

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

November 2021

The Season of Thankfulness is here, Ohana!

I first like to give thanks for our amazing Iao Church for giving me the opportunity to serve and taking some well needed time off. It was great to be back to see my sons and their wives, my grandbabies, and great grandbabies. I have spiritually been renewed with this time of rest and ready for a busy season that will come upon us.

Thanksgiving has traditionally been a time to think about all the things we have been given and thankful for throughout the year. This year, we will be dedicating our Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, November 21st to all our essential workers. Our doctors, nurses, janitors, delivery drivers, cashiers, home care workers, police, fire fighters, chaplains, etc. So many people who continued to work through this pandemic, giving of themselves and putting themselves and their families in danger so that we might be safe. I ask you to join us on this special Sunday as a small way to say “thank you” for all you have done and continue to do for our safety.

Another reason to be thankful has been the completion of our forensic review of our financial records. After many months of having our amazing and dedicated volunteers come in every week to review our records and get all the necessary documents sent for review, we have finally completed the process. We hope to gather as a congregation when it is safe to do so to bring everyone up to date. Due to legal restrictions, we cannot yet disclose in detail the process, but I am happy to sit with anyone who may have questions.

We are also thankful that the covid19 case numbers have come down. As I have said many times, opening our Sanctuary has been dependent on CDC and local guidelines. We have opened our Sanctuary once again for anyone who would like to come and join us for worship on Sundays at 9:30am. Wear a mask, be fully vaccinated, temperature check, use of hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing. We will be singing with our masks on, so that is another thing to be thankful for as we resume our indoor worship. Again, if the numbers rise, we may need to resume virtual only worship. Virtual will continue in conjunction with in-person worship as well. Call the office at 244-7353 if you have any questions.

We are hoping to have fundraisers soon since we were not able to have the fair again this year. We will send out a notice with more information on what is planned. We always are grateful for your continued support of Iao UCC's mission and ministry throughout this pandemic. Because of your support, we continue with our Food Distribution Ministry Program. If you or anyone you know need food, please call or have them call the office for a safe pickup. If you or they cannot get to the office, we will safely drop off a bag of groceries at your doorstep. We have been giving out a lot of grocery bags to our houseless community, so again, if you also have any small bottles of shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, tooth brushes, towels, etc., please drop them off at the office.

As we also enter our time of Stewardship Campaign, please remember that we have continued to “be” the church in this time of pandemic. The buildings or campus might have closed, but Iao United Church of Christ has remained deployed and continues to “be the church that is on Holy Pentecost Fire!” Please remember to send in your pledge sheets so that we can formulate a budget for 2022. Can you believe it? 2022?

Blessings with virtual hugs and prayers.

Rev. Floren“Tino” Cordova, Pastor of this amazing Church we call – Iao UCC!



November Lectionary

Nov. 7 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
 Ps 127
 1 Kings 17:8-16 Ps146
 Heb 9:24-28
 MK 12:38-44
Risk and Restoration

Nov.14 **25th Sunday after Pentecost**
1Sam 1:4-20.
 1Sam 2:1-10
 Daniel 12:1-3 Ps 16
 Heb.10:11-25
 Mark 13:1-8
Praise the Holy One

Nov.21 **Reign of Christ**
 2Sam 23:1-7
 Ps 132:1-18
 Daniel 7:9-10 Ps 93
 Rev 1:4b-8
Jn 18:33-37
A Wise Reign

Nov.28 **1st Sunday of Advent**
 Jer 33:14-16
 Ps 25:1-10
 1Thess 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36
Sign of Things to Come

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

It's that time of the year when we are looking for those who wish to become more involved in the life of the church. Most in need currently is the position of vice moderator. So, please, step up, get involved and share your ideas and/or concerns.



November Birthdays

11.2 Joshua Kenyel
 11.11 Lynette Yamashiro
 11.16 Lynette Kaneshina
 11.16 Rick Hayashi
 11.19 Ruth Mukai
 11.25 Alan Maeda

Sometimes you may feel you are always being asked to give, give, give. But just take a look at how lao UCC uses the gifts you share with us to the help the Maui community at at large:

- Maui Rescue Mission: 5 large containers of laundry detergent
- Cup of Cold Water: Slippers, toothbrushes/ paste, q-tips, blankets, hand towels/ washcloths, combs, dental floss, hygiene bags, shampoo, t-shirts, glasses.
- Food was provided for 31 individuals/families in Oct.

"Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." Matthew 25:40 (CEV)



Tim's Mana'o | Moderator's Notes

Aloha e Iao United Church of Christ,

It's that time of the year to start thinking of turkey, parades with floats, football, and reading the ads for Black Friday shopping deals. In my view, Thanksgiving is the day for giving thanks – for reflecting upon our lives and all our blessings. It's the day when we are filled with gratitude and open our hearts. To start, it's difficult to find when the first official Thanksgiving Day celebration in Hawaii has actually been recorded. Most historians believe that it took place in Honolulu and was held among the families of the American missionaries who were from New England.

There are a number of stories about the first Thanksgiving. Not all of them are about the joyous welcoming of everyone and the sharing of bounty. But regardless of what really happened then, our tradition is that this day is a day to pause, to take that moment and truly appreciate all around us – to sing praises even for the challenges of life.

It's so easy to sing praise and be grateful when you're getting everything you want. I have to remind myself that this IS life – the good and the bad– as it all comes together. My mantra for today and every day, is to be positive and grateful. We must remember that gratitude is not about getting everything you want, rather about everything you do have – every blessing, every challenge, and every struggle. It's about learning to embrace every one of them in this spiritual journey and make every one part of the steps in the right direction, moving closer to our salvation.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Timothy Stewart, Moderator



Please remember our Christmas charity

"Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation"

Items may be dropped in one of the boxes in front of Fujitomo Hall (office bldg.) A detailed list is in your October issue of Iao Pepa. Let the office know if you need another copy. Call (808) 244-7353.



Buildings and grounds were at it again this month. They seem to have a never ending list that they just keep working away at:

- ♦ Writing contracts
- ♦ Checking insurance policies
- ♦ Rekeying main building locks
- ♦ Securing the buildings
- ♦ Picking up, moving and installing 3 new to us desks into Fujitomo Hall (which means we have 2 metal desks up for grabs. Must pick-up)
- ♦ Yard mowing and cleaning
- ♦ Weed spraying (Thanks Warren for the extra help)



It's not too late. You can still turn in your Time, Talent and Treasures form to the Stewarding Community. Just incase you miss placed it or just can't find it, here is another copy. Just fill it out and drop it off or mail it in.

I would like to share my time and talents through the ministry of this church in the following ways:

- ☐ help with shelter dinners
- ☐ organize photos and records
- ☐ Aloha Hour
- ☐ child care during worship service
- ☐ teach Sunday School/be an assistant
- ☐ donate flowers
- ☐ help in the office
- ☐ be a greeter and or usher
- ☐ be a reader during worship
- ☐ close sanctuary windows, pick up bulletins left in pews at end of service
- ☐ visit the sick/shut-ins, Hale Makua visitations
- ☐ help count offerings on Sundays
- ☐ set up/clean-up for church gatherings

- ☐ help with funerals and the bereaved
 - ☐ prepare snacks for the tutoring program
 - ☐ be a tutor ☐ be a choir member
 - Become a member of a community
 - ☐ Worshipping ☐ Learning
 - ☐ Stewarding ☐ Fair
 - ☐ Witnessing and Reconciling
 - ☐ Preschool ☐ Endowment
 - ☐ Fair ☐ Finance ☐ Funeral
- Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I am available: ☐ Weekdays ☐ Weekends

I want to participate in God's future, and I want to grow in my stewardship and in my giving to God's church and the world.

During 2022, I plan to give:

\$ _____ per week \$ _____ per month

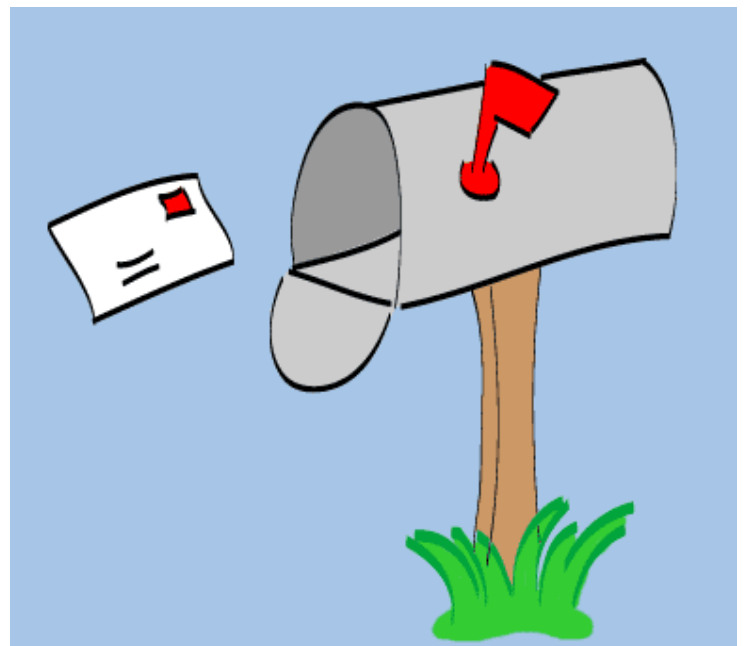
\$ _____

My total giving for 2022 will be _____

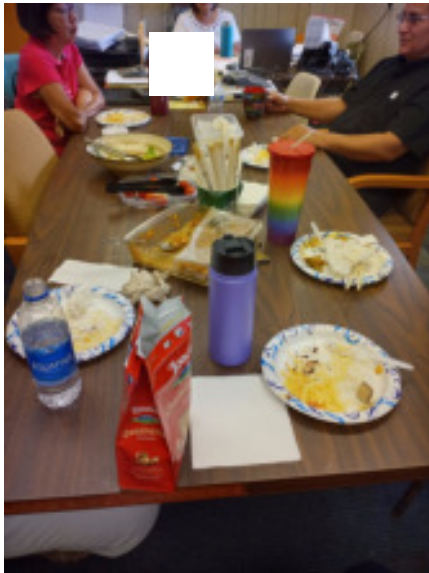
Since this is an estimate of what I plan to give to the church for next year, if my financial circumstances change, I can change this estimate by notifying the church office.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____



Food for Thought



The aftermath of a delicious and nourishing lunch provided for the office volunteers.

Romaine with Oranges & Pecans Salad

2 heads romaine lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
3/4 cup pecan halves, toasted
2 oranges-peeled & sliced (or use Mandarin oranges)
1/4 cup vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
1 tsp. salt
1/2 small red onion, chopped
1 tsp. dry mustard
2 tbsp. water
Combine vinegar, oil, sugar, salt, onion, and mustard in a blender. Blend well, then refrigerate. (Can be made ahead)
Place lettuce, oranges and pecans in a salad bowl.
Add desired amount of dressing.
Dressing can also be used as a dip for fresh fruit.

Submitted by Joy Yamane



“Mizuna”

For those who may not know Japanese practices, mizuna is a vegetable that is used for *ozoni*, the first soup eaten at the beginning of a New Year. I have *ozoni* at the beginning of each New Year as a means to be connected with my root culture.

A neighbor of mine on Alae Road, where our farm is located, plants mizuna and daikon to give away to anyone at Hale Ma-haolu. He plants and gives out lots. I decided to do the same for church members, Anyone interested in mizuna and daikon for New Year's, please call me: (808)878-5159.

David Murata



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

Make your giving as easy as pie. On our web page all you need to do is go to the

DONATE

button on the navigation bar at the top of the page and fill in the form. Safe and secure. We will be updating our web page but the donation button and Vanco will be the same.

Veterans Day evolved from Armistice Day, which was proclaimed in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson. Armistice is when warring parties agree to stop fighting and Armistice Day recognizes the end of World War I, when hostilities ceased on November 11th at 11 A.M, 1918 (11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month).

Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor ALL who have served, living or deceased, but particularly the living veterans among us. Memorial Day specifically commemorates the men and women who died while in service of their country and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

We give thanks and honor to our living veterans and say *mahalo* for the service they provided to keep us free.

Mahalo to our Living Vets!

