

Iao Pepa

Na Makani

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

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

July 2023

You Make Me Better



Kahu Kalani Wong, KS Maui

Ho'okala kahi mea hao i kekahi mea hao,
Ho'okala ho'i ke kanaka i ka maka o
kona hoalauna.- Na Solomona 27:17

As iron sharpens iron,
So one person sharpens another.-
Proverbs 27:17

There are times that I think that I'd love to live off-grid in someplace remote, away from all the crime and mayhem that seems to be happening in our world. Have you ever felt like that? I can picture a cabin on the top of a mountain, overlooking a vibrant forest with a creek flowing nearby. That would probably be great for a while, until I go stir crazy and miss the human interaction.

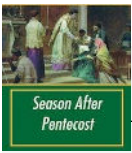
We as humans are meant to be in community with one another. We are made to be with others and to find comfort through the aloha that another person gives. We grow and become better people. One of my mentors told me several times that his wife was not the person he married. That's because each of them had grown in ways that happens when love and trust are a part of the relationship. I think of who I was when I first met my wife and who I am today- a very different person, hopefully for the better because of my pilina with my wife.

As iron sharpens iron, so, one person sharpens another.

We can make this world a better place by looking for the positive things of others, recognizing their strengths and our weaknesses, working collaboratively with one another. The bringing together of two minds to make a bigger and better outcome comes about through trust. Even the genius Albert Einstein had some help from two of his students, Marcel Grossmann and Michele Besso. Their work in mathematics helped him come up with his theory of general relativity.

As iron sharpens iron, so, one person sharpens another.

When you want to do great things, think of the one person we should have as a part of our lives- Iesū Kristo. Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." It is through him that we are made into a better version of yourself. We can easily do things on our own but what an even greater result can be achieved through Christ. While others help sharpens us, Christ perfects us. So seek his presence and let that relationship be that which helps build your relationship with others.



Lectionary

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 22:1-4 & Ps 13

Rom 6:12-23

Matt 10:40-43

Holy Welcome

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Song of Sol 2:8-13

Romans 7:15-25a

Matt 11:16-19, 25-30

Chosen Journeys

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 25:19-34 & Ps 119:105-112

Rom 8:1-11

Matt 13:1-9,18-23

A House Divided

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 28:10-19a, & PS 139:1-12, 23-24

Rom 8:12-25

Matt 13:24-30,36-43

Wheat and Weed Together

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 29:15-18 & Ps 105:1-11, 45b

Rom 8:26-39

Matt 13:31-33, 44-5

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. ●



July 3 Anela Awai-Stewart
Courtney Akitake

July 4 Dorothy Lester
USA

July 11 Howard Ikeda
Katherine Tanaka

July 13 Jack Yoruw

July 14 Richard Carr Sr.

July 17 Jackie Murai

July 23 Jennifer Saito

July 30 Francis Yinmed

Worship responsibility for July July 2

Pastor: Roxanne WhiteLight
Greeter: Warren Orikasa
Adult Reader: Bency Benjamin
Youth Reader: Lancey Hadley

July 9

Greeter: James Morrison
Preschool Sunday/Teacher Appreciation
Followed by a Potluck

July 16

Pastor Robb Kojima
Greeter: James Morrison
Adult Reader: Bency Benjamin
Youth: Reader:

July 23

Pastor Robb Kojima
Greeter: James Morrison
Adult Reader: Bency Benjamin
Youth Reader: Shannielle Alik

July 30

Chaplain Tim Greathouse
Greeter Warren Orikasa
Adult Reader Bency Benjamin
Youth Reader: Shannielle Alik
Flowers; Dawna Krueger 1 yr. anniversary of
husband passing
July
Aloha Hour Sanoe Awai

Prayer List

Ourselves: Iao United Church of Christ
Others: 'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui, Molokai a Me Lāna'i .
Our State: Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ
The World: National United Church of Christ

| Shannon's Scoop Moderator's Notes

Happy July to all of you!!!

Hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and great spirits.

As always, if you or your family needs anything, please call our office at (808) 244-7353.

The month of June is recognized nationally as PRIDE MONTH.



'All Are Welcome' isn't enough



LGBTQ+ people of faith often experience emotional and spiritual injury in churches that condemn their capacity to love and seek love. Because they've learned that "All Are Welcome" usually doesn't apply to them, they can't assume that any church will be safe for them and their families.*

A public welcome by an Open and Affirming (ONA) church sends a clear message to LGBTQ+ seekers that they have a home in the United Church of Christ.

