

A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ

2371 W. Vineyard Street, Wailuku | (808) 244-7353 | Email: office@iaoucc.org

April 2024



## Rev. Josh Hayashi to preach April 7

Rev. Josh Hayashi has been a guest preacher at Iao UCC before. Some will remember that he is a chaplain at Punahou School in Honolulu. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of Mission Management Company—a consulting firm that works with churches to clarify and plan for mission and ministry. If you converse with Josh, you will quickly realize that he has a passion for the

church's mission to the community, and he has a deep love for the church that shaped his faith.

The goal of Mission Management Company's work with Iao UCC is "to provide the Iao United Church of Christ leadership team a foundational assessment of its Financial Health, Transformation Readiness, and Property Potential through a Mission Management Company Renewal & Revitalization Audit. This information will enable the leadership team to engage in conversations about the future of the church and its Mission. In other words, the results will help the congregation decide what God is calling it to be and do and to begin implementing plans to move in that direction.

Plan to join in worship either online or in person Sunday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m. Josh is an excellent educator and preacher! You won't want to miss this opportunity.

## Monday Bible Study

The Monday evening Bible study will continue at 7:00 p.m. Some will meet in person in the Conference Room, and some will join via Zoom. We will continue to look at selections in the Gospel of Mark—some stories and some parables. We will continue to look closely at what is in the Gospel and consider what we know about the background.

We may even venture into the topic of "Humor in the Bible". We all know that if someone is joking and we don't realize it, we will misinterpret what is said and done. That's also true in the Bible. When we miss the humor, we turn good news into bad news. For example, in Matthew 17 we have this story:

<sup>24</sup> When they reached Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?" <sup>25</sup> He said, "Yes, he does." And when he came home, Jesus spoke of it first, asking, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their children or from others?" <sup>26</sup> When Peter<sup>[h]</sup> said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the children are free. <sup>27</sup> However, so that we do not give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook; take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a coin; take that and give it to them for you and me." (NRSVUE)

Cont. page 3



#### April Lectionary

April 7 Second Sunday of Easter Acts 4:32-35 Ps 133 1 John 1:1-1-2:2 John 20:19-31 Marks of Faith

April 14 Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3:12-19 Ps 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 3:1-7 Christ Among Us

April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4:5-12 Ps 23 1 John 3:16:24 John 10:11-18 Enfolded by Love

April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 8:26-40 Ps 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8 Abiding Love

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



Prayer List

For ourselves, for our families, for our church, for our country, for our world-especially Ukraine and Gaza.

Keep all our new members also in prayer.

17. Father give me wisdom over your gools for the month.

haver for someone that gi haver that The Lord would iat I am able to ... ow me your plan when I ..

give you glory for ... for peace when it o

ming project this situation

Farhet, give me visaoin in ... Jesus, You are my healing over ... In moments when I am afraid. Heavenly Fathet, you are ...

Lord, I pray for my friend.... Father, reveal to me my talents a Lord, I need to find purpose in ... Father, help me to find You in ... Lord, calm my insecurities about thank you for .... ather, in my cloulot .

Lord, teach me to trust you about ...
 Heavenly Father, I thank you for this month.





# April Birthdays

•	
April 1	Dennis Hashiro
April 7	Anne Hill
April 7	Jenna Johannes
April 7	Tim Greathouse
April 14	Joy Yamane
April 17	Jonathan Kaneshina
April 21	Susan King
April 23	Joshua Yoruw
April 24	Cynthia Snell
April 26	Jefferson Yinmed
April 26	Pamela Ikeda
April 29	J.A.C. Yoruw
April 29	Mike Yamashiro
April 30	Warren Orikasa



Minister Rev. Jack Belsom Piano Rev. Jack Belsom Greeter Youlida Yoruw Youth Reader Darcean Phillip Adult Reader Dawna Krueger Aloha Hour

Sanoe Awai/Susan King April 28 Maui Etawi

#### (cont. from page 1)

I usually ask: "Was Jesus smiling when he spoke to Peter?" "Did Peter really go fishing?" If you see humor in the passage, you will come up with one answer, and if you believe Jesus was serious about fishing, you get a different interpretation.

Join us and explore the Bible. When we do this as a group, we help one another, and we sometimes even laugh!

## The Songs We Sing

Many times, our theology—what we believe and live out—is shaped more by the songs we sing than by scripture. That's a shocking thing for me to say since I spend a lot of time studying the scripture, and I keep learning. However, if you try to recite scripture from memory, you will probably get Psalm 23, the ten commandments, and some of Jesus' sayings and parables. If I ask you to sing songs from memory, my hunch is you will do better with the song lyrics. Melodies and lyrics that are inscribed in our memory become a great resource for us as we journey through life.

