

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard Street, Wailuku | (808) 244-7353 | iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net

May & June 2020

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

May the God of love & mercy be with you all!

As I have been doing some reflection back to March of this year, I have realized how important it is for the Church to be nimble as possible when it comes to serving God. Nimble in so many ways means being able to think out of the box, finding creative ways in “being” the church, and as always – “in ALL things and in ALL ways, trust in each other and trust in God!” This has been extremely important for us as we continue to shelter in place my beloveds.

As many of us have heard, the Maui County Fair has been cancelled for this year. The fair is the biggest fund raiser for us and many other non-profits here on Maui. Part of our “out-of-the-box” thinking that kicked in was how can we sell our famous Frosty P.O.G.’s other than the fair booth. The Fair Committee has met and put together a proposal for the Council’s approval to purchase a food trailer. Proposal would enable us to sell our Frosty P.O.G. at many events throughout the year and not rely solely on the fair booth. With the help of some members who have loaned the church enough funds to purchase a trailer, the Council approved the proposal as presented and formed a new Committee. The Frosty P.O.G. Trailer Committee will play a key role but to make this proposal successful, we must have “all-hands-on-deck” with volunteerism. If you are interested in being part of this new committee, please contact Lloyd at the Office.

We have also partnered with the Lili’uokalani Trust who will be delivering food for us to distribute to our families in need. Many of our Micronesian brothers and sisters have jumped on board to help with distribution of not only the food from the Trust, but also the food that continues to come in on a weekly basis from many of our Church O’hana, members, non-members, community partners like Hale Kau Kau and many others (see pages 10 and 11 in this newsletter). We continue to thank everyone who contributes to this new ministry, whether it be non-perishable food items or money to purchase food. Our last distribution went out to 79 families in need, so we continue to ask for your generosity as COVID-19 keeps people out of work.

We have also received a grant from the Justice and Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ national office in the amount of \$3,000 to help purchase equipment to better our online worship and live feed every Sunday. This grant also gives us the option to hire a translator to translate some of our worship experience into some of the Micronesian languages. We are also looking for an IT person to assist us in this process as this is beyond the Pastor’s know-how.

God continues to be in everything we do Iao Church. Everyone is making a difference from our House Churches, our communities, our local partnerships and beyond. I am grateful for my spouse, Rongchao, Lloyd our Office Administrator, Karyn who continues to record the music for our Sunday Worship, and for each of you who continue to live out what it means to be “people of God.” What else you got for us 2020, God’s people are ready!

Blessings with lots of love and virtual hugs – *Los amo mucho!*
Rev. Floren “Tino” C. Cordova, Pastor



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

Photo above: Pastor Tino marking
Pride Month (June 2020)

July Lectionary

July 5 **5th Sun. after Pentecost**

Genesis 24:34-38

Psalm 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19

Chosen Journeys

July 12 **6th Sun. after Pentecost**

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 65:9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:18-23

A House Divided

July 19 **7th Sun. after Pentecost**

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalm 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30

Wheat & Weeds Tgthr.

July 26 **8th Sun. after Pentecost**

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalm 128

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:44-52

Weaving the Future

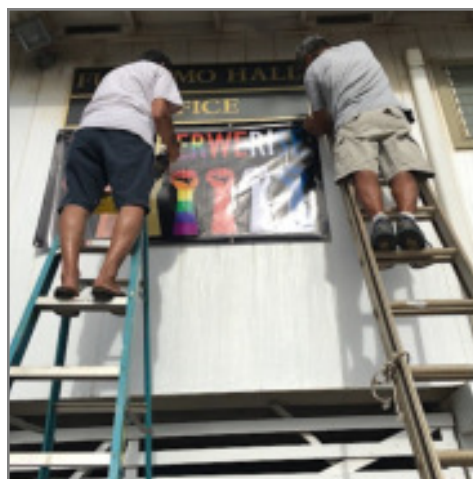
The lesson in **bold** is the focus of both the message of the day and any Sunday School lesson; the italicized title is the theme for the Sunday service. •



Pastor Tino saw this striking **“TOGETHER WE RISE”** poster online and thought it would be great to have as a display on the front outside wall of our church office building, Fujitomo Hall... so we had one made.

