A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard St., Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

**April 2019** 

## Blessings from Pastor Tino | "Focused on the Future"

What a month and Lenten journey it has been! As a pastor of a faithful community, I try to compile liturgy that is both meaningful, meditative, empowering, inspiring . . . so that the people I am called to serve can feel the Divine Spirit of God near to their hearts. My exhaustion, that I never tire of, comes from seeing God work endlessly through a community that continues to give of itself, selflessly in many ways, continues to invite change and new ideas in many ways – and yet, looks for, awaits and becomes excited in an unknown future. This is what I find exciting which makes it challenging in remembering about "self-care" at times. As we approach the celebration of Resurrection, let us continue to reflect on the "way of the cross" and how God through the Son, freely died for our sake – the collective "our" being that ALL are included and that no one, person, leader, religion, church, denomination has ever been given the power to exclude anyone. An inclusion where ALL truly does mean ALL.

For me, the journey I have been on during this season of Lent has been: celebrating with the *Ecumenical Wednesdays in Lent* churches in Kihei and being invited to preach at the Lutheran Church – sharing soup and salad before every worship. Faith communities of Lutheran, Catholic and another UCC sister church. Also, for the first time in Iao UCC's history that we know of, we are doing an Interfaith Candlelight Service & Prayer – Taizé Style type of worship on Thursday nights at 7:30pm up until April 11<sup>th</sup>. Meditation can be difficult for some of us, especially when we easily get distracted by the world around us. Taizé style of worship helps us to put those distractions aside (or incorporate them) so that we can find the divine – spiritual connection with our God. We all have our journey to the cross of our day. Let us reflect on what baggage we can let go and open our hearts and minds and listen to what God is calling us to do and be, remembering our denomination motto – "God is Still Speaking."



Lastly, we as a faith community continue to give our sincere and deepest gratitude for all who continue to give of themselves in making sure that our grounds and buildings are cleaned, updated and safe. Bathroom renovations are completed in our Kanda Hall. Our Office area in Fujitomo Hall has new flooring with renovate.

in our Kanda Hall. Our Office area in Fujitomo Hall has new flooring with renovated bathrooms thanks to the giving of so many servants of God, especially our talented B&G Community. When God calls us to unite and be a community of "we can" – I see this amazing Iao Church along with our extended Family of the Kosraean and Micronesian Community come together and get things done. We are a church alive because of our faith in God, and in each other.

Let us continue to move on our Lenten journey and then into Holy Week and reflect on the difficult emotions that Jesus might have felt as he anticipated his journey to the cross. Beginning on April 10<sup>th</sup> will be the last Wednesday in Lent with our Ecumenical Churches at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Kihei; April 11<sup>th</sup> is our last Interfaith Candlelight Service & Prayer – Taizé Style in our sanctuary; Palm Sunday on April 14<sup>th</sup> at our 9:30 a.m. service; joint Maundy Thursday service with our Sister Churches of Ka'ahumanu Church and Wailuku Union where I will be preaching on Jesus' commandment of "love"; on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Iao Church, I have invited six other pastors/preachers from our UCC Tri-Isle Association to join me in doing a homily on the "seven last sayings of Jesus." Our reading from the Gospel of John will be chanted by three members of our Iao Choir; finally, our day of resurrection will be on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at our 9:30 a.m. worship which will include communion as well. Come and join us as we journey together into our time of Easter Resurrection.

We at Iao United Church of Christ continue to pray that wings of angels surround you and bring you comfort on this Lenten/Holy Week/Easter Resurrection journey. In all things - Trust in God -

Blessings with love and appreciation, Pastor Tino

[ Editor's note: the photo above—every first Thursday of the month, Pastor Tino visits with the lao Preschool children and shares stories and songs with them, early in their schoolday. Here's a photo from this month's get-together, showing the kids swarming the pastor with their ebullient little selves. :-) ]

# **April Lectionary**

Apr. 7 Fifth Sunday of Lent Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8
Something New

## **Apr. 14 Sixth Sunday of Lent**

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 **Luke 19:28-40** Into Jerusalem

### Apr. 21 EASTER

Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 **John 20:1-18** *Resurrection Joy* 

### Apr. 28 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 Revelations 1:4-8 John 20:19-31 Resurrection Witness

The lesson in **bold** is the focus of both the message of the day and any Sunday School lesson; the italicized title is the theme for the Sunday service. ●



The rainbow flag as seen from an unusual angle: from the top of Fujitomo Hall, where the editor spent some time clearing the rain gutters.



