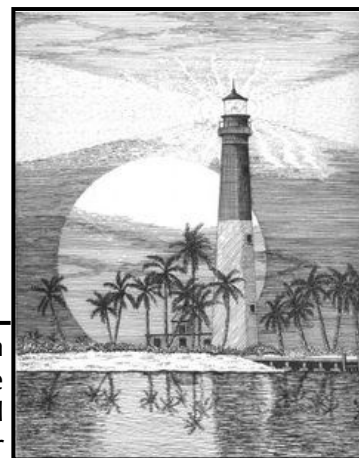


THE BEACON

The Newsletter of the Waialua United Church of Christ
67-174 Farrington Highway Waialua, Hawaii
PO Box 663, Waialua, HI 96791
May 2024, Vol 2



A message from our...

...Moderator



Aloha church family!

We have had quite a fulfilled first few months of 2024! It seemed like just the last issue of the Beacon where I was welcoming Pastor Lauren Buck Medeiros to our church to fill in temporarily as our Bridge Pastor. Ten weeks sure do fly! In that time, we inducted

seven new members to the congregation, baptized one child, and learned many new ways to improve our church. In this issue, I'd like to say thank you to Pastor Lauren on behalf of the church, for bringing us an eventful and joyous thru the Lent Season.

Speaking of new members, please welcome Blake Spinak, Jordan Hernandez, Faith Calaro, Priscilla Schultheis, Brian Crowley III, Logan Pactol, and Haley Pactol as members of our congregation! To take the step of joining the church is a big one in the journey with God, and we congratulate you for choosing this church to ride with!

We also had a wonderful Easter, with a worthwhile and picture-worthy Sunrise Service, an Easter egg hunt

with the kids, and an excellent Morning Service to top everything off. I'd also like to thank Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson for filling the pulpit for this week, and the Fellowship, Christian Ed, Deacons, and Worship Committees for all coming together to make all of it happen!

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to congratulate Pastor EJ Ravago on being unanimously called by our congregation to join our church as our new Settled Pastor! In return, I call on all members and friends of this church to come together and support our new Pastor and his family during this time of transition to Hawaii. He has asked us to share his letter of gratitude to the entire congregation, so please read it in this issue!

Be on the lookout for an announcement to the congregation regarding preparation for the future pastoral installation service. If you are interested in assisting with organizing the installation service, please contact myself or any other Council member for details.

May you and your loved ones have a blessed day!

Chadwick Ulep

Chad Ulep, Moderator

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

1st Row: Cecilia Andres, Pastor Lauren Buck Medeiros, Faith Calaro, Brian Crowley III, Chad Ulep

2nd Row: Priscilla Schultheis, Haley Pactol, Logan Pactol, Jordan Hernandez, Blake Spinak



Below: New members with their families/friends.



Priscilla with her friend



Haley & Logan with their family



Faith with her parents and Jordan



Blake with his family



Brian with his family

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Allan Sagaysay

Hello Church Family and Friends,

As you are all aware, we had a successful Candidating Weekend (April 13 – 14, 2024). We would like to report that Pastor EJ Ravago has been called to become the Full time Settled-Pastor at Waiialua United Church of Christ!

Candidating weekend started off with a Meet the Pastoral Candidate Dinner at our Church Social hall on April 13, 2024. The evening started off with live music by WUCC's own "The Uncles Band" (Dave Basilio, Virg Basilio, Dale Andres, Edwin Ramones and Augustin Matutino).



It is always a treat to witness their professional singing and playing! This time gave those who arrived a chance to meet and chat with Pastor EJ and his wife JL. The members of the Pastoral Search Committee were so excited to introduce Pastor EJ and his wife to the congregation.



Vanessa Agsalda-Rosenbush kicked off the program with a warm welcome to everyone. Brittney Pasion-Almeida then gave a wonderful prayer blessing for dinner. During dinner we were also treated to a special song by Peter Matutino. To follow that up, a special Hula was performed by Cil Andres and daughter Chrislyn Andres. Their Hula was so elegant and Merrie Monarch worthy. While everyone was seated during dinner, Michelle Sagaysay introduced the history of WUCC video "A Heritage of Hope, a Legacy of Love" while the screen and projector was being prepared for viewing. Not only did the video share our history with Pastor EJ, but it also provided a renewed inspiration to our congregation by reliving the history of our storied past. Our church was built through the hard work, faith

and love of members that came before us. Allan Sagaysay introduced the Pastoral Search Committee members and then formally introduced Pastor EJ Ravago to the congregation. Being given the microphone, Pastor EJ shared more about himself and also fielded questions from church members. From Kupuna to Keiki, from long-time members to new members, great questions were asked and answered.