As it happens, the weekend after we picked up the banner, there was a March for Change rally in Kahului in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. A contingent from Iao UCC joined the march, and our banner was a big hit there (see photo on page 5).

A big mahalo to Daniel and Howard for putting the banner up on the wall!



JUNE Birthdays

- 6/4 Josaiah Warren
- 6/6 Isaiah Mathin
- 6/7 Javis Yoruw
- 6/10 Rita Whitford
- 6/11 Caroline Belsom
- 6/20 Corey Tanaka
- 6/21 Shizue Kadoyama
- Grace Mungwaath
- 6/24 Linda Johannes
- 6/28 Daniel Kamidoi
- 6/29 Makelyn Johannes
- 6/30 Shawn Yinmed

JULY Birthdays

- 7/3 Courtney Akitake
- Anela Awai-Stewart
- 7/4 Dorothy Lester
- 7/6 David Belew
- 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

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

July 2020

May there always be aloha in your heart!

It's summertime again. I'm surprised that it's been over two years as the Moderator of Iao United Church of Christ. As we begin the process of getting back to normal from COVID-19, this will be a busy time in our spiritual journey.

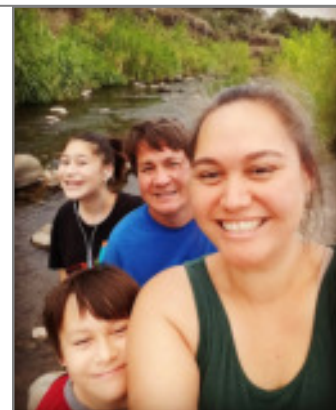
Things are different. Businesses that have remained open have changed their policies and procedures. Businesses that are starting to open are going to do the same. The *Aha Pae'aina*—the annual meeting of our Hawaii Conference UCC—is normally held in June. It has been postponed to October.

I miss taking communion in church. I was taught that communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Through the ages, bread has been an important staple (in many forms and from different grains) around the world. When we gather as a family and share a meal we also share our life with Jesus. Sometimes the most basic of everyday things (like bread) are the things that we often overlook or take for granted. As a congregation, we are both ordinary and special. Jesus makes our lives meaningful. During communion we remember and give thanks for this.

Biblical Quote: "By sharing in the same loaf of bread, we become one body, even though there are many of us." (1 Corinthians 10:17). One of my earliest Christian learning experiences was when I was very young. I learned through parables. The one that was very influential in my upbringing is the one where Jesus fed multitudes with the loaves and fishes. I remember baking my first loaf of bread. If you've never baked a loaf of bread, I encourage you to do so. Take the time to measure and combine the flour, oil, salt, sugar (or honey), water and yeast. Feel the silky dough in your hands as you knead it. Peek under the cloth as it rises in a warm spot. Breathe in the smell as it bakes and, most importantly, taste the toasty warmth of the first slice.

I am thankful to be moving forward in response to COVID-19 here in Hawaii. As we move forward, we should also be mindful and pray for those who are affected by the death of George Floyd. Christianity can help many people in need of healing.

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



[Editor: photo above is of the moderator's family in late May, from a walkabout in their neighborhood.]

