

Iao Pepa

NA MAKANI

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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July & August 2020

Blessings from Pastor Tino | *“The Deployed Church of God”*



Aloha, House Churches and friends from our virtual world! Six months! Six months since we have been worshipping online via Facebook and other social media outlets. Iao Church continues to be on the move, shifting from meeting in person, to establishing social distancing protocols whenever possible. What I have found amazingly comforting is how the Church has stepped up in being the kind of church we need for a time such as this—mask-making, food being brought for our new Food Distribution Ministry program and not to mention the monetary donations that have come from many of our members, non-members, community supporters and beyond... Thank you, thank you, thank you!

While we have been busy with our virtual worship, we also said goodbye to some of our Iao Preschool children in July who graduated and moved on to kindergarten for this school year. Our new Preschool children are now having to learn about social distancing and have gotten to know their teachers from the eyes up since all the teachers are wearing masks. The Preschool staff has done an amazing job in setting up the safety protocols and so we pray for a safe year for them and our children.

We will continue to do virtual worship services for some time now until probably after a safe vaccine is produced. Some of our Kupuna who happen to be close enough to the Sanctuary are listening to worship services through our 88.1 FM radio station. Our Youth on the other hand might be having a bit more difficulty as they are used to being around friends and in their community – and this pastor for sure misses meeting with them for pizza and salad.

As your pastor, I have been thinking about our spiritual growth and coming up with ways in which we can continue to be engaged with scripture. As many of you know, some of us have been meeting on our BlueJeans virtual gathering after Sunday Virtual Worship to check in with each other. September will be the last month in which we will meet after worship for *“Shoot the Breeze – Prayer & Check-in.”* Beginning on November 29th, which is the 1st Sunday of Advent, we will resume our BlueJeans virtual gathering but will be structured as quick check-in and a one hour Bible Study session to further discuss and explore the scripture readings for that Sunday. Even if you are not a member of Iao Church, everyone is welcomed to join in on the discussion. The link is on the liturgy that goes out every Sunday and is also posted on the Facebook page and on the website: <https://www.iaoucc.org>.

Once again, we thank The Lili‘uokalani Trust and most recently the Maui Food Bank for helping us feed our local families in need. Praise God that we are confirmed for September and October of food distribution by the Trust in partnership with the “USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program” and the Ham Produce and Seafood Co. (HPSCo) on O‘ahu. Our distribution team consisting of our Micronesian Mothers is ready to do more deliveries. If anyone here on Maui need food assistance or if you know of someone in need, please call the office at 244-7353 to get added onto the distribution list. Our program safely delivers

Virtual Worship Services at: facebook.com/iaoucc.maui

(continued on page 2)

September Lectionary

Sept 6 14th Sun. after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Remember, Restore...

Sept 13 15th Sun. after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-13

Psalm 103:8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

Road to Freedom

Sept 20 16th Sun. after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

In the Wilderness

Sept 27 17th Sun. after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

God's Presence

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. •



Above photos are from the Kupuna Lunch pickup and drive-through organized by Pam and Howard Ikeda, in conjunction with folks from Kahului Union Church. We've had a couple of Thursday noon drive-throughs, with kupuna driving up along the lower parking lot and having ono food from Tin Roof (and other local restaurants) delivered to them in their cars.

Blessings from Pastor Tino

(cont'd fr. front page)

the food to your doorstep so that no one needs to drive, especially our Kupuna.

As we continue with our social distancing and virtual gathering via social media outlets, I continue to pray for each of you and your families who might be struggling. Let us join in prayer for all our communities who are battling racial injustices. We also hold in prayer first responders who are on the frontlines of fires and in our hospitals.

