

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

January 2022

Epiphany & New Year's Blessings, Church!

2021 took us on this blessed, and at times, crazy ride! But here we are, arriving in 2022 as a new emerging church, ready to take on the next difficult moment, ready to receive the next blessing, ready to put forth new, innovative, and creative ideas, and ways in “being” the church alive. At the end of October, we had begun getting a taste of what our virtual and in-person worship services might look like. Then covid19 case numbers began to rise at the end of December, forcing us to reclose the sanctuary right before our Christmas Eve Worship Service. As has always been with our Iao Young Adults, Youth and Children – always ready to take on the next task, even if we had to do the worship service virtually, they once again, took over the Christmas Eve Worship Service. If 2020 and 2021 has taught us anything, we must be ready to adapt and change as we meet the task(s) head-on with confidence and innovation. My hope is that my messages these past few months have given each of us a sense on how scripture continues to guide us in such a time as these. Yet, beloveds, this is just the beginning!



Are we ready for what 2022 might bring us? Are we ready to adapt and overcome any difficult moment that might arise? If 2020 and 2021 has taught me as the Pastor of this amazing Church we call Iao UCC, with the help of our friends and supporters, Iao has stepped up and continued to “be” the church during this ongoing pandemic. We have continued to adjust and upgrade our audio/visual equipment for virtual worship; we are bringing back our Young Adults and Youth to participate more in these virtual worship services; continuing with our Food Distribution Ministry Program; all the Communities continue to bring forth their creative ideas, and so much more. I believe the volunteers at the office can attest on how busy this campus gets during the week with so much happening. I continue to participate via many zoom meetings both at the local and UCC Hawaii Conference level. Iao Church is alive!

As we move into 2022, let us always be at the ready in supporting each other. As I have said many times and cannot say this enough – covid19 is the enemy we face for our time – not each other regardless of political or religious views. Iao Church believes in science and will follow the advice of our national, state, and local leaders as we try and keep each other safe – for that is the loving and neighborly thing to do. With that said, we are hoping to reopen our sanctuary by the 1st week in February, but the covid case numbers will dictate to us on the safety of doing so.

I once again refer to Howard Thurman’s – “The work of Christ begins.” We begin with new ideas and continue with what we have been doing that accomplishes mission and ministry.

Blessings with virtual hugs and prayers.

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



January Lectionary

- Jan 2 **Second Sunday after Christmas**
Jer 31:7-14 or Sirah 24:1-2
Ps 147:12-20 or Wisdof Sol 10:15
-21
Eph 1:3-14
Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18
Another Road
- Jan 9 **The Baptism of Christ**
Isa 43:1-7
Ps 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Affirmed by Love
- Jan 16 **Second Sunday after Epiphany**
Isa 62:1-5
Ps 36:5-10
1 Cor 12:1-11
Extravagant Sign
- Jan 23 **Third Sunday after Epiphany**
Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Ps 19
1 Cor 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21
Good News, Good Ways
- Jan 30 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
Jer 1:4-10
Ps 71:1-6
1 Cor 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30
Prophet on the Edge

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. ●



JANUARY Birthdays

- Jan. 2 Myriam Takamatsu
- Jan. 3 Joseph Fugow
- Jan. 4 Pastor Tino
- Jan. 6 Caetlyn Johannes
- Jan. 11 Janice Saiki
Lei Tobias
- Jan. 17 Jack Belsom
- Jan. 23 Kalani Wong
Samantha Hill
- Jan. 24 Grace Saito
- Jan. 27 Gurray Mathin

TOTAL NUMBER FOR MONTH

Total Children Served (0-17 yrs.)	245	Total Adults Served (18 yrs. +)	271
Total New People Registered	116	Total Days Program Operated	17
Total Families/Households Served	271	Total Meals and Snacks Served	227 food boxes

Shannon's Scoops | Moderator's Notes



First of all, I'd like to wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR. 2021 was quite a year so we welcome 2022 with open hearts and minds. As I reflect on this past year, my heart is so full of love and gratitude. The outpouring of kindness and support that we have received has been overwhelming.

When they say it takes a village...it truly does.

I have witnessed so many miracles this year that it moves me to tears. I know that All things are possible with God!!!

Sharing our story with all of you in hopes to shed light and awareness. I truly believe in being open, honest and transparent.

On December 22, 2021 my wife tested positive for Covid. Then 2 days later, on Christmas Eve, I tested positive for Covid. We spent the Holidays in Isolation/Quarantine.