Mike Takamatsu

David Murata

Richard Komo

Michael Yamashiro

Daniel Kamidoi

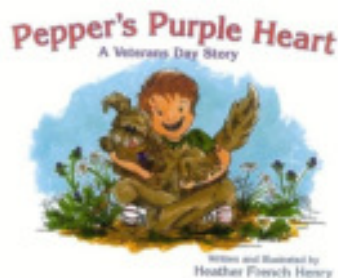
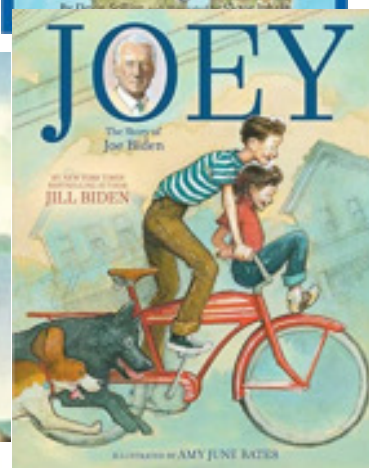
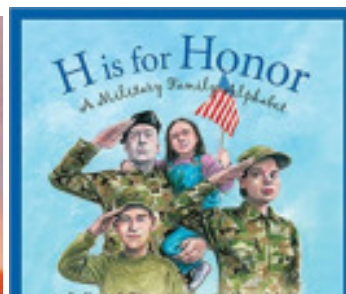
Dennis Hashiro

Rev. Florentino Cordova

James Morrison



Learn more about Veteran's Day with these books (they may have been written for children, but the information is for everyone):



Plus so many more!

After you twist off the top of that juicy sweet pineapple, save it. David Murata is growing pineapples for sharing. However, he is coming up short of tops to plant (still). So enjoy the fruit, but send the top to Kula. David has the "green" thumb to make 'em grow. You can call him at (808)878-6159 or email: dmurata@gmail.com and make arrangements for pick-up. Mahalo



Not to be outdone by the pineapple grower, Grace has a project of her own. She is growing houseplants for a future Indoor Plant Sale. Many of you can help her out, too. She is in need of your larger ceramic vases similar to the many she has placed on the altar on Sunday mornings. (You may go to website: Iaoucc.org to look at archived services to view the flowers/ vases just in case you forget). Proceeds will be donated to Iao UCC. If you have any questions, she can be contacted same as David.





Pastor Tino, during his monthly visit, shares pumpkins to decorate with the preschoolers.



The children have "family homework" during the month of October. The teachers send home a headband that the child is to decorate with their family for Halloween. Then, on or near Halloween, they all wear his/her hat and do some IPS Trick or Treating. They parade around the church campus singing their Halloween songs and showing off their hats (staying in their bubbles). If you are lucky enough to be the on the receiving end of these cute songs, you are treated with some delicious seasonal cookies.



**Thank you, Mahalo, Kulo
Gracias, Merci, Arigatou
gozaimasu, Salamt for your
participation in Foodland's
"Give Aloha"**

Your gifts:	\$650.20
Foodland Match	<u>156.85</u>
Grand Total	\$807.05

We continue to move forward
as a Church on Fire because of
your generous support and
prayers.
Blessings with love and appreciation.
Rev. Tino



give aloha
Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

Essential Workers during COVID19 – A Poem

By [Kristine Copeland](#)|April 13th, 2020|

One day we awakened from everyday norms
To find in our midst, an enemy has formed;
An enemy called COVID19
Moves to and fro, like none we have seen.
This elusive enemy with its deceptive symptoms,

Masquerading as the flu, it eludes our wisdom.
It has sickened many and stolen too many lives.
In hospital beds a many have died.

Friends and mothers and fathers and sons;
From China to Italy and still not done.
From New York to Michigan and so many others
Lay in hospital beds, our daughters and brothers.

Yet, amidst all of this chaos and mass confusion
Essential workers fight to combat the illusion.
They are **direct care workers, police, doctors and nurses**
Who risk their lives as they continue to serve us.

They are **restaurant workers and those who stock shelves**,
Who report to work every day, risking themselves.
They are **pharmacists and bankers** still working the clock.
Amidst COVID19, not all work has stopped!

There are **so many others working behind the scenes**,
Who work but aren't necessarily seen.
They, too, are at risk of contracting this thing;
This elusive virus, called COVID19.

So, for those of us who are working from home or not working at all,
Let us not forget those who are answering the call;
Those who leave their homes to serve or protect...
Let us not forget to show them some respect.

Be patient as they serve you and kind as they work
For it is us they are called to serve, so please don't be a jerk.
Be sure to mind your manners and it won't hurt to wear a smile.
Be appreciative of **essential workers**, as they go the extra mile.

