



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!

March 2020

Pastor Joe's Notes

I came across this story in Joan Chittister's *The Rule of Benedict: Insights for the Ages*:

"Once upon a time," an ancient story tells, "the master had a visitor who came to inquire about Zen. But instead of listening, the visitor kept talking about his own concerns and giving his own thoughts.

"After a while, the master served tea. He poured tea into his visitor's cup until it was full and then he kept on pouring.

"Finally the visitor could not bear it any longer. 'Don't you see that my cup is full?' he said. 'It's not possible to get anymore in.'

"Just so," the master said, stopping at last. 'And like this cup, you are filled with your own ideas. How can you expect me to give you Zen unless you first empty your cup?'"

If we're honest, then we must admit that we all need to empty our cups, at least a little bit.

Many of us live with too many electronic distractions, excessive work habits, irrational fears and habitual conflicts. Some of these are forms of escapism.

We would do well to empty these out and create more space for prayer, meditation, spiritual reading, and enriching conversations with friends and family. We might also spend more time advocating for the disinherited, mentoring a young person, volunteering, or learning more about the causes of suffering within our communities.

In essence, we need to *create more space for God's love*.

And Lent is the perfect time to do so.

As Chittister writes, "Lent is the process of emptying our cups."

During these next few weeks, let us empty and refill, trusting that God will offer us more grace than we can hold.

Warmly,
Joe



Calendar for Lent

February 26 – Ash Wednesday

Chapel open from 9:00 – 12:00 for prayer, reflection, and receiving of ashes

Sunday, March 8 – After worship

Workshop: "*Lectio Divina, Praying with Scripture*." Thelma Hall's *Too Deep for Words: Rediscovering Lectio Divina* will be the primary resource. Pastor Joe will facilitate.

Sunday, March 22 – After worship

Workshop: "*The Elements of Worship*." Various resources will be used. Pastor Joe will facilitate.

Palm Sunday, April 5 – 9:00A

Commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Good Friday, April 10 – 9:00A – 1:00P

Chapel will be open for prayer and reflection

Easter Sunday, April 12 -- 9:00A



Join us on the church lawn for a service of "The Living Cross," special music, and worship.

Stay after the service for Hokuloa's annual Keiki Easter Egg Hunt with a special visit from the Easter Bunny!

Wedding Chapel Update



Lil Yanez, our wedding representative, has been getting busier ever since the Wedding Reception/Open House that was held in August with wedding professionals.

Lil is excited to share that **Ke Ola Magazine** (KeOlaMagazine.com) has featured Hokuloa United Church of Christ in their March-April issue. The article mentions the history of Hokuloa and its current missions and projects, including the Wedding Chapel. The church grounds have improved with the clearing of the underbrush on the land adjacent to the church. The view of Puako Bay with its pahoe-hoe lava is a breathtaking backdrop for wedding pictures.

If you know of someone who would like to have their wedding in an intimate air conditioned chapel, please have them contact Lil Yanez, at 808-731-6218, (LILEYANEZ@gmail.com). More information about weddings may be found at HokuloaUCC.org/weddings.



New Members



Our church ohana continues to grow. With joy, we recently welcomed new members – Sharon Simpler, Lois Toevs and Marjorie Mrasek. Please welcome new members.

Sharon: "I always look forward to the warmth of Pastor Joe's message, which is meaningful and relatable to daily life."

Lois: "From the first day I entered the door at Hokuloa, I have been welcomed with open arms, smiles and acceptance of who I am and what I believe. My soul whispered to me "We are finally home" and we both smiled at each other and got to work in the mission of this Church."

Marjorie: "I am eager to invite friends to share the rich and full spiritual journey of the Hokuloa UCC experience! I cannot recall feeling that eagerness before."



Hokuloa Church, UCC Operating Expenses

Your generosity is crucial to the operations and mission of the church. We often focus on the mission of the church to reach out to others – to do good deeds in the community but reality dictates that we must "operate" the church, too. Unless you give to a reserved fund or for a specific purpose, this is how we have spent your money for January – December 2019. (Note: The church's fiscal year is July – June but because our Personal Giving Statements are based upon the calendar (tax) year, we thought this might be more helpful).