While it wasn't the Holiday season we had anticipated, we had to surrender and chose to have Faith over Fear. Our friends, families and our community stepped in to help us through this helpless time. From delivering takeout food, homemade goodies, grocery shopping, doing our banking, picking up items & delivering them to us and most of all holding us both up in prayer!!! It was the most beautiful thing to witness. Jaime and I are both natural givers, so it was hard at first to learn to accept & just receive. We knew that Our God was working through these Angels in our lives.

On December 28, 2021, we were both selected to receive the Monoclonal Antibody Treatment at the ER at Maui Memorial Medical Center as we both have Asthma and I have hypertension: The doctors, nurses, intake and discharge staff treated and cared for us with such grace and compassion. We were so grateful!!! We also received a steroid treatment to help open our lungs. This treatment helped us but we still struggled to do simple daily tasks. That is when I had to just Let Go & Let God.

I prayed for healing and full recovery. We had everyone praying with us too. The help continued through our entire time in Isolation/Quarantine. There are no words to truly express the gratitude in our hearts for all of the blessings that we received and continue to receive. We are so grateful to everyone for all of their help and for lifting us up in prayer!!! We are feeling better each day, thank God.

My take away with this entire experience is to help others when you can, whether it's saying a prayer, giving of your time, making a donation or simply reaching out with words of encouragement. It will always come back to you, even when you least expect it or need it. Be kind, be loving, be compassionate. We are all struggling with one thing or another and we are truly all in this together. We are stronger together!!!

We look forward to healing more and more each day and sharing our experience, strength and hope with others...one day at a time.

Take Care & May God Bless You All!!!

Love and Aloha,
Shannon Ribao
(Vice Moderator & acting Moderator)

"Don't worry about anything, instead PRAY about everything." - Philippians 4:6



Sadly, scammers are always looking for new ways to cheat. The holidays are a particularly busy time for scammers. Be cautious and trust your senses. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Here are a few new scams to watch for. Be cautious and watch for these new scams.

Job Scams: Unfortunately, job scams have begun to increase according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). To protect yourself: 1. Don't accept a job without a phone or in-person interview. 2. Be extremely wary of checks given before you start for "supplies" or to "get you started." The check may be fake. 3. Be sure to research employers before giving them any of your personal information.

Package Delivery Scams: If you get a text mentioning a package from USPS, UPS, FedEx or another delivery service that you didn't expect, don't click! With this scam, you'll be sent a text with a fake shipment tracking code and a link to update your delivery preferences. Doing so will either download malware, or take you to a website that tries to trick you into providing personal info.

Dog and Cat Adoption Scams: Many people look to adopt a dog or cat during the holidays. Be wary if the seller: 1. Won't let you physically see the pet before you pay for it. 2. Will not accept major credit cards and may request a wire transfer, gift card, online payment apps or Venmo. To be safe, always research the seller, pay with a credit card and be sure to see the animal in person.

Please keep a look out and stay safe. For information on these scams and more, visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts. If you have fallen victim to a scam, file a complaint immediately at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov



Dawn from Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation-HARF was smiling ear to ear when she saw the collection of gifts Iao shared with the foundation. As you see here it was a "truck load" of goodies. Many a Mahalo for all of your generous gifts of love for the animals.



F

ood For Thought

Crust: 1/2 cup butter
1/3 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup flour
2/3 cup chopped nuts

Blend ingredients and press into 8x8 pan. Bake at 350 degrees until nearly done, about 15-20 minutes or until edges are lightly browned.

Filling: 8 oz. cream cheese
1 egg
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. vanilla

Whip and set in slightly cooled crust.

Topping: 1 large can Bartlett pears, drained well
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. sugar

Cut pears lengthwise and spread over filling.
Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon mixture. Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes. Keep refrigerated.

Hint: Cool pear dessert for about 20-25 minutes. Precut while still warm before refrigerating.

Submitted by Katherine Hashiro

Free (donations accepted) Metal office desk. 30" deep 60" wide and 29" high (normal desk height). Left hand side has 3- 5.5" deep drawers with a pull out work surface measuring 13" wide and 16" deep. Center pencil drawer is 23" wide. The right hand side includes one legal size file drawer, one 5.5" deep drawer and the same pull out work surface as on the left side. The top shows some wear in the surfacing material in the area where your arms would tend to rub on it. Delivery and typewriter not included.



Chinese New Year



Kung Hei Fat Choi

Two elves from our Visitation Team spread some Christmas cheer to our shut-ins during the holiday season. A poinsettia plant and butter mochi made by Jane Akitake was delivered to each.

First a trip over the river and through the macadamia trees to visit Rita Whitford. They reported that Rita's home was decked out for Christmas in all its glory for the holidays. The plant & mochi were meant for Larry, but due to Hale Makua restrictions, they left all that goodness with Rita.

