

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 66, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2023



Maui Strong—and in our hearts

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult
—Psalm 46:1-3*

It has been a hot summer. The morning rain showers here on Wilhelmina Rise (where I live) are but sparse relief for the *pili* grass and hibiscus bushes outside in the yard. In just a couple of hours, the rain will have evaporated in the morning sun, and the lawn and flowers will be parched and brittle again. Each plant will resume their fierce competition with the weeds for what moisture and nutrients each are able to extract out of the soil.

It is this kind of weather, along with a passing hurricane, that created the conditions for tragedy over on Maui. The dry, arid environment was bad enough. The winds from Hurricane Dora, a category 4 storm, caused the fires to move from being a dangerous, but not an uncommon element of summer, to the epic, heartbreaking firestorm that swept through Lahaina bringing so much death and destruction.

In the coming months and years, Maui will rebuild. However, the needs of the community—the people—will continue for much longer.

Replacing lost clothes and material comforts is not difficult. There has been an unprecedented outpouring of food, clothing, and other immediate necessities from all around the state, and the world. Even seasoned relief workers from the Red Cross and other such organizations have been impressed with the way Hawaii people reach out with caring and generosity.

Assisting people back into housing is going to be difficult for a long time to come. Getting the children back into school, and connecting adults with new jobs is going to be exhausting and disheartening because all of this will have to happen even as everyone is still moving through grief, and still reeling from the horror and the memories of fear they experienced.

We all want to help. So, let us keep the people and all the first, second, third, etc. responders in our hearts and prayers. If you would like to make a monetary donation through our church you can do so by writing “Maui Relief” in the memo section. Your contribution will be sent to Maui through the Hawaii Conference Disaster Relief ministry. (You will be pleased to know that donated funds are being put directly into the hands of Maui people in need.)

(cont'd on page 3 - Maui)

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*; Mairi Manley, *Administrative Coordinator*; Nisei Building Maintenance, *Custodial Services*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.
Web site: nuuanu.org • Email: nuuanucongregational@gmail.com • Phone: (808) 595-3935

Capital Campaign Concludes in September

Here’s your September “to do” list as we close out this important giving opportunity.

- Find your Capital Campaign Pledge Letter.
- Fill out your Letter of Pledge Intent and return it to the church no later than Saturday, September 23.
- Join us in worship on Celebration Sunday, September 24, 2023, as we announce the grand total and thank our volunteers and donors.



Here’s a few more details you’ll need to know.

- If you have not yet received a Pledge Letter, pick yours up at church on either Sunday, September 10 or Sunday, September 17. On these Commitment Sundays, you will fill out your pledge information at church, put it in the privacy envelope, and place it in the box provided.
- If you need more time, take it home with you to mail back when you know what you plan to give.
- Some of you have made Lead Gifts. If the church has received your Pledge Intent all you need to do is help us celebrate in worship on September 24.
- Any who are unable to make a pledge or choose not to do so, will follow the same instructions. Simply sign your letter of intent and cross out the contribution information. Place the letter in the envelope provided and return it to the church.
- Deadline for receiving all pledges is Saturday, September 23 so that your generosity can be part of our whole congregation’s final tally.



We will be participating in this year's Give Aloha program again. Give Aloha will be running from September 1, 2023

through September 30, 2023 at all participating Foodland, 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 nuuanucongregational@gmail.com. The receipt must have your name, amount, store number, and time of your transaction so that we can credit the donation to the right person/family!



