



Iao Pepa

— Na Makani —

A monthly newsletter of Iao Congregational Church

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

October 2021

Fall Season is here Ohana!

Are we ready for the Fair...oh wait, no fair this year? How about Pride, Halloween, Stewardship Drive, Thanksgiving, Advent, Blue Christmas, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve Celebration, and many things in-between? Uuuuuu...feeling exhausted yet? Well beloveds, one day at a time as Christy Lane used to sing. As I have said many times, it does seem 2020 and 2021 have been like a whirlwind for many of us. You have also heard me say... "In ALL things, trust in each other and trust in God." Believing and living in that is what has carried us through this difficult part of our church's history. I hope that as we enter this busy season with many events still left in 2021, let us reflect on how this pandemic has given us the chance to focus on what is important in our lives...family, community, and faith. I get excited as Advent approaches, but I too need to remember that we need to focus on today... "one day at a time sweet Jesus."

October has usually been a busy month for us but since we do not have the County Fair again this year, we have been invited to join the Aloha Maui Pride virtual celebration on October 9th. Look for upcoming an email with the link. The following day on October 10th we will have our annual Pride Celebration Sunday. This reminds us why we are an open and affirming congregation for ALL of God's children including our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters in Christ. Our church theme of "The Value of 'I'" helps us understand our own identity as individuals and as a church and denominational body – *"no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

Another update for everyone is that our forensic analysis of our finances has been completed, submitted, and reviewed by our insurance company. I invite us to give a huge *"thank you"* to our forensic review team that put in a lot of time to get this difficult process completed. We are hoping to gather as a church body once it is safe to do so to answer any questions you might have as we move toward wholeness and healing.

Throughout this pandemic there has been many discussions on who is considered *"essential and non-essential."* I can recall many conversations when local officials insisted that the churches must close. I insisted that Iao UCC, even thought our building, our sanctuary would close as we went to virtual worship, but that our church was essential and would keep *"being"* the church especially during this pandemic. This was a time when our Food Distribution Ministry program emerged and proved to be one of the essential elements and ministries of our church. Another group that I have found to be essential has been our frontline and our first responders. Because of their unwavering and difficult essential work, we will be dedicating our Thanksgiving Virtual Worship Service to them on November 21st. They have put their lives at risk so that we would have a better chance at surviving this unseeable virus. They have put their family at risk so that we would have a better chance at surviving this unseeable virus. We have been fortunate enough to receive approval from producers to show videos of people saying *"thank you"* to these essential community heroes and sheroes.

Keep the faith community! Keep the faith beloved brothers and sisters! Be the example church so others know how to keep the faith

Blessings with virtual hugs and prayers.

Rev. Floren "Tino" Cordova, Pastor of this amazing Church we call – Iao UCC!
Virtual Worship Services 9:30 a.m. at: [facebook.com/iaouccmaui](https://www.facebook.com/iaouccmaui)

October Lectionary

Oct 3 **19th Sunday after Pentecost**
 Job 1:1, 2:1-10
 Gen 2:18-24
MK 10:2-16

Enfolding Love

Neighbors in Need/World Communion

Oct 10 **20th Sunday after Pentecost**
 Job 23:1-9
 Heb 4:12-16
MK 10:17-31

What Must I Do?

*Access Sunday & Disabilities Awareness/
 PRIDE Sunday*

Oct 17 **21st Sunday after Pentecost**
 Job 38:1-7
 Isa 53:4-12
Mk 10:35-45

Great Service

Children's Sabbath/Laity Sunday

Oct 24 **22nd Sunday after Pentecost**
 Job 42:1-6, 10-17
 Jer 31:7-9
 Heb 7:23-28

Take Heart

United Nations Day

Oct 31 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
 Ruth 1:1-18
 Deut 6:1-9
 Mk 12:28-34