Chad Ulep closed the evening with a great prayer. Thank you to the Fellowship committee for helping setup the venue and also a big Mahalo to the congregation for all the delicious dishes that were shared for dinner!

Sunday service, April 14, 2024 was led by Pastor EJ Ravago. Pastor EJ's Children's Message of "Auntie's Recipe" gave the keiki a chance to hear directly from Pastor EJ. Scripture Lesson was read by Michelle Sagaysay (Philippians 1:8-14). Pastor EJ then gave his sermon titled "Confidence During Life's Detours and Disruptions." This gave everyone in attendance an opportunity to see and hear Pastor EJ deliver his message and lead us in worship. We were then treated to special music by Pastor EJ's wife JL Ravago during offertory. Her singing of "Trust in God" by Elevation was so powerful. Pastor EJ then concluded service with the benediction.

Immediately after Church service our Special Congregational meeting was held. Moderator Chad Ulep did the call of the meeting. Quorum was established and Pastoral Search Committee Chair Allan Sagaysay presented the Search Committee report. The motion to recommend Pastor EJ Ravago as the Settled-Pastor effective July 28, 2024 for a period of 3 years was then put forth. The floor was open for questions/discussions. No questions came in and the vote followed. After tallying the votes, the results were shared with the congregation. Pastor EJ and his wife JL were called back to the sanctuary where they were greeted with applause as Moderator Chad Ulep announced Pastor EJ as the unanimously-chosen new Settled-Pastor of Waiialua United Church of Christ.



Once again, this committee is humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve. Thank you for trusting our leadership. This is a task that we did not take lightly. Our committee spent countless hours of praying and discernment throughout the process. We are thrilled and excited for the future of Waialua United Church of Christ. We look forward to worshipping with Pastor EJ!



Blessings,
 WUCC Pastoral Search Committee
 (Allan Sagaysay, Chad Ulep, Brittney Pasion-Almeida, Vanessa Agsalda-Rosenbush, Hope Rosenbush, Michelle Sagaysay)

BLAST FROM THE PAST...



(from 2002) Dedication of the Social Hall with Caroline Antonio, Concepcion Subia Tahilan, Esther Subia, Laurena Baysa, Anita Garcia, Rev. Dominador Garcia, and Florida Subia

LETTER FROM THE INCOMING PASTOR

Aloha Waialua United Church of Christ!

I hope and pray that this past weekend was a blessing to you all as it was for me and my wife. I felt loved and affirmed – it already felt like “home” and leaving was definitely bittersweet for us. These next few months will fly by and we’ll be there soon enough to serve and be present with you all. We’re excited to follow God over there, grow with everyone, and making Waialua proud.

We covet your prayers as we’ll be putting our house on the market within the next couple weeks. Please pray that we sell quickly without any hiccups and that we find the right home, school for the kids, and job for JL in Hawaii. It will all work out – we’ll be leaning on the words that JL sang “I trust in God, my Savior / The one who will never fail...”
 Let's go!

Aloha for now...

In Jesus,
 Pastor EJ



SCRIPTURE OF THE QUARTER

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)



(date unknown) Children playing basketball in front of the Old Filipino Evangelical Church

CANDIDATING WEEKEND



Meeting the selected pastor



Ono food, beautiful music, amazing people



Background of our church, questions and answers, and closing with prayer



Sermon: "Confidence During Life's Detours & Disruptions"

Children's Message: "Auntie's Recipe"

Music by JL Ravago "Trust in God" by Elevation

Benediction



The Pastoral Search Committee calls a special meeting

The selected pastor and his wife is called to join the meeting



Pastor EJ accepts call to WUCC

Moderator Chad makes a formal announcement and they confirm with a handshake



DEACONS NEWS

By Jason Agsalda

Aloha all,

Praise God! What exciting times we have going here at Waialua United Church of Christ! With Easter festivities just completed we were finally blessed with a new Pastor! Pastor EJ Ravago led service on April 15, 2024 with a glimpse of his leadership and presence for the next 3 years. His sermon was powerful as he spoke about how to weather the storm which we did the past couple years with COVID being the main culprit. In those times we as a congregation were not able to carry on traditions such as collecting offering and partaking in communion! In the past couple of weeks though we have restarted our normal traditions, and it feels awesome! In God's time, we are ready to fully go back to normal! Just being able to stand up and greet one another brings another level of closeness. The Deacons are fully committed to helping the congregation move into normalcy as we usher in a new era with Pastor EJ. We look forward to furthering our walk in Christ!



