

# Iao Pepa

Na Makani

*A Monthly Newsletter of Iao United Church of Christ*

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

**May 2024**

## Looking ahead

May will be a busy month:

May 4 Aha Mokupuni at Iao UCC 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m..

May 4 Lee Murakami's funeral (Visitation at 3:00 p.m. and Service at 4:00 p.m.)

May 12 Mother's Day

May 19 Pentecost and Inquirers' Session after worship

May 26 Trinity Sunday (and Memorial Day Weekend)

Sometimes we get so busy that we forget what we are called to be as a church. Of course, we serve and minister to people, and we tend to think of that from the perspective of individuals. The mission and vision of Iao UCC is expressed in terms of what we are about as a people of God—communal terms.

The mission statement says, "We are a people of God, living and sharing the love of Christ and reflecting that love in words and actions." How do we do that? We have the food distribution on Mondays. We let Twelve-Step programs use facilities. We certainly use the property and the buildings for that mission. Is there more that we could do with all we have?

The Vision is even more provocative:

We will be a more inclusive and faithful community learning:

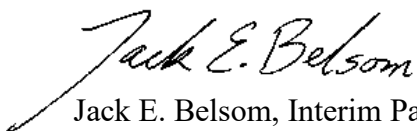
- to give voice to the silenced,
- to celebrate our commonalities,
- to use God's gifts,
- to bridge differences, and
- to practice reconciliation.

I remember that the full name of one of our most active communities is Building and Grounds Stewardship. That means the church considers all property and buildings gifts to be used for God's mission. We are being challenged to take a hard look at all we have and all we are called to be and do. There will be challenging discussions and times of unease as we consider the way ahead may look far different from the future. Important decisions will be shared, and your participation is crucial for making good and faithful decisions. I thank God that the Church Council is beginning to address that call.

We have continued by studying parables in Luke. We have been using the artwork and some commentary from Charles McCollough's *The Art of Parables: Reinterpreting the Teaching Stories of Jesus in Word & Sculpture*. We will probably continue that through May. Some join in person and others join via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Monday evenings.

Inquirers' Sessions

I will plan for an Inquirer's Session Sunday May 19. That is also Pentecost.



Jack E. Belsom, Interim Pastor



## May Lectionary

May 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 10:44-48  
Ps 98  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17  
Friends Together

May 12 Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Acts 1:15-17,21-26  
Ps 1  
1 John 5:9-13  
John 17:6-19  
Guided in Prayer

Mother's Day

May 19 Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek 37:1-14  
Ps 104:24-34,35b  
Rom 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27;16:4b-15  
Spirit for All

Strengthen the Church Offering/  
Mental Health Sunday

May 26 Trinity Sunday  
Isa 6:1-8 and Ps29a  
Rom 8:12-17  
John 3:1-17  
Mysterious Encounter

### Prayer List

*For ourselves, for our families, for our church, for our country, for our world- especially Ukraine and Gaza. For the family of Lee Murakami and for continued healing for Rita Whitford.*



- 5/5 Maybelle Hashizume
- 5/8 Paul Tonnessen
- 5/ Anna Mayeda
- 5/12 Thelma Iwami
- 5/16 Melissa Goulart
- 5/18 Diana George
- 5/20 Michael Kaneshina
- 5/22 Lyndon Cornelius
- 5/24 Carrissa Yinmed
- 5/30 Heide Israel
- 5/30 Noah Johannes Jr



- Minister Rev. Jack Belsom
- Greeter Dawna Krueger
- Youth Reader Mohana Jim
- Adult Reader Cullen Michelle
- Technicians Sonny Yoruw / Jay-Dee Hadley
- Aloha Hour-
  - May Maybelle Hashizume
  - May 26 Maui Etawi

**Mission Statement of Iao  
UCC:**

We are a people of God, living and sharing the love of Christ and reflecting that love in words and actions.”

