



*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 2025



**Celebrating Resurrection Hope, New Beginnings,  
and 130 Years of Faithful Witness**

*"See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" – Isaiah 43:19*

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! And so are we—rising in spirit, rising in joy, rising into a season of deep gratitude and bold hope for what God is doing in and through our beloved community.

This Eastertide, we are soaking in the beauty of resurrection—not just in scripture and song, but in the living testimony of our church ohana as the Spirit of the LIVING God continues to call us into renewed purpose and radical love.

**Grateful Heart for a Joyful Installation/Anniversary**

Wow! There are no words!...only deep joy and gratitude for all the love and effort and participation and lei and food and prayers and good wishes and so much more! The installation service was more than a ceremonial moment or a duty to check off! It was an affirmation of a sacred covenant: to walk together in faith, justice, and mutual care as we discern the Spirit's leading. But to combine it with a kick off celebrating 130 Years of Faithful Ministry?? Perfection!! Just think about that a minute!! 130 years of worship, witness, and welcome in this community. And what a journey it has been! Through seasons of growth, challenge, and transformation, our church has remained rooted in God's love and open to God's future. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, giving thanks for their courage and commitment, even as we look ahead with fresh vision. *Okage Sama De!!* I am what I am because of YOU; WE are who we are because of those who came before us... and we are SO much better TOGETHER!

As we lean into this season of Eastertide, may we be an Easter people—alive with hope, committed to justice, and grounded in joy. Let us continue to build a church that welcomes all, affirms all, and challenges us to become the Body of Christ in bold and beautiful ways.

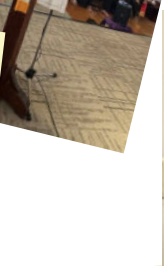
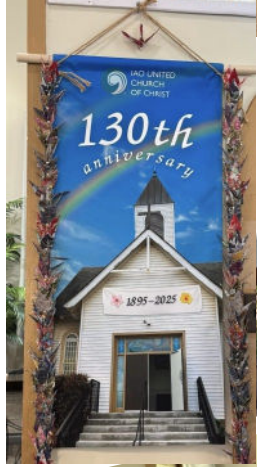
May resurrection not be a single day, but a daily choice to love bigger, risk braver, and believe deeper.

With joy and gratitude,  
Pastor Lauren



Pastor Lauren, sister Lisa  
and son Christopher were  
here!







## 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."*



The Annual Meeting of the Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ, the 'Aha Pae'aina, will be starting the afternoon of June 12 and run through June 14, 2025, at Kapa'a First Hawaiian Church and Kapa'a United Church of Christ on Kaua'i. Phiwa Langeni, UCC's Minister for Innovation and Strategic Collaboration, will be the keynote speaker at the Opening Worship.

This year's 'Aha Pae'aina Youth Track will be held on Kaua'i from June 11 – 14, 2025. Youth will stay at the Waieke 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! Iao is sending Joyleen Phillip and Domnic Defang!

Our adults attending the conference will be Pastor Lauren, Youlida Yoruw, Warren Orikasa and Kahu Kalani Wong.

## `Aha O Na Mokupuni `O Maui, Molokai A Me Lana`i

(A Meeting of the Association, Hawaii Conference, UCC)

Spring 2025 `Aha Mokupuni Meeting  
Saturday, May 31, 10:00 a.m. at the  
Maui Evangelical Church  
256 Hina Ave., Kahului, HI  
(Registration starts @ 9:30 am)

## ALOHA MAUI PRIDE EVENTS

June is National Pride Month and Aloha Maui Pride has fun and exciting events planned.

- Sun., June 1, Aloha Maui Pride's **PRIDE Brunch** and opening blessing at Nalu's in Kihei, 8:00 am –10:30 am. LGBTQ+ BRUNCH at Nalu's South Shore Grill in Kihei. There will be a Pride blessing to open PRIDE Month events. There will be a delicious Pride Buffet (\$15), plus much more.
- Wednesday, June 4. Maui County Proclamation & Flag Raising. 10-10:45 am. (free)
- Friday, June 6. Youth and Family Night. 4-8 pm at Kalama Beach Park (free)
- Saturday, June 7. Sunset Boat Party with Pacific Whale Foundation. 5-8 pm. (purchase ticket event)
- Sunday, June 8. Beach BBQ. 11am-3pm. at Kamaole 3 Beach Park Pot Luck (free)
- Friday, June 13. Kanikapila Night. Nalu's South Shore Grill. 5-8pm.
- Saturday, June 14. Maui Pride Festival. Market Street, Wailuku, 3-8pm. (Iao will be participating in this event.)
- Saturday, June 14. Official After Party. 8-11:55 pm. Da Playground in Maalaea.