Thanks to the help and donations from many people, and the coordination of the B&G Community, a new floor was installed in Fujitomo Hall, the church office building. Above, Craig Bode prepares some plywood sub-flooring, with Warren Orikasa looking on. A story and photo essay will be in the May issue of Iao Pepa.

## Apr. Worship Responsibilities\*

## <u>Readers</u>

Anela Awai-Stewart & Susan King

## April 7

Greeter: Betsy Scheller
Head Usher: C. Kamidoi/D. Krueger
Ushers: Jaime & Shannon Ribao
Aloha Hour:
Lynette Shiroma & Lee Murakami

# April 14

Aloha Hour: Jaime & Shannon Ribao

# April 21

Aloha Hour: Jane Akitake & Anne Hill

# April 28

Aloha Hour: Maui Kosrae Etawi

\* ( same greeter, ushers and hostess for the whole month )

## **April Birthdays**

4/1 Dennis Hashiro4/2 Yukie Emoto

Edwin Ichiriu

Jena Johannes

- 4/7 Tim Greathouse Anne Hill
- 4/14 Darson Defang
- 4/15 Benjamin Belsom
- 4/17 Jonathan Kaneshina Ysabella Belsom
- 4/21 Susan King
- 4/22 Jane Tanji
- 4/23 Kathleen Miyagawa Joshua Yoruw
- 4/26 Alan Yamamoto
  Pamela Ikeda
  Jefferson Yinmed
- 4/29 Mike Yamashiro JAC Yoruw
- 4/30 Warren Orikasa

# Aloha Hour Supplies

For Aloha Hour, the Buildings and Grounds Team will have a plastic tub set up with supplies used. There will be supplies such as plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. This plastic tub will be located in Fujitomo Hall.

On Sundays, Aloha Hour hosts/hostesses are asked to bring the tub down from Fujitomo Hall and returned to the same location after. Please list on the tub any items needing re-stocking and the Team will make every effort to keep up with the inventory.

## Tim's Mana'o | Moderator's Notes



May the beauty of Easter holidays warm your heart!

Easter is a joyous time. I'm thankful to God I have mostly happy Easter Memories. This is traditionally a time to enjoy a good feast with leftovers for days as well as the pleasant company of family. I also remember Easter Egg hunting as a child.

Hisorically during this month we have typically focused on Lent and Easter. During this time of our spiritual year, we are called to reflect on the changes we make during Lent as we head towards Easter. Spring as a season has always been a time of new beginnings and new growth everywhere.

In my experience, I usually rush to the Easter Resurrection without really thinking about the process that leads to it. In my view, Lent is the forty days that Jesus was tempted by Satan as he wandered in the desert. This helped him prepare for ministry.

I'm not sure I can really relate to that level of sacrifice and commitment that Jesus displayed in his forty days. However, I can say that Lent develops our spirituality via religious discipline from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Those dark times in the desert led to the true path toward spiritual transformation.

May the miracle of Christ's resurrection fill our hearts with love,

#### Tim Stewart, Moderator

Ed.: Photo above is of the Moderator and his family on a spring break trip to London, England. See p. 7 for more pics from recent travelers.

#### **NEEDED:** Endowment Committee Member

Craig Bode, current Church Treasurer and member of the Endowment Committee agreed to chair the committee. Committee members Mike Takamatsu, David Murata, Pastor Tino approved the election. The Committee needs at least one additional member—so, any church member who is interested and available is asked to consider serving. Please see Craig or David if you are interested.