Their second stop was at Gloria Nakama's daughter, Cindy's place of employment. Cindy got it to her mom with ease.

After a quick stop for a bite to eat, off the ladies flew for a Roselani drop off. Again because of in-person visiting restriction, the front desk became the delivery and pick-up spot for the goodies left for Gladys Itamura, Susie Kadoyama, Sadako Ige and Ruby Sakurada.

Thank you to these two special ladies for making time to remember those members always in our hearts.

Mahalo, Jane Tesoro and Lee Murakami



And from the council:

Our communities have been busy this past year. The volunteer hours they have put in have been immense. December 2021 was no different.



Buildings and grounds worked many a day keeping our campus grounds and buildings in working order. Endo Hall needed the bathroom floor replaced and a new toilet installed. The preschool got new and/or repaired toilets as well as work on the trough sink. There was an extra mowing of the lawn so the preschool could hold their Christmas program outside. They made sure those that needed new building and gate keys returned the old and signed out the new. (Not as simple as it sounds) They also drafted contracts for yard maintenance and janitorial services.

Stewarding Community worked on the Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross). We sent \$495 to support retired ministers and their families. Thank you to all who were able to make this possible.

The worshipping community worked along with Pastor to set up the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. As usual our chancel looked beautiful. Then of course they cleared it all off for Epiphany.

Communities have turned in their 2022 budgets. The finance community has worked along with Pastor to give us the church 2022 budget. Our expenses outweigh our income heavily. Pledge forms may still be turned in. Fundraising ideas are extremely welcome. We had come to rely heavily on the Frosty Pog Maui Fair sales. This may be the 3rd year without this revenue and it is catching up with us.

But as you can see from this newsletter, we are alive, we are on fire and we are a people of God, living and sharing the love of Christ and reflecting that love in words and actions.

Candance Sao Ling Noelani Legsay



Candance Sao Ling Noelani Legsay, 71, of Wailuku, Maui, passed away on December 26, 2021, at Kaiser Moanalua. She was born on March 6, 1950, in Wailuku, Maui.

Candance was a retired Station Tech at Hawaiian Telephone Company. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, James Legsay, Sr. She is survived by her children, James Legsay, Jr. (Dorna), Ray Legsay (Edda), Jamie Akiona (Kevin); siblings, Sandy Akina, Leslie Kahalekai (Barbara); grandchildren, James III, Javin, Jaenali, Cassie, Melanie, Kainoa, Ikua, Janessa, Conrad Jr., Misty, Aisha; and 32 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2022, at Ballard Family Mortuary; service will begin at 12:00 p.m.; burial will follow, 2:00 p.m., at Maui Memorial Park in Wailuku. Due to Covid-19, the use of masks and social distancing practices are required.

Online condolences may be made at: www.ballardfamilymortuaries.com

Candy and her husband James worked for Iao for many years. James cared for the yard and Candy kept us clean and tidy. They were always supportive in everything we did. After a year in a Honolulu hospital suffering with cancer, she told her family she was ready to be with James. Rest in God's arms Candy.



Talk and Tour open enrollment for the 2022-23 preschool year will be held January 6, 2022 in Kanda Hall. Their year starts on August 1 and ends on July 31. Registration fee is \$375 to be paid in cash only. Monthly tuition for the year has been set at \$825, cash or check no charging. Breakfast and lunch are prepared in the schools state approved kitchen and follow USDA nutritional guidelines. Parents sign-up to provide afternoon snack. For more information call the preschool office at 808-242-1995.

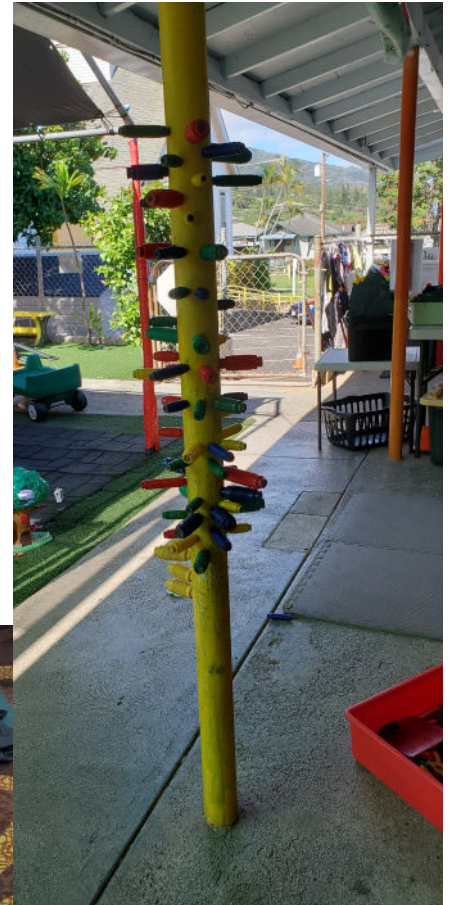


Once again the family homework decorated the sanctuary at Christmas time.