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

Our Refreshment Teams are doing a wonderful job each week following the Sunday Worship Service.

We welcome Sylvia Ramones to the committee and Refreshment Team. She and Marie will be serving refreshments on the first Sundays of every month. Thank you, Sylvia!



The Fellowship Team has been serving lunch for all the workers who come out each month to tackle a large yard work project. This lunch is organized by Marie Galicinao each month. Thank you, Marie, for keeping up the strength of our workers!

It was very exciting to work together with the Pastoral Search Committee for the Candidate Weekend's potluck supper. Thank you to all the church members who supplied food for the dinner. What a feast! What a memorable night to share such fellowship with our new pastor and his wife! Great music! Great food! Great people! Great pastor! It was wonderful to work together on this very special weekend.

Moving forward, we are fast approaching Mother's Day and our Mother's Day Luncheon. This will take place on Sunday, May 12th following the worship service. We love having all those handsome men helping out on that special day to honor all the mothers in the church. More details will follow and will be announced in the upcoming Sunday worship services.

Before we know it, we'll also be celebrating Father's Day on June 16th! This time the ladies of the church will do their best to honor the fathers of the church and make this a special day for them. Stay tuned for more details during the Sunday Worship services.

Let us glorify God in all that we do, and remember that many hands make light work.

PROPERTY & GROUNDS



Project 1: repair railings to the stairwell. Now we can safely walk up the stairs using the hand rails.



Project 2: cleanup the bougainvillea and California grass in the front of our property



Laurie

Ross

Brian

Dave



Dave

Brian

Virg

Rosemary

Audrey, Alan, Sandra



Hauling the greens into the truck for green waste



Project 3: repair the parking lot pavement



Although photos are not shown here, the Property & Grounds team has done many other projects throughout the quarter and encourage volunteers to join them as they continue to improve and make our campus safe and beautiful.

Thank you Property & Grounds Team!

WUCC BEACH CLEAN UP

By Alana Sagaysay

On March 24, 2024 the youth of WUCC organized a beach clean-up! We believed that the beach clean-up would provide a bonding experience for our community, grow our relationships, and most of all beautify God's creation. To organize our event, we started with selecting a good date, and deciding where, when, what we would do. We partnered with the City and County of Honolulu's Adopt A Park Program which



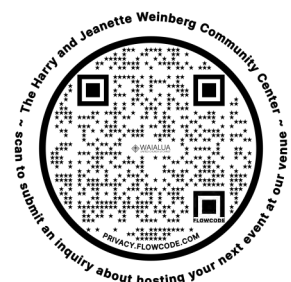
welcomes volunteers and applications from groups, organizations and individuals for projects including litter removal, bulky litter removal, green waste removal, graffiti removal, painting, landscape maintenance and invasive plant/vegetation removal at different locations throughout island. The Program supplied tongs, trash bags, and gloves, and reviewed safety rules, and regulations of cleaning the beach. The beach clean-up was held at Haleiwa Alii Beach Park which was followed by a fellowship and bbq on the shore of the beach! Our devotion was led by Aaron Agsalda. He spoke about the meaning of Hawaiian words and how important it is in the life the Hawaiian people to not only pray for God's assistance and having faith, but working hard to care for the land. For example, we must mālama the 'āina - take care of the land – take care of our people. He reminded us that it is our job to be God's shepherds and mālama his 'āina that he provided for us. "You take care of the land and water it. You make it able to grow many crops. You fill your streams with water. You do



that to provide for the people." Psalm 65:9. Meaning how we, the followers of God, should do our best to maintain God's beautiful gift to us for it will also care for us. This event had a great turn out! Around 17 people showed up to help with the beach clean-up. Our church community was amazing. Throughout the park we picked up different types of trash, from things small as



toothpicks to bigger items like a random metal pole. It was such a blessing to see our church family group together to help and do our part to mālama the 'āina that God gifted us. We surely must plan another event sometime this year and be sure to participate and join us!



HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT AT OUR VENUE

Please scan the QR Code on the left to submit an inquiry to rent our social hall.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Articles and Photos Wanted for our next newsletter. Please scan the QR Code on the right to upload your article and photos

WUCC-The Beacon



Upload Articles/Photos

EASTER SUNDAY.



