

VOLUME XXVII
NUMBER 5
May 2020

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,

Here it is! The mission to Waimea is now 200 years old. The whaling ship Thaddeus arrived with four missionaries as well as the son of King Kaumualii, Hume-Hume, who was returning from school in New England. The four missionaries were Samuel and Mercy Partridge Whitney and Samuel and Nancy Ruggles. Mercy Whitney was in fact already pregnant and would bear the first non-Hawaiian child on Kauai.

The missionaries came with a sense of zeal to do the work that was outlined for them by the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions. They were given five objectives to fulfill: 1) They were to become acquainted with the native people, which meant learning the Hawaiian language. 2) They were to commit the Hawaiian language into written form. 3) They were to print books and teach the people to read. 4) They were to translate the Bible into the Hawaiian language. 5) They were to establish churches and schools.

Perhaps you noticed that the mission was heavily focused on language acquisition, embracing the culture, and formal education for the Hawaiians. The premise was that the Word of God, the message of Salvation through Jesus Christ, would not be accepted without the faith-works (*praxis*) of first learning the Hawaiian tongue, engaging the Hawaiian culture, and broadening education. This kind of mission work takes years. Indeed, the Whitney family never left the island and are now buried in our cemetery. We honor their sacrifice to love this island and its people in Christ's name.

Much later in our history, the time was made for building the church structure; however, we should understand that it was not the central goal of the missionaries at all. It was the fifth of five objectives and was coupled with the need to establish schools. It was not until 1854 that the stone church was completed, a whole generation later from the 1820 arrival of the original missionaries.

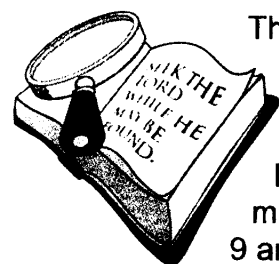
Another reason that it took as long as it did to build the church building was that the congregation had been decimated by influenza. Although it was not initially one of the objectives of the mission, the care of the sick and dying from disease became an important ministry. Doctors were sent from New England to augment the mission. Covid 19 is only one in a long list of pandemics to come to Kauai in the last two centuries. In former times, little could be done for those who succumbed.

Continued on back page



Scriptures and Sermons for May, 2020

- May 3rd Mark 6:1-6
"Never Going Home Again"
- May 10th Mark 6:6b-29
"Higher Places"
- May 17th Mark 6:30-44
"The Dog Needs a Vacation"
- May 24th Mark 6:45-58
"Graduate from Fears"
- May 31st Mark 7:1-23
"Hand Washing Sin"



The Tuesday morning Bible

Study group will meet again once Covid 19 distancing rules are no longer necessary.

Please watch for announcements. They meet in Baird Hall at 9 am to discuss the Scripture for the upcoming Sunday sermon. . Everyone is welcome.

Linda Baldwin in grief for her father, Ruth Cassel for healing from heart surgery, Jared's father, stroke recovery, Selden Burtch, Suzie in mourning for loss of her mother, Elsie Hegwood, Clint & Happy Snyder, Mahea and Jared to have a child, 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), 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.



Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Margarete Kagawa

Deacon: Marlene Matutino

May Deacons: Cinthy Kagawa,
Kevin Christian, Mike Vidinha,
Marlene Matutino

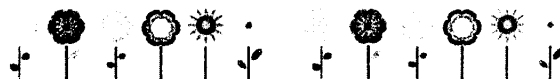
Church Council Meeting: May 17, 2020
Zoom Meeting (May 10 is Mother's Day)

The church has signed up for ZOOM meetings on-line. The idea is that if the restrictions continue we could have our Tuesday morning bible studies and even a Sunday coffee hour via this teleconferencing platform. In the very least, we could have "live" council meetings again.

Mahalo:

- Thank you to all who have watched and commented on the worship videos of late. The shared Maundy Thursday video with the West Kauai Ministers' Association got 160+ hits all together. Without a hint of complaint, in years past we only ever had maybe fifty people show up on Maundy Thursday worship, so the on-line version has in fact reached more people for Christ!
- Thank you to Kathy U. for coming by to trim the hedge in front of Baird Hall.
- Thank you to Ken and Teri Sakai for all the work in the cemetery.
- Thank you to David Somers for helping with the new sewer line at the parsonage.

The Regency Puakea is still having Tuesday afternoon Bible studies via Skype—both video and phone-in participants. Also, on Sunday morning they allow ten (with social distancing) to come to the activity room for worship. The residents sign up to come to watch our worship.

