

# Iao Pepa

NA MAKANI

*A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ*

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

November 2018

## Blessings from Pastor Tino | *“Strategic Unity—Through our Diversity & Strength”*

Booooo! Hoping everyone had a safe and fun Halloween. Lloyd and I were blessed to have our Iao Preschool children come and visit us at the office on Halloween morning. Pastor always has candy in the office for such an occasion.

Once again, there are many words of “thanks and gratitude” to so many of our members, non-members, and community partners. We haven’t received an “official” number yet, but it looks like we might either meet or exceed last year’s fundraising from our Maui County Fair booth. Words I heard from people visiting our booth: “I come to the fair every year just to have your frosty pog.” “It’s so sad that I have to wait a whole year to have another frosty pog.” I am truly grateful to see how our sign-up sheet was filled with so many people who volunteered at our booth. This kind of partnership and working together is what makes “community” happen. When we work together – with members, non-members, and community partners, all things become possible. Thank you once again to our B&G Community, Fair Committee and so many others who coordinated such a successful fundraiser.



Another exciting moment for us was during our church clean-up day. We saw a whole community come together once again to help beautify our campus. Because of the many working hands, from our members, non-members, Kosraean and Micronesian communities, community partners, and so many others – made the tasks so much easier, yet gave everyone a chance to fellowship, catch up, and bond as a community. Thank you, thank you, thank you to ALL who contributed in preparing *our* church campus for the upcoming Holiday Season.

WOW! Did I just say, “Holiday Season?” Can you believe it is coming to that time of year already? I’m excited with our upcoming Advent Liturgy but let us remember to pause and reflect with a moment of “*thankfulness*” for all that God has given us throughout the year. Let us remember everyone, great or small, who makes our Iao Church function and be thankful for their hard work and dedication.

Finally, we have just concluded our Stewardship Campaign – a time of prayer and discernment for our giving of time, talent and treasure for 2019. We give thanks to Kahu Wayne Higa, pastor of our sister church, Ka’ahumanu Church, who brought us a reflection of stewardship on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> during our morning worship at 9:30am. On that day, we also remembered our Veterans who have given of themselves to serve our nation and those who are still serving. I leave you with this excerpt from a “*Stewardship Prayer*” by Live Simple, Faith in Action group:

*“My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is...  
it will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit,  
if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.”*

**Remember to always love! For – “We Are Iao UCC!”**

Blessings with a lot of thankfulness from your pastor.  
Rev. Tino

## November Lectionary

**Nov. 4 24<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost**

**Ruth 1:1-8**

Psalm 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

*Wherever You Go*

**Nov. 11 25<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost**

**Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17**

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

*Risk and Restoration*

**Nov. 18 26<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost**

**1 Samuel 1:4-20**

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

*Praise the Holy One*

**Nov. 25 Reign of Christ**

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalm 93

Revelations 1:4b-8

**John 18:33-37**

*A Wise Reign*

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



*The photos on this page were from Pride 2018 last October (same weekend as the Maui Fair), where Iao UCC had representatives, and a table. Photos were taken by Shannon Furomoto, shown at right with Jaime Ribao. Pastor Tino and Rong Chao are in the other photo below. Above are the special Iao UCC Skittles packages prepared by Jaime and Shannon, lovingly shared with all who dropped by the table. :-)*

### Nov. Worship Responsibilities\*

#### Readers

Kayla Bathin & James Morrison

#### **November 4**

Greeter: Craig Bode

Head Usher: Daniel Kamidoi

Usher: Lynette Shiroma

Hostess: Carolyn Kamidoi

Aloha Hour:

Gail Ideue & Jennifer Saito

#### **November 11**

Aloha Hour:

Shannon Furomoto & Jaime Ribao

#### **November 18**

Aloha Hour:

Susan King, Dawna Krueger & Sanoe Awai

#### **November 25**

Aloha Hour:

Maui Kosrae Etawi

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

## November Birthdays

11.02 Joshua Kenyel

11.06 James Itamura

11.11 Lynette Yamashiro

11.12 Robert Kennedy

11.16 Rick Hayashi

Lynette Kaneshina

11.19 Ruth Mukai

Shonia Lomae

11.25 Alan Maeda

11.28 Jasmine Belsom



## Aloha Hour Supplies

*For Aloha Hour, the Buildings and Grounds Team will have a plastic tub set up with supplies used. There will be supplies such as plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. This plastic tub will be located in Fujitomo Hall.*

*On Sundays, Aloha Hour hosts/hostesses are asked to bring the tub down from Fujitomo Hall and returned to the same location after. Please list on the tub any items needing re-stocking and the Team will make every effort to keep up with the inventory.*



*Soli Deo Gloria,*  
everyone!

