



WAIPAHU UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE OUTLOOK

*Rev. David Makana Milotta,
Senior Minister*



WUCC Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019

Pastor's Message

Where do we go from here? Knowing the next steps that we have to take in any journey can be difficult. As a parent, I have long discussions with my wife about how our kids are growing and learning, what we should do in the future about schooling, how we can cultivate their interests; the list goes on. It seems like there are never ending choices to be made. In those cases, it can feel overwhelming to have some many different choices in front of you. Other times, it can feel like the opposite situation is at hand. You feel stuck and there seems to be no way out. Maybe you can relate. Perhaps you have been faced with decisions also, have felt like your job is at a dead end, or are caring for a family member who has worn you into exhaustion. Or perhaps, it's just your golf game that seems to have plateaued. Regardless, I think we have all felt like we had too many choices, or too few, at times and been unsure of where to go. Have you ever felt that way about your faith journey? Sometimes our relationship with Jesus doesn't seem like it has progressed like you thought it would; maybe things haven't been the same for so long, you have stopped expecting anything to change at all.

God lays out two primary steps in the gospels for His people, a pattern for living in faith. First, He calls us to Him and then He sends us out. Jesus says "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" in Matthew 11:28 and then later in Matthew 28:19 says "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". We all must come to Him, and we all must go out. That process of making disciples of all nations is core to what it means to be a Christian. It isn't something we can outsource to other people. It is something that we need to do ourselves in order to grow in faith. Reaching others is part of our own journey. When we teach, we learn. The act of explaining something to others and including them in the understanding helps your understanding to grow as well. This has been called The Protégé Effect by some educators and it's been part of the Christian journey since the very beginning. It is by reaching out and including others, instructing and mentoring them in their faith that our own faith grows. This process is called discipleship and no instruction manual or lecture will ever teach you as much as discipleship will. No other method will grow the church and your own faith like true discipleship.

This process of discipleship is what our Next Steps bible study will focus on starting on October 6th at 8am and running for 6 weeks. It doesn't matter where you are in your faith journey you are welcome. We will be starting from the basics of what it means to follow Christ, examining what our doubts and questions about Jesus are, and exploring what it means to be part of a church. If you have been coming to bible studies all your life, come and bring a friend. If you haven't been to one in years, come. If this will be the first time you have ever considered learning more about Christianity, come, talk story and bring a friend!

Next Steps Bible Study October 6th at 8am



Pastor Makana

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Waipahu United Church of Christ

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Website:

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Office hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Church Council

Summer is ending and hopefully cooler weather will likewise follow. Along with the change of seasons, the end of the appeal of the City and County's real property tax assessment has ended with a settlement which has resulted in reducing the net assessment to approximately 1/3rds of the original amount. Led by Pastor Makana and work by Judy Hayashida, Mark Felmet, Cecile Goo and others, a lot of information was compiled which resulted in the appeal document. The process to lower the net tax amount will continue with the 2020 assessment. Thank you God for guiding us and continuing to help us with the on-going process.

Our Bazaar is rapidly coming up on October 12. The congregation needs to come together to put this together. We will not have a chicken sale, so please sign up to help prepare for the bazaar.

November will bring the Thanksgiving holiday and the luncheon for the disadvantaged held jointly with the **City of Kapolei** on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. As in previous years, Waipahu United Church of Christ is hosting the event at our Toku Yoshida Community Center, and the food for the event will be provided by the **City of Kapolei**. As the time gets closer, we will need volunteers to decorate the Community Center, serve the food, provide some entertainment and clean up.

Just a note of thanks. We thank Janet Yoshida for her very generous gift to the church. The Yoshida family has supported of the church from the beginnings in the 1950s as the Waipahu Community Church. **We wish Janet a continued** good health. We also thank Amy Sakuma for her gift through her trust. Amy's trust gave a generous gift to the church for the music and youth ministries. Amy was a supporter of the church and other community organizations over the years. We also remember the many contributions by our former choir director and member Helen Barcelona. Helen and her family are long time supporters of the church going back to the time of the Waipahu Evangelical Church. As the choir director and member of the church choir, we clearly remember her leadership and her beautiful singing for so many years. God bless them all and their families.

Members may have noticed Pastor Makana in shorts and t-shirt on some mornings. He was there with Veronica to set up the playground for the very young children's play events mainly on Wednesdays. He could use setup help early on Wednesdays. All young children are welcome to these play sessions.

Election time is coming and there are positions open. Please consider serving as part of the church committees and boards.

As the holiday season approaches, take time to acknowledge the many blessings God has given us. Our country which allows us to live, work, learn and worship as we choose. This very beautiful state is blessed with the best environment in the world. Our friends and families who enjoy their life live here.