Because I believe what we sing is important, I want to check several things. Is it good theology? Kosuke Koyama, a Japanese theologian, explained: "Stingy God...bad theology. Generous God...good theology." Does the song allow us to be honest with God in our praise, in our pain, in our times of feeling lost and abandoned? Does the song reinforce or expand on the theme of the worship service? Musically, I ask: "Is it singable? Can we learn it? Do we have the musical support to offer it as our best effort at that particular moment? For example, I have sung the Hallelujah Chorus many times, and it made a huge difference to have great accompaniment, and I have also heard a Tongan Choir blow us away by singing it unaccompanied: they had the voices and the training!

Do the words and the music fit? Some of you have heard me demonstrate this with Amazing Grace. We currently use the tune "New Britain," but John Newton wrote only the words. It has been sung to other tunes. Sing it to the old blues song "The House of the Rising Sun," and you will get a totally different feel about the lyrics. Sing it to "Jingle Bells" (Yes, you can sing it that way!), and you will probably not finish because you are laughing. Sometimes we use alternate tunes because we know that tune better, and sometimes we use an alternate tune to give us a new understanding and appreciation of the song.

Does our worship and especially our music connect us with the larger church? An African song can enrich our worship and our understanding. Singing a plainsong the way it was originally done in the 13<sup>th</sup> century allows us to experience the spirit of that community of faith.

One last concern: Can we legally use the music in our worship service? That has become more of an issue with broadcasting or streaming the worship services. It used to be that using hymnbooks and songbooks that we had purchased allowed us to use them in worship. Now printing words, projecting lyrics, and streaming or broad-casting them requires special permission. Some songs like older hymns, spirituals, and songs are in public domain—no copyright permission or license is required. Iao UCC uses two different licensing services to have access to many songs, but sometimes the copyright holder is not connected with one of the services. Without express permission or a license, we cannot reprint, project, or stream those pieces of music.

It takes time to select music for worship, but, in my opinion, it is worth the effort. By using licensed materials legally, we support those who wrote lyrics or composed the music. The Worshiping Community has discussions about music, musicians, and ministry. I invite you to share with someone a song that is meaningful to you and also share why it is so meaningful. In that kind of sharing, we realize that we are sharing part of our faith and our life story.

Tack E. Belsom

Jack E. Belsom, Interim Pastor



**Congratulations and Mahalo** At the Congregational meeting held on March3, 2024 the follow officers were installed as our congregations leaders:. Moderator: Shannon Ribao

Vice Moderator: Suzette Robinson

\*Secretary: Jackie Murai

Financial Secretary Gail Ideue

Assistant Financial Secretary: vacant

Treasure: Warren Orikasa

\*title change from "clerk" for banking purposes





On that same Sunday, we sent a very big Mahalo to Katherine Hashiro who had held the position of Assistant Financial Secretary. Katherine spent many many volunteer hours on research, insurance claims and the such in addition to the daily financial business. She remains as chair of the Stewarding Community. Thank you Katherine, one of God's faithful servants.

Looks like Pastor Jack might have some competition from Reef Kephas. During one Keki Time in March it seems like they are in a serious discussion., Could the children be correcting or concurring? Seated is James Hadley, Kenzo Kephas, A.J. Tosie, and Jeviohn Yurow.



A.J. Tosie has been added to our young people taking turns at being acolytes. The question is where are the young ladies?



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# WELCOME



It is an honor and a privilege to introduce the newest members of Iao UCC Ohana: Lynn Krieg, Coreen Matsui-Lackey, Paul Lackey Sharon Sigrah and Shrue Sigrah. May your worship with us prepare you to go out and serve. To the left of the new members are Pastor Jack Belsom and church moderator Shannon Ribao.





A view of the new sanctuary front entrance with a beautiful polished floor, The outside walkway is crack free and reaches Vineyard Street. Won't be long now before it is usable.





Our visitation team made up this day of Joy Yamane, Maybell Hashizume, Pastor Jack and Jane Tesoro, on camera, found Rita Whitford in good spirits. Their visit also included a stop at Roselani where treats and goodies were shared and enjoyed.



Malama Maui With gratitude overflowing in our hearts, the Conference Office is pleased to announce that as of January 31, 2024, conferences to the 2023 Hawaii Wildfires Fund have exceeded \$677,850.00!



At the February 2024 Council Meeting this resolution was approved to be sponsored by lao UCC.