Check out their web site @  
[alohamaupride.org/pridefestival](http://alohamaupride.org/pridefestival) for more

Join delegates from churches on Maui, Molokai and Lanai as we conduct important business and receive reports. Y You Lead Youth will be presenters and the conference Capital Fund presentation will be made.

**If you are interested please contact Pastor Lauren by May 14, 2025.**



## May Sermon Text

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

## June Sermon Text

June 1	7th Sunday after Easter	Romans 12:9-12
June 8	Pentecost	Ezekiel 37:4-5 Acts 2:1-4
June 15	Guest Preacher	
June 22	Guest Preacher	
June 29	O&A and Youth Sunday!	Daniel 3:16-28



May 5	Maybelle Hashizume (95!)
May 8	Paul Tonnessen
May 9	Anna Mayeda
May 16	Melissa Goulart
May 17	Gerald Montano
May 18	Mayleen Phillip
May 18	Diana George
May 20	Michael Kaneshina
May 22	JayDee Hadley
May 28	Bryn Turner
May 30	Heidi Israel
May 30	Noah Johannes



Minster:	Pastor Lauren Buck Medeiros
Greeter/Liturgist:	Cynthia Snell
Youth Reader:	Noah Johannes
Adult Reader:	Gail Ideue
Technicians	Sonny Yoruw /Jay-Dee Hadley
Aloha Hour-	4/6 Johannes Family
	4/13
	4/20 Akitake Family
	4/27 Maui Etawi

### Prayer List:

You, others, our county, our state, our country.



Jane Tesoro arranges 131 cranes to hang by the banner.



Our 130 Banner! Mahalo Luana Mitchell!

## Buildings and Grounds

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



Endo Hall office signs were made and installed. Rental Agreement training session were held. Bryn Turner, Warren Orikasa, and Alan Yamamoto have accepted the handling of the rental agreement and tenant relationship part of Buildings and Grounds. We are in the process of replacing the broken ropes in the double-hung windows in Endo Hall and the Sanctuary. These old windows have ropes and counter weights to hold the window open and we are learning how to do this. Daniel Kamidoi is our mentor. We have increased the Sanctuary rental fees for Non-Members: 1-4 hrs/ \$200, 5-8/ \$300. The Security Deposit to the Rental Agreements of \$150- \$300: To include cleaning costs, damage beyond wear and tear, unpaid rent or failure to return keys. Note: Maui Carpet Cleaning just shampooed Kanda Hall carpet on February 27, which is 7 weeks ago and the carpet already has several stains. The bill was \$480. A Bi-annual All Church Workday has tentatively been set for May 31. Inside and outside cleaning is scheduled to be done. Time: TBA.

John Phillip's passing: Sorry to have such a good and hard worker leave us so soon. John was part of B&G and we will surely miss him.

Building and Grounds  
Community will hold  
their next meeting  
May 12 at 10:00 am.

## Learning Community

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

First and foremost we send out a huge 'MAHALO' to Paul Lackey for crafting 15 beautiful crosses for the Sunday School children. They can either stand alone or hang on the wall. They were distributed on Palm Sunday.

Several of our young boys gifted the congregation by singing "God is So Good" in Kosraean and English on Sunday, April 6. Watch for more possible special treats from them as time goes on.

Learning Community will help send Dominic Defang and Joyleen Phillip to the 'Aha Pae'āina Youth Track which be held on Kaua'i from June 11 – 14, 2025



Learning Community  
meetings are held  
Sunday mornings  
@ 9 in Kanda Hall.  
All are welcome.





