A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

February 2019

Blessings from Pastor Tino | "Focused on the Future"

WOW – first month of 2019 gone! Reflecting what is coming up for us in February, the first thing that grabbed my attention was February 19th. I can remember that Sunday like it was yesterday, even if it was only two years ago. Our first Sunday together when we began our journey, and what a journey it has been Iao Church family. Like the net the early disciples used, we have managed to not only expand our table and welcome new members into our family but many visitors as well. Our outreach into the wider community has began to get noticed and people are once again intrigued by our Iao story of today.

Our journey thus far as been smooth sailing, no problems, easy, no complaints given or received, and as the old saying goes "all is hunky-dory" – ha! Our journey has had many bumps, rough spots, "what did I get myself into" moments, unforeseen circumstances – and yes, even some "Oh God, now what" moments. No matter what the occasion, in these past two years, I have seen our church move forward into life's storms with such grace and confidence. Lifting and encouraging each other, welcoming the once "unwelcomed" and entrusting me to be the face and voice of this amazing church we call Iao UCC. I still believe wholeheartedly, it's not about "me" the Pastor, but about "we" the Church. I have found comfort in knowing that I am not the only "minister" at Iao UCC, but that we all minister to one another and to others in our community. I look forward to another amazing year – we do not know what our future holds, but in all things Iao Church – Trust in God!

For those who attended our Annual Congregational Meeting, we saw a small glimpse by the presentations on how hard people are working to make our mission a reality. I realized how we need to keep encouraging many more people to join in this labor of love for our church. So, if you're not sure how you can help our church, think about joining one of our vital communities that make things happen. All gifts, great or small, in time, talents or treasures, are vital to the mission of our church that helps prevent burn-out.

I'm also excited that I get the honor of performing my first wedding at Iao UCC. I have journeyed with Jaime & Shannon from that first Sunday in February 2017 when they first came to Iao church.

Now, on Saturday, February 9th at 2:30pm here at Iao UCC, we all get to celebrate with Jaime & Shannon as they take the vows of Holy Matrimony. Even though they have been together for over twenty (yes, that's 20) years, they have discovered a renewed sense of freshness in their relationship with each other, their new church family, and with God. We, as a church have rekindled that fire in them to be servants for all of God's children. That is how we live out the Gospel, through *words* and *actions* and we are seeing that bloom through these amazing disciples that God has sent us.

As we move forward together, let us remember to lift each other up in prayer for healing, comfort, and well-deserved rest. I ask for your prayers for our Strategic Planning Process and our team of warriors, Warren, Suzette, Susan, and Jaime as we begin this journey. Let us keep having our Epiphany moments on this journey we call life.

In all things Iao Church – Trust in God – for we are IAO UCC!

Blessings with love and appreciation, Pastor Tino



February Lectionary

Feb. 3 4th Sun. After Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30
Prophet on the Edge

Feb. 10 5th Sun. After Epiphany
Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11
A Surprising Catch

Feb. 17 6th Sun. After Epiphany
Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26
Surprising Teaching

Feb. 24 7th Sun. After Epiphany
Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38
Luke 6:27-38
Love Your Enemies

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. ●



When the Moodys dropped by, it so happened that our B&G guys were at Kanda Hall making repairs and renovations to the two bathrooms there.

Howard, Dennis and Daniel were surprised and delighted to see their old friends and fellow parishioners again.



Long-time Iao UCC members, our dear friends Keith and Karen Moody, dropped by for a visit on the last week of January.

They moved to the San Francisco Bay Area a few years ago, but still keep our church 'ohana in their hearts, and still generously support the church's ministries.

