

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

September & October 2019

Blessings from Pastor Tino | *"Focused on the Future"*

What? Summer is over? NO!!! Where is my summer! Our Young Adults, Youth and Children are back at school. Lillian Maeda Learning Center has welcomed back the students for our tutoring program. Many of our Communities are preparing for another busy season of stewardship drives, the Maui Fair fundraiser and so much more.

An additional item for me this year has been to work with an amazing Strategic Planning team. It has been such a busy year thus far and as has been my normal spiritual practice – "Where do you 'see God' in all of this?" "Where are the moments in which you have 'experienced God' in all of this?" In the busy-ness of our lives, personal and church, we can not only see and experience God in all we do, we can see and experience God in each other – if we but take some time for reflection. Doing this as a spiritual practice gives us an opportunity to see how our time, talent and treasure really do make a difference in the life of us 'the living church.' Reflection also gives us a chance to be thankful for all those opportunities we are able to share of our time, talent and treasure. So in our busy-ness, let us take time to be thankful, grateful, and accept the blessings we are given with humility.



One of the moments in which we can be extremely thankful and grateful is from our campaign to pay for our new sound system and Kanda Hall chairs. As many already know, the sound system was an unexpected expense that came up this summer as the old system suddenly stopped working. Thanks to our amazing Buildings & Grounds Community, the old system was out on a Friday and the new system was up and running by Sunday. Now, to pay for the system, along with the campaign of our new chairs. Through the help of many generous donors; local, mainland, church members, friends of the church, Facebook online fundraiser – we not only paid for our new sound system, we were also able to pay off the new chairs for Kanda Hall. We began this endeavor with prayer – trusted in each other and trusted in God. Our faith asked us to humble ourselves and ask for help, and God answered our prayers through the generosity of many. This is an example of God working in many ways through the power of prayer. As I mentioned in one of my sermons some Sundays ago from the Gospel of Luke 11:1-13:



"The reality of prayer is that it should be more of a way of living our lives. When we say: Our 'Creator, Father, Mother' we acknowledge a Divine source greater than ourselves. We acknowledge the sacred, sanctified, consecrated, revered, blessed is Your Name God – Divine source of our life. When we know the promise of a God who is as near as the breath we breathe – our prayers become real – a real ask – a sacred ask from our Sacred Source of Life."

In the busy-ness of life, let us continue to take time to reflect and be thankful for the many 'God moments' in our lives – for we will be surprised there are many. Let us also continue to pray without ceasing and remember that Christ is the perfecter of our faith. In all things pray, and in all things – Trust in God!

Let us continue to live as Pentecost People on Fire!
Blessings with love and appreciation,
Pastor Tino

October Lectionary

Oct. 6 **17th Sunday after Pent.**

Lamentations 1:1-6

Psalm 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Free to Grieve

Oct. 13 **18th Sunday after Pent.**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Planting Life

Oct. 20 **19th Sunday after Pent.**

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 121

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Ask Boldly; Live Justly

Oct. 27 **20th Sunday after Pent.**

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 84:1-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

Just Worship

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. •



Photos on this page show B&G work crew and volunteers putting together the Frosty POG booth at the Fairgrounds one Saturday in mid-September.

October Worship Responsibilities*

Readers

Betsy Scheller & Jolene Yinmed

October 6

Greeter: David Murata

Ushers: Rena Hayashi, Daniel Kamidoi,

Lee Murakami

Aloha Hour:

Mike Takamatsu & Joy Yamane

October 13

Aloha Hour:

Jan Saiki & Betsy Scheller

October 20

Aloha Hour:

Lee Murakami & Lynette Shiroma

October 27

Aloha Hour:

Maui Kosrae Etawi

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

October Birthdays

10.1 Aileen Kashiwamura

Evan Akitake-Hill

10.2 Robert Ohata

10.3 Lynn Araki-Regan

10.4 Aimee Yatsushiro

Alex Awai-Stewart

10.7 Nadashia Abraham

10.13 Youlida Yoruw

10.15 Lucy Wong

10.17 Alexander Belsom

10.18 Jan Ikeda

10.19 Jayven Bathin

10.20 James Morrison

10.24 Dale Yatsushiro

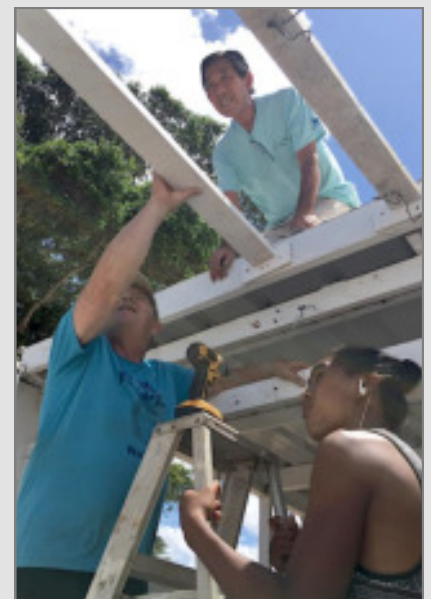
Melissa Kunitaake

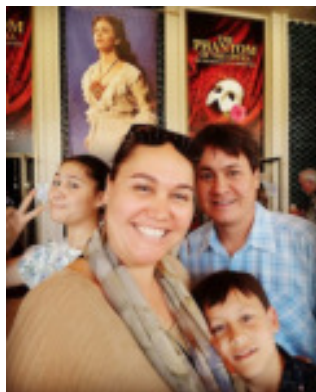
Dustin Kitagawa

10.25 Katherine Hashiro

10.28 Jane Tesoro

Carolyn Kamidoi





God Loves You, No Exceptions!

Have you ever gone to bed at night and thought in the darkness, "No one appreciates all I did today?" Maybe it's because as parents and caregivers we spend a significant amount of time in a state of exhaustion.

But when loving hands clutch our necks in a hug, we don't necessarily feel burdened or weary. That smile we give is our true appreciation for God's gift and reciprocally the Christian service we offer is our gift back.

When I reflect upon any particular religious thoughts of October, a good date to remember would be October 11, 2009. That was when Father Damien started to be referred to as St. Damien of Molokai. When he was alive, the current thinking about Hansen's Disease (leprosy) in Hawaii was similar to that in Biblical Times.

Most of us would agree that the lepers in the Gospel were very, very happy about being healed from leprosy (which isolated them from their friends and family—just like what happened on Molokai). According to the Bible, did any of them ever say thank you to Jesus? My guess is probably not, perhaps because they were too thoughtless, preoccupied, excited or busy.

As parents, we most likely have at some point experienced a lack of gratitude from our children. However, it goes without saying that they are truly thankful for their clothes, food and home. That is in addition to the complimentary taxi shuttle service we give and the quality time we spend with them. But sometimes kids aren't there with a big hug and "Thank You!"

Does our love diminish in the carelessness of our children? No! This is like God's healing that did not disappear from the lepers. And despite the fact that we may occasionally forget to *praise God from whom all blessings flow*, God's gift of love keeps coming, like our continuing love for our children.

In Christ's service,
Tim Stewart

P.S.:
Awai-Stewart family photo is from when they were in Honolulu last summer to enjoy an evening at the opera. *The Phantom of the Opera*, that is. :-)

Offerings of Flowers

by Grace Murata

For years since becoming a member of Iao UCC, I have provided the Sunday worship service with *ikebana* arrangements. *Ikebana* is a Japanese word meaning "live flowers." I thought that this type of arrangement was meaningful because Iao UCC was originally a Japanese church and the original founders were undoubtedly practitioners of *ikebana*.



God has provided the flowers from our 2-acre farm and with monetary help from Herman and Maybelle Hashizume and the orchids and Christmas floral displays from Bert and Jane Akitake, we have been able to provide flowers every Sunday.



