

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

December 2021

Advent, Blue Christmas & Christmas Blessings Church!

We give God all the praise for seeing us through to another season of great joy. As we find ourselves in this busiest time of year, let us remember to take some time for self-care and enjoy the simple blessings God has given us – family, friends, our Church family or just the simple things we take for granted, like shelter, eating or even breathing. Especially at a time when many in our community have struggled for their next breath. When families are mourning for their loved who are no longer with us this year. Where the idea of “joy” and “hope” do not seem to be comforting words for many. We must be able to hold a safe space for this diversity, the hurt, the pain in whatever form it may come. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey brings with it all these feelings and then some.

Advent gives us a chance to look to the star, when all things seem hopeless – we still look. Let us be the hope that people seek and need during this moment. Let us be that new church that is emerging from this pandemic that is ready for a new kind of normal, a new way of “being” the church. What God uprooted in March of 2020 when the pandemic began, has now been replanted for something new to come forth. Let that be the hope people seek, even if the light seems a bit dim at this moment for some.

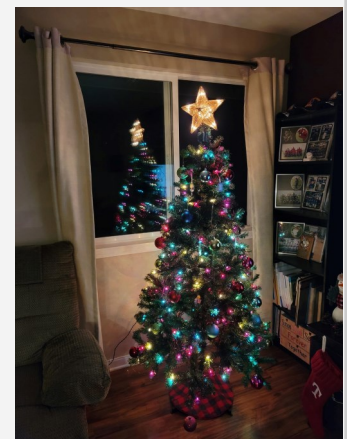
Our Blue Christmas/Winter Solstice In-Person and Virtual Worship Service will be on Tuesday, December 21st at 6pm. This is a time where those who are not feeling hopeful or joyous, may come and experience the safe space of a church that embraces and loves them. A time to bring hurt, pain, unknowing to a safe space where love abounds and surrounds. A place where “I’m so over it” is okay with a church that sits ready to be present.

This season also reminds us of rebirth, of renewal in who we are as God’s people, as a community, and as a church. I believe that Iao Church is ready to be that new emerging Church that comes from a new Bethlehem for our time. Hope fills my extroverted heart because I not only get excited during this season, but I am also curious to see what God is up to and what God has instore for us. This season’s theme of – “A New Bethlehem ‘kina’ Church” really gives us that opportunity to, not only think about how the church will look like in the future, but also how we can shape that future. What are we willing to do to shape our future Iao Church as we emerge from this pandemic? Let us allow the words of – rebirth, renewal, replanted – shape and form us for the future. We can do this church, if we continue moving forward with faith, in faith.

On behalf of this amazing church we call Iao United Church of Christ, we extend our deepest gratitude for all the support everyone has shown us this past year. When things seemed hopeless, difficult and unbearable, the love and prayers we have received has carried us through. We pray for safety, comfort, joy, peace, and love as we enter this season of Christmas into a new year of possibilities.

Blessings with virtual hugs and prayers.

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



December Lectionary

Dec. 5 **Second Sunday of Advent**

Luke 1:68-79

Phil 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Make ready

Dec. 12 **Third Sunday of Advent**

Isa 12:2-6

Phil 4:2-6

Luke 3:7-18

Look Forward

Dec. 19 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Luke 1:46b-55 Ps80:1-7

Heb 10:5-10

Luke 39-55

Moving with Mary's Song

Dec 26 First Sunday after

Christmas

1Sam 2:18-20,26

Col 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Who is This Child

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. •

December Birthdays

12.1 Alice Inouye

12.3 Timothy Stewart

12.5 Betsy Scheller

12.7 Jane Akitake

12.8 Lynn Krieg

12.12 Karen Moody

12.20 Jaymina Bathin

Robynne Klein

12.25 Wallace Yanagi



As you can tell,
there is still
room for you,
(taken
11/14/21.)

Join us
Christmas Eve
← @7 pm in
the
sanctuary, on
Facebook.com/
iaoucc.maui or
88.1 FM Radio
Station to
share in word
and song the
beautiful birth
story of our
Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ!