Blessings with virtual hugs and prayers,

Rev. Tino Cordova
Pastor

AUGUST Birthdays

- 8/7 Daniel Hadley
- 8/9 Mary-Lynn Johannes
- 8/12 Lauren Akitake
- 8/13 Scott Akitake-Hill
- 8/13 Joshlyna Fugow
- 8/18 Maverick Falan
- 8/21 Lora Yaeko Sasaki
- Joshlyn Miteg
- Jolyn Yinmed
- 8/22 Don Miyagawa
- 8/25 Rylan Yatsushiro
- 8/27 Craig Bode
- 8/28 Carol Kennedy
- 8/31 Sanoë Awai

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

- 9/5 Bert Akitake
- 9/6 Avis Teshima-Wong
- Carley Defang
- 9/11 Dawna Krueger
- 9/14 Janet Tomita
- 9/15 Misae Kameya
- Erin Hashiro
- Anslan Fugow
- 9/19 Jaime Ribao
- 9/20 Mike Takamatsu
- Winford Ideue
- 9/22 Emily Murai
- 9/25 Shannon Furomoto
- 9/27 Robert Hartman

Tim's Mana'o | Moderator's Notes

Praise the Lord!

In our modern times, the cross serves as a universal symbol of our Christian faith. A significant number of artisans have turned the cross into a thing of beauty to be worn as jewelry. From the historical perspective of early Christians, it was not seen as a thing of beauty. Crosses often stood outside many city walls; they were “decorated” with decaying corpses. To many, this served as a threatening message to anyone who defied Rome’s authority. This included faithful Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. As believers ourselves, we tend to speak of the cross as the instrument of salvation.



When we make the Sign of the Cross it helps to fix our minds and hearts to God. We make the Sign of the Cross to keep close to God. In our trials and in our temptations, our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. A person’s Baptism is sealed with the Sign of the Cross; this signifies the fullness of redemption and that the person belongs to Christ. We should look to the cross more during these COVID-19 times, and realize that when we make the Sign of the Cross we give our entire self to God — mind, soul, heart, body, will, thoughts.

It’s been a while since we’ve worshipped in the sanctuary. The symbol of the United Church of Christ that we see on the New Century Hymnal comprises a crown, cross and orb enclosed within a double oval bearing the name of the church and the prayer of Jesus, “That they may all be one” (John 17:21). It is based on an ancient Christian symbol called the Cross of Triumph. The crown symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. The cross recalls the suffering of Christ for the salvation of humanity. The orb reminds us of Jesus encouraging the people to be his “witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). That Scripture verse represents our commitment to unity among the churches of Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s service,
Tim Stewart, Iao UCC Moderator

[Editor: photo above is of the moderator’s family in late July, from a walkabout in town; fam selfie is from the Wailuku bridge and overpass.]

Making donations or offerings to Iao UCC via **Vanco** payments:



We’ve been updating the Iao UCC website recently, and one of the new things we’ve added is a prominent **DONATE** button on the navigation bar at the top of the page — we moved our online giving function from Square.com to Vanco Payments.

Also see the new pages on the website, including a historical timeline and a page gathering in one place Pastor Tino’s sermons (look for it in the **Resources** tab).

Go to **iaoucc.org** on your browser and click on the **DONATE** button

NOTE: The Vanco donation page guarantees *secure* transactions. If you would like the Iao UCC home page to also load securely—even though you’re not engaging in financial transactions on it per se—you can point your web browser to: <https://iaoucc.org> — (using ‘https’ instead of just ‘http’ or just ‘iaoucc.org’)

“Keep Shouting”

Sermon on August 16, 2020 by The Rev. Floren “Tino” C. Cordova, Pastor

11th Sunday After Pentecost – Romans 11:1-2,29-32 & Matthew 15:21-28

Poem: “A Strong Woman” by motherhood.org

A Strong Woman is one who feels deeply and loves fiercely
Her tears flow just as abundantly as her laughter.
A Strong Woman is both soft and powerful
She is both practical and spiritual.
A Strong Woman in her essence is a gift to the world.

