

VOLUME XXX
NUMBER 6
June 2023

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.

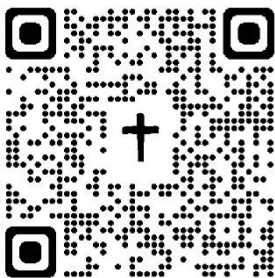
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

Located at the corner of
Makeke and Tsuchiya
Roads, Waimea, Kaua'i.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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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,

When I was still just a little tike, I recall one of the first books that I read was "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain. On the very cover of the book was a drawing of a young boy painting a fence looking to another young boy who is wondering why Tom is so happy working painting that fence.

"What do you call work?" Tom convinces his buddy Ben that he is having great artistic *fun* whitewashing that fence.

"That put the thing in a new light. Ben stopped nibbling his apple. Tom swept his brush daintily back and forth--stepped back to note the effect--added a touch here and there--criticized the effect again--Ben watching every move and getting more and more interested. Presently he said 'Say, Tom, let me whitewash a little.'" Soon a line of boys are paying Tom to have a go at the fence painting.

"He had had a nice, good, idle time all the while--plenty of company--and the fence had three coats of whitewash on it! If he hadn't run out of whitewash he would have bankrupted every boy in the village."

Now, I considered this a fine yarn from old Twain, yet in my mind I maintained that it could not ever actually happen that someone would redefine work as play in painting a fence--until one day this last month. Jared and I were rejuvenating the railing in front of the Ed Center. We cut out a rusty piece of railing and replaced the metal. We reset one end in fresh patching cement. Then, it was time to prime and repaint the railing to arrest the rust.

As I was daintily brushing on the rust-oleum, a couple of the team members from Youth With a Mission visiting from Florida, asked if they could also paint the railing. Soon enough I was handing over the brush. The work had become play as others came to cheer on in good company. I was living the Tom Sawyer moment! They even repainted over the part I had already done!

Work and service to others can be fun, and do not let anyone tell you otherwise. I wish to compare church to whitewashing a fence. If you see other people are having fun doing it, then get in line and take your turn! Reading the Bible is fun. Visiting others is fun. Serving communion is fun. Shoot, I would even pay good money to have my turn at it! Even painting a railing is fun with the right company.

With great joy in our hearts we approach the work we have in this world (Eccl 3:13).

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf



Scriptures and Sermons for June

June 4th Luke 20:20-26
"The Trap"

June 11th Luke 20:27-47
"Angels and Children"

June 18th Luke 21:1-19
"Put in All"

June 25th Luke 21:20-37
"These Are the Days"

July 2nd Luke 22:1-13
"Passover Me"



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:

The Hawaii Conference Aha Pae Aina will be June 17th via Zoom teleconference. The theme this year is "Be not conformed to this world." If you would like to log in and watch, let pastor know.

Waikeke Family Camp in June! Yes, Waikeke is open again! The septic plumbing has all been certified by the State and is ready for use. So, we are going to try to have a family camp up there for two nights. The tentative dates are the 28th and 29th of June at this point, but that may change still as it is in the works. If you are interested in a little camping at the end of June, let Pastor Olaf or Youth Pastor Jared know.

Mahalo:

- "Thank you to all involved in the Mother's Day brunch. The food was delicious and the table decorations quite attractive. Many thanks again." -----Barbara"
- Thank you YWAM team from Florida who have been working around the Ed Center doing cement work, painting, gardening and cleaning. Also for helping at the graduation parking evangelism.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Jackie Matsumura

Deacon: Jacob Matutino

Deacons: David Somers, Kevin Christian, Jared Morsey

Church Council Meeting: June 11, 2023 @11:30 via Hybrid Zoom

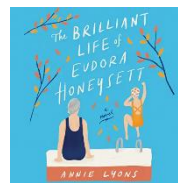


Irwin Oyama for heart and surgeries;

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.