<u>A Call to Education and Action Regarding the Crisis in Gaza</u> -Guests: Rev. Mary Herbig and Kristina Young (Central Union Church)

The purpose of this resolution is to focus on three actions:

1) Calling for a cease fire;

2) Calling for humanitarian aid; 3) Education

Iao UCC was asked to sponsor this resolution to help move it forward at the Aha Pae'aina. A designated workshop will be available at the Aha Pae'aina where questions can be answered about the resolution and edits can be made at that time. A concern was raised from the council

that components of other wars, such as Ukraine, aren't addressed in this resolution. Our guests suggested that the U.S. is already supporting Ukraine and they

felt that it should be a separate issue. The council was invited to submit a separate resolution for a call to action to stop the war in Ukraine.

Shannon moved to have lao UCC as a co-sponsor of this Resolution, subject to edits; seconded by Suzette Robinson. Five ayes: Carolyn Kamidoi, Howard Ikeda, Shannon Ribao, Suzette Robinson and Jackie Murai; two abstained: Warren Orikasa, Dawna Krueger.

The motion was passed by a majority vote. (The full





The preschool is conducting a fundraiser during April with Takamiya Market, and who can resist Takamiya's! Funds raised with help to offset some of the needs for the children, staff and center. Each ticket is for 1 lb. Pork Teriyaki and 1 lb. Teriya-ki Chicken, Each tickets is \$20. there are two pick-up dates. Tickets can <u>only</u> be redeemed during the dates on the ticket. All monies are due Wednesday, April 3rd. Cash is accepted and Checks should be made out to "Iao Preschool," Tickets maybe purchased at the preschool weekdays or after worship on Sundays. Pick-up dates are: April 10-13, 2024, Wed-Sat. 5:15 am-6:00 pm (Pink ticket) or April 24-27, 2024 Wed.-Sat. 5:15 am-6:00 pm-(Yellow ticket).

#### Words from the Worshipping Community:

Our community has been the underlining source of each Sunday morning worship service. Carolyn Kamidoi is the chair, with Jaime Ribao their secretary, others are Shannon Ribao, Susan King and Dawna Krueger. They will be working closely with the Stewarding Community as many of their responsibilities over lap.

If you have read Pastor Jack's article you will see what the perimeters for the music is all about. If the minister does not choose their own music this group does. On going activities are setting communion, changing altar cloth's, recruiting greeter's and readers.

Our order of worship had a bit of change on Palm Sunday. Please feel free to voice your opinion about it.



Their current focus is looking at who will be filling our pulpit and providing music when Pastor Jack's commitment is over.



#### **Learning Community**

Members of the Learning Community are Paul Obet, Shrue Sigrah, Youlida Yoruw, Carly Defang, Anela Awai-Stewart and Dawna Krueger

From some time now, children have been provided a coloring page and assorted games/ word hunts that are related to the readings of the morning and the sermon. They are distributed after the Keiki Time.

Pastor Jack offered a bible study as reported in his article. This will continue on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Our next endeavor will be to get Sunday School up and running. A variety of curriculums are being looked at. Currently the United Church of Christ does not have a prepared curriculum for churches to follow. We also need to look ahead as when Pastor Jack's time is up, how can we serve the preschool to make sure we maintain that connection.



The make-up of this community meet the requirement of our

by-laws, however we will be praying for others to join us as community member as well as teachers.

## hip Stewarding Community

To date the pledges for 2024 is \$64,920.00.

Special offerings collected for Opukaha'ia totaled \$495.00 and will

be sent to Hawaii Conference.

New envelopes for your offerings have been placed in the sanctuary pews.

Stewarding members are Gail Ideue, Jackie Murai, Carolyn Kamidoi (vice chair),

Katherine Hashiro (chair).

### **Building and Grounds Community**

In March the B & G was busy with the door, the concrete, picking up food for our food pantry and taking a little well deserved r&r.



### **Food for Thought**

Easy Coconut Butter Mochi

Description:

Chef Grant's inspiration for the butter mochi was to create a local favorite that didn't have too much fat or sugar in it. This butter mochi uses considerably less butter and uses evaporated milk instead of sweetened condensed milk to reduce its glycemic index. Lots of local people are trying to eat food that has less sugar and fat in it and this mochi helps them eat a local favorite with less guilt.

Total time: 1 hr 10 min Yield: 36 - 1" squares pieces

Ingredients:

- 4 fl oz unsalted butter (melted)
- 2 cup granulated sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 16 oz mochiko flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 12 oz evaporated milk 1
- 4 oz coconut milk

Prep Time: 10 min Cooking Time: 1 hr Total Time: 1 hr 10 min

Instructions:

Place the melted butter, granulated sugar, eggs and vanilla in a large bowl and mix well until combined. Fold in the mochiko and baking powder with a spatula. Once incorporated, add in the evaporated milk and coconut milk using a wire whisk. Pour into a buttered or oiled half hotel pan or a 9" by 13" baking pan and bake for 1 hour at 350° F. Allow the mochi to cool to room temperature and then cut into desired sized pieces and enjoy.