Wherever You Go

Reformation/Reconciliation Day

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



October Birthdays

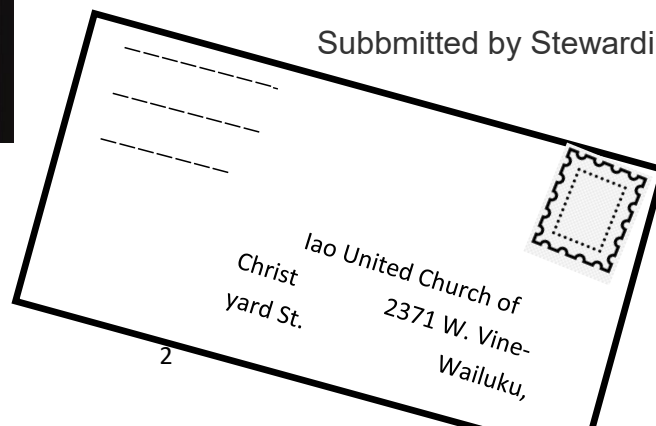
10/1 Aileen Kashiwamura
 Evan Akitake-Hill
 10/4 Aimee Yatsushiro
 10/4 Alex Awai-Stewart
 10/13 Youlida Yoruw
 10/18 Jan Ikeda
 10/19 Javen Bathin
 10/20 James Morrison
 10/24 Dustin Kitagawa
 10/24 Dale Yatsushiro
 Melissa Kinitake
 10/25 Katherine Hashiro
 10/28 Carolyn Kamidoi
 10/28 Jane Tesoro

NEIGHBORS IN NEED (NIN) IS A SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST THAT SUPPORTS MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION IN THE UNITED STATES

In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

Most churches collect the offering on October 3, 2021 as part of World Communion Sunday, but contributions can be made at any time.

Submitted by Stewarding Community





Are you ready for this. It was **20** years ago we, Lao UCC, proclaimed that we are an Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation!

Everything you need to know to celebrate National Coming Out Day 2020

By Kelsey Hurwitz, Published in Women's Day July 15, 2020

National Coming Out Day is all about celebrating LGBTQ+ individuals who've "come out," or announced their sexuality and/or gender identity, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

The **holiday is celebrated on October 11**, and doubles as a reminder of the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, which led to increased LGBTQ+ activism around the country. While National Coming Out Day is meant to celebrate those who have gone public with their sexual orientation or gender identity, it is also meant to create, foster, and promote a safer world for LGBTQ+ individuals to "live truthfully and openly," per the HRC. It is a testament to the bravery and courage of those LGBTQ+ individuals who've chosen to live their lives openly and authentically, and an emblem of support for future LGBTQ+ individuals to come out in their own time, on their own terms, and when they feel safe and ready to do so.

If you're not familiar with the term "coming out," the Trevor Project describes it as "when a person decides to reveal an important part of who they are with someone in their life." For many LGBTQ+ individuals, this often involves "sharing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity." Whether an individual decides to come out to one person, a few, select people, their immediate family, or an entire community, it's important to treat them with respect and support throughout the entire process. Studies have shown that family acceptance and support is crucial for the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people. Unfortunately, and even in the year 2020, many LGBTQ+ individuals are met with negative reactions upon coming out. In fact, a 2013 survey found that 40% of LGBTQ adults experienced rejection from a family member or close friend.

These negative reactions, in turn, result in negative mental health outcomes. Currently, LGBTQ+ adults are almost twice as likely as straight adults to experience substance abuse, are at a higher risk of attempting suicide, and are at a higher risk of experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Family rejection is among the reasons why LGBTQ+ people are 120% more likely to experience homelessness — a figure that's even higher for Black LGBTQ+ youth.

National Coming Out Day is a great opportunity to remember the importance of coming out and to support the LGBTQ+ community. According to the HRC, knowing someone within the LGBTQ+ community makes a person much more likely to support "equality under the law." The powerful, personal coming out stories that are proudly shared on National Coming Out Day (and on any day) can make an impact on the hearts and minds of people both in and outside of the LGBTQ+ community.

To celebrate National Coming Out Day, take the opportunity to further educate yourself on the history of the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the current, on-going efforts for equality. And of course,

Let's try again. As the numbers are declining, our sanctuary will be re-open on October 31. Steps to take to attend:

call the office to RSVP (808-244-7353)

wear a mask

social distance

temp taken

sign a release form

sanitize hands

Other buildings are being opened gradually. Kanda Hall will be the first.



The teacher's at the preschool have set out their lesson plans for the month of October: letters, colors, shapes and of course Halloween. However, it appears that the children's favorite part of the day's learning is when Auntie Vanessa, one of the cherished neighbors of Lao, sings and dances with them at the fence. Vanessa walks by daily and the children absolutely love to participate in her lively and fun songs and dances.

