



# WAIPAHU UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## THE OUTLOOK



*Rev. David Makana Milotta,  
Senior Minister*

WUCC Newsletter

APRIL 2019

### *Pastor's Message*

Aloha,

Do you remember the last event you went to where you were the new person? Where you didn't know the customs or the norms of the group? Maybe you were visiting another country or just attending a meeting. We have all been there.

Last month I was invited to attend the first Hawaiian summit of the Micronesian Council of the United Church of Christ by Pastor Midion Neth. Pastors and public servants from the Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk all came to Hawai'i to visit, to see for themselves the plight of Micronesian people here in Hawai'i, and to help us as Hawaiian churches understand how we can be involved in assisting them. While some of the information were things I had heard before, there were many things I found surprising and illuminating, not just in terms of how we ministry to Micronesians as a people group, but how we minister to all of the people we encounter.

It is easy to say that as a church we should welcome strangers into our 'ohana, I rarely hear anyone object to that idea in an abstract sense. However, it is much more difficult to put into practice. Sometimes we overlook, or forget the fact, that strangers are strange by their very nature. Whether we quote Will Rogers or William Butler Yeats when we say that a stranger is just a friend we haven't met yet, we too often gloss over the process of meeting and go straight into assuming familiarity. The truth is that people coming from different backgrounds will see life differently and those differences don't go away with the first handshake.

An example was laid out for me at the summit that might be helpful to you. Consider the brunch we normally have after Sunday service. It's a great time to sit down and meet people or catch up with old friends. Every week a team of volunteers rotates to bring food and help serve it. It's a huge service, and I think it is pretty fun to walk up to the line and be surprised at what is being served. Having grown up here in Hawai'i I've become pretty accustomed to potluck surprises. You know, that one pot of something that no one knows where it came from or what it's supposed to be? I know what I like and I know what I don't, and if anyone makes a comment about it I can laugh it off or just tell them I'm on a diet. But imagine if instead you were going through that line surrounded by strangers that you didn't want to offend. You look at everything on the table and you recognize almost nothing. If you skip most the food, will you offend them? If you try something weird and gag, will they judge you? How can you know? What if it makes you sick? Add it all up and a friendly invite to join everyone for lunch can sound very stressful. Sometimes we need to ratchet down the stakes. Maybe just making a visitor a plate with simple foods like chicken and rice and offering it to them can take the pressure off.

This Easter as a church we will be setting many extra places at the table for guests. In the midst of the games and egg hunts there will be people in need in ways that won't be obvious. We are reminded of our call to welcome the stranger by Christ's ultimate act of welcome. His death on the cross frees us from the embarrassment and shame of our mistakes and wrongdoings. We often feel strange at first at this extravagant welcome, this radical hospitality. But we don't have to worry about our place at God's table, Christ has gone ahead to prepare it. And in that preparation he has considered every nation and people, tribe and custom. As we once accepted that invitation, we are also called to go and invite others, to welcome as he welcomes, investing in others no matter our differences, recognizing the strange and taking the time needed to make it familiar.



Pastor Makana

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### *Waipahu United Church of Christ*

94-330 Mokuola Street  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Phone#: 808-677-3317

Email:

wucc@hawaii.rr.com

Website:

www.waipahuucc.org

Office hours:

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

## Church Council

Notice how things seem to get done here. Daily, Cecile has many administrative duties in the office. The church grounds and buildings are well kept and maintained. Many hands on work days and at other times make this happen. Additionally, Elmer and Mitch have been mowing the lawns around the property. Supporting them are the finance people led by Felisa and Elmer, our accountant Luz who handle our offerings, donations and facilities income and upkeep, keep our financial records in order. Our Board of Deacons make sure our services and events on our calendar get set up and done. Our Christian Education Board runs our Sunday school and other youth program, and our Social Action Committee seeks outreach that the church can provide for the community. Other boards and committees also contribute to the functions that serve the members of the church and community. The Church Council oversees the entire operation on behalf of the members.

Pastor Makana and the worship team plan and execute the Sunday services and special services and provide support to those members who may be ill and unable to regularly attend services. He leads services, conducts Bible studies, visits members as part of the visitation team. In general, he works with all the boards and committees that have roles in the church's operation.

We, members, officers, board and committee members, and volunteers see our efforts with the church as part of our mission to serve our community.

The year is flying by as Ash Wednesday occurred on March 6 with Good Friday coming up on April 19 and especially Easter on April 21. Please be aware of the calendar of events which are being worked on by your fellow members on the boards and committees and volunteers.