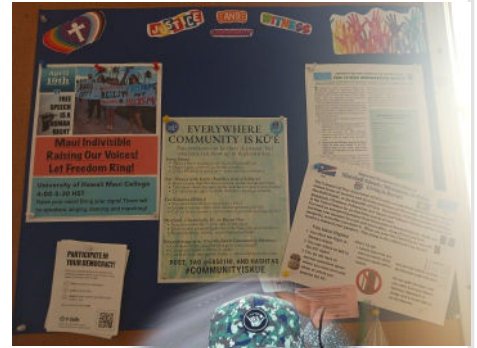
### **From Justice & Witness Community**

Gerald Montano, chair, Shannon Ribao, Jaime Ribao, Cheryl Matsui



After service on April 18, Palm Sunday, Gerald presented a very informative session concerning Immigration Rights and new threats by ICE agents. See the church bulletin board for more information and announcements.

We have also been very busy as the Face of Iao at the Transgender Day of Visibility, and the HANDS OFF! Rally.



Contact team members for the next Justice & Witness Community's meeting.



### **Iao Preschool Community**

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

On April 20 the preschool had a special story time visit from the Book Mobile. Week of the Young Child was celebrated by having a family picnic on the lawns of the preschool.

Other highlights were a walk to the library for story time, Easter Monday party with an egg hunt, celebrating Earth Day with a visit from MAPA and a rip roaring good time with Uncle Wayne!

Please contact a community member for day and time of next meeting.



Some of our youth helped to lead the echo Lord's Prayer at Pastor Lauren's installation.



### **Visitation Tream**

You just might want to join this fun loving group of people. It's our visitation team. In April they traveled up to see Mike and Myriam Takamatsu in Kula . It looks like a party to me!. Join them on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the upper parking lot at 1 pm. as we bring greetings and aloha to shut-ins and friends.



## Stewardship

**Stewarding Community:** Jane Tesoro (chair), Anna Mayeda, Carly Defang, Gail Ideue, and Youlida Yurow.

- Our next meeting will be May 18, at 11:30
- Mahalo to Gail who will send out funds collected from special offerings.
- One Great Hour of Sharing: \$752 received from generous donors and sent to Hawaii Conference. Big Thank you to all who made this possible, donating above and beyond their regular offerings.

Stewarding Community  
will hold their meeting  
May 18 at 11:30

Jane Tesoro  
Stewarding Community

---

## Worshipping Community

Submitted by: Carolyn Kamidoi (chair)

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

WC meeting with Pastor Lauren held on 4/9/25 to review Holy Week services.

Palm Sunday – service to begin outside on the lanai with Pastor blessing the palms

Maundy Thursday – Iao UCC is hosting with Pastor Robb Kojima delivering the message. Kahu Wayne Higa and Pastor Lauren assisting. Communion will be served. Help needed to arrange pews in chevron pattern.

Good Friday – service being held at 12 noon. Rev. Roxanne WhiteLight and Pastor Lauren leading Taize style (meditative singing). Kosrae Etawi will have a service later in the day and will rearrange the pews back to the original set up.

Easter – Pastor Lauren will preach at the sunrise service at Kaahumanu Church and later at Iao's 10:00 service. Pick-up choir will sing an anthem.

130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recognition on April 27, 10:00 service. Kahu Kalani Wong will preach with Pastor Lauren assisting. The sanctuary will be decorated with photos and poster boards of Iao UCC's history.

Installation will be on April 27 at 4 PM. Invitations have been sent out. Crocheted lei will be given to pastors in attendance. A Pot luck dinner by members with church ordering 4 pans of food from caterers will be held after the service.

Looking ahead:

May 4 – New members                      May 11 – Mother's Day

May 18 – Graduates Sunday              May 25 – Memorial Day

Mahalo April Worship Leaders

Greeter – Dawna Krueger, Readers - Carlyn Obet  
and Paul Obet

May Worship Leaders

Greeter – Cynthia Snell

Reader – Noah Johannes and Gail Ideue



Worshipping community meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month.