## **Upcoming Noteworthy Events**

Saturday, April 13 All-Church Cleanup 8:00 a.m., Church Campus

Sunday, April 14 **Palm Sunday Service** 9:30 a.m., lao UCC Sanctuary **Stewarding Community** II a.m. (Kanda Hall)

Wednesday, April 17 **Finance Community** 5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Thursday, April 18 **Maundy Thursday Service** (with Ka'ahumanu and WUC) 7 p.m., at Ka'ahumanu Church

Friday, April 19 **Ladies' Lunch Bunch** II a.m. (Sanctuary) **Good Friday Interfaith Service** 7 p.m., Iao UCC Sanctuary

## Sunday, April 21 **Easter Sunday**

6 a.m., Joint Sunrise Service at Ka'ahumanu Church 8 a.m., Youth Breakfast (Kanda Hall) 9:30 a.m, Easter Worship Service

> Monday, April 22 **Worshiping Community** 5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Wednesday, April 24 COUNCIL

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Saturday, April 27 Tri-Isle Assoc. Aha Mokupuni 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Keolahou Cong'l. Church, Kihei)

Sunday, April 28 Iao UCC's 124th Anniversary Celebration & potluck after church service

# Scripture basis: Isaiah 1:16-18 • Ephesians 4:31-5:2 • Matthew 6:9-15

There's a story about a man who saw a snake being burned to death and decided to take it out of the fire. When he did, the snake bit him causing excruciating pain. The man dropped the snake, and the reptile fell right back into the fire.

So, the man grabbed a metal pole took the snake out of the fire and saved its life.

Someone who was watching approached the man and said, "That snake bit you. Why are you still trying to save it?" The man replied: "The nature of the snake is to bite, but that's not gonna change my nature, which is to help." Do not change your nature simply because someone harms you. Do not lose your good heart, only learn to take precautions.

As we enter into our Lenten journey together as – faithful communities of many colors, blends, beliefs – wherever we come from, wherever we are on life's journey – let each of us not lose our nature to help – but cross out doing harm to others. The "other" being our earth mother, our beautiful island we call Maui; and most importantly, our fellow human beings – children of God.

Many of us usually make a grocery list before we head off to the grocery store. As we're shopping and putting the items on the list into our carts, we cross them out on our list. Another example might be a "do do" list, some of us might know them as the "honey-do-list." Whichever one we use or choose not to use – as we do these tasks, we cross them out.

Have we ever made a Lenten journey do list? Or a life's journey do list? A list in which we do not want to cross anything out but tasks that should never end nor be crossed out. Like maybe love of neighbor, forgive as you wish to be forgiven. Treating each other with respect, kindness and compassion. Grace given – grace received?

You see beloved community in Christ – our readings tonight call us to learn to do good, to seek justice, to rescue the oppressed, to defend the orphan to plead for the widow. Have we tonight made a plea for the children being caged up like animals at the southern border of the US? Have we made a plea for the widow or the parents who have had their children taken from their arms? Our to do list for tonight, for our Lenten journey and for a way of living, calls us to cleans ourselves – calls for a list that should never be crossed out in our walk with God, in our walk with Christ, and in our walk with one another.

But there is – in reality, as Christians, Muslims, Jews, even as human beings – another list that calls us to cross things out. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul is asking the people to cross out being bitter, cross out being angry, slandering one another, to cross out malice. Beloved and faithful community, can we, not just on this Lenten journey together, but at all times – can we also cross out – being mean? If we look back to Isaiah – he calls us to argue it out – we can have our disagreements – and I'm sure we have on many items on that "honey-do-list" yea?

Here's the hard part of our Christian journey beloved community – Be imitators of God, as beloved children. Live in love as Christ loved us. Remembering that the "us" when viewed through the lens of Christ means ALL – the collective ALL of US! Cease to do evil as written in Isaiah. If we go back to the story of the man and the snake – remember what he says in the end – "do not lose your good heart – only learn to take precautions." We should never put ourselves in harms way unless we choose to do so on our own – but let us also not cross out our kindness, our goodness, our ability to be imitators of God's expansive heart as God's children.



