NU'UANU CALLER

A monthly newsletter of Nu'uanu Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

VOL. 63, NO. 8 AUGUST 2020

New Things, New Times

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

18 Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 4318-19

No doubt about it: the last few months have seen a lot of new things—so much change! Aside from the pandemic, we have also—as a country—embarked once more on deeper conversations on race relations, what constitutes justice and equality, and how we are to proceed together as a people. If that were not enough, we are also in the middle of a local *and* presidential election cycle.

Whew!

I wish I could tell you that it's all going to go back to the way it has been, but we both know better.

It. Is. NOT.

The conversations/protests are going to continue until people are satisfied that real change is going to come about for all people. Also, social distancing, wearing a mask, washing our hands and using sanitizer—these things are going to continue for a longer time than any of us want.

Still, there has been some improvement in our circumstances. Here at the church, we have begun meeting in person for worship again, and the preschool resumed classes on July 6. However, both of these activities only happened after each—The Children's Center and our own Deacons—wrote down, in detail, their plan on how they were going to conduct their business in a safe and sanitary way.

Our Deacons produced a plan that went through more than seven revisions and rewrites. All of the other users of our church buildings and grounds have not yet come back. Before they do, they, too, will be required to have a plan that includes social distancing, sanitizing, contact tracing, etc. before they will be allowed back. The Board of Trustees has taken on the additional task of reviewing each of the plans.

So far, all of our committees have been able to continue meeting using our computers. It is not ideal, but it works and I am grateful for the sacrifice of time and energy to learn the new technology each

(Continued on page 2 - **New Things**)

Nu'uanu Caller is a monthly publication of Nu'uanu Congregational Church, founded in 1885 and organized in 1892 (United Church of Christ, a 1957 union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Churches). Rev. Jeannie Thompson, *Pastor;* Paula Yamamoto, *Administrative Coordinator*; Nelson Fujinaga, *Custodian*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.
Web site: nuuanu.org • Email: nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net • Phone: (808) 595-3935

Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service
1st Sunday of the month:
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

New Things - Cont'd. from p. 1

person has made in order to fulfill their commitment to our church and our life together.

I would also like to suggest that learning these new ways to be in contact with each other is also building our future as a church in ways we cannot even imagine right now—we are laying the groundwork that I firmly believe God is going to use to build-up God's *kin*-dom here at Nu'uanu Congregational Church.

More than anything else, we have been using these new ways to express our deep love and commitment to each other and to God. I think that is the more important thing to hold on to: in a time when meeting in person could be a hazard to our health, we still have ways to care for one another, to enjoy one another's company, and to accomplish the tasks we have before us. And so, I pray that we will take advantage of the new ways of communicating that are available to us—they really are a godsend.

I pray that anyone who needs help learning to use their phones or computers in some of the new ways we can, will call us here at church. We will figure out how to help one another because our connection with each other is important, our relationships of friendship and companionship were inspired by the love God has for all of us. Let's do all we can to maintain all of these important aspects of our life.

We will get through this, and we will do it together, helping each other, praying for each other every step of the way. So, do not lose heart, you are not alone. We are all in this together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeannie

Strategic Planning

By Laurie Hamano, Moderator

Dear NCC Members and Friends,

Thank you for helping us walk through our myriad of changes given the COVID-19 mandates. The Council, Diaconate, Board of Trustees have been putting our "collective heads" together with Pastor Jeannie to figure out what works for NCC and in our "new world". We appreciate your patience and your vigilance by facing the world now with masks and social distancing in our worship services. Change seems to be never-ending.

We started the first few months of this year right at the time of the COVID-19 shutdown by receiving Mr. Josh Hayashi/Hokuiwa's final report to the Council. After review of the final report, the Council has opted to engage in the final phase of the "New Beginnings" with Cynthia Scherr to take us toward the final "push" to create the Strategic Plan for NCC and "What does NCC's missional presence look like?"