Feb. Worship Responsibilities*

Readers

Kayla Bathin & Lee Murakami

February 3

Greeter: Tim Greathouse
Head Usher: Daniel Kamidoi
Usher: Paul Obet
Hostess: Carolyn Kamidoi
Aloha Hour:
Grace Murata & Jackie Murai

February 10

Aloha Hour: Satsigo Jim & Youlida Yoruw

February 17

Aloha Hour: Gail Ideue & Jennifer Saito

February 24

Aloha Hour: Maui Kosrae Etawi

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

February Birthdays

2/6 Ruby Sakurada Lewis Hadley 2/7 Brett Yamane 2/9 Fred Araki 2/11 Rena Hayashi

Cheryl Hadley 2/13 Annette Matsushima

2/13 Annette Matsushima Suzette Robinson

2/14 Bradley Akitake2/15 Goliad Johannes

Richard Carr

2/18 John Yoruw

2/20 Jim Robinson

2/22 Deann Sonoda Betsy Hadley

2/23 Carole Toy Lynette Shiroma

2/25 Barbara Kusuda

2/27 Nahulu Nunokawa

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 God be gracious to you

It's February 2019 and so far it's been a good year for the Church, the Preschool and the members of the Congregation. I think about this time as Feast of the Lord (sometimes referred to as Candlemas). A tradition known well to school-children and adults alike, that happens on February 2. The fate of Spring hangs in the balance as a groundhog looks for its shadow. But where did this tradition come from?

Candlemas is February 2 because it is forty days after Christmas, and traditional Mosaic law decreed the purification of a child forty days after birth. Coincidentally, it's also halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so the date has always had significance for ancient peoples. Historically, early February was a good time to foretell or predict the weather, especially as it is midway between Winter and Spring.

Historically the Feast of the Lord was first celebrated during the 4th century. According to religious historians, the Emperor Justinian ordered its observance at Constantinople as a thanksgiving after a plague in 542 CE (Common Era, which replaced AD or Anno Domini in textbooks a while ago). This custom then spread through the east. Another important note is that a procession with candles is believed to have originated with Pope Sergius 1 (687-701 CE).

Candles are also important in Taizé worship which we are offering at our church, this March and April (see page 5 of this newsletter). The Taizé community is an order in France with a devotion to justice and peace through prayer. Ecumenism—a movement promoting Christian unity among Churches—is the key to Taizé's popularity, which attracts people of many different traditions and cultures. We hope you will join us in this series of 5 Thursday evening services.

Shalom,

Timothy Stewart Moderator

(Editor: the photo above is of Tim and Sanoe on a sunset stroll in their neighborhood, one evening in mid-January.)

Upcoming Noteworthy Events

Saturday, February 9

Jaime & Shannon's Wedding

2:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Sunday, February 10
Stewarding Community

II a.m. (Kanda Hall)

Wednesday, February 13

Finance Community

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Friday, February 15

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

II a.m. (Sanctuary)

Saturday, February 23

Iao Preschool Annual Fun Fair

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (church & preschool campus)

Sunday, February 24

Worshiping Community

II a.m. (Kanda Hall)

Wednesday, Febuary 27 COUNCIL

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday Joint Service

(with Ka'ahumanu Ch. And Wailuku Union Ch.)
7 p.m. at Iao UCC

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday Service

9:30 a.m., Iao UCC Sanctuary

Thursday, April 18

Maundy Thursday Service

(with Ka'ahumanu Church)

7 p.m., at Ka'ahumanu Church

Friday, April 19

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

New Chairs for Kanda Hall

lao UCC recently purchased 100 chairs to replace the old ones at Kanda Hall, as they've shown decades of wear-and-tear.



If you would like to help underwrite the expense, a \$50 donation will get you a name on a plaque — yours, or in memory of a loved one.

So far, donors include:

JANE & BERT AKITAKE CONSUELO CELESTINE TINO CORDOVA & RONG-CHAO BI KATHERINE & DENNIS HASHIRO MAYBELLE & HERMAN HASHIZUME RENA HAYASHI GAIL & WINFORD IDEUE PAM & HOWARD IKEDA TAKEO IKEDA CAROLYN & DAN KAMIDOI LEORA "LEE" MURAKAMI BETSY SCHELLER & CRAIG BODE LYNETTE SHIROMA **JANE TESORO JOY YAMANE** LYNETTE & MIKE YAMASHIRO

Checks may be written out to

"Iao UCC," indicating "Kanda Hall chairs"
on the memo line and dropped off at the
church office, or mailed to:

Iao UCC, 2371 West Vineyard Street
Wailuku HI 96793.

