

***VOLUME XXX***  
***NUMBER 11***  
***November 2023***

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

(808) 338-9962

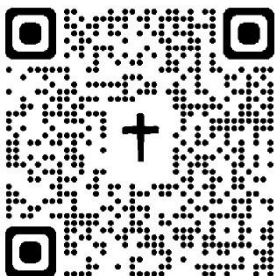
[www.waimeachurch.org](http://www.waimeachurch.org)

PO Box 457

Waimea, HI 96796

Sunday Morning Worship, 10 am

Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 9 am



# THE CONNECTION

A Publication of Waimea UCC

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we designed and built the new Sunday school room, church office, and lanai, we also planned for exterior perimeter safety lighting that included flood lamps and even a lighted "Aloha" sign at the entrance to the driveway. This was to provide a warm reception to those who come to evening events at the church; e.g., game night, choir practice, and the Christmas Eve worship. This last month, however, the church received a plea from the Department of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawaii to shut it all off. The shearwaters are in fledgling season and our lights could easily confuse the young birds trying to fly for the first time to the ocean.

As many of you may know, I am somewhat of a "safety freak." The first thing I did when I arrived at the church so many years ago was install fire extinguishers! Then, I went to work to replace and upgrade the outside lights of the sanctuary that were non-functioning. Well, you all get the idea. The notion of turning off the safety lighting was a bit of an anathema to me. This just goes against my personal doctrine.

Then "it" happened. The very Sunday after the DLNR notification there was a nene bird on the front lawn of the church. I had never seen one before at the church. It stared at me with its large black eyes, seemingly crying out "save us." Later I turned on the sprinkler in the vegetable garden at the parsonage to see a swarm of elepaos come in to take a drink. I counted ten of them all together darting back and forth. I had never seen ten elepaos in the same place dancing through the water like that. The scene was quite beautiful. Of course, I had to think that this was more than a coincidence. Maybe God was showing me something I had not noticed before?

I took the request from DLNR to extinguish our outside lighting to the Church Council. Everybody was in agreement that we could—at least during fledgling season—lower our lumen signature for the sake of the shearwaters. At night, there would just be now a motion detecting light that would time-out after two minutes at Baird Hall. If we absolutely needed to turn on the perimeter lighting, it would be just for the duration of accessing the building only. The "aloha" sign would go dark, but not the aloha of the church itself!

*Continued on back page*



## Scriptures and Sermons for November 2023

- Nov. 5 Esther 4:8-11, 16-17  
"Hathach the System"
- Nov. 12 Esther 5:1-9, 6:1-6  
"Acceptor Scepter"
- Nov. 19 Esther 7:5-9  
"Harbona of Things to Come"
- Nov. 26 Esther 10:1-3  
"Ahasuerus, Assure Us"
- Dec. 3 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
"Let Your Face Shine"

*It is important for you to read the Book of Esther ahead of time for this sermon series. We only have time in worship to read snippets, but the Pastor will try as best he can to fill in the backstory for context.*



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:

#### Thanksgiving Day Worship at 9:30am on the Lanai with Brunch

- ❖ Our church has had a longstanding tradition of coming together with our Waimea Baptist Church brothers and sisters to thank God together on Thanksgiving. This year we will gather on the lanai, seated at tables, with a buffet brunch (pot-luck) to sing and share the Word together. The last time we did this was super great! If you are off-island, check the Zoom link on the website.
- ❖ The "**Hanging of the Greens**" (decorating the sanctuary for Christmas) will take place on **December 3rd** after worship. Ho, ho, ho.

We have started a Christmas Choir that rehearses mostly Joseph Martin's cantatas on Wednesdays at 7pm. This is very exciting news for you song birds! See Helen H-P for more information.

## Worship Leaders

**Lay Reader:** Vicky Mercado

**Deacon:** Vicky Mercado

**November Deacons:** Jill Whitehill, David Somers, Michael Herrick

**Church Council Meeting: November 11, 2023 @ 1:30 via Zoom hybrid**



Irwin Oyama for heart and surgeries; Melissa B. healing; Margaret's brother, cancer; 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); Berenice's mother Hortencia (stroke); 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.