Trucks and ramps

Of course, it's a Christmas tree. A very tall Christmas tree.



Ocean creatures creations



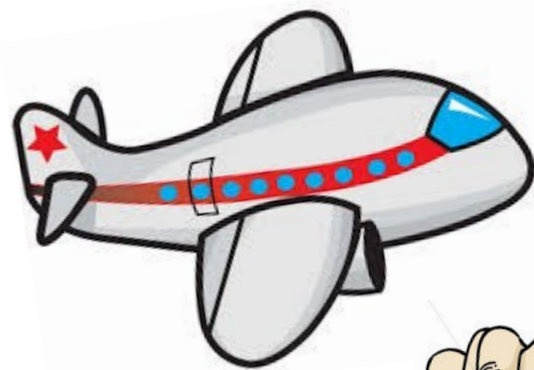
New Year's Word Search Puzzle

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

AROMAS
 BAND
 BUSY
 COUPLES
 CRACKERS
 CROWD
 DANCE
 DEEJAY
 EXCITEMENT
 FLOOR
 FRIENDLY
 FRIENDS
 HAPPY
 LIGHTING
 LOUD
 MERRY
 MUSIC
 TABLE
 TREATS
 WISHES

Flight 2022 Instructions

Good morning and welcome to Flight 2022. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position. All self-destructive devices: pity, anger, selfishness, pride, and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith. There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our captain, has cleared us for take-off. Destination—GREATNESS! Wishing you a New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY, and new BEGGININGS! Stay Blessed! And welcome in 2022.



Scenes from the awaiting for the Christ Child. Advent and Christmas 2021

Blue Christmas Service with Pastors Roxanne Whitelight, Scott Landis and Tino Cordova





Our annual meeting will be held February 27th following Sunday Service. Covid numbers will determine what venue the meeting will be conducted on. As of this date, this is the slate of officers to be voted upon at our next annual meeting. Nominations however, are not closed. They will be accepted up to and including at the meeting with permission of the person being nominated. 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

Financial Summary Information

A full report is available in the Church office

November 30, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets

BOH IAO PRSCHOOL CHECKING	83,731.48
BOH IAO PRESCHOOL SAVINGS ACCT	31,338.74
BOH IAO UCC ENDOWMENT SAVINGS	1,474.18
BOH Lillian Maeda Checking	1,130.96
First Hawaiian Checking	358.05
IFCU CHECKING	27,334.93
IFCU SAVINGS	<u>49,999.69</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>195,368.03</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	31,603.09
Retained Earnings	-1,709.52
Net Income	<u>165,474.46</u>
Total Equity	<u>195,368.03</u>

December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets

BOH IAO PRSCHOOL CHECKING	54,415.17
BOH IAO PRESCHOOL SAVINGS ACCT	40,838.74
BOH IAO UCC ENDOWMENT SAVINGS	1,474.18
BOH Lillian Maeda Checking	1,130.96
First Hawaiian Checking	358.05
IFCU CHECKING	31,707.43
IFCU SAVINGS	<u>51,799.69</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>181,724.22</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	31,603.09
Retained Earnings	-1,709.52
Net Income	<u>151,830.65</u>
Total Equity	<u>181,724.22</u>

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
26	27	28	29	30	31	1																																										
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2nd Sunday after Christmas				Epiphany AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day off Micronesian Women's Group 6-7 (K)	AA 7-8 (K)																																										
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The Baptism of Christ				AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day off Micronesian Women's Group 6-7 (K)	AA 7-8 (K)																																										
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																										
2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Martin Luther King Day Office Closed			AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day off Micronesian Women's Group 6-7 (K)	AA 7-8 (K)																																										
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																										
3rd Sunday after Epiphany			Council Meeting 5:45	AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day off Micronesian Women's Group 6-7 (K)	Island Wedding 3:30 (P) AA 7-8 (K)																																										
30	31	1	2	3	4	5																																										
4th Sunday after Epiphany Annual Meeting 11:00 am					<div>2022 FEBRUARY</div> <table> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</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					
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☐ If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check this box to mark as: "Return to Sender."

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Email: iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net
Website: iaoucc.org
facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/

VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP **9:30 A.M.**
Pastor Florentino Cordova
Acting Moderator Shannon Ribao
Church Admin Vacant
Choir Director & Pianist Vacant
Newsletter Dawna Krueger
Iao Preschool Director Florida 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.