

VOLUME XXVII
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June 2020

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,

Recently I have been asked how to determine what is real and what is fake in the media. This was in the context of the broader question: "Where do you get your news from?" I feel that it is important for Christians to avoid breaking the Ninth Commandment ("Do not bear false witness.") and always to "Speak the Truth in love." (Ephesian 4:15) How incredibly difficult this has become in our time.

Technology has made "truth" that much harder to verify. Not only do we have pretend news sources, but now we also must deal with what has been called "the deep fake." Video editing programs now make it possible to have seemingly real people say and do whatever you want them to do in a video. A good example of this is how it was that Carrie Fisher (who passed away four years ago) was amazingly brought back to life as Princess Leia through video editing to complete the last Star Wars movie that was just recently released. So now we literally "see things with our own eyes" that we know for certain cannot be true.

In biblical times, Jesus himself was deep-faked by a fellow who went around pretending to be Him. The faker called himself "Bar-Jesus" (though his real name according to Roman historian Josephus was "Simon Magus") Paul and Barnabas confronted him in Cyprus (Acts 13:6) and Paul caused him to become blind for his sin. In those days it was easy to pretend to be another person.

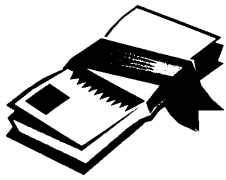
Besides the "deep fake," we must also contend today with the "double-fake." That too is really nothing new. The one who reports a true news story is lambasted, sources derided, witnesses mocked until truth is obscured. In the worst-case scenario, bearers of the truth are attacked and killed. This is the very story of the Crucifixion of Jesus. It is the hallmark of any oppressive regime; Doctors in Russia today that report too many Covid cases are put in prison for doing so. The doctor in China who first reported Covid was imprisoned for doing so and later died from the disease.

Truth is very stubborn. "Truth will out," as Shakespeare proclaims. It might take three days in the tomb, but Truth will always find a way to live. So, when we hear things such as "Covid is a hoax," all we have to do is know that time will tell and truth will out. Global warming? Wait until you are ankle-deep in seawater!

You want to know what is really true? We do have an avenue to assess veracity in what is portrayed to us. This model comes from the Gospel itself. The bearers of truth usually do not fair so well. Which of the Apostles were not martyred? Only John on Patmos died a regular death, but he self-isolated! Which prophets of the Bible did not suffer for speaking God's truth? Truth does not have a cable television outlet, political interests, or corporate financial backing.

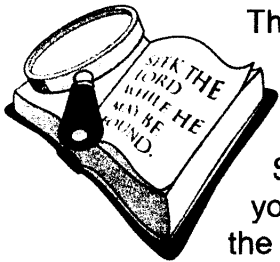
Besides "deep fake" and "double fake," the most dangerous is the "daemonic fake." Hitler used this by first getting a nation to believe that "Germans are the Master Race." From this daemonic fake, he convinced good people that Jews had to be destroyed and the rest of the world conquered. In order to belong (a basic human need), one must believe in what is blatantly wrong. One lie compounds the next until an alternate reality reigns.

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June Scriptures and Sermons

- June 7th Mark 7:24-37
 "Opening Kauai"
 June 14th Mark 8:1-21
 "Signs of Life"
 June 21st Mark 8:22-38
 "Second Healings"
 June 28th Mark 9:1-13
 "Robed in the Light of God"
 July 5th Mark 9:14-29
 "Help My Unbelief"



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.

Social distancing rules will apply. Please bring your own Bible and a face mask.

Cemetery News

The Columbarium plans are moving forward. It has been decided that there will be 128 niches; two walls flanking the current columbarium with 32 niches on each side of the walls. Teri Sakai, Cemetery chairperson, has been working with a company that sells niches and is in the process of completing the design specifications so that permitting can take place.

