A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

March 2023

Father, Holy Week reminds us how intentional
You are about loving us.
You came to save the lost,
You sent Your only Son to be sacrificed
so we could be in Your presence.

Jesus, thank You for making a way for us.

May we come to know fully and
never forget the lengths You went to save us.

Bring the story of each day to life for us
as we walk through this week.

Move our hearts closer to You, and direct our lives to bring honor to You. Jesus, help us to follow Your new command of love. Help us to understand and receive Your love, and teach us how to love the people in our lives well.



Bless this week, Father, and may many new souls come to receive Your grace.

In Jesus' Holy Name,
Amen.

March Lectionary

Mar 5 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 12:1-4a

Ps 121

Rom 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-9

Bold Blessing

Mar 12 3rd Sunday in Lent

Ex 17:1-7 Ps 95

Rom 5:1-11

John 4:5-42 Thirsty Voices

Amistad Sunday / Day Light Saving Time Begin

Mar 19 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Sam 16:1-12

Ps 23

Eph 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Restored

One Great Hour of Sharing

Mar 26 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezek 37:1-14

Ps 130

Rom 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Breath of Hope

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.

Day Light Savings Time Change

On Sunday
March 12,2023
service at
lao UCC
will begin at
10:00 am



Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education, sustainable development and so much more. Thank you for your generous gift to OGHS!



March Birthdays

3/4 Robyn Webb

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 Yurow

3/24 Danann Mitchell-Hardman

3/25 David Murata

3/25 Domisiano Defang

3/30 Lee Murakami

3/31 Molly Murai

Worship responsibility

Usher/Greeter Adult Reader Youth Reader

Aloha Hour

Jackie Murai Danny and Linda Johannes Makelyn Johannes Anne Hill



Prayer List: Rita Whitford, Ukraine, Those you hold near and dear to your heart



| Shannon's Scoops | Moderator's Notes

Aloha Iao UCC Family, friends and community,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and great spirits. As always, if you need anything, please call our office at (808) 244-7353.

Happy March to all of you!!!

As we begin this season of Lent, let us break away from our normal routine of daily life and focus on our spiritual journey. Let us slow down and tune out the busyness around us.



Lent is a season for many believers. It can be a time of fasting, prayer, reflection, repentance and drawing closer to God. It is not uncommon to grieve during this process as we let go of the parts of our lives that no longer serve us, therefore making room for new things to come. We are called and encouraged during this season to be intentional about seeking God.

The Lenten journey is an invitation to embrace the empty places we might prefer to avoid; to breathe deeply, love fully, act justly; and to find Jesus in the stillness and the storm.



Let us be creative on what we choose to "fast" from. Maybe instead of giving something up for Lent, we can "add" a healthy spiritual practice to our daily lives. Let's invite a friend to church and/or be open about worshiping at another church. May we fast from judgment and feast on love!!!

This month we are springing forward and will be trying something new here at lao UCC. On Sunday, March 12th we are honored to have Reverend Josh Hayashi preaching for us again. Our service will begin at 10:00 am. We will also have a joint "talk story" session with a potluck gathering with

our neighbors from Wailuku Union Church and Kaahumanu Church following our worship service. This will give us an opportunity to get to know one another better.

We are also doing a few joint worship services during this season leading up to Easter. I look forward to gathering as one body in Christ, learning and growing together.

May God continue to bless us all on our Lenten journey. As we quiet our minds and open our hearts, may we also grow closer to God in the stillness.

Love and Aloha, Shannon Ribao Grateful Moderator



[&]quot;Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." - Romans 12:12



SUNDAY, March 12, 2023 Church Service

> IAO UCC will start

Filling our pulpit will be Rev. Josh Hayashi

10 A.M.

Bring your favorite potluck dish to share after service.

(Let's start thinking green and make clean-up a breeze. Feel free to bring your own plate, flatware, drink/water bottle.

Maybe even a bowl, never know when there might be a soup or two.

After you have enjoyed an overload of fellowship and food, put your chairs away, wipe your table, take all your dishes and any left over food home with you.

Mahalo.



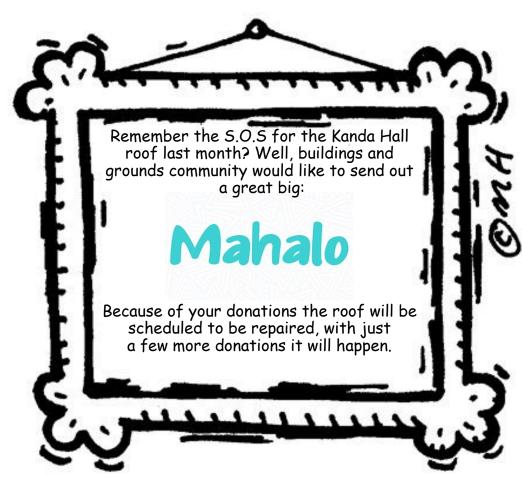
She has hit 90 years young.
And there is only one thing on her wish list. That's right just one!
A birthday card/wish from you!
Who is this lucky lady? It is our one and only Gardener and flower arranger magnificent:

