

VOLUME XXVI
NUMBER 3
March 2019

*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

(808) 338-9962
www.waimeachurch.org

P.O. Box 457
Waimea, HI 96796

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,

I have often wondered about the gap between Genesis 3 and 4 in the Bible. This is the day after Adam and Eve are kicked out of the Garden of Eden. I would have liked to know what it was like the next day. The sun comes up in the East, and the two first humans look back to see fiery angels of the Lord blocking the gate back to paradise.

If we look carefully at the Bible, we see that a lacuna (a gap) also exists from the day after Jesus' death to the time of the Resurrection. We have little idea what the followers of Christ were doing, except that they were in hiding. What were they doing in their grief?

I imagine that Adam and Eve and the disciples of Jesus had very specific prayers that were being spoken on the day after: "God, how is it that we are still alive?" I come to this conclusion because of my own experience with the "Day-After Prayer." You pretend to wake up after a restless and fitful night. You look into the mirror only to see the anguish of the disheveled visage of a former self.

From a sister in Christ this last week, I heard this statement: "In my morning prayer time I used to thank God for the new day. Now, I just thank God for life." This is to thank God not so much for the glories and wonders of a new day but rather for the struggle of every breath—for life in its minimal routines.

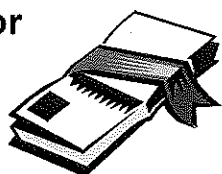
We know times will come when life is hand-to-hand combat with death. Nearly beaten, we raise up our weak voices still in praise to God: "Thank you God that there is still breath in my body."

The miracle is that the Bible does not end at Chapter 3 of Genesis. The Gospel does not end with the death of Jesus on the Cross. To the contrary, we see that the night of passion and pain leads to a promise of a new day. We come to realize the paradox that only when we feel ourselves absolutely alone can we come to realize that we are never really alone—we raise up our thanks to the One who has been with us all along in our struggle. "Thank you God for life."

We do not have to read what Adam and Eve felt on the day after being evicted from paradise. We already know.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

Scriptures and Sermons for March 2019



- March 3rd Luke 22:14-23
"Supper Together"
- March 10th Luke 22:24-30
"Keeping Our Appointment"
- March 17th Luke 22:31-34
"Sifted"
- March 24th Luke 22:35-38
"Purse, Bag, & Sword"
- March 31st Luke 22:39-53
"With a Kiss"
- April 7th Luke 22:54-71
"If I Tell You. . . ."

March 2019

Lay Reader: Jared Morsey

Deacon: Joy Whitehill

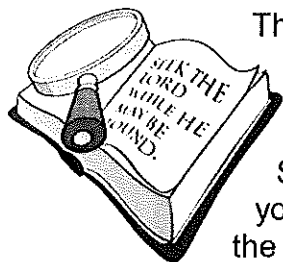
March Deacons: Shelly Pascua,
Mike Vidinha, Marlene Matutino, Joy Whitehill

Church Council Meeting: 11:30 am,
Sunday, March 10, 2019



Kikue Yamamoto
(Rest in Peace),
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), Beth Hanashiro, dad with
Alzheimers, 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.



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.

Bible Studies will be cancelled on **March 19th**
as Pastor Olaf will be with the youth in Kokee.

Calendar Notes:

Just a reminder to those who have gotten
tickets to the **Mayor's Prayer Luncheon** that
it is on **Saturday, March 9th**, at Kilohana.



Spring Youth Retreat is **March
18th-21st** at our cabins in Kokee.

New Members will be welcomed on **April
14th**, Passion Sunday. Please see Pastor Olaf
if you feel called to join the ministry of the
church.

Mahalo:

To all who have signed up for the various
volunteer activities. Your efforts are much
appreciated.

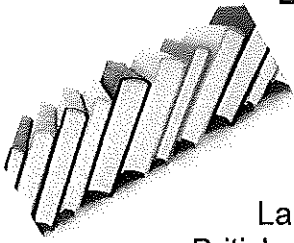
Volunteers are always welcome. Please
check the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. We
have many places to share talents: flowers,
childcare, lay reader, etcetera.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

- March 10 Kent Mizuguchi
March 10 Melissa Kagawa
March 13 Joanne Watanabe
March 15 Selden Burtch
March 17 Mike Matutino
March 20 Kimberly Hoeckmann-Percival
March 23 Jared Morsey
March 27 Mike Vidinha
March 27 Shawna Kanahale



Book Club



February's book selection has been moved to March due to a family emergency. Instead Lucia

Laidlaw hosted a viewing of a British whodunit series entitled

Foyle's War. It was enjoyed by all as we attempted to guess who the guilty person was.

In March, *America's First Daughter: A Novel* will be discussed. Diane Foulks will host on March 17. This novel, based on much research by the authors, Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamole, tells the story of Martha (Patsy) Jefferson Randolph. It's a coming-of-age story for Patsy told with the backdrop of the birth of the United States.

April's selection will be *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. This was a PBS book of the month selection and a New York Times Bestseller. The author as a young girl was kept out of school by her survivalist family. She eventually left and went on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Her indomitable spirit enables her to overcome many setbacks and difficulties. Cinthy Kagawa will host.

Your Will?

February 26, 2019

Written by **Anthony Robinson**

The men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hand.'" - 1 Samuel 24:4

Most mornings I pray the Lord's Prayer, including, "Thy will be done."

But I've come to realize that I don't very often check in with God as the day goes on to ask what God's will might actually be. I'm trying to change that.

The thing about David is that he did check. "Not my will, but thy will be done" was his m.o., at least at this point in his young life. Later not so much. Lent begins March 6, 2019

So here, the insanely jealous King Saul had been raging after David, hunting him down

When Saul needed to "relieve himself," he took refuge in a cave. What Saul didn't know was that David and his men were already holed up in the same cave.

"This is your chance," urged David's men.

But David didn't take it. Why not? It's not that David was a pacifist.

Taking Saul out would have meant taking matters into his own hands—not trusting that the situation was in God's hands.

Sometimes people are skeptical that we can ever really know God's will. But maybe the real problem is that, if we ask, we often discover that God's will and our will aren't quite the same. It's not that we don't get an answer. We don't like the answer we get.

And even when you don't get an answer, sometimes just asking the question makes a difference.

Prayer

Help us to mean it and to do it, to truly ask what your will is for us. And then give us the strength to do it. Amen.



About the Author

Tony Robinson, a United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher, and writer. He is the author of many books, including

What's Theology Got to Do With It: Convictions, Vitality and the Church. You can read Tony's "Weekly Meditation" and "What's Tony Thinking?" at his website, www.anthonbrobinson.com.



LENT

Lent begins March 6



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

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday will be in March.

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