A congregation's affirmation and support through an ONA covenant can be a life-changing and life-saving experience—especially for LGBTQ+ youth and LGBTQ+ seniors.

A public welcome to LGBTQ+ seekers helps churches grow. When ONA congregations attract new members, many of them are young straight couples starting new families: they identify with the values ONA represents, and want their children to learn the faith in a welcoming church.

By adopting an ONA covenant, a congregation is taking seriously St. Paul's admonition to "accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:7, NIV)

* LGBTQ+ is a shorthand for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer." The word "queer" has often been adopted by people who don't want to be constrained by the identities of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, especially young people whose gender identity is "nonbinary." The plus symbol reflects the diversity of sexual and gender identities in the human family. [UCC Open and Affirming Coalition | Why](#)



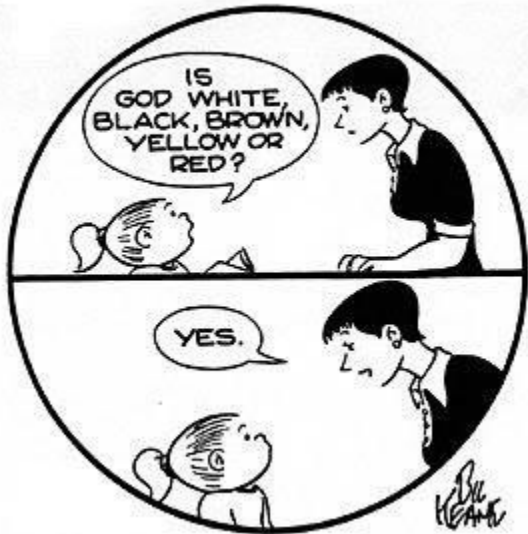
Jaime and I are proud to be LGBTQ+ people of faith who are active and involved members of an ONA congregation - here at IAO UCC.

We ALL deserve a safe space to grow in our Faith.

Let us remember that the church is not just a building. We are the church. May we diligently welcome other communities that have been excluded or marginalized by others, through our encouraging words and in our loving actions. Invite people to experience the contagious loving presence of our God's acceptance and love when they come to worship with us at IAO UCC.

Let us continue to "break the glass ceiling."

SHANNON RIBAO - Your Grateful Moderator



Worship Time Change!
From June 25, 2023 the time of worship for Iao Church will be at 10:00 A.M.

This time change is definite thru August 27, 2023. By introducing this time change it will accommodate Pastor Robb and Chaplin Tim Greathouse to service both Wailuku Union and us. We are so grateful that the summer months our pulpit will be filled. They are planning an 8-week series that lead us on a journey thru Genesis with a touch of Matthew thrown in here and there. With sermon titles such as *A Meal with Mercy*, *Fish Tempura*, and *Pot Luck*, you surely won't want to miss a single one.

Join us at our new time on Sunday's at 10:00 am, in person, or on Facebook live.

Summer is sure to create a laugh or two!



Presenting to you our newest acolyte (drum roll please)

Mr. Jeviohn Yurow!

He learned his job quickly and does a fantastic job of lighting and extinguishing the candles before and after our worship Service.



We will be missing Pastor Roxanne for a while. She and Ruth will be doing some traveling and taking time to reflect where God will lead them next. Mahalo Pastor for all you have done for our Iao UCC Ohana. Rest, reflect and renew. Our prayers go with you as we know your are with us. God Bless you on your journey, and we hope to see you around.

Iao United Church of Christ
Financial Summary
For
May 2023*

	<u>Actual Month</u>	<u>Actual Year-to-Date</u>
Total Income	\$ 7,945.15	\$81,535.32
Total Expenses	\$ 8,106.21	\$85,812.84
Total Income/Loss	\$ 161.00	\$ 4,277.45

*The full financial Statement is on file in the church office.

Julie Andrews made a special appearance at Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for the benefit of the AARP. One of the musical numbers she performed was 'My Favorite Things' from the legendary movie 'Sound Of Music'. Here are the lyrics she used: (Sing It!) - If you sing it, its especially hysterical!!!

0
 Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
 Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
 Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
 These are a few of my favorite things.
 Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
 Polydent and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
 Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
 These are a few of my favorite things.
 When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,
 When the knees go bad,
 I simply remember my favorite things,
 And then I don't feel so bad.
 Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
 No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
 Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
 These are a few of my favorite things.
 Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
 Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
 And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
 When we remember our favorite things.
 When the joints ache, When the hips break,
 When the eyes grow dim,
 Then I remember the great life I've had,



Hello Ladies of Iao Church!

