

VOLUME XXV
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March 2017

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-
Percival
Pastor*

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P.O. Box 457
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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,

My elder sister is a marriage and family counselor. Often when we talk, we "talk shop." Our last conversation was about stress in relationships. Yes, even Christians have stress in their relationships. The stress is perhaps different than among non-believers. Stress may be inwardly directed as we struggle between our Christian ethic and the world we encounter everyday through our relationships.

Let me give you an example: In Matthew 5 we read in the words of Jesus' sermon that we are to be meek. We will be rewarded for our meekness. Yet, we can read in Ephesians 6:20 "I declare it boldly, as I ought to speak." Are we to be meek or bold when we speak to others?

A young girl is being teased mercilessly in middle school. She feels as if she cannot take the teasing anymore without responding. She is so angry that she plans a physical attack. She believes her meekness is the reason that she is being teased in the first place. What should she do?

Jesus told us to turn the other cheek and to seek out those with whom we should reconcile. We are even to "bless those who persecute." Saint Paul sang hymns and prayed for his captors while he was in prison. He was extremely bold in his faith in Jesus while at the same time being meek in his own personal circumstance.

We should not feel stressed out or inwardly conflicted with the question of being bold or meek. We need to be both as this is exactly how Jesus taught us to be. I think it is our boldness that allows us to be meek. Turning the other cheek is an extremely bold thing to do. Forgiving someone 7 x 70, as Jesus tells us in Matthew 18, is an extremely bold idea. Going out to "make disciples of all nations" (The Great Commission) is a bold call to the world to come before God in all meekness and humility.

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Sermon Scripture Passages

March 5th YWAM (Youth With A Mission)
Testimonials

March 12th, 2017 Matthew 6:5-18
"Secret Life"

March 19th, 2017 Matthew 6:19-34
"Why Am I Cranky?"

Mar 26th, 2017 Matthew 7:13-29
"Hearers and Doers"

April 2nd, 2017 John 13:1-20
"Set an Example"

April 9th, 2017 Psalm 122
"Seeking the Goodness"



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

The Tuesday morning Bible Study group meets temporarily in Waimea Education Center at 9 am to discuss the Scripture

for the upcoming Sunday sermon. Come share your inspirations and insights with the Pastor. Everyone is welcome.

OUR PRAYERS: Rumina Lautej, Chris Cooks's wife Evelyn (cancer), Pastor Ken Smith, Helen's mother, Margaret's mother—health, Shelly, passing of her mother, Stacy, cancer, Danny Smith, recovery from accident, Janice's mother—health, Priscilla's mother (heart), Beth Hanashiro, dad with Alzheimers, Michael Nizo-health, Veronica Botelho—health, Gary Underwood—cancer free, Jeannine Asquith, Boyd Thompson, Jean Thompson, Sally Faye, Kikue Yamamoto, Mary Watanabe, Gladys Okada, Nelson Keller; Norma Watanabe (cancer), construction workers, KVMH, the prevention of senseless violence, the youth in Waimea, those who minister to the youth at the Ed Center, Youth With a Mission (YWAM), our youth in college, our local, state, and national leaders, our men and women in the military fighting terrorism, and a speedy end to wars everywhere.

March 2017

Lay Reader: Teri Sakai

Deacon: Helen Masaki

March Deacons: Kent Mizuguchi, Mike Vidinha, Marlene Matutino, Joy Whitehill

Church Council Meeting:

Sunday, March 12, 11:30 a.m.

Westside Lenten Service Schedule

The theme this year is "Hope through the Suffering".

Date/Time	Church	Pastor
Thurs. 9 th March	Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregation at UCC	<i>Pastor Olaf Hoeckmann-Percival</i>
Thurs. 16 th , March	Waimea UCC	<i>Pastor Jim Stickney</i>
Thurs. 23 rd , March	Hanapepe UCC	<i>Pastor James Merritt</i>
Thurs. 30 th , March	Salvation Army	<i>Pastor Scott Taylor</i>
Thurs. 6 th , April	St. John's Episcopal	<i>Lt. James Combs</i>

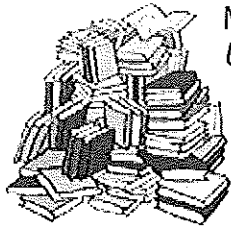


Sunday, March 26, Waimea UCC will be collecting donations for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This year's theme is "You Are Here," which allows

those who are in need to know that some way, somehow they are known and that we are with them. That even in the midst of suffering, God is here and with them. Psalm 145:18 says, "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him..."