God bless you all.

Wayne Oshiro
Moderator.

Board of Trustees

Aloha from your Board of Trustees.

Our annual Fall Bazaar is just around the corner! As voted on by the congregation and approved by both the Board of Trustees and the Council, this event will be held on Saturday October 12, 2019. Yes, check your calendars-it's about two weeks away! We want to thank all of those who have volunteered thus far, but we are still in dire need of more volunteers. Please let Cecile, the pastor or me know what you and your family are interested in volunteering for. Many hands make it easy for everyone who's volunteered thus far. Let's make this event a fun one! Since the Bazaar will be held on the second Saturday of the month, we will not have a "workday" in October. The regular "crew" that helps on our regular workdays throughout the year, will be participating in the Bazaar. Again, we need your help!

Take care and God Bless-
Mark H. Felmet-Chair BOT

The "Give Aloha" Campaign

WUCC's Ohana and friends came through with a gift of \$2,343 thus far in Foodland's "Give Aloha" campaign. You have till the end of September to contribute and this will be counted as part of your offering. Foodland and Western Union match a portion for every dollar given for WUCC. What a wonderful response by the Ohana and friends of WUCC. Mahalo for your continued support!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

We'll be forming an inquirer's class for those interested in sharing our questions and our faith, discussing the roots of this church and the UCC, and how we get things done in service to God's will. Let **the Deacons, Pastor Makana or Cecile** know if you're interested.

CHURCH WORK DAY SCHEDULE

for the year. Second Saturday of the months at 8:00 a.m. **Nov. 9 & Dec. 14, 2019.** Please mark those dates on your calendar. Thank you!

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Hawaii FoodBank, food drop; every 3rd Tuesday; next event is **Tuesday, Oct. 15, Nov. 19 & Dec. 17, 2019** at 7:30 a.m. at the Senior Apartments. Please come out and help distribute food to the seniors. Mahalo!

Chancel Choir: Just a reminder: Choir practices every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in David's Den. It's never too late to join us in music, fellowship and fun! Mahalo, Alika and Jackie.

Board of Deacons

Aloha everyone!

When you lose a loved one, the grief can be overwhelming. So many questions. Why? When will the pain stop? How can I move on? There are no easy answers. Know that God continues to love and care for us in our darkness hours.

~ Home in Heaven~

I am Home in Heaven, dear ones. I am in the presence of the Lord. He has welcomed me with open arms. Do not grieve for me. My hurt and pain are gone. There's peace and happiness in this everlasting light. I'm safely Home in Heaven.

Leang Smith

August was an emotional rough month. Pastor Makana lost his grandfather, the late David Milotta. I lost my beautiful grandmother. She lived for 95 years and endured the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields era. She loved to tell us old family stories. Most recently, we lost an amazing talented Helen Barcelona. I'll never forget when I heard her sing the first time. I could not believe the beautiful loud voice that came out of this tiny lady. That was four years ago when she was still the Choir Director. May our loved ones rest in heaven with the hand of the Lord.

The Board of Deacon did not meet last month due to the emergency Council Meeting of the Tax Settlement. We are working on the upcoming schedule and holiday. Thank you everyone for your hard work. May God continues to guide and blessed us.

Leang Smith

How Your Neighbors in Need Offering Helps: Dyslexia tutoring a matter of justice for Wisconsin kids

Hans Holznagel (ucc.org)

Dyslexia doesn't just make it hard to read. Sometimes it makes a kid feel left out.

In Northeast Wisconsin, kids and their parents can turn to a church for dyslexia support. Thanks in part to a Neighbors in Need grant from the United Church of Christ, Union Congregational UCC in Green Bay regularly welcomes dozens of kids for one-on-one tutoring at its On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic.

Wisconsin is one of only two U.S. states that does not require dyslexia instruction in public schools, so demand is high. "When I applied for the NIN funds, I was anticipating possibly 40 students for the 2019 summer program," said Executive Director Patricia Shafer. Fifty-four have been coming to appointments, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. After a \$25 registration fee, the tutoring is free. Last school year, with hours from 1 to 7 p.m., the clinic was already serving 28 students regularly from grades K through 12. They traveled as far as 40 miles to the downtown clinic.

The clinic started in June 2018 with a grant of \$8,000 from the congregation's Gifts and Memorials Fund. It costs about \$1,000 a month to run the clinic, Shafer said, including curriculum costs, tutor stipends (\$12 per hour), insurance and phone expenses. The church charges no rent. Shafer volunteers her time, as do half of the program's 16 summer tutors. Training can be expensive; a recent session for several new tutors was \$7,500. This year's \$3,000 NIN grant helped pay for summer tutors and Wilson Reading System instructional materials.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously. Offering brochure and an envelope are enclosed, and please bring your offering to church on October 6.

