

VOLUME XXX
NUMBER 9
September 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.

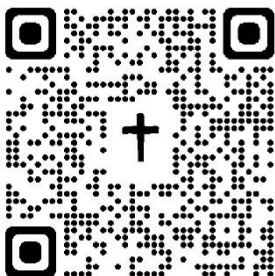
Waimea United Church of Christ

Located at the corner of
Makeke and Tsuchiya
Roads, Waimea, Kaua'i.

Rev. Dr. Olaf Hoeckmann-
Percival, Pastor

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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,

A few weeks ago, we held the first Bible Club session at Waimea Canyon Middle School. As many of you will surely already know, the school has a new principal. I decided to go early to the school to introduce myself to Mr. Carvalho as I would be coming on campus on a weekly basis for the club. He was not in at the moment, so I went to the bandroom where the club takes place and spent a good fifteen minutes with Mr. Braun's introductory music course with the students.

The lunch "bell" (It is actually music) rang and the students were dismissed. Some of the students wanted to stay behind, but Mr. Braun told them that Bible Club would be starting soon, so if they wanted to stay for Bible Club, they were welcome to do so.

One young lady who was new to the school addressed Mr. Braun then, "What is that? What is Bible Club?"

"It is a club where students can hear about the Bible and share in fun games, music, videos. . . ." Mr Braun affirmed.

"No. What is 'the Bible'?" the student asked with a quizzical look on her face.

I scanned her demeanor to see if she was joking. She looked perfectly sincere. She had never heard of the Bible. I was taken aback. I know that some people have never heard the Word of God, but never having heard *OF* the Word of God is something I had thought impossible.

"It is the Book that starts with the story of Creation and has many stories, the most important of which is the story of Jesus. It is the Book about God," Mr. Braun deftly replied without even a hesitation.

In this our "age of information" it has come to pass that Barbie movies and Tik Tok influencers, Google and taking selfies on social media, artificial intelligence and talking appliances are ubiquitous; but God and the Bible have been made irrelevant—a passing curiosity to a student headed out to the cafeteria for lunch. My head was spinning now: a child could receive six years or more of education, learning to read and write, but in fact never hear about the greatest book ever written. At least the Bible should be presented as basic literature on a reading list!

The young lady elected not to stay for Bible Club—not knowing what it was all about. After a few more moments other students came in to participate in some Bible Tag and club planning for the rest of the year. At the closing, we prayed for the students on campus who had never heard the Word. We have a tremendous amount of ministry before us to offer the Word of life and salvation to students who have never even heard of the Bible. "Lord, help us!"

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Scriptures and Sermons for September 2023

- Sept. 3rd Luke 23:1-17
"Auto-Pilate"
- Sept. 10th Luke 23:18-31
"Weep for Yourselves"
- Sept. 17th Luke 23:32-43
"One on the Right.
One on the Left"
- Sept. 24th Luke 23:44-56
"The Meaning of One Death"
- Oct. 1st Luke 24:1-35
"Breaking of the Bread"



Worship Leaders

Lay Reader: Mary Hayes

Deacon: Joy Whitehill

September Deacons:

Church Council Meeting: September 10, 2023 @ 11:30 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.

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:

All-Church Clean-Up Day will be **Saturday, September 2nd**, starting at 8am. We need volunteers to trim bushes outside and to clean all surfaces in the sanctuary! Please plan to attend.

KVMH Staff Appreciation Coffee Hour will be **Thursday, Sept 7th**, from 2:30 to 3:30pm. Russell will provide designer coffee once again, and we need donations of goodies for the hospital workers to make their lives sweeter! Please help if you can.

The annual **Neighbors in Need Offering** to help local mission work in the US will be accepted on **World Communion Sunday**, that is **October 1st**.

Mahalo:

Thank you, Deacon Michael, for making those truly great tamales for fellowship on August 13th. What a labor of love. Do you know how much work goes into tamales?

Mahalo:

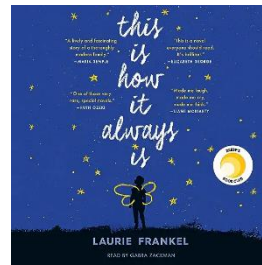
Thank you, Nani Fukino, for bringing in "Otter Pops" for the Sunday school kids! Should we be giving our kids treats? Yes, we otter!

"Greetings sisters and brothers in Christ, and many thanks for your faithfulness to the WBM Stamp Project. Stamps are getting difficult to get, so yours are very much appreciated by the recuperating service personnel who get them. Please just remember to leave more paper around the stamps". Carol

Thank you to Stephanie Funtanilla, director of Nana's House, for coming into worship on August 6th to talk about the WKMA Kokua Fund that helps individuals in need here in Waimea. The special offering that morning raised over \$600 to help those in need.

Hau'oli la Hanau!

September 7	Jackie Matsumura
September 11	Kevin Aguilar
September 17	Braiden Malicki
September 18	Abigail Christian
September 18	Cinthy Kagawa
September 22	Cyndi Ceballos
September 27	Brian Ceballos
September 27	David Somers
September 28	Carin Somers
September 30	Adam Somers



September's selection. *This Is How It Always Is*, by Laurie Frankel will be hosted by Sue Carlson on the 17th at 3:00

"It is about revelations, transformations, fairy tales, and family. Change is always hard and miraculous and hard again; parenting is always a leap into the unknown with crossed fingers and full hearts; children grow but not always according to plan."

Teri Sakai will host in *Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson in October.

News from the Pews

- A couple celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary sat next to Pastor Olaf on the plane coming back from Seattle recently. After Pastor talked with them throughout the entire six-hour journey, they came back for more on Sunday, August 13th! Blessings on Jared and Leanne Staples of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
- Sue Carlson is recovering from shoulder surgery. Please pray for "Sue's shoulder surgery" by saying it three times fast.
- Kay, Kevin, Hana, and Abi finally made it back from Trinidad and Tobago, but Kevin has been called to work in Japan until October, so the family is in Japan now! It was great seeing you for three Sundays! Eat plenty musubi!
- Mama Kahu Helen is off to Austin, TX, to be with Kim for a while. Travel mercies.
- Congrats to Ryan on the publication of his fourth book, *The Gift of the Waters*. A copy thereof may be found in the bookcase in the Narthex.
- The Westside welcomes the new Methodist Pastor "Lupita," taking over from Nafetali.
- Congratulations to Jared and Mahea, celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary this month! God's blessing on you both!
- Pastor Olaf blessed the new public library in Waimea last month, and Skye and Archie played the taiko drums in a special tribute.
- Pastor Olaf has been called in for jury duty again the first week of October--this after just being on in June! Pastor is now considering what felony he needs to commit to be excused.
- A high schooler at the after school program at the Ed Center actually apologized to Pastor for fighting with another boy the day before. Yes--that is news! The apology was warmly accepted.
- Helen H-P is already putting together the Christmas Eve program and is looking for singers!
- Waimeke cabins in Kokee were officially opened and blessed by Conference Minister David Popham on Saturday, August 12th. A group of us from the church went up the night before and had a wonderful time grilling frankfurters and marshmallows on an open fire. Rick F. got some of us up at 3am to watch the Perseid meteor shower, too!

LABOR DAY



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I believe that God has brought the pastors on the Westside (not just our church) to this place and time for a reason. We know about the lives that have been changed in the past through this Bible Club outreach, about the children who found hope and a reason to live. I am asking for all of your prayers now that the ministry will be strong into the future.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Olaf

◆
DOMINOES
TUESDAY, 7-9 PM
AT BAIRD HALL



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P.O. Box 457
Waimaea, HI 96796**