Worship on the Lanai

As of May 24, we have been able to get together and worship. We will use our outdoor Lanai space as it allows for more distancing. The hymns and Bible readings will be available on your smart phone. Social distancing rules and face masks are required. Zoom meetings may be scheduled and the services will also be live streamed on our facebook account.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: **Rick Foulks**

Deacon: **Mike Vidinha**

June Deacons: **Joy Whitehill, Shelly Pascua, David Somers, James Beardmore**

Church Council Meeting: **June 14, 2020 @ 11:00 (after church service)**



Linda Baldwin in grief for her father, Ruth Cassel for healing from heart surgery, Jared's father, stroke recovery, Selden Burtch, Suzie in mourning for loss of her mother, Elsie Hegwood, Clint & Happy Snyder, Mahea and Jared to have a child, Leinani Springer (cancer free), Gailen Kaohi (cancer), Lauren's parents (health), Duane (cancer), Maggie (cancer free), Norma & Mary Watanabe (cancer), Helen's mother, Stacy, cancer, Danny Smith, recovery from accident, Janice's mother—health, Priscilla's mother (heart), Michael Nizo—health, Veronica Botelho—health, Our local, state, and national leaders, our men and women in the military fighting terrorism, and a speedy end to wars everywhere.

Recently, a garden "shed" was moved from its place near the road to an area of the garden that will become the Biblical Garden with the help of the Marshallese congregation.



Hau'oli la Hanau!

June 11 Joanne Parongao
June 15 Naoko Ho
June 19 June Woodall
June 25 Susie Somers
June 28 Lois Somers
June 30 Graceleanor Baird



Fannie Flagg's *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* was May's selection. Sookie Poole has been taught by the formidable Lenore

Simmons Krackenberry that a southern woman must behave and live in a prescribed way. Sookie has always strived to conform (even it was against her nature to do so) to her mother's demands but she suddenly and accidentally discovers a whole new identity for herself. The novel is filled with humor and a dose of history as the reader discovers the role of the Women's Air Service Pilot program during World War II.

The next book selection is *Dark Matters* by Blake Crouch. This novel is a journey through quantum mechanics and a discovery about how life's choices lead to our present. We all wonder about how much our choices have created our present.

COVID – 19 scams to be aware of – •

Testing scams: Scammers selling fake at-home test kits or going door-to-door performing fake tests for money.

Treatment scams: Scammers offering to sell fake cures, vaccines, and advice on unproven treatments for COVID-19.

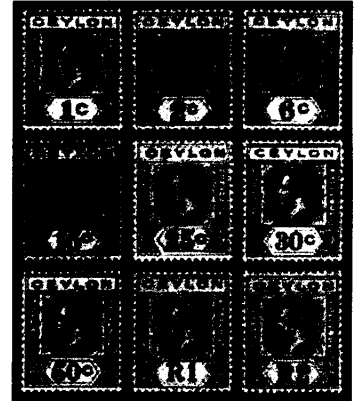
Supply scams: Scammers are creating fake shops, websites, social media accounts, and email addresses claiming to sell medical supplies currently in high demand, such as surgical masks. When consumers attempt to purchase supplies through these channels, fraudsters pocket the money and never provide the promised supplies. Deal with a reputable company. Remember, if it sounds

Stamps for Bethel

We still collect stamps that are sent to Bethel, Germany. This is a Christian deaconry that aids a variety of people who have challenges. It is an open community of disabled and elderly as well as students, nurses, clinics, workshops, schools, etc. One such area is a stamp collecting workshop where stamps from all over the world are sorted and sold to stamp collectors.

What is collected—unused and used stamps that are not torn. Please do not try to remove the stamp from the envelope, but merely tear the corner that the stamp is on being careful to not disturb the stamp and leaving at least a one centimeter margin around the stamp. Preprinted envelopes and postcards are also accepted as well as special stamps.

Drop off your stamps on the back table and when we have enough, they will be mailed to the Bethel community.



too good to be true, it probably is; check it out first.

Charity scams: Scammers are soliciting donations for individuals, groups, and areas affected by COVID-19. Only use official organizations.

Phishing scams: Scammers posing as national and global health authorities, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are sending phishing emails designed to trick recipients into downloading malware or providing personal identifying and financial information.

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In the Bible, I believe that when Jesus cast out demons what he was doing is throwing out the lies. One man in Gerasa was cleansed of a "legion of lies" for instance (Mark 5). Recently on Kauai we have seen four suicides of young men in one week. All suicides are based on the same daemonic fake: "My life is not worth living."

The Godly truth is that all life is precious. We are created in God's very image—page one of the Bible. The homeless person is precious. The unborn child is precious. The elderly Covid patient is precious. Republicans, Democrats and independents are precious. All are equally eligible for the blessings of grace through Christ.

Please be wary of these three kinds of fake-outs in your lives. Help others to see the Truth. Jesus said he is the Truth (John 14:6). Let us never be faked-out again.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL
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Waiimea United Church of
Christ
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