## News From The Food Pantry



We have been blessed with the help from our Kosraean Community in helping our usual drivers that include Warren, Dennis, Howard, and Daniel along with Alan, Dom and many of Dom's family members when he's not available. Not to be out-done by the men, Our Kosraean women are working Packing and distributing food along with Lynn, Pam, Dale and vacationing Anna. We couldn't manage without the help of Youlida, Catrina, Mayleen and more ladies than you can imagine just to be sup-

portive (meaning I can't remember names!)

Starting in May 2025, we will be trying out a different type of food distribution called "CHOICE". Instead of pre packing boxes or bags, there will be various stations with a volunteer at each station. These stations will offer various items for people to choose from, examples are: at the produce station there will be a variety of fresh produce to choose from. The Bakery station might have fresh bread, rolls, tortillas, etc.

Families will have a color coded card showing the size of their family and the number of choices they are allotted. Warren did an extraordinary amount of research on CHOICE talking with other agencies and the food bank. We all basically agreed to try this type of distribution which would make life much easier and less time consuming for the men and also the women who won't need to pre-pack food.

We should have an idea by the end of May and will report back our findings. We are ALWAYS looking for more volunteers for helping to deliver food to Kanda Hall and also for volunteers to help in distribution.

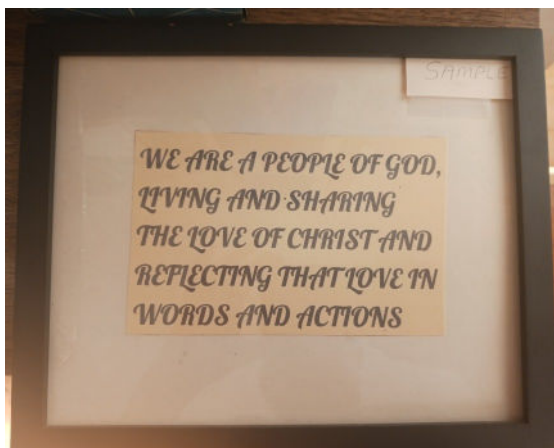
Once again, a big Mahalo for Warren's research!



Respectfully submitted by:

*Susan C. King,*

### Mission Statement Cards



Have you noticed our Mission Statement printed out so beautifully on the back table. Once again we want to thank Paul Lackey for producing them for use to help ourselves.

Coreen says that he created this right around the time when they became members as well as Husband and Wife. It has been on their wall since and provides them with a reminder as to what Iao stands for and puts a smile in their hearts.

Please feel free to take one for your reminder.

And once again, Mahalo, Paul.



Associate Conference Minister Jonathan Roach shares the following reflection on Holy Humor Sunday, which is the first Sunday after Easter:

Pastor: Knock, Knock!

Deacon: Who's there?

Pastor: No one. Weren't you here last Sunday? The Tomb is empty!

The first Sunday after Easter is Holy Humor Sunday. For centuries churches around the world have celebrated the Sunday after Easter as Laughter Sunday or Bright Sunday or Holy Humor Sunday, which was observed by the faithful as days of joy and laughter with parties, picnics, and laughter to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. People, even clergy, played practical jokes on each other, told jokes, sang funny song, and even danced.

During the 17th century, this fun got so out of hand that Pope Clement X even officially banned it, which made it even more fun for many people. The custom was rooted in the humor of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) who suggested that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. In Latin they called it, *Risus paschalis*, which literally means the Easter laugh\*.

On this Second Sunday of the Easter Season let us come to celebrate our God who has a sense of humor, who gave us the gift of laughter!

Which reminds me, did you hear the one about the two deacons who went hunting and got lost?

Well, after spending the whole night lost in the woods while out hunting, the Senior Deacon tells her hunting friend, "It's almost dawn, pastor is going to be so upset if we aren't there. I'm supposed to read the scripture today."

"That's nothing," the other deacon answered, "I need to give the Stewardship Moment to kick off the capital campaign...maybe someone is looking for us now. Try shooting again, maybe they will hear us this time!"

"Okay, I'll try. But this is my last arrow!"



Maui Matsuri Children's Festival will be held Sat., May 10, 10 am-1 pm. at the Queen Ka`ahumanu Center, Center Stage. The parade starts at 11:30 am and then at 11:45 the Kosraean children and youth will be sharing their cultural dances

Then on Sat., May 24, 3 pm-9-pm The Festival moves to the UH Maui College with free entertainment, food booths and trucks exhibits, kids crafts, plus and bon dancing.