We are in the process of appealing the City & County of Honolulu's real property tax assessment. The City proposed substantial taxes based on what they see as our property being used for non-exempt operations. An appeals hearing has been scheduled for April 26, 2019 at which time we will have the opportunity to challenge the assessment and exemption from real property tax. We will also need to submit any written information supporting our appeal by April 15, 2019. Prior to the hearing, the City has offered to have members of the Assessment staff meet with the church staff to see how our use agreements should be structured to be in compliance with the applicable City status. Please pray for a favorable outcome to our appeal.

Aloha,

Wayne Oshiro

**THANKS** to everyone who gave to Waipahu UCC through the “**One Great Hour of Sharing**” campaign. We have collected \$700 on the first Sunday. Mahalo!

# Board of Trustees

Aloha Everyone from your Board of Trustees!

We started the month of March with our scheduled Work Day. We had another good turnout with 16 people showing up! We were able to accomplish a lot in clearing debris from our grounds, trimming bougainvillea, etc. Later we were all treated to a wonderfully prepared lunch by Joanne and her crew.

If you look at the front of the Sanctuary from the sidewalk, you'll see that we moved the fencing and gate in line with the rest of the fence facing Mokuola Street. We did this mainly because of the homeless person who made "camp" next to our Church sign previously.

We are also still working with the Pearl City Police Department to see if they are interested in using our facility as a "rest stop". Now that the gate and fence were moved it's easier for the Police to have access to our property. Mitchell Neth is heading up this project.

The appeal hearing to discuss the tax assessment issue is scheduled for the later part of April. Both Wayne Oshiro and Pastor Makana have been actively involved with this issue since January 2019.

We have distributed all the fundraising Zippy's tickets to the congregation. There have been requests for more tickets and that order will be in shortly. It appears that this will be a very good fundraiser! When turning in monies collected, be sure to give these to Etta Minakawa who will be recording all receipts and sales. Thanks to Mike and Etta for spearheading this event!

Please continue to pray for a positive outcome at this appeal's hearing. That's it for now.

Have a Happy Easter season!

Mark H. Felmet-Chair



## 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. **April 12, May 11, June 8, 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 FoodBank, food drop; every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday; next event is **Tuesday, April 16, May 21, June 18, 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. Our next performance is **April 28, 2019.** It's never too late to join us in music, fellowship and fun! Mahalo, Alika and Jackie.

## Board of Deacons

Aloha everyone!

Last month I celebrated my 50th birthday with close friends and my youngest daughter. I thanked God I'm able to have lived this long and to shared the celebration of life. It was not an easy journey for someone that lived and escaped the Killing Fields era during Khmer Rouge. On April 17, 1979, the Cambodian genocide was carried out by the Khmer Rouge regime under the Communist leadership of Pol Pot. It inflicted a population loss between 1.671 and 1.871 million people from 1975 to 1979. That's between 21-24% of Cambodia's population. The Khmer Rouge took control of our government, with the goal of turning the country into a communist, agrarian utopia. In reality, they emptied the cities and evacuated millions of people to labor camps. We were starved and abused. Educated people, like doctors, scientists, engineers, teachers, monks, the rich and anyone that could read or write were executed. You're killed if you showed any sign of intellectual aptitude.

I will always be grateful to Pastor Lawrence Roller in his role to helping the late Mary and Dana Lundquist of sponsoring my family. Thus, making us the first Cambodian family in Hawaii on August 14, 1979. From than my parents sponsored my late uncle Sarith Chan family, the Plong family, and James Chan family. They in turn sponsored other families members. This is the gift of life.

Every 2nd week of April we celebrate Cambodian New Years. Two other countries celebrate the same new year, Thailand and Laos. It's kind of bittersweet that our new year is aligned about the same time as the anniversary of the Killing Fields. It's also a reminder to be thankful of the journey.

Be kind, be thankful and be blessed!  
Leang Smith

## Board of Christian Education

Aloha!

Bring your keiki to enjoy our annual **Easter celebration** on Sunday, April 21. We will have a short story time, an Easter egg hunt, games, goodie bags and prizes. We will be meeting in the sanctuary to participate in the beginning of service, and then will be moving to the Social Hall to start the Easter festivities.

Thank you to all the members who have graciously donated monetary gifts, gift cards and prizes so far. If you are interested in bringing boiled eggs on Easter morning, please talk to me (Jackie) at church.

Starting on April 6 through May, Pastor Makana will be leading our two high schoolers, Jenny and Donna, in a confirmation class that intends to help them understand their faith better. The class will include talk-story discussions, church visits and even community service opportunities. Jenny and Donna: We look forward to learning together with you!

As always, please feel free to invite the young people in your life to join us in our weekly Sunday School classes. Veronica leads the toddler class and I handle the youth group, which primarily includes tweens and teenagers. We welcome youth of all ages and faith backgrounds and enjoy learning together each week.