**Vision of Iao UCC:**

We will be a more inclusive and faithful community learning:

- to give voice to the silenced,
- to celebrate our commonalities,
- to use God's gifts (not just ours!),
- to bridge differences, and
- to practice reconciliation

**Come One  
Come All**

Starting June 2, 2024 Iao Sunday School will begin once again! All ages are invited. Parents, bring your infants and toddlers. Parents, join your children and learn along with them! We are setting no age limits. Sunday School will begin at 9:00 am Sunday mornings in Kanda Hall. First on the agenda is a 9 week look at the Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23



## Buildings and Grounds

### 1. Preschool tile wall:

Preschool has decided to go with Kaona Masonry Inc.

Only 1 proposal was received out of 3 requests for bids.

Cost: \$32,765 includes 4ft high plywood barricade fencing.

### 2. Update on sanctuary door:

Finishing up with the Punch List on the door. Next is the railing installation and then it should be done.

3. Fujitomo Hall back door concrete steps have been redone so it is now a wider stairway to walk up on. A railing will also be installed on the left side. This will be the temporary entry while the main entry stairway is being rebuilt.

4. Waste Pro Hawaii (WPH) will be our new refuse collection company effective from May 7, 2024 for 3 years. The concrete pile from the old sidewalk will be removed and disposed by WPH at no cost.

5. Church Work Day is scheduled for Saturday May 18, 2024 from 8:00 -1:00pm. Focus will be to clean the buildings inside and outside. This used to be done every 6 months, but since Covid it stopped and we need to get it started again.



Respectfully submitted  
Dennis Hashiro



## Learning Community

The first official meeting of the Learning Community was held Sunday April 4, 2024.

Present was Corene Matsui-Lackey, Youlida Yurow, Dawna Krueger and Pastor Jack Belsom.

Feeling their priority was to get Sunday School up and going. They will be

bringing to council the following:

- Sunday School in Kanda Hall to begin with.
- Time would be 9:00 am-9:50 am.
- Start date June 2, 2024
- Teaching materials to be ordered from The Sunday School Store support@sundayschool.store This is a downloadable document with 101 lessons for ages 6-12, grouped into a variety of topics. It does not follow the liturgy.
- The cost is \$48.50 and will be shared with the office computer
- We would start with Fruit of the Spirit a 9 week curriculum
- Dawna will continue with the coloring/puzzle pages to distribute during worship service
- Support and encourage people to attend Pastor Jack's bible study and inquires class.

Other discussions and to keep in prayer included: class sizes, decorating Kanda hall (to be removed when needed). If when Jack's time is over, how can we keep a connection with the preschool.

Submitted by Dawna Krueger

## Financial Community



### Iao Preschool Community

Dennis Hashiro and Auntie Ester work together to remove and install the main gate to enter the preschool area.

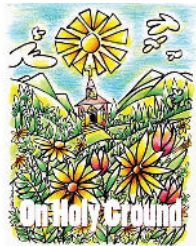


### Stewarding Community

#### One Great Hour of Sharing

Thank you for your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of you, we collected \$1030.05. One Great Hour of Sharing is one of our 5 Special Missions Offerings to the United Church of Christ.

Thank you Iao United Church of Christ.



The next Special Offering is in May. The Strengthen the Church special offering supports the work of the Hawai'i Conference and the national United Church of Christ to become a multi-racial/multi-cultural church, accessible to all. This offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of local congregations, helping the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet emerging needs.



Most congregations will collect the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, which falls on **May 19** this year.

Stewarding Community welcomes 2 stewards, Carley Defang and Jane Tesoro. Jane is with the Outreach Visitation Team.

## Worshipping Community

- Rev. Josh Hayashi preached and assisted Rev. Jack Belsom during Communion.
- Rev. Jack will preach on the remaining Sundays in April.
- Music – Jack accompanied during April 7 and 21 services.
- Christophe Javon accompanying during April 14 and 28 services.
- Mahalo to April's Worship leaders:
  - Greeter – Youlida Yoruw
  - Youth Reader - Darcean Phillip
  - Adult Reader – Dawna Krueger



Greeters and Readers for July and beyond are being recruited by Dawna. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary.

