



IAO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Aloha Beloved Iao UCC!

My prayers continue to be with you and your Ohana! One of many quotes I have come to embrace as I see an empty sanctuary that has come from many of the social media outlets – *“The Church is NOT closed – it is on deployment.”* So, let us be soldiers of Christ, safely of course, out in your communities. Remember to check up on each other often.

We are hoping that everyone has received the updated Church Directory. At some point next week, we will give this a test run to make sure we work out any glitches in what we want to achieve. I'll call the first person/family on the list and they will call the next inline. If you cannot reach that person (do not leave a voice mail as it may not get checked), call the next inline until you talk to an actual person. Remind them who they need to call next. Make a list of the people you called that you could not get in touch with and let Lloyd know in the office. If you have not received the new Church Directory via e-mail or mailed hard copy, give Lloyd a call (244-7353). (Photo above shows us with hand-sewn masks that Jane Akitake made for us; she also included her legendary *bao*, and Bert Akitake his equally legendary gumbo. Mahalo, angels!)



We are still working out some glitches with our virtual worship. The new program I am trying out is a bit complicated, but I can see its advantages.

- a. 88.1 FM radio station will only broadcast within a ½-mile radius from the church. If you cannot hear the signal well, try a more powerful radio.
- b. Facebook Live is reaching many people from here and the mainland. If you are watching live, try doing a “watch party” and your friends who are not my friends or part of Iao’s Facebook page can also watch. Find it at <https://facebook.com/groups/iaoucc>
- c. Karyn will continue to send me some recorded music and I’ll embed it into the Powerpoint. Part of the license requirements is we can only place the words on the screen, not the actual music sheet. We goofed last week in sending you a copy of the music, so we will try and stick to songs we all know. Another option is you can go to <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/NCH1995> and see the New Century Hymnal online.
- d. This Sunday is “Communion Sunday” so please have some crackers, bread, juice, coffee, soda, whatever you have handy so that we can all have virtual communion together. We will also have virtual communion on Easter Sunday as well.

- e. We will try and get the weekly Sunday liturgy emailed, mailed (only to those who do not have e-mail) or posted on the Facebook page. We only have about twelve people who do not have e-mail access, so check your e-mail often.
- f. As always, any suggestions you might have, please feel free to contact us. Lloyd – iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net and Pastor Tino at tinocordova@live.com.

As I mentioned last Sunday, some have asked about their tithing. You can mail in your tithes to the church and they will be processed. Lloyd will be sending a self-addressed stamped envelope for those who want to contribute to *One Great Hour of Sharing* that will go to the national church. You can also go to the website and contribute through the “online” giving site.

Make sure that you and your family are taken care of “*first*” during this time. Lloyd and I have volunteered to contribute a quarter (¼) of our pay back to the church to help with our budget during this time of crisis. Karyn will be going to half (½) time as she will continue to send in her recorded music to me. Cornerstone has agreed to defer all loan payments for the next two (2) months. The endowment committee has agreed to defer the endowment repayment for the next two (2) months as well.

If anyone needs anything, please call the office and let us know. Lloyd and I have received a special permit from the Maui Police Department to be out on the road during the day for official church business. So, if you need us to go to the store for you, please call on us and we’ll deliver it to you, safely. We have masks and gloves at the ready!

We will continue to pray for a speedy recovery from this virus. We continue to hold those who have lost a loved one because of this virus, hold those who are struggling to breathe at this moment because of this virus. Most importantly, let us hold our first responders, our doctors, nurses, EMTs, paramedics, firefighters, police and so many who are on the frontlines making sure we are safe.

“A Prayer for Those Who Are Ill with Coronavirus”

“Father God, You are the ultimate Healer. Father, we come before You to pray for those infected with this virus. We pray for not only their healing but for them to be comforted while they heal. Lord, please eradicate every ounce of this virus from their bodies. Please heal every cell in their bodies, every infected part of their being. We pray for no lasting effects in their bodies from this illness. Father, please heal them inside and out and provide them with the medical care they need, with the medications they need, and with the healing not only physically but spiritually so that they may live life and life abundantly ahead. In Jesus’ name, Amen”

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/powerful-prayers-for-the-coronavirus.html>

I’m grateful for the many networks and bridges we have established; with so much information and data coming forth, trying to keep up with the information has been challenging. Missing you all and continuing to hold each of you in my prayers – as I know you will hold Lloyd and I in your prayers.

Blessings,



Pastor Tino