

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

January 2019

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

Can you believe we are entering into our second year together Iao UCC family? What a wondrous journey it has been, and I foresee an exciting vision yet to unfold. There have been so many wonderful memories in 2018 and December was no exception. Our Advent journey really prepared us for the birth of Christ – and when our Iao, Kosraean, Micronesia Youth took over our Christmas Eve worship – WOW, what an inspirational experience these young men and women took us through that night.

I would like to thank the members of our Communities and Committees for their hard work in 2018. B & G, for example has done some tremendous work on our church grounds and buildings. We had a very successful fundraising year because of the dedication of everyone working together. We had a wonderful clean-up day with not only our Iao and Kosraean family working together, but we were able to invite all our community partners who are using our campus to come and help us beautify our church grounds. Our Iao, Kosraean, and Micronesia Youth did an amazing Good Friday skit. All these and more is what makes Iao Church an inclusive and loving family, but I also encourage time of rest and rejuvenation when ministry becomes more a burden or a chore, than one of inspiration and giving.

Once again, as we celebrate my birthday this month, I would like to continue to honor Lillian Maeda for her inspiration to many who knew her. We gave out two college scholarships last year in her honor and will continue to do so every year with your generous contributions. If you feel so moved to contribute, you may do so at any time during the year. We need to remind those in college to submit their application before June 15th of every year for the scholarship consideration.

As I mentioned on Sunday, January 6th, as we enter our time of Epiphany, let us put away our cell phones and turn off our computers and experience our daily epiphany moments with God. Stop and reflect where God has given us our daily gifts of life – church, family, friends, talents... and be grateful for these gifts. Reflecting on my sermon from Sunday, "Sometimes it takes a long journey, a quiet night, and a star to remind us just how important we are to God." Let us not get distracted by stars that lead us to nowhere, but stars that lead us to mission of God's work.

I pray for another great journey for all of us this year and know that I hold each of you and your families in my prayers. Let us pray for healing, peace, prosperity, and for our family we call Iao UCC.

Blessings upon a great 2019,
Pastor Tino



January Lectionary

Jan. 6 **Epiphany**

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-2
Matthew 2:1-12
Where is the child?

Jan. 13 **The Baptism of Christ**

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Affirmed by Love

Jan. 20 **2nd Sun. After Epiphany**

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11
Extravagant Sign

Jan. 27 **3rd Sun. After Epiphany**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Cor. 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21
Good News, Good Ways

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. •



Pastor Tino and the Support Group made their caroling rounds last Christmas to folks in Hale Makua, Roselani Place, and at their homes, including to Judy Kitagawa's, above.



On the last day of the Lillian Maeda Tutoring Program in early December, the students and their parents had a Christmas party to celebrate the Advent season and another successful semester of after-school tutoring at Kanda Hall.

Jan. Worship Responsibilities*

Readers

Anela Awai-Stewart & Gail Ideue

January 6

Greeter: Sanoie Awai
Head Usher: Dennis Hashiro
Usher: John Yoruw
Hostess: Rena Hayashi
Aloha Hour:

Shannon Furomoto & Jaime Ribao

January 13

Aloha Hour:
Avis & Kalani Wong

January 20

Aloha Hour:
Jane Akitake & Anne Hill

January 27

Aloha Hour:
Maui Kosrae Etawi

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

January Birthdays

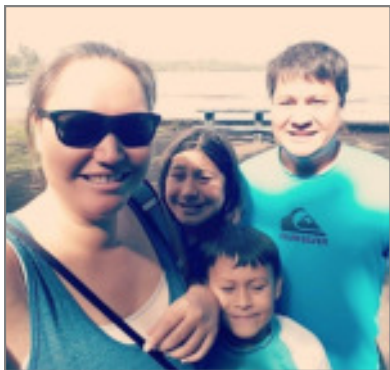
01.01 Regina Hadley
01.02 Myriam Takamatsu
01.03 Joseph Fugow
01.04 Takeo Ikeda
01.04 Florentino Cordova
01.06 Caetlyn Johannes
01.07 Hisako Sano
Gabriella Withrow
01.10 W. Porter Wimberley
01.11 Lei Tobias
Janice Saiki
01.17 Jack Belsom
01.19 Doris Saiki
01.23 H. Kalani Wong
Samantha Hill
01.24 Grace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



*Happy
New Year,
everyone!*

Welcome to January 2019! One thing that comes to mind is the word Epiphany. It comes from a Greek word for manifestation or appearance. For many Christians, Epiphany refers to the manifestation of the divine nature of Jesus and is marked by a feast day January 6. When I was a kid, it was called Three Kings.

