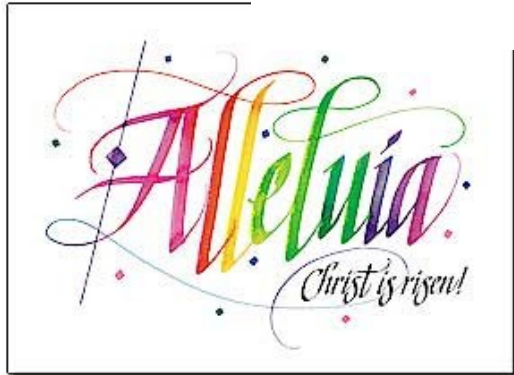




Iao United Church of Christ
2371 W. Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

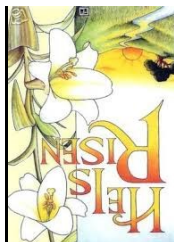


Mailed March 19, 2021

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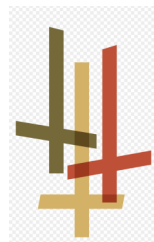


If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please check this box and mark: "Return to Sender."



Easter Service
4/4, 9:30 am

Good Friday
4/2, 7pm
Virtual Service



What's Inside . . .

- 1. Blessings from Pastor Timo
- 2. April 2021 Lectionary
- 3. February-April Birthdays
- 4. Congregational Meeting 2020 Recap
- 5. New Health Aides
- 6. Tim's Mana o Moderators Notes
- 7. Donating thru Vanco
- 8. Our Amazing Grace
- 9. COVID19 Vacation Info
- 10. Bits and Pieces
- 11. Wailuku Mural/Kanda Girls Home
- 12. April 2021 Calendar
- 13. Social Media-You Tube

Iao United Church of Christ
2371 W. Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793-1626
Office Phone: (808) 244-7353
Church cell phone: (808) 740-8368
Email: iaoucc@hawaiiiantel.net
Office Hours M-F 9 am-5 pm

Virtual Sunday Worship
9:30 A.M.
AT: FACEBOOK.COM/IAOUCC.MAUI
WEBSITE: IAOUCC.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/GRUUPS/IAOUCC
YOUTUBE: IAO UCC

You are always welcome at Iao United Church of Christ.

We are a people of God living and sharing the love of Christ through words and actions.

Pastor
Florentino Cordova
Micronesian Ministry
Moderator
Timothy Stewart
Preschool Director
Karyn Sarring
Choir Director/Accompanist
Flerida Iniba
Vacant
Youilda H. Yoruw

Iao Pepa

— Na Makani —

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard St., Wailuku—(808)244-7353—iaoucc@hawaiiiantel.net

March /April 2021

Number one of two and not a tear in sight. In fact there is an ear-to-ear smile under that mask!



Aloha going out to all our Iao UCC Ohana, friends and supporters!

What a year it has been so far! We continue to pray for the safety of our Kupuna, Youth, Young Adults, and to all our families. We also continue to hold in pray those families who have lost loved ones in the past year. We have come to the one-year anniversary in which we began to shut ourselves indoor because of this unseeable virus. There has been a new learning curve for many of us in how to adjust living in isolation, seeing our families through a screen or maybe hearing their voices over the phone. Many of us have yearned for the time in which we can see our loved ones, walk without fear out on the beach, or even perform the simple tasks of shopping. Yet, others have found solace in the quietness, the simple things we take for granted are more appreciated now. Even our Earth Mother has been able to heal itself this past year as reefs begin to regrow, the oceans ecosystem seems to be thriving once again due to the reduction in harmful sunscreen and other chemicals. So many emotions, so much cause and effect gets me to this question beloveds – what have we learned about ourselves and our environment in the past year?

