*****A Weekly Newsletter of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church*

***NCC News***

**September 18, 2022**



**Special October Programs**

*By Lori Yamashiro*

 **Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your pets or pictures of your pets on Sunday, October 2. Blessing of the animals will take place after the worship service, outside the sanctuary streamside.

 **World Communion Sunday**. **Oct. 2, 2022 is**as part of UCC’s World Communion Sunday observance, **which includes Neighbors in Need (NIN).  NIN** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that helps ministries of justice and compassion support through a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants, which help justice work in our American communities.

We are inviting the congregation to bring a loaf of bread, any kind of bread, unopened in its original wrapper. We will be donating the bread to a non-profit organization that will help feed our sisters and brothers in the community.

**Halloween Fun:** On October 30. Come dressed to impress in your Halloween costume and you could win a prize! The Christian Nurture Board will be planning something for the keiki after the worship service.

 Hope you can join us for some fun while we worship God, help our community, and take care of all God's creatures!

**Give Aloha**

****We will be participating in this years Give Aloha program again. Give Aloha will be running from September 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 at all participating Foodland’s, Foodland Farms, and Sack-N-Saves.

 Nu‘uanu Congregational Church’s organization number is **78424**. There is a limit of up to $249.00 per Maika‘i Card number. Please make sure that you send us your receipt, either in the mail, with your donation, or email a picture of it to nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net. The receipt must have your name and the amount so that we can credit the donation to the right person/family!

**Family Promise Meals**

*By Judy Keith*

Volunteers are needed for Family Promise dinners on October 9th & 23rd. Two to three people can team up to plan a menu & deliver dinners to our Family Promise guests. Many thanks to those who have provided meals in July & August & have volunteered to do so this month.



**Week of September 18**:
Ho'olehua Congregational Church (Moloka'i)
Nahiku Hawaiian Church (Maui)

**Week of September 25**:
Huialoha Congregational Church (Maui)
Mokuaikaua Church (Hawai'i Island)
Kanana Fou Church (O'ahu)

**Altar Flowers**

****Signup on the Flower Chart on Sundays, or call Mairi at the church office, (808) 595-3935, or email her at nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

* + All spots have been filled!

**Worship During Covid**

*From The Med Team: Donna Chung, Becky Kanenaka, Judy Keith, Lori Yamashiro,*

  It is the desire of the medical team to return worship at Nu‘uanu Congregational Church to something as close to “normal” as possible, while at the same time keeping our congregation as safe as possible. In August we resumed passing the offering plate. Later this month, we will be modifying the method in which we celebrate communion. The Diaconate and the med team have put a great deal of thought into how this can be done as safely as possible. Pastor Jeannie, after washing her hands, will distribute the bread using tongs. The juice will be in disposable cups. Ushers will help to maintain distance between worshipers.

  \*Because we are an aging congregation and death rates are very much higher when contracting Covid after the age of eighty, we continue to be conservative about relaxing other precautions. Additionally, many of us have medical conditions that put us at higher risk. Our main concern is that we want everyone to feel and to be as safe as possible at church. We do not want people to stay away from worship because of concerns about the possible spread of Covid. We know that quite a few members, including our own pastor, have contracted Covid. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no transmission of illness within our church community. We feel strongly that continuing to wear masks and to socially distance are important practices to keep us as safe as possible and so are asking everyone to continue to do these things as a way of expressing our care and concern for our church ohana. Masks are available at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you choose to worship unmasked, please take one of the seats on the pad just outside.Thank you for helping to keep our church ohana safe.

**As Covid counts remain high, we ask you take precautions:**

*The following information is taken from an article*

*in the Washington Post by Dr. Lena Wen.*

Three things to consider:

* Do you have optimal protection?
	+ Make sure you are up to date with your vaccines. If you have not had all your boosters, do not put off getting the next one till fall, hoping for a variant specific booster.
	+ It is time to upgrade your mask. You should have a well fitting N95 mask. Every time you put it on, pinch around your nose to get a close fit. If your glasses fog, the fit is not tight.
* Have you stocked up on tests? Home rapid tests are very good at detecting covid. Test kits are covered by insurance. You should have two kits available for each member of the family. Here are three reasons to test:
	+ You develop a cough, runny nose, sore throat, or generalized aching. If you test negative, but still feel sick, you should re-test in two to three days.
	+ Test as a method to end isolation. Start testing regularly on day five to see when it is safe to be around other people.
	+ Just before you will be visiting others in an indoor setting. This will help lower community spread.
	+ False positive results are rare with the home antigen tests. You should not need to get a PCR test to confirm that you have Covid.
* Do you have a plan for what to do if you test positive?
	+ Call your physician and see if they want to put you on medication. Do this right away, as the medication needs to be started within five days of developing symptoms.
	+ Think about your home situation. Do you have a place where you can isolate at home? You should wear a mask when you are around family members.