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

***NCC News***

**January 2, 2022**



**Pledge/ Donation Envelopes**

*By Mairi Manley*

The 2022 pledge/Donation Envelopes will be ready by

Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Whomever does not pick them up

will be mailed out to them on Tuesday January 10, 2022.

**White Christmas**

*By Judy Keith*

The White Christmas drive was a huge success this year. The Missions Committee collected $3,380 in cash and gift cards which were given to Family Promise, River of Life Mission, and the UCC Transition House. This is more than twice what was collected in 2020 and will go such a long way to making Christmas merry for countless of our neighbors here in Honolulu. We are so grateful for your continued support of the White Christmas drive.

**Give Aloha Reminder**

 We’re in December! There are only a handful of receipts that haven’t been turned in yet!

Please drop off or mail your receipt, with your name at the top of the receipt, to the office as soon as you can. We would like to make sure it’s part of 2021 Donations/Pledges!

**Donate to House of Redemption**

*From December 22, 2021 UCC Coconut Wireless*

The Institute for Human Services (IHS) has just opened a new home for those who were incarcerated, but have been released and are committing themselves to a life of recovery from drug addiction. The program, The House of Redemption, has a capacity of 13 beds to provide comprehensive services to these men.
     The House of Redemption needs supplies for this new program. In particular, they need the following:

* Bed Spread for (13) twin beds (13 of the same, matching)
* Sheets for (13) twin beds
* Towels, (Bath, face towels and wash cloths)
* Toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, shaving razors, deodorant, lotion, etc.)
* House plants
* Dishes
* Flatware
* Gift cards

     If churches or individuals are looking for a way to bless people who have committed themselves to a new way of life, this is the ideal project to make a contribution and is in keeping with the holiday spirit. To donate, contact Church of the Crossroads and Member in Discernment MacArthur Flournoy, IHS Chaplain, by email at MacArthurF@ihshawaii.org or text his cell: (808) 464-7335.

**UCC Appeal to Aid December Tornado Victims**

*From December 22, 2021 UCC Coconut Wireless*

When a series of deadly tornadoes and severe weather swept across six states on December 10 and 11, people of the United Church of Christ were quick to reach out and respond. The UCC in the national setting has established a [Severe Storms 2021 appeal](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhcucc.us1.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dd09d80abc8cc6a2ef04d9acf4%26id%3De82b58d65e%26e%3Ddbd20120fe&data=04%7C01%7C%7C268aa29d3c7a45df53f508d9c5c8cb63%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637758288489580652%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=5xuZ8JR54hbhUsxiVTO5iGX%2FXaf5phelrYyd6ukX2DM%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) to collect donations. [Read more](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhcucc.us1.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dd09d80abc8cc6a2ef04d9acf4%26id%3Db2b17faf41%26e%3Ddbd20120fe&data=04%7C01%7C%7C268aa29d3c7a45df53f508d9c5c8cb63%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637758288489580652%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ZBhZxgbFUYN78mrRKbwwnWigoufxOtTPIAurm%2BTWgto%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) about what the churches are doing to assist in the long-term recovery process and [donate](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhcucc.us1.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dd09d80abc8cc6a2ef04d9acf4%26id%3Dfb49284bcd%26e%3Ddbd20120fe&data=04%7C01%7C%7C268aa29d3c7a45df53f508d9c5c8cb63%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637758288489590609%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=WGyzUCHI%2Bz12c706wbdTo5EQM%2FBNz65aqkW%2BZ5%2FbYow%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank) to the appeal. Select "Severe Storms 2021" from the drop down menu.

**What Just Happened ?**

 *by Donna Chung, M.D.*

The Covid virus mutated into the omicron variant. This one is many times more contagious. It takes approximately 2 days to double the number of infected people. In Hawaii, this week it went from over 800 cases that day to 1500 cases today. It will continue at this rate until many more get vaccinations and boosters OR there is less gathering. If neither happen, the numbers will continue to double.

The timing is bad because this is occurring two days before Christmas, with New Years ahead of us, great temptations to gather. Those who have had 2 vaccinations and the booster shot are 73% protected from the omicron variant. That means approximately 1/4 of people who had booster will still get infected with omicron covid.

Within that one out of four becoming infected, Kupuna over 65 years old are more susceptible to be the ones becoming infected and more likely to become seriously ill.

For those who wish to be absolutely safe from the omicron covid infection, getting the booster then staying with household members are the safest actions. When going somewhere outdoors where you may be within 10 feet of others or going indoors anywhere, wearing K95, N95 mask, or double mask and not staying in one spot are best. Double mask means surgical mask covered by 3 ply cloth mask.

Eating at restaurants is not safe because people will take their masks off to eat and drink. Age makes a big difference in likelihood of becoming infected and requiring hospitalization despite full vaccination and booster. Certainly over 65 years of age but both of the aforementioned increase with age. High-risk medical conditions will cause a higher severity of covid infection.

This is what is happening now. We will quickly know more as more people become infected. There is not much that we can safely do until we know more about the results of omicron covid infections

On the other hand, celebrating in a smaller setting parallel the quiet birth of Jesus in that stable centuries ago. May we all have a peaceful, joyous Christmas.

**YMCA Update**

 Unfortunately, with low or no enrollment for the plans with the YMCA to use our facilities during Christmas break, the YMCA has cancelled their Winter Intersession here at NCC!

 On the bright side, the YMCA is planning on having “Ages 60 and up, free lunches + activities” starting

February 2, 2022, between 10 am and 1 pm. The YMCA contact information is (808) 678-4296 or cinamasu@ymcahonolulu.org,

 You may also apply to volunteer at [www.ymcahonolulu.org/volunteer](http://www.ymcahonolulu.org/volunteer).