

Iao Pepa

NA MAKANI

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

January 2018

Blessings from Pastor Tino | *“Insight into Reality”*

On this month of January, as we remember our Lord’s Baptism may it lead us into action!

WOW! A new year is upon us Iao UCC family. What a wonderful, prosperous, blessing-filled year 2017 has been for many of us. As I have reflected on this past year, there are way too many blessings for me to count or even remember. It was on this month of 2017 that Rong and I first came to visit this beautiful island of Maui and got a small glimpse of who the people of this island and of this new prospective church were. Being picked up at the airport, taken to lunch, then to my hotel room only to find a welcoming package filled with local goodies. A year later I now find myself as the newly installed Pastor of this amazing Church we call Iao UCC. What a year! Amen?

This month finds us with me celebrating another birthday and what better way to celebrate than to honor a wonderful and amazing woman that I have come to know through many of you. Lillian Maeda was what I have come to know as a “community game changer.” She inspired many of you to do the work that you do now and to encourage our youth to be the best that they could be and become. You, Iao UCC, have carried on this tradition as a way to honor her, and this is why I proposed and with your approval, established our new Lillian Maeda College Scholarship Fund so that our youth who wish to further their education will know that we as an Iao UCC family will continue to support them in their educational endeavors. Thank you, thank you, thank you for helping me raise, as a birthday gift to me and in honor of Lillian, over \$1,200 for this great college fund for our youth. This is an example of how we live out our own baptism.

With this great momentum that we have built up from last year, let us continue to dream big and with great excitement for another God-filled year. All things are possible—there is nothing we cannot do or achieve knowing that we have God at our side and each other for support and encouragement. There are many projects that we need to take care of. I encourage everyone to be present at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28th after worship where you will hear from all the exciting things our Communities have done and plan to do for 2018. We have a lot of major updating, upgrading and repairs to do on our church grounds. Putting together a publicity campaign for Iao, and many more projects. We can do this, one day at a time, one prayer at a time, one breath at a time; we can do this because – well – because we ARE IAO UCC! Another example of living out our baptisms.

As we move forward on our season of Epiphany, let us remember that the three kings not only brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They also brought themselves and willingly wanted to participate in this new endeavor that the Christ child represented. As we move forward into our new year, know that I pray for each of you and your families. I pray that you will find peace and prosperity and when things get rough, know that we are your church family you can lean on.

Blessings upon a great 2018,
Pastor Tino



Lee Murakami took Tino and friends out for his birthday lunch (one day early) at The Dunes in Maui Lani.

January Lectionary

Jan 7 **1st Sun. after Epiphany**

Genesis 1:1-5
 Psalm 29
 Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11
Defining Moments

Jan 14 **2nd Sun. after Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
 John 1:43-51
Known and Loved

Jan 21 **3rd Sun. after Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 62:5-12
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20
Follow Me

Jan 28 **4th Sun. after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
 Psalm 111
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28
Power To Do

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



A new poster for the church office or sanctuary, courtesy of a link from Tim Greathouse on the FB Group page.

January Worship Readers:
 Joy Yamane & Sonny Yoruw

Jan. Worship Responsibilities*

Jan. 7

Greeter: Betsy Scheller
 Head Usher: Rena Hayashi
 Usher: Gurray Mathin
 Hostess: Joshlyn Miteg
 Aloha Hour:
 Allison Ka'aihue & Jamie Park

Jan. 14

Aloha Hour:
 S. Awai, S. King & D. Krueger

Jan. 21

Aloha Hour:
 Linda Case-Tapia & Betsy Scheller

Jan. 28

Aloha Hour:
 Maui Kosrae Etawi

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

January Birthdays

- 01.01 Regina Hadley
- 01.02 Myriam Takamatsu
- 01.03 Toshio Seki
Joseph Fugow
- 01.04 Takeo Ikeda
- 01.04 Florentino Cordova
- 01.06 Caetlyn Johannes
- 01.07 Hisako Sano
Gabriella Withrow
- 01.10 W. Porter Wimberley
- 01.11 Lei Tobias
Janice Saiki
- 01.17 Jack Belsom
- 01.19 Doris Saiki
- 01.23 H. Kalani Wong
Samantha Hill
- 01.24 Grace Saito
- 01.27 Gurray Mathin

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.

Dr. Gail Okawa, Rev. Tamasaku Watanabe's granddaughter, returned to Maui on Sat., Jan. 13th to give a talk on Hawaii's Japanese internment history at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center in Kahului. Jane Tesoro and Katherine Hashiro took Dr. Ogawa around on Friday afternoon, including a visit to her grandfather's gravesite at Maui Memorial. (See December issue of Iao Pepa for more on the Watanabes' history.)



