



WAIPAHU UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE OUTLOOK



*Rev. David Makana Milotta,
Senior Minister*

WUCC Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2019

Pastor's Message

Caring for the poor has always been part of the Christian calling, and it has never been an easy call to answer. In Acts 6:1-6 we see Jesus' disciples were so overwhelmed with the challenges of caring for the poor that they needed to appoint seven men of special wisdom to take on the task. Charity should be a priority and should be handled with wisdom and with God's spirit. At WUCC we are always looking for ways to help the less fortunate of our community. Over the years we have had many programs that sought to address special needs: Our work with the Food Bank, Thanksgiving Outreach dinner partnership with Ko Olina, Hug me Bears and Angel Tree to name a few.

That is why I am excited to tell you about a new opportunity that we are exploring as a church. Last month Whitney Blandford, from Family Promise, visited us to share with us about their very creative non-profit that is addressing Hawaii's homeless situation by partnering with churches to provide temporary shelter for families. I wanted to take some time to further expand on these ideas and help explain what is going on and the wisdom of this approach.

There are a lot of people in Hawaii, in various living situations, that get classified as homeless. Many suffer from very acute mental health and substance abuse problems that are difficult to treat. These people often need more specialized help than most churches can offer. But there are many homeless people in Hawaii that fall into a category that we are capable of helping effectively. These ones that are just struggling to make ends meet are the ones we can do a lot for as a church. They might make enough money to just barely get by, but then a car breaks down, or the landlord raises the rent and they don't have the resources to cover that new expense. The bills pile up and they can't make rent, so they end up out on the street. But if they had a little more of a safety net, they would be able to weather these storms.

Family Promise supports the working and those struggling to get by. When a church partners with Family Promise they are serving families in difficult circumstances by helping to provide a lifeline during a difficult period in their lives. The program Family Promise runs cycles families through various churches and places of worship, each who house and feed the family for one week at a time. Collectively, that adds up. Think of how much money you would have if you didn't have to pay for rent, or a mortgage, or food for two months. For these families, it's what gets them out of debt with enough money to put down a rental deposit. It provides enough stability to raise their family well. It's what gives their children hope for the future.



Pastor Makana

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Church Council

Hello Members,

Congratulations on a successful bazaar fundraiser on Saturday, October 12, 2019. Many of you worked to prepare for the bazaar and helped during that day to make it successful. We did also have contribution of time and donations of sale items from members and community that helped. There are thank you letters being drafted and in process of being sent out to those non-church members who helped us. If you know of any non-church members who helped, please inform Cecile so we can thank them.

While we have just completed the bazaar, the Leeward Lions had asked whether the church would be interested in participating with them in their chicken sale. This would in-

volve selling of chicken tickets with net profits for all sold by church members going to the church. The work of running the preparation of the chicken would be handled by the Leeward Lions. We will be looking at this proposal.

We are moving into the holiday season and are again participating with the Ko Olina Outreach in their Thanksgiving luncheon for those in need on Saturday, November 23, 2019. The Ko Olina Resort is providing the food and Waipahu United Church of Christ is providing the use of our Community Center as the site and will be coordinating and providing entertainment. Volunteer help will be needed to set up, decorate, be part of the entertainment, and clean-up. Irene,

Leang and Wayne are working on the overall project. Please help us in this holiday outreach for those who are in need or less fortunate.

Please keep up to date with the calendar for the upcoming holidays and we hope to see you at our services over the coming weeks. By the time this Outlook is sent out, the Halloween events will have finished and we will be well into Thanksgiving. We wish all of you well and I am very thankful to all the officers and committees who make the church run. Thank you also to Cecile and Pastor Makana and Veronica for all you do.

Aloha and God Bless.
Wayne Oshiro
Moderator.

Board of Trustees

Aloha Everyone from your Board of Trustees!

