

THE BEACON

The Newsletter of the Waialua United Church of Christ
67-174 Farrington Highway Waialua, Hawaii
PO Box 663, Waialua, HI 96791
April 2020, Vol 2



A message from our Pastor

Scripture: Psalm 46:1-3,10 (NIV)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging... Be still, and know that I am God.

Dear Members and Friends,

We are living in strange times. This global pandemic has created a calamity beyond our wildest imagination. It seems like a bad dream we can't wake up from. But this quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, one of our great American writers from the 19th century, gives me some comfort.

"Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around, and Faith looks up."

Yes, it is our faith in God that gives us great comfort. With faith, there is hope and hope never grows old.

We are still under Governor Ige's order to "stay at home" during this COVID-19 crisis. As a result, all in-person church gatherings, including Holy Week and Easter Sunday have been cancelled. Though we are deeply saddened in not being able to gather together during this important time in our church year, we understand and fully support the need to prevent the spread of this dangerous virus to others.

We want to remain connected to our church family and friends by offering an alternative to our traditional worship service

by posting "homemade" video recordings of our worship services on our Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/WaialuaUCC/.

As many of you may know by now, Christy and I will be relocating to the mainland later this year and I have tendered my letter of resignation to our Church Council. An interim pastoral search committee is in place and has been working closely with a representative of the Hawaii Conference of United Church of Christ to assist in finding an interim pastor.

It has been an extreme honor and privilege to serve as your pastor these past three years. Pastors will come and go, but it's the people of the church, the Body of Christ, who will carry out the mission of Christ in our community and the world. Our church is in good hands with our strong and dedicated lay leaders, who, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will lead the congregation through this interim period until a settled pastor has been called.

Finally, in this time of uncertainty, remember that God lives today, within us and around us. Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday does this for us: It gives us relief from our anxieties, our despair, our loneliness, our worries, and puts our life in its proper perspective.

Be still and know that God is God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Scott Furukawa

WAIALUA U.C.C. YOUTH By Cil & Dale Andres

The first month of the new year 2020 started with great promise as the youth looked ahead to the first year of the new decade. Many activities were scheduled for the upcoming months as the youth met for their planning meeting in early January. Then the reality of the coronavirus pandemic set in as the media flooded our homes and lives with the news of the severity and seriousness of this deadly virus. Surely anxiety and fear filled many as days of uncertainty lay ahead. Schools were shuttered and students told to stay home, businesses closed, and workers were either ordered to work from home, furloughed or laid off, social events cancelled, and the government took unprecedented actions that greatly affected people's lives and society as a whole.

Despite the chaos and confusion, our youth, like the rest of our church family, are resilient and hopeful. Many are at home since spring break started and their respective schools closed their classrooms for an indefinite period. Virtual learning has become the norm as our youth can be found sitting down at a desk top or lap top computer in front of them. For our older youth, their college classes continue with on-line classes and taking mid-term exams. "Enrichment" classes provide materials for continued learning as the high school and middle school youth maintain their educational progress. Technology has provided the computer as a fixture in many households as a resource not only for information and learning, but also for physical wellness and entertainment. Some continue to pursue their passions such as dancing, gymnastics and art through their on-line sessions while the hard-core ones prefer their video games.

DEACONS By Cil Andres

Hello Church Family and Friends. Praying that you are all coping well with the government imposed quarantine. Personally, it's truly been an adjustment for our family. The wonderful thing is that, most days; we've been able to enjoy eating three meals together. Dale, Chrislyn, and I have been doing telework at home, although we've had to report to work on occasions. Dale and I are using our dining table as our make shift offices with coasters showing the midpoint and separating our workspaces.

We all are grateful that we are still able to work and pray for those who have been either temporarily or permanently laid off from work.

With that said, the church would like to extend its support of you and your families during this time and invite you to reach out to any of the members of the Deacon committee and our church leaders for any requests for assistance.

May you find strength, peace, and courage in the following:

Not every activity is computer-based as some youth prefer to fight cabin fever and head outdoors for some well-deserved fresh air, sunshine and fun. Some like to ride their bikes around the neighborhood, walk their dogs, hang out in their backyards, run, play volleyball and go wet and wild by surfing. One bike rider became a "home stalker" as she rode around the neighborhood and recorded her travels on her cellphone as she passed by homes of her family relatives.

