfed or have been caught in a wave breaking over you in the ocean, and you are still reading this newsletter, then you have already discovered that being underwater is perfectly survivable—as long as you hold your breath and do not panic.

For the last few years while swimming laps for exercise, I have practiced swimming at least one lap underwater while holding my breath. Learning to breathe while swimming distances is one of the first things taught in swim lessons. Learning not to breathe while swimming may seem counter-intuitive. However, since practicing in this way, I have been caught under waves in the ocean and pinned to the seabed but have not panicked and have simply waited under the sea for my chance to surface again.

The ocean is huge and powerful. Sometimes it will toss me because I am flotsam in comparison. The ocean will do to me what it will. It is not a matter of surrendering to a fight. There is no fight with the ant underfoot. The ocean is not vengeful of me in the least. Nor should I take a riptide or wave break personally! The best that I can do is simply not panic and hold on to my breath.

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Scriptures and Sermons for July 2022

July 3rd Luke 9:28-36
"The Cloud"

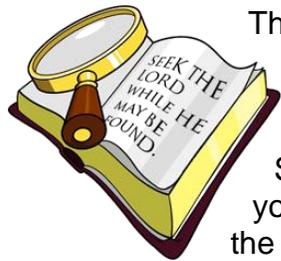
July 10th Luke 9:37-45
"My Generation" by Jared Morsey

July 17th Luke 9:46-62
"True Greatness"

July 24th Phillipians 4:4-9
"Sweet Hour of Prayer"
by Helen H-P

July 31st Luke 10:1-12
"Wolves and Lambs"

August 7th Luke 10:13-24
"Private Talk with Christ"



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.

Mahalo:

Note from Cheryl Shinoda (Mary Watanabe's daughter) "Mahalo for all your help with the passing of our mom, whom we call "Ama." We miss her so much but we know she is free and happy with the Lord. She's home. We feel lost, sad, empty, happy, etc. Sometimes, emotions flying in all directions, but we are keeping the faith in our hearts. Thank you for the prayers for Norma, Brandy and me, so that we all will be cancer free. Thank you for welcoming us to Dominoes night at the church. I miss the friends we have there. Please take care, and thank you again!"

Thank you to Kathy Uyeda, Mary Hayes, Marlene Matutino, and Jackie Matsumura for the lovely fellowship chili and cornbread meal on Father's Day.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Vicki Mercado

Deacon: Kevin Christian

July Deacons: Jared Morsey, Jacob Matutino

Church Council Meeting: July 10, 2022 at 11:30 am. Zoom Hybrid



Naoko Ogata, Rest in Peace; Susie Somers, cancer recovery; Dr. Fukino, cancer recovery; Ruth's daughter, Carol Alvesos (brain tumor); Jill Faye, cancer recovery; Mike Matutino, cancer recovery; Janice's friend Ron, 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); June Woodall eye surgery; Cindy's mother (grief); Helen's mother (heart); Priscilla's mother (heart); Gladys Okada (blindness); Kristen to fight infection; Robert Medeiros knees; Robert's Mom Dorothy breast cancer surgery.; Sue Carlson (hip replacement recovery); Rob Carlson; Beth Hanashiro (headaches); Mary Hayes (being assaulted and robbed); 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.

It is with a heavy heart that we release the Spirit of our dear sister Naoko unto the Almighty in heaven. She passed to eternity on the 18th of June, one day before her 78th wedding anniversary--that she can now celebrate in heaven with her beloved!

The Church Council has adopted a new anti-discrimination statement that can be found on the church website navbar.

www.waimeachurch.org/antidiscrim.htm

Or, click-thru "links" on the church's website.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

July 5 David Laidlaw
July 6 Sara Thompson
July 6 Winona Steed
July 17 Jo Douglass
July 23 Cindy Chronister
July 23 Mahina Graham-Laidlaw
July 24 Jacob Matutino
July 25 Joy Whitehill



News From the Pews

The light blue Dodge Caravan, which is the church's van, officially turns 20 years old this month! Happy birthday "Keri the Van." That is what Pastor calls her. What a blessing Keri continues to be!

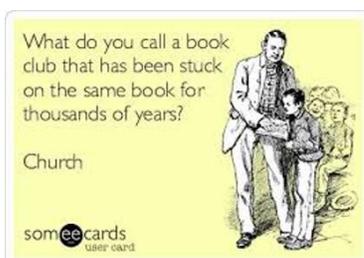
Someone has lost a Barbie Doll on the front pew of the church in the Sanctuary. The Barbie is wearing a floral one-piece bathing suit and never blinks during the pastor's sermons.

Youth with a Mission (YWAM) is planning to use the Education Center for an upcoming Discipleship Training Session to send youth overseas as missionaries. Upgrades and modifications are under way by Jared and Christian. Let us keep this ministry in our prayers in the coming months!

The bathrooms in Baird Hall are still in the process of being updated. The stall dividers have been cleaned up and repainted. Additional décor is coming.

Nancy and Norman Lewis's daughter Kay and family came by the church for a visit recently. Kay was both baptized and married in the church. The great-grandkids had fun with new t-shirts from the church, a romp in the nursery, and of course pretending to grow taller in the sanctuary.

Great to see Kevin, Kay, and Hana Christian back with us for the next six months or so. Kay will be delivering her baby at KVMH, too .



Wrap-Up of the 200th Aha Pae 'Aina of the Hawaii Conference UCC: It seems that item after item was referred back to committee—including the statewide budget and proposed amendments to the By-Laws in regards to the Foundation. Otherwise, it was great to see all the other faces on the Zoom screen and know that we are not alone but in good fellowship in our ministries.

Hanging By a Lopi Westside Quilt Exhibition

July 13-16, 2022

Aloha in Paradise Coffee Café
in Waimea

Exhibition of locally made quilts featuring local patterns and motifs. Come and enjoy this unique collection of hand-

made wall hangings. 9:00 am – 2 pm

Wednesday - Saturday



Summer is here. This is a time for the church to enjoy the many musical talents and gifts in our brothers and sisters. If you feel moved to share a song, or a reading, or a dance, please contact Helen H-P. There will always be a place for these gifts to be accepted.

Music is an integral part of worship. We sing familiar and inspirational songs, but there is room to grow. If there are any songs you would like included in worship, whether they are from the hymnal or a piece that needs to be copied as an insert, please let Helen know.

Song leaders: a clear, strong voice to lead in singing is a precious gift. Should you feel inspired to lead a song during worship, please feel welcome to do it.



Sue Carlson will host July's selection: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah on July 17, 2022 at 3:00 pm. A novel set in Texas 1934 explores the choices people had to make to survive during the Great Depression.

, Elsa Martinelli—like so many of her neighbors—must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or go west, to California, in search of a better life.

For this reason, in all matters stay calm. Do not worry, as Jesus admonishes in the Sermon on the Mount. Remember Philippians 4:6-7, which was read recently in the Sunday evening Bible Study, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

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

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