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



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

*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).*

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')

“The Gifts at Harvest Time”

Sermon on June 14, 2020 by The Rev. Floren“Tino” C. Cordova, Pastor

2nd Sunday After Pentecost – Romans 5:1-8 & Matthew 9:35-10:10

At a time such as this – we are witnessing an unsee-able virus, and most recently the killing of George Floyd, another human being. I have to say, that in my lifetime – I can somewhat relate to the racial profiling that many of our brothers and sisters in the black community experience on a daily basis, but my experience cannot nearly be that of what they have experienced for over 400 years. I once used to be afraid of entering an airport. Not because I was afraid of flying, but the experience, the anxiety from when I first entered the airport, to when I finally was seated on the plane. As soon as I entered the airport, and many of us people of color might be able to relate – we get “the look.” If you are a person of color, many of us know about – “the look.” Experience the pulling off to the side for that “extra security check.” Experience the “no – you need to go through this line.” Many of us have experienced some sort of stereotyping – gay, straight, bi, lesbian, white, black, brown, fat, thin, tall, short, dumb, smart – and the list goes on and on. We too have done this same type of stereotyping ourselves toward others. For hundreds of years our black brothers and sisters have had to endure many of society’s stereotypes. Today, last week, a month ago has been no different. There comes a time in society that those who have been discriminated against, marginalized – that a particular group that has been oppressed for so long finally stand up and say “NO MORE!” People have said “NO MORE!” “BASTA!” “ENOUGH!” “NO MAS!” – “NO MORE!”



Last week we talked about how the Church needs to be on Main Street of society. When I first got called to be the Pastor of this amazing Church we call Lao United Church of Christ – I made this statement that I first heard in seminary and in the Church Revitalization Workshop – “If the Church wants to know what God is calling it to do – it has to go out into the community for that call.” For far too long, many Churches have isolated themselves from Main Street and has lost its direction and call. At times, it does not hear the call “I can’t breathe” because it is out of touch with what is happening on Main Street of society. The Church doesn’t hear – “I’m hungry or I thirst” because it has isolated itself away from Main Street of society. Especially today – for our time in history – we must know what is happening with God’s people out there in our societies. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few – because the Church has lost touch with the community. The Church must be in touch with real people, with the real lives of people – out in the real world of today. Without stereotyping them.

The Church must be in collaboration with local agencies and build on these partnerships. Bridge building is part of our call – even in our virtual world. Anyone, including the Church can fall prey to stereotyping – their cheats, liars, bums, losers – our call as a Church as the new harvesters of our time is to bring to bear our gifts of healing, love, and maybe the most important one for us today is that of compassion. When we walk on Main Street of our societies, we see people who are hurting – people who are tired and angry of being marginalized, profiled, people who are tired of having a knee on their necks. We can either join in with the stereotyping them as looters, bums, no good – or we can lead with compassion and see them as God’s children – as fellow human beings. Some may need shepherding, but we can do that by our own example of love. One of our members has stated this extremely well. “Broken children lead to broken adults.” I fully agree with this statement in as far as we as a society and as a church are given an opportunity to shepherd people into being unbroken, by how we treat one another with compassion and love and how we take our knees off each other’s necks. As harvesters of our time – we have to work for it – being a Church of Christ comes with hard work – comes with difficult decision making – because that’s what a Church on Main Street of society is called to do – work for justice, work for peace, work on our call, and work towards love. We must be like Christ – even if it means to turn

over tables for the sake of another group of our society and for the sake of justice. At some point, we must get to a point of “NO MORE!” “ENOUGH!” – to an unjust society. I truly believe that compassion is what led Jesus to send his disciples to walk the streets – the Main Streets of their time – even if it included alleyways, side ways, byways – wherever God’s people needed to hear the “Good News.” I truly believe, just as Jesus gave authority to the disciples over unclean spirits, we are given the authority to dispel racism and injustice.

Look at the interesting part of today’s Gospel reading. “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Beloved church, beloved virtual community – notice how Jesus didn’t say that the Gentiles or the Samaritans were “lost sheep” he is saying that the house of Israel was lost. This particular passage is remarkably interesting for me about “stereotyping and racial profiling” and since it follows the passage in chapter 7 of Matthew be-



ginning with verse 1: “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.”