Although the days can get long and mundane, one of the positive aspects of the "stay-at-home" government directive is that the youth have bonded closer with their families whether they know it or not. From doing household chores, playing board games to actually creating a home-cooked meal of vienna sausages or chicken alfredo, family relationships are certainly being nurtured and strengthened. Family values are being passed on as one youth wrote cards to many of our elderly church members as an expression of kindness and care. Other youth were inspired to hopefully share their gift of art to provide messages of hope and God's love to all.

Our youth offer their messages of care, love and hope to the Waiialua United Church of Christ family: "Hope everyone is doing well!", "Wash your hands, hydrate, keep active!", "Look on the bright side and be positive!", "Be productive!", "Be safe!!!", "See your loved ones!", "Don't be scared, don't freak out!", "Be strong till this ends!", "God is in charge!" and "Keep hope in God!"

This too will pass, and we look forward to the day when we will worship and praise God together for His protection and grace!

John 16:33 – "I have said these things to you, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But, take heart! I have overcome the world."

1 John 4 – reminds us that perfect love casts out all fear.

During this time, may our hearts be overcome by the perfect love of God that we may know without a doubt that God is bigger than any threat, especially illnesses. May we be reminded that God is in control and that we may rest assured that He is faithful to be with us until the end of age.

Happy Easter! Don't forget to send in your Easter Offering.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give Thanks to God; bless His name!

(Psalm 100:4)



WUCC Basketball Tournament

By Michael Rivers

Since the holiday season is officially over, it was time to get back into that summer bodies. With the great minds of Brittney and Ciara, they came up with a great plan to stay healthy and bring our members closer to each other.

Right after the new year, they brought up a plan to hold a friendly basketball tournament. With our busy lives, it took a while to get started, so I jumped in and helped kick start this 3-on-3 tournament. We found a date that would work for everyone, which was January 19th, 2020. We also had to find teams. It helped that we three enjoy playing basketball.

Since we made up two teams, we solicited for six additional teams. We managed to put together three teams within our church congregation. To name a few, there was Uncle Dale, Uncle Dave, Jason, Allan S., Logan, Kai, Uncle Marvin, and Ian. As you can see, we made sure we gave our church ohana first choice in making a team. The other three teams were made up of our friends who wanted to play. Building that relationship within our community was the key to hosting this Waialua United Church of Christ (WUCC) event.

Uncle Virg was a major factor to our successful tournament. He allowed us to play at the Waialua High School Gym. For some, that was a blessing. Some of us may have never played high school ball either because they didn't have the opportunity while in high school or is too young to be in high school. This was something to cherish. As for me, I went a different route during my school days, so the feeling of playing on a high school

basketball court was special for me. The day was filled with smiles and laughter, as each court was in use.

Altogether, most teams played about four to five games to eleven. The semifinals and championship games were played to fifteen. After the first three games, the eight teams were separated with a championship bracket and consolation bracket. Top four teams went to the Championship bracket while the bottom four team went to the consolation bracket. Players from our very own congregation (team of Brittney, Ciara, Kekoa and another team of Jason, Allan, Logan) made it to the championship bracket. It was proud to see them work together and get that far. Although both teams lost in the semifinals, they put up a fight and gave their all. The winners of our first annual WUCC 3-on-3 Tournament went to Waialua's very own Densen, Julian, and Kymani. These guys showed us what Waialua is all about with the effort and sportsmanship they showed throughout the day.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to support our efforts in building a relationship with our community. It's unanimous that everyone can't wait until the next tournament. Brittney, Ciara, and I would really want this to grow into an event like our Sherwin Gervacio Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament. We would love to build something that we could give back to our church; possibly looking towards adding this to our current scholarship program. With the dedication we all bring, we hope each one of you will jump on board with us for another fun-filled event. God gave us a gift, and we would like to share that with each one of you.



Brittany puts it up and...



...over a defender.

HOW ARE YOU SURVIVING THE LOCKDOWN?

Good morning family. As our world is trying to heal from this pandemic, I feel that God is helping me through this. I admit that praying wasn't always my daily routine, but now I would talk to God every day like he's my best friend. Since this pandemic, I decided to pray each night or morning and ask God for his protection. Fear plays a big part in my mind. At times, when I felt like I was getting sick or just not feeling well, I would pray for healing and love which he always provides. Yes, throughout the night, my fear of not feeling well fades away. The power of a prayer is so powerful, real, and breathtaking.

God has given me two beautiful souls in my life, Sabrina and our baby girl Stella. Each night, I thank God for what he has done for me. I feel he's given me a gift because I truly opened up to how much I need Him in my life. We don't know how much longer this pandemic will last, but never stop believing in your faith. God is holding our hands through these rough times, so remember that a simple prayer each night will help us get through this virus. God bless each one of you and we miss our church family.

