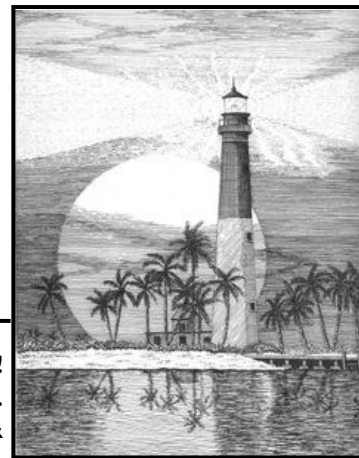


# THE BEACON

The Newsletter of the Waialua United Church of Christ  
67-174 Farrington Highway Waialua, Hawaii  
PO Box 663, Waialua, HI 96791  
February 2024, Vol 1



## A message from our...



### ...Bridge Pastor

New Year Greetings to all the Beloveds at Waialua United Church of Christ! (Those who regularly attend in person - or online - and those who are somehow on this mailing list - we send our ALOHA to you ALL!)

I am feeling so blessed to be traveling the journey of faith with all of you during this season of “in-between!” ... That’s what a bridge is, right? A path from what was... to what will be... but also a safe place right now — above the sometimes swirling waters of a busy and complex life! Though our time together might be brief in the grand scheme of God’s plan for Waialua UCC, it’s a JOY to be in this moment, discerning what God would have us BE and DO right now!

The seasons of the church year can help us organize our moments with great stories from the Bible as well as themes that help us not get stuck in any potholes or drop offs by the road... but to keep moving forward to the high calling in Christ Jesus our Lord!

Epiphany follows Christmas, inviting us to OPEN our eyes and our hearts to the light shining in the darkness as we begin the New Year, 2024!

And very soon, we will be entering the truly beautiful season of Lent! (Beautiful? I can see your confused faces.) Isn’t it all about ashes and penitence and giving things up? Isn’t it about the sacrifice of Jesus that led him to suffer and die for the sins of the world?

Well, yes... AND... and it’s ALSO a beautiful season to reorder our lives, to take our spiritual “temperature” as we consider the health of our spiritual lives and how we might recommit ourselves, as it says in one of the cherished hymns of the church: to “just a closer walk with thee, grant it Jesus, is my plea! Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be!”

But before we settle down to the important, serious and deep opportunities of Lent, we have a chance to “get the sillies out” at our Mardi Gras Sunday, Feb. 11! Your worship leaders have some creative ideas, so come ready to play a

little! Wear the colors! (Purple represents Justice.. Green represents Faith.. & Gold Represents Power) - or whatever fun colors you love. I’ve asked our children to bring a good “knock, knock” joke to lift our spirits, and there MIGHT be a dixieland band feel to the music! Best of all, we will participate in the dedication of Elijah the son of Elizabeth & Brandon and the grandson of our talented church musician, Edwin Ramones. Thanks be to God!

Ash Wednesday will create another excellent opportunity to prepare our hearts for the season of Lent, with our friends from Liliuokalani Protestant Church joining us in our sanctuary for the annual Ash Wednesday service at 7p.m. on Feb. 14... and if THAT date made you pause, just consider the great love letter God sent to our world in Jesus... the best Valentine ever. (Heart)

Along the way, we will welcome new members (3/3) and will joyfully participate in a special offering called, One Great Hour of Sharing (3/10), especially appropriate as we consider the ongoing struggles of so many in our community and world.

And looking farther down the road, we anticipate Holy Week’s Palm Sunday (Hosanna, loud hosannas!) Maundy Thursday and Good Friday... (What wondrous love is this, Oh my soul!) and the victorious celebration of RESURRECTION and NEW LIFE on Easter (How appropriate that this is a 5th Sunday, and we will be led by our youth and young adults.

I can’t end this newsletter message without my HEARTFELT gratitude for our amazing council leaders, Mia in the office, and ALL of you! Our Annual Congregational meeting on 1/28 felt like a marathon, but as I’ve told our Moderator Chad and many of you, it also felt important and energized with challenges and opportunities. We are a church that is ALIVE and working for the Kingdom of God in this place! It’s not always easy, but it is always worthwhile in every way! And with Jesus as our Savior, Friend and Guide, there is nothing we can’t accomplish together.

THANKS BE TO GOD!!

With my sincerest Aloha,

*Pastor Lauren*

the Rev. Lauren Buck Medeiros



## A message from our...

### ...Moderator

Welcome to 2024!