Our new desk trays were part of a second round of donations. In coordination with **Patch**, these were donated by **Maui County Early Childhood Resources Center** as part of the Casre Project. Keiki are able to work together doing classwork while providing safe space for each other. They are lightweight and the children love them. Easily to clean and disinfect after each use.



Make sure you are signed up and your SMILE donation goes to Lao United Church of Christ. When first visiting smile.amazon.com, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile. For eligible purchases through AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Chose Lao UCC.



In a recent thank you, dated 9/12/2021, from our friends at a Cup of Cold Water they thanked us for our donations. Curious what the donation were? Read on: 3 shampoos, 3 conditioners, 10 toothpastes, 6 soaps, 1 facial cleaner, 4 lotions, 11 plastic bags, 1 t-shirt, 4 towels and 3 washcloths.

They stated, "Sadly and with much regret, the Delta variant of has covid caused the Board of directors to suspend Van Runs for now for the safety of all, but ACCW will be making food and hygiene packs to share with other ministries who serve the unsheltered as we did before in earlier times of suspension."

Lao's box for the collection of personal hygiene items is located by the stairs to Fujitomo Hall (church office building). To see to grand totals of what is donated and distributed to and by them, check out their web

Food For Thought

Homeless Dinners Continue

Beginning in 1989, Iao UCC has been providing "Lillian's baked mushroom chicken" on the 5th Thursday of the month.

Mushroom Chicken Bake

(Lillian Maeda's recipe used for Shelter dinners provided by Iao UCC)

- 3# boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1 can (6 oz.) stem / piece mushrooms
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp salt / 2 tsp pepper

PROCEDURE:

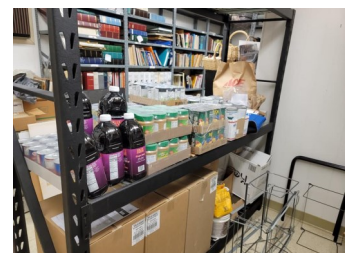
- wash chicken pieces; cut in half if large size. Drain well.
- mix flour with salt and pepper;
- dredge chicken pieces in flour / salt / pepper mix;
- lay in 9 x 13 inch pan (spray with PAM for easy cleanup) or line pan with foil;
- mix Cream of Mushroom soup with stem / piece mushrooms and $\frac{1}{2}$ soup can of water in mixing bowl;
- pour mixture over chicken;
- Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour



Gail and Lynette ready the chicken for baking.



Kahu Kalani delivers the cooked product to the shelter. During non covid times students from Kamehameha Schools Maui serve to the residents.



Susan King and Pastor Tino load their cars with food from the food bank. Volunteers in the office share smiles as they see our pantry shelves being filled for those in need. The filled kitchen pantry shelves flow over into the library. Susan's experience from her previous job taught her how to shop at the Food Bank. However the full shelves are not staying that way very long. In September we provided food bags for 40 individuals (men, women and children). Your can a week is still very important. As word spreads that we are a USDA food distribution center, we get more and more requests for assistance.

2022 Stewardship Campaign

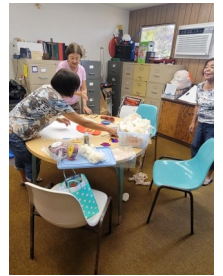


Yes, it is that time of the year again when the Stewarding Community meets to plan our Stewardship campaign in preparation for our 2022 budget. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, our campaign is scaled down once again.

Because the sanctuary is presently closed to parishioners, you will be receiving a letter, the talent sheet and pledge form through mail. November 14

is Consecration Sunday and we are hoping to receive most of your pledges and talent sheets by then. However, sending them before or after Consecration Sunday is perfectly okay and much appreciated.

The theme for 2022 is a compelling one. It is “BE: Thankful, Trustful and Transforming.” We thank Stewarding Community member, Lynette Shiroma, who attended a virtual stewardship workshop and enlightened us with the three T’s



of stewardship. According to Jill White, Lead Regional Interpreter of the United Church of Christ, “Transformation happens when in thanksgiving we trust God with our lives, and the act changes everything.” The three T’s is the way of stewardship in the 21st century.

The Stewarding Community thanks our church ohana who are friends and members of Iao United Church of Christ, for being generous and gracious stewards, not only in our church but in the community as well. Iao United Church of Christ is alive and well because of you.