I would like to begin this morning with a story about a woman in a farming community years ago who went to a meeting usually dominated by men. They were discussing some important issues critical to farmers. About midway through the meeting this woman stood up and spoke her piece. One of the old farmers didn't like her intrusion. He jumped to his feet and said, “What does she know about anything. I would like to ask her if she knows how many toes a pig has.” Quick as a flash, the woman replied, “Take off your boots, Fred, and count them yourself!” For me, this is an example when strong-willed women have something to say – it is best to keep quiet and listen. These strong women have a voice and they *will* be heard!

I would like to go back a few Sundays from the Gospel of Matthew. Earlier we read about the feeding of the five-thousand, but when you actually read the text, the number just doesn't add up – it is more like fifteen thousand+ when we add in the women and children. The disciples seemed to be dismissive and wanted Jesus to send them away into the villages so that they can buy themselves some food. Jesus uses this moment to teach them and us – that no one, should ever be sent away hungry – both physically and spiritually. “You! You disciples, you give them something to eat.” “You! You Church, you give them something to eat!”

In last week's Gospel reading from Matthew, once the crowd at this huge dinner party of Jesus had their bellies filled with bread and fish and their souls filled with the Word of God – Jesus dismisses them and his disciples so that he could go up for some time of rest and prayer. In today's Gospel reading, we have Jesus and his disciples once again on the move. After some time of self-care and teaching the Peter about his lack of faith out in the water and how we too are reminded to reach out to Jesus when we find ourselves knee deep in the mud pits of life – today we get another lesson, not only from Jesus, but from a strong-willed woman. Matthew reminds us that she is not a Jew, she is a woman, and recalling that Jews and Canaanites were not the best of friends at that time. Canaanites could be Palestinian in our world today. Still considered as outsiders, still “othered” by many in that area and still not the best of friends.

We do not know the woman's name, nor her daughter's name, but many of us can surely relate to the desperation of the mother's shouting. At a time when we see our beloveds – family, daughter, sons, grandmothers, grandfathers, friends, colleagues, best friends – fighting this COVID19 virus or dying from it – we can relate to why she is persistent in her shouting – Amen! The most vital identity about this woman is – **she is a mother!** She is a strong-willed woman and mother who *will* be heard! “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” Here is what is interesting – she shouts out to Jesus by using his family lineage – a Canaanite woman – the other, the outsider – first begging for mercy, then calling out to the Son of David. I know you and I know your name – you Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God through the family lineage of David, your family history has been foretold through the Jewish prophets that I, and so many like me have heard from outside of the temple palace walls. You, Jesus, Son of David, the compassionate healer of God, have mercy on me and save my daughter!



Beloved community, at a time when we are shouting for lives of our loved ones to be healed by this unsee-able virus, **this unnamed woman reminds us to be persistent in our prayers and persistent in our shouting.**

Jesus' response would make it seem as if he had left his compassion up at mountain where he prayed. It would seem as if he too now followed his disciples' stance on being dismissive. At first, Jesus' response is no response. Not a word, not a "how are you" not a "I do not have time for this woman" – nothing, nada. Now we do not know what demon possessed her daughter – we may not know what it really meant to be "possessed" in those days. For some of us today, many think their teenagers are possessed in some way...I'm kidding! But in all seriousness – the burdens our society and families place on the backs of our youth and young adults to a point where it may feel like a heavy burden. In this time of having to remain sheltered in place, many of our youth may be experiencing depression, anxiety, or becoming irritable. Many of our youth have been brought up to be sociable beings and so school has become a place where they can be youth, students, a place where they can socialize with their peers away from adults. We are meant to be "in community" so it has become difficult to be locked in place for a prolonged period of time – with parents. This is a time when they might be shouting like our Canaanite sister – "Have mercy of me, Lord, Son of David!"