Thank you for your continual support of our youth programs.

Blessings,  
Jackie on behalf of the Board of Christian Education

## Social Action

From the Social Concerns Committee, by Tom Fujita, chairperson

Good friends come and go. Parents or grandparents come to the end of their lives before their time. Our children disappoint us, and surprise us, too. What this means is that we are part of the human experience and part of its hope, as well.

This past month we supported the United Church of Christ in its efforts to help alleviate human suffering through our *One Great Hour of Sharing!* On behalf of the church, and our brothers and sisters who are often without voice in today's world, I thank you for your generous contribution to this Fund. Thank you!

In other news, we are again asking for your help as we reach out to our neighbors in May. What the Social Concerns Committee (working with our youth) are asking for is your kokua, as we step up to provide a full luncheon for anyone who wants to join us on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day weekend).

This is similar to what we have done for years with the Ko Olina Resort who organizes a Thanksgiving Luncheon in our church each year. This time, it is our turn...based on the realization that people are also hungry in May as much as they are in November! The Council has agreed to fund the total costs of the catered meal, and we will be asking you to help serve, or provide a simple dessert, if you can..just let us know. (Members of the Committee are Emi Kitashiro, Jackie Kojima, Clarence Nishihara, Irene Nomura, Conrad Sakamoto, Tom and Sachi Fujita).

So, join us and let our care of others "come home to us" as we roll up our sleeves in the attitude of Rosie the Riveter (circa 1942), who said, "*We Can Do It!*"...and we will! And when you really think about it, isn't this also the Easter message, too?...that we are reborn to become new creatures in new ways, and to be empowered to reach out in Love to others, amen.

***PS...and let's not forget our canned goods drive on the First Sunday of each month!!***

## Directory

Have you checked our Waipahu UCC Directory lately?...and did you notice it has not been updated for quite awhile... Therefore, Cecile has "commissioned" me to begin photographing members and families (along with Richard Chung as he is able). Yes, there may be some protocol for this kind of unilateral action, so we will bring it up to the Council this month to amend our errors. And if nothing else, it will give all of us a chance to smile at the world again...something that is so sorely needed in these days of constant change!

Watch for announcements in the church Sunday bulletin so you can have your picture taken in your "Sunday Best"...just like in years past! *Oh, My!*...Our church is a Great Place, isn't it?



Our first home assignment couldn't have gone better if we had planned it perfectly. We made connections and built long lasting, lifetime friendships that we could have never imagined. Our children spent time catching up and rekindling friendships that for them, seemed a lifetime ago. Their faith was tested, poked, and they were pruned. Some of them flourished and for others, let's say we are looking forward to seeing how the Lord will use this time of learning to grow them even closer to Him. Being an MK (missionary kid) is an amazing, miraculous, eye opening, lonely, self sacrificing life to live. Please continue to pray for Taylor, Bailey, Kendyl, Reagan and Colson, that the Lord will remain close to their side and in their hearts. They do a great job of serving without complaint, adjusting to last minute changes, packing and moving and moving and moving and letting go of ideas of security and comfort. Jeff and I don't tell them enough how blessed we are that WE get to be their parents. This time of being back "home" altogether, just

proved to us again, that we got the better end of the deal in being their parents.

We are all **OVERWHELMED** with excitement that we are able to officially announce our return to Japan on April 18. It's a mix of bittersweet to return and leave. While we are reminded of God's amazing provision for us to return, we remember why we are in Japan and how His heart breaks for the lost.

We received our clearance to return to Japan and less than 24 hours later, this was the heartbreaking headline of the day.



*"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" Romans 10:14*

## PLEASE pray with us.

- \*pray that the relationships we built are still strong and will continue to grow towards opening hearts to hear more about our friend, Jesus, and the salvation and the hope that He freely gives to them.
- \*please pray that our language ability improves by leaps and bounds. That we are able to communicate effectively.
- \*please pray that the Lord reveal His perfect housing plan for our family, team and the Neighborhood Student and Ministry Center. Also, that our search for a van that is reliable and affordable be found. (We put all our belongings into storage and returned our rented home, and the day we left Japan and our van, 2 of the 4 doors stopped working!)
- \*Praise the Lord for His provision and allowing us to return.
- \*Praise Him also for the time we spent with family, especially Bailey, the many new friends we have made, connections with many new churches, and the sacrifice of all our financial supporters.

*We are always amazed at our wonderful friends, supporters, and family that rally around, encourage us and lift us up in prayer. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your LOVE. You bless our lives and are never far from our thoughts. Thank you for the huge part you play in sharing the heart of God to the heart of Japan.*

*Be blessed!  
the pagz - jeff, kel, taylor, bailey, kendyl, reagan & colson*

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

## How to give???

Here's information about all the different ways that you can give:

Online: <https://team.org/givenow/us/add-donation?v2glid=106225>

This link will take you directly to our personal Give Now donation site for TEAM

Use this link: <https://team.org/givenow/us/add-donation?v2glid=173507>

if you would like to give towards our new ministry project, the Student and Ministry Center.