### Mahalo:

- Thank you to all of you who gave generously to the "Neighbors in Need" national offering. We raised just under \$500.
- –Thank you to Melissa C. for coming in on her off hours to work on painting the panels under the windows in the sanctuary! She started doing this on our last all-church workday but ran out of time. Wait, Melissa has off hours? Ha ha ha.
- Thank you, Joanne W., for the timely donation of a beautiful fiberglass and aluminum eight-foot ladder. We can use it to put the star on the Christmas tree this year!
- Thank you to the Dora Isenberg Charitable Foundation for an amazing grant of \$9,000 to help the needy through the West Kauai Ministers' Association Kokua Fund at Nana's House in Waimea.

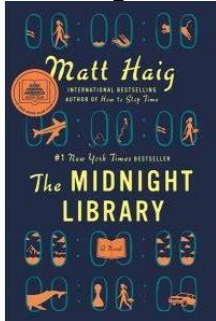
# Hau'oli la Hanau!



November 4 Marty Vidinha  
November 9 Elaine Ganeko  
November 19 Christopher Aguilar  
November 20 Shelly Erdmann  
November 27 Hannah Christian

## Book Club

November's pick is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. The premise of the novel is that



there is an in-between space between life and death called the library (or it was a library in the case of the protagonist, Nora). In this space, a person has a chance to make different choices in his or her life and try out these choices. It is a

chance to find out what happens to those choices that one may have regretted. At the beginning of the novel, Nora has many regrets and feels that she is a failure—no job, no friends, no romance, even her cat is dead. Nora has a chance to learn about what truly brings life satisfaction.

Jackie Matsumura will host on November 19, 2023, via Zoom Hybrid in her home.

December's selection will be *Em: A Novel* by Kim Thuy. Review Excerpt from Amazon: Written in Kim Thuy's trademark style, near to prose poetry, *Em* reveals her fascination with connection. Through the linked destinies of characters connected by birth and destiny, the novel zigzags between the rubber plantations of Indochina; daily life in Saigon during the war as people find ways to survive and help each other; Operation Babylift, which evacuated thousands of biracial orphans from Saigon in April 1975 at the end of the Vietnam War; and today's global nail polish and nail salon industry, largely driven by former Vietnamese refugees—and everything in between.

## News From the Pews

- Please carry a flashlight with you if you are coming to the church at night.
- While our head deacon David S. was away on the mainland in October, our unofficial youth deacon Sammi met you at the door handing out the programs. Good job!
- Hopaco no longer stocks legal-size ivory paper, so our worship program will look different in the near future—we are still looking at options. You can always follow online by hitting “Worship Program” on the top navbar on the church website, too. <http://www.waimeachurch.org/worshipprogram.htm>
- Did you know that you can submit items to our newsletter, too? Our editor is Jackie M. Simply e-mail her your content or hand her a note. She prefers English.
- Thank you to Rob & Sue C. for sharing the best mangoes with your ever-appreciative church family. Thanks to everyone else who is bringing in bananas, onions, and the like for the fellowship time.
- Wow, Phoebe is back on island after being away for so long administering her late father's estate. We really missed you. Never leave again, please.
- Kay & Kev. C. and family are back from the working trip to Japan. Little Hana knows some words of Japanese now, too.
- It is that time of year again when we start thinking about annual reports, budget, and nominations. If you get tapped to serve in a leadership role, it be the hand of God for sure.
- **Friday after-school Bible Club at 2:30 in the Ed Center Library**--Youth sing and share God's word, watch “The Chosen” series, eat taquitos and corndogs, and play volleyball in the gym. We've got all ages there!



*Continued from front page*

The measure of success in all of this is if we do not see a shearwater at the church. This is like what my physician once told me: "If I do not have to see you, that is the best that we can do!" I think this is reverse psychology to stay healthy! The seabird colonies continue to dwindle because of humanity, so we need to give them back a chance for survival. And, if we do see them, it will be because God wants us to see them again flying strong and free in the skies over Kauai.

We are committed to all of God's creation, its varying creatures, in all of its magnificence. So, if anyone asks you if the church has closed because the lights are off, you just go ahead and tell them that your church is "for the birds."

Aloha ke Akua, Pastor Olaf

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



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