



WAIPAHU UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE OUTLOOK

*Rev. David Makana Milotta,
Senior Minister*



WUCC Newsletter

July 2019

Pastor's Message

Aloha All,

Our Summer sermon series, entitled Burning Bright, has been looking at the lives and works of the Old Testament prophets, people that Jesus and his disciples looked towards for inspiration and encouragement. These prophets lived in difficult times, times when it often seemed like the world around them was crumbling. In the midst of these difficulties, they shined the light of God's presence to those around them.

At times this burning bright took the form of amazing miracles. Many of the works Jesus is known for are prefigured by similar miracles that prophets like Elijah and Elisha performed. There are many parallels of experience. Any Jewish person witnessing the feeding of the 5,000 would surely have remembered 2 Kings 4:42-44, where Elisha feeds 100 with 20 loaves of bread. There are also parallels in their message. The prophets were known for their challenging words, calling kings and nations into account for the wickedness and injustice they perpetrated. Jesus too also had hard words for those in power who were misusing their authority. It's easy for the reader to get drawn into the big speeches and dramatic miracles of the prophets, because they represent these memorable high points, images that make for great illustrations. But we must keep in mind that the prophets and Jesus' life was not just about miracles. Their legacy, what truly burns bright, is not just the high points, but the way in which those points are remembered.

Every story has a witness. These life accounts would never have been remembered if it weren't for the faithful that passed them on. Jesus spent nearly his entire ministry training his disciples, the ones that would follow in his footsteps. The prophets, while each uniquely called by God, were also trained by other prophets. Elijah doesn't just anoint Elisha, he instructs him. He didn't just change the world in his lifetime, but he trained up other world changers. Raising others up, making those transitions, can be the most important part of making a lasting difference in the world.

My sister was a track star, so our family always catches the summer Olympics when they are on. I'm always fascinated by the relay races. When you watch an olympic race, you know you are looking at some of the best runners in the world, who have been training all their lives to be the fastest in the world. But in a relay race, that isn't the only skill involved. A relay race relies heavily on quick and skillful transitions. It means nothing to run fast, if you cannot pass the baton. Those races between otherwise swift opponents are often decided on how well the hand off goes. If they can't pass the baton, the team can't win. So practicing that baton pass becomes part of the training of any relay team that is serious about winning.

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Pastor Makana

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Waipahu United Church of Christ

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The works of the prophets, the works of Jesus, are best understood by imitation; by living out their life as best you can. This is what makes the stories of the prophets relevant to the 21st century world. Elisha saw what Elijah did and wanted to follow in his footsteps. He understood the importance of what Elijah was doing, even as he saw the difficulty and the danger. Elijah had taught him well. Jesus' disciples were so inspired by his example that they risked everything to be more like Christ and care for their communities.

Consider these things: Whose life for Christ has so inspired you? Shaped your life? Who is right now witnessing your life's story? Who is watching you and what will you leave them of Christ's example?

We are all in the relay of life, running after the example and good works of those before us. Taking the time to invest in the next generation isn't simply about educating and empowering them. It's about going the extra mile and choosing to walk with them faithfully through life's ups and downs. Present with them in all things. And when the baton of responsibility is handed over, doing it intentionally with prayer and celebration. This is how we stay in the race and burn bright with a legacy that lasts. That baton that will finish its last lap one day, a race finally complete in Christ's glorious kingdom. Until then, we must keep practicing those transitions!

Church Council

HELLO

Please be aware of events upcoming in July, especially the dedication of the Community Center on Sunday, July 14 after our regular service. As you are aware, the Community Center has been named for Toku Yoshida, who oversaw its original construction as well as the construction of the present sanctuary, bell tower and parking lot. Please sign up with Cecile or at the Sunday services so arrangements can be made for the light luncheon and join the congregation and Toku's family at this very special occasion.