Which list is easier to cross out and which one is harder to never cross out? Just as God sent angels to tend to Jesus out in the desert – who are the angels of our time that God sends? Look around you beloved community – be those angels in which God sends to tend to those in need not only on this Lenten journey, but on life's journey.

Let us close with this. When we pray – take note how it is "Our Father" – for some of us who use inclusive language – "Our Creator." Our – not yours or mine but the collective "our." Give us our daily sustenance, forgive all our short comings, rescue us when we place ourselves knee deep in our mud pits or when we fall flat on our face on this journey, we call life. God, just as you rescued Jesus from all his temptations in the desert – we are way much weaker then he God – we need thee every hour, we need rescued on a daily basis. Help us to forgive one another as we wish to be forgiven. And most importantly, in all things, and at all times – LOVE.

Amen, Amene, Ashe, A-ho and Alleluia.

Editor's Note: Pastor Tino was invited to participate in this year's South Kihei Ecumenical Lenten Soup & Salad, Meal & Prayer Gathering, held on the six Wednesdays of Lent, before Easter Sunday. This annual ecumenical service series is organized by Rev. Terry Watanabe of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Kihei. Pastor Tino gave the homily above on the first Wednesday of the series, on March 13th. Pictured above are some of the participants, from left: Monsignor Watanabe, Kahu Dennis Barger of Keolahou Cong'l. Church (UCC), Pastor Tino, Kahu Hau'oli Tomoso of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church (Wailuku) and Abba Gebre Tsadik of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tawhedo Church Mission.

# From Dawna Krueger and the Worshiping Community:

**Easter Egg Hunt Items Needed!** 

The Lord has risen—He is risen indeed! As Easter approaches, Rev. Tino has a number of services that will make for an unforgettable Lenten season and a joyous Easter morning. As we take in all of this, we also want to make it special for our *keiki*. If you might be able to help supply items for the Easter egg hunt that will follow our Easter Sunday Worship Service (Apr. 21st), that would be helpful!

Children are encouraged to bring their empty Easter Basket/bag or any container for putting their gathered plastic eggs in. They will then redeem their eggs for surprise gifts in Kanda Hall. The older youth will be the #I Bunnies for this event.

A few ideas for these surprises (but not limited to these): individually wrapped/packaged crackers, cookies, cheese, small toys (I will be ordering these if you would like to help with cost) bookmarks, blowing bubbles. We have an exciting hurdle here—we are growing and the budget doesn't quite cover the amounts we need. *Mahalo* and God's blessings to you!

Please see me after church, or phone me at 242-5076 or email dkrueger1@hawaii.rr.com



These photos of church youth are from Easter Sundays in years past.



# **Lenten Services 2019**

Ka'ahumanu Church, Wailuku Union Church & Iao UCC

# Interfaith Candlelight Prayer & Worship/*Taizé* style

Iao UCC — 7:30 p.m. on 5 Thursday evenings: March 14, 21 & 28, April 4 & 11

# Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14

Iao UCC — 9:30 a.m. Kaʻahumanu Church — 9 a.m. Wailuku Union Church — 9 a.m.

# Maundy Thursday, April 18

Joint Service, all 3 churches: 7 p.m. @ Ka'ahumanu Church

# Good Friday, April 19

Wailuku Union Church — 12 noon Interfaith Service at Iao UCC — 7 p.m.

# Easter Sunday, April 21

Joint Sunrise Service, all 3 churches: 6 a.m. @ Ka'ahumanu Church

Easter worship services:
Iao UCC — 9:30 a.m.
Ka'ahumanu Church — 9 a.m.
Wailuku Union Church — 9 a.m.

## Photos from here and there... | Iao UCC's 'ohana | March, 2019

#### **Micronesians Contribute Time and Effort**



38 Micronesians and supporters—18 adults, 16 youth, and 4 children—assisted in the beach cleaning project sponsored by "Blue Zones Project" at Waiehu beach on Saturday, March 2, 2019. There were over a hundred volunteers from different sectors of the community.