Our Lenten journey gives us a chance to refocus our faith to what is important in our lives. We have been studying and learning about “covenant.” As a covenantal church, we have that same agreement with our Creator as Abraham and Sarah. The same agreement that Jeremiah talks about where covenant is written in our hearts. In this time of pandemic, we have had to be creative in how to “be” the church and remain faithful to our covenant – our mission and ministry. Covenant with God is one thing, and covenant with one another is just as important because mission and ministry happens when we ALL make it happen. No one gift is above another, no matter the treasure, talent, or time. So, our Lenten journey has been focused on how we are all interconnected no matter the social distancing, the new way of worshiping with one another or other ways of being that we have had to create. Virtual communion reminds us that ritual is just as important from a communion table at the sanctuary, to a coffee or dinner table at our House Churches – interconnection beloveds!

As we move into our Easter time together, even if it is still virtual, let us remember what is important in our lives. Let us remember to always find time for prayer, wherever that may be – closet, beach, mountain top, etc. Those who succumbed to this unseeable virus in the past year – our faith reminds us that they share in Christ’s resurrection. As each one of us might have had our own difficult journey for a year now, I pray that you find comfort as you leave all your concerns at the foot of the cross. Know that we pray for each other from our House Churches as we look forward to a time when we can once again gather in our sanctuary to pray, worship, sing and just be in community. (cont. on page 2)

Virtual Worship Services 9:30 a.m. at: [facebook.com/iaoucc.maui](https://www.facebook.com/iaoucc.maui)

April LECTIONARY

April 4 **Easter**
Acts 10:34-43 or *Isa*
25:6-9
Ps 118:1-2, 14-24
I Cor 15:1-11 or *Acts*
10:34-43
Jn 20:1-18 or ***Mk 16:1-8***
Now What?

April 11 **2nd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 4:32-35
Ps 133
I Jn 1:1-2:2
Jn 20:19-31
Marks of Faith

April 18 **3rd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 3:12-19
Ps 4
I Jn 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48
Christ Among Us

April 25 **4th Sunday of Easter**
Acts 4:5-12
Ps 23
I Jn 3:16-24
Jn 10:11-18
Enfolded by Love

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. •

(cont. from page 1)

In all things we pray, and, in all things, we give thanks. We continue to give thanks to our doctors, nurses, hospital staff and custodians, our teachers and all those who have continued to be on the front-line taking care of us and our loved ones. We are grateful and pray for the safety of the vaccines available that will help our bodies fight this virus. Remember beloveds, when all else fails, always pray!

Blessings with virtual hugs and prayers.
Rev. Floren“Tino” Cordova,
Pastor of an amazing Church we call – Iao UCC!



Help us make this our church family news letter. Let us know the good news happening in your quarantined life. Share you need for any uplifting and sorrows you have. Share a piece of art work, creations you may be working on, sewing, knitting, photos etc. Don't forget the youth. Essays, school accomplishment, art work. Show us how you are spending your deployment time.

FEBRUARY Birthdays

02.06 Ruby Sakurada
Lewis Hadley
02.07 Brett Yamane
02.11 Rena Hayashi
Cheryl Hadley
02.13 Annette Matsushima
Suzette Robinson
02.14 Bradley Akitake
02.15 Goliad Johannes
Richard Carr
02.18 John Yoruw
02.20 Jim Robinson
02.22 Deann Sonoda
Betsy Hadley
02.23 Carole Toy
Lynette Shiroma
02.27 Nahulu Nunokawa

MARCH Birthdays

03.04 Robyn Webb
03.10 Judith Kitagawa
Richard Komo
03.12 Grace Murata
03.13 Gail Ideue
03.14 Robert Hill
03.17 Yaeko Fuukawa
03.18 Gladys Itamura
03.20 Larry Whitford
03.21 Sonny Yoruw
03.24 Danann Mitchell
03.25 David Murata
Domisiano Defang
03.30 Leora Murakami
03.31 Molly Murai

APRIL Birthdays

4.1 Dennis Hashiro
4.2 Yukie Emoto
4.7 Tim Greathouse
Anne Hill
Jenna Johannes
4.14 Darson Defang
Jonathan Kaneshina
4.21 Susan King
4.23 Joshua Yoruw
4.26 Pamela Ikeda
Jefferson Yinmed
4.29 Mike Yamashiro
JAC Yoruw
4.30 Warren Orikasa

You Tube



Iao UCC
5 subscribers
SUBSCRIBED



Please subscribe to the IaoUCC YouTube site. There are no fees attached, just a lot of recognition and exposure. Let's share our message across the world.