According to the internet, the greeting is actually a Latin term for “Glory to God alone.” It has been used by artists like Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frideric Handel, and Christoph Graupner to signify that the work was produced for the sake of praising God. Historically this goes back to the Protestant Reformation, which is part of our church history.

November is upon us. And we should remember that we have Election Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving (+Black Friday). Thank God for moments like these.

Teaching and the Bible:

*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”*  
(Proverbs 22:6)

Essentially, I feel that this basically has been the approach that Iao UCC has used as long as I can remember. Personally, I view what our church has done as basically investing in the kids. This foundation will play a critical role in their development. Thank you Iao UCC for this wonderful support.

*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*  
(2 Timothy 3:16).

This statement made me think about my own theological perspectives. I hold the opinion that the Bible was written by men who were profoundly influenced by God, Jesus Christ and/or the Holy Spirit. To me, this type of scripture is an illustration of taking God more seriously than literally. And in general we would benefit from doing just that to avoid proof-texting (using the Bible to justify a negative message or action).

*Veritas aequitas,*  
Timothy Stewart, Moderator

(Photo above is from the Awai-Stewart family's Halloween trick-or-treating; from Sanoe's Facebook page. *Mahalo*, Sanoe!)

## Upcoming Noteworthy Events

**Sunday, November 11**

**Consecration Sunday & Luncheon**

(Sanctuary & Kanda Hall)

**Wednesday, November 14**

**Finance Community**

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

**Friday, November 16**

**Ladies' Lunch Bunch**

11 a.m. (Sanctuary)

**Friday, November 16**

**Iao Preschool “Stone Soup” Dinner**

6 .m. (Watanabe Hall)

**Sunday, November 18**

**Worshiping Community**

11 a.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

**Wednesday, November 28**

**COUNCIL**

5:30 p.m. (Fujitomo Hall)

**Friday, December 14**

**Iao Preschool Christmas Program**

6 p.m. (Church Sanctuary)

**Friday, December 21**

**Blue Christmas Service**

6 p.m. (Church Sanctuary)

**Monday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Service**

7 p.m. (Church Sanctuary)

## Congregational Meeting

(Approval of 2019 Budget)

*Please mark your calendars for  
this Congregational Meeting scheduled on*

**Sunday, December 23, 2018**

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

Heide Israel (Sun., October 21)



Good Morning, Iao Church. The Stewardship Community has asked me to tell you a little bit about why I joined this church. I moved to Maui 2 years ago and for the first 3 months I lived right across the street with my daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Bo Mahoe. From their lanai I often enjoyed the beautiful view over the valley with Iao Church in the foreground.

Having moved to Maui from Germany I had to completely start my life

over. Of course, I also wanted to find a church community that I would like to join. It should be a bit similar to the Lutheran church I had attended in Berlin. On the other hand, I was looking for a church that represented local life, was open to other cultures and people and that reached out to the surrounding community.

I had already visited a few churches when Karen pointed at Iao Church with the words: “Why don’t you try out Iao Church? I have heard there are lots of nice and very friendly people in this church.” Well, I thought, why not attend worship next Sunday? And true enough. I met many friendly and warm people that made me feel welcome. Right from the beginning I had the feeling that Iao UCC could be the church for me. From then on, I attended Sunday worship and other church events. I also tried to get involved and help here and there, for instance with Sunday school. Finally, in the fall of last year I became a member of Iao UCC.

Let me tell you about a few other reasons why I joined this church. One reason is the liturgy. Having been a member of the Lutheran Church the structure and certain elements of the UCC ;iturgy were familiar to me. However, the atmosphere here is very different from a German Protestant service. German church members attend worship more like an audience.

In America, a church congregation is also a social community, and since it is smaller, the church members know each other and care for each other. *Kupuna* are honored and children are encouraged to be active during worship. Members interact with the pastor and greeters. Sometimes people laugh or answer questions. Everybody can feel at home, be happy and relaxed. What makes this church special is, that it is open and affirming.

