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

***NCC News***

**January 9, 2022**



**Pledge/ Donation Envelopes**

*By Mairi Manley*

The 2022 pledge/Donation Envelopes will be ready by

Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Whoever 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.

**Holiday on January 17, 2021**

On Monday, January 17, 2021, NCC office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day!

**In Person Services**

The medical team, along with the Diaconate Committee decided to suspend in-person services for the remainder of January. They will reassess at the end of the month!

**YMCA Update**

*From Cassidy Inamasu, YMCA Honolulu*

Aloha Everyone,

The YMCA will be offering free meals and activities for anyone 60 years of age and older.  The goal is to increase access to food and provide socialization during these continued challenging times.  This will be offered at our Kaimuki, Kalihi, Leeward, and Mililani YMCAs and Nu`uanu Congregational Church.  We are also planning to offer youth day camps during the school breaks at Nu`uanu Congregational Church.  Attached are flyers for Kupuna meals and Spring break program for reference.

We are looking for volunteers to help us serve the pre-packaged meals and possibly run activities after lunch for those who come to eat.  We are also looking for volunteers who might be interested in helping at our youth programs during the break.  Volunteers can read to the kids, support the group through activities, or offer to lead activities they're interested in like gardening, cooking, etc.  Anyone interested in volunteering can email me, complete the online application at www.ymcahonolulu.org/volunteer, or the paper application attached.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.  Wishing you all the best, your Y team,

Ananda Ferreira - Kaimuki YMCA Executive Director, Kupuna Programs Lead

Cassidy Inamasu - Atherton YMCA Executive Director, Youth Programs Lead

Jen Townsend - Leeward YMCA Executive Director, Early Education Programs Lead

**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.