(Continued on page 9 - **Strategic Plan**)

NCC's Vision Statement

Nu'uanu Congregational Church is a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians who seek to:

- ***affirm all persons as children of God;***
- ***respond to the needs of the community and congregation;***
- ***respect all views and ideas;***
- ***make and nurture disciples; and***
- ***spread God's word using our talents and resources.***

(Approved September 16, 2007 at the Special Congregational Meeting.)

Face Masks

By Judy Keith, Parish Nurse

Everyone on Sunday morning was wearing a mask and no one was using it as a necklace, so a pat on our collective backs for using masks appropriately! Few things make me crazier than being out in the community and seeing people with their masks well below their noses. But there is more to mask wearing than that, so let's go over some more detailed information.

First, let's look at types of masks. The gold standard is the N95. When I was working as a nurse I wore these when caring for patients with TB . We needed to be fitted for them annually and while they are the most effective when fitted right, they are also the most restrictive. The CDC has recommended that the general public not purchase these as PPE (personal protective equipment) is in short supply for health care providers.

I have recently been hearing about KN95 masks and had to do some research on them. KN95 – stands for the regulatory standard for filtering face piece respirators that are certified in China. They are supposed to be as effective as N95 masks, but I understand that there are counterfeit KN95 masks out there, and I have no guidance for you on how to detect genuine masks from counterfeit ones.

Surgical masks are the paper, usually blue, masks that you see on TV doctor dramas, and out on our streets. They provide the next level of protection. The CDC still recommends saving these masks for medical personnel, but given how many folks are wearing these, they must be more available now than they were earlier in the pandemic.

Then there are the cloth masks that we are all wearing. It is difficult to make generalizations about how much protection they provide, as they are not held to any established standards that have to be met. Masks should be made from cotton fabric with a dense weave, and should have at least two layers. Some are designed with a pocket into which a disposable filter can be inserted. Ideally, there should be a piece built into the nose section that can be pinched to achieve a more snug fit around the nose.

Okay, so on to some of the finer points of mask wearing. Not all cloth masks are constructed in the same way. If your mask has pleats, put your mask on so the pleats face down on the outside of the mask (they will be up on the inside). If the outer pleats face up, it creates pockets that can collect viral particles. If the mask was assembled with the nose portion in a position where the pleats must face up, try to pull the pleats out a bit to minimize the pockets.

However your mask is constructed, make sure you always apply the same side of the mask towards your face when you are taking it off and putting it back on. With some masks, it is obvious which side will be which. But if it is not, you might consider putting a small mark on one side of the mask so that you will always put that side towards your face. This is important to keep any viral particles that may have accumulated on the outer part of your mask from getting on to your face.

Cloth masks should be washed frequently with soap or detergent, and either dried in your dryer on the hottest setting or hung out in direct sunlight for several hours.

Masks may be uncomfortable, but they will not cause a decrease in your oxygen levels or allow carbon dioxide to build up. Although definitive studies of the efficacy of cloth masks are lacking, it is clear that in areas where mask wearing is widely accepted, the Corona virus has been better contained. Thank you for doing your part to help us make worship at NCC as safe as possible by wearing your masks and practicing physical distancing.

Shingrix (Shingles) Shot

By Judy Keith, Parish Nurse

If you received the first dose of the Shingrix vaccine last winter here at church, it is time to make arrangements for your second dose, which should ideally be administered before August 9th. The guidance from the CDC and the immunization Action Coalition is to "make every effort to ensure that the two doses are administered" within six months. Due to ongoing uncertainties related to Covid-19, we will not be offering a clinic at NCC for the second dose. Tina Liu, the Long's pharmacist who helped us previously, can administer the vaccine at the Long's Ward store. You can also try one of the Minute Clinics at various Long's, however, Tina recommends calling ahead to ensure that they do have the vaccine in stock. It is available at the Ward location (corner of Ward and Halekauwila).