What a joy, feeding 100+ families from our food pantry. Here you see the food stacked that will be packaged then distributed to 300 adults and 265 children. What a blessing it is to be able to this carry out this ministry of our wonderful congregation. Remember there are boxes in front of the office for donations of non perishable food items, and personal care supplies for the houseless. Iao UCC “being the deployed Church of God.”

Covid19 and Vaccination Hot Line

health.hawaii.gov

2-1-1
Get Connected. Get Help.™

United Way 2-1-1.

For up-to-date and reliable information on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you can do to protect yourself and your family, contact our partners at Aloha

There are multiple ways to reach them from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM:

- CALL 2-1-1
- TEXT at 877-275-6569 (include your ZIP code)
- CHAT at www.auw211.org
- EMAIL at info211@auw.org
- Or SEARCH their online database 24/7 at auw211.org/Search.aspx

QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAVEL TO OR WITHIN HAWAII

Please call the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau at 1-800-GO-HAWAII.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Please call the Immunization Branch at (808) 586-8332 or 1-833-711-0645

CITIZENS REPORT AN ILLNESS FROM AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Please call the Disease Reporting Line at (808) 586-4586.



April 2021

Iao United Church of Christ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 28 One Great Hour of Sharing Virtual Ser- vice 9:30a	March 29	March 30	March 30	1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday Virtual Service 7pm	3
4 Easter Sunday Virtual Ser- vice 9:30a	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	10
11 Virtual Service 9:30	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	17
18 Virtu- al Service 9:30a	19	20	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	24
25 Iao 125+1 Anniversary Virtual Service	26	27	28 Council Meeting on "Blue Jeans" 5:45p	29 <i>Shelter Dinner</i>	30 <i>Pastor's Day off</i>	

Virtual Worship Service: facebook.com/Iaoucc.maui

<https://bluejeans.com/7686914051>

THE CHURCH IS NOT CLOSED ONLY ON DEPLOYMENT!

Here are just some of the deployment actions being done by our ever faithful communities

Buildings and Grounds:

- *Work continues on the Sanctuary front door.
- *Repaired pot holes in parking lot
- *Replaced necessary water lines
- *Installed security lights
- *Expanded virtual services
- *New door on Endo Hall garage
- *New AC in Kanda Hall



Daniel Kamidoi works on the BBQ pit while Dennis Hashiro oversees and inspects the job. They do work well together. And we are so blessed, along with Howard Ikeda and Mike Takamatsu make up our B&G community.

*BBQ pit completed (for future fundraising events)

Stewarding Community

"Memories, Hope and God's Future" was the 2020 theme for our stewarding campaign. Pledges and Time and Talent sheets may still be turned in. Iao UCC was once again honored for its faithful contribution to Five Out of Five stewarding campaigns held by the Hawaii Conference.

Worshipping Community

The ex officio members (Pastor Tino and Rong Chao) did a wonderful job setting the sanctuary for all of our virtual services. Karyn Sarring faithfully sent her pre-recorded music to be included with those services.

Endowment Community

No full report was available at the time of our meeting.

Finance Community

We will be working a reduced budget for 2021.

Maui Fair Community

We have purchased a trailer to sell our Frosty Pog as an alternative to the Maui County Fair. "Frosty P.O.G." is a trademark under Iao UCC and is registered with the State's Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA).
Cont. page 4

Here are the new officers elected by unanimous vote:

Moderator:

Timothy Alan Stewart 2nd

Vice Moderator:

Shannon Ribao

Clerk: Jacqueline (Jackie) Murai

Treasure:

Craig Bode

Financial Secretary:

Gail Ideue

Assistant Financial Secretary:

Katherine Hashiro

Additional voting held at our Congregational meeting (2/28/2021) were in regards to the By-Laws. You were sent a copy of them and all changes suggested passed with the wording of specific electronic devices not be used; only the general term "electronic devices."