With the beginning of the new year, we have a few major changes up front!

First of all, if you don't already know, we give our wholehearted welcome to Pastor Lauren Buck Medeiros, who will be our Bridge Pastor for the next couple of months thru the Lent season. In the few weeks she

has been with us, Pastor Lauren has already hit the ground running and has been of great assistance during this time of transition for our church!

Secondly, I'd like to thank everyone's participation in this year's Annual Congregational Meeting, and for the vigorous debate that has bloomed from it. We certainly have much to do this year, but I have no doubt can we get through it together as we always have. In particular, I congratulate those who have both stepped up in their time and contribution to this church, as well as those who will continue on this journey to provide for the good work of this church by joining a committee or being part of the leadership.

Lastly, if you have been visiting this church for awhile and want to make being part of our ohana official, we are opening up to new members! If you are interested, please let myself or one of the Council members know - we will be having a meeting for members on February 25, with an installation of new members on March 4!

May you and your loved ones have a blessed day!

*Chadwick Ulep*

Chad Ulep, Moderator

*Got some old photos of our church congregation you would like to share in a future issue of The Beacon? Email them to [WaialuaUCC@yahoo.com](mailto:WaialuaUCC@yahoo.com)*



Blast from the past...

## Congratulations and Thank You to our Officers for 2024...

Moderator:  
**Chad Ulep**

Vice-Moderator:  
**Vacant**

Treasurer:  
**Ross Tamane**

Assistant Treasurer:  
**Rayna Calaro**

Financial Secretary:  
**Laurie Oishi**

Secretary:  
**Melissa Agsalda-Garcia**



Annual congregational meeting...

Dedication of Elijah Tom, son of Elizabeth & Brandon.



### SCRIPTURE OF THE QUARTER

**See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19)**





The Sunday School Program shines during their Christmas Play: "Hotel Noel"...



The Advent Season brings so much hope, peace, joy, and love...



Every service is gifted with many talents from what's behind the scenes to what's presented to you...



Weed whacking the overgrowth...



Digging the roots out...

Allan and Ross...

Taking a short break...



Blake, Oliver, Sandra, and Audrey distributing the pile of cut grass for the compost pile...



Starting a compost pile...

Pam and Sheldon hauling the branches...

## PROPERTY & GROUNDS

By Sandra Sagaysay

Normally, the sound of a weedwhacker on a beautiful Saturday morning would be very annoying, but 4, 5, 6+ weedwhackers...wow! On this particular Saturday morning, the sound of all those weedwhackers was music to my ears. All glory to God, the upper field of the church property where the plumeria and fruit trees are growing were being choked by the overgrown California grass and weeds. Thanks to the hard working

volunteers from our church family and the men of Lifegroup. Let the pictures speak for the end result of all that hard work by everyone. Thank you:

Property and Grounds members

Church family — Allan, Priscilla, Pam, Sheldon, Albrian, and Dave

Lifegroup : Jesus

Anderson Ohana-Kaleo, Kawai, Keahi and friend, Tystan; Brian Crowley, Ryan Benz, and Blake and Oliver Spinak

Thanks also to Marie, Dolly and Rosemary for the drinks and food.



# THE TUESDAY MARKET NEWS

By Priscilla Schultheis

Since December 19, the day Santa visited the market, we were on a holiday break. Then we hoped to resume on Jan 9, but the weather was very rainy and people don't like to come out in weather like that so we canceled the market. Next, we hoped to open on January 16, but it was way too windy with gusts of wind up to 25 miles per hour. Not good for vendor tents and flyaway merchandise. We canceled that one too.

We were able to reopen the market on January 23 with 2 food vendors and 15 vendors in all. Quite a few vendors thought they would be ready to start up again on January 30. We are up and running again. Hopefully the weather is merciful so we can continue to meet each Tuesday.

We try to have a special event each month where we offer prizes. In February that date will be on February 13, the day before Valentine's Day.

We are always appreciative when members of the church come to support the market and bring canned goods and nonperishable items for the North Shore Food Bank. We like it when you bring family and friends. After all, the Tuesday Market is one big happy family and we think it is the happiest place on the North Shore. See you on Tuesday.



