

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

September 2021

Blessed Aloha House Churches – Friends – Supporters!

Ok! Where did the summer go? This is the month in which our children, youth and college students return to school – and so we as a church not only pray for their safety, but let us also hold all our parents in prayer as well.

We continue to move forward with our Virtual Worship Services here at Iao Church. We had begun to open the sanctuary on a limited basis as well as allowing community groups to use the social hall only to proactively shut the spaces back down again due to the rise in covid19 cases. We are seeing the fastest rise in cases and in hospitalization here on the Island of Maui and in the State of Hawaii. Now more than ever does our community(ies) need us to “be” the essential Church in their lives, beloveds. Because of the support from many, we are still able to put together an emergency food bag and distribute to families in need and to our houseless community. We will soon resume delivering food to those on our distribution list after our delivery drivers have taken a well-needed and deserved summer break.

As a reminder, the “essential” Church still gathers on Sunday mornings at 9:30am for Virtual Worship Services. We may gather through a different format, but why we gather is still just as important, beloveds – covenant, community, check-in, friends, family, etc. As I mentioned this past Sunday, in some of my conversations with colleagues, it feels that some of our congregations are getting lazy and too used to this virtual worship that they have forgotten to come together as One Body of Christ – “the Church” on Sunday mornings. I strongly suggest, beloveds, that we continue to gather at 9:30am every Sunday and utilize the chat function on Facebook live to check-in on one another and remember why Iao UCC is still the *essential* and *vital* Church in our lives. We will soon be trying to meet on our BlueJeans format, but we will do a test before going to that route. This will give us all a chance to see and talk with one another before worship as we would in person...update to come.

Coming up for us in September will be the Foodland – “Give Aloha” fundraiser so please remember to present your Foodland Maika'i Card at the checkout counter (or enter the phone # associated with the card into the pin pad) and inform the cashier that you would like to make a donation to: Iao United Church of Christ. Our five-digit registration code is **78972**. We are still collecting funds for our Holiday Food Box from the Maui Food Bank for \$7.50 a box. If you wish to donate to one of our families in need on our distribution list, or if you have a family in mind, we have until August 30th before we need to submit our order. Boxes will be available for pickup around mid-November if anyone has ordered for their family or someone else. Will keep you posted. Great example on *being the essential* Church, beloveds!

Just a reminder on another great event coming up that is being sponsored by our UCC Hawaii Conference on the Adaptive Leadership workshops. We have four people so far and could use two more. This workshop will help us find ways to lead the church during this time of virtual gathering and how we can formulate a plan. We will meet in the conference room at Fujitomo Office and zoom into the workshop on August 28th – half day; September 11, 25 and October 16 – two hours and final conference wide zoom meeting on January 15th. Call the office if you are interested in joining this team.

Blessings with virtual hugs and prayers.

Rev. Floren “Tino” Cordova,

Pastor of this amazing Church we call – Iao UCC!



Use IUCC code: 78972

Virtual Worship Services at: facebook.com/iaoucc.maui

Moderator's Notes | by Tim Stewart

Dear Lao UCC 'Ohana,

As school is now in session, I'm starting to feel as though our days could use an extra hour or two. There are times when I think that I'm juggling too many things. My view is that Jesus' invitation to abide in him is an offer for rest that is needed. This month, we make rest a priority. Whatever activity or non-activity is most restful to you, find 30 minutes each day for it. Afterward, take time to pray and ask God to teach you the true meaning of resting in Jesus.

This is a great lesson to talk about the importance of healthy nutrition and lifestyle habits as well as faith. Jesus is the bread that sustains our long life. What are things that give us a good life? Do at least one activity that helps promote a strong body and mind. A peaceful walk outdoors, making and enjoying a healthy snack, or a yoga session are all ideas that remind us how important and FUN it can be to take care of our bodies and just like Jesus, take care of our spirit.

God's Blessings,

Tim Stewart, Moderator

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."