As you have already probably heard, we had a VERY SUCCESSFUL Fall Bazaar! Here are the results: Andagi Sales \$186.00; Book Sales \$92.25; Greeting Cards \$302.00; Clothing \$796.00; Country Store \$712.50; Craft Sales \$891.50; Plant Sales \$503.50; Toy Sales \$153.00; White Elephant Sales \$881.05; Youth \$47.75; Vendor donation of \$30.00 all for a grand total of \$4595.55! The size of the crowd that came was noticeably smaller than prior years but I think we can attribute that to the lack of Huli Huli Chicken sales. However, this year's smaller crowd really didn't affect our net proceeds collected. We want

to thank all of you who volunteered during the week and during the day of the Bazaar.

We want to thank those who donated books, clothing, country store goodies, crafts, plants, toys, items for our white elephant sales. We want to thank Lance and Teddy Yoneda for carrying on with their Andagi tradition. We want to thank Renee Chung for all of her hard work in making and selling her greeting cards. We want to thank Mike and Etta Minakawa and their crew for donating and preparing lunch for all of us. We want to thank the following chairs for volunteering to coordinate and manage their respective areas: Clothing-Jane Fujitani; Country Store-Veryl Ogata; Crafts-JoAnn Takahashi; Plants

-Elmer Pagaragan Toys/Books/Youth-Julie Kojima; and White Elephant-Leang Smith/Jane Liu. We also want to thank the many non-member volunteers who without their help, we simply could not accomplish what we accomplished. These non-members were relatives, friends, in-laws etc. of our members. Please let them know we truly appreciate their sacrificing their time and energy in making our bazaar a successful one.

We are now headed into that time of year where we as a Church will be busy and having fun at it. Be safe and enjoy this season!

Mark H. Felmet-Chair BOT

Board of Deacons

Aloha everyone!

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone that volunteered during the bazaar. This is my 4th bazaar that I've participated in. During the past I worked in the toys, books, and plants. This year I decided to join the big league; The White Elephant! What can I say? Where do I begin? One thing for sure we needed all those 5 plus days for setting up, unpacking, sorting, organizing, pricing and displaying. On Monday Cecile Goo and Heidi Pagaragan help me set the all the tables, while Elmer Pagaragan and Ray Goya unload the containers with the help of Cecile. All through the week different volunteers would take turn sorting, arranging and pricing

ing items. There was no schedule or agreement. People just came to help out as much as they could. Every day when you came to the community center you noticed things getting done. Items were neatly displayed. More items got dropped off. Price stickers are noticeable on items. It was like a bunch of fairies and elf's all working tirelessly while you're away. That's the best conclusion I can sum up. I think Joann Takahashi had all her crafts set up to her satisfaction on Monday. These ladies are experts! I was in for a rude awakening!

A special thanks to Jane Liu. She was AMAZING! She had her tool kit with everything you need for the bazaar. She is a

pro. She knew where each item should be, how much certain items should be priced. She had a system; a very organized system. We appreciated her hard work. Thank you Jane. I learned so much from you. Thank you everyone who volunteered tirelessly.

~The greatest joy therefore, my brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in Vain.~

1 Corinthians 15:58

Leang Smith



UCC Transition House Benefit Dinner

...continued from page 1, Pastor's Message

Waipahu UCC has been blessed with an incredible facility and a generous congregation. We believe we can play a part in giving that hope to needy families by participating in hosting them four times a year. That's for just one week at a time, four times a year. We are hoping to start on March 15th of next year. In order to do so, we will need some volunteers to help with dinners for around 15 people each night, and some other volunteers who are willing to spend the night here at the church to be available in case of emergencies. It is a little bit of an ask, I realize, but our efforts would put up to 60 people in our community back on their feet every year. We have talked to other UCC churches on the island that are partnering with Family Promise and their members are continuing to sign up to volunteer quarter after quarter. I myself was greatly impacted by the time my family spent helping host a couple evenings while we were at Manoa Valley Church. It was great to get to know the people we were serv-

ing and their children. As a pastor, I see all kinds of charities make impressive efforts to help the community in different ways, but rarely do I see an opportunity for our church to make such a big impact so close to home. I believe the efforts we make here will pay off exponentially, improving our community and revealing the care of Christ to those around us. I hope each of you can find a way to be a part of this.