Here we go beloved community. I believe Jesus is keeping the disciples away from the Samaritans and Gentiles for a reason. It was well known that Jews didn’t get along with Samaritans or Gentiles. So, it seems that Jesus is telling his disciples that we need to clean up our own house first! How can we tell the Samaritans and Gentiles about the “Good News” if our house is corrupt or if the sheep in our house are lost?” How can we tell other communities to “clean-up” their act if our own

community is lost? How can anyone of us tell our black brothers and sisters to “clean-up” their act if our house is corrupt with racism, sexism, economic disparities, etc. etc. etc.

Bishop Yvette Flunder – one of my seminary mentors, who is the Pastor of City of Refuge in Oakland, CA said it best in one of her sermons which I believe talks about the racial injustices and racial disparities in our country: “if you (you as in the racist white or whatever other color one might insert here) didn’t want us (us as in the black community) – if you didn’t want us in this country – then you should have picked your own cotton!” Amen and amen Bishop Flunder! When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well – he didn’t exclude her from the “living water” he has to offer – in fact in chapter 4 of the Gospel of John, we read “see how the fields are ripe for harvesting?” So it is not that Jesus was excluding the Samaritans and Gentiles from the “Good News” of God’s kingdom – He needed to have the house of Israel clean up their act first – “remove the speck from your own eye first.”

Beloved lao Church – just as Jesus sent out his disciples to preach the “Good News” – we too are sent out to tell our lao story. To tell our “Good News” to those who may hear. But before we do that – we must examine ourselves and rid ourselves of any prejudice or stereotyping or anything that is harmful and hurtful theology that can cause spiritual harm to others. We must go forth as God’s Commissioned people for the harvest – to be and do the “Good News” in our community. Humble ourselves as servants of God – not with all the answers – but as fellow sojourners with others in our flock.

Let us close with this – we know that “All lives matter!” We know that “Blue lives matter!” – but today – at this point in history – our beloved brothers and sisters in our black communities are asking that we take our knees off their necks as they scream “I can’t breathe!” Black lives do matter! Church! Black lives do matter! The harvest is full of diversity – let us cherish this as God’s beloved children of ALL colors!

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

Iao UCC's Endowment Fund by David Murata

Most of you know that Endowment Funds have been set up by usually people of wealth to help their favorite organizations continue their work into the future. Our church has an Endowment Fund as most of you know. I am on this Iao UCC Endowment Committee not because I am knowledgeable about investments but because I was a Secretary of the Fred Baldwin Foundation for a few years and was an officer of the Hawaii Community Foundation which manages funds for numerous Foundations and provides millions of dollars for scholarships and community projects. I got to know how these funds help the church with funds into "perpetuity".

Nourishment, learning, fellowship at the church has been the foundation of our faith. I have learned that Endowment funds can help to support the church in perpetuity. Grace and I have started a "Named Endowment" for Iao UCC. We decided on this type of Endowment as a not too wealthy family. Maybe some of you are in this same situation. Usually, a Named Endowment requires some rather high investment, such as \$25,000. To make it possible to start such an Endowment for people like us, our UCC Named Endowment can be started for any \$ amount but it needs investment of \$5,000 within 3 years from start. I expect our investment in our Endowment to be over \$10,000 at the time we leave this earth. We have asked our family to place the balance of the "koden" received at our memorial service to be put in the foundation.

People who know us know that the church is important in our lives. And another reason for having a Named Endowment was to provide a means for family members and friends to give to this fund now and into the future. An example is a niece in NYC who contributed to the David/Grace Endowment fund rather than sending us gifts at Christmas time.

Offerings of Flowers | by Grace Murata

Dear friends of Iao UCC,

Sitting around with little contact with friends has led me to want to express my wishes and thoughts. First, I feel like we are entering a new era and recognize how a lot of old practices must go. We oldies must learn new ways in order to live in a new world. But I hope some of our old practices can remain.



