

# 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 .

April 2025

### Pastor's News APRIL, 2025

*"In the bulb there is a flower  
In the seed, an apple tree  
In cocoons, a hidden promise  
Butterflies will soon be free!"*

*(from Hymn of Promise by Natalie Sleeth)*



It's a tad bit uncomfortable to be writing about April's upcoming events when we're still in the midst of Lent...

*"unrevealed until its season... something God alone can see."*

So let's pause to  
that are emerging as we antici-  
that butterfly out of the cocoon  
Remember Mardi Gras Sun-  
Dixieland band and the  
the joy of celebrating 23  
Kosraean beloveds? Re-



acknowledge the "bulbs" or buds  
pate Easter, but we won't force  
quite yet!  
day and the fun we had with our  
Saints marching in...? Remember  
years of fellowship with our



member beginning Lent at the table of our Lord? Remember our Congregational meeting and ALL the flowers of the things we've accomplished as well as the hints at all the buds that are emerging as we anticipate this new year?



Remember our advocacy at the state building to call on our government to care for “the least of these, our siblings.” (Mt. 25:40) BTW (by the way), we are resurrecting our “Justice/Witness ” Community! Stay tuned for exciting news about in this vital part of our work and witness as a church!

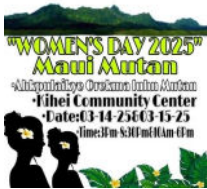


Remember Iao UCC’s solemn but meaningful participation in the Ash Wednesday service with our sibling congregations (Wailuku Union and Ka’ahumanu Church); We look ahead to Maundy Thursday (April 17 @ 6pm @ Iao) and Easter Sunrise (April 20) in Ka’ahumanu’s graveyard. I am SO inspired to craft and share an Easter message of new life... in a cemetery!! Please join me – at 6 a.m.! (you can wear your jammies...I won’t judge), potluck breakfast will follow at Wailuku Union. Of course I’m so excited about Iao’s version of one of the highest holy days of the Christian Year -- our own celebration of Easter’s Victorious message of New Life at 10 a.m. (I hear rumors of an Easter egg hunt to follow worship!)

Remember our beloved Youth and Young Adults leading us in worship, overcoming tech glitches and nervous energy to teach us about the power of prayer – and being known by our LOVE!



Remember that four Wednesday evenings of Lent have been designated as a gathering of members & friends... for inquiry (Lent’s perfect invitation to pause and ask ourselves meaningful questions in wonderful community...) AND to lift our “pick up choir” voices in songs that will deepen our experience of Holy Week and Easter! ALL are invited !



Did you hear about our Iao Kosraean women hosting a statewide gathering for International Women’s Day at the Kihei Community Center... complete with food and crafts and dancing and much hilarity and deep connections? I am so proud of Carley Defang (president) and her crew of hard-working, joy-exuding leadership!



(I was honored to be one of their speakers – along with Youlida Yoruw, and the attendance of Yoslyn George Sigrah, Kosrae’s first woman to be elected to serve in the congress of the Federated States of Micronesia,!

We remembered our beloved John Phillips in perhaps the first ever “hybrid” memorial service, blending Kosraean traditions and language with English/ “Western”/Iao traditions. We are gift and legacy of John which lives on in us all!



(and finally... from Pastor Lauren :-)

Our Mokupuni “Y You Lead” youth and young adult event (3/22) has taken place... featuring the planning and participation of Iao’s own youth and young adults! Talk about an AMAZING bud of the leadership, mutual support and just plain FUN that happens any time the Younger Church is allowed to BE themselves! Congratulations, Iao UCC for nurturing these beloved souls!!

Mahalo to Pastor Jack Belsom for his faithful kokua!



Our “bouquet” of buds overflows with potential, with delicious mystery and with so much to anticipate as we affirm the work that GOD is doing in our midst! It reminds me of the great hymn lyrics by famous Riverside pastor, Harry Emerson Fosdick:

*“God of grace and God of glory, on Your people, pour Your power!  
Crown Your ancient church’s story, bring her BUD to GLORIOUS FLOWER!”*

In this spirit, please mark your calendars for two special worship services on April 27 at 10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. when Mokupuni ‘O Maui, Moloka’i a me Lana’i joins with our congregation in my service of Installation as pastor and teacher here at Iao UCC... and part One of our yearlong celebration of Iao’s 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Blessing and Honor, Glory and Power be unto our Extravagantly Welcoming God!  
Lauren Buck Medeiros, your grateful pastor!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**April 27, 10:00 am  
Service Celebrating  
our  
130th Anniversary  
and  
4:00 pm Pastor Lauren’s  
Installation**



## April Sermon Text

April 6	Communion	John 12:1-8
April 13	Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-38
April 20	Easter	Mark 16:1-8
April 27	Pastor Kalani	Acts 5:27-32