On July 23, Pastor Tino distributed gift bags of school supplies to the most recent Lao Preschool graduates who would soon begin their formal education (kindergarten). It is the fourth year Pastor Tino has done this, providing valuable lessons in generosity and, hopefully, lifelong learning for the youngsters. Lao Preschool staff nurtured them and now begins their next adventure. The staff is grateful for Pastor Tino's investment in the preschool family. Photos were shared in Lao UCC's Facebook post.



Have a safe and productive school year 2021-22!

September Lectionary

Sept 5 **15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and
Ps 125
Isa 35:4-7a and Ps 146
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mk 7:24-37
Be Opened

Sept 12 **16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Prov 1:20-33 and Ps 19
Isa 50:4-9a and Ps 116:1-9 or
Wisd of Sol 7:26 - 8:1
James 3:1-12
Mk 8:27-38
Who Are You, Jesus?

Sept 19 **17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Prov 31:10-31 and Ps 1
Wisd of Sol 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or
Jer 11:18-20 and Ps 54
James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a
Mk 9:30-37
First in Caring

Sept 26 **18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 and
Ps 124
Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and
Ps 19:7-14
James 5:13-20
Mk 9:38-50
Courage for Community

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



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

9/5	Bert Akitake
9/6	Avis Teshima-Wong Carly Defang
9/11	Dawna Krueger
9/14	Janet Tomita
9/15	Misae Kameya Erin Hashiro Anslan Fugow
9/19	Jaime Ribao
9/20	Mike Takamatsu Winford Ideue
9/22	Emily Murai
9/25	Shannon Ribao

Keiro no Hi 2021 Honorees

Grace Murata Keith Moody Karen Moody Heide Israel

Read their stories in this special issue or view at this link:

[Keiro no Hi Google Sites](https://sites.google.com/view/keiro-no-hi-iao-ucc/home)

(<https://sites.google.com/view/keiro-no-hi-iao-ucc/home>)

Age 88: Grace Harada Murata



I was born on March 12, 1933, in Puunene; my parents were Lyman Harada of the Kaunai Harada clan and mother Kathleen Katsuyo Hamai of Paia. I had only one brother, Stephen, eight years younger than me, who is deceased.

Until grade six I attended Spreckelsville School and after that, Kaunoa School, Maui High and the University of Hawaii. I graduated with a teaching degree.

I started to attend Iao UCC when we moved to Wailuku. Here I met Lillian Maeda, who encouraged me to sing in the choir and attend the Pilgrim Fellowship group.

While I was in college, I was troubled by my parents' bad marriage. I was very impressed by a Christian minister ([Rev. Bill & Libby Steeper](#)) and his wife's marriage and I decided I wanted to have a marriage like theirs. In the meantime, I met David, who was my roommate's brother's friend. We found we valued the same things in life and married at Iao in 1956. We will celebrate our 65th anniversary this year. David proved to be a good father, hardworking partner and inspiring Christian soulmate bringing our family through difficult and many happy times.

David and I spent one year in New York City attending the Biblical Seminary in New York. We returned to Hawaii after one year without completing our studies.

Our family spent 3 years in Japan while David worked as a teacher of occupational therapy. There I learned to speak Japanese, cook Japanese food and understand our roots. My love for flower arranging was reinforced at this time

Our children are Ruth Eisen, Jeanne Sera, Jodi Singsank and son Michael. Ruth and Jodi live on Maui while Jeanne and Michael have sadly passed away.



The pandemic has brought us a time when we were able to be alone for long periods of time. Memories of sad and happy events come uninvited in still moments. A parade of faces, people long forgotten appear, and events with minute detail are common occurrences these days. I was asked to recall happy events and remember flying to Columbus Ohio to hear daughter Ruth play her Mozart Concerto with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

How astonished I was to receive a call from County Personnel Director Manabu Kimura who told me Jody (our youngest daughter) had scored the highest score ever made by a female applicant in physical fitness for the police force.

Indelible in my mind is the graduation visit we made to New Haven, Connecticut, to attend Michael's graduation from Yale.



There is also the picture of Jeanne on her death bed, reuniting with her long lost adoptee daughter.