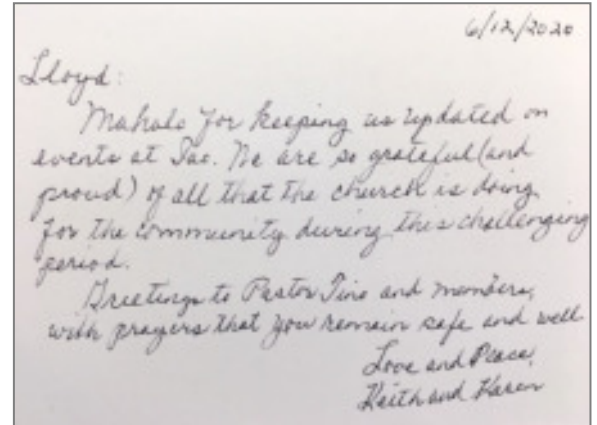
For many years I have been involved in lei-making and providing the sanctuary with fresh flowers. My helper has been Cyndy Smith, who shares with me a love for fresh flowers arranged in the Japanese style called *ikebana*. For me, beautiful fresh flowers from my garden and hers represent the glory of God and His manifestation here on Maui. I marvel at the beauty of flowers and I spend lots of time appreciating the colors, the hardiness, the diversity and the joy it brings me. Never a week goes by without something new in my yard. God is good!



If you are interested in learning flower arrangement, please join us on Saturday mornings around 8:30 to 10:30. We have everything needed to make the arrangements, so you don't have to bring anything. Just let me know you're joining us, by calling 878-6159.

[Editor: Bottom photo shows Aunt Grace and me in a selfie; I'd been driving to their upcountry home on Saturday afternoons to pick up her floral arrangements for the sanctuary, which can be seen in our Sunday morning virtual worship services on Facebook Live. ~ Lloyd N.]

A notecard from Keith & Karen Moody, sent in early June along with a check for \$500 designated "for families in need," and which was used for our Food Distribution Ministry.



A Hui Hou, Robert Ohata

Robert served as the moderator of Iao Congregational Church (as Iao UCC was known, Before 2010) where he had been a member since childhood. The following text is excerpted from Mr. Ohata's obituary notice at Nakamura Mortuary's website.



Robert Osamu Ohata, 100, of Makawao peacefully passed away at his daughter's home on June 13, 2020. He was a humble man born in Wailuku on October 2, 1919 to Seiichi Ohata and Hisa Nishio Ohata. He graduated from Maui High School in 1938 then studied engineering at UH where he graduated in 1942. During his senior year at UH, the war broke out and he went to work for the federal government building roads and surveying in Honolulu. While surveying, he spotted the lovely Alice Hatsuyo Ozaki whom he later married in 1943. They married soon after and fostered a loving marriage for the rest of their lives.

Robert started his career with the Territory of Hawaii Highway Department for 3 years under Jack Mayett but wasn't interested in building highways. He then worked for Libby McNeal (which was purchased by Hawaiian Pineapple Company) for 3 years culminating in work on the Dream City project. He was hired by County of Kauai Department of Public Works to oversee a federally funded flood project at the recommendation of George Hoffailing. Robert was on Kauai when the April 1, 1946 tsunami hit. He stayed to help rebuild and restore the Hanalei area because he so loved Kauai and the people there. Robert returned to Maui in 1958 to become Maui's first planning director at the request of Mayor Eddie Tam. There he developed many urban projects including several low-income housing projects. He was most proud of the Historic Lahaina Restoration project. After 11 years at Maui County, Robert entered private business and was involved in many projects including Azeka Shopping Center, Pukalani Terrace, Waihee Area Project, Wells Street Professional Center, and various other C Brewer projects.

Growing up, Robert was an Eagle Scout and incredibly proud that his son and all his grandsons were Eagle Scouts as well. He was a County Champion springboard diver competing at the State level. While in college he was part of the gymnastics team. Once he settled down, his passion turned to two things, gardening and fishing of all sorts. After moving to Makawao, Robert was finally able to cultivate a garden which included soybeans, corn, avocados and his famous lychee. He started spear fishing as a youth and he passed his love for fishing to his son Carl. He enjoyed many a beautiful day with his favorite fishing partner Alice. At some point, Robert determined that fishing was getting too difficult and transferred his energy and talents to painting. He left behind many beautiful paintings.