But the word "Epiphany" has another popular meaning: a sudden flash of understanding or insight. This is also known as an "aha moment" or "eureka effect." This often leads to images of having a light bulb turned on, or of being able to see something that was once hidden from view. These moments can have a profound impact on our daily lives.

As I write this piece, I counted twelve days from December 25 and got January 6. I was pleasantly surprised to learn of an actual customary tradition of giving a gift every day for these 12 days of Christmas. I used to sing the song all the time, but I never actually received any gifts or gave any gifts during this time.

The traditions for New Year's Day illustrate vividly that although people differ in nationality, they are basically alike. One common tradition involves proclaiming new resolutions for the coming year. If the church helped us "solemnize" our New Year's resolutions, would they would be taken more seriously?

As a church, we should think of the gift that we will offer to God in the coming year. The gift of time? The gift of our talents? Our service in the community? Our witness and testimony? The gift of undying love and devotion?

The greatest gift comes to us in the form of an Epiphany. The Word of God is for everyone, not just a select few. The idea of being an open and affirming congregation is something I learned at Iao UCC. I am glad to be part of this church.

In Christ,
Tim Stewart, Moderator

Upcoming Noteworthy Events

Wednesday, January 16

Finance Community

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Friday, January 18

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

11 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 20

Worshipping Community

11 a.m. (Kanda Hall)

Wednesday, January 23

COUNCIL

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

Annual Cong'l. Meeting

*Please mark your calendars for
The Annual Meeting scheduled on*

Sunday, January 27, 2019

(taking place right after that morning's worship service)

Saturday, February 23

Iao Preschool Annual Fun Fair

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

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 (Taizé)

7 p.m., Iao UCC Sanctuary

New Chairs for Kanda Hall

Iao UCC recently purchased 100 chairs to replace the old ones at Kanda Hall, as they've shown signs of 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:

KATHERINE & DENNIS HASHIRO
MAYBELLE & HERMAN HASHIZUME
CAROLYN KAMIDOI
MIKE YAMASHIRO

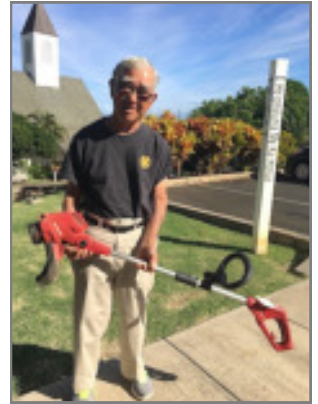


Checks may be written out to "Iao UCC," indicating "Kanda Hall chairs" in the memo line and dropped off at the church office, or mailed to:

Iao UCC, 2371 West Vineyard Street
Wailuku HI 96793.

Assisting a neighbor in need, the Iao UCC way...

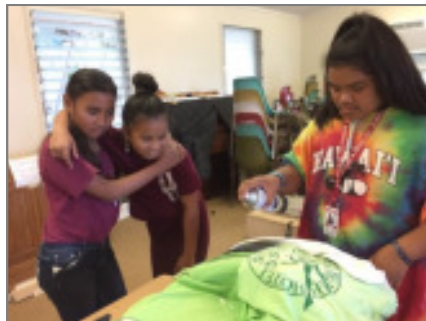
Pictured with this article is David Murata with a weed cutter donated by Warren Orikasa in response to the announcement of a need of lawn tools for a needy Micronesian family in the community. David, a member of the Witnessing, Reconciling, and Outreach Team (which includes the Micronesian Ministry) of the church made the announcement of need at a church service in November. Warren responded with a personal gift, and David delivered it to the family in Haiku.