Looking forward into the fall, we normally have the bazaar and chicken sale in the month of October. This activity was approved at our Congregational Meeting at the beginning of the year. The Council has discussed the status of these events and will present the status of these fundraising options at the Congregational Meeting is August 11, 2019.

The July Council meeting has been cancelled due to the lack of quorum. Both Elmer and I will be away, that would leave us without a quorum on the meeting date. No official business can be conducted without having a quorum present; therefore the meeting was cancelled, and business will be conducted at the August Council meeting.

Again Cora and I will be away from July 6 through July 28. Wish we could be at the dedication, but this trip was arranged some time ago. We'll miss all of you, but know you will have a great time honoring Toku Yoshida and his family.

May God watch over all of you and keep you safe.

Aloha,

Wayne Oshiro,

Moderator

Board of Trustees

Aloha Everyone from your Board of Trustees!

As we enter Summer, some members have been asking if we are going to have a Fall Bazaar this year since we didn't have a Huli Huli Chicken sale in Spring. This topic was recently discussed at one of the BOT meetings and the Council meeting. In both meetings everyone wanted to pursue having a Fall Bazaar. It's a great way of us connecting with and extending a service to our Waipahu community. You might ask, why have a bazaar since we are just coming off of a highly successful Zippy's fundraiser? This fundraiser was very successful allowing our church to make \$4,157.40 in net revenues. However, our 2019 Budget calls for us to make a net contribution in fundraising of \$6,000 this year. So we need to make up this difference. At this bazaar we will not be selling Huli Huli chicken because of the physical demands it places on our Congregation. For those of you who have served in the past working with Plant Sales, White Elephant, Clothes, Country Store, Crafts, Toys and Books, etc. please let me know or anyone on the Council/BOT if you are willing to serve again in making sure we have a successful Fall Bazaar!

Best Wishes and God Bless.

Mark H. Felmet-Chair BOT

Board of Deacons

Aloha everyone!

Thank you for all your hard work and support. This month on July 14, 2019 we at Waipahu United Church of Christ hope you can join us for Sunday service and renaming dedication of our community center in honor of T. Yoshida. We ask all donors to come and join us in this special celebration. Please email leang0309@yahoo.com so we can get a head count. You can also call me 808-348-4086 (I prefer email or text due to fact, I am not always available to answer my phone)

Thank you,

Leang Smith

Board of Deacon

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. **July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9 & Dec. 14, 2019.** Please mark those dates on your calendar. Thank you!

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Hawaii Food-Bank, food drop; every 3rd Tuesday; next event is **Tuesday, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17, 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 Christian Education

Aloha,

We appreciate everyone who has volunteered to help in our various Christian Education programs this past school year. Thank you for contributing your precious time, energy and talents to help make church a fun place for our children!

Preschool (2-5 years old) Update: We will be offering a new curriculum through the You Version Bible App for Kids. Parents will be able to download the app, watch short video clips and look at the Bible story with their kids at home during the week. This semester, our preschool class had two to six children per week. In order to serve our students best as possible and to encourage them to invite friends, we need a minimum of two people in the room to comply with bathroom visit regulations. With the introduction of the You Version app, volunteers can easily see lesson topics ahead of time and plug in on a rotation of their choice, whether it be weekly or monthly. Worried about missing the sermon? No worries. Recordings of Pastor Makana's sermons are available. If you are interested in volunteering in the preschool class, we will have an **informational session on Sunday, August 25, 11 a.m.** Please email wucc@hawaii.rr.com or speak with Veronica or Jackie in person to RSVP.

Youth (Elementary - High School) Update: We have been covering the Book of Acts from the New Testament. Classes are mainly discussion and reading-based with occasional craft-type activities. Our high schoolers are near completing their confirmation class series with Pastor Makana, which covered topics such as the sacraments, prayer, the history of Christianity in Hawaii and WUCC, and concluded in three church visits. If you know a youth in your life who is interested in learning more about God or is interested in getting baptized, please email me at jtkoji-ma@hawaii.edu or speak with me in person.