Those of us who can mentor young ones should do so. At this late date in my life, I feel like I didn't live up to the gifts God gave me. One of the main reasons for this was the lack of a dream or vision. I feel my dreams were too small from the lack of inspiration from those who could have given it. I am not pointing to a specific person, but those who can inspire must do so. We should overcome our Japanese humility and go for it. This is the message I want to leave with Keiro no Hi.

Age 80: Karen Kurisu Moody

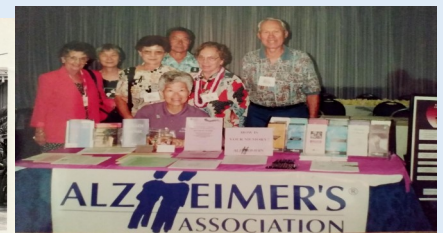
I was born on December 12, 1941, five days after Pearl Harbor was bombed, in Malulani Hospital, the current location of Hale Makua, Wailuku. My parents were James and Haru Kurisu. I have an older sister, Amy.

As was then typical of Maui teenagers, my first paid (summer) job was with Maui Pineapple Company, in its Kahului can room, followed by other summers in its Kahului office under Sei Yatsushiro's supervision. My professional life began as Head Resident of UH's Hale Kahawai dormitory in Manoa (1965-66), then as a junior high science teacher in Monona Grove, Wisconsin (1966-69). It wasn't until I returned to Maui in 1995 and realized I lacked the necessary credits to qualify for Social Security benefits that I rejoined the work force, as an outreach assistant with the Alzheimer's Association (1996-2001) and administrative assistant at the Maui Adult Day Care Center (2001-2007).



The milestones in my life were:

- a) 1959-63: Leaving Maui's nurturing environment for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to expand my horizons and gain independence;
- b) 1965: Marrying Keith Moody, an Australian who shared my values and interests;
- c) 1969-95: Living in Nigeria and the Philippines as the wife of an international agricultural scientist and realizing the advantages of being an American while appreciating the diversities and cultures of developing countries;
- d) 1995-2014: Returning to Maui and reconnecting with its greater community as an employee of the Alz. Assn. and MADCC, and as a volunteer at Kaunoa Senior Center and Maui Arts & Cultural Center;
- e) 2014-present: Moving to the Bay Area, adapting to a new lifestyle in a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), and developing an interest in photography which rekindled my love of nature and walking.



My life experiences have taught me that people, regardless of age, culture or race, respond to:

- a) genuine kindness and smiles
- b) truth, no matter how difficult, when tactfully presented
- c) generosity without expecting anything in return
- d) fairness in looking at both sides of issues and being nonjudgmental
- e) gratitude so nothing is ever taken for granted.

Although Keith and I have no children, we are proud godparents of an international trio of remarkable individuals: 10-yr-old Scott Akitake-Hill whose talents and intelligence go beyond his years; 29-yr-old Jialing Mew, a graphic designer in Sydney, Australia; 33-yr-old Anne Kuerschner Kischel, a wife, mother and teacher in Winnenden, Germany.

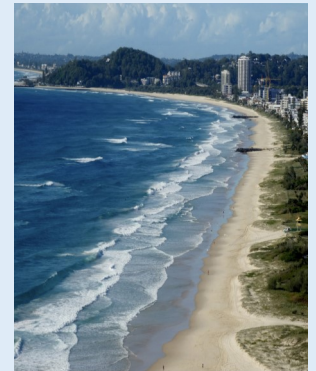
I am deeply grateful to God for blessing me so abundantly and to the church for its strong presence in the Kurisu family life on Maui, first through the Wailuku Japanese Christian Church, then through Iao Congregational Church and more recently through Iao UCC.

Age 81: Keith Moody



I was born on 10 January 1940 at Fermoy Hospital in [Brisbane](#) (/ˈbrɪzben/ - check Wikipedia to hear the exact pronunciation), Australia. From a young age, I remember trudging (it seemed such a long distance then) the 600 yards from home to the nearby Congregational church (left) originally twice on Sunday – in the morning for service and Sunday school and in the evening for another service. Eventually, the evening service was dropped. My weekly attendance at church declined with the purchase of a

beach house and an unwritten rule that we would go there every third weekend and also for holidays. Enjoying the beach (right) and all that it had to offer and exploring the nearby bushland gave me solitude to refresh me after weeks in the city. Occasionally, on these treks, I would see a koala - a highlight.