*Easter Sunrise service with the beautiful sun peaking behind the trees...
...the pews are full as we gather in the sanctuary for the regular service led by Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson and hula by Brooke Agsalda*



THE TUESDAY MARKET NEWS

By Priscilla Schultheis

March was kind to us this year. No rain on Tuesdays. Some wind but no rain!

We have learned that having food vendors is critical for the success of our market. For a while we only had one food vendor: Ui's 2Kz Kitchen. As we entered March, Peruvian Corner joined us and has been with us each week giving us two food vendors. Local Poke Bowl returned to since the last Tuesday in March giving us 3 food vendors. One more vendor, Hawaiian Reign, has switched over from selling crafts to becoming our 4th food vendor. Now we have really great food! Things are looking good, our market is picking up, and more vendors are coming!

The Easter Bunny visited us on Tuesday, March 26 which happened to be the last Tuesday before Easter. He handed out goodie bags to all the children. We also had Easter egg hunts for four separate age groups. We were




prepared with over 1,400 eggs and lots of volunteers who put the eggs out all over the field behind the church. I'm pretty sure we had about 100 kids there,

and by the time they were finished with their egg hunts, there wasn't an egg to be found! A good time was had by all. We also had 24 vendors that day so all these families could see what our market has to offer.

We continue to have some very loyal vendors who attend the market regularly. We usually have 15 or more vendors on a normal Tuesday. We will be watching this count closely as we approach the summer months. Last summer, the vendor count dropped so much that we decided to take a break until after Labor Day. Our team will hold a meeting soon to discuss our plan for this coming summer and how the market will operate. Stay tuned.



Some of our church members are very loyal customers. They even bring friends and family members to the market when they can. This really makes a difference to the success of the market. Please continue to come to the market and bring your family and friends. This supports both the market and our church, and so we thank you for your support.

**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

<p>VENDOR SIGN-UP</p> 	<p>WE COLLECT FOOD AND HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE NORTH SHORE FOOD BANK!</p> <p>On behalf of the North Shore Food Bank, we also collect donations for non-perishable food and hygienic products during the market.</p> <p>PLEASE DONATE!</p>	<p>MUSICIAN SIGN-UP</p> 
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*** THIS IS A DRUG-FREE AND ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT ***

MAHALO PASTOR LAUREN



On behalf of WUCC, Dale Andres drew and gifted a drawing of Pastor Lauren which describes everything about her and her journey with us.



Reverend Lauren Buck Medeiros has touched so many hearts in 10 weeks. We were so honored to have her with us.



Pastor Lauren enjoyed working with the children. She brought back many traditions as we phase back into the new norm.



Members of the congregation line up to greet and thank Pastor Lauren for her dedication to Waialua.



Pastor Lauren is surprised with a farewell luncheon by the Wednesday Bible Study group.

ALTAR FLOWERS...

May

- 5/5: Carol Pactol
5/12: Shane's Ohana (*Shane & Lanakila— Heavenly Birthday & Memorial*)
5/19: Chadwick Ulep
5/26: Allan Sagaysay (*Birthday*)

June

- 6/2: Cathe Elsa Aldueso
6/9: Ross & Florence Tamane (*Anniversary*)
6/16: Pedro Ohana (*KissyAnn— Memorial*)
6/23: Audrey Ragragola
6/30: Michelle Sagaysay (*Birthday*)

July

- 7/7: Vicki Jamora (*Yolanda— Birthday Memorial*)
7/14: Cecilia Andres
7/21: Rosemary Basilio (*Birthday & Anniversary*)
7/28: Michelle Sagaysay (*Anniversary*)

LETTER FROM KATHY LEE...

March 15, 2024

Evelyn,

I talk to Jenny every day and she asked me to send a note of thanks to you as it is hard for her to write clearly. She really appreciates you being in contact! Thanks so much.

We're doing well here in Kentucky, but I miss everyone. Give everyone at church my best. Andrew has been at work here for one year so it should be only 2 years till we return.

Through BSF on my computer I have weekly contact with a friendly group of ladies in Hawaii as we study the Gospel of John.

Please keep my grand daughter Makayla in your prayers as she deals with a corn allergy. Corn is in everything including cosmetics and perfume. Her reactions are unpredictable so she is currently doing lessons for 9th grade at home. She stays in good spirits and always sings around the house.

Thanks again for contact with Jenny. I'm hoping she will soon have another pre-school volunteer job now that covid is over.

I hope you're doing well.

Love and God Bless,

Kathy



WORSHIP LEADER...