April 1	Dennis Hashioro
April 7	Anne Hill
April 7	Jenna Johannes
April 7	Tim Greathouse
April 14	Darson Defang
April 14	Joy Yanmane
April 14	Bojay Petrus
April 17	Jonathan Kaneshina
April 21	Susan King
April 23	Joshua Yoruw
April 24	Cynthia Snell
April 26	Jefferson Yinmed
April 26	Pam Ikeda
April 29	J.A.C. Yoruw
April 29	Mike Yamashiro
April 30	Warren Orikasa

## May Sermon Text

May 4	Communion	John 20:19-31
May 11	Mother's Day	John 5:1-9
May 18	Graduation Sunday	Galat. 5:22-23 13:3-9
May 25	Memorial Day	Hebrews 11:29-12:2



Minster: Pastor Lauren Buck Medeiros  
4/27 Pastor Kalani

Greeter/Liturgist: Dawna Krueger

Youth Reader: Carlyn Obet

Adult Reader: Paul Obet

Technicians Sonny Yoruw / Jay-Dee Hadley

Aloha Hour- 4/6 Obet Family

4/13 Shruie Sigrah

4/20

4/27 Maui Etawi

*Prayer List:* Please notice the beautiful prayers of our people displayed on the cross in the back of the sanctuary gather during our Youth Sunday Service. You may still continue to add to the requests. Cards are located on back table.



## 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

## Upcoming Registration for 2025 'Aha Youth Track (C, R, E, S)

This year's 'Aha Pae'āina Youth Track will be held on Kaua'i from June 11 – 14, 2025. Youth will stay at the Waineke Cabins and churches in Kapa'a as they engage in activities to deepen their faith, strengthen their connections with God and each other, and have fun! Due to limited capacity, the Youth Track will be open to just 30 youth from Hawai'i Conference churches. Registration/acceptance guidelines have been set in place with the first round of registrations due by **April 7**. A registration packet will be made available to churches by March 31. Please read more [HERE](#) so you don't miss this opportunity!



**Calling all those young and young at heart. Following our 10:00 am Easter Sunday Morning worship, the back lawn will ready for our traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your basket or bags to fill full of great surprises!**

## From Justice & Witness Community (NEW!)

4/2 @ 7p.m. (Wednesday after Lent Gathering) Sign painting in Kanda – bring colors, supplies!

4/5 @ 4 p.m. We will join others at the community "Hands Off" sign waving at Whole Foods

4/13 @ 11 a.m. (following worship) Gerald and others will offer a workshop on ICE and immigrant rights. ALSO, postcards will be shared so everyone can join in "Flipping Tables with Jesus" this Holy Week!

(for more info: see posters in back of sanctuary OR talk to Gerald, Shannon, Jaime, Cheryl and Pastor Lauren!!)



"I like it in church on Easter when we sing Easter carols."

## Buildings and Grounds

Dennis Hashiro, Daniel Kamidoi, Howard Ikeda, Paul Lackey, Danny Johannes (official B&G) plus many, many from our Micronesia Community (men, women, youth and children)



Buildings and grounds are always busy in the back ground. Just because there were no big projects they felt they have nothing to report. But here is just a look of what they have accomplished: A beautiful book shelf to Pastor Lauren's desk, (built by Daniel) put up a bulletin board by secretary's desk, removed the center railing to allow John's casket to enter the sanctuary (they will also put it back). Okayed the use of our buildings for family and friends. and every week go to the food bank, help shop, load the food on their trucks, unload the food into Kanda Hall and help put the food on shelves and in the fridge and freezer! This is just a few of those important jobs that they are always on call for!

They do want to send out a great big mahalo to our neighbors that informed they that a water pipe behind Kanda Hall had burst. An area that we don't really look at often.



## Learning Community

Dawna Krueger, Coreen Matsui-Lackey, Youlida Yoruw, Anela Awai-Stewart

Last month (March) proved to be busy again for Sunday School. The children stayed in worship for the 1st Sunday, Communion, and the 3rd Sunday when they got to see how as they grow, they too, will be able to conduct a worship service. (who was God's voice?)

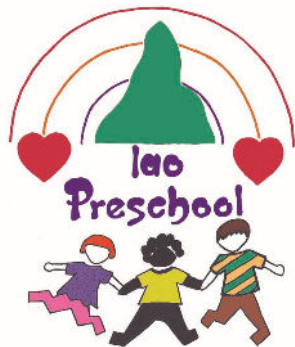


Because of these important times, our planned lessons are running a little behind. But that's okay because the teachers are flexible. The community will be trying to find the best way to cover our lessons so that the true message is understood by all the children. We will be trying to do one lesson for two weeks. With the shortened time there is so much that does not get covered.