Grace Murata! So help to make this milestone birthday great for her. Send a birthday wish by March 17th to:

Grace Murata 639Holopuni Road Kula, HI 96790









March is a month with 5 Thursdays. Iao UCC"s turn to provide the shelter dinner. Once again under the ever faithful guidance of Gail Ideue the meal will be prepared in Kanda Hall. She could use help in a number of ways. As usual dessert if needed. So that means COOKIES (or other single serve desserts). If you can provide cookies and or help her on Thursday, March 30 please let her know. She may be contacted at 808.281.7830.



FREE!

Douglas Fir Wooden Door 2 " thick X 8 Wx9H Buyer responsible to remove and haul. Contact: Howard Ikeda 808.276.9387



The Building and Grounds Community are working diligently to receive proposals from contractors to repair Kanda Hall's roof. We had leaks in the kitchen and by the entrance door. Tarps were installed on the roof to prevent further water damage in the kitchen. Lumber and concrete blocks were used to hold down the tarps. Kanda Hall existing roof is approximately 20 years old.

B & G are so thankful for all your continued monetary support to repair Kanda Hall roof before the next storm.

Students from Douglas High, Juneau, Alaska will be staying in Kanda Hall from February 26 to March 4, 2023. The students will be working with Habitat for Humanity Maui on home construction project.

Plans are in progress to replace the Sanctuary carpet. No timeline has been set. More details are forth coming.

On February 25, Saturday the Kosrae/Etawi group and B & G will back fill cement rubble around the chain link fence posts in the back of Fujitomo and Kanda Hall. The dirt that used to support the chain link fence posts has eroded away from the heavy rains.

Thank you for all your support,

B & G Community or 808.244.1388.

From the Pantry

Our Food Pantry is constantly changing, just like the weather. We began by serving a handful from the Unsheltered community in Wailuku and skyrocketed into a need from our community at large. More and more families are coming on a weekly basis due to the soaring prices at our local super markets.



In February we helped feed more than 190 people with at least 60 children under the age of 17. Our regular weekly customers now feel like family and it's often bittersweet when an individual or family stops coming in...happy because they are now able to feed their family but sad to no longer seeing them coming in for a food box. Then a new person or family fills the void.

Because quite a few people that come by are grateful for the nonfood items we sometimes get from the food bank but the majority comes from the generosity of our congregation. Now that the weather is cooler, the most requested items are: towels, blankets, soap and shampoo, socks and rain ponchos. Many are unable to go to Cup of Cold Water for various reasons and are grateful for what we are able to supply.

UCC leaders call for peace in Ukraine one year after Russian invasion

by UCC Officers | published on Feb 24, 2023

We offer this prayer and invite you to join us in sharing it as a part of your personal prayer time this weekend, or in an act of public worship when you gather with your community of faith.

Creator God, maker of all that is good.

Comforter God, restorer of peace between all peoples.

Redeemer God, healer of wounds that inflict trauma and chaos:

We turn to you this day crying out for an end to a war that rages across the land of Ukraine, threatens the lives of its inhabitants, and displaces millions of children no longer able to sleep in their beds, attend their schools, or play with their friends.

May your Spirit of peace soften the hearts of the politicians who rattle their sabers and threaten

nuclear annihilation.

May your vision of a just world thwart the ambitions of dictators who are thirsty for conquer and

May your hope of shalom engender within our own hearts the call to let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with us.

Help us find the pathway to peace, a Just Peace, built on human rights and equity not just in Ukraine but in every land where bombs and guns are the sounds to which children fall asleep and from which families flee.

You are the source of our peace.

You are the horizon of our hope.

You are the author of our love.

May the promise of your enduring peace, your abiding hope, and your everlasting love sustain us all and bring the promise of a new and better day to the people of Ukraine.

Amen.



too and how to care for

bus ride to watch the Lion Dance . We all had our red envelopes.



The Stewardship Community wishes to again thank those who turned in their pledge sheet for 2023. Thank you to those who have volunteered for the different communities. These groups always have a good time and get to know each other much better.

At our annual meeting, set fo April 16,2023 after the church service. We will have a proposed budget to present to the congregation Should you like to see this document before hand contact Warren Orikasa, 808.276.8089, and he will be able to provide that for you.

Why Holy Week Matters?

During Holy Week, we walk alongside Jesus through the central mystery of our faith.

Without Jesus' Passion, death and resurrection — the central mystery of our faith — we would not have a path to eternal life.