And if you pray, say a special prayer for every one of them
For their continued work gives us a bit of 'normal' amidst all of this may hem.

And just remember, any act of kindness will go a very long way
And could be the one thing to make an **essential worker's** day.

Yes, this is a tough time for all of us. It is! It is indeed;
With the **closure of businesses**, '**Social Distancing**' and '**Stay at Home**' pleads.

As we wear masks and gloves while remaining 6 feet apart,
Know that this is not the cure, this is just a start.

Remember, we are all links in this
fence of life but together we are strong,

As we work together towards the day,
when COVID19 is gone.

Yes, we are in this fight together;
some up front, some behind the
scenes.

**Let's give some elbow taps, fist
bumps, thank yous and hand claps to**

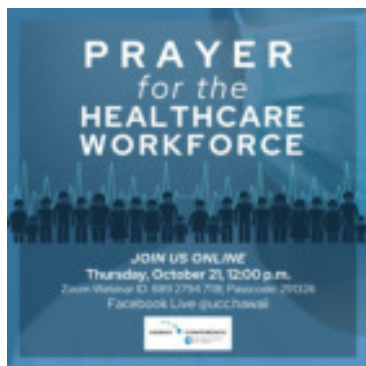
Essential Workers during COVID19.

Some of Lao UCC essential
workers keeping our church



on fire!

In case you missed it, this is from **Prayer for the Healthcare Workforce**, a short service hosted by the Hawaii Conference office on Thursday, October 21.



INVOCATION

Kahu Naleen Andrade, M.D., Licensed Minister, Kahikolu Congregational Church and Professor of Psychiatry, University of Hawai‘i, John A. Burns School of Medicine E pule kākou. Let us pray.

God of healing and God of hope, be with us in these next few minutes as we pray for the Healthcare Workforce that provides medical care and comfort in response to overwhelming need during so long a period. Holy One, send your Spirit into our midst.

We gather via the internet from various islands and continents that make up our community of faith. Let your presence be felt and known within and between us, and among those whom we pray for today. Christ Jesus, you are the Great Physician—leader, listener, teacher, and healer.

In this prayer service we ask that you be with us and that you attend to the emotional needs and physical fatigue of our families, friends, colleagues and strangers who have given their professional lives to attending to us when we are ill and cannot attend to ourselves. Bless our time today together. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Rev. Valerie Ross, Associate Conference Minister,
Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ

Psalms 103:1-5

Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise God’s holy name.
Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all God’s benefits—
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Matthew 25:42-46 (Reimagined by the Rev. Dr. Choo Lak Yeow, pastor of First Chinese Church of Christ in Honolulu, Hawai‘i)

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; [I was a senior citizen trying to stay away from COVID-19, and you did no social distancing for me.]

I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; [I was a teenager and you told me to drink chlorine dioxide, gargle iodine as a coronavirus prophylactic and ingest ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine instead.]

PRAYER

Rev. Dr. David K. Popham, Conference Minister, Hawai‘i Conference United Church of Christ
(modeled after “Praise Song for the Pandemic,” by Christine Valters Paintner)

God of life and God of healing, You encourage us to acknowledge those who bring your blessings into our lives:

Thank you nurses, doctors, CNAs, and every type of healthcare worker bent over our loved ones tending to their needs, knowing that sometimes bodies heal and sometimes they do not.

Thank you, janitors and cleaning staff, toiling through hallways and patient rooms, committed to cleansed and well-maintained facilities.

Thank you, administrative assistants and IT personnel who in the details keep information flowing.

Thank you, cooks and kitchen helpers and dietitians working out meal plans so flesh and bone might receive appropriate nutrition.

Thank you, medical technologists and technicians providing helpful diagnostic data.

Thank you, police, firefighters, paramedic and EMT personnel maneuvering through crowded streets to deliver our loved ones to havens of treatment.

Blessings upon you medical scientists for understanding this plague and continuing to refine the vaccines for those who can avail themselves of them and treatment for those who cannot.

Blessings upon you chaplains and social workers and therapists of every kind as you offer words of comfort, even when you feel uncertain within yourself.

Blessings upon you medical administrators making hard choices for our common good.

Blessings upon those families that have been visited by the novel coronavirus – those whose loved ones have recovered and those whose loved ones succumbed to COVID-19.