- Bible Study continues on Monday evenings at 7PM. The focus is now on the parables in Luke. The average attendance is about 10 people attending either at Fujitomo Hall conference room or on Zoom.
- Looking ahead:
  - o Pentecost Sunday – May 19
  - o Trinity Sunday - May 26

Submitted by  
Carolyn Kamidoi  
Worship Community: Shannon Ribao, Jaime Ribao, Dawna Krueger,  
Susan King, Rena Hayashi, Carolyn Kamidoi

## Our Associate Conference Minister Shares Reflection

### Feral Roosters and Spiritual Exercises

When we first moved to Kea'au, I would get woken up by roosters crowing, and I would be so frustrated and even angry. I would toss and turn while I struggled to get back to sleep because roosters don't just crow at dawn. But one day when I was complaining about the crowing to my spiritual director, she asked me to let go of my frustration and invite God to use these interruptions as an opportunity.



I started by reflecting upon that famous story of a rooster in Matthew 26 when Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: "before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And I was inspired by how God was able to use that rooster to give a spiritual breakthrough which empowered Peter to examine himself and his relationship with God. So, I started using those interruptions when I was woken by random crowing as opportunities to work on my relationship with God.

My frustration and anger faded away. I started falling back to sleep faster. Every crow started reminding me of the love of my God who never stops calling. Now, we own a flock of our own chickens including two roosters. And I have even considered adding more roosters to our choir; maybe an [Ayam Ketawa](#), aka the laughing rooster or a [Denizli Longcrower](#), which are famous for how long they can crow. I probably won't, but a crowing rooster is now an important aspect of my spiritual work. How is God speaking to you?

**Jonathan Roach, Associate Conference Minister**  
From "The Coconut Wireless" April 24, 2024 edition.



Our dearly beloved Lee Murakami passed away April 16, 2024. She was under Hospice, and her children were there.

As printed by Nakamura Mortuary at <https://www.nakamura mortuary.com/>

Leora Murakami passed away peacefully on Tuesday April 16, 2024 at the age of 85.

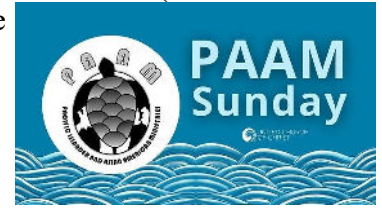
Leora served as a dedicated school teacher for over 30 years after receiving her BS in Education from Drake University in Iowa. Most of her teaching career was spent inspiring students at Iao Intermediate School from 1959-1995. After her retirement, she enjoyed getting involved in volunteer work. She was very proud to have volunteered at Kaunoa Senior Center for over 20 years (1999-2023). She was passionate about encouraging seniors to be more active, engage socially, and enjoy their retirement years. Leora was also very involved at her church, Iao United Church of Christ. She made it a point to visit seniors that weren't able to attend church to ensure they felt included. She also served on the church's funeral committee to help church and non church members organize funeral services to honor the life of their loved ones. Additionally, Leora volunteered at the Blood Bank of Hawaii calling the community to ask for donations. Leora was always a very social person who welcomed everyone into her life. She was a kind, thoughtful, generous and loving person to everyone she met. She loved to play mah-jong and was a very avid player. Not only did she love to play but her passion for teaching was reunited when she instructed several groups of seniors in learning mahjong. Her hope was that these students would continue to pass on her joy and knowledge of the game. The family would like to extend their deep appreciation and gratitude to the staff at Agape Homecare Agency and Islands Hospice Staff for devoting such loving care of our mother during her illness. Survived by: Predeceased: Larry Murakami (Husband) Son: Bryan (Tricia) Matsumoto Daughter: Nami Ann (Dennis) Foree Grandchildren: Antje (Brad) Volk Leesa Foree Ryan (Kyle Cosman) Foree Jenna Matsumoto Great Grandchildren: Riley Volk James Volk Church services will be held at Iao United Church of Christ in Wailuku on Saturday May 4, 2024. Visitation to begin at 3:00PM and service at 4:00PM. The family requests no wreaths or flowers.

