



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 2021

Reflections from Pastor Jeff

Dear members and friends of Hokuloa,

I'm deeply humbled and excited to be called as your interim pastor. I'm excited to see how we will work together in seeking and discerning God's desires and yearnings for Hokuloa.

We are all gifted uniquely with different passions for ministry by God. Some of my passions include helping Christians discover, develop and deploy the unique gifting. Some of my favorite Bible passages which reveal how we each are uniquely created include Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5-7, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, and Ephesians 2:10.

There are many more that I could list. But perhaps my favorites are Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 1. In these passages, we read that God is at work in us, preparing us for ministry even before we were born. But the words that boggle my mind the most are in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart."

Can you imagine that before you were conceived, God already had a plan for your life and was gifting and preparing you for it?

I want to help build-up the church, the body of Christ, to fully live into the ministries that we are created for. This passion led me to write a book to help Christians who feel inadequate for faith sharing to have faith conversations out of their unique giftedness.

As I work with you over the next several months, I hope we can answer this question, "When you reflect on all the spiritual gifts and talents that God has placed within this church, what might this reveal concerning God's desires or vision for this congregation?"

Thank you for putting your trust in me for this crucial time ahead for the church.



Welcome Reverend Dr. Jeff Glass, Our New Interim Pastor

We are very happy that Rev. Dr. Jeff Glass accepted the call to join us at Hokuloa as our Interim Pastor. He will assist us in defining our church goals and in finding our pathway to attain those goals. This is a time of opportunity and discovery for our congregation and we are eager to begin this new phase of development and growth here at Hokuloa. Pastor Jeff will also guide us in developing our search for a new permanent settled pastor.

Pastor Jeff is a seasoned pastor with over 30 years of experience in worship, pastoral care, and spiritual leadership. He is committed to creating thriving communities and to assisting individuals develop their personal strengths and spirituality. He has many skills that fit our needs right now. He

loves organization, strategic planning, problem resolution, congregational care, and program development. And, he loves to SMILE.

Pastor Jeff has been worshipping with us on Zoom since the spring of 2020 and was our supply pastor for the month of September. He also worshipped and gave sermons here with Rev. Hoover in the past.

Pastor Jeff is presently living in Bogota, Colombia and he and his wife and stepdaughter plan on arriving at Hokuloa about March 15, 2021. Please greet and welcome them into our Beloved Community as one of our own.



A food drive poster with a light green background and dark green monstera leaves. The text reads: "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR" FOOD DRIVE Benefitting local charities* NON-PERISHABLE FOOD OR MONEY BRING DONATIONS TO HOKULOA CHURCH SUNDAYS FEB 7, MARCH 7, APRIL 4 OR PUAKO STORE EVERY DAY HOKULOA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST *Kohala Cares, Waikoloa Lions Club, Big Island Food Basket.

Seeking Wedding Representative



Work with Brides, Mothers-of-the-Brides, Wedding Planners and more to schedule and coordinate weddings at Hokulooa. Promote Hokulooa as a venue with island wedding

professionals. Be on-site during rehearsals and weddings. Receive a small stipend for each completed commercial wedding. Lil Yanez, our present Wedding Representative, is moving to the mainland but she's still available for the transition to a new Wedding Representative. [NOTE: Weddings are presently limited to 10 people or fewer by the County of Hawaii]. Contact the church office or Yvonne Leiser (990-3458, YvonneLeiser@gmail.com) to explore this opportunity.



Communion = Sharing A Meal

Hokulooa's Food Security program has changed a bit and expanded a lot. HIV/AIDS foundation in Kona is now using our meals exclusively for the homeless and so we need to give them non-spoil meals. We are delivering (made by Karen Anderson) 45 PB&J sandwiches every two weeks and no other cooked food.

We are now partnering with the **New Hope Church** of Waikoloa Village to feed twenty Kupuna who are all alone and homebound. Hokulooa's commitment is to provide meals for each Saturday and Sunday. We are cooking two full and different meals and fruit or salad weekly plus six fresh eggs every other week. Lynne from **New Hope Church** delivers the food daily to their homes. This is a big effort, but we are learning new menus to meet the individual diets of the kupuna. When our COVID isolation is over, more of us from our Church can participate.

Waikoloa's treasured and loved elderly need and appreciate our efforts. God Bless Them.