September

Honolulu Cosmopolitan UCC (O‘ahu)
 Nu‘uanu Congregational Church (O‘ahu)
 Honolulu Marshallese Ministry (O‘ahu)
 Nu‘u Lotu (O‘ahu)
 Kapa‘a First Hawaiian Church (Kaua‘i)
 Ho‘olehua Congregational Church (Moloka‘i)
 Nahiku Hawaiian Church (Maui)
 Huialoha Congregational Church (Maui)
 Mokuaukaia Church (Hawai‘i Island)
 Kanana Fou Church (O‘ahu)

NCC’s Vision Statement

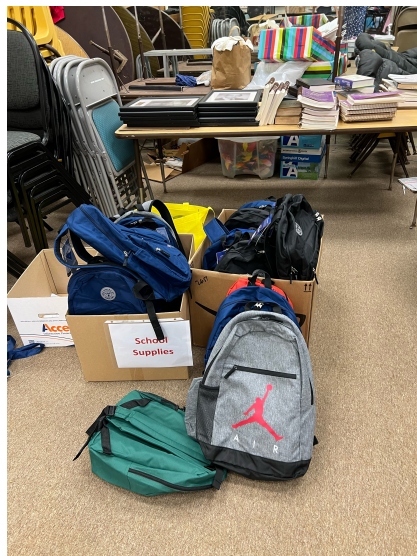
Nu‘uanu Congregational Church is a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians who seek to:

- *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.)

School Supply Drive

Thanks to the amazing support from the congregation, our Sunday School kids were able to fill over fifty backpacks with a variety of school supplies. Members of the Missions Committee have delivered them to the following elementary schools: Kaahumanu, Kauluwela, Lincoln, & Palolo in time for the start of school. Backpacks were also provided to the two elementary school children currently residing in Kibo Kan. Your generosity is always so incredible & very much appreciated.



Maui

Cont'd from page 1)

Let us also commit ourselves to continuing the ministries and mission of our church that will impact people here in our community and beyond—including Maui.

Here are also a few more ways we can all help:

The Foodbank will continue to need food. Even what we donate here on Oahu will be of help. So, please continue to donate to that mission—non-perishable foods and cash are both wanted. Also, please give blood when you can.

The Samaritan Counseling Center of Hawaii (SCCH), one of the ministries NCC supports, is exploring how they can extend their services to the residents on Maui. The emotional trauma and misery in the Maui community is going to be long-lasting. SCCH has been a fixture here on Oahu for about thirty years. This means that they will be available to help and alleviate suffering for the long-haul.

Help Maui Rise is a new group that has sprung-up just in the past couple of weeks. *Help Maui Rise* has compiled a list of **GoFundMe** fundraisers for individuals and families affected by the fires. This is a grassroots effort by local volunteers. They are working with GoFundMe to verify each Maui campaign listed on the website. (Perhaps we, as a church, could “adopt” an individual GoFundMe campaign.)

Most of all, I pray we will remember the words of the psalmist quoted at the start of this article. The words speak of a world trembling around the human who writes and writhes in the midst of extraordinary danger and upheaval. Surrounded by such confusion and turmoil in the earth, there does not seem to be any safe place to run.

Then the psalmist remembers that our place of safety is the sure foundation of God's love for him and for all human beings. The love of God is the inspiration that can build—in each of us individually, and all of us as a community—a refuge and a place of strength, “a very present help in trouble” for all who are hurting and in need.

I want to thank you for your continuing generosity which is made obvious in the ministries of our church, and as we join with others to make real the words: Maui Strong.

Grace and Peace,
Jeannie



Ohana Ministry

By Mae Au

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

Joyce Uyehara, 523-3483

Sybil Seto, 550-3068

Lori Yamashiro, 292-5249

We have received two new requests for prayers for health reasons. Please pray for Mike Chung and Susan Hirano.

When you pray, remember the following and their caregivers: Ljnda Mau, Kimiko Bristow-Canfield, Marcia Grimsley, Carol Hamada, Preston Iha, Howard Ishihara, Craig Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, Lurline Matsumoto (sister of Masa Taba), Rick Au, Stephen Crosier, Fay Matsuura (Friend of Clifford Lum), Barbara Pierce, Ray Miyamoto, Cindy Taketa.