Wider Mission (state, national, international missions)	\$4,347.00
Music Program	\$6,225.00
Christian Education	\$253.00
Diaconate (Support for the <i>spiritual</i> church -- worship supplies, hospitality, pulpit supply)	\$1,110.00
Trustees (Support for the <i>physical</i> church -- water, electricity, maintenance, etc.)	\$21,672.00
Administrative (Church office -- postage, phone, Internet, equipment, office supplies, rent)	\$10,639.00
Pastoral Support (Wages, housing, medical & other insurances, pension, professional expenses, etc.)	\$78,072.00
Denominational (dues, memberships, annual meeting)	\$810.00

You Make a Difference

by Yvonne Leiser, Church Treasurer
and by Carol Klein, Mainland Angel

You CAN make a difference at Hokulua UCC Church - whether you are here for a week, a month or all the time. Sharing your gifts allows Hokulua to make a difference in Hawaii and in the lives of so many all year-round. Hokulua brings the love of God through worship and outreach throughout the year. The building and grounds are a community meeting house for Puako, reef conservation groups, substance recovery groups and a weekly Chuukese congregation. Whatever you can give, whether it's time, treasure or talent will help YOUR presence be felt in Hawaii - even if you cannot be here all the time.

Here are some ways to participate:

Time with Us

Your presence - Coming to worship with us is a gift. Thank you for spending time at "Your church by the Ocean".

Volunteer - Whether you are here a little or a lot, you don't have to be a member to help with setting up for worship, bringing food or flowers for worship and fellowship, helping with repairs and landscaping. Gifts of toilet paper, paper towels, napkins and office paper (22#) are appreciated. Call the office at 808-833-8295 to sign up.

Get Social - Share your Hokulua experience and photos on Facebook, Google and Yelp.

Help Those in Need in Hawaii

Even in paradise there is poverty and homelessness. Hokulua is reaching out to help. Gas and grocery gift certificates can be used by a local homeless family transitioning to a home. Assembling meals and donating food will feed clients of the Kona HIV/AIDs Foundation.

Make Your "Presents" Felt Year-round

Year-round support is a big help in maintaining our historic home and helping with necessary expenses. Even small on-going commitments of \$5, \$20 or \$50 really help with cash flow during the quieter times of the year when there are fewer visitors on island. Donations via checks or PayPal

are helpful at any time. Hokulua's PayPal account can be found by using our email: hokulouaucc@icloud.com and selecting "sending to a friend" avoids a transaction fee.

Automatic Payments - "Set it and forget it". Many banks offer recurring bill payment options, perhaps your bank does too. The DONATE button at www.HokuluaUCC.org offers both one-time and monthly recurring donation options.

Amazon Smile - Using Smile.Amazon.Com when ordering from Amazon, and designating Hokulua United Church of Christ as your charity, will donate .5% of every purchase to the church at no cost to you!! That's something to Smile about!

Leave A Lasting Legacy

Hokulua Church was founded by missionary Rev. Lorenzo Lyons who left a legacy of fourteen churches and many poems and hymns written in the

Hawaiian language. You can continue that legacy with a lasting gift to keep this historic church and its mission alive for years to come. To explore how you might contribute and receive tax benefits through IRA Distributions, gifts of appreciated stock or designating the church in your will or estate, contact Yvonne Leiser, Treasurer, at Yvonne.Leiser@gmail.com for a confidential and personal consultation. Finally, if you have real estate property you'll no longer need or want in the future, a gift of property perhaps for a combined parsonage/office would be a true answer to prayers.

Mahalo for making a difference at Hokulua United Church of Christ in Puako!!!!



You ARE the church

By Lois Toevs

Probably, if you are on the mainland, you say you "go to Church each week." But here, on the Island, we do not say that. We do not go to church; we ARE the Church. Our church is all about volunteers and participation. Everything for our service is set up and taken down each Sunday, uncovering the altar, setting up chairs, setting and taking down the tables and shade tents and chairs for our Hawaiian outdoor Fellowship hall, providing food and coffee for our after Church Fellowship time. We all volunteer to ring the Church bell, read the scripture, be an usher, be a greeter, get out the hymnals and bulletins and put them all away again. If someone does not give of themselves and volunteer, then that task just doesn't get done that week.

So, we invite you, not to "come to church" here on the Island, but to "BE the Church with us." Share of yourself. Choose something to do. Come 20 minutes early or stay 20 minutes after and help us put things out or put things away. You do not need any special skills, just pick something and share yourself with us.

We welcome all of you in love. ALOHA. Please join us and BE the Church while you are here. Mahalo

HIV/Aids Mission

In addition to our Sunday service, we support several community outreach missions. I have volunteered to be point person for our Community Food Donations. About 15 years ago, Pastor Emeritus John Hoover, took a radical step and committed this Church to help supply the food for the food bank at the HIV-AIDS Foundation in Kona. This clinic provides 80 bags of food per month to its clients/patients. We have been faithful to that commitment all these years.



