

**VOLUME XXXI**  
**NUMBER 7**  
**July 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.

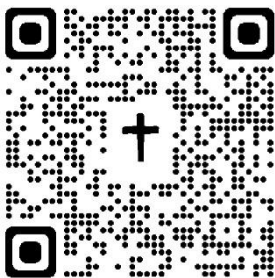
### **Waimea United Church of Christ**

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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am blessed to return to my beloved Waimea after three days in Honolulu at the state-wide church gathering of our sister churches known as the "Aha Pae Aina." We have over a hundred sibling churches throughout our islands. Representatives of eighty-seven of those churches were present this year. This was in fact the first time since the start of the Covid 19 pandemic that we gathered face-to-face in the same room. The last three years we all met via Zoom teleconferencing.

This year our congregation helped along with four other churches on other islands to sponsor a resolution to the state-wide body. This resolution addressed the ongoing fighting in Gaza and Israel, calling for a ceasefire on both sides, humanitarian aid, and further education on the part of all our churches into the historical and cultural causes of the conflict in order to seek a just resolution.

I was surprised that when the time for the vote came up at the Aha that vocal opposition to the resolution was heard. Wait. Who would not want peace? Who would not want an end to the fighting? Was I hearing this right? It suddenly became clear that rather than our sending the blessings of peace to the Levant, the bitter partisanship had crossed the other way to Oahu. My brothers and sisters in Christ had definitely taken up sides in the dispute and were now bringing the conflict into the church. O Lord, that was not on the agenda. Did we need any more conflict in the church? Certainly not.

"I call for the question," came a voice from the "pro" microphone. The vote was taken and the resolution passed overwhelmingly, but not unanimously. Some would surely leave the meeting siding against a ceasefire, but at least a ceasefire was attained in the meeting itself. It came to me that peace sometimes means accepting personal loss. Peace is not about winning or losing. Peace is about stopping the killing.

Now that the resolution is passed, our part is to continue in prayer for the killing to stop, to seek justice in good godly ways, and to educate ourselves in the causes of the hatreds that have fueled the warfare on both sides. We believe in the power of prayer, the providence of God, and ways of Christian enlightenment. So, I invite you to pray for peace when you come before the Lord in worship and seek ways of justice for that part of the world.

*Continued on back page*



## Scriptures and Sermons for July

July 7 Romans 7:1-13  
"New Spiritual Life"

July 14 Romans 7:14-25  
"I No Understand Me"

July 21 Romans 8:1-17  
"Life in the Spirit"

July 28 Romans 8:18-25  
"Patience"

Aug 4 Romans 8:26-30  
"Searching the Heart"



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:

- Thank you to all who helped with the memorial service for our brother Lee Miller. His life was truly celebrated with music and his favorite pizza at the time of fellowship. Over 300 viewed the livestream broadcast on the church website, too.
- Thanks Helen H-P for the bulletin covers for Father's Day. Everyone enjoyed coloring them in with crayons.
- Thank you to Kay L. and Helen H-P for being ready to take over the children's Sunday School in the absence of Mahea M. this last month! The theme was "cooking classes."

### Calendar Notes:

A special liturgy will be included in the Sunday, **July 7th**, Worship Service, to recognize and remember those who have passed on these last few months. There will be leaves and scripture verses to help us send our loved ones on.

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP** is planned for **August 18th** on the Smith Lanai. Please start gathering your bingo prizes.

## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Berenice Wagner

**Deacon:** David Somers

**July Deacons:** Vicky Mercado, Joy Whitehill, Jared Morsey

**Church Council Meeting:** July 14, 2024, at 11:30 via Hybrid Zoom

Recently departed for heaven: Lee Miller, Jim Ryan, Margaret's brother Ken, Tom Montanus, & Vicky's mother in ICU; Winona; Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama for heart and surgeries; 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); Russell and Berenice's daughter Selma (stomach); 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.

➤ Mahalo from Riley Carl, Grace Scholarship Recipient:  
*"Dear Waimea Church, Thank you so much for the scholarship, card and cake! I really appreciated it. The service was beautiful, and I enjoyed talking to everyone at Aloha Hour with the delicious cake! It was great to see everyone that was a part of the church since I was little. I always feel so welcomed at this church, and it has been a big part of my life. Thank you again for all of your support! Love, Riley"* (Note: Kay L. made the whipped cream strawberry cake for Riley!)

