

# Iao Pepa

NA MAKANI

*A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ*

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

June & July 2019

Blessings from Pastor Tino | *“Focused on the Future”*

## Reflections of My First UCC General Synod • “Shine” – 2019

My first experience of the UCC General Synod began with the rest of the Hawaii delegates at our Hawaii Conference Office in Honolulu—I quickly realized how busy we were going to be at General Synod. The schedule seemed loaded with back-to-back meetings, but when we got to Milwaukee, it was not as bad as I first thought, but was still tiring.

The time change of five hours between Hawaii and Wisconsin was tough to get used to. I had extra days to get my body and mind used to this time difference since I went early on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> for the Open and Affirming (ONA) Coalition gathering. Since opening worship was not scheduled until Tuesday at 5 p.m., I took that time to *sleep* and get used to the time change. It was good to see many of our beloved brothers and sisters who were in an ONA church and hearing many of their stories in their process and where they are at now. I was a bit disappointed as I wanted some more “meat,” or should I say substance. I would rather have a conversation on the struggles of being an ONA church and how many churches had overcome some of these struggles. For example, how do we continue to unite our faith communities where some of our church members still have difficulties in being ONA. Another struggle for me was hearing some conversations of what seemed to me—“alienating our straight brothers and sisters.” I wanted to have a conversation around not falling into the same trap of “othering the other” in our struggle to be included as an LGBTQ+ movement.

We must see and acknowledge the blessings we have with our straight allies and have conversations during differences and not see them as constant battles. At some point and in many instances, we need to get ourselves out of the “I’m ready to battle” mode and move to “let’s talk.” I realize there are many who are struggling to belong and affirmed by their churches. For us at Iao United Church of Christ, “Open and Affirming” does not default to LGBTQ+ — but that we welcome ALL people who walk through our doors. Our doors are open, and we affirm ALL people — as this has become the ethos of our faith community. For this and many other reasons, we have stopped apologizing for being an ONA church in the United Church of Christ. This was one concern I shared with many of those who attended the ONA Coalition gathering in Milwaukee before the General Synod began.



(Cont'd. on page 5)

## June & July Lectionary

- Jun. 2 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 16:16-34  
Psalm 97  
Revelations 22:12-21  
John 17:20-26  
*Breaking Chains*
- Jun. 9 Pentecost Sunday**  
Acts 2:1-21  
Psalm 104:24-34  
**Romans 8:14-17**  
John 14:8-17  
*Gathered and Scattered*
- Jun. 16 Trinity Sunday**  
**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**  
Psalm 8  
Romans 5:1-5  
John 16:12-15  
*Wisdom Calls*
- Jun. 23 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pent.**  
**1 Kings 19:1-4**  
Psalm 22:19-28  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39  
*In God's Presence*
- Jun. 30 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pent.**  
**2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14**  
Psalm 16  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
Luke 9:51-62  
*Pick Up the Mantle*
- Jul. 7 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pent.**  
**2 Kings 5:1-14**  
Psalm 66:1-9  
Galatians 6:7-16  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20  
*Surprising Prophets*
- Jul. 14 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pent.**  
Amos 7:7-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
Colossians 1:1-14  
**Luke 10:25-37**  
*Caring Neighbors*
- Jul. 21 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pent.**  
Amos 8:1-12  
Psalm 15  
Colossians 1:15-28  
**Luke 10:38-42**  
*Word and Work*
- Jul. 28 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pent.**  
Hosea 1:2-10  
Psalm 138  
Colossians 2:6-15  
**Luke 11:1-13**  
*Shaped by Prayer*

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. •

## June Worship Responsibilities\*

### Readers

Sanoe Awae & Arlene Tamag

### June 2

Greeter: Rena Hayashi

Ushers: S. King, L. Shiroma, Y. Yoruw

Aloha Hour:

Gail Ideue & Jennifer Saito

### June 9

Aloha Hour:

S. King, D. Krueger & S. Awai

### June 16

Aloha Hour:

Jan Saiki & Betsy Scheller

### June 23

Aloha Hour:

Mike Takamatsu & Joy Yamane

### June 30

Aloha Hour:

