



# Hokuloa Church News

Hokuloa United Church of Christ  
69-1600 Puako Beach Drive, Puako, Hawai'i

Your Church by the Ocean  
Sunday Worship – 9 AM  
Join Us! All are welcome!

Summer 2018



**“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7**

Many churches claim to be welcoming of all people, but how many actually are? What does it mean to welcome someone as though they are the presence of Christ? How do we help all of our sisters and brothers feel welcomed, just as they are?

These are some questions that I've pondered recently. They're especially important to me because I've struggled my entire life with feeling welcomed. I've lived with the irrational fear that if someone really knew me, then they would not accept me. It has only been in the last few years that I've worked-through these fears and now live with a great deal of confidence and freedom.

As a result of this struggle, the virtue of hospitality brings me great joy and excitement. According to the theologian, Letty Russell, Christian hospitality is "...the practice of God's welcome, embodied in our actions as we reach across difference to participate with God in bringing justice and healing to our world in crisis." In essence, God is manifested through the church's genuine welcome of all people.



One of the ways that Hokuloa is seeking to "practice God's welcome" is by exploring the UCC's Open and Affirming (ONA) designation. The UCC defines ONA as "a journey of building inclusive churches and other ministry settings that welcome the full participation of LGBT people in

the UCC's life and ministry." When churches designate themselves as ONA, they no longer simply claim to be welcoming. They unequivocally are welcoming. This is the bold step that many churches have taken in order to stand in solidarity with all of God's children, especially those within the LGBT community.

Over the next couple of years, Hokuloa will be praying, learning, reflecting and discussing the possibility of becoming an ONA church. **I invite you to participate in this very important process with the church.** My prayer, through it all, is that we'll stay open to the Holy Spirit and continue being the church God is calling us to be.

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Joe*

## 2018 HOKULOA OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

<b>President/Moderator</b>	Jack Olson
<b>Vice President/Co-Moderator</b>	David Murphy
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne Marie Murphy
<b>Co-Secretary</b>	Yvonne Leiser
<b>Treasurer</b>	George Winchell
<b>Co-Treasurer</b>	Grace Salera
<b>Diaconate</b>	George Winchell, chair Elli Mench, Anne Marie Murphy, and Keala Stevens
<b>Trustees</b>	Cole Salera, chair David Murphy, Jack Olsen, Justin Sargeant Grace Salera, ex-officio
<b>Christian Education</b>	Jayne Niau and Grace Salera (co-chairs) Anne-Marie Murphy, Noriko and Craig Sauer
<b>Land Committee</b>	Cole Salera, chair Mike O'Toole (Project Manager) Karen Anderson, Gunner Mench, Jack Olson, and George Winchell

## Food Matters

Every Sunday packaged food items can be dropped off at the church. The food will be distributed to those with emergency needs. Donations of packaged food, personal hygiene items, household items, unused super-market points or coupons to redeem for food, and donations of cash to be used for eggs and fresh produce are accepted. Donations are tax deductible and what is donated for Local Missions is only used for this project.

Items can be dropped off at the church any Sunday morning.

## Money Matters

At the annual budget meeting in June, the council confirmed that the church met its 2017/2018 budget goals, **thanks to ALL of you** who filled our calabash every Sunday and who donated to the New Minister Fund. *Your generosity is the blessing that allows Hokuloa to continue its ministry.*

The Council also approved a 2018/2019 annual budget. We have \$13,000 of additional expenses this year and **we pray that we can count on your continued generosity** as Pastor Joe begins to grow the congregation, upgrade the facilities, and increase the church's outreach and various ministries to our neighbors.

Hokuloa continues to accept financial help for those affected by the flooding on Kaua'i in May and by recent eruptions and lava flows here on Hawai'i Island. All donations go to the

Hawaii Conference UCC for distribution. Checks may be made payable to HCUCC with a notation "Hawaii Disaster Relief Fund." We ask for your continued prayers.

Your continued support for Hokuloa and the community is needed and appreciated.



*Disaster Relief*

"Intelligence is knowing the right answer. Wisdom is knowing when to say it."

—Tim Fargo

"If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much time with them, and half as much money."

—Abigail Van Buren



## Hokuloa Church News

a publication  
of the Hokuloa  
United Church of Christ  
"Your Church on the Ocean"

### Location

69-1600 Puako Beach Drive  
Puako, South Kohala

### Office and Mail

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Waikoloa, HI 96738

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Rev. Joseph F. Medlin, Pastor  
hokuloaucc@icloud.com  
Telephone: (808) 883-8295

**Sunday Worship 9 a.m.**

## Caring for God's Creation: Hokuloa Historic Lands

United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations are called to demonstrate *the love of creation* as part of the UCC's **3 Great Loves** initiative that tells the story of how we are impacting and transforming the world as covenantal partners united in common purpose, vision, and mission. Hokuloa UCC's creation care includes maintaining a stretch of undeveloped scenic ocean shoreline adjacent to the church. The first fruits of this effort are now visible as you look makai from Puako Beach Drive as you approach the church. There is an emerging view of the coastline from Puako Bay past Hapuna Beach to Kawaihae and beyond.