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

I needed to start this by saying that I am proud to be a member of Lao UCC. I am very very grateful for all the support that the church, the office staff, the officers, the Council, and most importantly the members who serve (and have served) on all the teams/committees/communities have given to me, my wife, my two kids, and my mother-in-law since 2008. It is with great regret that I must formally announce that I will need to step down as moderator effective immediately. I need to focus on maintaining everything my family has and that includes school, sports, clubs, extracurricular activities, and college preparation of my kids. COVID-19 and dealing with our organization's internal crisis represent the darkest time in our church's history to the best of my knowledge. Based on my review, we have overcome these tremendous hurdles thanks to the hard work and dedication of the members and staff. It's been an honor to serve as moderator since 2018. I appreciate the return to regular in-person worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Stewart



We send our *mahalos* out to Maui Street Bikers United, their delivery person Jackie and Foodland for supplying 17 turkeys and 7 hams for our food distribution ministry.

In addition we prepared food boxes for 186 children and 179 adults (this does not include Project Preserve. See page 5). Our *mahalo* goes out to Susan King for doing the food bank shopping and paper work that make this all possible.



The Ulua (breadfruit tree) at the entrance to the office parking lot,





2021 Stewardship Campaign in Words and Pictures



The Stewarding Community would like to give thanks to our youth, Jack Yoruw, and Dawna Krueger for serving as our witnessing stewards during our Stewardship campaign. Their willingness to share their personal views on stewardship is much appreciated. Hopefully, their testimony will inspire you to thoughtfully make your annual pledge to Iao UCC on Stewardship Sunday which was on November 14. Anela Awai-Stewart made her debut at the piano by playing the prelude and postlude that Sunday. (Your pledge sheets may still be turned in, if you haven't already done so.)

The Stewarding Community is also very appreciative of the Ideue family who have generously given their time (prepping the dinner), their talent (cooking in meal), and their treasures (donating all items used in the preparation), to our traditional shelter dinners. You are truly good stewards not only in church but in our community as well.

We are so blessed to have such good stewards in our church who not only give materially but give generously of their time and talents. The Stewarding Community thanks you all!



Have we got a bone for you. In the back of the sanctuary you will find a special little Christmas tree. This tree will be decorated with a lot of colorful bones and on these bones you will find an item from the wish list of H.A.R.F. Choose any bone(s) you like, then bring the item(s) to church/office on or before Dec. 26. On that Sunday they will be blessed and sent with love to the rescue center.



Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (H.A.R.F.)

The Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation will be our Christmas charity for 2021. Pets have helped so many people in getting through this pandemic and day to day living. They give so much and ask so little. Here are some of the items on the foundations Christmas (and always) wish list. Dog food (Kirkland Lamb & Rice-NO Chicken) Nature's Domain (dry & wet) Pee pads, tough toys, collars/leashes, harnesses, paper towels, alcohol (gallon size if possible), disinfectant wipes, biodegradable laundry detergent, trash bags, copy paper and gas cards, volunteers, or adoption.



In mid-November 190 families received the Holiday Food boxes that were ordered in August/September. They contained stuffing mix, mac & cheese, canned vegetables, mashed potatoes, canned fruit, corn muffin mix, soup and a canned ham. This was made possible by the team efforts of Iao UCC members, Pai'a Hawaiian Protestant Church, Nahiku Church, Wananalua Church and the Maui Food Bank. Thank you to all who donated.



PLEASE DON'T FORGET



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: dmurata639@gmail.com and make arrangements for pick-up. Mahalo

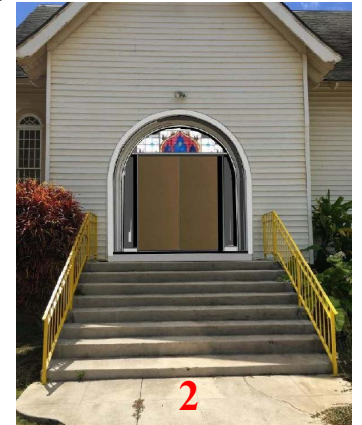
Grace is growing houseplants for a future **Indoor Plant Sale**. Many of you can help her out, too. She is in need of your larger ceramic vases similar to the many she has placed on the altar on Sunday mornings. (You may go to website: Iaoucc.org to look at archived services to view the flowers/ vases just in case you forget). Proceeds will be donated to Iao UCC. If you have any questions, she can be contacted same as David. Mahalo



Buildings and Grounds are at it again! You are now able to drop things off after hours and they will be safe and secure. Mail slot on the outside of Fujitomo Hall (office bldg.) and a secure box for it to fall into on the inside.