We look forward to another exciting school year with you. It is a pure blessing to see our children grow!

Mahalo,

Jackie and Veronica on behalf of the Board of Christian Education



Social Action

For the past 3 years our Social Action Committee with the help of volunteers have continued to participate in the Hawaii Foodbank food drop at the Kamalu & Hoomalu Senior Housing across the street on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Commodity Supplemental Food boxes from the USDA and assorted produce and non perishable items from the Foodbank are provided to the residents to supplement their low incomes.

Each Tuesday upon arrival we see lines of residents and their carts, usually about 125 of them, waiting from early morning to be first in line. When the Foodbank truck comes and unloads the pallets of food boxes and items there is excitement in the air as to what items they will receive. For us volunteers sometimes we get overwhelmed as to what produce we need to bag and prepare as the people come through the lines. The people receiving the food is ever so grateful that when the work is done, it is all so worthwhile.

This past Tuesday there were only two of us volunteers from the church, and we worried as to how we would do it, but when you do the Lord's work, we find that he always provides. We had a family of 3, father, mother and teenage daughter, who came from Kapolei to do volunteer work as they were on summer vacation. Mother, who is a school teacher at Kapolei, wanted to have her teenage daughter learn to do community service so we welcomed their willingness to help. We always welcome volunteers.

Ray Costan, Resident Manager of the Independent Living Center next door, has asked for food supplements for his physically challenged residents, also. We have referred him to the coordinator at the Foodbank to arranged for assistance. Hopefully it can be coordinated.

Mahalo to all of you who so willing to contribute to our food drive on Communion Sundays as this is one of our outreach projects to help feeding the homeless and less fortunate. Emi Kitashiro has volunteered to transport the donations to the Foodbank. Thank you all for your donations and help. God Bless you for all that you do.

Irene Nomura

Social Action member



Congregational Meeting: August 11th

A Congregational meeting will be held after worship service on Sunday, August 11, 2019 to:

Vote on the Fall 2019 Church Fundraiser and

Approval of the proposed amendment related to Article II Offices, Section 4 Signatory Powers.

Your presence at the meeting is important to assure there is a quorum and to make decisions for the Church.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

What was done in the proposal:

Added position of Clerk of the Church Council as one of the authorized signers to open and close deposit and investments accounts at approved financial institutions.

Added to specify: Only one of the authorized signers is required to sign for transactions in the amount of \$1,000 or less and two authorized signers are required for amounts larger than \$1,000. Where two authorized signers are required for check or withdrawal larger than \$1,000, the individual signers shall at no time have a conflict of interest due to family and/or business relationships, etc. as determined by the Council.

Rationale for amendments:

Increase the number of authorized signers from four to a maximum of six, in order, to assure the availability of two signers required to execute a check or withdrawal amount larger than \$1,000 at approved financial institutions.

THE CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS (AMENDMENTS)

NOTATIONS: ~~delete~~ (crossed out) = Delete

Red Text = New Text

Section 4. Signatory Powers

c. The moderator, vice moderator, treasurer, ~~clerk~~, and financial secretary are ~~the official authorized signers for opening new accounts authorized to open, close, and withdraw from depository and investment accounts~~ at approved financial institutions. ~~Two out of four designated persons (moderator, vice moderator, treasurer, and financial secretary) are authorized to sign the official financial institution's documents.~~

- d. The moderator, vice moderator(s), treasurer, ~~clerk~~ and financial secretary are the ~~official~~ authorized signers for checking, ~~savings and investment~~ accounts. *Checks and withdrawals of \$1,000 or less may be signed by one of the authorized signers. Checks and withdrawals in amount larger than \$1,000 shall be signed by any two authorized signers. Where two authorized signers are required, the two individual authorized signers must not result in a conflict of interest due to family and/or business relationships, etc. as determined by the Council.*