Christians have always considered the celebration of Easter as the most important. We celebrate it every Sunday, but every year, we celebrate it in a very special way during Holy Week."

To arrive at the joy of Easter, we must first travel through the suffering that preceded it. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and continues through the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

As we get closer to the day of Easter, the whole Church slows down. We almost are walking through the events of Jesus' life in real time."

Walking with Jesus through these most important days allows us to draw nearer to Him as we reflect on His infinite love and mercy.

As we all fall more in love with Jesus, as we're all called to do, it only makes sense that we're going to want to be there to celebrate the commemoration of some of the most important moments of His life. On another level, these are the most important celebrations of the Church year — they are the most solemn, the most unique. The beauty, the reverence and the prayerfulness can all draw us closer into our relationship with Jesus. These are the most significant moments for Him, so why shouldn't they be the most significant moments for us as well?

Apart from the special liturgies observed during Holy Week, adopting some extra practices into your own family life can help drive home the unique importance of these holy days.

It's so important to make the faith a living thing, not just a thing of the past. Even though these things occurred thousands of years ago, we can still unite ourselves with Christ's suffering and do everything we can to commemorate what happened.

A family's Holy Week observances at home, might include a special dinner on Holy Thursday and fasting from entertainment on Good Friday, can help shape the understanding of the events Holy Week. These practices make it totally different from the rest of the year, helping us to really appreciate Easter even more.

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the beginning of His journey to the cross and a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets. The tradition of blessing palms stems from the New Testament account of people placing palms in Jesus' path, singing hosannas, as He arrived in Jerusalem.

Although Palm Sunday Mass begins with a joyful procession, it quickly turns toward the solemnity of the upcoming week with the Gospel reading of the Passion.

"The character of Holy Week is a mix of human emotions where we have these great, joyful moments like the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem," Father Anstoetter said. "We have Jesus at the Last Supper giving us the Eucharist — what greater gift is there? — and instituting the priesthood. These are moments of real joy, but they are always counterbalanced by the looming reality of Jesus proceeding toward the crucifixion."

Liturgical living: Use your blessed palm fronds to make a cross and hang it in a prominent place in your home. Leave it up through the year until the following Lent, when the palms should be returned to your parish to be burned into ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Maundy Thursday

The season of Lent ends on **Maunday Thursday**, when we enter into the three days in which we relive **Christ's Paschal Mystery** — His suffering, death and resurrection.

At the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we also celebrate when Jesus for the first time gave His true body and blood for the apostles to eat and drink.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper — and the other liturgies — include some rituals only found in the celebrations of those specific events, such as the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday.

Holy Week is so special that we do these things that only can appear once a year. That gives them more impact; it expresses more deeply their importance in expressing the Paschal Mystery."

At the end of the Lord's Supper, nearly everything is removed from the altar and sanctuary, including any linens, candles and statues, a reflection of the emptiness of the world without Christ.

The Lord's Supper is not celebrated between the time of Jesus' death and resurrection, which is why Communion hosts may not be consecrated on Good Friday.

Liturgical living: Prepare and share a dinner with foods similar to the Passover meal Jesus might have enjoyed with His friends — lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs (try them on potatoes or roasted vegetables). Every moment can be a teaching moment. Explain to the kids that we're having this food as a commemoration of what Jesus might have eaten at the Last Supper."

Join in the tradition of visiting the altars of repose at seven churches on Holy Thursday evening. Pick any seven churches in your area, and at each church, take a few minutes to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, placing yourself in the presence of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday

On **Good Friday**, we mark the end of Jesus' Passion, culminating in His crucifixion. This is the only day of the liturgical year where communion is not celebrated.

Good Friday is a solemn day of both fasting and abstinence. Tradition holds that Jesus was on the cross from noon to 3 p.m., and many observe that time in silence or pause at the 3 p.m. hour to remember the time of Jesus' death.

Even as we unite ourselves to the intense suffering of Jesus with His mother at the foot of the cross, we know that the crucifixion serves as the path to the resurrection and our redemption. Unless there is Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday.

Liturgical living: Fast from your phone, non-religious music and movies, or even electricity during the noon-3 p.m. hours, commemorating the time of darkness that fell over the earth while Jesus hung on the cross. "It really helps keep your focus on what is going on in the liturgical calendar that day. When you remove those things, you can't help but remember that this is Good Friday.

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday begins with the silence of Jesus in the tomb before the evening Easter Vigil, the joyful culmination of Holy Week celebrating the Lord's resurrection. After walking with Jesus through his suffering, Passion and death, we reach the empty tomb — Jesus is alive!

The triumphant songs of the Easter Vigil — <u>the Exsultet</u> and the Great Alleluia — proclaim Christ's victory over sin and death. The paschal candle is blessed at the Easter Vigil and serves as a symbol of Christ, light of the world.