On a side note, all Long's stores are offering 1-2 day delivery via USPS mail, if you need your medications delivered and would prefer to stay home. This can be arranged via their app, online, or by phone.

Family Promise

By Judy Keith, Family Promise Coordinator

Although we have not hosted Family Promise since before the shutdown in March, Family Promise continues to serve homeless families in our community. In fact, requests for services have increased by 400% since Covid has put an end to the traditional model of hosting. Although we cannot shelter families at this time, there are other ways that we can support Family Promise. Their wish list includes cleaning supplies (especially disinfectant wipes, paper towels, and toilet paper), laundry soap, and gift cards (Longs/Walmart/Target/Ross/gas stations and grocery stores). Call Marissa at 466-4248 before dropping off donations at the Kukui Street center. Monetary donations are always appreciated and can be mailed to Family Promise, 245 North Kukui Street, Honolulu, HI 96817. Thank you for your support of this very important organization.

NCC Covid-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Plan

By Lori Yamashiro, Clerk

Just as the Diaconate developed a set of procedures, so that we could re-gather for in-person worship, the Council approved the "Exposure Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Plan" to keep us safe and maintain operations at the church. The Plan asks every member to help with our prevention efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 while on Church property. Judy Keith and Becky Kanenaka have been appointed to monitor the related guidance that the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local government continue to make available.

The Plan includes general safety policies and rules when anyone comes onto the Church's property, guidelines for the staff, and for cleaning and disinfecting. The Plan also states that all meetings will be held via videoconference or phone, it limits the number of visitors to the church office, and it prohibits the sharing of food items and drinking containers. The plan will be amended as new Emergency Orders or other regulating guidelines are revised. Copies of the Plan are available at the church office.

As much as we want things to revert back to how it was in pre Covid times, we know life will not be the same moving forward. We appreciate your assistance in making NCC a safe place.

Our "New Normal" Worship

Photos courtesy of Lori Takeyama-Goshi and Paula Yamamoto

Temperature Check

Hand Sanitizer Station,
Wearing Masks and Gloves

"Stand Here" Signs

Social/Physical-Distancing

Passing of the Peace with a Virtual Hug

After Worship Cleaning

Mahalo and Aloha, Jieun!

By Lori Yamashiro, Diaconate Chair

At the General Synod held in Baltimore in June 2017, I met Pastor Hal who was the Senior Minister at Plymouth Congregational UCC in Fort Collins, Colorado. He shared that his wonderful Director of Music was moving to Hawaii because her husband would be serving as a chaplain at Fort Shafter, so she will be looking for a church to serve. I gave Pastor Hal my contact information and he put me in touch with **Jieun Kim Newland**.

At the time, we weren't looking for an organist, but a couple of months later, we suddenly needed a substitute organist! Pastor Neal MacPherson invited Jieun to play, they had a nice conversation, and then it became clear that this was a match made in…Baltimore!

More than just our organist, Jieun has become a very special part of our NCC Ohana. In addition to her incredible and wonderful gift of music, she learned how to make yarn lei with the Sew Fun ladies and in turn, taught them how to spin yarn. She helped out with the choir and even played ukulele with them. On Sundays, Jieun "wowed" our keiki with her organ playing. And who knows, maybe one of them will have been so inspired that they will learn to play the organ!

Jieun has certainly been a blessing, and we are grateful for her ministry with us. We give thanks to God for Jieun and her husband Ben, and we wish them God's continued blessings and safe travels and send them off with our thanks and our aloha as they relocate to Texas.

Photos courtesy of Lori Takeyama-Goshi and Paula Yamamoto

Meet Our New Organist!