AFTER TAKING OUT THE DELETIONS AND ADDING NEW TEXT, THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS READ AS FOLLOW:

Section 4. Signatory Powers

c. The moderator, vice moderator(s), treasurer, ~~clerk~~, and financial secretary are signers *authorized to open, close, and withdraw from depository and investment accounts* at approved financial institutions.

d. The moderator, vice moderator(s), treasurer, ~~clerk~~ and financial secretary are the authorized signers for checking, savings and investment accounts. *Checks and withdrawals of \$1,000 or less may be signed by one of the authorized signers. Checks and withdrawals in amount larger than \$1,000 shall be signed by any two authorized signers. Where two authorized signers are required, the two individual authorized signers must not result in a conflict of interest due to family and/or business relationships, etc. as determined by the Council.*

Ready, set.... GO! This is a good one!

Please read and ask the Lord how you should reply. From the Pagaragan's

If you have been following along you will remember that last month we were setting up a time to meet the lady that works for the government and looks for vacant buildings.... (if you missed it, you can catch up with [our last newsletter here.](#)) So, grab a cup of green tea and here we go.

The meeting started with her saying, "Do you have a realtor? They'll know where you can look." And with those words you could hear my heart sinking with disappointment, I was so sure she already had a list of places where we can live, at an unbelievable price, that would fit our every need. Then she asked if she could call her realtor friend and introduce us. Well, that's not exactly what we were hoping for because we already had someone that had been showing us around, but we agreed to meet her friend, maybe he can suggest some new areas where we can look. She makes the call. Here's how it goes,....

- they are missionaries
 - they are foreigners
 - they want a big place where they can have lots of people coming and going, do community work-shops, lots of kids, play music, maybe have church services
- and *the church-type* organization, T.E.A.M., will be handling all their finances

Being a foreigner here in Japan and looking for a home has been an eye opening experience as we've been turned away a handful of times for that reason alone. Can you already imagine the look on his face on the other end of the phone as she's telling him the details? He's thrilled, I'm sure of it. Silence..... he's talking.....she's listening..... then she clarifies with him:

"Oh, so your wife's family has a building close by.... it's not a problem?
They already have a contract with TEAM?
They have a cafe with a church? It's called the Sonrise cafe?! What?!!
This family works at the Sonrise Cafe!"

She ends the call, turns to us and says, "your God is amazing! In less than 5 minutes, we found the one realtor in all of Tokyo perfect for you!"

At the end of our visit she said she heard we were having an English camp this summer and asked if her daughter could attend. She also wants to invite her friends that live near the cafe. She gives us her business card, she is a city councilor for Tokyo.

Thank you Lord for this unexpected open door.

And just when we thought God couldn't surprise us anymore....

We meet with K-san the realtor. He is informative and accommodating. He tries to understand what the Student and Ministry Center is all about. He explains that the kind of building we are looking for probably does not exist, we probably have to look for a house first, then rent a separate room somewhere else for the center and most likely pay for monthly parking at another location. But, he will do his best to try and fill our needs as best he can. The next day he started sending us info sheets for rooms in the area that we can consider for the student center, he works fast, this is great, except that they are about 14 sq meters (that's about the size of a 12x12 canopy tent). Eventually he finds 3 places to show us. I tell him we only want to look at the first two. The third house, at first glance seems too far and too expensive. We won't need to look at it.

But, K-san takes us to all three homes. (*Culture note: By takes us, I mean we take the bus to each location, because in Japan you want to make sure the walk to the closest station or bus stop is something you will be able to handle daily. That day we walked just over 6 miles.*)

- House #1 - Meh, great location but no parking, no living room and the kitchen consists of a corner with a couple burners on a counter.