For more information give me a call at the office or visit <https://familypromisehawaii.org>.

--- Pastor Makana

P.S. Thank you to everyone for the wonderful Pastor's Appreciation Dinner, and for the gifts and cards. A few of those notes had me tearing up. You guys are so great, and I'm grateful that God has blessed me with the opportunity to serve here.

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, 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.





Irene Nomura came from a family of 10 children (She is the 9th child). Our parents immigrated to Hawaii from Japan. Our mom came as a picture bride for our dad.

After graduating from the university of Hawaii School of Nursing, Irene worked as a nurse at Kuakini Hospital. She then went to work for the State Department of Education as a supervisor for the Health Aides at the Leeward District Schools. Then she got a supervisory position at the Lanakila Health Center, Tuberculosis section and worked there for many years until her retirement. She retired at an early age of 55 to look after our aging parents. Our mom died at age 96 and dad at 92.

Irene has always been such a caring person and because of her nursing background, she was always taking care of people, not only those in our family but others in our church family and in her circle of friends. She has helped so many of our church members and others as they aged and needed help. She provided transportation to doctor's appointments and she would cook and provide food on many occasions.

She has been an active member of our church and has quietly done over and beyond anyone I know. She arrives early each Sunday to open up the place, put on the coffee pot and water container. She has served as worship leader and served on several committees; currently she serves on the Social Action and Pastoral Relations Committees.

She has been a member of our Praise Dance group since the very beginning which started in 1997.

She is in charge of the Hawaii Foodbank food drop every 3rd Tuesday of the month as part of community service.

She has gone with Mary Ann and visitation group to visit church members who are homebound with food and Holy Communion.

She has helped with the Thanksgiving lunch provided by Ko Olina and did the contacting of special people in the community to attend.

She helps with the Bingo program and provides some of the prizes.

She has donated flowers on many occasions and decorated our church with large arrangements.

She was part of the Kanikapila Ohana Ukulele group for many years.

She was also part of the card making group for many years.

Irene and Rose Pamatigan started Hug Me Bears with donations of stuffed animals from Savers and monetary donations from Miles Ichinose of McDonalds. Bags of stuff animals were sorted and decorated at Irene's home and later moved to the church. They were joined by a group of volunteers and they met every week for over 20 years. The stuff animals have been given to many organizations for children, adults, seniors and wounded soldiers.

For many years, Irene has participated in the FoodBank Hunger Walk. Donations collected and grants from the FoodBank and the Wong Foundation help pay for the food drop.

Irene has volunteered at Aged to Perfection at our church since it first started and did that for 12 years. Before our program started she volunteered at the Aged to Perfection branch in Wahiawa and also served as secretary for their board meetings.

She volunteered for many years with Dr. Shintani's seminar on reversing illness through healthy eating.

She even served in the past as Angels on Wheels transporting cancer patients to their appointments.

She helped with the Cancer Foundation Relay for Life held in Kapolei.

She has served on the Women's Board of the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ for many years and received an award for her outstanding service.

She has supported the Transition House with their fundraising and provided school supplies for the children and bought them a Christmas tree for many years.

I am amazed at all the things Irene does. She never complains or get irritated at anyone. She always does what she can quietly. I am proud and grateful to have a sister like her. God has certainly put an angel in our family as she has blessed so many people in so many ways. Even in her old age, she continues to do so much for others. She always does over and beyond what is expected. She is truly God's messenger of love.

Submitted by sister Jane

Did You Know



Ruth Endo was born in Paia Maui on Oct. 10, 1929, graduated from Maui High School, then came to Oahu to complete her education at the University of Hawaii. She married Robert Toshiyuki Endo and had three children, David, William and JoAnn. She taught first at Pearl City Elementary for 5 years before going to August Ahrens as a kindergarten teacher until she retired.

She found time to volunteer at Hawaii's Plantation Village and helped to accomplish the following major political activities affecting Waipahu Community Church and Waipahu town.