New Frosty Pog Trailer

Cont. from page 3

Preschool

The preschool is up and running. They are at capacity for the staffing that they have. They are following all the CDC rules as well as those set out by the state licensing department (DHS).

Witnessing/Reconciling & Outreach

As all in-home and nursing home facilities have been in lockdown, this community is staying in touch by telephone and written correspondence. There are two Keiro No Hi honorees in 2021. There is a need for the newsletter and updating the website to keep members connected and informed of church activities and attract new members.

Introduction of our new Health Aides

Meet the newest "members" of the greeting team at Iao UCC. Mr. Temp and Ms. Sani. When we reopen, you will be greeted by these two. Your temperature will be taken and you will be asked to sanitize your hands. Just a couple of the efforts we will be taking to keep everyone safe.



Fujitomo Hall sends you a big Hi-5 to stay well, wear your mask and social distance with hopes and prayers that you get your vaccination.

Big Mahalo for your Donations

First of all, the Stewarding Community would like to thank all those who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) fund that we promoted last month. Your generous donations will greatly help ease the pandemic crisis in underdeveloped countries as well as parts of the United States. Iao United Church of Christ has been a consistent contributor of this much needed UCC fund thanks to generous donors like you, our church ohana.

Secondly, we, the Stewarding Community, as well as the staff of Iao UCC would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members and friends who have committed and turned in their 2021 monetary pledges to support our beloved Iao United Church of Christ. Unfortunately, because of the COVID 19 restrictions, we had to scale down our stewardship drive. There were no kick off dinner, no guest steward and sadly, we had to forego our fun culminating activity of our traditional pot luck lunch gathering after the Consecration Sunday service. Yet despite our limited stewardship campaign, many of you have come through with your 2021 pledge and we are grateful for that. If you haven't turned in your pledge, you can still do so by mailing it in to the church office.

Lastly, as we all know, Iao UCC is going through some difficult times because of the pandemic restrictions and some unfortunate situations. Every little bit of donations can truly help support the life of our church. Remember those pledge boxes that contained small weekly pledge envelopes? Along with the weekly pledge envelopes, the box also contained special envelopes like Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and yes, even birthday envelopes. Donating to the church on your birthday is a good way to celebrate your special day. Hopefully, you don't need a special birthday envelope to remind you to give to the church, but if you can give from your heart on your special day, that could truly help with the much needed church funds.

God's journey for us is not always smooth. There will be bumps and obstacles along the way, but with much prayer, faith and most importantly, love and support of each other, we will forge a bright future for Iao United Church of Christ.

With much mahalo, love and appreciation from the Stewarding Community.

Something Old Is New Again

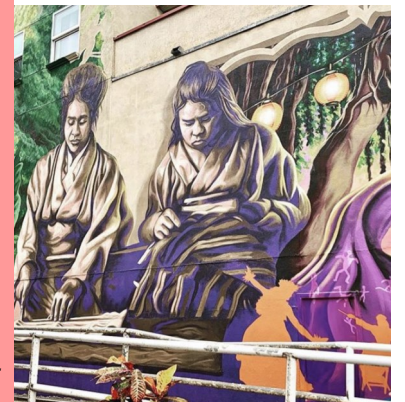
Late last year, a mural on the mauka side of Promenade Building full glory. On the massive images of women in kimono im- your attention. Why familiar if you know tory? Here is an ex-official Facebook ac- Town*Big Art:



in Wailuku town the Main Street appeared in its ral's left side, two Japanese mediately catch do they seem so our church's his- planation from the count for Small

*Inspired by 'ōlelo no 'eau: **Ma kāhi o ka hana he ola malaila (where work is, there is life)***