With great gratitude from the Stewarding Community,

Katherine Hashiro

Rena Hayashi

Jacki Murai

Lynette Shiroma



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

- ☐ help with shelter dinners
- ☐ organize photos and records
- ☐ Aloha Hour
- ☐ child care during worship service
- ☐ teach Sunday School/be an assistant
- ☐ donate flowers
- ☐ help in the office
- ☐ be a greeter and or usher
- ☐ be a reader during worship
- ☐ close sanctuary windows, pick up bulletins left in pews at end of service
- ☐ visit the sick/shut-ins, Hale Makua
- ☐ help count offerings on Sundays
- ☐ set up/clean-up for church gatherings
- ☐ help with workdays (cleaning, yard work, painting)
- ☐ help with funerals and the bereaved
- ☐ prepare snacks for the tutoring program
- ☐ be a tutor
- ☐ be a choir member
- ☐ become a member of a community:

Worshipping___ Learning___ Stewarding___
Buildings & Grounds___ Witnessing and Rec-
onciling___ Preschool___ Endow-
ment___ Fair___ Finance___ Funeral___

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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

During 2022, I plan to give:

\$ _____ per week

\$ _____ per month or

\$ _____

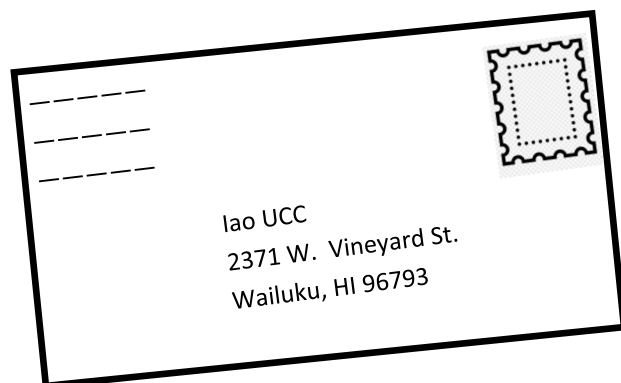
My total giving for 2022 will be _____

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

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

If you have not received this by mail please fill out and mail back to the church office by Nov 14, 2021. Mahalo.



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From your Financial/Forensics Team

As reported in the September issue of Iao Pepa things are looking better, and the light at the end of the tunnel continues to grow brighter. These are the numbers as they stand as of August 31, 2021. Please continue with keeping up-to-date with your giving, strafe safe, mask up, social distance, and wash hands frequently. We send you our blessings.

ASSETS	2021	Jan. 31	Aug. 31
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
BoH IPS		18,622.44	65,062.18
BoH UCC End.Sav.		103.47	924.15
BoH Lillian Checking		239.96	1,130.96
First Haw. Checking		310.43	498.73
Interfaith FCU Checking		10,525.22	17,869.94
Interfaith FCU Savings		43.18	4,548.49
Total Checking/Savings		29,844.70	90,034.45
Total Current Assets		29,844.70	90,034.45

A complete financial statement is on file at the church office.

August 2021 Council Highlights

- 190 Holiday boxes were ordered from Maui Food Bank for distribution in November. This was done in collaboration with the Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church, Nahiku Church and Wananalua Church.
- Interfaith Federal Credit Union - Due to an account number error, Iao UCC had charges withdrawn over a period of 2 years. The correct amount has been repaid to IUCC.
- New Officers - Moderator and Treasurer terms are expiring and we will need a slate of candidates by the end of this year.
- Thank you to new volunteers who are providing their time to allow other office volunteers time off from an exhausting past few months. Also a big mahalo to Rev. Tino for all his help and guidance during this pandemic period.



Building and Grounds

August and September 2021

- Buildings and grounds completed the new storage shed that will be shared with the preschool. No longer will rummage and the like be stored in Kanda Hall..
- Performed yard maintenance and weed control on entire campus.
- Installed informational signs on the exterior of all buildings. We have (4) surveillance cameras monitoring our buildings and parking lots 24/7
- Assisted Pural Water Specialty, Inc. to perform annual inspection on our water back-flow preventer required by the County of Maui Dept. of Water Supply.
- Monitoring our water and electrical consumption usage.
- Cleaned air-conditioners and filters.
- Assisted Pastor Tino with the installation of our second virtual camera in the Sanctuary.
- Repaired leaking galvanize pipes and added shut-off ball valves at the IPS children hand-wash station.
- Repaired IPS kitchen sink drain strainer water leak.