You, personally, may not know someone with this terrible disease but each client and patient at this Clinic is MY brother and MY sister in Christ. They are my FAMILY. They are my OHANA. In the Hawaiian culture and language there are many very important concepts that sum up the Hawaiian philosophy of living. Two are *aloha* and *malama*

- ALOHA – to welcome with love and open arms.
- MALAMA – to care for
 - MALAMA KEIKI – to care for our children, the future of our nation.
 - MALAMA 'AINA – to care for our land, this Island.
 - MALAMA PONO – to care for righteousness, social justice.
 - MALAMA 'OHANA – to care for our family; family and extended relationships are paramount in this culture.

This year for MALAMA 'OHANA, I am doing something a bit different. Instead of just providing canned food, I am organizing weekly donations of fresh fruits and vegetables and home cooked meals. I have requested, and been blessed to receive from our church ohana, fresh fruit from their trees (tangerines, bananas, oranges, lemons, avocados, and papaya). We have received bags of fresh apples and carrots. I invite you to donate fresh foods, too.

If you do not like to grocery shop, especially on your vacation, allow me to do it for you. If you donate cash, I can really stretch your donation -- \$5 for a roasted chicken, \$5 for a bag of fresh apples, \$10 for 6 dozen eggs, \$15 for a big bag of sweet potatoes or white potatoes. Recently I have made and delivered 23 roast chicken and sweet potatoes meals, 30 baked turkey and potatoes meals, vegetarian baked potato meals, 5 dozen banana muffins, 6 loaves of sliced and wrapped banana bread, 3 dozen banana cookies, and 12 dozen fresh eggs. I take them to the HIV/Aids food bank in Kona and put most in the freezer and in the refrigerator so that there is fresh food for the following 2 weeks.

If you would like to join me in this effort, please place a few dollars of any amount into a church envelope and mark it "Food Donation" and I will start cooking. 😊



OCWM

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) benefits the ministry and mission of the Hawaii Conference, the national UCC and extends to many places around the world. Hokulua United Church of Christ has made a budgeted commitment to support OCWM throughout the year.



We just received a Letter of Appreciation from Rev. David Popham, Conference Minister of the Hawaii Conference of the UCC. For the past year, we are again a "5 for 5" Congregation meaning our congregation provided support to Our Church's Wider Mission and to the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need and The Christmas Fund. The special mission offerings are highlighted at specific times during the year.

Be part of our connection to the United Church of Christ in Hawaii, in the United States, and in the world – Donate to OCWM. Your donation to Hokulua with a designation for OCWM supports the collective generosity of our congregation and many other congregations.

Quilt: EVENING STAR



created and quilted by Lois Toevs, MD.
1998, Los Alamos, New Mexico

As a child growing up during World War II, my sister and I lived with Grandma. When we were sick, we were moved to a tiny back bedroom with Grandma's hugs and Grandma's colorful afghan. I knew from then on that to get well, you needed hugs and to be wrapped in a colorful blanket of love.

I practiced medicine as an Emergency Room Physician and a Family Practice Physician for 32 years and EACH patient got a hug. When I opened my medical clinic, each of the 18 exam rooms and the halls had a wall quilt. As you entered the clinic, you were greeted by this big quilt I called EVENING STAR. I was known in town as the doctor with the quilts and hugs. Each patient received a big hug as they left and was in sight of a wall quilt as they were treated.

When I joined Hokulua Church in 2019, I learned that the Church name, HOKULOA, means EVENING STAR. It was meant to be that this quilt should spend some time here on the wall of Hokulua.

EMAIL PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

Hokulua UCC invites you to join our online Prayer Support Group (PSG)! What we oldsters used to call a Prayer Chain has been updated to allow our prayer requests go out via our personal internet providers.

This ministry receives requests for prayer from people across the country. We will send an email to those who are in the PSG and they will include the prayer requested in their daily (if not MORE frequent prayers). We will use only the first name and last name initial of the one needing prayer. As simple as that – but it does take someone like you who will be faithful in checking your email and then bringing the requests to God in prayer. Participants may want to keep a prayer journal for this ministry.

The PSG Leader, **Marjorie Mrasek**, is asking those who are interested to let the church or her know should you like to participate. Please include your name, current and most correct email address, and your telephone number including area code.

Praise God for this additional ministry open to all across the world!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church hokulouacc@icloud.com 808 883-8295
Marjorie nanabanana049@gmail.com 808 345-1989



Winds of Change

The winds have been excessive at times this winter, causing significant damage at Hokuloa. The Sunday before Christmas we arrived to see the fellowship shelter leaning and beginning to separate from the kitchen building. On two Sundays the wind damaged four of our portable sunscreens beyond repair. The 'warrior' sign that identifies Hokuloa as a historic site blew down; one tree on the shoreline property was uprooted and the top of another tree was broken. Repairing the damage has kept the Trustees and Land Committee busy and have stressed our volunteer and financial resources.