Katherine Crosier ("Kathy") grew up in Burbank, CA, the eldest of five children of Kitman and Dorothy Au, both of whom were physicians who came to the United States to study medicine. Her first lessons were on the piano with her mother at age 4, and she discovered in 6th grade that she and her two sisters had perfect pitch. At age 13, when she threatened to quit taking piano lessons, her mother suggested she try another instrument, and Kathy chose the pipe organ. A few days after high school graduation, she spent a summer in Paris where she studied with the French virtuoso, Marcel Dupré. Kathy returned home to major in Organ Performance at the University of Southern California and obtained a Master's degree at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ.

For the last 47 years Kathy has been active as a church musician, teacher and recitalist in Honolulu; 14 years were spent as Lecturer in Organ at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She was the organist at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu for 35 years, a position she shared with her late husband, Carl Crosier, where the two built a nationally-recognized music program. She also spent 20 years as Chapel Organist for Iolani School. For the last 7 years, Kathy has been freelancing as an organist and choral accompanist for Early Music Hawaii, Kona Choral Society, Oahu Choral Society and Hawaii Masterworks Chorus. Kathy is looking forward to meeting new friends at Nu'uanu Congregational Church. Welcome, Kathy! [Editor's note: Kathy already has a connection with NCC. She is really good friends with Joan Ishibashi, our former Associate Minister of Christian Education and Jieun Kim Newland. Kathy and Jieun have performed together in many concerts in Hawaii.]

Christian Education

By Becky Kanenaka, Board of Christian Nurture

Fall Activities

Aloha Nu'uanu Ohana. Below is a Survey Monkey link. The survey lists the activities that the Board of Christian Nurture would like to offer in the Fall. Interested in a virtual Bible Study to the Holy Lands in October? Interested in virtual guest speakers in September? Interested in a prayer group? Please respond to this survey. Go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HNJQTSX. Thank you for your participation.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

For keikis and all the young at heart!
The Board of Christian Nurture will be offering a Zoom session starting September 6, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. A Children's Moment followed by communion will be included in the Zoom session. We would like to invite all that are not worshiping in person, to join us on the first Sunday of the month to enjoy a meal together via Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83143201299?pwd=eGJvKzVhUTB5TndLcTdtUW01a0c2UT09 If you are have any problems with the site, please email Becky at hiken214@gmail.com.

Ohana Ministry

By Marge Honjiyo

If there are needs that Ohana Ministry can help you with, call one of the coordinators:

Ohana Ministry Coordinators

Mae Au, 988-4802
Marge Honjiyo, 550-3075
Mary Ann Saito, 839-0895
Sets Takahashi, 550-3062
Joyce Uyehara, 523-3483
Lori Yamashiro, 292-5249

When you pray, remember the following and their caregivers: **Kimiko Bristow-Canfield**, **Marcia Grimsley, Carol Hamada, Charlene Hasegawa, Preston Iha, Alice Ishihara, Howard Ishihara, Michael Kurokawa, Leslie Lum, Ethel Nitta, Amy Nogami, Craig Oshiro, Mary Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, and Marie Yoneshige.**

Reminder: Names are added or deleted in the Prayer Corner by individuals, family members or friend. Please inform the Ohana Ministry coordinators if you want your name included or deleted in the Prayer Corner.

Prayer Corner

By Mary Ann Saito

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. -Matthew 18:20

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. -1 Chronicles 16:11

Dear God, we are thankful that we are able to worship in our sanctuary again. Thank you for all who worked many weeks to bring virtual services into our homes and for all who are making in-person worship services possible every Sunday. We continue to rely on your presence and help during the COVID-19 crisis as our state's positive cases rise. Help our decision makers to decide wisely and precisely regarding what is best for all, and enable each of us to behave responsibly. Continue to bless and guide our NCC graduates who will be honored on Graduate Sunday. Amen.

Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial Offering

Velma Akinaka - IMO Chikako Yamashiro, Federico Pascua, Edith Matsumoto, and Pauline Namiki
Mae Au - IMO Chikako Yamashiro
Robert and Mary Kawano - IMO Chikako Yamashiro
Howard Ishihara - IMO Chikako Yamashiro
Paul and Paula Yamamoto - IMO David Pang and Chikako Yamashiro
Ululani Hirohata - IMO Yuki Okumura and Federico Pascua

Birthday Offering

Dorothy Kusumoto

Thanks Offering

Kimie Fujioka

Deadline for Articles

Nu'uanu Caller (monthly)
20th of each month.
NCC News (weekly)
Wednesday noon.
Articles will be edited on a space available basis.

Food Drive

In keeping with Missions Sunday, the Hawai'i Food Bank collection is held on the last Sunday of every month. For the month of February, we collected 247 lbs. of assorted food items. Our next collection will be **August 30, 2020**. Monetary donations accepted, too. Checks may be made to Nu'uanu Congregational Church with Hawai'i Food Bank on the memo line. Mahalo.

Strategic Plan - Continued from page 2

More on this will occur as we begin the discussions with Ms. Scherr. She assisted the UCC Conference with their Strategic Plan. There is strong confidence in her leadership to help us get through this process.

We know we are inundated with happenings, we know that there's so much going on and even a hurricane coming our way, but the leadership at NCC has not turned their "cheek" elsewhere; but always toward the mission of discerning where NCC will be not only now, but in the future. We haven't forgotten the mission, and we are committed to move Nu'uanu Congregational Church forward. You all are part of this movement, and we will be counting on you to move with us, challenge us and pray with us; and help us discern our final piece, the Strategic Plan and our NCC future.

In faith,
Laurie Hamano

Hui Malama

By Wayne Kobayashi, Hui Malama

Hui Malama will not be meeting as a group for the rest of the year. Individuals or small groups (2-3) will be going on their own to do work that they normally do, like weeding, recycling, etc. or special jobs like power washing the sidewalks and other things that the office would like to have done. Lunch will not be provided. Thank you to all who have provided lunch in the past!

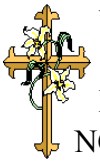
Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on Sunday, Aug. 30

Please help our volunteers by removing caps from bottles, rinsing and separating all containers. Keep labels on. Only HI-5¢ items are accepted. Proceeds go toward Hui Malama.

In Loving Memory



We are deeply saddened with the passing of **The Rev. Grant Lee**, former NCC Associate Pastor of Christian Education (1971-1981). Grant passed away July 28, 2020 at Pali Momi Hospital surrounded by his family. He is survived by daughter Tracy Lontayao, son Darren Lee, grandsons Luke and Jedidah Griffin, sister Adrienne (Philip) Mark, and brother Gregg Lee. Grant also served as Associate Minister of the Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ and pastored several churches. Please keep the Lee family in your prayers.

Nu'uanu Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway ∗ Honolulu, HI 96817

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU HI
PERMIT NO. 354

August 2020

To discontinue receiving the *Nu 'uanu Caller,* please call the church office at 595-3935 or email: nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Lectionary Readings for August

August 2 (Face to Face): Gen 32:22-31 and Ps 17:1-7, 15 • Isa 55:1-5 and Ps 145:8-9, 14-21 • Rom 9:1-5 • **Matt 14:13-21**

August 9 (When All Seems Lost): Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 and Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b • 1 Kings 19:9-18 and Ps 85:8-13 • Rom 10:5-15 • Matt 14:22-33

August 16 (Bold Moves): Gen 45:1-15 and Ps 133 • Isa 561, 6-8 and Ps 67 • Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32 • Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23 (Be Transformed): Ex 1:8-2:10 and Ps 124 • Isa 51:1-6 and Ps 138 • Rom 12:1-8 • Matt 16:13-20

August 30 (Spirit-Led Living): Ex 3:1-15 and Ps105:1-6, 23-26, 45b • Jer 15:15-21 and Ps 26:1-8 • **Rom 12:9-21** • Matt 16:21-28