I am interested in seeing what we can do to revitalize the Ladies Lunch Bunch. Please send your response to Rita Whitford

You can send me your ideas or suggestions to rritaemail@gmail.com or just call me 808 244 7258 but not on Monday or Friday as I go to Hale Makua Day Health those days. Let's keep the Lunch Bunch going.

1. Is the first Friday of the month convenient or should we change to another day? I think the first Friday cuts it short for Dawna to put out the Iao Pepa. Any suggestions? Second Friday, Another day?
2. Do we still want to meet on the Church lanai or would we like to meet at a restaurant of our choice? Or perhaps switch off every other month or restaurant for holidays?
3. Is the time, 11 to 2 still ok?
4. Would we like to share memories of small kid time, or what is going on now in your life, crafts you are working on, or something you'd like to learn more about?

I would like to keep our Lunch Bunch going strong, but we need more ladies.

Rita Whitford





How the Season after Pentecost Illustrates the Life Of the Church

After the festivals of Pentecost and the Holy Trinity, the Church begins its longest yet perhaps least-celebrated season of the Church Year: the season after Pentecost. What comes at the end of the post-Pentecost calendar is not one of the Church's grand festivals, but rather, a reminder that the end times are near. In this way, the season after Pentecost reflects the Church's life as faithful members in Christ.

That "Other Half" of the Church Year

The season after Pentecost presents a degree of normalcy in the Church Year. Whereas the first half of the calendar began with the exhilaration of Advent and Christmas, continued through Epiphany and Lent, and culminated in the high point of the Church Year—the death and resurrection of Christ—the second half of the Church Year is that "season after" the joyous feasts and festivals.

After Pentecost, the red garments are tucked away with the palate of blue, white, purple, black, and gold, and the altar, pulpit, and pastor's vestments are adorned with a familiar green that will stay in the sanctuary throughout the second half of the Church calendar. Festival days are few and far between, and the Church settles into a faithful rhythm of hearing God's Word, receiving forgiveness from Christ, and partaking of His Sacraments.

After celebrating Jesus' nativity, Baptism, transfiguration, death, and resurrection, the season after Pentecost allows the Church to experience the life of Jesus in a different way. The Church steps directly into the story of Jesus, patiently walking alongside Him as He teaches, preaches, gives, and forgives. In walking with Christ, the Church is conformed to His image.

Rooted in the Life and Teachings of Jesus

This conforming is a process; the season after Pentecost requires patience and faithfulness. Every week, the Church hears of how prophets pointed to the Messiah in the Old Testament, how the Church faithfully continued Christ's teachings in the Epistles, and how Jesus Himself taught and lived in the Gospels.

The long season after Pentecost clings to the life and teachings of Christ and nurtures the Church with rich gifts for Christian living. Day by day, week after week, and from year to year, the Church lives the season after Pentecost, praising the risen Jesus and immersing itself in His saving grace.

This season after Pentecost is a chance for the Church to reflect on what it has celebrated in the first half of the Church Year, but also to step into the story it has just heard—a story of God's love for His people marked by the incarnation of His Son, and His life, death, and resurrection in human flesh as a member of our human, broken world.

Continued on page 7



CORRECTION from June 2023 publication of the Lao Pepa. Pre-school graduation will be held on July 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Father's Day at the preschool was celebrated with breakfast with dads, grandpas, uncles, moms and others that might be a father figure in each child's life. Always a fun and busy morning drop off.



Our first walking excursion in 3 years was to the Wailuku Library to sing along with Uncle Wayne on June 20. (We have taken walks across the street to see the llamas and bunnies at IMUA)

July will bring the end of the school year 2022-2023. Our first big event will be Teacher/ Staff recognition and potluck. We will join with the congregation with a child-oriented service and sing some of our favorite songs. The service begins at 10:00 am. And the potluck will follow.

After sharing time with the congregation a funny week begins. It starts off with p.j. day, Auntie Fley's birthday and wearing our favorite color, On Wednesday we will all dress-up like animals followed by a favorite character and ending with Aloha Friday.

Our Butterfly class is planning a day of extra fun. There will be water play, a video game competition and lunch at McDonalds or ordering pizza! There will be 15 Butterflies graduating on July 21 and flying off to kindergarten.

The Caterpillar class will be creating their "cocoons" to put their name cards in and see if after the summer break how many have turned into Butterflies!