As youth attendance declined at the local church, I spent more time going to the city church – a 20 minute tram (trolley) ride away. Not an unfamiliar route, seeing I rode the tram into the city each weekday to attend high school.



Four years at high school were followed by another four at the University of Queensland where I received a B.Agr.Sc degree, then on to Hawaii for my masters. After arriving in Hawaii, I went occasionally to the Church of the Crossroads and, after meeting Karen, to Waiokeola church in Kahala where we were married on 12 June 1965. Next was to Wisconsin to obtain a Ph.D. majoring in Agronomy with a minor in Biochemistry.

The start of my professional career was in Nigeria at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture where I spent six years. Next it was off to the Philippines for twenty years with one-year sabbaticals in England and Hawaii. I enjoyed my work and loved what I did. The interaction with colleagues from many different countries was greatly rewarding. I worked to live rather than lived to work as many of my colleagues did. Even though I received much pleasure from my work, I decided to retire at 55 and head for Maui with Karen. By then, both of my parents had died.



I always enjoyed taking the road less traveled – something that I acquired from my father. Driving along a road, coming to an intersection, saying, “I wonder where that goes” led to many interesting discoveries. For example, while in England we chanced upon Slimbridge and while having lunch at the Reserve we noticed familiar birds – nene. Turned out that the Wildlife and Wetland Trust had been actively involved in the 1950s to save the nene from extinction. My father also gave me an appreciation of nature which is so beautiful and ever-changing.

My mother had much wisdom. I always wore a hat to primary school and at lunch time some of the other pupils would take it, making me spend much time chasing after them trying to get it back. One day my mother asked me if I had any problems and I brought this to her attention. She said 'when they take your hat, don't chase after it; just go and sit down and tell them to return it after they have finished playing with it'. Amazingly, it was returned almost immediately and that ended the problem.

Keith Moody continued

A highlight during retirement was volunteering for 2 months at the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Nasushiobara, Japan – a training centre for rural community leaders. The mission of ARI is to build an environmentally healthy, just and peaceful world, in which each person can live to his or her fullest potential. ARI, among other things, promoted sustainable agriculture. Interacting with Rural Leaders from Asia, Africa and the Pacific and providing support for the goals of the community were particularly worthwhile.



During this time, we made several off-campus trips. One was to Aomori Prefecture to see rice paddy art (Tanbo Art) being planted in Inakadate. Experts plant the colored rices that form the pattern; volunteers the green background (right). In neighbouring Hirosaki, we visited the castle (left) and the Apple Park where we noticed a Flower of Kent apple tree. This was a graft from the original 'Newton' apple tree in Lincolnshire, UK. Interestingly, we sat under the



very tree at Woolsthorpe Manor.

I became a U.S. citizen on 5 January 2017 but still retained my Australian passport. I have a huge emotional attachment to Australia – you can take the boy out of the country, but you cannot take the country out of the boy.

Thank you for honoring me at Keiro No Hi, 2021.



We are honoring Keith and Karen Kurisu Moody for their continuing support of Lao UCC. Keith turned age 80 early last year and Karen will be 80 this year, so we are combining their Keiro no Hi celebrations in this issue. This is a very recent photo of them at their retirement community (Acacia Creek) in California.