Maui Kosrae Etawi

## July Worship Responsibilities\*

### Readers

Lee Murakami & Cory Sigrah

### July 7

Greeter: Shannon Ribao

Ushers: The Hashiros, Jaime Ribao

Aloha Hour:

Maybelle Hashizume & Jane Tesoro

### July 14

Aloha Hour:

Lee Murakami & Lynette Shiroma

### July 21

Aloha Hour:

Jaime & Shannon Ribao

### July 28

Aloha Hour:

Maui Kosrae Etawi

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

## June & July Birthdays

- 6/3 Joyce Romero  
6/4 Josaiah Warren  
6/6 Isaiah Mathin  
6/7 Jarvis Yoruw  
6/10 Rita Whitford  
6/11 Caroline Belsom  
6/13 Sumiko Kuniyoshi  
6/20 Corey Tanaka  
6/21 Shizue Kadoyama  
Grace Mungwaath  
6/24 Linda Johannes  
6/27 Percival Tapia  
6/28 Daniel Kamidoi  
6/29 Makelyn Johannes  
6/30 Shawn Yinmed
- 7/3 Courtney Akitake  
Anela Awai-Stewart  
7/4 Dorothy Lester  
7/6 David Belew  
Mabel Kobayashi  
7/7 Lee Yamamoto  
7/11 Howard Ikeda  
Katherine Tanaka  
7/13 Jack Yoruw  
7/14 Richard Carr, Sr.  
7/16 Sepehana Hadley  
7/17 Jackie Murai  
7/20 Shirley Takitani  
Kahulu Nunokawa  
Hulukoa Nunokawa  
7/23 Ayanson Fugow  
7/28 Jennifer Saito  
Travis Ikeda  
7/30 Francis Yinmed

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

Aloha Kakou,

It's official, summer is upon us. June so far has been a very busy month in my spiritual journey as Moderator of Iao United Church of Christ. Time flies, but it's actually been over a year of proud service in this capacity.

One of the key events was representing Iao UCC as a voting delegate in the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ's 197th *'Aha Pae'aina* at Kaumakapili Church in Honolulu. During this time, my particular focus was on the business agenda of the *'Aha Makua*. Some of the noteworthy takeaways from the first day included enjoying the youth actively participating during worship service as well as two different workshop sessions.

The first workshop I attended was *Changing Landscape*, presented by Don Remick and Bill Lyons. This gave me better insights to the changes of views on religion, spiritual practice and generational statistics. A question for the congregation: How do we nurture the attitudes, hearts, minds and commitments that will make it possible for the new ways of being that we want?

The second workshop I attended was *HCUCC in the #MeToo Era*, presented by Michael Broderick, Sue Davidson, Jessica Morikone, and Beth Whitehead. It was great to learn how military, non-profit and local business leaders have improved policies, procedures and practices in response to sexual harassment and misuse of positional power. The presenters also shared resources to help create a positive work culture.

Some of the noteworthy takeaways from the second day were the commissioning of the Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. David Popham, the election of General Synod Delegates, the budget, and the adoption of the living wage resolution. Essentially, this is the belief that "every person or family should be able to be financially self-sufficient and to modestly participate in the fullness of life that God envisions for all people." In addition to this, we came home after a hectic 5-hour delay at Honolulu International Airport to call Youlida Yorrow and Tim Greathouse to be Lay Leaders of Iao United Church of Christ the next day. May God bless both of them on their ministry journeys.

Ke Akua Pu,  
Tim Stewart, Moderator



Early Happy Father's Day Throw Back!

**A Note from the Editor** I was hoping to put together a big and splashy Summer 2019 issue of *Iao Pepa* but somehow the months just sped past and it's now the end of July and we might as well publish what we have now so it doesn't all get too stale by the time August comes around. Newsletter issues through the end of the year will include: a remembrance of **church elders** who have passed away recently: Katsumi Tadakuma, Kats Matsuo, Tom Yamada, Ike Ikeda, and Bill Wimberley; a photographic look back at our **Lenten** activities; Iao Preschool's **graduation**; a feature on **veterans** of Iao UCC (from WW2 through Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq); **upgrades and renovations** to Kanda Hall and Fujitomo Hall; and a new feature—a regular column on the **oral history** of Iao UCC and Wailuku town — from interviews and conversations (by the editor) with longtime church members and friends.