(continued on page 6)

Paul Obet (Sun., October 28)



*Tuwo*, Iao church ‘ohana. My name is Paul Obet, and I am a member of the Kosrae Maui Etawi who worship here at this church on Sunday evenings; and I am also a new member of Iao UCC itself.

I grew up going to church. In fact, I was made to go to church by my parents. Their rules were very clear—if you don’t go to church you don’t go anywhere else, or even go to school the next day! Well, you better believe I went to church.

In spite of all the time I spent in church growing up, something wasn’t right with my life. I dabbled in all kinds of things and the whole time all I was really doing was opening myself up to demonic influences year after year.

So, at one point, a friend said to me: “Now you have to learn how to live the life of a Christian and renew your mind. So he took me here to Iao UCC to attend the morning service. I remember when I first came to this church some people stood up to hug me and tell me how much they appreciated my being here. They welcomed me with open arms. I thought, “Bro! I like the way this feels! These people love me—and they don’t even know me.”

I was excited! I could hardly wait until the next Sunday service. I continued to attend because of the love demonstrated by each person here. They didn’t love me because it was part of their recruitment plan. I observed their continual love for one another, and I knew they were of God. Jesus made it very clear in John, chapter 13, verse 35: “All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.”

In conclusion, I would like to thank Iao UCC, because for the past 14 years, it has welcomed the Kosrae Maui Etawi (Christian Endeavor Society) as a recognized ministry of the church. We have so very much appreciated your support and encouragement over all these years.

As the Kosrae Maui Etawi progresses forward in growth with God’s mission, we ask Iao UCC to extend our standing as a recognized ministry of the Tri-Isle Association of the Hawaii Conference UCC. Once again, on behalf of Kosrae Maui Etawi, I would like to say thank you very much, mahalo, and *Kulo Na Ma Lulap*.

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## Shannon Furomoto (Sun., November 4)

Good Morning Iao UCC. My name is Shannon and I am grateful to be here today.

When I was asked to be one of the speakers on stewardship, I was honored yet apprehensive. I wasn't sure what I would talk about. I started by looking up the meaning of the word "stewardship." According to the dictionary the meaning of the word stewardship is "the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; *especially* the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care".

In my personal reflection on the concept of Stewardship, I asked myself this question, "How am I learning to manage the life that God has entrusted to me?" Sometimes in life to find out why and who we are today, we need to take a look back.

I was raised by my Japanese father who really had no religion although my grandparents were Buddhist. We went to the Hongwanji on certain occasions to honor our ancestors, but I didn't understand what they were doing or saying. On the weekends, when I stayed with my mom and stepdad, we would attend Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Kula. My sisters and I were told to take up the communion gifts each week, however I was not allowed to receive communion because I was not baptized Catholic.

Years passed and I attended St. Anthony Catholic High School where I once again just went through the motions. As an adult, I was baptized and confirmed in that same Holy Ghost Church that I attended as a child. It was the only way that I would be able to get married in a Catholic Church. My mom was a very active church member at the time and her influence on me was strong. I now realize that I had yearned to be connected to my mom and that was my way to be closer to her.

I got married and had two beautiful children, who were also baptized in that church... yet I still felt something missing. I stopped going to church and just decided that I could figure things out on my own. My marriage wasn't working and my life was unmanageable.

In February of 1999, I met the love of my life and my best friend... Jaime!!! We had an immediate connection and so much fun together, yet we faced so many obstacles in order to be together. We couldn't have such an open relationship and had to hide "US" a lot. I still did not know how to have a relationship with God either. I continued to struggle with a void I could not identify. Throughout my life I was really good at hiding my brokenness. I thought that if people knew who I really was on the inside, they would reject me. As a result, I felt a deep ache and an emptiness that nothing seemed to fill. No matter what I did, the ache would not go away.

Eventually, God gave me an illustration of my life – I was a broken cup!!! Several tragedies in my life represented cracks in my cup and the brokenness that came into my life. However, instead of bringing my broken cup to God for healing, I was trying to deal with it on my own, through distractions such as alcohol, drugs and unhealthy jobs and relationships. I began a vicious cycle of trying to fill my broken cup with water from several sources just to temporarily quench the emptiness I felt inside. No matter what I did, it was not satisfying and it did not fill my cup.

