

VOLUME XXXII
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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.

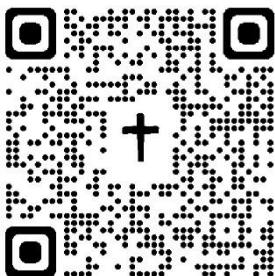
**Waimea United Church
of Christ**

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,

In February we were blessed to have a crew of youth come in from Michigan to minister and serve in Waimea. The service project at our church was to repair and paint the ceiling in the narthex, the place where one first enters the church from the outside. The paint on the ceiling had started peeling off, and as the ceiling is very low due to the balcony above, it was becoming unsightly to be sure. I grabbed a piece of the paint once and took off a two-inch strip. The area just as one enters the nave of the church was especially cracked.

Recently Susie Somers was giving a tour of the historic church to some Sunday visitors, and I happened to overhear her telling them that the area in the narthex is really the only part of the church that has its original plaster walls. All of the other walls were replastered after Hurricane Iniki. Indeed, one can see the difference right away between the texture of the walls in the nave compared to the narthex. I began to wonder exactly how old the paint was—original maybe?

Examining the paint in the narthex we found only three layers on the ceiling. We saw a white layer, an orangish beige color and a light green/blue. The first layer might have been a wood treatment with copper in it that had oxidized. This caused me to wonder what it would have been like entering the church a century or more ago. I could just imagine horses and carts parked outside. The women would have worn long dresses. The men probably wore hats. The walls would have oil lamps filled with whale oil or kerosene. There would be no microphones, ceiling fans, or recessed lighting. The organ would have had pump bellows. The hymns would have been memorized or simply listed on a reader board.

Repairing the ceiling in the narthex required using paint-scraping blades, sanding blocks, and in the worst area a power sander held upside down. All of this required keeping one's arms up in the air against the ceiling (hallelujah-stye) and getting covered in ancient detritus. All of the electrical fixtures were removed for repainting. The bulletin boards were covered with plastic. The floors were covered with drop cloths.

Once the loose paint was removed, the rough paint edges were filled with latex sealer and painted over with a sealer coat. Thereafter the final flat white paint was rolled on with all of the splatter covering the youths hair and clothes. We were very surprised at where the paint ended up on our bodies! Truly, it is no wonder why ceilings are rarely repainted! The following day, touch-up painting ensued. Lastly on the third day all of the cleanup and reassembly took place. All of this work just to make the entry of the church look exactly as it did before—only cleaner, brighter, and without the paint cracks hanging from the ceiling.

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Scriptures and Sermons for March

- Mar 2 Psalm 89:9-17
"Pray for Strength" (Jared Preaching)
- Mar 9 Psalm 23:1-6
"Supplications"
- Mar 16 Psalm 32:1-7
"Confessions"
- Mar 23 Psalm 143:7-11
"Guidance"
- Mar 30 Psalm 31:1-5
"Protection"
- Apr 6 Psalm 67:2-5
"Blessing"



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:

"Food for the Soul" March 2nd at 12pm. See Phoebe for details Westside friends & neighbors will show us how they make these tasty Southeast Asian dishes: *Nasi Lemak* from Malaysia (Coconut rice dish – considered the national dish of Malaysia), *Samior Machu* Soup from Cambodia, *Gỏi Cuốn* (Vietnamese vegetarian salad rolls) with peanut sauce, *Cascaron* from Philippines.

Youth Retreat is March 18th-22nd at Waineke. See the church website for more info.

Lent Worship with Westside Churches

Hawaiian Archipelago Mosaic Project March 8 at 12:00-2:00. A hands-on project and seminar will be held on the Smith The resulting mosaic will be displayed at the Kilauea Bird Sanctuary. Flyers are available in the Narthex.

Elsie Hegwood's Memorial Service is tentatively being planned for **Saturday, April 26th, 10am** at our sanctuary.

Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Sue Carlson

Deacon: Joy Whitehill

March Deacons: Helen Hoeckmann-Percival, Marlene Matutino

Church Council Meeting: March 9, 2025, at 11:30 am via Zoom hybrid.

Elsie Hegwood, rest in peace; Helen Masaki; Irwin Oyama, back pain; Melissa B., cancer recovery; 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); Helen's mother (heart); Kim H-P for a new job; 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 **West Kauai Ministers' Association** will be hosting worship during **Lent** at member churches:

The Theme is going to be **"Bread of Life"** with scriptures focusing on God's Providence in Times of Need. Each worship starts at **5:30pm.**

March 9 -- Waimea Baptist "Manna from Heaven"

March 16 -- Door of Faith, Kekaha

March 23 -- St. Paul's Episcopal, Kekaha

March 30 -- West Kauai Methodist, Kaumakani

April 6 -- Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational "Vinegar to Christ's Lips"

Hauoli la Hanau!

Malaki

10th Kent Mitzuguchi
10^t Melissa Kagawa
13th Joanne Watanabe
14th Samantha Campbell
17th Mike Matutino
20th Kim Hoeckmann-Percival
22nd Archie Kagawa
23rd Jared Morsey
26th Rob Carlson



Talk Stories (Book Club)

The members of the book club have decided to give themselves a name. After several interesting suggestions, they decided on Talk Stories.

March's selection is *James* by Percival Everett. The novel is a re-imagining of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as told by the runaway slave, Jim. The novel highlights the brutality of enslavement while also showing the resilience and humanity of enslaved people. Huck, as a child who has also suffered maltreatment, develops a kinship with James. As they float down the Mississippi, they rub into an assortment of adventures and scalawags. Many of the characters and incidents from Huck Finn are present but told with a new perspective. Huck and James were often separated on their float trip—this is where the reader learns what happened to James on these separations. There are some interesting takes/liberties with the source material—such as the question of Huck's paternity. A lively discussion is sure to ensue! Jackie Matsumura will host in her home and via Zoom on March 16 at 3:00pm.

April's selection will be *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande. Diane Foulks will host.



News From the Pews

- * Dorian and Collin's daughter Lola was baptized by Pastor down on the Waimea River up at the mouth of the canyon at the Cassell house.
- * Aunty Elaine Ganeko is back at home after being at the Kauai Care Center for rehab after her hip surgery.
- * Helen H-P was walking in town when her shoe broke, and she literally lost her soul.
- * The H-P's gave away the little red Mitsubishi pick-up truck that they had gotten from the Woodalls for free eighteen years ago. The truck was thirty-five years old. It had really done a lot of ministry work, carrying church clean-up debris to the dump, hauling frozen turkeys at Thanksgiving, and even once carrying a couple to the beach in the back to be married! Alas, the truck was getting just too rusty to be safe. The new owner said he would weld new metal in to make it safe again.
- * It was great to see Jake and his friend Daniela again over the Presidents' Day weekend!
- * We welcome Mary H's niece to the island!
- * Pseghetti night for da kids at Valentines featured face painting by Kim, heart cookie decorating, love bug making, love potion mixing, and a "pin the heart on the pastor game."
- * Vicki has moved into her new place on Menehune Road and is looking for furniture, specifically a sofa or loveseat. Congrats on the new home!
- * Pastor Stan Hankins has resigned from our sister church Waioli Huiia in Hanalei. Previous pastor Alpha Goto is helping out with pulpit supply.
- * The January/February Upper Room large print devotional guides have arrived! In the post on 20th of February!
- * From Nancy Phillion-- I am safely in Canada where the snow is 6 feet high, and temperatures are below zero. Happy to be with my family. Miss my friends at the church. Love to each of you. God bless y'all.

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I think about all of the work in the church that we do that may be overlooked. After all, who spends any time at all in the narthex? I wonder about the hands and bodies that have worked for centuries maintaining the church. Next time you come into the church, please think about those youth from Michigan who came across the sea to help keep the Great Stone Church truly great! I praise God for their help.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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Christ
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