Our Revered Kupuna

Ninety-nine: Yaeko Furukawa & Shizue "Susie" Kadoyama

Ninety-seven: Yukie Emoto & Misae Kameya

Ninety-six: Thelma Iwami

Ninety-five: Judith Kitagawa, Shirley Takitani & Wallace Yanagi

Ninety-four: Grace Saito, Ruby Sakurada & Gladys Itamura

Ninety-three: Richard Komo & Alice Inouye

Ninety-two: Mike Takamatsu, Ruth Mukai & Gloria Nakama

Ninety-one: David Murata, Maybelle Hashizume & Lora Yaeko Sasaki

Eighty-nine: Sadako Ige

Eighty-eight: Grace Murata

Eighty-three: Larry Whitford

Eighty-two: Myriam Takamatsu, Annette Matsushima, Lee Murakami & Joy Yamane

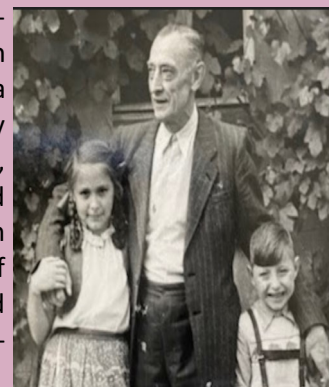
Eighty-one: Keith Moody, Anne Rowehl, Lei Tobias & Rita Whitford

Eighty: Heide Israel & Karen Moody

Age 80: Heide Israel

I was born in 1941 during WW II in [Sorau](#) / Germany, a small town now belonging to Poland. My father served at the East Front, was wounded and taken as a prisoner of war by Russian troops – only a few days before the end of the war. In early spring of 1945, my family had to leave our home and everything behind to escape from the westward advancing Russian troops. We were lucky to reach my grandparents' town in the Spree District (southeast of Berlin). In the middle of April, we had to flee again and ended up in the surrounding swampy woods where the most significant battle of WW II took place with the Russian army encircling and defeating the German army, also known as the "[Halbe Pocket](#)". It was a very horrific, traumatizing experience and we were deeply grateful that we survived.

A year later we moved to my maternal grandparents, who had found refuge in a small village south of Berlin. During these post-war times, most people in Soviet-occupied Eastern Germany lived in poverty. We stayed in a very small farmhouse without plumbing - just a pump in the yard. Our tile ovens and kitchen stove were heated with wood chopped by my grandfather. We had a little garden to grow vegetables, potatoes and some berries, some of which we preserved for the cold winters. I liked to help to feed our chickens and rabbits. The few toys we had were self-made, but most of the time we played outside in the barnyards and meadows. I started school in the village elementary school consisting of one room for all 8 grades. All children had to learn to be considerate, work together and help each other. I liked Sunday school, which was barely tolerated by the Communist Regime. But despite all of this, I had a happy childhood.



My family's life changed completely on New Year's Eve 1953. A neighbor came to tell us he had heard on the radio the long-awaited news that my father was on his way home from Russia. His veteran's transport train had just crossed the Polish border into Germany. Word had spread overnight and the next morning neighbors and village people came to share our joy and excitement. Still, it took another two months until my mother, brother and I would be permitted to leave East Germany to reunite with my father. After eight years in communist labor camps, my father had decided to be released into the Federal Republic of Germany, the free Western part of Germany.

We started a new, completely different life in the Rhineland. With the compensation money paid to veterans, my parents purchased furniture, household goods, clothing and - best of all - rented an apartment with all comforts of modern living. The switch from the East German school to a western high school was very challenging for me. After three years of Russian language classes, I now had to catch up on several years of English, French and Latin. Finding good friends helped a lot to adjust. After graduation, I attended a teacher's academy and started teaching 3rd and 4th grade in a rural town. At that time, I met my husband, who accepted a Research Fellowship at CalTech in Pasadena, where we made our first home, getting acquainted with the American way of life, also taking weekend trips to National Parks in California and Arizona.



Two years later, we moved to Maryland, loaded most of our belongings into our VW Bug and drove across the continent - an experience that gave us a sense of the vastness and beauty of the United States. We spent many happy years in Maryland and were blessed with great joy when we had our daughter Karen. She was baptized in the Trinity United Church of Christ which we had joined. I was busy with my home, loved cooking, gardening, sewing, knitting and entertaining friends and neighbors. My husband was pursuing his career at the University of Maryland. We also enjoyed many cultural events in Washington.

Heide Israel continued

Shortly after the Bicentennial celebrations in 1976, we moved to West Berlin, Germany, where my husband took a position at the Technical University to create the first German Department of Air Pollution. The restricted life in a city surrounded by a wall was compensated by the rich culture: excellent classical concerts, opera and outstanding museums. We were active in the nearby Lutheran Protestant Church.