We ask that your prayers include the Sunday School children and the Learning Community that all may receive and share the love of Jesus in ways that we can all grow, love, and learn.

Starting in April, fingers crossed, the children will be sharing a song on Communion Sundays.

After our youth presented such a great service for all of us, it is hoped that they will share more frequently with their younger children, providing a role model for them as they grow.



## Iao Preschool Community

Tim Stewart, Bert Akitake, Sanoë Awai, Susan King, Director Fley Iniba

The preschool has begun the process of achieving The National Association for the Education of the Young Child (NAEYC) accreditation. This process is quite intense and looks at every aspect of operating a quality program.

The school was full of all the silliness of Dr. Seuss in the month of March. Celebrating his birthday on the 3rd, cooking and eating “Green Eggs and Ham”, wearing our “Cat in the Hat” hats and had fun with “Sock’s”



In the winds of March we almost flew away with the parachute.



On one of Auntie Dawna’s visits, a lengthy discussion was had as to what you can see with binoculars.

And of course we L-O-V-E  
The time with special visitors, Uncle Wayne, Pastor Lauren and Auntie Dawna



## Stewarding Community: Anna

Mayeda Carly Defang, Jane Tesoro, Gail Ideue, and Youlida Yurow

April 15th is best known as the federal tax deadline time. It brings mixed emotions for some who may dread having to pay additional taxes or joy to those receiving a refund. Lately, the country has heard much controversy over tariffs. Are you tired of hearing too much about taxes or tariffs?

Then focus your energy on these 3 Ts: *time*, *talent* and *treasure*. Stewardship, often described as the "three Ts," involves responsibly using God-given gifts of time, talent, and treasure to serve others and build up God's kingdom, recognizing that all we have comes from God.

How much time do you devote to church? Have you shared your talent with others? Does treasure only refer to money? We know a balanced budget is important to fiscal security, so we must maintain faith that God will provide with the resources we have.

May your Easter offering be a blessing that comes from the heart!

Matthew 6:21: *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

## Worshipping Community

Submitted by

Carolyn Kamidoi

Worship Community: Shannon Ribao, Jaime Ribao, Susan King, Rena Hayashi, Carolyn Kamidoi, Mayleen Phillip, Katherine Hashiro



Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner served about 45 people. Mahalo to the kitchen crew (Howard & Pam Ikeda, Katherine & Dennis Hashiro, Jackie Murai, Gail Ideue, Kalani & Avis Wong, Daniel Kamidoi) who cooked up a scrumptious meal! Thank you also to other church members who helped with clean up after a fun-filled event. Special thanks to Pastor Lauren and Kahu Kalani who provided a rip-roaring sing along program.

Lenten Activities on March 12, 19 and April 2, 9; 6PM – 7PM in the Sanctuary.

Explorations 6PM – Membership inquiry

Pick-up Choir 6:30

Looking ahead:

April 13 - Palm Sunday – Iao UCC, 10:00AM

April 17 – Maundy Thursday, 6PM, Iao UCC hosting, Pastor Robb Kojima sharing the message with Kahu Wayne Higa and Pastor Lauren participating.

April 20 – Easter Sunrise service at Kaahumanu Church 6:30AM. Pastor Lauren sharing the message. Breakfast at Wailuku Union following the service.

Easter Sunday service at Iao UCC 10:00AM

Mahalo March Worship Leaders

Greeter – Youlida Yoruw

Readers – Sharon Sigrah and Shruie Sigrah

April Worship Leaders

Greeter – Dawna Krueger

Readers – Carlyn Obet and Paul Obet

Respectfully submitted by

Carolyn Kamidoi



12-27  
© 2011 Jeff and The Wisdom  
Distributed by FamilyCircus.com  
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"We learned the fourth commandment:  
'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"



Palm Sunday  
April 13th, 10:00 am



Maundy Thursday

April 17th 6 pm

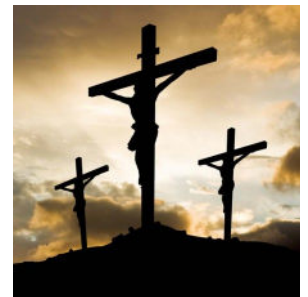
With Ka'ahumanu & Wailuku Union friends



Good Friday

April 18 noon

Taize Singing Meditation



Easter Sunday!