(Photos by Jane Tesoro & Katherine Hashiro)

Upcoming Noteworthy Events for your Calendar

Sunday, January 28

Annual Meeting

Immediately after the 9:30 worship service

Sunday, February 11

Stewarding Community

11 a.m., after Aloha Hour (Fujitomo or Kanda Hall)

Wednesday, February 14

Finance Committee

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

Start of Lenten Season

Sunday, February 18

Worshiping Community

11 a.m., after Aloha Hour (Fujitomo or Kanda Hall)

Saturday, February 24

Iao Preschool Fun Fair 2018

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

Wednesday, February 28

COUNCIL Meeting

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Thursday, March 29 & Friday, March 30

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday

Directory Update 2018

As the Iao UCC Church Directory has not been updated since 2012, we will finally be working to bring it up-to-date, with the dawning of New Year 2018. The Iao church family has experienced much change over the last half dozen years, with folks moving away or changing addresses; and many of our beloved elders and kupuna have passed on. However, we have also had a number of new members join the church community, by member transfership, or baptisms. Watch your e-mail inbox or mailboxes for information and data gathering!

~ LN @ the Church Office

“When God Wants You To Grow...”

by Warren Orikasa *

“When God wants you to grow, he makes you uncomfortable.” – (daily inspirational quotes)

This certainly sounds counterintuitive to the teachings of peace, grace, and love, all of which seem to connote a particular comfort level. We can gain peace after turmoil, grace after insult and love after hate, but yet we’re not totally at peace, in grace or loved. Why are we still uncomfortable? Where’s the logic?

Maybe there is no such attainable level as total peace, total grace, or total love. Maybe it’s a continuum of various degrees of discomfort that is the path we are destined to travel as Christians. It might be suggested that the level of our discomfort is in direct proportion to the level of our passion to be the Christian that Jesus desires.

Please humor my shallow faith in the following snippets.

“The wooden crucifix on the altar during Advent should have been taken down after Christmas and replaced with the beautiful bronze cross we’ve adored for decades”. Were we looking at the physical item? Was it challenging and diminishing our dedication and respect of our church predecessors? Did it diminish our worship? Were our prayers any less important? Did it change who we’ve been? Did it make you ponder your faith more than normal? Did it make you uncomfortable?? Perhaps it’s a pebble in our path? Is God calling us?



“Why do we have the Tibetan bell? Isn’t that a Buddhist thing?” (see questions above)

“Why are we flying the rainbow flag? What about flying other flags?” (see questions above)

“Why are we participating in so many LGBT events, unlike before?” (see questions above)

“Food Bank, Cup of Cold Water, capital fund drive, Christmas presents for our church operations . . . another request for funds?” (see questions above)

Throughout the history of our Iao UCC, there have undoubtedly been incidences or events that challenged our members. Transitioning from a social group of a handful of Japanese immigrant laborers into a Christian Church; operating a school for children of immigrants; accepting Caucasians into membership when the Caucasian church was just down the road; calling a Caucasian minister into the predominantly Japanese church; voting to become an open and affirming church; implementing the New Christian Initiative program; opening our sanctuary doors to the Metropolitan Community Church; inviting the Kosraen Etawi to worship and participate in the life of Iao UCC; calling a gay minister as our pastor. What’s next? And, after that, what?

Just my opinion, but it sure seems like God has been calling us to be something that continues to be different than what we used to be and that with which we’ve been comfortable. I wonder, what is our calling? This sure is uncomfortable. Here’s a thought. Let’s accept and embrace the discomfort and take advantage of the opportunity for some spiritual growth. After all, maybe that’s part of God’s plan.

* ...who’s standing to Rev. Tino’s right in the photo above, taken during Tino’s installation last November. Warren and Tim Greathouse were the Iao UCC members officially representing the church at the installation.

Editor’s note: thoughtful—and thought-provoking—essays like these are greatly welcomed and appreciated! I encourage you to share your thoughts, experiences, opinions and *mana’o* with church members and the wider readership of *Iao Pepa* just like Warren has above, and just like Auntie Lillian used to do with her regular column for the newsletter. ~ L. Nebres

January 20, 2018 | Iao UCC at the Women's March 2018 in Kahului...