Love,

Michael with Sabrina and Stella

P.S. Mommy and baby are doing well. She loves to play with mommy at times by kicking her. Sometimes when she hears my voice, she tends to get excited. Baby is healthy so far; and mommy is hanging in there. We will keep y'all updated.

Hi WUCC family and friends!

I'm taking his suggestions on getting things done. I get to spend extra time working on my dissertation leading to my Ed.D! I am catching up on continuing education; my friends at WCC can choose similar opportunities, like reading that book you've been meaning to read. Get on the internet for similar lifetime learning opportunities. On Udemy (<http://www.udemy.com>), I'm taking online piano lessons! Udemy is great! You can take classes in music, business development, health and wellness, and thousands of other courses, all for about \$11 each. And, you get lifetime access to the course!

Be well, and be blessed, *Bernie McPherson*

Before the Corona Virus had become widespread, I submitted a devotion to The Upper Room Devotional Magazine. They're not going to publish it, but I'm grateful I wrote it and have it and can reflect on it. It's certainly helped me cope with the roller-coaster of emotions I've been having.

"Being Thin-Skinned"

"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

One of the things that's been hard for me to cope with as I've aged, is having thin skin. I am surprised at how easily my skin will bleed, even if I've just barely bumped into something. I carry antiseptic wipes with me when I'm out, and always have a band aid in my wallet. Wearing long sleeves is helpful and offers just enough protection. It helps to be prepared. And it helps to go slowly and pay attention to what I'm doing.

I've come to realize that I am a "thin-skinned" person, and am a highly sensitive introvert. Sometimes I take things too personally and need to pause, breathe deeply and pray. There are times that I overreact to life's happenings... whether it's loud noises, large crowds, fluorescent lights, or adversity of any kind. I can get easily overwhelmed, and all I want to do is run away to my quiet prayer closet at home.

I love getting up early in the morning when it's dark and quiet, and all I can hear are the crickets outside. I do a little bit of yoga, drink my coffee and pray. The more still I am, the more I know who God is and who I am. In the evening I enjoy quiet time too and enjoy reading, writing or being with my husband. The quiet calms my sensitive soul and gives me just what I need, just what I crave, and just what I long for.

Thought for the day: Slow down.

Prayer: Oh Lord, please help me to go slowly through life's happenings and be still and know that you are my God and will protect me forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer focus: Coping with life as a sensitive person.

Beth DeLong

Hi WUCC members and friends,

It is good to be in contact with Waiialua United Church of Christ.

I was adjusting my clock for the change to Daylight Savings at 10:33 p.m. on Saturday, the 7th when I heard an email coming in. It was from Christ Church Georgetown, which I joined 23 years ago. The message: our Church was suspending all services and meetings until further notice due to a presumed case of the coronavirus in our Church community.

The following noon, Father Tim, as we call our Rector, informed us that it was he who tested positive for COVID-19. As he had the dubious distinction of being the first DC resident to have tested positive for COVID-19, there was a barrage of media coverage on him and our church for a good week to ten days. Among the information, was that ours was a historic church, with one of our co-founders being Francis Scott Key, author of the lyrics to the 'Star-Spangled Banner.' Another note was that the current closing of our Church was the first since a fire in the 1800s, in our 203-year. history.

My immediate personal fears were alleviated after checking dates. I was lucky that I'd sat next to Father Tim for our annual Hymn-Sing benefit for an hour and a half on January 31st and not a month later. Also fortuitous was that I skipped our Choral Evensong on March 1st, as I had a conflict with my high school event to meet our new President. Anyone of the 550 or so church members who may have been in contact with Father Tim from Monday, February 24th through Wednesday, March 4th was advised to stay at home and monitor himself/herself for symptoms.

Tom Smith, our Organist and Choirmaster, also tested positive for the COVID-19. He fortunately had a less serious case, was not hospitalized, and was released from his self-quarantine soon after the obligatory 14 days. He is one of my favorite people in our church. Father Tim, his wife, and his son are special to me.

Last Friday, our church got word that Father Tim was released from the hospital the afternoon before. Once again, there was a week of radio coverage. He was in the hospital

for eighteen days, and the church members were asked to try not to contact him as he would be in semi-quarantine; he was still weak and needs time to heal.

As for me, my condo building is above the Target store. For more of a choice, I go across the street to Whole Foods; CVS Pharmacy is also across the street. I go to shop for food about once every three to four days.