Recipe brought to you by: Chef Grant Sato Powered by TCPDF (www.tcpdf.org)





Below is taken from the Iao UCC By-Laws adopted March 2022. As you



read this please be in prayer as to which community might be calling you

to volunteer for.

## **Article IX—Communities**

**Section 1.** Communities. The Church shall carry out its ministry as directed by the Missional Strategy adopted by the congregation. Communities shall be proposed annually by the Council for the implementation of the Missional Strategy and the resulting goals. Each Community shall be composed of at least five (5) members and shall be appointed by the congregation. The six regular Communities shall be Worshipping Community, Stewarding Community, Building and Grounds, Stewardship Community, Learning Community, Iao Preschool Community and Witnessing/ Reconciling & Outreach Community.

- a) **Composition of the Communities**. Each community shall be composed of at least five (5) members and shall be appointed by the congregation or Council.
- b) **Term**. Members of the Communities shall be appointed for one-year terms.
- c) **Organization**. Each community shall select a chairperson who shall be responsible for calling meetings of the community, conducting those meetings and providing a representative to the Church Council.

**Meetings**. Communities shall meet at least six (6) times a year. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or by any three members of the community with forty-eight (48) hours' notice to all members of the community and to the church office.

**Section 2**. <u>Worshipping Community</u>. The Worshipping Community shall work with the congregation and the staff to form a community of praise and thanksgiving in our lives as individuals and as the church. It shall work with the church staff in at least the following areas:

Planning for the regular and special worship of the congregation including the preparation for the celebration of the rites and sacraments of the church Using the gifts of the congregation for the leadership and practice of worship

Using the gifts of the congregation for the leadership and practice of worship Encouraging those spiritual practices that shape us as a community of faith Overseeing the music ministry of the church

**Section 3**. <u>Stewarding Community</u>. The Stewarding Community shall develop a ministry to form the church as a community that lives out of a response to God's gifts by being both gracious and generous—a community that lives together as faithful, wise and responsible stewards of all God's gifts. The Stewarding Community shall work in at least the following areas:

Developing and overseeing the learning of the congregation about practicing corporate and individual stewardship of God's gifts of creation, redemption, and ministry

Interpreting the mission and ministry of the 'Aha O Nā Mokupuni O Maui, Moloka'i, Ame Lāna'i (Tri-Isle Association), the Hawai'i Conference of the United Church of Christ, the United Church of Christ and our ecumenical partners in ministry Educating the congregation about the financial needs of the church

Promoting understanding and support of Our Church's Wider Mission and other United Church of Christ offerings

Collaborating with the Building and Grounds Stewardship Community and the Endowment Fund Committee to present an inclusive approach to this ministry

- Recruiting and recommending individuals with appropriate gifts and interests to carry out the ministries of the congregation for appointment by the congregation or appointment by the Council and Communities
- Helping individuals associated with the congregation to be aware of their gifts for ministry

Maintaining knowledge of the various gifts of individuals associated with the congregation Celebrating the use of gifts in the life and ministry of Iao United Church of Christ, the community, and the world ſ

Providing for orientation and training of individuals and groups to equip them to carry out the responsibilities they have accepted

Providing for support of individuals and groups in ministry as they fulfill their responsibilities

**Section 4.** <u>Building and Grounds Stewardship Community</u>. The Buildings and Grounds Stewardship Community is responsible for establishing and implementing procedures and policies for the care and maintenance of the church's buildings, grounds, vehicles, equipment and for overseeing the operation of the church campus. The Building and Grounds Stewardship Community shall work in at least the following areas:

Developing and implementing maintenance and preventive maintenance procedures and cleaning of buildings and grounds

Developing and implementing policies and procedures dealing with requests for building use including rentals of church property and relations with tenant

Inventorying and purchasing supplies and equipment

Overseeing the church's insurance program.

**Section 5**. <u>Learning Community</u>. The Learning Community shall cultivate community life that is constantly open to renewal and change and that is continually searching the Scriptures and tradition to discern God's call. The Learning Community shall work in at least the following areas:

Learning for adults, youth, and children

Oversee the Sunday School Program

Oversee the Lillian Maeda afterschool Tutoring Program

Oversee the Lillian Maeda Scholarship Fund

Intergenerational, intercultural, and interfaith learning

Learning partnerships and communities for those preparing for Baptism and Confirmation

Learning for those seeking to unite with Iao United Church of Christ

Collaborating with the Iao Preschool Community to provide an inclusive approach to this ministry Ensuring there are two adults present with the children and youth at all times.

