

VOLUME XXXI
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June 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.

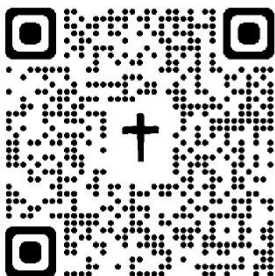
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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PO Box 457
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Sunday Morning Worship,
10 am
Tuesday Morning Bible
Study, 9 am



THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A rush of adrenaline, hands shaky, mind foggy, sudden extreme tenseness—what do I do? Breathe. Will my fingers allow me to dial 911? I pull out my phone to find out. This takes me two tries.

My professors in seminary neglected to tell me that I would be around so much death while serving in the ministry, that I might be the one to find the deceased bodies of parishioners—people whom I have loved and cared for. I have seen death before. I have been bedside to those who have breathed their last and felt the Holy Spirit come to fill the room with light and warmth in such moments. This time it was just cold and dark with a nightmarish feeling. I had missed the glory of the soul ascending and walked in upon the startling remains.

My Christian brother Lee is in a better place. He had weakened in earthly form to the point his heart could no longer beat. His heart had been racing for him just to sit up and say a few soft words. I was glad that this final struggle for him had passed, but why was I shaking still? Finally, the first-responders arrived and gave me some relief as I answered what questions they spoke to me. They were matter-of-fact: “When was the last time you saw him alive?” “What medical conditions did he have?” “Who was his primary care doctor?” The final facts of all our lives? They did not ask if he was a good man, had been gifted by God, or was reconciled to the Lord. “Do you know how to contact next-of-kin?” Lee had none except his church.

Lee's apartment was behind Subway Sandwiches on the main highway. Every time I drive to town I pass by. Every time I see the building, a lump forms in my throat and my eyes get sloppy wet. I let out a deep sigh to exhale the dread. I believe the Lord led me to be the one to find Lee. I reason with myself that I was the best person for this. Still, why me, Lord?

I have come to discover that post traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) does not heal itself like a common cold. It is not that I slowly begin to feel better, stronger, and somehow pass the upset. Rather, for reasons I cannot grasp, suddenly my mind will be triggered back to the moment quite out of the blue. My mind just switches to a dark fog. I will be jumbled for a time and have to stop to reset. Maybe a sudden text on my phone will snap me back. Thanks for checking on me!

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Scriptures and Sermons for June



- June 2 Romans 4:13-25
"God Promises"
- June 9 Romans 5:1-11
"I Hope"
- June 16 Romans 5:12-30
"Your Free Gift"
- June 23 Romans 6:1-14
"Walk in Newness"
- June 30 Romans 6:15-23
"Obedience to Christ"
- July 7 Romans 7:1-12
"New Spiritual Life"



Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival

Deacon: Jared Morsey

June Deacons: Rob Carlson, Vicky Mercado, David Somers

Church Council Meeting: June 9 @ 11:30 via Zoom Hybrid

Lee Miller Rest in Peace; Winona for healing her hand after fall; Helen Masaki; Tom Montanus for breathing; Jackie Webber for healing from fall; Irwin Oyama for heart and surgeries; Melissa B. healing, and her father Jim in hospice; Margaret's brother, Rest in Peace; 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.



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:

Pastor Olaf will be away at the **Aha Pae Aina** (statewide gathering of the UCC) from **June 13-15th**. If you need anything, he will fly home. . anything at all. By the way, our church is supporting the statewide resolution calling for an end to the war in Gaza.

Jesus in the Hood on June 30th after worship.



Engine and tires checked gratis.

Mahalo:

* What a special day it was for all of the Mama's and their Mama's Mama. Yes, it was a happy "Malamalama da Mama Mama Mama Day" as the keiki heard during the Mini-hune message. Thank you to all the men who prepared the brunch: Jake, Mike M, Mike H., Irwin, Jared, Rob, & Pastor Olaf. Special kudos to Jared for his homemade sourdough waffles! Everybody who came got special bracelets, too.