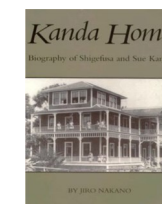
About the Piece: Created in collaboration with the Wailuku community, composition elements include visions of past and present Wailuku arts memories and influences, displayed on a billowing purple kimono being created by a teacher and her student from the 1911 Kanda Home in Wailuku, which was a boarding school for "unfortunate Japanese girls." Images include the St. Anthony Boys' School Band of the 1950s with conductor Walter Garcia; Auntie Emma Sharpe, who taught hula classes in Wailuku; Hawaiian Music Icon Willie K; the Philippine tinikling dance - done between bayuhan, wooden pestles used to pound husks off of rice grain; Maui Chamber Orchestra; Maui Academy of Performing Arts and more, with art forms based in Japanese, Portuguese, Filipino and Hawaiian cultures. Together, the piece speaks to Wailuku as the hub of migration and multiculturalism that has given us so many chapters of artistic flavor since memory and available archives serve. LEARN MORE: <https://www.smalltownbig.org/>



Iao UCC's history includes the founding of Kanda Home for Girls by Shigefusa and Sue Kanda, who first opened their own home on Main and Market Streets to educate young girls. Then a larger building on our church grounds provided more space for at least twenty women. After more than fifty years of service, the large wooden building was torn down in 1968. The upper parking lot next to Fujitomo Hall is the present location.

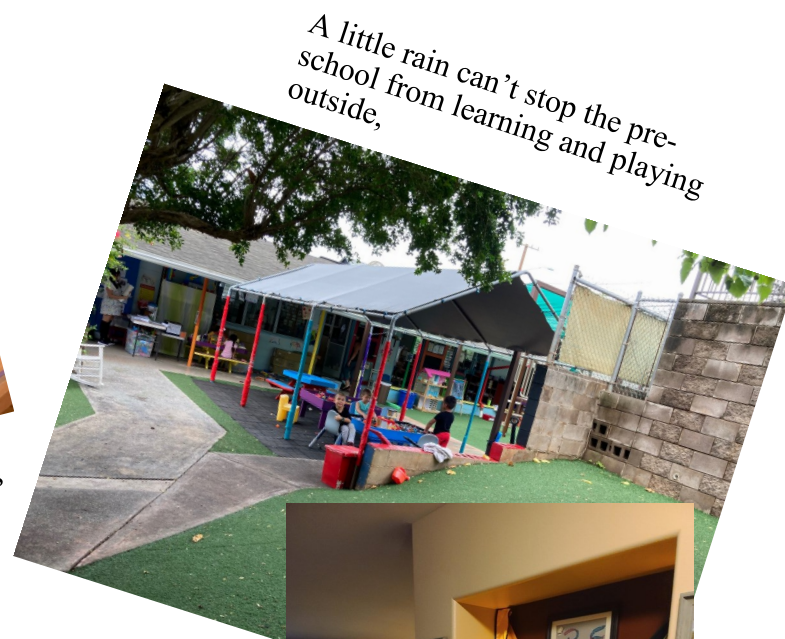
Learn more about Kanda Home for Girls with photos from various sources. The church office has copies of Jiro Nakano's biography of the Kandas. The book is also available for purchase on Amazon; an excerpt of a review states: ...Mrs. Kanda vigorously educated these children to become good U.S. citizens and Christians, despite encountering considerable social and financial hardship. Graduates of the Kanda Home became leaders in the Japanese community and have contributed to the development of modern Hawaii.

In 1993, a hundred year reunion on Maui celebrated the history of Kanda Home. Our church members organized the event that brought many former students back together to reminisce about life in their early years.





The new control desk where all that virtual worship magic happens. Many, Many Mahalos for all the donations that made the upgrades possible.