BUT...

the big news from Buildings and Grounds is that Jackie Murai has joined their community. Oh, wait that is big news, but the really, really big news is that Robert Hartman has finished the plans for the "North Sanctuary Door" (Thank you, thank you, thank you Robert). A mandatory meeting has been scheduled for the contractors wishing to bid on the project (12/15/21) and a deadline for submitting their bids (1/18/22) set. Bids will offer 3 options: 1)restore the original arched doors, 2)keep outer arch but use rectangular doors or 3)remove arch for rectangular doors.



Scenes from November 28, 2021, the first Sunday of Advent.





Author's note: This is more of a tradition than a recipe. You can use store bought dough if you don't have time to make your own. My family makes this pizza on Christmas Eve most years. The kids enjoy decorating the pizza tree and figuring out how to make the toppings look like ornaments.

-Sanoe

Food for Thought brought to you this month by Sanoe Awai

Christmas Tree Pesto Pizza

Ingredients

- 1 c. warm water
- 1 TBS sugar
- 1 TBS active dry yeast
- 1 TBS olive oil
- 2 ½ c. all purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- Pizza toppings:
 - Pesto (for sauce)
 - 2 c. shredded mozzarella
 - Sliced veggies (onion, bellpepper, olives, tomato, etc.)

Preparation

1. Put warm water in mixing bowl
2. Add sugar and yeast and mix
3. Let mixture sit for 10 min in warm place
4. Stir in olive oil
5. Add 2 cups of flour and mix to form ball, add more flour as needed (it'll be a little sticky)
6. Transfer to a floured surface and knead dough or use a bread mixer.
7. Let dough rise in a large oiled bowl covered with a tea towel (60-90 min)
8. Preheat oven to 450° F
9. Roll out dough into a large triangle (or tree shape) on a greased cookie sheet. You can cut a piece of dough to form a square for the tree stump too.
10. Spread pesto sauce on dough and add cheese and toppings. Arrange them to look like ornaments.
11. Bake for 15-20 min.

.. And for dessert

AUNTY JUDY KITAGAWA'S-CHIFFON FEATHER SPONGE CAKE

- 1 1/2 cup CAKE FLOUR)
- 1 cup sugar) Sift together 3 times
- 1 tsp. baking powder)
- 1/2 tsp. salt)
- 10 eggs-separated
- 1/2 cup Wesson vegetable oil) Add to flour mixture.
- 1/2 cup Water) Mix well.
- Egg yolks)
- 1/2 tsp. Lemon extract)
- 1 tsp. Cream of Tarter-Add to egg whites and beat well (using mixer)
- Add 1/2 cup sugar gradually. Beat till stiff.

Fold egg yolk batter into egg whites and mix well. Pour into tube pan (DO NOT GREASE PAN) or use individual pans as pictured. Bake @ 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Cool thoroughly to remove from pan(s).



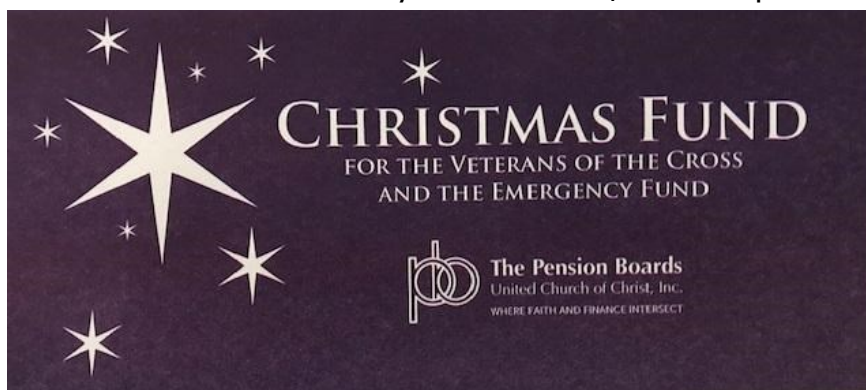
Photo by Jane Akitake, who carries on the sweet tradition.

