

## Reading Mark from the Margins

Beginning Monday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m., there will be a hybrid Bible study using the Gospel of Mark. It will be hybrid because you can either participate in person (in the Conference room with limited space) or via Zoom. That will allow you to choose how you want to participate, and actively participating is how we learn.

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels in the Bible, and most scholars believe it is the earliest. You can easily read the Gospel of Mark in one sitting. While a quick reading is a good way to begin, taking a close look at selected texts and discussing them with others increases our understanding and gives us new insights. Too often Bible studies either jump too quickly into making connections with our contemporary situation or spend so much time on the setting and meaning of the words that connections don't get made with our situation.

For the most part, those who heard and followed Jesus were people on the margins. They were not the wealthy, the influential, or the powerbrokers of Jesus' day. Jesus lived that kind of life as a carpenter who didn't even own enough land to plant a garden. Those in power—both the religious and civil authorities—saw Jesus' message as a threat: you can't announce a kingdom that is **not** the one in control and escape trouble. Mark's gospel is clear from the start that there will be opposition to the "Kingdom of God," and that will lead to Jesus' arrest, trial, conviction, and execution. However, God has the final word on Easter.

As we make our journey toward Easter, what better way is there to prepare than to read Mark from the Margins. Sign up with the Church Office for in-person participation, and also to receive the link for the Zoom meeting. I am looking forward to learning with you starting February 5.

*Jack E. Belsom*

Jack E. Belsom, Interim Pastor





## Liturgy

Feb 4 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Is 40:21-31

Ps 147:1-11,20c

1 Cor 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Source of Strength

Feb 11 Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12

Ps 50:1-6

2 Cor 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Compassionate Community

Racial Justic Sunday/Science & Technology Sunday

Feb 18 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Gen 9:8-17

Ps 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

God's Loving Paths

Feb 25 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Gen 17:1-7,15-16

Ps 22:23-31

Rom 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

Always Close

Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday

pray  
without  
ceasing



## Birthdays

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 2/6  | Lewis Hadley       |
| 2/7  | Brett Yamane       |
| 2/11 | Rena Hayashi       |
| 2/11 | Cheryl Hadley      |
| 2/13 | Annette Matsushima |
| 2/13 | Suzette Robinson   |
| 2/14 | Anne Rowehl        |
| 2/14 | Danny Johannes     |
| 2/14 | Richard Carr       |
| 2/18 | John Yoruw         |
| 2/20 | Jim Robinson       |
| 2/22 | Deann Sonoda       |
| 2/23 | Lynette Shiroma    |
|      | Betsy Hadley       |

## Sunday Morning Worship Team

Filling the Pulpit: Jack Belsom

Feb. 25 Tim Greathouse

Greeter: Gail Ideue

Music: Jack Belsom

Youth Reader: Kemberly Hadley

Adult Reader: Sharon Sigrah

Aloha Hour:

Feb. 4 Paul Obet

Feb. 11 Jane Tesoro

Feb. 18 Jane Tesoro

Feb. 25 Etwai

# News Via The Coconut Wireless

## Save the Dates for the 2024 'Aha Makua (6)

The 2024 'Aha Makua will be held on June 13-15, 2024, at Central Union Church on O'ahu. United Church of Christ General Minister and President Karen Georgia Thompson will be the keynote speaker. Save the dates and plan to attend! More information will be coming soon!



## Calling All Youth to the 'Aha Makua (6)

Exciting news! A youth track is being developed for the 2024 'Aha Makua which will be held on O'ahu from June 13 to 15, 2024! Planning has begun in earnest and the team is looking for volunteers to serve as resource people to the Youth Track Planning Committee.

In addition to encouraging participants in the youth track, all churches are also urged to elect and send a youth delegate to the 'Aha Makua, where they can vote during the business meeting. This will allow them to see their church in action. Youth delegates will also be able to participate in youth track activities and will have a special opportunity to meet and speak with United Church of Christ General Minister and President Karen Georgia Thompson.

Please contact Joan Sakaba at [Sakabai001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Sakabai001@hawaii.rr.com) or Lori Yamashiro [lyamashiro@hcucc.org](mailto:lyamashiro@hcucc.org) if you would like to be a resource person to the Planning Team. If you have a group of youth who might be interested in participating in the youth track, please let Lori know, so we can plan accordingly. We know that your number of youth participants may change but having an early estimate will be helpful to planners. We will distribute information about the event in future issues of the *Coconut Wireless*.