The more we read the Gospels a common theme emerges – Jesus is always up to some, as the late Congressman John Lewis would say – "good trouble" – Amen! Jesus is always trying to find teachable moments for his disciples, followers, and listeners. Today's reading reminds me of some of the strong-willed women in scripture – like the woman who gave all she had as an offering – a teachable moment that Jesus used. The woman at the well – another Canaanite sister – another teachable moment that Jesus used. The first evangelists and Gospel authors of the resurrected Christ – Women! You! You strong woman of the Gospels, go and be teachers and preachers, even if you have to "shout" along the way! Once again, his disciples this morning were their usual dismissive mode, and it was easy to do with a Canaanite and a woman. "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." This woman is bringing shame onto them with all this shouting so, "Jesus, please send her away, she's disturbing my soul from the inside with all this shouting! She's making me feel guilty – send her away!"

This is not the first time that Jesus refers to the house of Israel as "lost sheep." Earlier in chapter 10 of Matthew, he also tells the disciples to enter only into the houses of the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." Notice how Jesus does not refer to the Canaanite Woman as being "lost" as he does to those within the house of Israel. Beloved community, I believe Jesus is teaching his disciples once again, and us, that before we begin with our finger pointing toward anyone else or any group, maybe we should think about cleaning up our own house first! We need to clean up the sheep in our own house filled with racism, sexism, ageism, misogyny and all the other ugly and hurtful "isms" and hurtful words that is embedded in our society. When our own house, weather that be our House Churches of today, our places of Worship, however we may want to describe "house," or even our national leaders would refer to another human being as "pig" or "dog" or "nasty woman" or "spic" in my case or any other hurtful word. That is the house Jesus is asking us to clean up first. When our house would have the poor on our streets and in our society eat the crumbs off sidewalks and floors – we must keep shouting until change happens. Like all the "woman of great faith," until change happens and until prayers are answered, we must keep shouting!

Many of us have had a similar experience in our lives with strong women – Amen! Lao Church knows how I like to talk about some of my Mama's stories. You see, Mama was a strong-willed, Catholic, Latina woman who crossed the boundaries and lines of the higher-archaeal, patriarchal system of oppression. She learned from her Mama, another strong-willed, devoted Catholic woman who believed in not only her worth, but in the worth of all women and all men. Mama not only prayed to Father God, but as a strong-willed woman, she also prayed to Mary, the mother of Jesus – the co-creator with God. Mama prayed the rosary daily. La Virgen de Guadalupe was looked upon by Mama and many in her generation as an example to follow when it came to courage, strength and faith. Like the woman who kept shouting at Jesus, these women who helped form my theology were instrumental in keeping male privilege in check. Mama believed that her children would learn to cook, clean, iron and sew, not because it is a man's or woman's job, but because it is the right thing to do and teach. Here in Hawaii, we call that "pono" – which means "do what is right."

So, let us close with this beloved community. At a time when we find ourselves knee deep in the mud pits of life. When things are not going quite right. When we are worried about putting food on the table, worried about ourselves, our health and well-being or maybe a loved one suffering from the COVID19 virus. Maybe worried about our brothers and sisters in the black or Asian community who are purposely being targeted by hate. Let us take a stance like the strong-willed woman in our Gospel reading this morning. We will be heard – Amen? We will keep shouting until we are heard. For ALL voices matter – because we all "feel deeply and love fiercely."



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

Why I Am a UCC Member

by David

One reason is I was sent to a Congregational church when I was a child of six, in 1936. My mother felt that to be a good “American” we should adopt the faith of Americans, who were “Christians.” So all 7 children in our family were sent to Sunday School at the Holualoa Congregational Church, Holualoa, Kona, Hawaii where we lived. And of course the Congregational Church was the first Protestant church introduced to the Islands which became the major church with many churches all over our Islands. This first experience in a UCC church may have some influence in selecting a denomination.

But the reasons I am a UCC member today is not because of past denominational affiliation but because of how the UCC practices the Christian faith as a denomination today. First of all, we believe “God is still speaking”, that we should not put a “dot” in our understanding of the scripture where God has placed a “comma.” An example of this is “Love your neighbors” means all people God calls his children, not excluding anyone. And the UCC believes and practices acceptance of peoples of differences in a congregation. “Diversity” in congregations is not only practiced but encouraged in UCC congregations.