Robert also was a trustee of Maunaolu College where he became friends with J. Walter Cameron, his wife Elizabeth Baldwin, and J. Walter's son Collin Cameron. J. Walter would signal dad to sit by him for the meetings. Robert is predeceased by his wife Alice and his daughter Roberta. He is survived by his son Carl (Sue) and their children Heather (Simo) and Brent (Kanti) and grandchildren Kai, Mia, Anushuka and Praachi; and his daughter Irene (Stuart) and their children Michael and John. Robert is resting in peace with his beloved Alice at the Maui Memorial columbarium.

Tri-Isle Association HCUCC churches who continue to have virtual worship services:

All these services are ‘broadcast’ live (mostly via Facebook Live) on Sunday mornings in the time noted below, but are also archived on these churches’ FB pages and can be viewed at any time. See also TIA President Warren Orikasa’s note, quoted below right.

(This page reprised and updated from the March/April issue of *lao Pepa*.)

Iao United Church (Wailuku)

Facebook Live: facebook.com/iaoucc.mauui
when: **Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m.**
e-mail: iaoucc@hawaiiintel.net

Ka‘ahumanu Cong’l. Church (Wailuku)

Facebook Live: facebook.com/kaahumanuchurch
when: **Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m.**
e-mail: kaahumanuchurch@yahoo.com

Keawala‘i Cong’l. Church (Makena)

Facebook Live: facebook.com/groups/keawalai
when: **Sunday mornings, 10:00 a.m.**
e-mail: keawalai@hawaii.rr.com

Lana‘i Union Church (Lana‘i City)

Facebook Live: facebook.com/lanaiucc
when: **Sunday mornings, 10:30 a.m.**
e-mail: lanaiucc@yahoo.com

Makawao Union Church (Makawao)

Link to Zoom at: makawaounionchurch.org/worship/
when: **Sunday mornings, 10:30 a.m.**
e-mail: makawaounion@gmail.com

Po‘okela Church (Makawao)

Facebook Live: facebook.com/kimberly.fong.104
when: **Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m.**
e-mail: pookelachurch@hawaiiintel.net

Wailuku Union Church (Wailuku)

Facebook Live: facebook.com/wailukuunionchurch
when: **Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m.**
e-mail: wuc@hawaiiintel.net

Waiola Church (Lahaina)

Facebook Live: facebook.com/waiolachurch
when: **Sunday mornings, 9:00 a.m.**
e-mail: waiolaucc@waiolachurch.com



This is an example of what you would see on a Facebook Live session of Pastor Tino’s virtual worship service (screenshot from the app)

From Warren Orikasa, TIA President, in the April 2020 issue of *Da Wala‘au*, newsletter of the Tri-Isle Association HCUCC:

In this issue you will find the list of TIA churches that have been holding virtual worship services. We encourage all our Association membership to “visit” other churches via these virtual services, to witness and experience both our differences and our similarities. It’s good to know what our brothers and sisters in Christ are doing during this challenging time, and for us to share our communities, our stories, and our worship, with each other.

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

Responses to the Disposable Face Mask Distribution from Iao UCC & Nisei Vets Center

From the [Maui Marshallese Ministry](#) (17 June 2020):

Dear Iao UCC Leaders,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation of face masks to the Maui Marshallese Ministry Church and its members. With your donation of face masks, members of our church used those to help protect our members against the spread of COVID-19. There is no greater amount of gift that we can offer back, but we can only continue to pray for God's blessing upon you and your leaders. May God continue to pour his blessing upon your members and community.

Mahalo nui loa, Percy Benjamin, Pastor

From [A Cup of Cold Water](#) (30 May 2020):

Aloha, Rev. Tino...