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance Committee

By David Murata

The first meeting of the new year of this community-based, partner in ministry, committee was held on January 14, with David Murata and Youlida Yorow attending. Rev Tino Cordova is also a member of the Committee. (Ed.: the photo below shows the Maui Zenshin Daiko performing at the 2017 event, which was held here at Iao UCC.)

For some members of our church who may not know, the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance Committee was formed by a member of our Church, Takako Dickinson, several decades ago. Takako helped to start this community effort to remember the disastrous effects of the nuclear armaments that can harm God's children and creation, and she helped to start the group to prevent anyone from the using and making of such devices in the future.



Iao UCC is an official member of this community "Committee," which is supported by members of the Maui Peace Association and by several Buddhist churches on Maui. Our denomination, the United Church of Christ USA, has been an active supporter of a nuclear armament free world through its Peace and Justice ministry.

At this first meeting of the new year, the 2018 Remembrance event held at the Maui Okinawa Cultural Center last fall was reviewed, and the date for the 2019 event was discussed. Having the event in the first week in August was considered, with details to be discussed in future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25, 4:30 p.m. at the Rissho Ko Saikai Church, 1819 Nani Street, in Wailuku.

Iao UCC members who are willing to serve on this Committee with me, Youlida and Pastor Tino would be very welcome to join, to represent our church. Please talk to Pastor Tino or myself, if you are interested.

Iao UCC at Church Leaders Event 2019

A delegation from Iao UCC will be attending the annual Church Leaders Event in Honolulu on Saturday, February 23rd. This one-day conference is held and sponsored by the Hawaii Conference of the UCC, to familiarize church leaders—pastors, moderators, church officers and other lay leaders—with various aspects of the Hawaii Conference and the UCC at large.



Over the years, Iao UCC has sent members to attend the event, and consequently, our lay leaders have a very good sense of the larger context of the Hawaii Conference, and our church's role and place within it. This year, the event will once again be at Nu'uanu Congregational Church in Honolulu, with this overarching theme: "Practical and Effective Outreach." Keynote speaker will be Tracy Barnowe, the Conference's Minister for Church Vitality. She will lead evidence-based, hands-on, interactive workshops on how our local churches can do the most effective forms of outreach. Attending from Iao UCC will be Pastor Tino, Shannon Furomoto, and Youlida Yoruw. Shrue Mongkeya of the Maui Kosrae Etawi will also be joining the group.

"I Am the Good Shepherd — Knowing God's Care" | Jaime Ribao & Shannon Furomoto

SHANNON: Today we would like to share with you our personal experience focusing on the I am statement of "I am the Good Shepherd." This saying reveals much about God's care for us. Together we will explore ways in which each one of us might step into this statement as an individual and as a church. How do we as an individual become a Good Shepherd in word and action? How do we as a church become the Good Shepherds within our community?

JAIME: Let's first define the role of a shepherd. A Shepherd is defined as a person who tends, herds, feeds, or guards herds of sheep. Now Let's define good. Good means of a high quality, standard, or level. So thus a "Good Shepherd," is a person who cares for their sheep with the highest quality of care. A Good Shepherd always watches over the sheep coming in and going out of the gate. In Jesus's day, as the sheep came in through the gate, the walls of the sheep pens provided security from predators and rest from the outside. As the sheep went out through the gates, they found free roaming pastures to graze and enjoy. In one sense the sheep would find comfort and protection within the gates, however on the other hand they yearned for new adventures and free grazing outside of the gates.