May

- 5/5: Pat Pedro
5/12: Haley Pactol
5/19: Chadwick Ulep
5/26: Priscilla Schultheis

June

- 6/2: Pat Pedro
6/9: Rosemary Basilio
6/16: Erika Baguio
6/23: Priscilla Schultheis
6/30: Cecilia Andres

July

- 7/7: Marvin Pactol, Jr.
7/14: Virg Basilio
7/21: Cathe Elsa Aldueso
7/28: Priscilla Schultheis

If you would like to participate in our Services by being the Worship Leader and/or providing a floral arrangement for the altar, please email waialuaucc@yahoo.com or see Pat Pedro.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

Sunday, May 5: Sherwin Gervacio Memorial Scholarship Applications are due to Michelle Sagaysay | Tuesday Market Waialua Team Meeting after Worship Service

Sunday, May 12: Collection of Family Thank Offering | Mother's Day | Luncheon

Sunday, May 19: Collection of Strengthen the Church Offering | Pentecost

Sunday, May 26: Trinity Sunday

Monday, May 27: Holiday: Memorial Day: Office Closed

Sunday, June 16: Father's Day | Luncheon

Thursday, July 4: Holiday: Independence Day: Office Closed

Sunday, July 21: The Beacon Articles and Photos Due

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Graduates: If you know of a church member or child of a church member graduating from High School or Higher institution this year, please provide name and school of graduate to the Christian Ed. committee.

Help Wanted: Looking for a janitor to clean our community center hall, classrooms, kitchen, and restroom. Inquire within.

Photos Wanted: Wanna send a pic for our newsletter? Use QR Code on page 7 to upload. Don't forget the caption too. It could be featured in our next newsletter.

Waialua United Church of Christ
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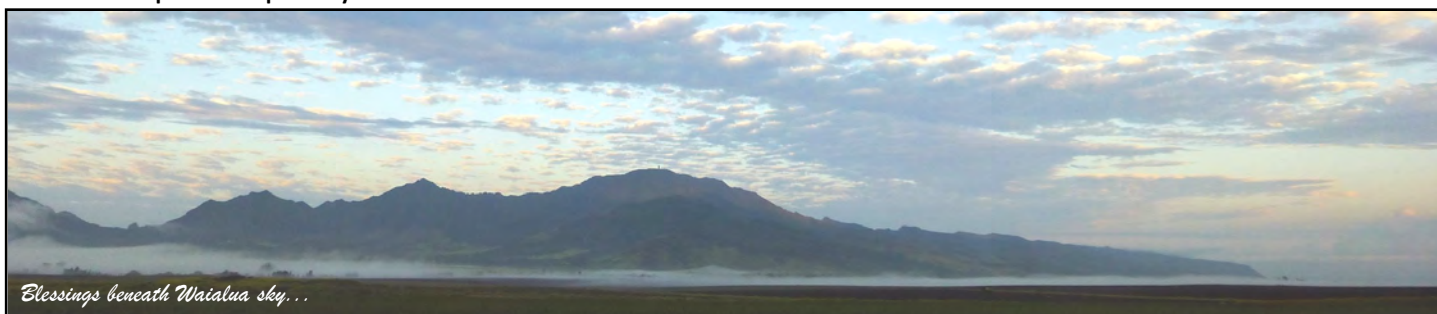
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Ministers: All Church Members
Mia Calaro, Administrative Assistant, Editor
Photos taken by Alana, Allan, Chad, Mia, Michelle, Pastor Lauren

To our brothers and
sisters in Christ

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



Volunteers always Welcome

We're looking for individuals who would like to serve the Lord in any way...

Greeting	Live Stream
Teaching	Social Media
Newsletter	Slide Presenter
Graphics	Sound Tech
Cleaning	Lei Makers
Yard	Event Security
Market	Maintenance
Website	Opener/Closer

If you have any questions or if you'd like to participate in any way, please contact us at waialuaucc@yahoo.com or come to service and speak with a member.



Join us!

@WaialuaUCC

 facebook  Instagram

@WaialuaUnitedChurchofChrist

 YouTube

Recurring Events...

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

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

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

Tuesday Market Waialua – Tuesdays from 3:00
PM–7:00 PM

Bible Study – Wednesdays from 10:00–11:00 AM

Finance Meeting – 2nd Sundays after service

Deacons Meeting – 2nd Sundays after service

Council Meeting – 3rd Sundays after service

Property & Grounds Meeting – 4th Sundays after
service