Section 6. <u>Iao Preschool Community.</u> The preschool community shall be

responsible for creating an environment in which children can develop positive self-images as they grow as whole persons. Iao Preschool Community will provide a community of support to parents as their children develop as healthy, thoughtful, responsible, spiritual individuals. This ministry will proclaim the good news of God's love for all people as it meets the need for safe, quality preschool education in Central Maui. The Iao Preschool Team shall work in at least the following areas

Making policy regarding the operation of Iao Preschool

Recommending the curriculum, educational philosophy, and the employment of staff to the Council

**Composition of the Community.** The Iao Preschool Community shall consist of three (3) or more church members and two parents, Preschool Teachers, guardians, or persons with vested interest in the preschool for a total of five (5) members. Members will be selected based on their willingness to serve. The Preschool Director shall be an ex officio member of the community without vote.

**Section 8.** <u>Additional Communities</u>. The Council may propose additional communities to the congregation.

**Section 9.** <u>Special committees, sub-groups or taskforces</u>. The communities may form special committees, sub-groups, or task forces to carry out their ministry.</u>

#### April 2024 Calendar

\*Office hours: 9 am-3 pm (808)244-7353 email: office@iaoucc.org
\*Pastor Jack's Contact/Hours: email: jack.belsom@gmail.com Phone: (808)283-7900
Office Hours: Mon.: 9:00 am-11:00 am Tues. & Thur. 9:00 am-12 noon (on call for emergencies)
\*Ladies Lunch Bunch First Friday of the month. 11:30 am-2:00 pm on the church lanai.
\*Member Visitation\_Second Tue. of the month at 1:00pm. Call/text Jane Tesoro @ (808)276-2663.
\*Food Pantry: (808) 446-7537 Monday ONLY 11:00 am-3:30 pm.
\*AA/Al-Anon meetings: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday assorted hours.
\*Micronesian Women: Friday 6-7 pm Contact Youlida Yoruw
\*Council Meeting: Last Wednesday of the month, 5:45 pm on zoom. Contact office for link
\*Kosrae Maui Church Sunday at 4 pm Contact Jeromy Palik
\*Kosrae Campus Workday 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of month. Contact Jeromy Palik

## JESUS Worksheet

NAME :\_ DATE:

For example,  $F \rightarrow \rightarrow \Psi = Q$ 

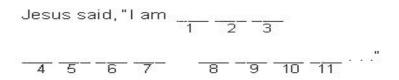
Puzzle #1

- 1. S ← ← ↑ = \_\_\_\_
- 2.  $G \checkmark \checkmark \leftarrow =$ \_\_\_\_ 3.  $L \rightarrow \land \land \land \uparrow =$
- 4.  $\circ \uparrow \uparrow \rightarrow =$
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- 6. J  $\rightarrow$   $\rightarrow$  =
- 7. ∨ ↓ ↓ ← =
- 8. Z ↑ →↑ → =

9. P ← ← ↑ = \_\_\_\_

10. Q ↓ ← ← = \_\_\_\_

1	G	E	С	х	D
к	н	Р	W	V	Y
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F	L	Z	Е	к	С
D	Т	Q	Н	0	Е
Ν	J	w	S	U	в



Do you know where this verse is located?

# April 2024

Calendarpedia Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	FOOD PANTRY					
		_	Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Micronesian Women 6-7 (S)	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Second Sun- day of Easter	FOOD PANTRY					
Communion	Cub Scouts 7-8p	Visitation 1 pm	Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Micronesian Women 6-7 (S)	AA 7-8 (K)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Third Sunday of Easter	FOOD PANTRY					
HE LIVES			Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Micronesian Women 6-7 (S)	AA 7-8 (K)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Forth Sunday of Easter	FOOD PANTRY					
Happy Eugen	Cub Scouts 7-8p		Happy Days AFG 9a (K)	AA 7-8 (K)	Micronesian Women 6-7 (S)	AA 7-8 (K)
28	20	30	1	2	3	4
Fifth Sunday of Easter	FOOD PANTRY					
he is RISEN						Data provided 'as is' without warranty

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

- Pastor (interim) Moderator Church Admin Choir Director & Pianist Newsletter Iao Preschool Director
- Jack Belsom Shannon Ribao Theresa Supera Jack Belsom Dawna Krueger 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.

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