SHANNON: In the Bible, people are often compared to sheep. As sheep we spend our lives moving between a similar doorway. Much like sheep we experience an internal tug of war between what is comfortable and stepping outside of the boxes we design in our mind. Every morning most of us wake up and turn on our coffee makers and drink a cup of coffee while reading the newspaper or scrolling through our Social Media accounts. We have become attached to what is familiar and grasp to routine because it is comfortable. How have you used your time the last two weeks? Have you been thinking or day-dreaming about going on a hike or having a staycation? Do you ever feel like you have become imprisoned by your security, not willing to take a leap of faith or lack the courage to try something new. We become paralyzed with complacency.

JAIME: It is only through the loving care of our Good Shepherd, Jesus that we are able to find rest and comfort when we need it. In Jesus we can also find courage and strength that motivates us to take that leap of faith. The Good Shepherd blesses us with the gift of free will to have both if we chose to do so. Jesus states in John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me..."

SHANNON: The most relevant example of how we stepped into the roles of Good Shepherds was our decision to create a first time outreach project to feed the homeless on Thanksgiving day.

We had no idea what this entailed or how it would all work out. With the help of other Good Shepherds which included Rev. Tino, a few other church members and friends of lao UCC we were able to prepare over 200 brown bag meals for the homeless. The blessings were endless, from Jane Tesoro having our youth decorate the brown bags for the lunches, to generous food and monetary donations from various church members, oh and let's not forget Rev. Tino's juicy turkey. (Ed.: the photo shown above is from that day.)

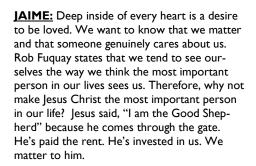
JAIME: On Thanksgiving morning we met at Kanda Hall and prepared simple turkey and ham sandwiches with a side of chips and various sweet treats. We loaded up our trunk and backseat with the 200 meals and several cases of bottled water. We started our humble adventure in the Kanaha Park area in Kahului. However, the sheep weren't just standing there waiting to be fed. We had to go looking

for them. Off to the pastures we went to find and care for our lost sheep. It was much more difficult than we had anticipated. The frequent areas that were normally filled with the homeless were empty. A lot of them were hiding because they were scared, embarrassed or reluctant to be approached.

SHANNON: When we came across a few of them, it was such an emotional experience to look into the eyes of someone who was just like us... "human." We drove around for hours, stopping at various locations and handing out the goody bags. We received hugs, many thank you's, and lots of smiles!!! It was such an amazing and eye opening experience. It was nothing like we had ever experienced before. It brought tears to our eyes and filled our hearts with so much joy.

JAIME: After about 4 hours of passing out the meals, we had about 50 bags left and a case of water. We didn't want these meals to be wasted so we drove to Ka Hale A Ke Ola (Our Homeless Shelter) in Wailuku. In God's perfect timing they were having a HUGE shelter dinner that evening at 6:00pm and didn't know if they would have enough food. We told them that we were from lao UCC and that we had just fed a lot of our homeless brothers and sisters in the Kahului Area and had these leftover meals and bottled water. They were so thankful and graciously accepted the meals and water. That was a true "God Moment" for us.

SHANNON: As a result of that entire experience we realized what being a good shepherd meant. It meant sacrifice, hard work, compassion, caring and loving. A good shepherd cares for ALL of his or her sheep and no one is left behind. These sheep were lost but not forgotten!!! We made them feel loved and let them know that they mattered. Just as our Good Shepherd makes us feel. No matter where we are on life's journey and no matter who we are...we are loved and we matter.



SHANNON: It almost seems minimal to simply attend worship on Sundays or on Holidays. Jesus wants us to be active participants,

just as he was. We need to go out into our communities to share our stories and live our Mission Statement. Living as a Good Shepherd encourages our neighbors to come and worship with us. We must find our lost sheep and bring them home.

JAIME/SHANNON: We need to Be the Church that we want to see. After all, we are all capable of being good shepherds because we are a people of God, living and sharing the love of Christ and reflecting that love in words and actions.

This piece is an excerpt from the message Jaime and Shannon gave on **Sunday, January 27th**. It was the 3rd Sunday in the "I Am" message series. The other messages will be published in future issues of lao Pepa.