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

Prayer Corner

By Mary Ann Saito

Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Dear God, we are thankful that you are our help and strength. Our hearts are heavy with concern for the people of Maui who suffered such devastation during the recent wildfires-many losing family members, homes and businesses.

Comfort them and heal their physical and emotional wounds. They have a long road ahead for restoration and we pray for your continuing help and guidance for all of them. Bless them with hope and resiliency. We will be making our pledges for the NCC Capital Campaign this month. Guide each of us as we make our decision. Thank you for the work of the volunteer committee. We will participate in Foodland's Give Aloha Program in September.

Thank you for their support of non-profit organizations.
Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

In Memory of

Albert Matsumoto IMO Rev. Mineo Katagiri,
Rev. Teruo Kawata
Howard Ishihara IMO Alice Ishihara

Birthday

Howard Ishihara

Thanks Offering

Kimie Fujioka
Howard Mau
Muneo Hamada
Paul Yamamoto



50 Year Reunion

Ka Mele Nani O Ke Akua Singers

Saturday, September 16, 2023

5PM Potluck Dinner

at Nuuanu Congregational Church



Former members, family and friends
All invited!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/228254636424891>
nuuanucongregational@gmail.com

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.



Hawaii Foodbank

The collection date is for
August 27, 2023.
*We collected 160 pounds of
food In June.*

2023 Altar Flower Donations



The chart for the 2023 Altar Flower Donations is ready to fill up! Please fill out the date that you want, either in person at service, by email at nuuanucongregational@gmail.com, or by calling the office at (808) 595-3935.

Please have Altar Flowers delivered on Fridays, between 8 am and 4 pm or Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. There will not be anyone working on Saturday's until further notice.

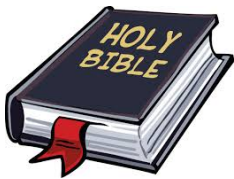
The next available dates are:

- October 15
- October 22
- October 29

Can You Bring A Can - For The Hawaii Foodbank?



The last Sunday of each month is Missions Sunday. Please bring a canned good or other non-perishable food on that day. Boxes will be available to collect them. All gifts will be taken to the Hawai‘i Foodbank.



Invitation to Bible Study

Anyone who is wanting to join the bible study group is more than welcome to. There are 2 different ways you can join.

The first is meeting Pastor Jeannie on the Lanai right outside of her office on Wednesdays, starting at 10 am.

The second is by zoom on Wednesday nights, starting at 6:30 pm. Please let Mairi or Pastor Jeannie know if you would like to join so we can get you the zoom link.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Please bring your HI-5 items any day in August.

Leave them outside the recycling shed behind Kibo Kan. Please help the scouts by removing caps from bottles, rinsing and making sure the containers are clean and empty. Keep labels on. Only HI-5 items are accepted.



Wear a mask!

Cover your nose and mouth



Wait 6 feet apart!
Avoid close contact



Wash your hands!
Or use hand sanitizer





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2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

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September 2023

To discontinue receiving the
Nu 'uanu Caller, please call the
church office at 595-3935 or email:
nuuanucongregational@gmail.

Lectionary Readings for September

September 3 (Spirit-Led Living): Ex 3:1-15 and Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b **or** Her 15:15-21 and Ps 26:1-8 •
Rom 12:9-21 • Matt 16:21-28

September 10 (Remember, Restore, Renew): Ex 12:1-14 and Ps 149 **or** Ezek 33:7-11 and Ps 119:33-40 •
Rom 13:8-14 • Matt 18:15-20

September 17 (Road to Freedom): Ex 14:19-31 and Ps 114 **or** Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21 **or** Gen 50:15-21 and
Ps 103:(1-7), 8-13 • Rom 14:1-12 • Matt 18:21-35

September 24 (Tensions in the Wilderness): Ex 16:2-15 and Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 **or** Jonah 3:10-4:11 and
Ps 145:1-8 • Phil 1:21-30 • Matt 20:1-16