With advancing age, I have found it difficult to cut the thick branches and manage the heavy weight of the vases, so I have been blessed with a very competent "helper," our neighbor in Kula, Cyndy Smith. Cyndy has actually been the one arranging the flowers you see in the church sanctuary for the past several months (pictured here is

the one from Sept. 22nd). She and I had been collaborating for years and we wish to extend the invitation to help with this fun activity. Usually we make the arrangements on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at my house in Kula. If you would like to join Cyndy and me, please call (808) 878-6159.

by Jane Tesoro | Keiro No Hi co-organizer

Around the World in 80+ Years was the theme for this year's Keiro no Hi event on September 1, 2019. Three of the five women honored this year came from different countries and reflect the diversity of our church community.

Evelyn Leavitt, born in Germany, was the only 88 year-old. The 80 year-olds are: **Myriam Castillo Takamatsu**, who left Nicaragua for a better life in California; **Joy Fitton Yamane** still visits Canada and **Annette Hamada Matsushima** and **Lee Yamashiro Murakami** are our Maui natives. Lee danced a hula during worship to showcase her talent.

Many thanks to the Council for funding this event and generous members for their donations. We provided a free lunch catered by TJ's, after worship. Those who helped set and clean up Kanda Hall, provided lei and orchid plants, and sent in photos of the honorees are greatly appreciated.

Revered Kupuna

100: Hisako Sano & Robert Ohata

97: Yaeko Furukawa & Shizue "Susie" Kadoyama

95: Yukie Emoto, Jane Tanji & Misae Kameya

94: Thelma Iwami

93: Judith Kitagawa, Shirley Takitani
& Wallace Yanagi

92: Grace Saito, Ruby Sakurada, Gladys Itamura,
& Herman Hashizume

91: Doris Saiki, Richard Komo & Alice Inouye

90: Mike Takamatsu, Ruth Mukai
& Gloria Nakama

89: David Murata, Maybelle Hashizume,
Sumiko Kuniyoshi & Lora Yaeko Sasaki

87: Barbara Kusuda & Sadako Ige

86: Grace Murata

85: Joyce Romero

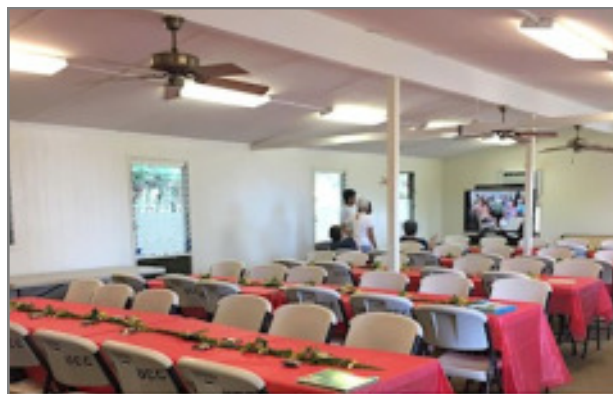
83: Fred Araki & Edwin Ichiriu

82: Ann Araki

81: Larry Whitford



Photos above are from the day of the celebration, at Kanda Hall. Photos below are from the day before, when folks came by to decorate the hall. They are seen watching Jane's slide show which, at the moment the picture was taken, showed Joy Yamane and her family.



by **David Murata**

My age must qualify me to be a “*kupuna*”. And I am an invited guest every year to the “Keiro No Hi” event since attaining 88 years of age. At my last birthday I was 89.

Are there anyone in this church who has been a Congregationalist/United Church of Christ member for over 80 years? I attended the Holualoa Congregational Church (Kona, HI) since I was 5 years old; and since 1935 have retained membership in the Congregational/UCC churches ever since except when I live in places with no such churches.