Hope you can lend a hand. Before Covid, Buildings and grounds held an all church clean-up day every 6 months. Well can you guess when the last clean-up was? A long time ago. We are keepers of our facilities and grounds. So here is your chance to be a faithful servant of Iao Church. There will jobs for everyone. It's years with only a general light weekly cleaning we need to get into the corners and air out the pew cushions! Get the cobwebs from Fujitomo, and clean the spills in Kanda just for an example. So, this is your formal invitation to join in on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 8 am to 1 pm. Many hands make the load lighter. Hope we can count on you! Bring supplies for the task you prefer to work on. (the church will provide what they have, but it's been a while, remember.)



## PAAM Sunday Is April 28

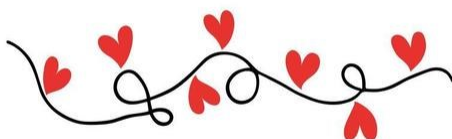
In the United Church of Christ, the last Sunday of April has been designated as PAAM (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries) Sunday, when all UCC churches recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans in the life of the UCC. Resources for PAAM Sunday may be found on our [website](#). Additional resources and information may be found on the [Hawai'i PAAM](#) webpag



Some of the grunt work to make the view and safe walkway to and from our new sanctuary front entrance. See update under Building and Ground report.



Our beloved Kapuna are back where they belong for Aloha Hour. Missing some and some are new to the bench but the view is one we haven't seen since covid.





# The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)



Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| I | Z | X | B | Q | D | M | T | A | U  | J  | C  | W  | V  | K  | E  | R  | S  | H  | F  | L  | P  | G  | N  | O  | Y  |
| 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 |

- 18-25-10-24-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-1-24-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-1-21-21 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-25-10-18-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-1-17-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-25-21-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-22-1-17-1-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-22-16-9-15 \_\_\_\_\_
- 21-9-24-23-10-9-23-16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-16-9-14-16-24 \_\_\_\_\_

|      |       |       |        |          |
|------|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| WIND | SPEAK | HOLY  | SPIRIT | LANGUAGE |
| FIRE | SOUND | HOUSE | FILL   | HEAVEN   |

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday                         | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 28  | 29   | 30  | 1  | 2                                | 3  | 4  |
|   |  |   | Happy Days<br>AFG 9a (K)   | AA 7-8 (K)                       | Ladies Lunch<br>Bunch<br>11:30 am<br><br>Micronesia<br>Women 6-7 (S) | Aha MokuPuni<br>9a-3p<br>Lee Murakami<br>Service 4pm<br><br>AA 7-8 (K) |
| 5   | 6  | 7   | 8  | 9                                | 10   | 11   |
|  ONE BREAD,<br>ONE BODY | <b>FOOD PANTRY</b><br><br>11a-3p<br>Bible Study<br>7 pm  | MFG District<br>5:30-6:30 pm<br><br>Kosrae Fema | Kosrae Etawi<br>Mtg 6-7pm<br><br>Happy Days<br>AFG 9a (K)                        | AA 7-8 (K)                       | Micronesia<br>Women 6-7 (S)  | AA 7-8   |
| 12  | 13   | 14  | 15   | 16                               | 17   | 18   |
|   | <b>FOOD PANTRY</b><br><br>11a-3p<br>Bible Study<br>7 pm  | Visitation 1 pm                                 | Happy Days<br>AFG 9a (K)   | AA 7-8 (K)                       | Micronesia<br>Women 6-7  | Church Clean<br>-up 8a-1p  |
| 19  | 20   | 21  | 22   | 23                               | 24   | 25   |
|   | <b>FOOD PANTRY</b><br><br>11a-3p<br>Bible Study<br>7 pm  |   | Happy Days<br>AFG 9a (K)   | AA 7-8 (K)                       | Micronesia<br>Women 6-7 (S)  |  |
| 26  | 27   | 28  | 29   | 30                               | 31   | AA 7-8 (K)   |
|   | <b>Memorial Day</b><br>Bible Study 7p<br>Office Closed<br>Food Pantry<br>Closed<br><br>Memorial Day |   | Happy Days<br>AFG 9a (K)<br><b>FOOD PANTRY</b><br><br>Council<br>Meeting 5:45 p. | Shelter Dinner<br><br>AA 7-8 (K) |  |  |