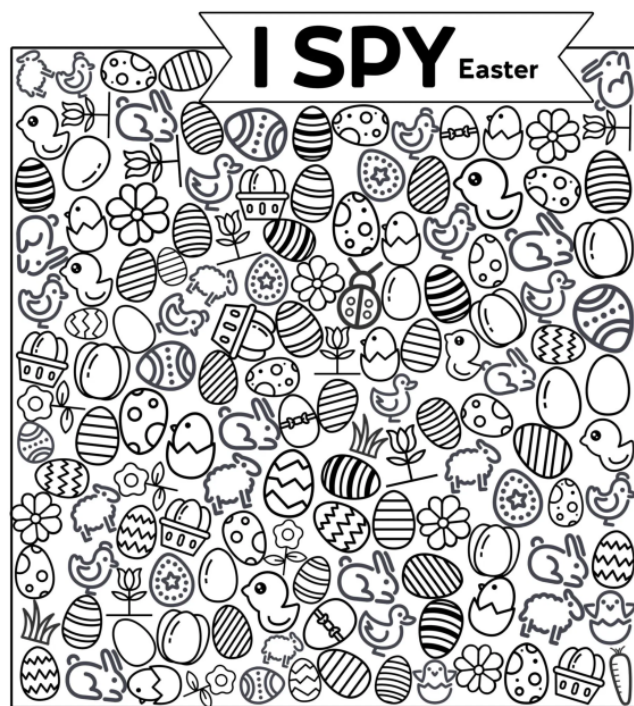
A little rain can't stop the pre-school from learning and playing outside,



"One Can A Week"
Pandemic, deployed, quarantine doesn't mean our food pantry should grow empty. The collection box for non-perishable food and personal care items is still located by the entrance to Funitomo Hall. Let's all try to keep them full.



Pastor got a new shirt. The words could not be truer. "This Pastor has an awesome church"!



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| 3 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 |



Resurrection Greetings, Everyone!

April 2021 is unique for our Christian faith. This year April 1, 2021, marks the end of Lent. Historically speaking, the end of Lent, or Maundy Thursday, was tied to an iconic moment: the Last Supper. Easter is a floating holiday. According to our tradition, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or just after the spring equinox.

In accordance with our Christian faith, we probably started gearing up for Easter last month. The Easter holiday requires a ton of prep. For example, we need to devote our attention to activities like decorating eggs and planning an Easter meal. Even with COVID-19 vaccines becoming more and more available, it's still likely to be a good idea to spend Easter Sunday at home this year. That means thinking about and making decisions on decorations, Easter games, spring crafts, and entertainment.

Here are some Easter reflections; suffering is a theme for all of us. In my view, Jesus seemed to be very much like God, in terms of goodness to others. Yet at the same time, he also seemed so inadequate, in terms of protecting himself.

Jesus cared for others, but that care was not reciprocated by others. Jesus cured others, yet he was brutalized by others. Jesus raised the dead and joined the dead. His resurrection changes all that.

During Easter, the power of God is manifested. A big boulder was put in place to seal Christ's tomb. It was pushed aside like a pebble. The guards who were meant to ensure that his body was not stolen were powerless to contain his now-risen body.

In death, Jesus looked like the most abject of us. Now he resembles God in His glory. Jesus did not call a legion of angels to save himself from death. And he is escorted to life by angels. This represents the circle of life.

Easter means that nothing can keep us from the joy that God wants to give us. Nothing can steal that joy away, not even COVID-19. It's time to take joy in everything, starting with whatever burdens us the most (or whatever it is that makes you angry, sad or depressed). Whatever that is, it can become one of your greatest sources of grace and joy. Yes, it can.

God's Blessings

Tim Stewart, Moderator

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



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



We've been updating the Iao UCC website recently, and one of the new things we've added is a prominent **DONATE**

button on the navigation bar at the top of the page — we moved our online giving to Vanco Payments.

Also see the new pages on the website, including a historical timeline and a page gathering in one place Pastor Tino's sermons (look for it in the **Resources** tab).

OUR AMAZING GRACE



Grace Harada Murata celebrated her 88th birthday on March 12! She is the only church member who achieved this special *Keiro no Hi* distinction this year and will be honored in September. Reminder: *Keiro no Hi* (Respect for the Elderly) is an annual tribute for church members who attain the ages of 80 or 88 during the year.

A long-time member of Iao UCC, Grace grew up on Maui and graduated from the University of Hawaii-Manoa in 1954. She had a long career as an elementary teacher and also gave piano lessons.