Finally, there are new laws being enacted in the three jurisdictions, Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. For DC, residents were to stay at home except to perform 'essential activities'. "Residents who violate the ban would face criminal penalties, including up to 90 days in jail and fines up to \$5,000." Permissible: can go outdoors to exercise. (It was 50 degrees Fahrenheit yesterday and today; also the forecast for tomorrow is rainy, dreary). Permissible to go out and buy food, pick up meds at pharmacy, can leave home to visit a religious institution (thanks, but these are all closed), go to see a doctor (and most, if not all, of my MDs are not seeing patients.) OK, this is longer than I had anticipated.

P. S. I haven't read today's newspaper yet. Just noticed there is a page and a half in today's Washington Post in the Metro section on Father Tim (The Rev. Timothy Cole). The article states that there is a video of Cole reflecting on his recovery at wapo.st/VirusPastor. I haven't seen that either. Stay home, wash your hands, get sufficient rest, and keep well.

*Aloha, Joanne Lee**

*I am the eldest daughter of the late Joshua (Joe) & Angeline (Angie) Lee, long-time members of WUCC. My siblings and I loved growing up in Waiialua. I am the only of the four of us 'kids' who will be buried at Mililani Memorial Park adjacent to our parents' plot. I have five left to sell. Please contact me at 202-368-6387 (six hrs. time difference HST/EST), or text, or email: joannelee4858@gmail.com

Joanne Lee

A Fresh Perspective on God's Strength

By Christy Furukawa

Throughout my adult life, the Holy Spirit has randomly put the words to a song written by Leslie Phillips, Christian musician, in my head: "Every day I look to you to be the strength of my life. Breathe on me and make me new, and be the strength of my life." These words have often helped me to "shift gears" during times of anxiety, frustration, or fear.

Lately, we all have been faced with one of the biggest history-making events of our lifetimes - the corona virus. As the virus has spread to the point of need for isolation, I, like most people, have been out of my comfort zone and often afraid. I have had days where I was feeling cooped up and out of sorts, off my schedule, and "itchy" to go out and do "regular" things. Scott acknowledges that this is more difficult for me because I'm an extrovert. He and our daughter, both introverts, have "no problem" being at home all the time!

When the words to that song popped into my mind recently, I felt that God was calling me to change my perspective to enhance my strength. He wanted to "breathe on me and make me new!" I'm giggling as I write this, knowing that He is the only one that I would encourage to breathe on me right now.

I decided to think of things that I could do indoors. When I prayed on these things, the door opened wide. For example, on TV, someone mentioned how easy a language app is and so I got it and am now learning Spanish, a "bucket list" goal. An on-line app for yoga and other fitness popped up and I am doing it regularly. I even convinced Scott to do it with me at home, something that I didn't ever foresee! When I thought that I'd never be able to be "crafty" enough to make yarn lei, a YouTube video caught my eye and now I'm making some to replenish our supply at church. I'm connecting with long distance friends and sitting down more regularly with Scott to talk—listening to his Bernie Sanders impression is especially entertaining—or watching a new favorite Netflix show after dinner.

God is blessing me in ways beyond my comprehension, giving me strength in body and mind during this uncertain time in our world. I'm so glad that He is in control!

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

"Strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

These Are Trying Times Laurie Oishi

Everywhere you turn, you're hit with reminders that we are traveling through uncharted territory...we have a new normal and dang, it sure is hard to be normal these days!

Toilet paper is the new gold! – I've never seen this kind of crazy over the buying, not even when we went through the shortage in the 70's and we had to stop using the toilet paper to make the flowers for our homecoming floats (now, I'm really showing my age – and heeey, you guys who laughing, you right up there with me!)

N-95 – sorry, no Bingo for you! It used to be that only my doctor and the hardware store guy knew what N-95 meant. Now the N-95 harder to find than Baby Yoda.

Social distancing - tape on the floor to help you remember to stay at least 6' apart while waiting in line...in the grocery store checkout, in the bank, at the post office. You think maybe we could put tape on our roads so that guy behind me will leave me some breathing room? And, hey...aren't you supposed to be at home anyway?

Work from home – I don't know about you, but our home is not set up to be an office. I have a desk,

somewhere...I remember seeing it. And if you have pets?...they don't know what work is, and social distancing? Pfffft...toss that out the window – our cats just ignore the tape!

Zoom – that's not when you go fast, its when you remote! Remote, not emote – that's when you get everyone together on a conference video call using your computers, tablets or smartphones. (Emote – that's what you do when you can't figure out how to get your equipment set up so you can join the meeting.) We got the council together to discuss the fast changing situation and make some hard decisions using Zoom. The technology made it easy to have a conversation and get everyone's input but I'm still undecided on the video part – I like being behind the camera. I'm pretty sure I'm going to have to learn how to organize one of those in the near future, but I'll emote about that later.