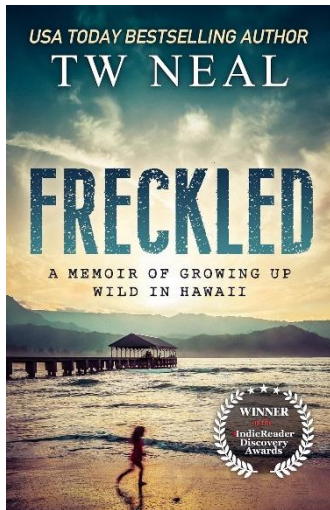
* -Muchas gracias por Berenice leyendo la Biblia el mes pasado en español para el domingo del Cinco de Mayo. ¡Muchísimas gracias por la comida mexicana después también! [Many thanks for Berenice reading the Bible in Spanish last month for Cinco de Mayo Sunday. Greatest thanks for the Mexican food that followed!] Thank you Miguel for cooking the hand-pressed corn tortillas for communion.

Hauoli la Hanau!

June 11 Joanne Parongao
June 19 June Woodall
June 21 Lucia Laidlaw
June 25 Susie Somers
June 26 Merrick Bachman
June 30 Graceleanor Baird



Book Club



Freckled is a memoir about growing up in Hawaii at the time of Taylor Camp on Kauai. Toby Wilson, was a child of hippie-surfer parents who had an alternate lifestyle. Initially on O'ahu but then her father heard about the potential of getting "away from it all" on Kauai—

moved to Kaua'i's north shore. The events cover the time period of 1965-1983. It is her childhood coming of age memories struggling with parents who lived an alternate lifestyle among a community that was not accepting. Additionally, she stood out for being one of the few haole kids at Hanalei Elementary.

Her mother strives to do her best to make do and to shelter her daughters from the volatility of her father. Jackie Matsumura will host on June 23rd (3rd Sunday is Father's Day.) We will meet via hybrid zoom. All are welcome to participate.

Sue Carlson will host in July.

**Please note that Lee's
Celebration of Life worship service
will be 10am Saturday, June 8th.**

News from the Pews

- ♥ Margaret K. has been vacationing in Malaga, Spain, so she missed all the Spanish being spoken!
- ♥ At the Aha Mokupuni at the Lihue Christian Church, Phoebe was elected to be the new secretary for the Kauai Council of Hawaiian Churches, Pastor Olaf was elected as Advisor. Jared was elected to take over Teri's position on the Waineke Cabins Committee. Helen H-P continues as the chair of the Kauai Association Committee on Ministry as well. Blessings on your service in ministry to the wider church.
- ♥ Wait, were those actually deep fried Oreo cookies we had at Fellowship? Well, there is a first time for everything!
- ♥ Kim Okino is actually going to retire from teaching at the end of this school year. Congratulations! Maybe you can sub for your daughter Kiana at Wilcox Elementary now?
- ♥ Travel mercies to everybody. Just everybody! Rob and Sue back on the mainland for their son's marriage, Diane & Rick, Helen H-P, Jared & Mahea (June 4-18), Phoebe; we miss you.
- ♥ Thank you to the YWAM team from Florida for helping to park the cars at our "Parking Evangelism" event on Grad Night.
- ♥ Congratulations to Riley Carl on being this year's recipient of our Grace Scholarship for \$1,000. Her excellent essay is posted in the Narthex with extra copies on the table. To note is that she also finished high school with a perfect 4.0 GPA! Well done indeed!
- ♥ Jared was able to fix a flat tire during the Graduation Night Parking Evangelism which saw 48 cars being parked in the parking lot.

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Does Jesus, now ascended, ever just find himself in thought back on the Cross? If he took all the pain and suffering of the world upon himself in death, how does that affect him now? Will our prayers help Jesus in heaven? "Be strong, Jesus! We earthly mortals need you now more than ever!"

For now, faith sees us through our days. And, most assuredly, we shall all be together again once more in heaven.

Blessings in peace, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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