1. Worked to Elect Patsy Mink to political office—Patsy Mink served as: Representative & Senator from our Waipahu district US Representative to Congress from Hawaii who helped formulate & pass, Title IX (Women's equal rights in sports) (Ruth & Patsy Takemoto Mink have a special connection & they both grew up on Maui)
2. Extension of Mokuola Street to connect with Farrington Hwy.
3. Campaigned against H-Power in old Waipahu Sugar Mill

WCC/WUCC-

Ruth was a very dedicated and hard worker for every thing relating to church. She served on almost every board and committee and was also Moderator. She was also a member of the choir.

Ruth's special gift as a leader was that she was so determined, organized and dedicated in everything that she did. She also was always open to communicated and react our to as many people as possible.

For workdays, she would contact everyone she could think of by calling them & urging them to come out. She also organized community clean up where we walked around the block and picked up rubbish. We were also reminded that walking was good for our health. The church bazaars and chicken sales were also very successful because of Ruth's work in planning, organizing and contacting people. Ruth was tiny, less than 5 feet tall but she was mighty!

Every month starting in 2014 the Visitation Group would bring Communion to her in Ewa Beach where she lived with her son David and his family. We shared lunch and enjoyed fellowship with stories, singing

local oldies and church hymns. Our song in particular that she learned as a child in Sunday school was her favorite and she taught it to us. Maybe it's familiar to some of you, its called Watakushi.

Verse:

Watakushi tachiwa...we are
Chisai kodomo....little children
Omemewo tajite.....close our
eyes and

Jore masho.....let us pray

Chorus:

Jesu sama Jesu sama

1. Dear Jesus dear Jesus

Watakushi tache wo.....

3 Us

Anata no yoi ko ni.....

4 Your good child (children)

Shite kuda sai.....

2 Please make

After singing this song she would always say "The only time I sing is when you folks come, nobody sing with me". One day this tall nice looking young man said "No grandma I sing with you" and she came back with "No, no, nobody sing with me".

Imagine our surprise when this young man proceeded to sing the entire song and he definitely was not Japanese, Ruth had this huge smile on her face as we all clapped. When it was time to leave she'd say "Already"? "You got to go already"? "Don't forget come back ok"? "Next time come more early so you can stay more long."

Ruth passed on January 2, 2017 with her family and the Visitation Group by her side. She left us with wonderful memories and a special song in our hearts

Submitted by Jane Liu and Mary Ann Chinen



October Memories



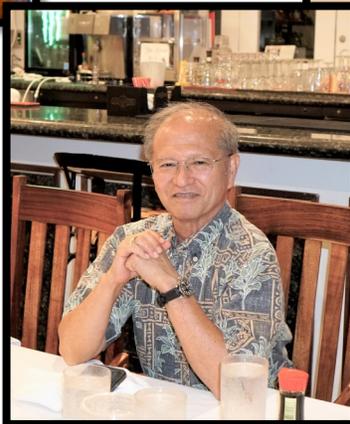
Bazaar







Pastor's Appreciation Dinner



Waipahu United Church of Christ
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DATES TO REMEMBER

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|-----------------------|---|
| 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, November 3 | 11:00 a.m. Board of Christian Education Meeting |
| Sunday, November 10 | 11:00 a.m. Social Action Meeting |
| Monday, November 11 | ~ Veteran's Day * Office closed ~ |
| Tuesday, November 19 | 5:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting |
| | 7:30 a.m. Food Drop at the Senior Apartments |
| Wednesday, Nov. 20 | 10:00 a.m. Pule Ohana - Prayer Ministry |
| Thursday, November 21 | 4:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting |
| Saturday, November 23 | 11:00 a.m. Ko Olina's Thanksgiving Luncheon |
| Wednesday, Nov. 27 | 10:00 a.m. Bingo-ship |
| Thursday, November 28 | ~ Thanksgiving Day * Office closed ~ |
| Friday, November 29 | ~ Office closed ~ |
| Sunday, November 24 | 11:00 a.m. Board of Deacons Meeting |