

Iao Pepa

— Na Makani —

A monthly newsletter of Iao Congregational Church

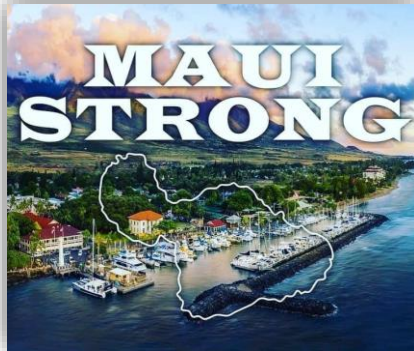
September 2023

Donating To Maui Wildfire Relief and Recovery

Many of you have asked about donating from Iao church to Maui's wildlife relief and recovery efforts.

The Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ has established a 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund also have a Disaster Ministries Coordinator, Danny Tengan, who is spearheading the response and recovery efforts. Churches and individuals are welcome to contribute on the website www.hcucc.org via PayPal or www.hcucc if you wish to donate as a church, you may give donations to our church indicating that the donation is designated for Maui Wildfire Relief and we will send the donations collectively to the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ.

Thank you for your prayers, kindness and generosity as we journey through this challenging time together.



Shannon's Scoops

Aloha Iao UCC Families and Friends,
Wishing a Happy September to all of you!!!
Hope this newsletter finds you in good health and great spirits. As always, if you or your family needs anything, please call our office at (808) 244-7353.

I'm sure that we are all feeling the heartbreak from the devastating wildfires in Lahaina and Upcountry. My heart hurts and my head cannot quite comprehend the loss. I feel that now more than ever we need God. We know that God is listening and is still speaking but sometimes we need reminders. Leaning on God is the best thing that we can do when things get really difficult. Our God is the only one that can offer true comfort in this time of need.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." - Psalm 46:1

There are so many emotions that come up while experiencing loss. Grief is an emotional state that just knocks you off your feet and comes over you like a wave. It is a natural response to loss and grief is important to acknowledge. The grieving process is personal and unique for each individual. I feel that it's important to have faith, be kind, compassionate, patient and understanding as we navigate our grief. If we can find unity from this devastation, we will emerge as a stronger community.

Here is a snippet from Pastor Robb Kojima's sermon on 8/20/2023: "Blame will not stop the hurt, blame will not stop the displacement, the sorrow, or bring the dead back to life. Why do we think that if we can blame someone (other than ourselves) that we will feel better? To absolve ourselves from guilt. To find an enemy to bring down and destroy. To funnel our energy and focus away from our sorrow, grief, and the feelings we harbor. We do this over and over again, we look for blame, then move towards efforts of revenge. We fail to do the contemplative work of grieving, or figuring out what

are feeling we may have or admit responsibility of how contributed to this situation. Relationships are destroyed in the process."



Miguel Morales, Caroline & Jack Belsom, Kealahou Alike, Jaime & Shannon Ribao, David Popham, Robb Kojima, John Tomoso, Dennis Barger, Msgr. Terry Watanabe & Jimmy Aarona.

One thing that I have been trying to do more of during this extremely difficult time is to pray more and to list 3 things that I am grateful for each day. The sadness can be overwhelming but joy is present too. If I can focus on my joys and have Gratitude for my life, it helps hold on to HOPE!

We are all in this together. Let us continue to pray for each other and lift one another up, especially during these tragic times. Let us do our best to be kind, loving and forgiving also.

May God Bless Us
ALL!!!
With Love &
Blessings,
Shannon Ribao
Grateful Moderator

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."
Romans 12:12*



No, the young men of the Kosrae Etawi are not all texting their girlfriends. Sometimes looks can be deceiving.

They are sharing their beautiful voices with the congregation at the August 27 10:00 a.m. church service. They are just making sure they get all the words correct.

Thank you gentlemen for gifting us with your talent.



September *Liturgy*

Sept.3 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 3:1-15 & Ps 105:1-6,23-26
Rom 12:9-21
Matt 16:9-21
Spirt-Led Living

Sept.10 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 12:1-14 & Ps 149
Rom 13:8-14
Matt 18:15-20
Remember, Restore, Renew
Faith Formation Sunday

Sept.17 16th Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 14:19-31 & Ps114
Rom 14:1-12
Matt 18:21-35
Road to Freedom
Just Peace Sunday

Sept. 24 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Ex 16:2-15 & Ps 105:1-6
Phil 1:21-30
Matt 20:1-16
Tensions in the Wilderness
American Indian Ministry & United Samoan
Ministries Stewardship Sundays

Prayer List

Our beloved Maui, for those who have lost family, friends and everything they had.
The Wimberely-Hartman Family.



September Birthdays

9/5 Bert Akitake
9/6 Avis Teshima-Wong
Carley Defang
9/11 Dawna Krueger
9/15 Anslan Fugow
Erin Hashiro
9/19 Jaime Ribao
9/20 Winford Ideue
9/22 Emily Murai
9/25 Shannon Ribao

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Sunday Morning 10:00am

Pulpit:

9/3 Rev. Jack Belsom
9/10 Rev. Jack Belsom
9/17 Tim Greathouse
9/24 Kahu Alika

Greeter: Tim Stewart

Youth Reader: Anela Awai-Stewart

Adult Reader: Sanoe Awai

Aloha Hour: Susan King & Sanoe Awai
Etawi (9/24)



Sunday morning Service will begin at 10:00 a.m. This time helps those filling our pulpit to be able to conduct a second service, and it seems to be working for you.

September 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Greeter: Tim Stewart Youth Reader: Anela Awai-Stewart Adult Reader: Sanoe Awai Aloha Hr.: Susan King & Sanoe Awai	Kanda Hall is reserved for Red Cross evacuates until Dec. Call office for more info.				Ladies Lunch 11:30-2 Lanai Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7 -8pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion Sunday Pastor Jack	Labor Day Office & Food Pantry Closed	AA 5:30-7:30	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Youth 5:30	AA 7 -8pm	Food Pantry 12:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7 -8pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pastor Jack	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30		AA 9-11 Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Youth 5:30	AA 7 -8pm	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7 -8pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Tim Greathouse	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30		AA 9-11 Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Youth 5:30	AA 7 -8pm	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 7 -8pm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Kahu Alia	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30		AA 9-11 Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Youth 5:30	AA 7 -8pm	Food Pantry 12:30-3:30 Micronesia Women 6-7	AA 1-3 & 7 -8pm



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Email: office@iaoucc.org

Food Pantry Phone: 808-4467537

***No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here.***

***An Open an Affirming Church
/Congregation.***

