

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

March/April 2022

Easter – Already?

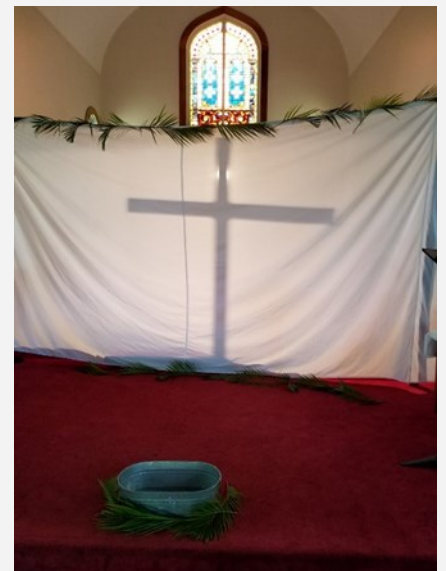
Wow is this year going by fast or what! What a Lenten journey it has been Church! We began with Ash Wednesday as a church and then continued with this Ecumenical experiment with other faith leaders of our community. Together with St Anthony's Catholic Church, we have brought to you our Lent Theme: *"In View of God's Mercy."* The series has included *"Mercy in Temptation, Mercy in Suffering, Mercy in Betrayal, Mercy in Relationships, and Mercy in Service."* Big "thank you" goes out to Msgr. Terry Watanabe, Kahu John Tomoso, Rev. Dr. Roxanne Whitelight, and Kahu Wayne Higa for their reflection they brought based on this series. We began with just a few on March 9 and it grew to over forty these last couple of Wednesdays. This has been a great example when we can come together with our ecumenical partners and join in one accord (Honda kine) to bring God's words of comfort to all people. Keep nurturing these types of relationships Iao Church and know that while on this Christian journey we are not alone.

Our upcoming Holy Week schedule will be one that I hope you will find moving, spiritually lead, and that you are able to take some time for rest, prayer, and reflection. All worship services will be held in-person and virtually, except for Good Friday, there will only be a written liturgy and no "on screen" projection that night in the sanctuary but you can still see it via Facebook live. On Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 6:30pm we will have communion, so if you plan on joining us virtually, please gather your elements for that night. I will also be washing "stinky" feet that night to symbolize, as Jesus did with his disciples, to prepare you for the next journey ahead. Good Friday, April 15th at 7pm, we will be reading responsorial from the Gospel of John and joined by Rev. Dr. Scott Landis – Transitional Pastor at our sister Church, Keawalai Congregational Church UCC, Rev. Dr. Roxanne Whitelight – retired Lutheran Pastor, Kahu John Tomoso – Episcopal Priest, Kahu Danette Kong – Retired UCC Chaplain who will be playing the piano for us, and of course many of our Iao Youth will join us as well. Then join us for resurrection Sunday on April 17th at our 9:30am worship services.

As was revealed at our March 22nd Council meeting and March 27th Congregational meeting, I have turned in my letter of resignation, effective June 26th. Rongchao has accepted a position at the "continent," and we have made the decision to move back. This will give us an opportunity to see our grandbabies more often. These last five years has been a wonderful learning experience for me, and a great adventure filled with awe in what God has done through our ministry together. As difficult as this will be to part from one another, let us celebrate between now and then on what we have been able to do together. I truly believe there is a bright future for Iao UCC. Believe in each other, believe in your faithfulness, believe in who you are as Iao United Church of Christ. This time of transition will require a "all-hands-on-deck" until you find your next settled pastor. Rongchao and I express our deepest gratitude and love and know that we will hold each of you in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers.

Blessings with hugs and prayers.