And “Peace and Justice” for all people is a strong part of UCC ministry. I know that we Nisei, Americans of Japanese ancestry who lived in the time of WWII experienced the worst of discrimination as an ethnic group who did not deserve it. Because of this experience in my life I am glad to see our UCC taking the first steps against injustices in the world, starting with slavery, to be the first to ordain women and support women’s rights and acceptance of LGBTQ people as members and as clergy leaders.

I might claim to have been a Congregational/UCC member for 84 years. An active living faith did not occur after college but this faith has kept me attending church as my need to grow in faith, through learning and fellowship with others of faith.

Life During the Pandemic

by Grace

I am 87 years old and during the Covid-19 pandemic I developed very strong feelings about several things. First, in order to live effectively I must crawl into the 21st century by learning and using technology effectively. Without this knowledge, I cannot participate in enjoying what is available on the computer and television.

Luckily for me I have my daughters and grandchildren around so I was able to participate in virtual worship services, graduations, and even read their thesis, hear concerts—despite my hearing difficulties and eye problems.

Second, thanks to the church we are developing people who care for *kupuna*. I know that the Japanese have a strong case by ingraining *oyakoukou*, meaning to take care of family members; but *kupuna* care is also a Hawaiian trait, and I want to thank all who have this great trait because I am the recipient now!

Last, I want to encourage home gardens. David has always grown a garden wherever we had a home. He learned this from World War 2 days when we had victory gardens. We have always had fresh vegetables for eating and I think it has contributed to our longevity! David is 90 – and still plays tennis 3 times a week.



[Editor: Photo above is of the jaboticaba tree in Auntie Grace and Uncle David’s garden, which was beginning to burst with fruit, on the day I came to pick up one of Auntie’s gorgeous floral arrangements for the sanctuary. The tree began fruiting profusely shortly after Hurricane Douglas passed by the islands, bringing some much-needed rain to Upcountry Maui. ~ L. Nebres]

From our Conference Minister | Reflections on Pastoral Stress

[This article appeared in the Hawaii Conference UCC's weekly Coconut Wireless newsletter, issue of Wed., Sept. 2, 2020]

Your pastor is under a lot of stress. This bears repeating: *your pastor is under a lot of stress*. By "a lot," I mean unlike any other amount of stress your *kahu* faced before. The debate (or is it a fight in your church?) over in-person worship services or not, singing or not, finances and staffing, the curve to understand online platforms that address security and accessibility, limits on the numbers of people at weddings and funerals, and the myriad needs for pastoral care, and spiritual guidance called upon at this time. And, your pastor also has personal responsibilities and issues, as we all do. Your pastor is under a lot of stress.



[Editor: Photo above is after I'd asked Pastor Tino to pose for a "looking stressed" portrait, to accompany Rev. Popham's essay. ::chuckle:: :-) ~ Lloyd N.]

Your pastor has probably said very little to you about this stress—little about how weighty it is and how heavy the burden has become. What can you do to help your *kahu*?

1. ***Stop complaining if decisions about your congregation and COVID-19 are not to your liking.*** Understand that what happens in a congregation is often the result of a system of compromises built up over years and this system of compromises will most likely determine how the church leadership will react during this pandemic more so that any theological or ethical stance will.
2. ***Let your pastor know that he or she can take time off away from the church.*** COVID-19 is not going away; it will still be with us after your pastor returns from vacation. Give your pastor permission to attend to self-care and family well-being above the needs of the congregation for a period of vacation time as should be outlined in the pastor's call letter.
3. ***Recognize that meeting personal political tenets is not the mission of the church.*** We exist to promote and to continue the ministry of Jesus in the world during our lifetime. We are not here to ensure that our church is politically right or politically left on any issue.
4. ***Show appreciation for your pastor.*** Nothing helps to empower a minister more than hearing from her or his congregants that the time and effort and extra miles that are being put in are noticed and appreciated.
5. ***Realize your minister is human***—and that all those moods, frustrations, ups and downs that you are feeling are also being felt by your pastor. Be gentle with one another and remember that none of us has a road map. We don't know when COVID-19 will end. We don't know how communities of faith will be reshaped by this pandemic. What we do know is that the God who walked with the church through its most difficult times also walks with us today and into the future.