Dominoes
Tuesday 7-9 pm





March's book selection is *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. This is a mash-up of historical fiction and fantasy. Whitehead imagines the underground railroad for escaped slaves as being literally in tunnels underground. He also, juxtaposes historical events that happened well after the emancipation of slaves in 1865. It is a novel that he conceived years ago but did not feel he had the writing skill or experience to successfully complete the story. Jackie Matsumura will host March's book club meeting in her home on March 19th.

April's selection will be *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. Cinthy Kagawa will host. Amazon says that this novel is "an illuminating debut memoir of a woman in science; a moving portrait of a longtime friendship; and a stunningly fresh look at plants that will forever change how you see the natural world."

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Lanai Update: There have been setbacks to the construction of the lanai and offices attached to Baird Hall. A meeting took place with the contractor (Kikiaola Construction), Pastor Olaf, Jackie Matsumura, and Margarete Kagawa. One issue was that the roof was leaking. The contractor has agreed to remediate this. Plans were reviewed and clarifications were made. The addition should be completed by mid-May.

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Thank you for the donations of empty milk and juice cartons are for candle making at the Youth and Family Camp during Spring Break. Now we need old wax crayons if you have them! See Pastor Olaf or Clint Snyder.

BTW, Pastor will be away March 21-24 at the camp.
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Grace Scholarship deadline is the end of March. Please go to the church website and click on "links" for the application and to see examples of essays from previous years. The grant is open to current Waimea seniors and those still at university.

Where There is Water

January 03, 2017

Written by Phyllis Richards

THINK OF ALL THE WAYS THAT YOU HAVE USED WATER SO FAR TODAY.

Did you take a shower this morning? Did you flush your toilet? Or wash your hands? When you made or ate breakfast, was water used? How about when you cleaned up after the meal?

Now imagine walking each morning to gather water for your family, knowing the water you were collecting was unclean and could make the members of your family sick.

Next, let's imagine that each year for several months you don't have access to water because it was the dry season and your water source had dried up. How would you get by? What parts of your daily routine would you have to abandon? How would you provide water for your family?

Unfortunately, these are realities for many people around the world.

In a rural community in Cambodia, the only water available was from a shallow, hand-dug well. Each day during the rainy season, a grandmother named Som Bee would walk to the well to collect the water for her family. But the water from the well was unclean, sometimes leading to health problems, including diarrhea.

Thanks to your support, the community was able to address the unclean water problem by installing a ring well. The members of the community received training on how to filter the water, and to keep it clean for daily use.

Because of your support, the members of the community now have access to clean water year-round, and they are sick less often.

Because of your support, Som uses the clean water for her garden to help her grow tomatoes, pumpkins, spinach, gourds, cucumbers and mushrooms. Of course, her family eats the vegetables, so they now have a healthier diet!

Som's garden is so bountiful, she is also able to sell some of her vegetables in her local community, earning money to support her family and buy other items that her family needs.

Your support has reached 16 villages in central Cambodia with clean, safe water. You were here with Som and her neighbors as they gathered to build their well. Now, you are with Som each time she leaves her home and only walks a matter of yards to the well.

You are here when she waters her garden and prepares nutritious meals. You are here as her granddaughter grows healthy and strong.

You are here. And their future is brighter because of your support.

This is just one of the stories that illustrate how your donations are used by the mission of One Great Hour of Sharing.



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So, I answered my elder sister, the counselor, that I really do not feel much stress as a Christian, not even as a Christian pastor. My sister confessed to me that in her professional life she encounters so much stress in others' relationships that she is unduly affected in her own life. In other words, other people's problems have begun to stress her out—especially those relational issues that never seem to resolve.

We ought not be affected by others' lives as much as we "yearn for the affection of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:8). We cannot bear the world's sins ourselves; only the Son of God was able to do that, and for which he died.

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

The following is an excerpt from *Readings for Lent and Easter* published in 1993 by The Upper Room

The Crux

Crux: Latin for cross; now means the point of decision. [Didn't it always?]

Also appearing in words like
crucify

crucifer

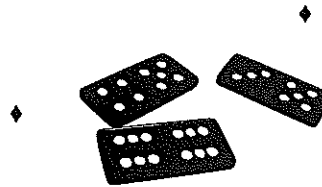
crucible

excruciating

He wants me take up one of *those*?
And follow him *there*?

Crucial decision.

--Lois Duffield
alive now!



DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM

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