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



March Lectionary

March 2 **Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12:12-17

Psalm 51:1-17

Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6th **First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 13th **2nd Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18;

Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1;

Luke 13:31-35

March 20th **3rd Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9;

Psalm 55:1-9; Corinthians 10:1-13;

Luke 13:1-9

March 27th **4th Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;

Corinthians 5:16-21;

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The lesson in **bold** is the focus of both message of the day and any Sunday School lesson; the *italicized* title is the theme for the Sunday service



Addition/Correction to the Directory of Church Members and Friends January 2022

Branda Jim:

brandajim7@yahoo.com

Grace Murata: delete cell phone

Add to friends:

Nunokawa Family, 834 Alewa

Dr., Hon., HI 96817

Remove:

Ruby Sakurada

IAO United Church of Christ

Directory of

Church Members and Friends

January 2022



2371 W. Vineyard Street

Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

(808) 244-7353

Pastor Florentino "Tino" Cordova

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email: iaoucc.hawaiiintel.net

Preschool (808) 242-1995 email: iaopreschool808@gmail.com

April Lectionary

April 3 **5th Sunday in Lent**

Isa 43:16-21

Ps 126

Phil 3:4b-14

Jn 12:1-8

Something New

April 10 **Sixth Sunday in Lent**

(Liturgy of the Palms)

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

Luke 19:28-40

(Liturgy of the Passion)

Isa 50:4-9a

Ps 31:9-16

Phil 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Into Jerusalem

April 17 **Easter**

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 65:17-25

Ps 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Cor 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43

Jn 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Resurrection Joy

April 24 **Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 5:27-32

Ps 118:14-29 or Ps 150

Rev 1:4-8

Jn 20:19-31

Resurrection Witness

TOTAL NUMBER FOR February

Total Children Served (0-17 yrs.)	283	Total Adults Served (18 yrs. +)	333*
Total New People Registered	17	Total Days Program Operated	19
Total Families/Households Served	298	Total Meals and Snacks Served	274

March Birthdays

3/4 Robyn Webb
 3/10 Richard Komo
 3/12 Grace Murata
 3/13 Gail Ideue
 3/14 Bobby Hill
 3/17 Yaeko Furukawa
 3/18 Gladys Itamura
 3/20 Larry Whitford
 3/21 Sonny Yoruw
 3/24 Danann Mitchell-Hardman
 3/25 David Murata
 3/25 Domisiano Defang
 3/30 Lee Miurakami
 3/31 Molly Murai



I pray that God gives
 you a rainbow for
 every storm, a smile
 for every tear, a
 promise for every
 care and a blessing
 for every year

April Birthdays

4/1 Dennis Hashiro
 4/7 Annie Hill
 Jenna Johannes
 Tim Greathouse
 4/14 Darson Defang
 4/17 Jonathan Kaneshina
 4/21 Susan King
 4/23 Joshua Yoruw
 4/26 Jefferson Yinmed
 Pamela Ikeda
 4/29 J.A.C. Yoruw
 Mike Yamashiro
 4/30 Warren Orikasa



Feeding Those in Need in our Community

Some of you may have noticed much more hustle happening up at the church office. One of my favorite things to say is...

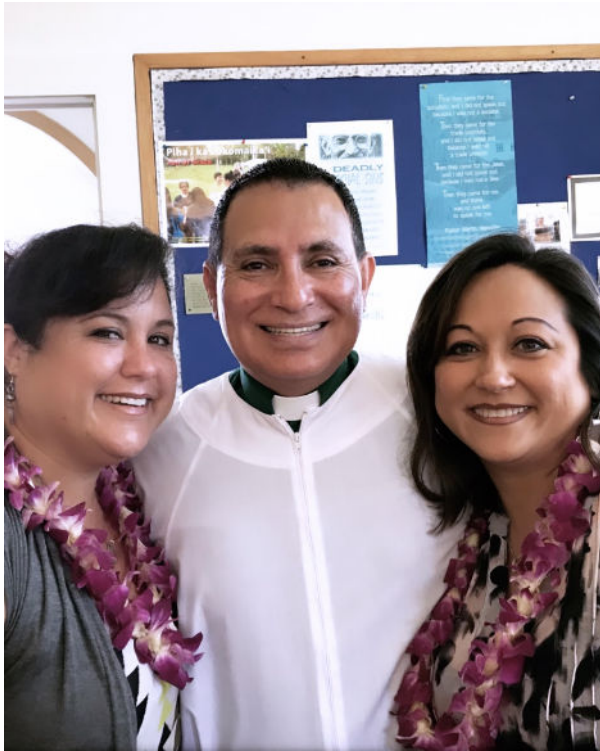
“If you Feed Them, They Will Come.”