Diane Foulks will host a discussion of *The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett* by Annie Lyons on June 25 at 3:00 pm. *It's never too late to start living.*

Eudora Honeysett is done with this noisy, moronic world - all of it. She has witnessed the indignities and suffering of old age and has lived a full life. She's ready to go on her own terms but then she meets a 10-year-old full-o- life girl, and a widowed neighbor. Her life is set in motion again. The novel is described as an exquisitely poignant tale of life, friendship and facing death ... heart-breaking yet ultimately uplifting

July's selection is *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge and will be hosted by Cinthy Kagawa.

Hauoli la Hanau!

June 11 Joanne Parongao
June 15 Naoko Ho
June 19 June Woodall
June 25 Susie Somers
June 26 Merrick Bachman
June 30 Graceleanor Baird



1%

Written by Matt Laney, a United Church of Christ minister and the author of *Pride Wars*.

Abraham said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." – Luke 16: 31

Once there was a man who had everything money could buy: an opulent seaside mansion with an infinity pool, servants, a ten-car garage, helicopter, you name it.

Outside his gate sat a diseased and starving man named Lazarus. Whenever the rich man rolled out of his driveway, there was Lazarus begging for scraps from the rich man's garbage. Each day Lazarus received nothing but licks from the household dogs. Eventually, both men died. Lazarus went to heaven, and the rich man... well, let's just say he never has to worry about being too cold.

Now, before we smugly condemn "the rich," consider this: According to the World Bank, those who earn more than \$10,000 a year are in the top 14% of the world's richest people. Those who earn \$34,000 a year are in the top 1% globally. We are the rich man and there are millions of Lazaruses languishing at our gates. This story has a lot to say about economic injustice and the spiritually corrosive dangers of wealth and privilege ...in addition to scaring the hell out of us.

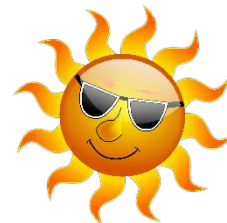
From his place of post-mortem agony, the rich man in the story asks Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his brothers. Abraham replies "If your brothers do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone rises from the dead."

The mention of someone rising from the dead at the end of the story is not a **throwaway** line. The storyteller himself was a man of infinite wealth who became poor and was put to death for attending to the marginalized, proclaiming justice, and announcing God's mercy for all. He was raised from the dead and is still speaking today.

Prayer; God, grant me the courage and joy of lowering my standard of living by at least 1% to lift someone else up.

News From the Pews

- Believe it or not, a congregant called after the Mother's Day Brunch for the pancake recipe, proclaiming that the cakes were exceptionally fluffy and nice. Our secret? Follow the directions on the Bisquik box! And.....have Jared and Ryan flip them. Call "rent-a-chef" and ask for them.
- Conference Minister Valerie Ross has resigned. Her last day was May 31st. During her brief time with the conference she had also been the pastor at the Hanapepe UCC. We wish her all the best on her continuing journey in ministry.
- The Lindegren family (Karl, Kristen, Kari, Jacob, and baby Zoe) visited the church on 17 May and greatly appreciated the plaque to Pastor Bob Lindegren at the new columbarium.
- We wish a fond farewell to Hannah and Christian Savage of YWAM as they continue to do ministry in Kona on the Big Island.
- Helen H-P will be away June and most of July to be with family back in Malaysia. Both she and Pastor Olaf will be attending Lavania's (Exchange student from Malaysia who attended church way back in 2016) wedding in Kuala Lumpur. Congratulations to "Lava"!
- Joanne Watanabe flew all the way back to South Carolina to be with her grandson upon his graduation at Clemson University! Congratulations.
- Blessings on David Hanashiro for recovering from pneumonia!
- Blessings to Winona now recovering from a heart incident.
- It was great to have Karin Somers with us over the Easter Holidays, traveling in all the way from the Boston area!



Father's Day is June 18, 2023. We will celebrate with a chili (with all the toppings) and rice lunch. Join us to celebrate dads!



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

Waimae United Church of
Christ
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Waimae, HI 96796