Among the Iao UCC women at the march: *Jan Saiki, Rena Hayashi, Anna Mayeda, Betsy Scheller, Kathy Tanaka, Dawna Krueger, Maureena Eaton, Pam Kellner.*

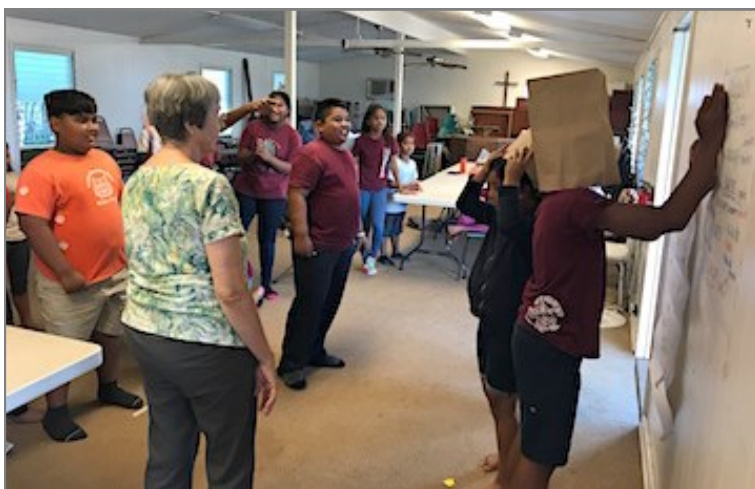


Photos by A. Mayeda & L. Nebres

Jan. 2018 | After-school tutoring holiday party...

(by Anna Mayeda)

The Lillian Maeda Academic Enhancement Program held a belated holiday party on January 10th for the tutoring students. (The Christmas party was rained out on the original day it was scheduled back in December). Aunt Lynette explains the meaning of the candy cane after a sumptuous pizza snack with fruits and veggies. Games followed: Pin the Star, Piñata and Musical Presents! Lots of prizes and goodies were taken home to share with families. Volunteer tutors/helpers included Lynette Shiroma, Heide Israel, Jane Tesoro, Lisa Louie, Katherine Hashiro, Carolyn Kamidoi, Youlida Yoruw and Anna Mayeda.



(Photos by Anna Mayeda, Katherine Hashiro, Jane Tesoro)
For captions and stories on the photos, to to a page Aunt Jane made at:

<https://sites.google.com/view/iucctutor/home>

In Memoriam 2017



Betty Yamashiro | 92

January 16, 2017

Jane Nakama | 89

April 1, 2017

Masanobu Yamashiro | 93

April 30, 2017

Umeko Oura | 100

August 21, 2017

Gladys Fujii | 81

September 14, 2017

Tsugio Sakurada | 92

September 21, 2017

Angelina Guchol | 34

October 6, 2017

Kiichi Takahama | 99

November 29, 2017

George Matsuo | 90


December 13, 2017

Miyoji Kaya | 94

December 19, 2017

January 2018

Iao United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
	1 New Year's Day	2 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	3 9:15 AM -10:30 AM AI Anon (K) 1:30 PM -4:00 PM After-school tutoring (K)	4 6:15 PM -7:45 PM Choir (S)	5 6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S)	6 7:30 PM AA (K)																																																																																																																
7	8 2:00 PM -4:00 PM After-school tutoring (K) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	9 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts Support Group Visitations	10 9:15 AM -10:30 AM AI Anon (K) 1:30 PM -4:00 PM After-school tutoring (K) 5:30 PM FINANCE (F)	11 6:15 PM -7:45 PM Choir (S)	12 6:00 PM Kosraen Women's Fellowship (S) 6:00 PM Youth Game Night (Parsonage)	13 8:00 AM Micronesian Church Yard Cleanup Day 7:30 PM AA (K)																																																																																																																
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28 10:30 AM Annual Meeting Youth-Led Worship	29 2:00 PM -4:00 PM After-school tutoring (K) Pastor's Day Off (Office Open)	30 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	31 9:15 AM -10:30 AM AI Anon (K) 1:30 PM -4:00 PM After-school tutoring (K)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2017</th> <th colspan="7">Feb 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Dec 2017							Feb 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2					1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28				31														
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A moth comes to rest on a railing at Fujitomo Hall...

Mailed Jan. 24, 2018.
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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Sunday Worship	9:30 A.M.
Pastor	Florentino Cordova
Moderator	Gail Ideue
Secretary/Iao Pepa Editor	Lloyd Nebres
Preschool Director	Flerida Iniba
Choir Director & Pianist	Karyn Sarring

You are always welcome at
Iao United Church of Christ.