And since last November, Iao UCC has managed to increase the number of food boxes given to those men, women and children in need of food; increases each month! We have also increased the number of times we shop at the Maui Food Bank from twice each month to nearly once each week due to the need for our unsheltered, families that are experiencing the hardships of losing employment or unable to find a job.

Soon we will be including recipes for using a portion of the USDA food we distribute.

*February total served is higher because of the distribution done at the Keiki Health Fair.

TOTAL NUMBER FOR March			
Total Children Served (0-17 yrs.)	146	Total Adults Served (18 yrs. +)	212
Total New People Registered	20	Total Days Program Operated	23
Total Families/Households Served	212	Total Meals and Snacks Served	358



Dear Lao UCC Ohana,

I have been reflecting on my journey to Lao UCC. Wow, what a journey it has been. My wife and I attended our first worship service on February 19, 2017. We heard that there was going to be an openly gay pastor speaking and we were interested in hearing what he had to say. We saw Pastor Tino and immediately were in awe and felt so moved by his sermon. We also received such a warm welcome from the congregation...so we kept coming back each Sunday.

Soon thereafter we started attending membership classes. On November 6, 2017 we became members of Lao UCC. A few months later, I became Vice Moderator. I had no idea what I was getting myself into but felt like the Holy Spirit was moving me to a position of service.

This church means so much to me. Jaime and I were married here on February 9, 2019. We have both been active participants in various communities and events. Then the pandemic hit us all and my Faith grew even stronger. I realized more than ever what it meant to "be the church". The "church" is just a building and that is not what I missed about not being able to gather. I missed all of the people, seeing everyone's faces each week and the warm greetings that we would share.

Fast forward to 2022... I am so blessed and honored to be your New Moderator. As we move together through Lent and Easter, I am so grateful to God for guiding me here. Just like Jesus had to go through his own obstacles of life, we each have had to endure our own struggles and triumphs. No matter what life throws at us, we will be stronger together.

I encourage every one of you to pause and to take a look at your own personal journey with Christ and to reflect on all of your blessings.

I love you all and look forward to growing together this year. Remember this, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me". - Philippians 4:13

Love & Blessings,
Shannon Ribao
Moderator

Time with the
children returned
on April 3, 2022.
Oh, Happy Day!

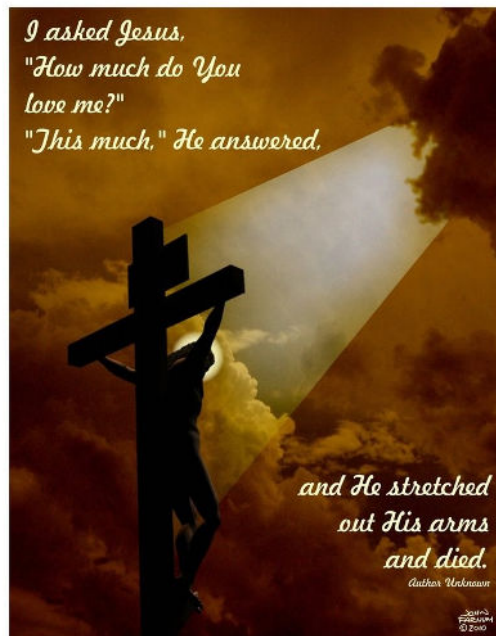


Iao United Church of Christ
2371 W. Vineyard Street in Wailuku
Invites You
To Our Good Friday Worship Services

Friday—April 15 at 7pm

**“...So they took Jesus to Golgotha and
there they crucified him.”**

John 19:17-18



Maundy Thursday Service April 14, 6:30 p.m.



March 2022

A Time of Mourning

Sadly, one of our class fish passed away early this week. One of the Caterpillar children found her, and we discussed life and death. We decided to have a funeral for our lost friend, where the children worked together to bury her body and took turns saying something nice to her or about her. One of the children even requested to share a short prayer in her honor.



Uncle Wayne is back, along with Ms. Gemma!

Due to COVID restrictions, the children were treated to an “outdoor concert” on the grassy hill area of the playground. Caterpillar and Butterfly groups were able to stay within their “group bubbles” as they danced and sang along with Uncle Wayne!