The **December 2023** issue of *The Friend*, the news magazine of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ, is now available [online](#). You can also read the issue as a [flipbook](#)!

## Early Bird Registration for CHHSM's 86th Annual Gathering is Open!

[Registration](#) for the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM)'s 86th Annual Gathering — to be held March 12 – 14, 2024, at the Live by Loews Hotel in St. Louis — opened Monday, Dec. 18. Early Bird Registration is available through January 19. A limited number of scholarships for registration and/or hotel accommodations are available. Apply [HERE](#).

The theme of the 86th Annual Gathering is "Collaboration as the Gateway to Innovation." The focus scripture is Ecclesiastes 4:9-10: "It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps" (The Message). Grounded in this scripture, the Annual Gathering will explore how working together can spark innovation that changes lives.

## Central Union Announces Scholarship Opportunities (2, 6)

The Women's League of Central Union Church is happy to announce that we are now accepting applications from students for the [Kenneth O. and Doris A. Rewick Educational Aid Fund](#) and the [Ruth C. Scudder Scholarship](#) for the 2024-2025 academic year. Applications will be accepted through the ScholarsApp online platform only. Visit <https://scholarsapp.com/> to create an account and for additional information. Please e-mail [cucwlscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:cucwlscholarship@gmail.com) with any questions. Deadline for complete applications is **February 28, 2024**.

## UCC Has Scholarship and Grant Opportunities Available (2, 6)

Looking for available grants or scholarship opportunities? The UCC's Justice and Local Church Ministries has a [Scholarships and Grants brochure](#) that outlines all opportunities available. Applications are now being accepted for all scholarships and grants, and the application process for most will close on **March 1, 2024**.



# Around and About in January

Sunday, January 21, Pastor Jack brought us his Keki message from Mark 1:14-20. To help get his point across, the keiki got to go "fishing". With all that concentration on fishing, they surely got his message.

Call our Food Pantry anytime for more information and leave a message 24/7.  
Phone: (808) 446-7537

\*\*\*If Monday is a holiday, food distribution will occur on Wednesday of that week.



Our shelves get pretty much emptied out each week. We have gone from serving mostly single persons to filling for families of 5 or more. Our current need is for rice, soda crackers, canned fruit, and powdered milk.



Because of the fires, the preschool has decided to postpone their Fun Fair fundraiser. However, be on the lookout for a smaller one or two coming in the near future.





Building and ground, assisted by our contractor, spent much of January pouring cement. The new sanctuary steps now safe and sound. The railings will be installed before they are usable. A pad was poured in front of Endo Hall which will be used for nonvaluable storage.



A new Pride flag, donated by Tim Greathouse, was mounted to Fujimoto Hall. Mounting it to the building should prevent it from getting so windblown and frayed from the wind which was causing a need to be replaced frequently. Remember by flying this flag it lets those who need a safe place, have found it at Iao UCC. Thank you, Tim.



Daniel Kamidoi shows off a donation from Joy Yamane. A fancy lawn mower and weed whacker (not shown) Mahalo Joy!





The Ladies Lunch Bunch enjoyed fun, fellowship and laughter at their January get together. It was so very delightful to have Lynette Shiroma join them again. February will be on the second (2/2/24). Hope to see you then.

***February Words for the month*** A word of the month is a flexible approach to resolutions that offers you a different guiding light for each month — a touchstone to return to when the hustle of life threatens to derail your focus from your objectives or principles.

It can be an empowering concept, a soothing sentiment, or an exciting challenge that inspires you.

***Theme: Love & Connection***





# Up Coming Events

## Fat Tuesday



February 13 is the day before Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent. Traditionally, that has been a time of self-denial. “What are you giving up for lent?” Christians used to ask one another. To prepare for the forty days of Lent, some cultures celebrate on the Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday is what it is called. Mardi Gras is what it is in French. In Latin America, it is carnival.

While Iao UCC will not be having a raucous celebration, we decided it would be a good time for a pancake supper that will begin at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 13 in Kanda Hall. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the sanctuary, or call the church office (808-2440-7353). We are not encouraging gluttony, but we do want to make sure we have enough.