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Over the past 18 months, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church increased dramatically. Many of our clergy continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever.

We will be receiving your Christmas Fund donation on Sunday, December 19, but are welcome at any time. Just mark "Christmas Fund" on your check and/or envelope.



Just a reminder that we need someone to fill the Vice Moderator position for 2022. This is the slate of officer to be voted upon at our next annual meeting scheduled for January 30,

2022. Nominations are open until then. You can help Iao be continue to be that Church on Fire.

Moderator – Shannon Ribao

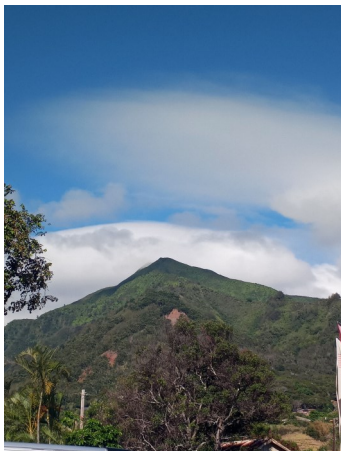
Vice Moderator – Still Needed

Treasurer – Warren Orikasa

Secretary – Jackie Murai

Financial Secretary – Gail Ideue

Assis. Financial Secretary – Katherine Hashiro



An early morning view from the steps of Fujimoto Hall.

A complete financial report is on file in the church office.

Current Assets:	Nov. 30
Checking/Savings	
BOH IPS Checking	74,330.41
BOH IPS Savings	31,338.74
BOH UCC Endowment	
Savings	1,474.18
BOH Lillian Maeda Ck	1,130.96
First Hawaiian Checking	358.05
IFCU Checking	27,74.10
IFCU Savings	<u>49,999.69</u>
Total Check/Savings	<u>186,377.13</u>
Current Assets	<u>186,377.13</u>
Total Assets	<u>186,377.13</u>
Liabilities & Equity:	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	31,603.09
Retained Earnings	-1,709.52
Net Income	<u>156,483.56</u>
Total Equity	<u>186,377.13</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>186,377.13</u>

Holiday Tunes

Away in a Manger
Choir of the Bells
Dominick the Donkey
Frosty the Snowman
Holly Jolly Christmas
Jingle Bell Rock
Jingle Bells
Let it Snow
Little Drummer Boy
Little St Nick
O Holy Night
Rudolph
Santa Baby
Silent Nigh
Silver Bells
The Christmas Song
The First Noel
Winter Wonderland

S G R D A M A F C I F Z Z X F K U H J X
W A W A Y O B R E M M U R D E L T T I L
C K M B H P L O D U R J T G J I H Z N O
Z D W T Z E D S Y E L C B Y R T G C G K
G N O S S A M T S I R H C E H T I J L L
Q A N K O I D Y A L F E D G I R L N B E D
X L S O X Q R T B T I N W X N E T O B J
D R T J T I R H V A A H X I P S N A E W
F E I F W V T E C M B E U U B T E S L S
N D T U C H S A Y A A I N S N L C L Q
B N E V X E G N X I L M T R I I Y R W
F O L N I A I O Z T K L I N X C S J O U
B W V E S Y N W K M G F O O A K T E C N
G R O K A C Y M V Z E U A J Y S L D K U
M E Q W Q O L A O H K P I T Y K B N M Q
G T A P U I O N T S L L E B E L G N I J
L N F G C Z H N S L L E B R E V L I S E
I I Y E K N O D E H T K C I N I M O D S
L W B T K S L L E B E H T F O R I O H C
U I M U Y F C J H B X B V R U M Q C Y B



All this fun and Stone Soup, too.
The Christmas Program will be
held outside on December 21 .



This was taken from the *Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai* November 2021 newsletter. Photo by Nagamine Photo Studio, Inc. Congratulations, Lynette. A well-deserved recognition. We are so blessed to have her as a member of Iao .



Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Uchinanchu of the Year 2021

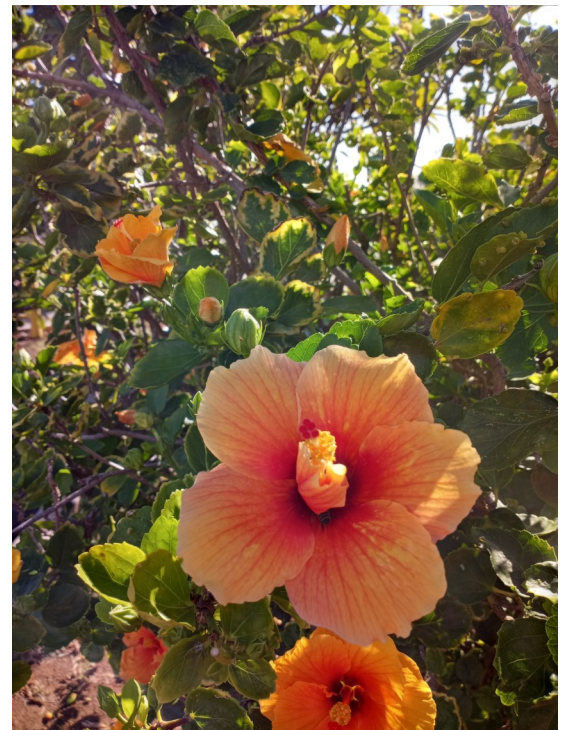
Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai proudly honors Lynette Shiroma as our Uchinanchu of the Year 2021. Lynette's maternal grandparents immigrated from Kin and her paternal grandparents are from Nishihara- Gaza. Lynette is a valuable member of Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai. She and her sister Amy take care of all the paper product inventory for Shinen Enkai and other activities at the Kaikan. She prepares them for transportation to activities such as Obon concession in Paia and Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Festival.

She is the photographer and contributes articles for MOKK newsletter. Always available to capture pictures of all the programs held at the Kaikan. Lynette has been a volunteer for the Children's Day Camp for many years. She assisted with the Day Camp cooking classes numerous times. Lynette was a group leader at this past year Children's Camp held June 2nd- 4th. It was a challenging position because the children remained in their "bubble" and did not rotate classes. Lynette did a lot of research before class on the various projects so the children would gain a better understanding of the Okinawan culture. Her years as an elementary school teacher and an after school reading volunteer were assets to our camp. She is also a longtime member of Maui Ryukyu Culture Group and is the club secretary. She plays the sanshin under instructor Norman Kaneshiro. She participates at the Shinen Enkai, Hale Makua Sunday Afternoon Entertainment Program and Rinzai Zen Mission Obon. Despite her busy schedule, Lynette is an active member of her church, volunteers and chairs their many activities. Always a kind word and a smile, we are proud to honor Lynette Shiroma as Maui Okinawa Kenjin Kai Uchinanchu of the Year 2021.



Pastor's daughter-in-law knows the way to his heart.

Hibiscus in the upper parking lot in all its glory is in memory of Joanne Jones



What are the 12 days of Christmas?

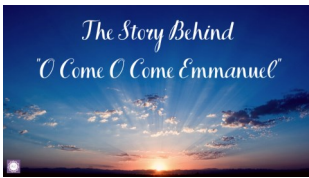
The twelve days over which the song takes place is a reference to Christianity. "The 12 Days of Christmas" historically does not reference the days leading up to Christmas, but rather the 12 days following it, also known as Twelvetide. The period begins with birth of Christ on **December 25th**, Christmas Day, and ends with the coming of the three wise men on **January 6th**, also known as the Epiphany or Three Kings Day. The weeks before Christmas are known as Advent, ending on December 24 — hence, advent calendars.