- House #2 - Potential, but no parking, no classes allowed, would need to get a separate student center.
- House #3 - the house I didn't want to look at, the one he takes us to anyway. He says, "just take a look"... famous last words. It is an older home that has not been lived in for 10 years. However, the house has aged beautifully, inside and out. There is a formal sitting room, 2 tatami rooms, and 5 bedrooms. But it's the kitchen and dining room that immediately hooks us. The kitchen is large enough to hold cooking classes, prepare meals for large events, cook for large teams of visitors as well as seat at least 25 people. It can also be closed off from the rest of the house for when we have kid's classes or other workshops. We aren't quite sure why, but there's an antique pump organ in the dining area. Finally, we proceed upstairs to look at the last 2 rooms. They look like they were used as offices, the doors have stained glass windows and the walls are lined with empty bookcases... except for these.



We are in Japan, a country with less than 1% of Christians. That means, statistically speaking, we would need to look at 100+ homes before we find ONE that a Christian has previously lived in. K-san is baffled. We are all kind of blown away. Behind the wall of empty sliding bookcases, is another wall of 8' tall bookshelves full of Japanese Bibles and book studies. There's even an English NIV Bible. K-san doesn't know what to think, I'm starting to get giggly. The house that wasn't even an option previously, now seems like the answer to prayers and the perfect fit for the student center. What we originally thought of as too far from the university in Ikebukuro, has actually situated us directly between the 2 schools that we already have steady and growing relationships with, Rikkyo and Musashi University.

"I know your deeds. See I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name." Revelations 3:8

If you are reading this then you have already been following along and praying for the Student and Ministry Center. You also may recall the vision of *The Neighborhood*:

- to create a large living room, an inviting, safe place where students can relax, establish healthy and encouraging relationships, and come knowing that they will be poured into with a love that can only be of God.
- to create a venue for classes and workshops such as English, cooking, music, cultural and seasonal outreach events.
- to provide a place for training of future leaders as well as convenient housing for visiting short term teams or individual workers.

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This amazing house that would meet our every need and more, sits next to a preschool and a city park. That means we can expand our English ministry with students and moms from the preschool and we could use the park for future kid's sports camps, summer camps, and other events. The size of the house provides the space needed to have Christian workers stay with us. For now, we aren't planning to open an Airbnb, but we would have the option to host mission teams as well as visiting friends and supporters that want to take part in our onsite ministries.

You've heard the beginning of the story, now let's talk about how the Lord is opening the door in your story. We know that so many of you are already giving, or gave, sacrificially, to help us return to Japan. We are so grateful. We are now asking that you invite others to partner with all of us and watch the Lord unfold more of these amazing stories. Or maybe He's knocking on your door once again. Like the third house, how many times have we just passed on the open door that the Lord has opened to us? We would have missed out completely if we didn't follow His prompting. Even if this isn't the door for you right now, can we encourage you to be ready and listen to what the Lord may have for you.

Bottom line, what do we need to make this become a reality? Remember we originally projected \$500,000. Now that we have a place and real numbers to go with it, we are looking at some encouraging numbers. We have a good portion that we raised while on home assignment that will help with the set up and furnishings for the rental and student center rooms. We are also applying for and counting on a large grant from TeamJapan. Taking that into consideration, we are asking that you help us to reach \$100,000. That's just \$25,000 for the next 4 years. We are believing that together we can make this happen. This amount will allow us to keep the student and ministry center up and running until at least 2023 without incurring debt. In the meantime, we expect to build up our ongoing income from housing of visitors and teams, short term missionaries, and fees for English classes and workshops. This new, lesser amount also takes into account that the owner will negotiate with us and accept a reasonably reduced rent, which the realtor said he is motivated to do. *(Please pray with us that Lord is already moving in his heart to reduce the amount before we ask.)*

\$25,000/year still seems like a lot of money. And we agree, it is. But we are 100% trusting that either God is confirming this place or He will close the door. If you would like to participate in this area of our ministry, The Neighborhood, could you shoot us an email ASAP? Please let us know how the Lord is working in your heart or what you're thinking, even if you are still on the fence, have a word of encouragement or have some concerns. If you'd like to commit to an amount, you don't have to give right now, but we would like to have a response by this **Sunday, 6/30**. We are also putting out an offer to anyone who donates \$1000 or more. Contingent on us being able to open the center, we are offering FIVE nights stay at the Student Center free of charge (based on availability) plus a one-day guided tour with one of us to some of the best Tokyo sights with a stop for sushi, of course!