After much pain and brokenness, I made a decision to surrender my broken cup to God by attending church again. If you put a mug underneath a waterfall, what will happen? The cup will fill with water and then eventually overflow. And that is what began to happen in my heart. As I was filled with Christ each day, I was not only satisfied in Christ but His Spirit in me began to overflow. Instead of being needy and going to other people to feel good about myself, I actually had something to give to others. I had love to give. I had joy to give. I had encouragement to share. *Psalm 23:5 says, "My cup overflows."*

After a year or so of "Church shopping, and exploring my journey with God, Jaime suggested that we try to go to Iao UCC. There was an article about Rev. Tino and we were open and excited to see what he and this church were all about. In March of 2017, we came to our first worship here at Iao UCC. We were immediately welcomed with open arms. Jaime even mentioned that my haircut at the time fit in just right with a lot of the ladies in the congregation... LOL. Then I heard Rev. Tino speak and his words just spoke to my heart. I remember feeling so open and emotional. The feeling was so different than anything I've ever experienced at "church" before. Everything started to finally make sense. I was loved by God no matter who I was and who I loved.

In November of last year, I became a member of Iao United Church of Christ. Shortly after that I felt compelled to take on the role as the Vice Moderator. I wasn't quite sure of what that meant at the time, however I put my faith in my favorite scripture, Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*".



(continued on page 6)

## Heide Israel (continued)...

What I also like is the hymnal. At one of my first visits the opening hymn was “**Joyful, joyful, we adore you**”. I always loved this hymn by my favorite composer Ludwig van Beethoven. I was curious if there were any other German hymns in the UCC hymnal. And sure enough, I found some more, for instance “**Sing praise to God who has shaped and sustains all creation!**” It is one of the most popular German hymns sung at joyous occasions. I discovered that the hymnals have a large variety of hymns containing many gospels and songs from all over the world.

I really enjoy listening to the choir and the soloists with their beautiful voices and the special sound of the Kosraen choir.

The Lillian Maeda Tutoring Program is a great example of stewardship—giving time and talent in God’s service. As a teacher, I am glad that I can help the students with their homework. Most of them are Micronesian and it feels good to watch them interact as a big family, older kids helping the younger ones.

Last but not least I like the church’s Japanese background and tradition. Many years ago, my husband and I visited Kyoto and some other places in the Japanese countryside. While he attended a conference, I had time to explore the city and learn a little about the Japanese culture, to visit temples, shops and department stores. To get around I mainly walked and used buses. The main challenge was that I couldn’t read the signs. I needed help. This turned out to be no problem at all. Many friendly people came to me and helped me with gestures and sign language. And the same friendliness and warm hospitality that I experienced in Kyoto I also found here at Iao UCC.

I am blessed and happy to be a member of this church.

## Shannon Furomoto (continued)...

I also attended a UCC leadership conference on Oahu earlier this year and participated in an Atonement workshop with other UCC church leaders here on Maui.

Whenever I am asked to do something for my church, I feel God speaking to me. I finally started listening to God and realized that I find fulfillment and contentment in service. That is what stewardship really means to me. I get so excited thinking of ways that I can serve our community. Even at my job at Gammie HomeCare, I am always thinking of ways that I can help others. I want to spread the Love of God through my words and actions and our congregation truly encourages that. In addition to stewardship and most importantly, I finally found a place that I feel I belong and that I matter. I am no longer afraid to be my authentic self. I feel acceptance, support, and love here at Iao UCC.

Just remember...God uses all our broken pieces to make something beautiful. I would like to leave you with this thought, “Our past mistakes don’t have to prevent us from serving God. The future has yet to be written, and God can call any one of us to accomplish divine work.” (From November 4, 2018, page 10 in *The Upper Room*.)

Thank You,  
Shannon Furomoto  
Grateful Member of Iao UCC

## Photos from Consecration Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018



**In next month’s Iao Pepa: the sermon of our Consecrating Steward/Guest Preacher, Kahu Wayne Higa of Ka’ahumanu Church**

# November 2018

## Iao United Church of Christ

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One early morning in November...

**Mailed November 14, 2018**  
**Address Services Requested**

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check this box to mark as: "Return to Sender."

**What's inside . . .**

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**Sunday Worship** **9:30 A.M.**

Pastor	Florentino Cordova
Moderator	Tim Stewart
Choir Director & Pianist	Karyn Sarring
Preschool Director	Flerida Iniba
Secretary/Iao Pepa Editor	Lloyd Nebres

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