David was contacted by a Pohnpeian family worshipping at the old Japanese UCC church in Haiku who asked for help when the mower they had been using broke down. The father of the family passed away early in the year and the family is in no position financially to purchase a new replacement. Many newcomers from undeveloped countries have difficulty in settlement since they may not know how to tap into resources that is affordable, such as Craigslist. David was able to use his computer to check into a used lawn mower for sale and got it for the family.

Iao UCC youth help B&G with the new Kanda Hall chairs...

As an activity for one of their monthly gatherings last December, Iao UCC youth assisted with the stenciling of Iao UCC's name onto the backs of the new chairs the church had purchased for Kanda Hall. This is an excellent way to give back to the church 'ohana, young folks! :-)



Advent 2018 at Iao UCC



On Christmas Eve, the church sanctuary was filled to the rafters with regular church members, visitors, and the Maui Kosrae Etawi.



Iao Preschool children performed in a Christmas pageant; Santa made an appearance!

Pastor Tino giving the Advent homily.



The adult choir and youth singers sang songs of joy and welcoming for the Christ child, accompanied by a violinist and cellist.



Some of us spent part of the Christmas season in distant lands. As did the Kamidois and Hashiros, in Henderson, Nevada.



Our ever-faithful Support Group made sure that our *kupuna* in Hale Makua, Roselani Place, or at their homes, felt the warm glow of community and Christmas fellowship as well.

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 Iao UCC your charity.** This is at NO cost to you.

How to do this?

- (1) Simply point your web browser to:
smile.amazon.com
- (1) ...and set “Iao Congregational Church” as your charity of choice. (That was the way it was initially set up, not as ‘Iao UCC’ or ‘Iao 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 Jan. 1, 2019 **\$ 487.00**

We have plenty more Iao UCC t-shirts available for purchase at the church office. It’s similar to the one modeled by Uncle David Murata in the photo below (but of a lighter blue shade).

This photo is a screenshot of our church Facebook Group page, in which Jane Tesoro posted an update of the regular monthly Support Group visitation, on Jan. 8th. On that occasion, they first stopped by Maui Memorial Hospital to visit with Craig Bode, who had been admitted for some tests. (Craig’s back at home and doing great, as of this writing.)



Pictured above with Craig are (from left) Maybelle Hashizume, David Murata, Lee Murakami, Lynette Shiroma, and Joy Yamane (Jane Tesoro took the picture).

Iao UCC Friends in the News

On December 10, 2018, 400 people of various faiths and denominations participated in an action organized by the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) at the U.S. border with Mexico in San Diego, California. The United Church of Christ USA had a contingent, led by the Rev. Traci Blackmon, the Executive Minister of Justice & Local Ministries. Rev. Blackmon (wearing the rainbow stole and holding a cup) was joined by our very own former pastor Jack Belsom and former member Dorothy Lester, now an Associate Conference Minister for the Hawaii Conference UCC. The group held this protest action in support of migrant caravans from Central America seeking refuge in the U.S. A couple dozen of the faith leaders were arrested in the this act of nonviolent civil disobedience (Jack and Dorothy were not among them).



Relatedly, a number of Iao UCC members and friends will be joining the Women’s March rally at UH Maui College, on Saturday, January 19th (details in flyer below). Look for the photos and stories at our church Facebook Group page for that day!

WOMEN'S MARCH



MAUI 2019

Saturday, January 19
8 to 11 a.m.

University of Hawaii – Maui College front lawn
(Kaahumanu Avenue at Wakea)

Opening ceremony & pule with Lei'ohu Ryder

FREE! All are welcome.
Bring a beach chair or towel to enjoy live entertainment by the Deborah Vial Band and friends, Justin Morris, Marty Dread & Nara Boone.

We gather to demonstrate our community's continued commitment to unity, kindness, acceptance, and aloha for all. We stand against acts of oppression, and are dedicated to building inclusive systems that support economic, political, social, racial, and environmental justice.

You are invited to bring nonperishable food items for the Maui Food Bank.

January 2019

Iao United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net



On the fourth day of the new year, the blue gradient of sky above the church, never ceasing to amaze...

Mailed January 10, 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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Iao United Church of Christ

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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
Iao Preschool Director	Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at Iao UCC.