In September 2016 the State of Hawai'i DLNR and the UCC Hawai'i Conference Foundation executed a lease reuniting Hokuloa Church grounds with the historical Puako School grounds (now the shoreline area east of the church). This was the culmination of a decade-long process of planning, environmental assessment, surveying, and permitting. Hokuloa Church now has kuleana for the care and maintenance of the shoreland as part of our historic heritage.



In January 2017 a Hawaiian blessing ceremony was held. A generous donation provided funds to begin creating a scenic shoreland vista and reducing the fire

hazard posed by years of accumulated fuel from keawe trees and dense shrubs.

Starting in June 2017, a shoreline access trail was cleared at the east end of the historic school grounds to provide public walking access from Puako Beach Drive to the ocean. Since then efforts have focused on reducing the wildfire hazard and removing vegetation within the shoreline setback zone as required by the lease and special management area permit. Selected trees are being maintained outside of the shoreland setback to provide a shaded parklike setting. Participants in a statewide wildfire

management conference toured the historic school grounds in May 2018 and praised the fire hazard reduction as part of Puako's continuing efforts to be a Firewise community.

But not everyone is pleased with the changing landscape. The county planning department has received and investigated two complaints. The first complaint was dismissed. The second resulted in an order to stop active work on the site until concerns about the techniques and types of equipment being used to remove accumulated fuels and clear the shore setback zone are resolved. The order is being appealed.

Meanwhile, off-site efforts continue. In late June members of the land committee met with trail organizations to discuss how the Ala Kahakai National Scenic Trail will be routed over the historic lands. Cuttings from the Naupaka hedge on the church grounds are being rooted in nursery pots for eventual planting on the school grounds. On the west side of the church property, the trustees are making plans to assume responsibility for maintaining the land between the monkeypod tree (where fellowship occurs) and the driveway to the adjacent Whales Tail condominium.

If you have questions about the project please call Cole Salera, Land Committee Chairman, at (808) 883-8295. We are as always, happy to discuss.



## Hospitality

**Quotes on Hospitality from *That We All Finally Be One: Covenant, Hospitality, and the Expanding Identity of the United Church of Christ* by Mary Susan Gast**

“We keep pushing ourselves to identify those who are on the farthest margins of church and society...those who the church can just barely accept. And then we go to them and ask them in. Church should not be a private social club. If someone isn't making us uncomfortable, we are not being the church.”

Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder  
Pastor of City of Refuge UCC

“We cannot be Christians without extending a sincere welcome to all fellow humans, neighbors and strangers alike, making clear the cost as well as the joy of discipleship.”  
UCC Statement on Hospitality

## 3 Great Loves

“...and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

There may be no greater need today than the need to love – love of neighbors, love of children, love of creation.

As the United Church of Christ introduced at General Synod recently, our church is being asked to be a partner in the UCC's “3 Great Loves” initiative – an initiative that focuses on Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation. This effort begins with the Love of Neighbor effort. Love of Neighbor is part of a denomination-wide effort that is about engaging the UCC to take action and to show the impact of our congregation, and the UCC, working together as one church, with one voice and one vision – a vision of **A Just World for All.**



Whether it's your next-door neighbor or a neighbor in another part of the world, as part of the Love of Neighbor effort, we are participating in a denomination-wide collection of food and personal hygiene products October 15, 2017 to December 31, 2017 to help the hungry, the homeless and those with basic health and hygiene needs.

**Mark your calendar!** Hokuloa Church will be holding a food drive for Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation (HIHAF) from Wednesday, October 3rd through Monday, October 8th. We will be setting up a tent on the church lawn throughout the drive. Representatives from HIHAF will also be present. Bruce Merrell, Executive Director of HIHAF, will be joining us for worship on Sunday, October 7th. Please join us for this shared ministry experience!

**Love of Neighbor can be expressed in many ways.** Please visit our web site, [3greatloves.org](http://3greatloves.org), to see the many easy and important ways to show Love of Neighbor. As a congregation, we are the hands and feet of the Church. Let's be a model in our church and in our community, to live out the purpose of the UCC: to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves. (Mt. 22)

## ONA Conversational Workshop

Sunday, July 29, 2018

The film, **A PLACE IN THE MIDDLE**, is the true-life story of a young Hawaiian girl who aspires to lead her school's all-male hula troupe and an inspiring teacher who uses traditional culture to empower her. Eleven-year old Ho'onani dreams of leading the hula troupe at her inner-city Honolulu school. The only trouble is that the group is just for boys. She's fortunate that her teacher understands firsthand what it's like to be “in the middle” - the Hawaiian tradition of embracing both male and female spirit. Together they set out to prove that what matters most is what's in your heart.

After the 25-minute film, discussion will be led by Yvonne Leiser. Please call the church office ((808) 883-8295) to register.