Rev. David K. Popham
HCUCC Conference Minister

Iao UCC & Foodland's "Give Aloha" 2020

Once again, Iao UCC is participating in Foodland's "Give Aloha" Program.

This program honors Foodland's founder, Maurice "Sully" Sullivan and continues his legacy of giving back to the community. Since the program began in 1991, over \$32,000,000 has been raised for Hawai'i's non-profit organizations.



How it works:

From September 1-30, 2020 you are invited once again as a member or friend of Iao UCC to make donations up to a cumulative total of \$249.00 per person at check-out. This year, Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation up to a total of \$300,000 for all organizations combined. Matching gifts will be calculated at the end of the program. *Organizations will receive 100% of all customer donations given to their organization, plus their percentage of the matching gift provided by Foodland and Western Union.*

How to donate:

Present your Foodland *Maika'i* card or phone number at the checkout counter and inform the cashier that you would like to make a donation to Iao UCC. Our five-digit registration code is **78972**. If you do not have a *Maika'i* card, you may request one. Your donation will be added to your grocery purchase total. Again, you may give up to \$249.00. The amount you donate and the name of the church will appear on your receipt.

Any donation must be made payable to "Foodland" or "Sack-N-Save." Donor names will not be released to the church, so if you would like us to know of your gift, please contact us so that we may properly acknowledge your gift.

Donations are tax deductible.

Your donation will be tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please save your store receipt for tax purposes since it will be the only record you will have of your donation. Total gifts to organizations will be announced shortly after the drive, sometime in early October. For more information, you can go to:

givealoha.foodland.com



When was it Jesus, that...?
When was it Jesus that my
heart just felt broken,
inconsolable, guilt ridden?

When was it Jesus when I saw
you weeping and all I could
do was cry?

The snot-nosed, dirty-diaper
infant Jesus is STILL weeping
in our world!

When YOU, when YOU
the country that claims to be
founded on "Christian"
values and principles do this
to the least of my people,
YOU do so unto me.

[Editor: The above photo and text are from a response that Pastor Tino gave to a recent survey sent out by his seminary alma mater, **Pacific School of Religion** (PSR) in Berkeley, CA. The question was: "A picture is worth a thousand words. Please attach one image that captures the urgency of PSR's mission and why it needs to succeed in the world."]

Iao UCC in the Community | Our Church's Ministries on Maui

Responses to the church's Food Distribution Ministry

From [Queen Lili'uokalani Trust](#) (26 August 2020):

There is a well-known and often used Hawaiian 'Ōlelo No'eau or proverb: **'A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia.** *No task is too big when done together by all.*

This is what comes to mind when I think of the magnitude of the produce and protein sharing and caring that we have been a part of over the past months through the partnerships with USDA, Ham Produce and Seafood Inc., Lili'uokalani Trust and caring organizations such as 'Iao United Church of Christ. As an example, on one given day, the sharing of 960 produce boxes went out island-wide from Wailuku to Kahakuloa to Lahaina to Kaupo to Ha'ikū and areas in between, all of us in our small teams, in our communities, sharing the blessing.



The COVID-19 pandemic has isolated many in attempts to keep us safe and healthy. It has, however, also brought many of us together, uniting us to work as a team in support of our neighbors. 'Iao United Church of Christ, under the leadership of Reverend Florentino "Tino" Cordova and with the help of many hands, is truly a light burning brightly in the night. Not only did you distribute the produce and protein boxes provided to you, but you supplemented and enriched them with your own contributions, creating very special care packages of love and hope.