~ L. Nebres

*Congratulations to  
Iao UCC's 2019 Graduates*

*fr. Elementary School:*

**Jaydee Hadley** (to Iao Middle School)

**Noah Johannes** (to Lokelani Intermediate School)

**Jermalyn Tamag** (to Iao Middle School)

**Darcy Petrus** (to Iao Middle School)

*fr. Middle School:*

**Jaymina Bathin** (to Baldwin HS)

**Darson Defang** (to Maui HS)

**Sharon Sigrah** (to Maui HS)

**Johnalyn Yinmed** (to Baldwin HS)

*fr. High School:*

**Cheryl Hadley** (Baldwin HS)

**Kenye Cornelius** (Baldwin HS)

**Satsigo Edmond** (Baldwin HS)

**Cullen Mitchell** (Kamehameha Schools Maui)

*fr. College:*

**Molly Murai** (Portland State Univ.)



(Cont'd. from page 1)

Once we were all gathered at the beautiful Hilton in Milwaukee, it was good to see the rest of the delegates – even though I could see the time difference in their tired looks...<grin>. What a mixed group of delegates that is reflective of our Hawaii Conference! Opening worship and our first plenary was an amazing experience. I just had to take some time to reflect in wonder and awe of the diversity of our UCC denomination – how proud I was, there, representing lao UCC from a town called “Wailuku” and how much bigger we are than our normal Sunday gatherings. How much we are part of the greater body of Christ that is doing the work of justice, feeding the poor, caring for God’s beloved children and so much more works of mission. I can still hear this entire body gathered in one large room – *singing in one accord*.



I want to thank our fearless leader who guided us in the entire process, Conference staffer Lori Yamashiro, who made sure we all had our travel plans completed, and who gathered and led us at General Synod, making sure we all understood when and where we were supposed to be at meetings. Lastly, what I found most revealing in my first General Synod gathering was what seemed to me the “handing over of the baton.” We had great leaders such as Caroline & Jack Belsom, Dorothy Lester, and so many former delegates who guided us, cared for us, gave us suggestions, and then let us loose to enjoy the experience as new delegates representing our beloved Hawaii Conference. Thank you, Hawaii Conference UCC, Tri-Isle Association, and lao United Church, for entrusting me to represent you to our wider UCC Body of Christ. What an honor!

*Bendiciones y Mahalo!* Floren“Tino” Cordova – Pastor, lao UCC

(Photo above: Pastor Tino reunited with his friends J.T. Hill and Terry Ogawa at the Synod)

## General Synod advocates rally for immigrants, protest threatened ICE raids

More than 500 delegates and visitors to the UCC General Synod took to the streets of Milwaukee, joining more than 100 local activists in a rally calling for a change in policies that separate immigrant families. Delegates first voted that morning to delay the start time of the afternoon session to allow all Synod-goers to participate in the mile-long march from the Wisconsin Center to the local office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

UCC advocates, chanting, “Don’t be a hater; Love your neighbor,” “Classrooms, not cages,” and “UCC is loud and clear; Immigrants are welcome here!” filled the sidewalks in a massive wave of people that flowed almost a mile through the streets of downtown Milwaukee. A small knot of early arrivals, mostly local activists, handed out signs and organized a picket line, then watched as a huge wave of UCC members approached down the street, chanting, singing and waving handmade signs and banners.



The Rev. Traci Blackmon, associate general minister, UCC Justice and Local Church Ministries, who stood shoulder to shoulder with other clergy reminded the crowd near the end of the hour-long rally, “We understand that if we are not all free, none of us is free.” Blackmon declared: “We will go to every state, we will open our churches for sanctuary, we will block this action with our very bodies.” “But here’s the thing,” Blackmon added. “We realize that we don’t just do it for those who are caged by steel. We do it also for those who are caged by hatred. We do it also for those who are held hostage by white supremacy. Also for those who are held hostage by not understanding the Gospel message... as we will not be silenced any more.” Pastors who were prepared for arrest lined up, arms linked in front of a rear entrance to ICE headquarters, then joined others out in front after police made room on the street for the speeches that ended the rally.