We understand Jesus' Passion and death through the lens of hope that His resurrection assures. But every piece of God's salvific plan — including the suffering, undertaken out of love for us — matters.

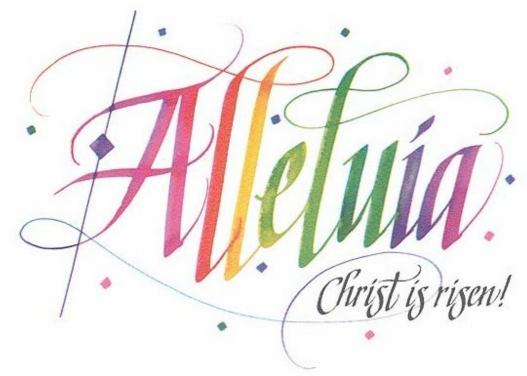
"It's the Paschal Mystery — all the joy, all the victory always passes through the darkness, the sin and death, to arrive at the joy of Easter," Father Anstoetter said. "We know the final destination is all joy. It's all the resurrection, it's all life, it's all light. But to get there, we pass through darkness and pass through sin and suffering."

Liturgical living: Recall the quiet of Jesus in the tomb by saving Easter celebrations, like egg hunts and decadent meals, for after the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday.

After the evening Easter Vigil, celebrate! Sing "alleluia" and enjoy a special treat or gathering, whether that be breaking into the Easter chocolate or hosting a post-vigil barbecue for your family and friends. Our fasting is over, and the joy of the resurrection is here.

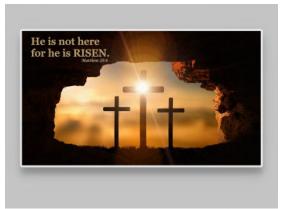
Easter Sunday

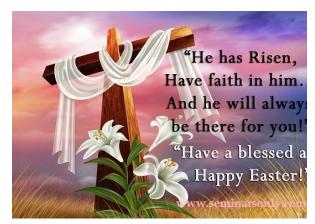
In commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus, Easter also celebrates the defeat of death and the hope of salvation. Christian tradition holds that the sins of humanity were paid for by the death of Jesus and that his Resurrection represents the anticipation believers can have in their own resurrection..

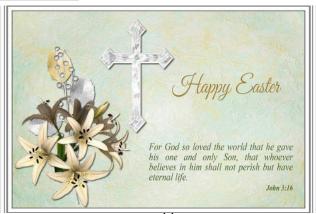




- April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday at Iao UCC; 9:30am Sermon by Kahu Alika. No communion.
- April 6 Maundy Thursday service @ 6pm at Iao UCC. Sermon by Pastor Robb Kojima with communion.
- No Good Friday service this year
- April 9 Easter Sunrise Service at Kaahumanu Church; Time TBA;
 Sermon by Rev. Jack Belsom
- April 9 Easter Service at Iao UCC 9:30am; Pastor Roxanne presiding. No communion.
- *Please note the adjusted communion schedule.







It's all in a days work. And work they did. Along with B & G and a number of men from Kosrae Etawi the eroding land behind Kanda and Fujitomo Hall became secured and safe. Be sure to take a walk around our church campus to see all the fixes that have been and there are more on the way, Mahalo to all those who are keeping our grounds safe and well maintained.



Ben Sheets Installed as Pastor of Lāna'i Union Church

At their recent winter meeting on February 11, the 'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Moloka'i A Me Lāna'i installed Ben Sheets as pastor of Lāna'i Union Church, where he began serving in early 2021.

















NICODEMUS REBORN

Discover the hidden words.

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Word Bank

SPIRIT

WORLD NIGHT
LIFE JEWS
PHARISEES KINGDOM

MESSIAH

QUESTION NICODEMUS

JESUS TEACH



March 2023

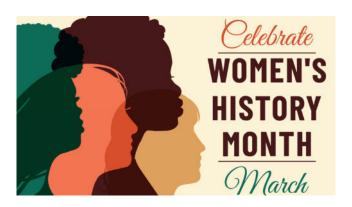


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Guest Minister Roxanne WhiteLight		MFG District	Food Pantry Closed				
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Guest Minister Jack Belsom			Food Pantry Closed			Kosrae Campus Clean-up	
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lao United Church of Christ 2371 W. Vineyard Street Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

(808) 244-7353 iaoucc@hawaiiantel.net



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What's inside . . .

Iao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard Street Wailuku, HI 96793-1626

Office phone: (808) 244-7353
Food Pantry: (808) 446-7537
Office hours: Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

IN PERSON/VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

Pastor Vacant

Moderator Shannon Ribao
Church Office Administrator Choir Director & Pianist
Newsletter Dawna Krueger
IaoUCC 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.