Both Erica and I send a mahalo nui for all your energy and efforts. We are hopeful that we are able to continue this program and that you are able to continue to provide the working hands and aloha that goes into each box.

"From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." John 1:16

Mahalo nui loa...

Sharon Balidoy, Social Worker

From [A Cup of Cold Water](#) (3 September 2020):

Dear Pastor Tino,

Thank you so very much for the donations of personal hygiene supplies to A Cup of Cold Water on August 11, 2020. Your church's generosity and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated, and these items will be put to good use by folks in our houseless community on Maui.



The pandemic continues, but so does ACCW. We have one run a week in Central Maui, but also share food and hygiene supplies with other outreach ministries who serve the unsheltered, too. Together we are trying to help those who are really struggling even more now in these challenging times. Those we serve are truly appreciative of the items you and your dear congregation donate. There are many smiles and tears of joy over even simple things—but more importantly, with your generosity they know that people do care about them and want to ease their difficulties. Thank you again for thinking of ACCW—we are so grateful for your kind support.

Mahalo, Deb Lynch

President (ACCW Board of Directors)

Iao UCC in the Community | Some thoughts and vignettes on life during the pandemic

August 4, 2020

It has been 4 ½ months since we first sheltered in place! What?! That long ago?! We thought it was going to be hard but it turned out to be a blessing in many ways despite the horrors happening around the world and our nation.

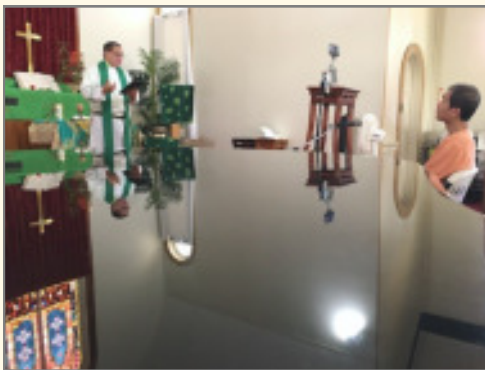
In our world Upcountry, our home got a “little” tidier, the yard cleaner and Carolyn’s cooking improved a skosh! Her sewing however, unlike many friends, never got off the ground. Aside from having to purchase many sewing accessories, learning how to use the digital format of the new machine has been challenging. Shhhh, don’t tell Daniel as the machine hasn’t been used since getting it last year! LOL!



The grandchildren are growing so fast — Mimi graduated from high school in May, Nalani will be a 6th grader, Jax 3rd grade, Joshua 2nd grade and Matthew in his last year of preschool. We miss them all dearly and are so grateful we can stay in touch through FaceTime and Zoom! We started venturing out a couple of weeks ago and just as we were feeling a little safer the number of Covid19 infections started to rise so we’ll be sheltering in again. We pray all of you continue to stay safe and take care of each other! Wear your masks, wash your hands frequently, social distance and stay at home if you’re not feeling well. Until we meet again, peace be with you.

Love and hugs,
Daniel & Carolyn Kamidoi

Who would have known that as we celebrated with joy and excitement, of the coming of 2020 way back in January 1st and wishing everyone a “Happy New Year” with lots of hugs and kisses that we would have to hunker down instead, because of a looming pandemic that supposedly appears every 100 years. Obviously this COVID-19 experience is the first for all of us and we all had to adjust to new norms....wearing masks in public, abstaining from human touch and distancing from other people and of course, washing our hands for 20 seconds as often as possible.