Join us for pancakes and fellowship on Fat Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

## Ash Wednesday

The three UCC congregations in Wailuku have a history of worshiping together on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, sometimes Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise. This year Kaahumanu Church will host the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 p.m. Jack Belsom will be the preacher for the service, and Kahu Wayne Higa and Pastor Robb Kojima will participate in planning and leading.



In the Northern Hemisphere the days start to lengthen at this time of the year, and that’s where the word “Lent” comes from. The church has used it as a time to reflect on Jesus’ journey to the cross. It used to be a special time of preparation for those wanting to be baptized. Plan to join with our sisters and brothers in neighboring congregations Wednesday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m.

## Second Sundays



For the next few months, there will be opportunities to meet, ask questions, and consider making an adult commitment to Christ. If you want to learn about baptism, affirmation of baptism, and membership in Iao UCC, join us each Second Sunday following worship.

## The Songs We Sing

Why is it that we probably remember more lyrics of the songs we sing in worship and at other times than we do Bible verses? I don’t know the answer, but I know it is true for me. Choosing worship music that is faithful to scripture and nurtures my continuing growth in discipleship is very important. At the same time, learning new music is more challenging than singing our ten favorite hymns and songs.

I have been reviewing music with singers at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday, and we would be delighted to have you join us. Practice frees us to focus on the message of the song and to open ourselves to feel how the music enhances the message. We are practicing to offer our best to God—our true audience.

Come early and sing a bit at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.



# Call to Gather

The Council agreed on

February 25, 2024,

as the date for the

Annual

## Congregational Meeting.

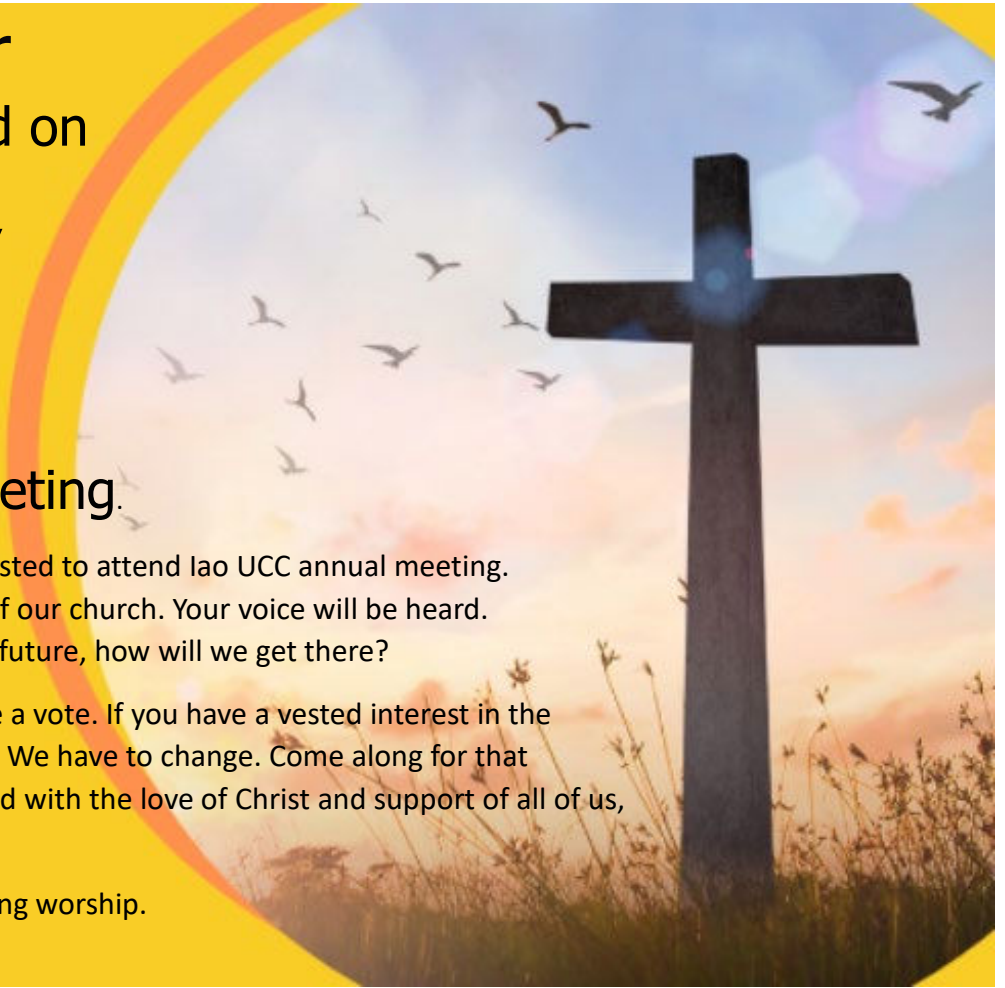
Your presence is prayerfully requested to attend Iao UCC annual meeting.