We LOVE writing this story with you as our partners, we love sharing how the doors are opening, thank you for allowing us to be here. We can't wait for the next chapter. And PLEASE keep praying for the Student and Ministry Center and the Lord's favor and grace. *Thank you for being a part of this story, His-story.*

Be blessed, Jeff, Kelly, Taylor, Bailey, Kendyl, Reagan and Colson



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13



Dedication to Rename the Community Center

The J. Tokuo Yoshida Community Center

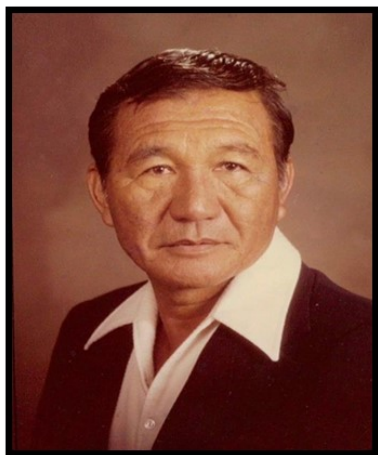
Join us at 10:45 am
Sunday, July 14, 2019
Waipahu UCC

The Parish Hall, Tokuo built in 1948, presently called the Community Center, will be named in honor of Tokuo Yoshida for all the work he has done for the Church. Join us for a program and light lunch after the Church Service on Sunday, July 14, 2019.



RSVP: Call the Church Office (808 677-3317); email ceci-legoo@hawaii.rr.com; or respond at the sign in at the Church foyer before Sunday Worship Service starting June 16th.

In 1948, the Reverend Hiro Higuchi approached Tokuo, who was only 28 years old, to be the general contractor to build the Parish Hall. The Parish Hall, dedicated in March 1950, was the beginning of Waipahu Community Church on the 2.75 acre-property on Mokuola Street. It served as a sanctuary and social hall from 1950 to 1979. When the Reverend Higuchi returned to Waipahu, Tokuo was asked to build the sanctuary; it was completed in 1979.



Joseph Tokuo Yoshida was born on January 16, 1920 in Waipahu and worked as a carpenter and general contractor and owner of T. Yoshida Contractor. His contributions to the Church were numerous---after building the Parish Hall in 1948, he built the Sanctuary in 1979, parking lot in 1988; and bell tower in 2003---all at no charge for himself as the general contractor and carpenter. He passed away at the age of 98 on November 18, 2018.

June Memories



Alika C.



Jackie K.



Alex T. &
Jackie K.



WUCC Signers

June Memories



Sachi & Pastor Tom



WUCC Praise Dancers



Vacation Bible School



Bingo-ship



Sunday refreshments



Donna Neth

Waipahu United Church of Christ
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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
- Tuesday, July 4 ~ Independence Day * Office Closed ~
- Sunday, July 7 10:30 a.m. 4th of July Celebration
- Saturday, July 13 8:00 a.m. Church Work Day
- Sunday, July 14 10:30 a.m. Renaming Community Center to Tokuo Yoshida
- Tuesday, July 16 5:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting
- 7:30 a.m. Food Drop at the Senior Apartments
- Wednesday, July 17 10:00 a.m. Pule Ohana - Prayer Ministry
- Thursday, July 18 4:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting—cancelled
- Wednesday, July 24 10:00 a.m. Bingo-ship
- Sunday, July 28 11:00 a.m. Board of Deacons Meeting