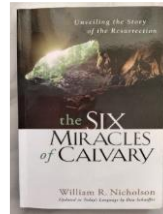
# Hauoli la Hanau! Lulū!

- 1 David Laidlaw
- 5 Melissa Bachman
- 6 Sara Thompson
- 6 Winona Steed
- 23 Cindy Chronister
- 23 Mahina Graham-Laidlaw
- 24 Jacob Matutino
- 25 Joy Whitehill



## News from the Pews

- ∞ Condolences to Vicky M. on the recent loss of her mother. She was able to fly back to the mainland to see her mother again just before her passing, thankfully.
- ∞ Condolences to Jill F. on the recent passing of her uncle Allen Faye, who passed due to complications related to Covid. Our hearts go out to the whole extended family.
- ∞ Condolences to Melissa B. and family on the passing of her father Jim Ryan. We missed you all and kept you in prayer during your travels for the memorial of your mother Kathy Ryan, too.
- ∞ Condolences once more to Helen M. and the entire Montanus Family upon the passing of our brother Tom Montanus. He passed away in Florida with his children by his side.
- ∞ During July our regular organist Diane F. will be out of the country visiting Scotland, and so we will be blessed with Jackie W. on piano during our worship times.
- ∞ Condolences to Margaret K. on the passing of her brother Ken after a long-fought battle with cancer.
- ∞ Blessings to Sammi C. who survived the Aha Pae Aina youth event on Oahu! Yes, she was not quite bored to death!
- ∞ Jared and Mahea were away back on the mainland visiting family this last month and had to extend their stay due to an untimely memorial service for a friend of the family.
- ∞ Pastor Olaf was the featured speaker at the “Youth for Christ Rally” in June with over two hundred youth attending. This was sponsored by our Marshallese sister church. He spoke for three days about the person Obed-Edom in the Old Testament! And, the youth survived!



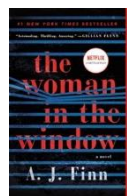
## **The Six Miracles of Calvary**

By William Nicholson  
(Book Review by Patricia Christian)

The *Six Miracles of Calvary* is the unveiling of the story of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The super-natural events are happening precisely at the time Jesus died on the cross at Calvary (Matthew 27:44,45). The mid-day darkness heralded the signs of the death of Jesus Christ. The second miracle was the tearing of the curtain of the Temple. The third miracle was the earthquake and the splitting of the rocks. The fourth miracle is the opening of the graves. The fifth miracle was the condition of the empty tomb with the undisturbed grave cloth of Christ. The sixth miracle was the resurrection of many saints who had died and now arisen with our Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:9).

The author of the book describes the events as both factual and symbolic, drawing references from the Old and New Testaments, spiritual and secular sources, making connections between narratives throughout the Bible. The author concludes that all these six miracles shows Jesus’ eternal act of redemption for sinful Mankind. Now, his death allows us to be legally free from the penalty of sin, showing that Jesus’ sacrificial payment was legally accepted and now we can enter into the presence of God.

*A quick read of only 127 pages, available in the Church library. Published in 2001 and updated in Today’s Language by Dan Schaeffer.*



Cinthy Kagawa will host July’s book club meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Her selection is *The Woman in the Window* by A. J. Finn. An absorbing thriller, it is described as a “. . . smart, sophisticated novel of psychological suspense that recalls the best of Hitchcock. Anna Fox lives alone—a recluse in her New York City home, unable to venture outside. She spends her day drinking wine (maybe too much), watching old movies, recalling happier times . . . and spying on her neighbors.

What is real? What is imagined? Who is in danger? Who is in control? In this diabolically gripping thriller, no one—and nothing—is what it seems.

Helen Hoeckmann-Percival will host August’s selection: *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory* by Tim Alberta.

*Continued from front page*

I have to say that it has been a long time since I have come home from an Aha Pae Aina feeling enthused and enlightened. Praise Jesus this was a blessed time with the larger church! The featured worship leader was the new President of the United Church of Christ (national) Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, who preached so wonderfully on Isaiah 43, making all things new again.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

**Lihue Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to help pack food bags. 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 9-11am.**

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

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Christ  
P.O. Box 457  
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