You may have seen this theory floating around via chain emails and message boards. In a nutshell, the theory claims that during a time when Christians were punished for worshipping openly, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" song was used to secretly pass on the ideology of Christianity. Per this theory, each gift on the list symbolizes a different aspect of the Christian faith:

- The **Partridge in the Pear Tree** is Jesus Christ.
- The **2 Turtle Doves** are The Old and New Testaments.
- The **3 French hens** are Faith, Hope and Charity, the theological virtues.
- The **4 Calling Birds** are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.
- The **5 Golden Rings** are the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The **6 Geese A-laying** are the six days of creation.
- The **7 Swans A-swimming** are the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- The **8 Maids A-milking** are the eight beatitudes.
- The **9 Ladies Dancing** are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- The **10 Lords A-leaping** are the ten commandments.
- The **11 Pipers Piping** are the eleven faithful apostles.
- The **12 Drummers Drumming** are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

But while it is true that the "12 days" reference the days between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, Snopes breaks down the many historical and logistical errors in the "hidden meanings" theory, including the biggest flaw in the claim: If Christians were living in fear of even mentioning the basic tenants of Christianity, how were they able to sing a song that mentions the word "Christmas" in every lyric?





O Come, O Come Emmanuel

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” sounds like Gregorian chant, and essentially, it is. It is a paraphrase of the “O” antiphons, each one starting with the exclamation “O,” that are chanted as part of the Liturgy of the Hours

as Christmas approaches. The lyrics of the carol go back to the twelfth century or earlier, and the melody at least as far back as the fifteenth century. Interestingly, though the song is sung in many languages all over the world and the same ancient melody is used everywhere, the tune was first put to the lyrics when it was translated into English. So it is specifically the English version that has spread throughout the world.

Silent Night

“Silent Night” was penned in 1818 by a young Austrian priest who asked the church organist to write a melody to be played on the guitar. Why would an organist, who barely knew how to play guitar, use that instrument for Christmas Mass? It would seem the church organ was out of commission. Whether it was damaged by flooding or hungry church mice is unknown, but the result is a simple, touching song that has become one of the most frequently recorded Christmas carols. We have an American Episcopal priest to thank for translating it into English in 1859.



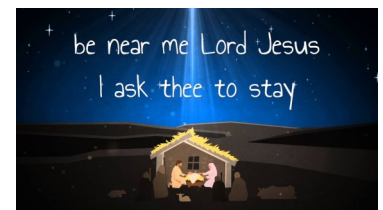
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

The cheery tune of **“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”** was not the author’s idea. Charles Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism, requested a slow, somber melody when he

wrote the song in 1739, but apparently it wasn’t terribly popular that way. In 1840, a new collection of carols featured a melody adapted from a cantata by Felix Mendelssohn. The cantata was, interestingly, originally written to commemorate the four hundredth anniversary of Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press—a rather unlikely source for a Christmas carol.

Away in a Manger

An American tune finally hits the list with **“Away in a Manger,”** written around 1885, but the original promoters claimed it was written by Martin Luther, the German founder of Lutheranism, in the 1500s. Though popular among Pennsylvania Germans, it was unknown in Germany until years later. The song may have been connected with Martin Luther simply because the author of a collection of Christmas songs wanted to make it sound more impressive. Basically, it was a marketing gimmick.