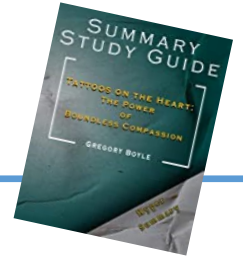




To complete a local call, starting October 24, 2021 you will need to dial area code 808 + telephone number. This applies to all local calls within your area code that are dialed with seven digits.

In addition to changing the way you dial local calls, all services, automatic/speed dialing equipment and other types of equipment that are programmed to complete calls to 7-digit local numbers will need to be re-programmed to complete calls to 808 + telephone number. Some examples are life safety systems or medical monitoring devices, PBXs, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, fire or burglar alarm and security systems or gates, speed dialers, mobile or other wireless phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services and other similar functions. Be sure to check your website, personal and business stationery, advertising materials, personal and business

Postponed. The book study that was scheduled for October has been put on hold for the next few months. Please stay tuned for the rescheduled date in the new year.



The Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation will be our Christmas charity for 2021. Pets have helped so many people in getting through this pandemic. They give so much and ask so little. Here is 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, gal. if possible, Clorox wipes, bio. laundry detergent, trash bags, copy paper and gas cards.



October 2021

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>September 2021</div> <div><div><div>Sunday</div><div>Monday</div><div>Tuesday</div><div>Wednesday</div><div>Thursday</div><div>Friday</div><div>Saturday</div></div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div></div><div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div></div><div><div>15</div><div>16</div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div></div><div><div>22</div><div>23</div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div></div><div><div>29</div><div>30</div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div></div></div>		28	29	30	1	2
			<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>Maui PRIDE MONTH 2021</div></div>		Pastor's Day Off Micronesia Women's Ministry 6-7p Kanda Hall	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<div>World Communion Sunday</div> <div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div>				AA 7-8p Kanda Hall	Pastor's Day Micronesia Women's Ministry 6-7p Kanda Hall	Virtual Maui Pride Celebration AA 7-8 p Kanda Hall
Blessing of the animals	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div>					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> <div>Pride Sunday</div>	Indigenous Peoples' Day National Coming out Day Office Closed			AA 7-8p Kanda Hall	Pastor on Vacation Micronesia Women's Ministry 6-7p Kanda Hall	AA 7-8 p Kanda Hall Pastor on Vacation
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Council Meeting 5:45pm	AA 7-8p Kanda Hall	Micronesia Women's Ministry 6-7p Kanda Hall	AA 7-8 p Kanda Hall
Pastor on vacation						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Pastor returns			AA 7-8 Kanda Hall	Pastor's Day Off Micronesia Women's Ministry 6-7p Kanda Hall	AA 7-8 p Kanda Hall
Pastor on Vac.						
31	1	2		4	5	6
<div>Reformation Sunday</div> <div>Halloween</div>	<div>NEIGHBORS IN NEED</div> <div>UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</div>		<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div>		<div>November 2021</div> <div><div><div>Sunday</div><div>Monday</div><div>Tuesday</div><div>Wednesday</div><div>Thursday</div><div>Friday</div><div>Saturday</div></div><div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div><div>6</div><div>7</div></div><div><div>8</div><div>9</div><div>10</div><div>11</div><div>12</div><div>13</div><div>14</div></div><div><div>15</div><div>16</div><div>17</div><div>18</div><div>19</div><div>20</div><div>21</div></div><div><div>22</div><div>23</div><div>24</div><div>25</div><div>26</div><div>27</div><div>28</div></div><div><div>29</div><div>30</div><div>1</div><div>2</div><div>3</div><div>4</div><div>5</div></div></div>	
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Iao United Church of Christ
2371 W. Vineyard Street
Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

Mailed: September 30, 2021

Address Correction Requested.



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

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Iao United Church of Christ

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Office Hours M-F 9 am-4 pm

Virtual Sunday Worship

9:30 A.M.

At: Facebook.com/IaoUCC.Maui

Website: iaoucc.org

Facebook.com/groups/iaoucc

YouTube: Iao UCC

Pastor

Florentino Cordova

Moderator

Timothy Stewart

Church Secretary

Vacant

Preschool Director

Flerida Iniba

Choir Director/Accompanist

Vacant

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.