Cole Salera and David Murphy were able to brace and stabilize the fellowship shelter, but the shelter was closed for safety until repairs were completed. Cole, Jay Failing, and Mike O'Toole consulted to plan replacement of the ohia support posts and steel

anchors that had rusted. Cole led the work to install new treated dimensional support posts with help from David Murphy and Jack Olson. The shelter is now being used and there are plans to paint it and the kitchen soon.



The historic site sign has a new post. The downed tree has been removed and the broken treetop will be trimmed. The emergency repairs have slowed progress on the planned church window replacement and additional work on the shoreline property. Volunteers have been able to control the re-sprouting of kiawe stumps and started planting a naupaka hedge on the shoreline property.

Designated donations to the Building & Grounds fund or to the Land Project will help with the unexpected expenses. A volunteer workday is being planned for March 21st.

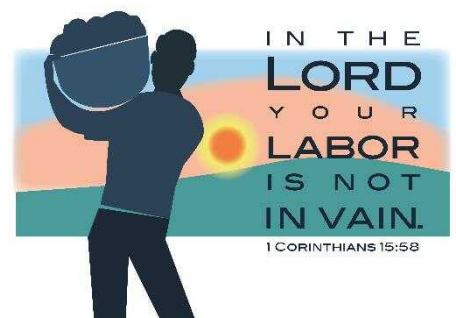


Hokuloa Workday

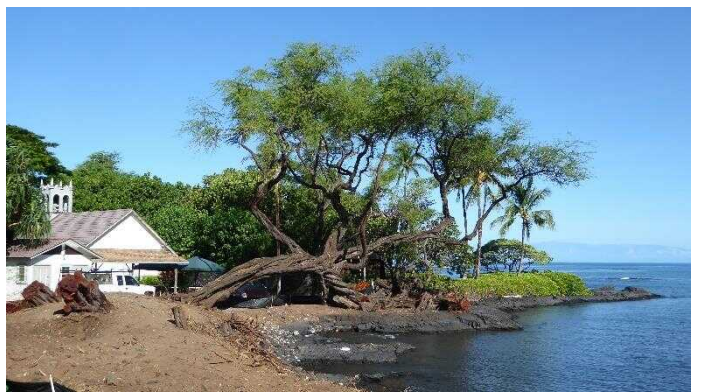
The Trustees are sponsoring a Volunteer Workday on Saturday, March 21st beginning at 9AM. See you there!

Some of the projects we hope to accomplish on the workday (in rough order of priority):

- Paint Kitchen
- Paint shelter underside of roof and new support posts
- Replace screen over the restroom and storage doors
- Clean the ledge above the altar
- Clean the lights / fans in the church
- Remove the silt fence and fence posts along the driveway
- Take refuse to the transfer station
- Repair the chip in the exterior wall near the church door
- Pull weeds, cut kiawe sprouts, pick up trash on the shoreland
- Plant additional naupaka on the shoreland



Hokuloa Shoreline Views and Visitors



Hokuloa Church News

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of the Hokuloa
United Church of Christ
Rev. John P. Hoover, Pastor Emeritus
"Your Church by the Ocean"

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2020 HOKULOA OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

President/Moderator	Jack Olson
Vice President/Co-Moderator	Lois Toevs
Secretary	Anne Marie Murphy
Co-Secretary	Crystal Medlin and George Winchell
Treasurer	Yvonne Leiser
Co-Treasurer	Grace Salera
Diaconate	George Winchell, chair Elli Mench, Charla & Darrin Johnson, Anne Dressell, Marjorie Mrasek, and Anne Marie Murphy
Trustees	Cole Salera, chair David Murphy, Jack Olson, Justin Sargeant Grace Salera, ex-officio
Christian Education	Grace Salera
Land Committee	Anne-Marie Murphy Cole Salera, chair Mike O'Toole (Project Manager) Karen Anderson, Gunner Mench, Jack Olson, and George Winchell

Hokuloa UCC
PO Box 384239
Waikoloa, HI 96738



Please join us for Easter Sunday, April 12th! Come and worship on the lawn.

Special music provided by Michaeloha Elam, (trumpet), Annu Shionoya (piano) and Joanie Collins, (violin).

Children will participate in the Living Cross, Special Children's Message from Pastor Joe and an Easter Egg Hunt following worship.

We look forward to seeing you!