TUESDAYS FROM  
**3 PM to 7 PM**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SCHEDULE AND UPDATES!  
FB | IG : @TUESDAYMARKETWAIALUA

HOSTED AT THE

**WAIALUA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
67-174 FARRINGTON HWY- WAIALUA, HI

**VENDOR**



**SIGN-UP**

WE COLLECT FOOD AND HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE NORTH SHORE FOOD BANK!

On behalf of the North Shore Food Bank, we also collect donations for non-perishable food and hygienic products during the market.

PLEASE DONATE!

**MUSICIAN**



**SIGN-UP**

\*\*\* THIS IS A DRUG-FREE AND ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT \*\*\*



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

By Priscilla Schultheis

*“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.”*

*1 John 1:6-7*

The New Year is underway, and we are excited to present our Fellowship Committee members who will be serving you refreshments and meals for special events. Marie Galicinao and Priscilla Schultheis will be co-chairs of the committee.

Here is our monthly refreshment schedule based on the Sundays in each month:

- ~1st Sunday: Dolly Subia and Marie Galicinao
- ~2nd Sunday: Pat Pedro and Priscilla Schultheis
- ~3rd Sunday: Imee Baguio and Jill Morita
- ~4th Sunday:
  - ~Chrislyn Andres and Brittney Pasion-Almeida  
(Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Dec)
  - ~Tony Agsalda and Pam Rivera  
(Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct, Nov)
- ~5th Sunday: Rosemary Basilio and Fellowship Team

(Note: The 4th Sunday in November will be our Thanksgiving dinner.)

As a committee, we look forward to serving you and seek the fellowship that grows with faith and time. Together, we can glorify God.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Find JOY in 2024 by using your talent, time & treasure serving on a committee. See Rose or Florence for more information.

Wednesday Bible Study from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the Admin Conference room. Join the fellowship as we journey together to seek and develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are currently studying the Gospel of John.



These rocks are a reminder that you can conquer your fear no matter how big it is...

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

**Sunday, February, 11:** Mardi Gras/Superbowl Sunday

**Wednesday, February 14:** Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm

**Saturday, February 17:** Church Project Day at 8:30am; clean up bougainvillea areas. Volunteers appreciated.

**Sunday, February 18:** First Sunday of Lent, We will be remembering the life of legacy of Henry ‘Ōpūkaha’ia

**Monday, February 19:** Holiday: President’s Day: Office Closed

**Sunday, February 25:** All who desire member with Waialua UCC are invited to a short meeting in the Pastor’s office after worship.

**Sunday, March 3:** Blessings of New Members

**Sunday, March 10:** One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**Saturday, March 23:** Church Project Day at 8:00am; clean sanctuary, admin bldg., community center. Volunteers appreciated.

**Sunday, March 24:** Palm Sunday

**Thursday, March 28:** Maundy Thursday Service at 7pm

**Friday, March 29:** Holiday: Good Friday: Office Closed

**Saturday, March 30:** Holy Saturday

**Sunday, March 31:** Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am

**Saturday, April 20:** Church Project Day at 8:00am; work on improving parking lot. Volunteers appreciated.

**Sunday, April 28:** The Beacon Articles and Photos Due

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Mia Calaro, Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Lauren Buck Medeiros, Bridge Pastor  
Photos taken by Chad, Audrey, Sandra and Pastor Lauren

To our brother and  
sister in Christ

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



### Worship Leaders & Altar Flowers

We're looking for individuals who would like to participate in our Services by being the Worship Leader and/or providing a floral arrangement for the altar.

If you have any questions or if you'd like to participate in any way, please contact us at [waialuaucc@yahoo.com](mailto:waialuaucc@yahoo.com) or come to service and talk to Pat Pedro.



### Join us!

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/waialuaucc/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WaialuauCC/>

### Recurring Events...

**Worship Service** – every Sundays at 10:30 AM  
(Communion every 1st Sunday)

**Sunday School** – every 1st & 3rd Sunday during  
worship Service (before pastoral prayer)

**Yard Fellowship** – every Tuesdays & Saturdays  
from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

**Tuesday Market Waialua** – every Tuesdays from  
3:00 PM–7:00 PM (closed June through August)

**Bible Study** – every Wednesdays from 10:00 AM–  
11:00 AM in the Administrative Conference Room

**Finance Meeting** – every 2nd Sunday

**Deacons Meeting** – every 2nd Sunday

**Council Meeting** – every 3rd Sunday

**Property Team Meeting** – every 4th Sunday