A reason for membership in the UCC denomination may be related to the World War II experience when I was growing up. Racism and discrimination was rampant at this time. Our denomination has always taken the lead on Peace and Justice issues from slavery, women's rights, equality for LGBTQ+, etc. Caring for others in need and active sharing of Christ's love among membership has always been the center of our ministry.

This is why I have been a member of Congregational/ UCC denominations for over 84 years.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">October 2019</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;"><i>Iao United Church of Christ</i></h2>											
Tuesday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
<p>A calendar grid showing the month of September 2019. The days are arranged in a standard monthly format.</p>		<i>1</i> 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	<i>2</i> 9:00 AM AI 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 6:00 PM Etsai Prayer Fellowship	<i>3</i> 5:30 PM Choir (S)	<i>4</i> 6:00 PM Koaera Women's Fellowship Pastor's Day Off (Office)	<i>5</i> 7:30 PM AA	Iao UCC Frosty POG Booth at the Maui Fair				
<i>6</i> 5:00 PM Maui Koaera Etsai (S)	<i>7</i> 2:00 PM Tutoring (K)	<i>8</i> 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts Support Group Violations	<i>9</i> 9:00 AM AI 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 6:00 PM Etsai Prayer Fellowship	<i>10</i> 5:30 PM Choir (S)	<i>11</i> 6:00 PM Koaera Women's Fellowship 7:00 PM Iao Youth & Music Night Pastor's Day Off (Office)	<i>12</i> 8:00 AM Iao UCC at Fridge Booth (IFW Clean) 8:00 AM Koaera Etsai/Yard Cleanup 7:30 PM AA	Iao UCC Frosty				
<i>13</i> 11:00 AM Stewardship 5:00 PM Maui Koaera Etsai (S)	<i>14</i> 2:00 PM Tutoring (K)	<i>15</i> 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	<i>16</i> 9:00 AM AI 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 5:30 PM FINANCE (F) 6:00 PM Etsai Prayer Fellowship	<i>17</i> 5:30 PM Choir (S)	<i>18</i> 11:00 AM Ladies' Lunch Bunch 6:00 PM Koaera Women's Fellowship (S) Pastor's Day Off (Office)	<i>19</i> 7:30 PM AA					
<i>20</i> 11:00 AM Worshiping 5:00 PM Maui Koaera Etsai (S)	<i>21</i> 2:00 PM Tutoring (K)	<i>22</i> 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	<i>23</i> 9:00 AM AI 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 6:00 PM Etsai Prayer Fellowship	<i>24</i> 5:30 PM Choir (S)	<i>25</i> 6:00 PM Koaera Women's Fellowship Pastor's Day Off (Office)	<i>26</i> 8:00 AM Micronesian Comm. Cleanup 7:30 PM AA					
<i>27</i> 5:00 PM Maui Koaera Etsai (S)	<i>28</i> 2:00 PM Tutoring (K)	<i>29</i> 7:00 PM -8:30 PM Maui Choral Arts	<i>30</i> 9:00 AM AI 1:30 PM Tutoring (K) 5:30 PM COUNCIL (F) 6:00 PM Etsai Prayer Fellowship	<i>31</i> 5:30 PM Choir (S) Halloween	<p>A calendar grid showing the first few days of November 2019. Days 1 through 10 are visible.</p>						

Church members in the news...



This photo top left appeared in the September 12 issue of *The Maui News*, in an article titled “Golden Rule Docks at Ma‘alaea to Spread Anti-Nuclear Message.” It was about this Veterans for Peace boat sailing around the Pacific, spreading the message that nuclear disarmament is possible. Our own Youlida Yoruw was part of the welcoming group, including the Maui Marshallese Ministry, who performed a traditional “jinlap” welcome, which involved singing and lei-giving.