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FUNDRAISING NOTES:

Amazon.com "Smile"

If you do online shopping via Amazon.com, for every purchase you make, Amazon will donate a fraction of the amount to the charity of your choice. **Consider making lao UCC your charity.** This is at NO cost to you.

How to do this?

(I) Simply point your web browser to:

smile.amazon.com

(I) ...and set "lao Congregational Church" as your charity of choice. (That was the way it was initially set up, not as 'lao UCC' or 'lao United Church.')

That's it! Again, this costs you nothing in addition to the price of the item/s you are purchasing. *Mahalo!*

Iao UCC T-Shirts

(Youth Ministry Fundraiser)

As of Feb. 1, 2019 \$ **527.00**

We have plenty more lao UCC t-shirts available for purchase at the church office. Come by after church service or any time during the work-week, if you would like to get one.

lao Preschool's 2019 Fun Fair





March 14

March 21

March 28

April 4

April 11

Iao UCC's Worshiping Community is offering an ecumenical Lenten candlelight service series on five Thursday evenings, from March 14th through April 11th. The services will start at 7:30 p.m. and take place at our church sanctuary.

A *Taizé* worship service involves sung and chanted prayers, periods of silent meditation, and liturgical readings. Iao's variation of the service will include the sacrament of Communion.

This meditative service is based on the tradition of the community of monks in Taizé, France. The community is an ecumenical monastic order—inclusive of Catholics and Protestants—with a strong devotion to peace and justice as achieved through prayer and meditation. The 100-strong community of monks is drawn from individuals from some 30 countries around the world.

Our ecumenical leaders will include Pastor Tino and Rev. John Tomoso of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, and perhaps other local clergy as well.

We invite you to join us in this special worship service series as part of our journey through Lent this year.

February 2019

Iao United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17	4 5 0 11 12 3 4 7 18 19 10 11 14 25 26 17 18	Mar 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		6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Of (Office Open)	2 7:30 PM AA (K) Groundhog Day
3 10:30 A M Reception for Jaime & Shannon 1:00 PM Samoan Methodist (S) 5:00 PM Maul Kosrae Etawl (S)	2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	9:15 AM -10:30 AM AI Anon (K) 1:30 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K) 6:00 PM Etawi Prayer Fellowship (S)	7 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 Of (Office Open)	9 8:00 AM Samoan Yard Cleanup 2:30 PM Jaime 6. Shannon's Wedding 7:30 PM AA (K)
10 11:00 AM Stewarding (F) 1:00 PM Samoan Methodist (S) 5:00 PM Maul Kosrae Etawi (S)	2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts Support Group Visitations	13 9:15 AM -10:30 AM AI Anon (K) 1:30 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K) 5:30 PM FINANCE (F) 6:00 PM Etawi Prayor Followship (S)	14 6:30 AM -8:15 AM Rotary of Maui (Sanctuary) 6:15 PM -7:45 PM Choir (S) Valentine's Day	15 11:00 AM Ladies' Lunch Bunch (Sanctuary) 6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	8:00 A M Kosrae EtawiYard Cleanup 7:30 PM AA (K)
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24 11:00 AM Worshiping (F) 1:00 PM Samoan Methodist (S) 5:00 PM Maul Kosrae Etawi (S)	25 2:00 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K)	26 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	9:15 AM -10:30 AM Al Anon (K) 1:30 PM -4:00 PM Maeda Academy (K) 5:30 PM COUNCIL (F) 6:00 PM Etawil Prayer Fellowship (S)	28 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)		



lao United Church of Christ 2371 W. Vineyard Street Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

(808) 244-7353 iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net



Rainbow above Iao Valley one morning (photo by Kevin Block, from his office window)

Mailed February 4, 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

2371 W. Vineyard Street Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

Office phone: (808) 244-7353 Church cellphone: (808) 740-8368 Office hours: Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Email: iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net Website: iaoucc.org facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/

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.