Micronesian participants, coordinated by lao UCC included those from Kosrae, Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap. This project gives Micronesians an opportunity to let the Maui community know that they as newcomers to Hawaii support projects that help the Islands and its people.

lao UCC's Micronesian Ministry, besides doing the coordination, provided participants with T-shirts with the wording: "Thank You Maui" on the back of the shirt and "Micronesians" on the front. Youlida Yoruw has been the project coordinator, contacting and informing people from the various Micronesian states on Maui of this annual event.





Spring-break Travelers: The Akitakes and Akitake-Hills were in Las Vegas, with California family driving over to meet up with them there. Here, they are having dim sum, but evidently Scotty is not a fan of the chicken feet.;-)



Spring-break Travelers:
The Awai-Stewarts
were in London; Anela
and Alex are in The Tube,
London's subway system,
posing in front of the
Bond Street sign. Below,
Tim and Alex pose underneath a colossal Ship-in-aBottle statue.





lao Preschool's staff, students and parents would like to say a big MAHALO to the lao UCC community for your generous donation and gifts. With your support of this year's Ohana Fun Fair, you have helped make it a successful fundraising event.



Spring-break Travelers:
Jane Tesoro was in the San Francisco
Bay Area, visiting with son Kristopher,
who was on business there. They
toured the famous Alcatraz Prison,
with Jane posing behind bars.



# April 2019

# Iao United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	9:00 AM Al Anon 1:30 PM Tutoring (F)	6:30 AM -8:15 AM Rotary of Maui (Sanctuary) 6:15 PM -7:45 PM Choir (S)	6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	7:30 PM AA (S)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11:00 AM Youth Meet with Pastor Tino (Fujitomo)  5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S)	2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	9:00 AM Al Anon 1:30 PM Tutoring (F) 5:30 PM FINANCE (F)	6:30 AM -8:15 AM Rotary of Maui (Sanctuary) 6:15 PM -7:45 PM Choir (S)	4:30 PM Leo Youth Night (Parsonage) 6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	8:00 AM All-Church Cleanup Day 7:30 PM AA (S)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
11:00 AM Stewarding (F) 5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S) PALM SUNDAY	2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	9:00 AM Al Anon 1:30 PM Tutoring (F)	6:30 AM -8:15 AM Rotary of Maui (Sanctuary) 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Joint Service (Kaahumanu Church)	6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S) 7:00 PM Good Friday Interfaith Service Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	7:30 PM AA (S)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S) EASTER (Joint Sunrise Service at Kaahumanu; Iao Youth Breakfast Fundariser)	11:00 AM Worshiping (F) 2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	9:00 AM Al Anon 1:30 PM Tutoring (F) 5:30 PM COUNCIL (F)	6:30 AM -8:15 AM Rotary of Maui (Sanctuary) 5:30 PM FACE Meeting (Kanda Hall) 6:15 PM -7:45 PM Choir (S)	6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)  (Pastor Tino	8:00 AM Kosrae EtawiYard Cleanup 7:30 PM AA (S)
28	29	30				
5:00 PM Maui Kosrae Etawi (S) Iao UCC Anniversary Celebration	2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	3 4 10 11 17 18	M#2019 T W T F S  1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30	8 M T W T  1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 23 26 27 28 29 30	3 4 10 11 17 18 24 25
	no in Kona and		31			
CORRECTION: On Monday, May 22nd, the Worshiping Community is meeting at 5:30 p.m.						
C	UKKECIION: On M	vionday, May 22n	a, the worshiping	Community is mo	eeting at 5:30 p.n	1.



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A gorgeous, painted sky appears above the sanctuary and Wailuku at a sunset in mid-March sometime...

## Mailed April 11, 2019 Address Services Requested

If you no longer wish to
receive this newsletter,
check this box to mark as:
"Return to Sender."

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## **lao United Church of Christ**

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### SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

Pastor Florentino Cordova

Moderator Tim Stewart
Church Admin./Pepa Editor Lloyd Nebres
Choir Director & Pianist Karyn Sarring
lao Preschool Director Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at Iao UCC.