In the fall of 1989 the Berlin Wall was opened and torn down – an unexpected, life changing event. We will never forget those days: People from east and west streamed into the city in a happy, exhilarating atmosphere. All were eager to walk through one of the now open gates into East Berlin and back, just to “feel” what it meant to be free. I will always remember a unique event shortly after: the performance of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony, conducted by Leonard Bernstein with participation of East and West German choirs accompanied by American, British, French and Russian musicians.

Without the border checkpoints, we were now free to venture out of former West Berlin to explore our surrounding countryside in Brandenburg whenever we felt like it.

Two years after my husband had passed away, I moved to Maui to be close to my daughter and son-in-law. A few months after I had settled in, I became a member of Iao United Church of Christ, which has welcomed me with warmth and friendliness.



*The love of a family
is life's greatest blessing.*



I feel very blessed to have had a full life with a happy family and close friends – also having been able to travel to so many parts of the world, experiencing interesting cultures.

I learned from a very young age that freedom and being able to live in a free democratic country is precious and cannot be valued high enough. I experienced first hand that one can get by with little as long as there is food and shelter.

Last but not least my take from life is: ***if things do not work out as planned, not to give up but try to find another way. It may not bring the initially desired result, but in hindsight it might even be a better one.***

September 2021

Keiro no Hi = Respect for the Elderly

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			1 Council mtg.	2	3 Pastor's Day Off	4
	Office is open M-F from 9 am to 4 pm					
5	6 Labor Day office closed	7	8	9	10 Pastor's Day Off	11
12 Keiro no Hi 	13	14	15	16	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26	27	28	29 Council mtg.	30		

Food for Thought | featured recipe

Chinese Almond Cookies

2 blocks butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
1 cup Wesson oil
2 tsp. almond extract
4½ cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
Pinch salt



Cream butter and sugar well. Add oil and extract. Stir in dry ingredients. Form into small balls. Press lightly and dot (use a chopstick) each cookie with red food coloring .

Bake at 350° for 10 – 15 minutes.

—Former member Yvonne Kunitake's recipe shared by Joy Yamane

Iao UCC's Financial / Forensics Team has been very busy since the start of 2021 working on financial losses. The good news is we see a light at the end of the tunnel and hope to recover financially. There are bills to pay and ministries to support, so we are ever grateful for your continued monthly pledges and special offerings. Here is a comparison of two balance sheets. We will continue to provide a report in future newsletters.

ASSETS	<u>January 31, 2021</u>	<u>July 31, 2021</u>
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
BoH Iao Preschool Checking	18,622.44	69,287.57
BoH UCC Endowment Savings	103.47	924.15
BoH Lillian Maeda Checking	239.96	1130.96
First Hawaiian Checking	310.43	358.05
Interfaith FCU (IUCC) Checking	10,525.22	12,320.78
Interfaith FCU (IUCC) Savings	<u>43.18</u>	<u>4,048.32</u>
Total Checking/Savings	29,844.70	88,069.83
Total Current Assets	29,844.70	88,069.83



David Murata plants pineapple in his garden for home use and to give to those who want or need. He plants the "tops" of the pineapple but does not have enough tops. If any of you are pineapple lovers but do not use the tops, can you save them for David? Call 878-6159 or email dmurata639@gmail.com and make arrangements for pick up. Mahalo!





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Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

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Keiro no Hi 2021 issue

Mailed: August 18, 2021

Address Correction Requested.



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 please check this box and mark: “Return to
 Sender.”

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Iao United Church of Christ

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Virtual Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m.

At: [Facebook.com/iaoUCC.Maui](https://www.facebook.com/iaoUCC.Maui) Website: iaoucc.org

[Facebook.com/groups/iaoucc](https://www.facebook.com/groups/iaoucc) YouTube: Iao UCC

Pastor Florentino Cordova

Moderator Timothy Stewart

Church Secretary Vacant

Preschool Director Florida Iniba

Choir Director/ Accompanist Vacant

Newsletter Jane Tesoro / Dawna Krueger

You are always welcome at Iao-UCC!

We are a people of God, living and sharing the love of Christ