Rotary Club Donates Fruit Trees to Iao UCC Campus

After our team effort with the Rotary Club to offer an immunization clinic, food distribution and community services, they offered us fruit trees to plant around our campus.

These trees will, in the near future, bear up fruit for food and healthy snacks for our keiki thru our kapuna, provide shade, and homes for birds and bees and add beauty to our campus.

Our buildings and grounds crew brought out their shovels and planted:

- 2 Navel Orange
- 1 Tangelo
- 1 Tahitian Lime
- And
- 1 Meyer Lemon

We send our sincere Mahalo to the Rotary for their generous donation.

Check out the campus, by the bell tower, behind the preschool and near Endo Hall.

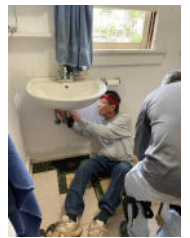




The Stewarding Community wishes to send a big mahalo to all those who made contributions to this year's One Great Hour of Sharing in March. There is still time to make your donation. Deliver or send your check to the church and mark it OGHS in the memo line. Donations help us to reach our 5 for 5 giving to the Conference's wider missions.

Annual Meeting 2021 in Review

Most of our communities presented their year's worth of activities at our annual meeting held on March 27, 2022. It seemed like a treat to be able to meet together in the sanctuary for our meeting. Buildings and Grounds took the lead as usual. They were busy almost every week with a new project like putting the street numbers on Fujutomo Hall to repairing numerous plumbing issues. .



Stewarding Community was busy with promoting our 5 for 5 special offerings and carrying out a successful Stewardship campaign which makes it possible for the financial operating of the church. Be Thankful Trustful and Transforming was the theme with Jack Yoruw and Dawna Krueger as guest stewards.

While the Worshipping Community worked in the background most of the year they, were always on call for when the covid numbers would be in a safe range to open the sanctuary for worship. Pastor Tino and Rongchao worked tirelessly putting together the livestream and Facebook for us to enjoy at home.

Bert Akitake reported that the preschool was in fair shape. Enrollment is at capacity (37) and staff are working hard to keep everyone in their bubble. A new and exciting excursion will be visiting IMUA Adventure Facility across the street.

A vote was taken to approve the bi-laws with the corrections made. Some of the wording and titles of positions needed to be changed to fit the new jobs that have been created and or changed. Under Membership there was slight changes and Friends of the church was added.

The vote for our new slate of council officers was unanimous. They are:

Moderator: Shannon Ribao
Vice-Moderator: Youlida Yoruw
Secretary: Jackie Murai
Treasure: Warren Orikasa
Financial Secretary: Katherine Hashiro
Assistant financial Secretary: Gail Ideue

This is just a few of the highlights from that meeting. It only goes to show you that we are going strong. We will need everyone's time, talent and treasures to make 2022 another successful year



F

ood For Thought



Corn Bread

From *Jane Hee's Best of the Best Hawaii Recipes*
Submitted by Jacki Murai

3 c. bisquick 1 c. sugar 1/2 c. cornmeal
1/2 t. salt 1 t. baking powder 1-1/2 c. milk
3 eggs 3/4 c oil 1T vanilla 1/2c butter
(Jackie uses 1/4 c butter)

Mix dry ingredients. Add the remaining ingredients, except for the butter. Pour into 9 X13 pan and bake at 350-F for 35 minutes or longer until done. Melt butter and spread over to immediately after baking.



Slow Cooker Chicken Taco Soup

Prep time: 15 min
Cook time: 7 hours
Servings: 8

1 onion, chopped 1 (16 ounce) can chili beans
1 (15 ounce) black beans 1 (15 ounce) can corn, drained
1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce 1 (12 ounce) can/bottle beer
2 (10ounce) can diced tomatoes w/green chilies, undrained
1 packages taco seasoning
3 whole boneless chicken breasts 1 cup crushed tortilla chips
Optional: Cheddar cheese , sour cream

Place onion, chili beans, black beans, corn, tomato sauce, beer and dices tomatoes in a slow cooker. Add taco seasoning and stir to blend. Lay chicken breasts on top of the mixture, pressing down slightly until just covered by the other ingredients. Set slow cooker for low heat, cover, and cook 5 hours.