## May 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: Monday ONLY 11:00 am-3:00 pm. except Memorial Day moved to 5/28 Wednesday
- \*AA/Al-Anon meetings: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday assorted hours.
- \*Micronesia Women: Friday 5:30-7 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 Fellowship: Sunday at 4 pm
- \*Kosrae Campus Workday: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of month. Contact Jeromy Palik

## July 12, 2025 Rummage/Plant/Craft/Backed Goods/BBQ/Plus 8:00 am-2:00pm

It's just around the corner! The co-chairs Dawna Krueger/Susan King, needs to know where you are going to put your energy to raise funds for our church.

BBQ– Youth?

Other Foods: (ideas only) Chili and Rice, Musubi, Baked Goods, Shave Ice

Vendors: Dawna  
Crafts: Dale

Micronesia Vendors:

PR/Signs:

Plants:

Entertainment:

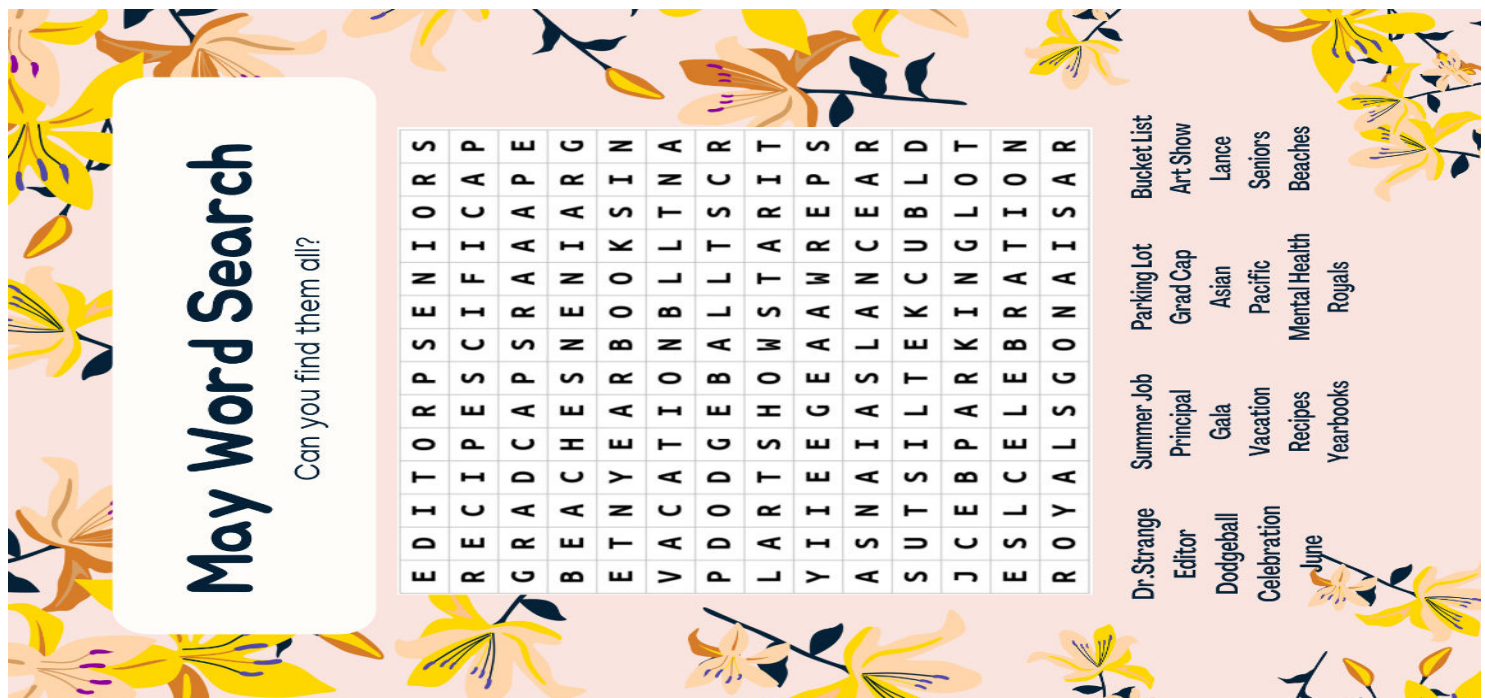
Tents:

Games:

Finance: Shru/Gail

Sound System:

Others:

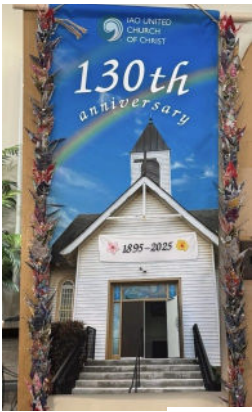




# May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 IPS Chapel 9:30 <b>S</b>  AA 7-8 <b>K</b>	2 Ladies Lunch Bunch 11:30 <b>L</b>  Micronesian Women 5:30 <b>S</b>	3   AA 7-8 <b>K</b>
4 Communion New Members Y You Lead <b>K</b> 12:30  Etawi 3-5	5 Cinco De Mayo Food Pantry 11-3 <b>K</b>	6  Al Anon District 5:30-7:30 <b>K</b>	7 Al Anon 9- 10 <b>K</b>	8 IPS Chapel 9:30 <b>S</b>  AA 7-8 <b>K</b>	9 IPS Mother's Day Luncheon 8-3 <b>K</b>  Micronesian Women 5:30 <b>S</b>	10 Micronesian Children perfor- mance 11:45am Kaahumanu  AA 7-8 <b>K</b>
11 Mother's Day  Worshipping Com. 11 am	12 Food Pantry 11-3 <b>K</b>  B&G 10 am	13  Visitation 1pm	14 Al Anon 9 -10 <b>K</b>	15 IPS Chapel 9:30 <b>S</b>  AA 7-8 <b>K</b>	16  Micronesian Women 5:30 <b>S</b>	17  <u>Rebuild HI in</u>  AA 7-8 <b>S</b>
18 Grad. Sunday <u>Rebuild HI in</u> <u>17th Out 20th</u> <b>K</b> Stewarding 11am  Etawi 3-5	19 Food Pantry 11-3 <b>K</b>	20  Micronesia Council 5:30-8 <b>K</b>	21 Al Anon 9- 10 <b>K</b>  Council/ Iao Pepa reports	22 IPS Chapel 9:30 <b>S</b>  AA 7-8 <b>K</b>	23  Micronesian Women 5:30 <b>S</b>	24  AA 7-8 <b>K</b>
25 Memorial Day  Etawi 3-5	26 Memorial Day NO Food Pantry	27	28 Al Anon 9- 10 <b>S</b> Food Pantry 11-3 <b>K</b> Council Meet- ing 5:45p	29 IPS Chapel 9:30 <b>S</b> Shelter Dinner (contact Gail)  AA 7-8 <b>K</b>	30  Micronesian Women 5:30 <b>S</b>	31 ALL Church Work Day 8- noon. Lunch to follow. Mokupuni 10am



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



☐ If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check this box to mark as: "Return to Sender."

## Address Services Requested

### What's inside . . .

From Pastor Lauren.....	1
Holy Week/Installation in Photos.....	2
Mission Statement .....	3
Pride Activities .....	3
Association and Conference Annual Meetings.....	3
Sunday Text, Birthdays, Worship Leaders.....	4
Prayer Requests .....	4
Building & Grounds Community Report.....	5
Learning Community Report .....	5
Justice & Witnessing Community Report.....	6
Iao Preschool Community Report .....	6
Visitation and More Installation.....	6
Stewarding Community Report.....	7
Worshipping Community Report.....	7
Food Pantry Committee.....	8
Mission Statement Cards.....	8
Words from our Associate Conference Minister. ....	9
Maui Matsuri 2025.....	9
May Happenings & Rummage Preparations'.....	10
Just for Fun.....	10
May 2025 Calendar .....	11

### **Iao United Church of Christ**

**2371 W. Vineyard Street**  
**Wailuku, HI 96793-1626**

Office phone: (808) 244-7353

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

Email: [office@iaoucc.org](mailto:office@iaoucc.org)

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
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.**