Hokulooa Church News

a publication
of the Hokulooa
United Church of Christ
"Your Church by the Ocean"

Location

69-1600 Puako Beach Drive
Puako, South Kohala

Office and Mail

P. O. Box 384239
Waikoloa, HI 96738
Rev. Jeff Glass, Interim Pastor
Rev. John P. Hoover, Pastor Emeritus
hokuloaucc@icloud.com
Telephone: (808) 883-8295

2021 HOKULOOA OFFICERS and COMMITTEES

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| President/Moderator | George Winchell |
| Vice President/Co-Moderator | Lois Toevs |
| Secretary | Anne Marie Murphy |
| Co-Secretary | Anne Dressel |
| Treasurer | Yvonne Leiser |
| Co-Treasurer | Grace Salera |
| Diaconate | Charla Johnson, chair Darrin Johnson, co-chair, Elli Mench, Lois Toevs, Anne Dressell, Marjorie Mrasek, Zach Fuelling, and Anne Marie Murphy |
| Trustees | Jack Olson, David Murphy, Cole Salera, George Winchell, Justin Sargeant Grace Salera, ex-officio |
| Christian Education | Anne-Marie Murphy Darrin Johnson |

COVID-19 and the Church

On March 15, 2020, the Hokuloa Church council suspended in-person worship services as the Coronavirus Pandemic developed. Shortly thereafter, the state and county of Hawaii closed non-essential businesses and issued general stay-at-home rules. On May 20, 2020, the county had classified places of worship as medium-risk businesses and allowed in-person attendance at worship services subject to social distancing guidelines, mask wearing, and limitations on indoor seating capacity but Hokuloa continued a virtual-only worship format with everyone participating from their homes.

With the relocation of the church office to the church building in July 2020, internet service was established at the church and it became possible to have the minister, musician, liturgist, and audiovisual support techs produce worship services from Hokuloa. On August 5, 2020, the council adopted Guidelines for Attending Events at Hokuloa Church. Under those guidelines, we developed the capability to allow people to view,



hear, and participate in worship services outdoors at the church. The Christmas Eve service demonstrated that hybrid virtual and outdoor in-person events are possible.

With the post-holiday peak of COVID-19 cases and the emergence of new variants of the coronavirus, the church council reviewed the guidelines. The council re-affirmed its commitment to maintaining the virtual option for worship services and most church meetings given the high-risk status of much of our congregation. The council decided to use the current county rule that limits gatherings to 10 people even though places of worship are classified as medium-risk businesses and are not subject to the 10-person gathering rule. *(The current church guidelines are presented in the box below).* The council will continue to monitor pandemic conditions and revise the guidelines. If the current trends of decreasing numbers of COVID-19 cases and increasing number of individuals vaccinated continue it may be possible to have greater in-person attendance at worship and other events.

Guidelines for Attending Events at Hokuloa Church During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Hokuloa Church has made significant changes in its operations during the coronavirus pandemic to limit the spread and impacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Hokuloa will strive to offer alternatives to in-person worship, events, and meetings to the extent possible for the duration of the pandemic. You are encouraged to participate in worship and meetings via Zoom if possible, especially if you have health conditions that make you more susceptible to COVID-19. You should not attend in-person if you have a fever of 100.4° F. or higher, a cough, other COVID-19 symptoms, or feel ill.

The church council has adopted the following guidelines for those attending worship, events, or meetings at Hokuloa during the pandemic:

- Use hand sanitizer upon arrival (church has hand sanitizer)
- Wear a face mask while on church property (church has masks for those who do not bring their own)
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet (except allowing closer distance for smaller groups who share living space (i.e., family units can sit together for worship))
- Provide your name and some contact information (phone or email) in case contact tracing becomes necessary.
- No use of hymnals, no congregational singing, single use / disposable bulletins
- Sanitize chairs and other contact surfaces following worship
- No Communion using shared bread or juice
- No food or beverage served during fellowship
- Compliance with state or county regulations on meeting size

(Adopted by Hokuloa Church Council August 5, 2020; Revised January 13, 2021)

Hokuloa Church, UCC General Fund Status



Hokuloa Church has been blessed with many generous donors even while in-person gatherings are not encouraged. The church has been without a full-time pastor for almost half of our fiscal year which started in July. We have been fortunate to have many insightful temporary pastors (pulpit supply) and lay leaders fill in during this time. The 5½ months of the unfilled pastoral position reduced our expenses by over \$20,000. So now, instead of finishing the year with a loss of \$18,000, we anticipate breaking even for the fiscal year that will end in June.