Shoot a shaka! – No more hugs or elaborate handshakes (thank goodness for little favors – I could never understand how anyone remembers which handshake you're supposed to use!) A foot or elbow bump, a nod or maybe even, eye contact! But hey - this is Hawaii – grin and shoot those shakas!

Say a prayer...share a prayer! Be safe and stay healthy! These are trying times! Keep the faith—keep trying!

(Below) Zaya Bumanglag was baptized on March 8, 2020. Zaya is the daughter of Erinn (Baysa) & Deacon Bumanglag.



A sign of the times...Remember when we thought getting a close parking stall was a challenge?

(Below) Ciara gets a shot off against defenders Jason, Logan & Taylor.



Ciara does B-Ball



D-fence!

On March 1st, we welcomed Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls, noted Professor of Hebrew Scripture, to the pulpit and spent the afternoon in fellowship and Q&A about the old testament.



Celebrating Hanako's birthday...89 strong!



Ash Wednesday Services.

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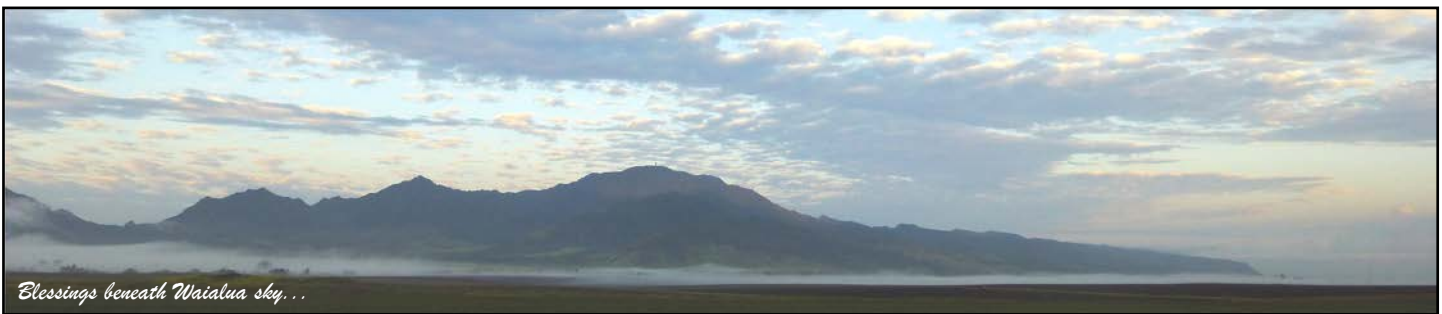
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The Beacon is published quarterly for members and friends of WUCC.



Worship Leaders

We're looking for individuals who would like to participate in our Virtual Services—you can use your laptop, PC or phone to record the video and upload the file to our Dropbox file.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to be a Worship Leader during April or possibly May, please contact us at waialuaucc@hawaii.rr.com or Pastor Scott at revscottwucc@gmail.com

Altar Flowers

See some awesome blooms when you're out and about getting your daily dose of vitamin D? or have you got April flowers in your garden that you'd like to share? Send us your pictures of flowers or flower arrangements and we'll share the images with the rest of our congregation during our virtual services! Send your images to waialuaucc@hawaii.rr.com or save it to our dropbox file.

Join us!

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/waialuaucc/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WaialuaUCC/>
DropBox: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/jazRR1rzFIPIA9HvE3gm>

Coming up...

April 5, 2020 (Sunday)—Virtual Palm Sunday Service with Communion

April 10, 2020 (Friday)—Virtual Good Friday Service

April 12, 2020 (Sunday)—Virtual Easter Service & Zoom Council Meeting

May 10, 2020 (Sunday)—Mother's Day

May 25, 2020 (Monday)—HOLIDAY (church will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.)

May 31, 2020 (Sunday)—Pentacost Sunday & Strengthen the Church Offering will be collected.

June 21, 2020 (Sunday)—Father's Day

June 28, 2020 (Sunday)—deadline to submit articles for the next issue of the Beacon

Greetings videos—send us a short (10 second) video clip to include in our virtual service! Say hello and share a SHAKA! Please submit your video by Thursday each week! Files can be saved to our DropBox folder...hope to see ya!

DropBox: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/jazRR1rzFIPIA9HvE3gm>