**In-Person and Virtual
December 21, 2021
Iao UCC
@
6:00 p.m.**

Masks and Vaccination required

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship With Those Who Mourn

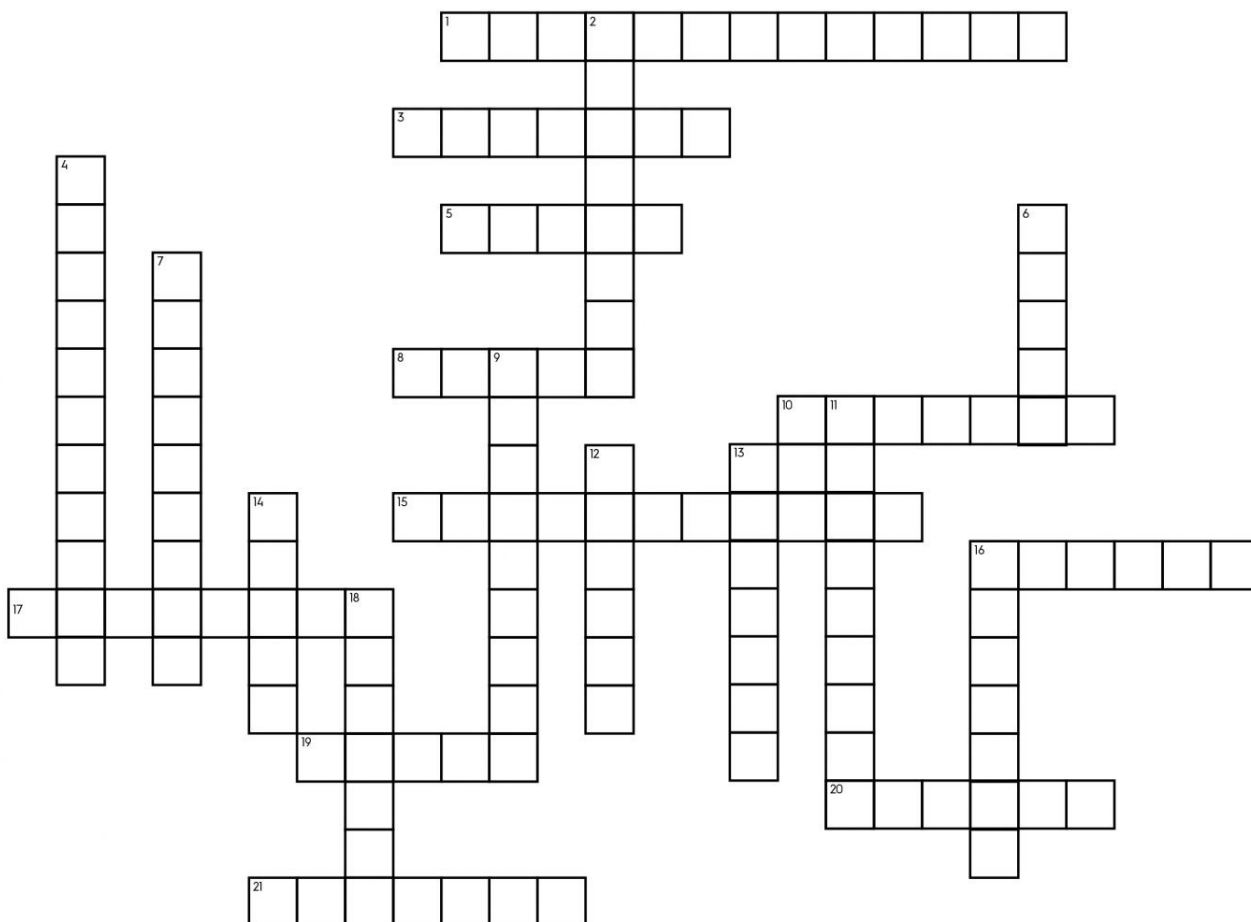
Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in *I am feeling blue*. Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, loss of a beloved pet and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

Pastor Tino will hold a service of worship on the longest night of the year, which falls on December 21st, the Winter Solstice. There is an interesting convergence for this day as it is also the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This linkage invites making some connections between Thomas's struggle to believe the tale of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Find many Christmas traditions in this crisscross puzzle.



ACROSS

1. Heavy material used to conceal gifts
3. Writer of *A Christmas Carol*
5. Winged tree topper
8. Items that help Santa know if you've been naughty or nice
10. Sweet treats
15. Adornments
16. Stuffed bird

17. Holiday warbling
19. Small helpers
20. Santa's transportation
21. Red-nosed reindeer

DOWN

2. Packages under the tree
4. Cookie used in edible houses
6. Cooked bird

7. Sprig that prompts smooching
9. They're hung by the chimney
11. Decorative Christmas balls
12. Circular band of foliage
13. Three kings of the Orient
14. Cake embellishment
16. Timothy Cratchit's nickname
18. Strung popcorn

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<div>2022 JANUARY</div> <table border="1"> <tr><td>SUN</td><td>MON</td><td>TUE</td><td>WED</td><td>THU</td><td>FRI</td><td>SAT</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							30	1	2	3	4
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				AA 7-8 (K)	Micronesia Women's Group 6-7 (K)	AA 7-8 (K)																																																	



Iao United Church of Christ
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IN PERSON SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.
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.