Board of Christian Education

Aloha,

The weather has gotten colder and students are back in school: It's finally Fall, which means our toddler playgroup is back in session.

Veronica leads the children and their families in fun activities every Wednesday on the church grounds. We lost a couple families due to kids getting older and graduating, but we seemed to have gained the numbers back and added new families in the last few weeks. Our class regularly hosts about 12 children, who come from both military and local families. In the last few weeks, the keiki have experienced bubble trucks, fishing for foam noodles, rainbow bubble art paintings, ocean animal water play and digging for play worms in the dirt. The kids even met an oriental flower beetle grub!

If you or someone you know is a caregiver of a young child from 1-5 years of age, invite them to come out with their caregiver on **Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.** See the church office for more details.

We are still looking for more volunteers to sit in and/or assist in our toddler and youth group classes in order to comply with safety regulations and to broaden our community outreach. Please contact us or the church office if you are interested in lending a hand. Whether it's signing up for one session, monthly, or weekly, we appreciate any time you can volunteer.

We hope you are having an amazing start to Fall. We are excited for what's to come.

Jackie and Veronica on behalf of the Board of Christian Education

Playground Wednesday



Fun activities for children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Next Steps: Growing as Christ followers. This new Bible Study focused on growing as a Christian by helping others grow is starting Oct 6th on Sundays at 8am. Lead by Pastor Makana

REMINDER: Next Sunday (October 6) is our monthly food drive for the Hawaii Food Bank. You have all been generous donors throughout the year as we serve our community in this special manner, and we continue to ask for your support.

Thank you very much from the Social Action Committee.

WUCC Fall Bazaar

Saturday, October 12, 2019 between 8:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Donations may be brought in the office.

(No exercise equipment and large pieces of furniture)

Help Needed:

Monday, October 7, 2019 @ 9:00 a.m.

Volunteers needed to empty containers/Set-up

Tuesday - Friday @ 9:00

Each department will set their own work schedule

Help is needed for various departments during the bazaar and also to set-up & clean-up. Please volunteer by signing up on Sundays or call the office & leave your name & phone number. Country Store requests that if possible, donations should be packaged & priced to sell.

Come out and Support Grant Lee:

Pearl City Community Church (933 Lehua Avenue, Pearl City) is hosting a rummage and bake sale fundraiser on **Saturday, October 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Come and shop until you drop at the Country Store, enjoy delicious baked goods and plate lunches, and find some treasures waiting for you! Donations for the bake sale and silent auction are also welcome. All proceeds will go towards helping with the health care needs for Rev. Grant Lee, who lives with Parkinson's disease.

August Memories

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Pastor Makana



Holy Communion



Alika C. & Jackie K.



WUCC Praise Dancers



Chancel Choir



Mary Ann Chinen



Crystal L.



Mark F.



Emi K., Pastor Alo, Leatrice S. & Teddi Y.



Felix G & Alesia G.



Angilica H. & Harriet A.

Country Store
Baked Goodies
Plants
Clothing
Fresh Produce

WAIPAHU
UCC

Free
Parking



FALL BAZAAR

Saturday, Oct. 12, 8:30 A.M.-1 PM

Country Store, Food, Crafts, Vendors & More

NO ENTRANCE FEE

Come Early! Help WUCC, help our community!

Waipahu United Church of Christ
 (right across from Waipahu Public Library)
 94-330 Mokuola Street/ Ph: 677-3317

NEXT STEPS



**GROWING AS CHRIST'S
FOLLOWERS**

**BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAYS, 8:00 A.M.**

Waipahu United Church of Christ
94-330 Mokuola Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Sunday is: 9:30 a.m. *Sunday Worship*
 9:45 a.m. *Sunday School*
First Sunday is: 9:30 a.m. *Communion Sunday*

Sunday, October 6 11:00 a.m. *Board of Christian Education Meeting*
▪ *Sunday, October 13* 11:00 a.m. *Social Action Meeting*
▪ ***Monday, October 7 thru 11 @ 9:00 a.m. set-up for bazaar***
▪ ***Saturday, October 12 8:00 a.m. WUCC FALL BAZAAR***
▪ *Tuesday, October 15* 5:30 p.m. *Board of Trustees Meeting*
 7:30 a.m. *Food Drop at the Senior Apartments*
▪ *Wednesday, October 16* 10:00 a.m. *Pule Ohana - Prayer Ministry*
▪ *Thursday, October 17* 4:00 p.m. *Church Council Meeting*
▪ *Wednesday, October 23* 10:00 a.m. *Bingo-ship*
▪ *Sunday, October 27* 11:00 a.m. *Board of Deacons Meeting*