Remove chicken breasts from the soup and allow to cool long enough to be handled. Shred the chicken and stir back into the soup. Continue to cooking for 2 hours. Serve topped with shredded cheese, a dollop of sour cream and crushed tortilla chips. (from *allrecipes* submitted by Jackie Murai

This is included with a food box:
Almost every time we visit the Maui Food Bank, there's usually a few items that can be counted on being there. One of these is USDA canned pork. Here's a way you might want to try using the can of pork along with various items you may also find in your food box. The last trip to the Maui Food Bank I found lots of bagels! there were also heirloom carrots and Oat Milk (it's delicious!) of course, there was rice and canned pork as well. BBQ pork sandwiches:

1 bagel per person*
1 can of pork-drained* (put the drained juices to the side for now)
1 small bottle of any BBQ sauce that you like.
1 small diced onion or onion flakes (optional)
In a medium size saucepan, pour 1-2 Tbs. of the drained pork juice into the saucepan and sauté the onion until soft and add the drained pork to the saucepan.

Keeping the heat at a medium to low temperature, let the pork and onion simmer for a couple of minutes. You'll probably need to break apart the pork using a couple of forks.
Once meat is soft and heated, add BBQ@ sauce into the pan. Don't make it runny with too much sauce! Place a lid on the saucepan and turn down heat to simmer.

While the pork simmers, toast bagels in a toaster, toaster oven or in a skillet remove when bagel is lightly golden. Brush both halves with olive oil, mayonnaise or butter.

You can now decide if you want your sandwich "open face" or not. Trust me, open face is better!
place generous portions of pork on both halves of the bagel and enjoy. Add chilled canned fruit* or a rainbow of sliced raw carrots* and you have a meal!

Submitted by Susan King

Spring and Easter Word Scramble

1, treweah

2, puitl

3, uorspt

4, gpnirs

5, hnieussn

6, ssenao

7, ianr

8, brnowia

9, bitbar

10, tens

11, ctahh

12, elfsrwo

13, sertae

14, gsge

15, nynub

16, omolb

17, thirb

18, rflytteub

19, ckhic

20, rsasg





March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
			Ash Wednesday Service Sanctuary 6:30 PM		World Day of Prayer	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			Lenten Service St. Anthony 6:30PM Rev. Tino			Keiki Health Fair Kanda Hall
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 11:00-1:00PM
	One Great Hour of Sharing		Lenten Service Iao UCC 6:30PM Msg Watanabe	St. Patrick's Day.		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
First Day of Spring!			Lenten Service St. Anthony 6:30PM Rev. Roxanne		Prince Kuhio Day Office Closed	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Iao UCC Annual Meeting 11:00AM Bento Lunch will be Provided One Great Hour of Sharing			Lenten Service Iao UCC Rev. Tomoso			

April 2022

Calendarpedia
Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
27	28	29	30	31	1	2																																										
<div> <div>MAY 2022</div> <table> <tr> <th>SUN</th><th>MON</th><th>TUE</th><th>WED</th><th>THU</th><th>FRI</th><th>SAT</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>							SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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	Al-Anon 4:30-6(K)			AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day off Microne- sian Wom- en's Group 6-7 (K)	AA 7-8 (K)																																										
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																										
				Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm	Pastor's Day off Micronesia Women's Group 6 -7 (K) Good Friday Service 7 pm	Holy Saturday AA 7-8 (K)																																										
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																										
				AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day off Microne- sian Wom- en's Group 6-7 (K) Earth Day	AA 7-8 (K)																																										
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																										
			Council Meeting 5:45	AA 7-8 (K)	Pastor's Day off Microne- sian Wom- en's Group 6-7 (K)	AA 7-8 (K)																																										



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Iao United Church of Christ

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facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/

VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 A.M.

Pastor

Florentino Cordova

Moderator

Shannon Ribao

Church Admin

Vacant

Choir Director & Pianist

Vacant

Newsletter

Dawna Krueger

Iao Preschool Director

Flerida Iniba

You are always welcome at Iao UCC.
We are a people of God, living and sharing
the love of Christ through words
and actions.