## May 2024 Calendar

- \*[Office hours](#): 9 am-3 pm (808)244-7353 email: [office@iaoucc.org](mailto:office@iaoucc.org)
- \*[Pastor Jack's Contact/Hours](#): email: [jack.belsom@gmail.com](mailto: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)
- \*[Bible Study](#): Monday evenings 7-8:30 pm in Fujtomo Hall or on Zoom (call office for link)
- \*[Ladies Lunch Bunch](#): First Friday of the month. 11:30 am-2:00 pm on the church lanai.
- \*[Member Visitation](#): Second Tuesday 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.
- \*[Micronesia Women](#): Friday 6-7 pm Contact Youlida Yoruw
- \*[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
- \*[Kosrae Campus Workday](#): 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of month. Contact Jeromy Palik

# John 3:1-17

R H W C S B A H I I B M O W T K O K O V R P V Y  
 U E T E R N A L L I F E R R W H X C Y O K L M B  
 Q A K H D Y M O D G N I K R Q W Y Z A S V B S V  
 Y E G U B H M S J H V B W E O Z Z T Y H P B D T  
 R E H C A E T V A D P N C E U Q Y N J F U C C W  
 Y R C M M Z L H N X E X O J E E R B W O G B A E  
 K U F P M X Z M Z U P U R E L E A R S I D V F B  
 D L R O W B K S U M E D O C I N P M L R I T J R  
 Q R O N W U R A M U G W Q O G M P E R I S H K U  
 Y O F N E V A E H Y N X E P T S P A B V D G P I  
 E X G T V P L S Y L X J K K S C G A F Y K O A K  
 P Z O U C X N K N O O E K I X B L S A V B F O D  
 N P S U T M X Z D V F S D S T Q B V V P X R Z H  
 V L O E M L B X W T C U H U I P E I B I N O S S  
 R V S M U B O I L E W S S Z R G L N U Y W J Q E  
 L Z H J B K C Z B P V U A Z I O I L U V H U P L  
 V M N R E Q E R S M Q Z V N P D E S X V N O A F  
 S R D G Q N C S Y H X D E O S S V B I R G D Y L  
 D D N I W H O E V E R G D S S O E X R E E O G M  
 P N A E U I F U K F G X F L N L S W I T B I W G  
 J I P X C H F U E N P F C I P O M J F A J T F A  
 J W L I O B G I K H R I C H O V V D S W E Z W X  
 K J M Y F Z X J J A F T G S Z E S S E E T H X A  
 H Z P H A R I S E E S V E H N D G P W T U F A Q

|             |            |           |           |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| ETERNALLIFE | GODSOLOVED | NICODEMUS | PHARISEES |
| BELIEVES    | WHOEVER    | TEACHER   | KINGDOM   |
| HEAVEN      | PERISH     | ISRAEL    | SPIRIT    |
| SAVED       | WORLD      | FLESH     | WATER     |
| JESUS       | WIND       | WOMB      | SON       |



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May 19 | 10am

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 Website: [iaoucc.org](http://iaoucc.org)  
[facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/](https://facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/)

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

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Pastor (interim)         | Jack Belsom    |
| 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.**