Continued from page 6

Growing toward Unity in Christ

Though no Christmas celebration or Easter festival arrives as the high point of the season after Pentecost, the Church looks forward to the Last Day on the final Sunday of the Church Year, before beginning anew with Advent.

The Last Sunday of the Church Year is known as "Reign of Christ Sunday," but the entire season after Pentecost is a faithful clinging to Christ's promise of His second coming, where we will experience the resurrection and renewal of our earthly bodies that He accomplished for us on Easter morning. We will ascend to heaven as He ascended; we will be changed as He was changed on the Mount of Transfiguration.

All of this we look forward to and ponder as we mark the season after Pentecost. But we do not only look forward to what awaits us—again, we also see in Christ a perfect example of Christian living and service. As we live out our lives as fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors, we learn what it means to be faithful to our calling and live in love to one another.

In faith, the Church's patient observation of the ⁷season after Pentecost unites it to Christ, where He delivers the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation to His people.



Congratulations Kahu Kalani Wong on your retirement from Kamehameha School Maui Campus. Kahu Kalani's Service of Release was held on June 20, 2023 at the Keopuolani Hale Auditorium.

Kahu Kalani served for 21 years as the school's Chaplain. He was the Kahu for all grades, K-12 and students and teachers looked up to him for spiritual guidance. In 2005 a deputation team was formed with his leadership and has continued throughout his tenure. Iao UCC was blessed to have the deputation team conduct services several times. Our own Samantha Hill served as a Keiki Kahu on one of the teams that visited.

Kahu Kalani also served as Associate Pastor at Iao United Church of Christ from 1994 through 2012 where Iao's Youths were taught about God's love. He organized many activities for the Youth getting them involved in community activities like the Maui Fair parade. He planned annual trips to Kalaupapa where Iao's Youths and students from Kamehameha Schools helped the residents with their yards and homes. This has been a lifelong lesson for many who were fortunate to have the Kalaupapa experience of loving and caring for our neighbors.

Photo credit: Katherine Hashiro





Just a reminder that our visitation team visits our home bound, shut-in, aging members and others who could use a smiling face or two monthly. This team takes a devotional to share, communion, goodies and good cheer. A big mahalo goes out to June Uye-take who shares treats and lovely hand created cards for the team to distribute that fit the holiday of the month, They are always looking for folks to join them in their visits, donating hand crafted items and or baked goods, They meet at



Here are pictures of some of the food bags/boxes, that line both side of the kitchen island, that were prepared and distributed to feed over 100 individual's on June 14, 2023 and even more the following week. Needless to say fridges, freezer, and pantry are empty. Thanks you Susan King, Lynn Krieg, Diana George, Dawna Krueger, our shoppers, food haulers and all our supporters helping to make this mission of Iao possible. In June we distributed 394 bags of food!



NO ONE WORKS HARDER TO KEEP OUR CHURCH GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS SAFE, CLEAN AND MAINTAINED THAN:

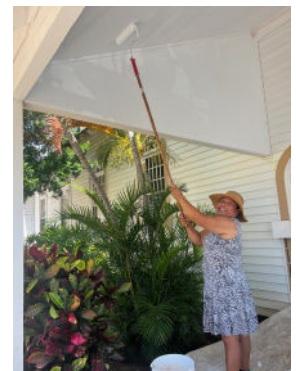
THE ETWAI AND OUR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMUNITY

Here is the update for the month June.

- The Sanctuary Front Door Project Update: ProBuilt Construction will begin assembling the door frame and accessories at their warehouse. They just received shipment on the fiberglass doors, hinges, and other construction materials for the project.
- On June 17th, B & G and Kosrae Etwai painted Kanda Hall Ramp and Sanctuary Patio.
- Youth members of Iao/Etwai have been cleaning up the yard.



Daniel Kamidoi paints the ramp at Kanda Hall








Brenda Noah adds her touch to the project



Joshua Noah shows he is multi-skilled. Paint and yard work.



July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
						AA 7-8 (K)
2	3	4	5	6	Ladies Lunch	8
	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30	 SMFG District 5:30-7:30(K)	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Brunch 11:30a-2p Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7-8 (K)
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30	 1:00 at Rosealani	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7-8 (K)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30		Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Graduation  Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7-8 (K)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30		Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7-8 (K)
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30					



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Iao United Church of Christ
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facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/

IN PERSON/VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

Pastor	Vacant
Moderator	Shannon Ribao
Church Admin	Theresa Supera
Choir Director & Pianist	Jack Belsom
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.