YOU are important to the future of our church. Your voice will be heard.

What will we look like in the near future, how will we get there?

If you are a member, you will have a vote. If you have a vested interest in the future of Iao UCC, you are invited. We have to change. Come along for that change which will prove to be filled with the love of Christ and support of all of us, Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

In sanctuary or online after morning worship.



## One Great Hour of Sharing March 10, 2024

Each year on the third Sunday in February, (2/18/2024) the Sunday closest to the anniversary of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia's death, churches are encouraged to honor the legacy of the young Hawaiian credited with inspiring the Sandwich Islands mission that brought Christianity to Hawai'i. Funds gathered are used to assist seminary students. Note on check or online PayPal that this is for Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia's fund.

Each year on the





## VALENTINE'S



- 1 BREFURAY .....
- 2 TIVALENNE .....
- 3 VOLE .....
- 4 THEAR .....
- 5 PUDIC .....
- 6 NRIFED .....
- 7 LOHCOTACE .....
- 8 GUH .....
- 9 EB NIME .....
- 10 SLOWERF .....
- 11 NACDY .....
- 12 NIPK .....
- 13 RACD .....
- 14 ORES .....
- 15 ERD .....



# I SPY VALENTINES



## February 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: Monday: 9:00 am-11:00 am Tuesday & Thursday 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 Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 1:00pm. Call/text Jane Tesoro @ (808)276-2663.

\*Food Pantry: (808) 446-7537 Monday ONLY 11:00 am-3:30 pm. IF MONDAY IS A HOLIDAY, DISTRBUTION WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY

\*AA/Al-Anon meetings: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday assorted hours.

\*Micronesian Youth: Wednesday 5:00 pm Contact Youlida Yurow

\*Micronesian Women: Friday 6-7 pm Contact Youlida Yurow

\*Council Meeting: Last Wednesday of the month, 5:30 pm on zoom. Contact office for link









\*Kosrae Maui Church Sunday at 4 pm Contact Jeromy Palik

## February 2024

Calendar

edia

Your source for calendars

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------|---|
| 28   | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1  | 2      | 3   |
|                        |   |   |   |  |        |   |
| 4  | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9      | 10  |
|  |   |   |   |  |        |  |
| 11   | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15   | 16     | 17  |
| Inquirers Session<br> |   | Shrove Tuesday<br> | HAPPY Valentine's DAY<br><br>Ash Wednesday<br><br>6:00 p.m. |  |        |   |
| 18   | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23     | 24  |
|  |  |   |   |  |        |   |
| 25   | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29   | 1      | 2   |
|  |   |   |   |  |        |   |





**Iao United Church of Christ**  
**2371 W. Vineyard Street**  
**Wailuku, HI 96793-1626**  
**(808) 244-7353**  
**office@iaoucc.org**

☐

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check this box to mark as: "Return to Sender."

**What's inside . . .**

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***You are always welcome at Iao UCC.***

**We are a people of God living and sharing  
the love of Christ through words and actions.**

**Iao United Church of Christ**

**2371 W. Vineyard Street**

**Wailuku, HI 96793-1626**

**Office phone: (808) 244-7353**

**Office hours: Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Food Pantry: (808) 446 -7537**

**Food Distribution Mon. 11:00-300**

**Email: office@iaoucc.org**

**Website: iaoucc.org**

**facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/**

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

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Pastor Interim</b>               | <b>Jack Belsom</b>    |
| <b>Moderator</b>                    | <b>Shannon Ribao</b>  |
| <b>Church Admin</b>                 | <b>Theresa Supera</b> |
| <b>Choir Director &amp; Pianist</b> | <b>Jack Belsom</b>    |
| <b>Newsletter</b>                   | <b>Dawna Krueger</b>  |
| <b>Iao Preschool Director</b>       | <b>Flerida Iniba</b>  |