April 20

6am Kaahumanu

Then breakfast at Wailuku Union

10 am Iao UCC Worship

11 am Easter Egg Hunt

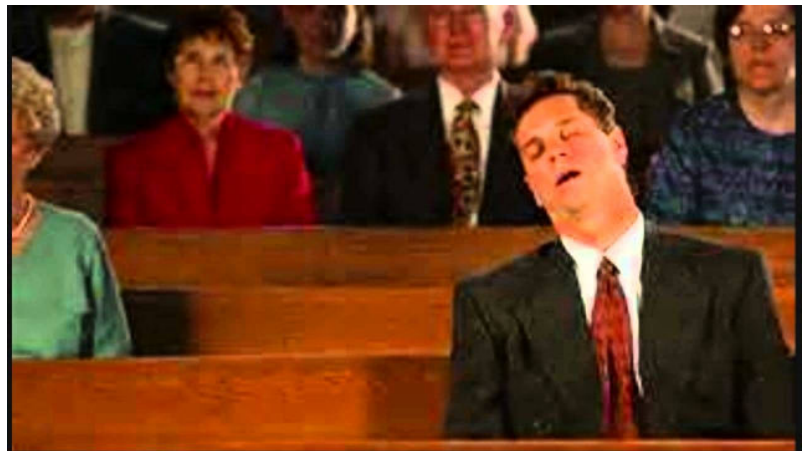
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## April 2025 Calendar

- \*Office hours: 9 am-3pm Closed Friday (808)244-7353 email: office@iaoucc.org
- \*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-3:00 pm.
- \*AA/Al-Anon meetings: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday assorted hours.
- \*Micronesia Women: Friday 6-7 pm Contact Carley Defang
- \*Council Meeting: Last Wednesday of the month, 5:30 pm on zoom. Contact office for link
- \*Kosrae Maui Church: Sunday at 3 pm Contact Kotan Melander Rsmithkopa11@gmail.com
- \*Maui Etawi Church: Sunday at 4 pm
- \*Kosrae Campus Workday: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of month. Contact Jeromy Palik

This is guarantee never to happen at Iao:

A parishioner fell asleep in church. He was woken with the words up "Please rise." So as not to show that he had been asleep, he jumped up immediately. The minister cried out in glee. Thank you Mr. Smith, when can I expect your \$20,000 check in the offering plate!



It sounds far away but it's just around the corner. The Iao UCC Bazaar and Rummage Sale is on July 12, 2025. This call is for crafters, bakers, food truck (possibly) entertainers and game hostess/host.

Iao UCC is hosting a day (8:00 am-2:pm) full of fun, games and entertainment on July 12, 2025.

Come meet our new pastor, Rev. Lauren Buck Medeiros. A person you'll never forget! We are seeking vendors to join us for this exciting day filled with food, fun, and community spirit.

Spaces will be filled on a first come basis. For event application please email office@iaoucc.org

# April

Lent Event-Inquire and Choir 4/2&9 ,6-7 pm  
 Maundy Thursday 6pm @ Iao,  
 Easter Sunrise 6 am @ Kaahumanu,  
 followed by Potluck breakfast @Wailuku Union  
 10:00M Easter Worship @ Iao

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  AlAnon District 5:30-7:30 K	2 AlAnon 9-10 K  6pm Lent Event 7 J/W Sign painting S	3  AA 7-8 K	4  Ladies Lunch Bunch 11:30 L  Micronesian Women 6-7 S	5 Cynthia Moore Funeral 8-noon  AA 7-8 K
6 Communion 5th Sunday in Lent  Etawi 3-5	7 Food Pantry 11-3 K	8  Visitation 1pm	9 AlAnon 9-10 K  6 pm Lent Event	10  AA 7-8 K	11  Micronesian Women 6-7 S	12  AA 7-8 K
13 Palm Sunday!  ICE Workshop (after worship)  Etawi 3-5	14 Food Pantry 11-3 K  Table Flipping With Jesus	15	16 AlAnon 9-10 K  *HELP NEEDED S	17  Maundy Thursday 6 pm @ Iao AA Wailuku 7-8 K	18 Good Friday  NOON Taizé Service  Micronesian Women 6-7 S	19 Holy Saturday  AA S7-8 K
20 Easter Sunday 6 am Sunrise @ Kaahumanu Breakfast @WUC 10 am Iao Service (& Egg Hunt!) Etawi 3-5	21 Food Pantry 11-3 K	22 Earth Day	23 Al Anon 9-10 K  Council report/ Iao Pepa Due	24  AA 7-8 K 7-8 K	25  Micronesian Women 6-7 S	26 State AA 9:30-4:30 K  Work Day  AA 7-8 K
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 130 Anniversary  4pm Pastor's Installation	28 Food Pantry 11-3 K	29  Micro. Council 5:30 K	30 Al Anon 9-10 K  Council 5:45		*Set up Sanctu- ary for Maundy Thursday Service (no washing of feet this year)	



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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	Lauren Buck Medeiros
Moderator	Shannon Ribao
Office Volunteer	Dawna Krueger
Music Minister	Ruth Murata
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.**