Grace and husband David raised four children: Ruth Eisen, Jeanne Sera, Michael, and Jodi Singsank. Ruth and Jodi live on Maui while Jeanne and Michael have sadly passed on in recent years. The Muratas have an abiding faith in Christ that has provided them resilience throughout the years.

Grace provides the beautiful floral arrangements and lei for our church services. She and David live in Kula, where they tend an impressive garden of diverse botanical specimens ranging from humble produce to exotic plants. In the morning you can find Grace with a basket attached at her waist gathering flowers for her daily lei-making session in the garage. There is a video tour of the Muratas' garden that you can view at this link: <https://youtu.be/ZOSihv9--As>.

Mahalo, Grace, for your time and talent that provide our church with lovely flowers. Happy 88th birthday from your church family!



This information was taken from the Hawaii Department of Health Web site. Additional information and in various languages may be found @ Resources—Hawaii DOH:Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 hawaiiicovid19.com

Vaccines to Help Fight Against the COVID-19 Pandemic

How will I know when it's my turn to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Department of Health will inform the public in a variety of ways as more vaccines become available.

Stay informed through your doctor, the web site hawaiiicovid19.com, your healthcare provider, or local television, radio or newspapers.

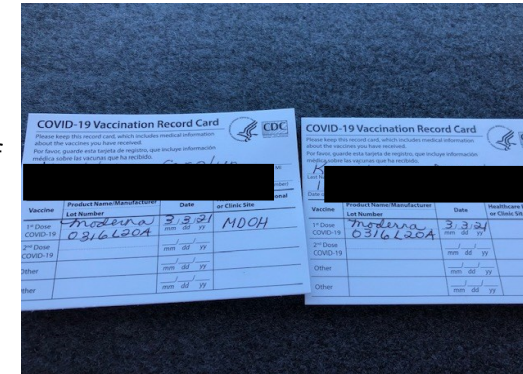
Will there be enough vaccine for everyone in Hawai'i?

Yes! Although the initial supply is limited, millions more doses are being made and everyone in Hawai'i will eventually be able to be vaccinated.

Will I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with other people after I have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, even after you have had both shots, you will need to wear a mask and practice other preventive measures, like avoiding close contact with other people.

Together with getting vaccinated, covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others will allow us to eventually return to day-to-day activities



Nga Ma Micronesia is feeling thoughtful.

3d · Shared via AddThis ·
Greetings to you all, Please read and understand what you need to know about the vaccine. I am one of many that hesitate to take the vaccine. Working at a clinic and make the choice not to take the vaccine due to my own reason, until today I decided to take the vaccine with the fact that I came from the Government that take this Covid-19 seriously 🙏🏻 So with all to respect. I encourage you to read this and think about it. It is all your choice! The creator whom creating everything alone knows what, why and who or how... again He is our Creator and we are the creation. Proverbs 1:7 says Fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!



Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 will get us 'back to normal' more quickly. COVID-19 vaccines are critical in the fight against the pandemic, and the ones being distributed are scientifically proven to be safe and effective. Getting vaccinated not only can help save yourself and protect the lives of others, it can help us return to work, school, and other day-to-day activities faster.

The Hawai'i State Department of Health is partnering with federal and county agencies to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine throughout the state as rapidly and efficiently as possible.

But until there is adequate vaccine supply for everyone, the priority is on those who are at the highest risk for infection or complications if infected. Not yet vaccinated? Please be patient. Learn when it's your turn to get vaccinated through your doctor, health plan provider, employer, or via the web site hawaiiicovid19.com.

About the COVID-19 Vaccines:

Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.

The vaccines that you receive are approved via the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization, a process that helps speed up the availability of medicines and vaccines during public health emergencies such as the current pandemic. They were evaluated and approved by independent scientists and healthcare professionals. All of the vaccines being administered have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same safety standards as other vaccines. All approved vaccines were tested in tens of thousands of adults from diverse backgrounds, including older adults and communities of color. The most common side effects of the vaccines include sore arms, fevers, and tiredness within 72 hours after the vaccine. These side effects usually mean that the vaccine is working to generate an immune response.

If problems persist or occur beyond 72 hours, contact your physician