A couple days later, former Iao UCC pastor Jack Belsom was at Kanda Hall for a Tri-Isle Association meeting and brought a copy of the paper to show Youlida. The complete article can be read here:

<https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2019/09/golden-rule-docks-at-maalaea-to-spread-anti-nuclear-message/>

Iao UCC at the 97th Maui Fair

by Rena Hayashi

Come one, come all the the Maui Fair! Yes, it is that time of year again. The Fair will begin on Thursday, October 3 and end on Sunday, October 6. The Fair Committee is hard at work planning and ordering supplies for our ever-popular Frosty POG booth. Not only that, but our Fair booth is being redesigned to allow more space by placing the large ice freezer outside of our booth. Kudos go to B&G members, Howard Ikeda, Dennis Hashiro, and Daniel Kamidoi, who are also members of the Fair Committee, along with another very adept Fair Committee member, Warren Orikasa. They are constantly redesigning and improving our booth for the convenience of the workers. Also, in order to minimize our carbon footprint and promote the virtues of a “green” environment, for the first time ever we have ordered compostable cups, lids and straws. They still look the same as the plastic utensils we have used for many years, but all these new “green”-friendly supplies are made of biodegradable materials. The Fair Committee takes pride in practicing the virtue of being good stewards of our environment.

Pre-sale tickets will remain at \$5.00 for one 16 oz. Frosty POG or Frosty Lemonade, or two 16 oz. regular lemonade drinks or two bottled POGs. At the Fair, the sale of these drinks will be \$6.00 for the Frosty drinks and \$3.00 for the regular lemonade and bottled POG. We are asking all of you to please help by selling at least 10 of these pre-sale tickets. Sell them to your family and friends so they can enjoy our very popular drink at a discounted price. We are fortunate and very thankful to our competent and creative secretary, Lloyd Nebres, who designed, printed and tediously cut each of the 2,000 tickets.

The Booth Work Shift schedule is posted at the bulletin board in the back of the Sanctuary, and at the Iao Preschool during the weekdays. We are counting on you, members and friends of Iao UCC and the Preschool parents, to sign up and work in one or more shifts during the Fair. No matter how much we plan and prepare for this major fundraiser, we cannot do without volunteers working in our booth. As Pastor Tino puts it, you all are our heavenly worker bees! Please encourage your family and friends to join in the fun and fellowship by working a shift or two in our booth. (We of course will provide complimentary tickets for free entry to the Fairgrounds, to all volunteers.)

Mahalo for your support and commitment to the success of our popular Frosty POG booth!

The Fair Committee

Rena Hayashi, Warren Orikasa, Dennis & Katherine Hashiro, Daniel & Carolyn Kamidoi, Howard & Pam Ikeda, Youlida Yoruw, Craig Bode, Lloyd Nebres, Pastor Tino Cordova.





It's that time of year and the Maui Fair is here!

Help out **Iao UCC** in its major annual fundraiser—get your Frosty POG tickets in advance at the discounted rate of \$5 (\$6 at the Fair*).

For tickets, contact Pastor Tino or Lloyd at the Iao UCC office: (808) 244-7353 or iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net

Or come by during office hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to 2371 West Vineyard St., in Wailuku.

*Each ticket valid for one (1) Frosty POG or Frosty Lemonade (or 2 servings of juice)





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*Uncle David Murata's lemon tree bursting with fruit.
 If you're on campus, feel free to glean as many as you like—
 they make for great lemonade.*

Mailed October 1, 2019
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 check this box to mark as:
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What's inside . . .

Blessings from Pastor Tino	1
Lectionary for October	2
October Worship Responsibilities	2
October 2019 Birthdays	2
Tim's <i>Mana'o</i> Moderator's Notes	3
Offerings of Flowers by Grace Murata	3
Keiro No Hi 2019 by Jane Tesoro	4
Mana'o of a Kupuna by David Murata	5
October 2019 Calendar	5
Church Members in the News	5
Iao UCC at the Fair by Rena Hayashi	7
Maui Fair 2019 flyer	7
Back Cover Material (this page)	8

Iao United Church of Christ

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Email: iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net

Website: iaoucc.org

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

Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at Iao UCC.