Obviously, this has affected our church community in unprecedented ways. We no longer worship in our beloved sanctuary and because of this, I truly miss our church ‘ohana. I miss the warm greetings, friendly faces, the congregational singing, and most importantly, the praising and praying to God for all of our blessings. Yes, COVID-19 has kept us home and separated from our church ohana. However, all is not in vain. Thanks to Pastor Tino and his husband, Rong along with our hardworking secretary, Lloyd Nebres, we are still able to “attend” church every Sunday and on other days also. With their efforts and high tech knowledge, they have brought Sunday service virtually in our homes and I am truly grateful for that. I always look forward to the Sunday virtual service. The nice part of a virtual service is even if I’m off-island, I can still “attend church”. Though I miss regular church service, I have found solace in the virtual service. I feel like Pastor Tino is personally talking to me (are you?!). Honestly speaking, I tend to listen more intently because I am not distracted by the “busyness” of regular church service as the Worshiping Community and the Stewarding Community can attest to that. Don’t get me wrong, I am anxiously waiting for the time we can be together again but we need to think positive and make the best of this dire situation. With faith in God, we will get through this, as this is now our inspirational motto for the pandemic.

~ Rena Hayashi

Impact of the Pandemic on Our Lives | by Karen and Keith Moody

(The text following is excerpted from a couple of e-mails the Moodys sent us in early August)

Dear Pastor Tino and Lloyd,

The masks arrived and we're thrilled with them... they are comfortable and a perfect fit! Mahalo. We also appreciated the letter you enclosed and the updates. Thank God for dedicated members like Gail and Lynette for continuing to prepare the Shelter dinners. We do miss all of you.

While living in a 159-resident senior facility makes us more vulnerable to Covid outbreaks, we have come to truly appreciate all its advantages: our staff for its commitment to keeping us safe, well fed and creatively engaged. The vast open spaces of the Masonic Home complex to walk and explore as never before, providing unexpected pleasures. Being physically confined has expanded our horizons in other ways: we are learning new technology (Zoom for worship services; video conferencing with doctors); discovering alternatives to grocery shopping using efficient Instacart services; developing a passion for photography and the joy of sharing results with others; reconnecting with friends similarly confined around the world.

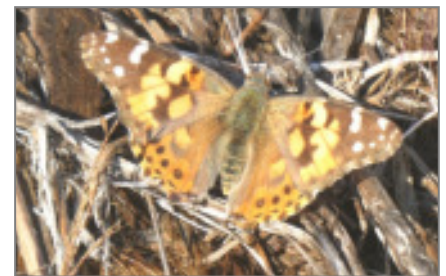
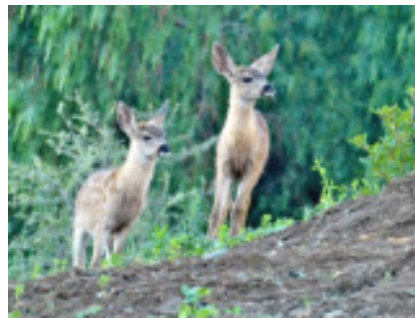
The bad news is that one of our residents tested positive for Covid so we are once again in complete lockdown in our apartments. Those in contact have been tested and the rest of us are expected to be tested early next week. Staff and vendors were all negative through earlier tests and continue to be tested on a rotational basis. I guess we all expected that Acacia Creek would eventually be hit, given the rising #s in CA. Management is giving regular updates through the PA system and has strict guidelines to contain the virus (the affected resident is now at the Masonic Home's skilled nursing quarantine section).

Please keep us in your prayers. Stay safe!! We will send some photos videos taken from our 4th floor lanai. We are fortunate that we can still enjoy nature during lockdown even as our walks are discontinued.

Love and peace from the Moodys.



"[Photos here] are the most common fauna we see, often right from our 4th floor lanai. God's creatures taken during our daily walks around the Masonic Home campus."



Iao UCC Fundraiser | COVID-19 Cloth Face Masks



We still have more of these these very soft, comfortable, and breathable cloth face masks that Pastor Tino ordered online, as a church fundraiser. It has a photo of the church printed on one side and the church name on the other. Pick them up for \$10 each at the church office, or have them mailed to you.

Call the office at 244-7353 or email iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net and specify how many you would like.



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Dusk skies above the sanctuary steeple and Iao Valley, sometime in late August.

Mailed September 9, 2020
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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VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.
 at: FACEBOOK.COM/IAOUCC.MAUI

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.