We look forward to Pastor Jeff Glass' spiritual leadership and his participation in preparing Hokuloa for the on-going uncertainties as we all adjust to the *new normal* and how it may impact our pastoral leadership.

Hokuloa United Church of Christ Budget vs. Actuals: General Fund July 2020 to June 2021

| | Actual 7 months | Original Full Year Budget | Full Year Forecast | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Envelopes & Pledges | 62,525 | 83,000 | 76,000 | (a) |
| Loose Plate Offering | 173 | 4,750 | 300 | |
| Other Income | 3,330 | 3,150 | 7,600 | (b) |
| Total Income | 66,028 | 90,900 | 83,900 | |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| WIDER MISSION | 2,500 | 4,800 | 4,800 | (c) |
| MUSIC | 2,725 | 6,400 | 6,200 | |
| CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | 258 | 500 | 358 | |
| DIACONATE: | | | | |
| Pulpit Supply - Sept to Mid-March | 1,925 | 700 | 4,050 | (d) |
| Other Worship, Advertising & Hospitality | 125 | 2,000 | 700 | |
| Total DIACONATE | 2,050 | 2,700 | 4,750 | |
| TRUSTEES - Cleaning, Yard Care, Utilities | 7,997 | 19,915 | 17,300 | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT | 3,944 | 10,157 | 7,980 | |
| PASTORAL SUPPORT | 13,112 | 64,248 | 41,929 | (e) |
| DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS | 92 | 570 | 570 | |
| Total Expenses | 32,679 | 109,290 | 83,887 | |
| Net Income/(Net Loss) | 33,349 | (18,390) | 13 | |

(a) Blessed with generous on-going donations; not sure when on site services will resume

(b) Investment Returns are higher than normal and an additional return from a stock donated in 2018

(c) Local Mission, a separate designated fund, disbursed \$3,669 from July to January.

(d) Supply Pastors (temporary) including Lay Leaders filled in from Sept to Mid-March. Many donated their services.

(e) No Pastor from Sept to mid-February (5.5 months). Interim Pastor Glass began in mid-February

as a Part Time Supply Pastor and will be on island and Full Time in mid-March.

Have You Checked Your Beneficiary Designations Lately?

About five years ago I checked on and updated the beneficiary designations on our personal financial accounts. Since then, our brokerage account was absorbed by another company and we were surprised to find that all the beneficiary designations disappeared.

Take time to review your beneficiary designations on a regular basis. Look at the beneficiary designations on your IRAs, 401ks, insurance plans, bank accounts and brokerage accounts. Your beneficiary designations on many of your personal financial accounts can be viewed by logging online into your accounts.

Name both primary and contingent beneficiaries. You are not limited to naming just one of each. You can allocate percentages among several beneficiaries. My neighbor has three grandchildren; she has named each grandchild as a 33.3% primary beneficiary to her retirement account.

Considering tithing (giving one tenth) by including Hokuloa United Church of Christ among your beneficiaries. Perhaps select one account to name Hokuloa UCC as a 100% contingent beneficiary or name Hokuloa UCC as a 10% contingent beneficiary on most of your financial assets.

Estate planning is an important and everlasting gift. For more information on sharing your legacy including gifts of appreciated stock have your financial advisor text or call Yvonne Leiser, Church Treasurer, at 808-990-3458 or leave a message with the church office at 808-883-8295.

| Hokuloa Account |
|---|
| Company Name: Hokuloa United Church of Christ |
| TIN: 99-0349152 |
| Address: P O Box 384239, Waikoloa HI 96738 |

Calendar for Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Zoom Service – 5:00

Palm Sunday, March 28 – 9:00A

Commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Good Friday, April 2

Easter Sunday, April 4 -- 9:00A

Join us on Zoom to celebrate Christ's resurrection.



Hokuloa UCC
PO Box 384239
Waikoloa, HI 96738



Please join us Easter Sunday, April 4th at 9:00A on Zoom as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 health and safety guidelines our service will be virtual only.

We look forward to seeing you online!