Blessings upon all who mourn, that you may be comforted.

Praise to you the healthcare workers who teach us of the importance of social distancing and wearing masks so that we might act with compassion and protect the vulnerable.

Praise to you who staff of assisted living facilities taking monthly or weekly COVID tests, becoming vaccinated, and bringing creative presence into facilities where loneliness is as threatening as the virus.

Praise be laughter and gentleness shared among colleagues. Also praise for knowing looks and silent communications bolstering weary souls.

Praise be the rest that comes after long shifts. May you take comfort in knowing that what is done is done. And what is left undone is now in the hands of your co-workers laboring towards the same ends.

Praise be to You God, for You are aware of all that is being undertaken to advance care upon this earth. Strengthen and support all those who make up the healthcare workforce. May they know that they are appreciated and loved whether Praise to you who staff of assisted living facilities taking monthly or weekly COVID tests, becoming vaccinated, and bringing creative presence into facilities where loneliness is as threatening as the virus.

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Praise be to You God, for You are aware of all that is being undertaken to advance care upon this earth. Strengthen and support all those who make up the healthcare workforce. May they know that they are appreciated and loved whether they are paid or volunteer in what they do.

And as this pandemic continues with the next strains of the virus, O God, let us remember that this is not an ending to what has been, rather let us remember it is a beginning of a new awareness in which we give thanksgiving, blessings, and praise for those around us, and in doing so honor You, the God of providential care. Amen.

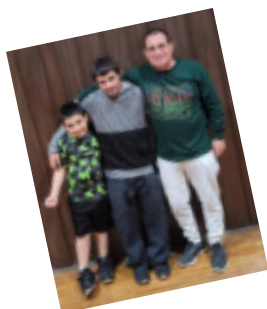
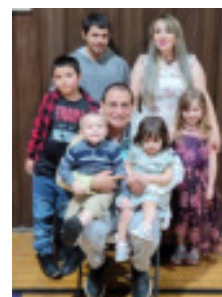
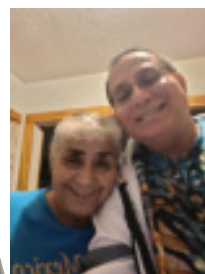
BLESSING

Rev. Alan Patadlas, Pastor, Honolulu Cosmopolitan UCC

Go forth in the blessing of God for the work you do. Know that your healing touch reverberates through our islands and brings comfort and ease to us all. May the Great Physician guide your minds and your hands. Accept our thanks for all you do and continue to do during this pandemic. Go with God's aloha in all you do. Amen.

A complete financial report is on file in the church office

ASSETS	Sept. 30
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
BOH IPS Checking	48,846.64
BOH IPS Savings	16,338.74
BOH UCC Endowment Savings	924.15
BOH Lillian Maeda Ck	1,130.96
First Hawaiian Checking	358.05
IFCU Checking	43,997.09
IFCU Savings	6,373.49
Total Check/Savings	134,307.78
Current Assets	134,307.78



November 2021

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
				AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day Off Micronesia Women's Group 6-7 (K)	Speaker AA 7-8 (K)
7 Witnessing Steward Dawna Krueger 	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day Office Closed  AA 7-8 (K)	12 Pastor's Day off Micronesia Women's Group 6-7 (K)	13 Speaker AA 7-8 (K)
14 Stewardship Sunday 	15	16	17	18 AA 7-8 (K)	19 Pastor's Day off Micronesia Women's Group 6-7 (K)	20 Speaker AA 7-8 (K)
21 Honoring Essential Workers  Sunday	22	23	24 Council Meeting 5:45 Blue-Jeans	25 Thanksgiving Day  AA 7-8 (K)	26 Pastor's Day off Micronesia Women's Group 6-7 (K)	27 Speaker AA 7-8 (K)
28 1st Sunday in Advent 	29	30	1	2	3	4
						



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Mailed November 4, 2021
Address Services Requested

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Iao United Church of Christ

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Email: iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net

Website: iaoucc.org

facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/

VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 A.M.

Pastor

Florentino Cordova

Moderator

Tim Stewart

Church Admin

Vacant

Choir Director & Pianist

Vacant

Newsletter

Dawna Krueger

Iao Preschool Director

Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at Iao UCC.
We are a people of God, living and sharing
the love of Christ through words
and actions.