Phone: T.E.A.M. (800) 343-3144. You can make donations over the phone if you prefer.

Email: [donors@team.org](mailto:donors@team.org). You can also email TEAM for any inquires, setting up or making changes to your donations.

Mail: TEAM - USA, PO Box 1986, Grapevine TX 76099-1986

You can also donate by mailing a check. Please remember to include a note with your check, specifying that your gift is for: Pagaragans #011040



## KWACK'S KOMEDY KORNER

(a little clean or religious humor )

One day a barber said to a customer “see that kid outside the shop ?” He has no common sense. Watch I’ll prove it to you, as he takes out a dollar bill and a five-dollar bill then calls the boy inside.

“Hey kid which one do you want?” The boy takes the dollar bill. “See” says the barber, no common sense. The customer leaves the barbershop and sees the boy coming out of an ice cream shop

and stops the boy and ask him “why he didn’t take the five dollar bill?” The boy licks his ice cream and says “because if I choose the five dollar bill, the game is over”



## LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

1. PALM Sunday, Baptism Sunday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.
2. Good Friday, April 19 - Supper 4:30 p.m. & Service 5:30 p.m.
3. Easter Sunday, April 21 – 9:30 a.m. Refreshments to Follow

## We Turn to God in Prayer

We will print the names of those in need of prayer. If you suggest a name, please be sure that you have secured their permission for doing so and **make sure to contact the church office when the name should be removed. If not, the name will be removed after one month.**

### Continual Prayers

#### for Members

Charlotte Inouye

Renee Chung

Lee Gantala

Vision for Waipahu UCC

Cora Hobbs-Oshiro

Colleen Gantala

#Edith Katano

Isayas Gabriel

Auri Gabriel

Suzanne Roller

Andrew Araki

Dennis Schneider

#Lily Yee

#Judy Parker

Harriet Aspera

Jean Murakami

Judith Hayashida

Felisa Chang

Elmer Pagaragan

Esther Luna

Richard Chung

Alice Oshiro

\*In hospital or rehab

#In care home

### Family of Members

Hinano & Hina

Felmet (Mark)

Yasu Saiki(Edith)

Kelly & Jeff

Pagaragan family

Geraldine Yee (Ewa)

Walter Saiki (Edith)

Rylan Yee (Lily's grandson)

Isaac Aspera (Harriet)

Allyson Tamayose

(Sonny & Jane)

Donna Toro

(Chinen's daughter)

Zachary Otsuka

(Nishihara's grandson)

Tim Kolb

(JoAnn's brother-in-law)

Elyssa Batalon

Leslie Tawata

John Hahn

(Mark's son-in-law)

Yvonne Colton

Bronson Colton

(Harriet)

Blayne Nikaido

(Minakawa) 4.1.19

### Church Friends

Age to Perfection

Yu Wei Gong

Herbert Kiyabu

(JoAnn)

Mildred Carlstrom

(Lee)

Pat Isobe

(Eddie)

Virginia Padayhag

(Lion's Club)

Rose Marie Peleras

(DeSeagher)

Michael Alonzo

Alesia Gordon

Harry Yamamoto

(Jane & Sonny friend)

Joseph Fraticelli

Raymond Fletcher

Wendell Davis and family

# March Memories



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

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
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Waipahu, HI

## 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, April 7     | 11:00 a.m. | Board of Christian Education Meeting    |
| Saturday, April 13  | 8:00 a.m.  | Church Work Day                         |
| Sunday, April 14    | 10:30 a.m. | Social Action Meeting                   |
| Tuesday, April 16   | 7:30 a.m.  | Food Drop at the Senior Apartments      |
|                     | 5:30 p.m.  | Board of Trustees Meeting               |
| Wednesday, April 17 | 10:00 a.m. | Pule Ohana - Prayer Ministry            |
| Thursday, April 18  | 6:30 p.m.  | Maundy Thursday at Ewa Community Church |
| Friday, April 19    | 4:30 p.m.  | Jook Supper                             |
|                     | 5:30 p.m.  | Good Friday Service                     |
| Sunday, April 21    | 9:30 a.m.  | Easter Sunday Service and               |
| Thursday, April 25  | 4:00 p.m.  | Church Council Meeting                  |
| Wednesday, April 24 | 10:00 a.m. | Bingo-ship                              |
| Sunday, April 28    | 3:00 p.m.  | Board of Deacons Meeting                |