Excerpted from: [www.hcucc.org/general-synod-32-highlights](http://www.hcucc.org/general-synod-32-highlights)

Summer 2019 | Travel photos from far-flung adventurers...



Anna in Paris, France



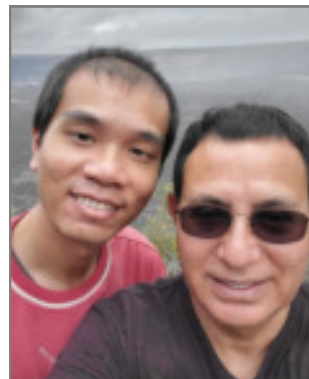
Hashiros & Kamidois at Mt. Rushmore, SD



Warren & Helen in Japan



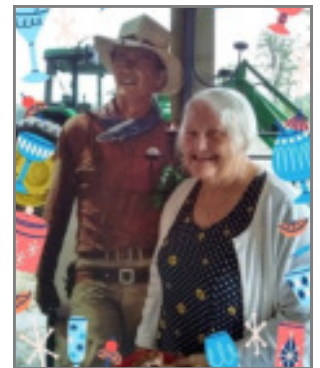
Grandpa Tino in Watsonville, CA



Rong & Tino at Kilauea Volcano



Anne, Samantha & Bobby in Waikiki



Dawna in Toledo, WA



Steve & Rena in Jeju, S. Korea



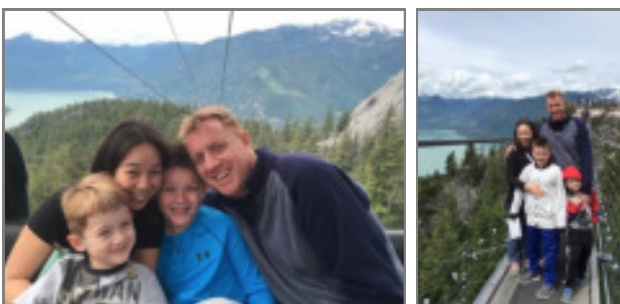
Richard & Paul in New England



Betsy & Craig in Glaciers Nat'l. Park, AK



Anna in Cusco, Peru



Lauren, Rich, Scotty & Evan in Vancouver, WA



Lloyd (taking panoramic photo) at the top of the Rockefeller in New York City, NY



May 22, 2019

Rev. Florentino Cordova  
lao United Church of Christ  
2371 W. Vineyard St.  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Rev. Cordova,

Please accept our warmest thanks for your recent church's donation to *A Cup of Cold Water*. We welcome your support of our mission to bring comfort and hope to our homeless brothers and sisters on Maui. Your donations of clothes, cases of water and other items are essential to help provide the basics of life—food, water, clothing, served with compassion to our neediest neighbors.

Please express our heartfelt gratitude to your entire congregation as our outreach mission is in its sixth year and we are discovering the need is as great as it was in the beginning. We continue to serve over 700 people each month. Churches such as yours enable our mutual work to continue.

We would be delighted to come visit one of your services and have you come share a van run with us. Please be in touch if we can help in any way keep our communication and service work continuing.

Thank you with much appreciation and aloha,

Paula Baldwin, President  
A Cup of Cold Water, A Community Care Van

*A Cup of Cold Water is an outreach ministry of  
the Episcopal Churches of Maui*  
acupofcoldwatermaui@gmail.com

## Iao UCC's Annual Bazaar

Friday, August 3 – 6 to 8 p.m.  
Saturday, August 4– 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



{ clothing, shoes, sporting goods, kitchenware,  
furniture, household goods, plants, etc. }

**Please bring your donations of  
rummage sale items to Kanda Hall  
any day this month.**

**If Kanda Hall is closed, leave your  
items on the lanai and someone will take  
them inside at the end  
of the day. Mahalo!**



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*A Girl Scouts USA team from New Jersey repainting the parking stalls on the lower parking lot; they were our Habitat for Humanity guests at Kanda Hall in early July.*

**Mailed July 29, 2019**  
**Address Services Requested**

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**What's inside . . .**

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[facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/](https://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 Florida Iniba

***You are always welcome at Iao UCC.***