We are all getting through this pandemic together and I cannot thank you enough for the 200 disposable masks you gave to ACCW! They have been happily received by so many of our unsheltered on the streets. And now that almost all businesses require masks to be worn, your kind donation is even more appreciated.

We've had the actual *Runs in the Van* suspended during the lockdown because most of our volunteers are in the age and/or health risk categories, but we have still been serving by sharing things with places like food pantries and other ministries who are better equipped to give things out in a safe manner. Thank you again for your most thoughtful (and most timely!) donation. There are many grateful recipients of your kindness.

Mahalo, Deb Lynch
President (ACCW Board of Directors)



Iao UCC Fundraiser | COVID-19 Cloth Face Masks



Pastor Tino had these very soft, comfortable, and breathable cloth face masks designed and produced by a company online.

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.

Iao UCC in the Community | Outreach to the Houseless, Food Distribution Ministry

Wonderful networking and outreach ministry by **Anna Mayeda**, who texted and sent these photos:

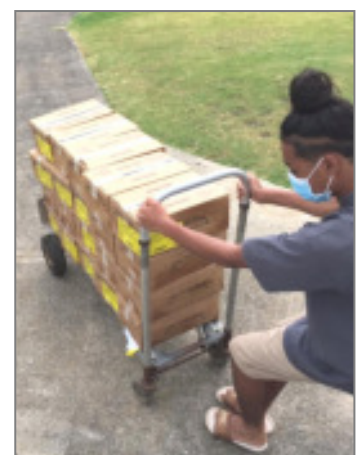
*“Happy to report that I got Lisa Darcy connected with **Maui Quality Dry Cleaner and Laundry** to help with loads of laundry for the homeless/houseless/unsheltered community! Also recruited a friend who will be sewing face masks for that community.”*



There are various ways folks have been contributing to the church's Food Distribution Ministry, including:

...dropping off canned goods and sundry personal hygiene items to the boxes in front of Fujitomo Hall at the upper parking lot; making monetary donations via cash or check—which Pastor Tino uses in his regular shopping expeditions to COSTCO (see full shopping cart to the left!).

A major contributor to the Food Distribution Ministry has been our community partner, the Queen Lili'uokalani Trust, which regularly delivers 50 boxes of frozen chicken to the church. As soon as they arrive, Youlida Yoruw and the folks from the Maui Kosrae Etawi process—and deliver—the boxes to dozens of families and individuals in the church community and beyond.



From Pastor Tino's June 30th Letter to the Congregation:

“Should I tell you about how the networking we began together on March 1, 2017 has resulted in our partnership with Pualani Enos of the Lili'uokalani Trust who brought us forty-eight (48) frozen boxes of chicken on June 16th and fifty (50) boxes on June 24th to hand out to our families in need? In addition to that story, how about the one in which, along with our community partners, our church has been able to feed sixty-three (63) families through our new Food Distribution Ministry? Or the story about how we received funding from many of our local members and supporters from the mainland to purchase more food to be distributed today? Scripture tells us that Jesus and his disciples fed the five thousand (5000) – but if we examine the reading closer, the number fed can be closer to fifteen-thousand plus (15,000+) if we count the women and children.

This is YOU lao Church! This is YOU Community Partners! This is YOU supporters from the mainland and beyond! This is what it means to BE the church even from our House Churches. This is living out the phrase “the church is not closed; it is on deployment!” Thank you, thank you, thank you – for allowing the Holy Spirit of God to continue to work wonders through our church as we continue to write and experience this new chapter of our history.”





Iao United Church of Christ
2371 W. Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793-1626
(808) 244-7353
iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net



Even though Iao UCC hasn't been having in-person worship in the church sanctuary, Auntie Grace Murata faithfully makes floral arrangements for the weekly services.

Mailed July 8, 2020
Address Services Requested

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VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.
at: [FACEBOOK.COM/IAOUC.C.MAU](https://facebook.com/iaoucc.mau)

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You are always welcome at Iao UCC.