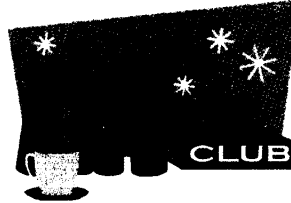


Hau'oli la Hanau!

- May 2 Priscilla Aguilar
- May 4 Victor Aguilar
- May 9 Jean Thompson
- May 12 Marlene Matutino
- May 13 Ted Snyder
- May 18 Ellie Snyder
- May 20 Diane Foulks
- May 20 Patty Snyder
- May 20 Ellen Thompson
- May 23 Tom Montanus
- May 27 Kimberly Aguilar
- May 28 Ruth Cassel
- May 30 Irwin Oyama



We are still looking into getting an on-line donation system, doing the research and all. Meanwhile, you are welcome to mail in tithes and offerings. Thank you for so many of you who have already made donations in that way.



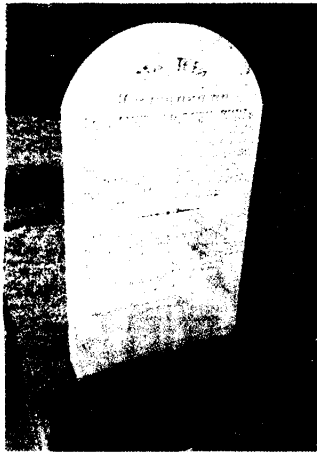
Diane Foulks hosted our first Zoom book club meeting on Wednesday, April 29th. It was a

wonderful opportunity to see each other after five (?) weeks of social distancing. Our next meeting looks like it, too, will be a Zoom adventure. The May selection is *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*, by Fannie Flagg. This humorous mystery novel is set in the 1940's and present day. It is about two families who have a surprise connection. It shares themes with our last novel (*Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*); it will be fun to compare the two novel. Jackie Matsumura will host. If you would like to join us, send an email to: jackiematsumura@gmail.com. The tentative date will be May 24th—we will designate a time via email discussion.

Cinthy Kagawa will be June's host. She has chosen *Dark Matter* by Blake Crouch. It is a science fiction novel with many twists and turns.

Cemetery News

By Teri Sakai, Cemetery Chairperson



Samuel Whitney, born April 28, 1793 in Bradford, New Haven County, Connecticut, was a missionary teacher who arrived on Kauai with fellow missionary teacher Samuel Ruggles in 1820. He was licensed by the Hawaiian Association on Feb. 28, 1823, and ordained by the same, at Kailua on Nov. 30, 1825

settling in Waimea, Kauai, Sandwich Islands. Rev. Whitney continued to serve the community for 25 years.

Rev. Whitney died December 15, 1845 in Lahainaluna, Maui after a long illness. Burial took place in The Mission Cemetery, Lahainaluna; however, there is a grave in our Waimea UCC Cemetery with the remains of his wife Mercy Partridge Whitney and possibly Rev Samuel Whitney's remains as well. The couple were not only well received by the community, but from all reports treasured for their presence and contributions.

The Rev Samuel Whitney/Mercy Partridge Whitney Memorial and Gravesite lies behind the Sanctuary. Feel free to visit and pay respects to one of the historical founders of our Church.

Waimea Missionary Bicentennial Events Postponed

The Kauai events of the Hawaiian Mission Bicentennial (1820-2020) were scheduled to be held at Waimea on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3. Due to COVID-19 precautions these events have been postponed. A committee chaired by Pastor Olaf Hoekmann-Percival of the Waimea Mission Church is overseeing the commemoration.

A highlight of the bicentennial weekend was to be a reenactment of the arrival at Waimea on May 3, 1820 of the first Protestant missionaries sent to Kauai. Following is an account of that landing based on the journals of missionaries Samuel and Mercy Whitney. The Whitneys lived in a home nearby the existing Gulick-Rowell house in Waimea. Both lived out their lives in Waimea.

Go to www.missionhouses.org for more information.

Through the care of the congregation for all, God's love was demonstrated. The works that were accomplished were plainly the acts of the Almighty. The initial call of Jesus to "go out and make disciples of all nations," which is still our impetus as a mission today, bore fruit through language, sharing, education, and healing. That is what we celebrate this year!

May God continue to bless the church and its mission works here on Kauai.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

◆
**DOMINOES will resume
once shelter in place
order is rescinded on
TUESDAYS, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL**
◆

"The quarantine has turned us into dogs. We wander around the house all day looking for something to eat. We are told NO when we get close to people, and we get really excited when we go for a car ride." :}

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