

## What Death Taught Me About Life

*By Kristen Young, Youth Ministry Leader*

### From Death to Life

This summer will be NCC's sixth year leading Vacation Bible School at Lana'i Union Church. It'll be the first summer without James Anton. James was a young boy from Lana'i who had attended our VBS for the past five years. He was there every summer... one of the many kids we looked forward to seeing when we would return.

Last August, James had a sudden, unexpected, and unexplainable seizure, was flown to Oahu, and hospitalized in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Kapiolani Hospital. James was in a coma and remained in the hospital for two months. Sarah and I would visit him on Wednesday afternoons each week.

James died on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. We got the call that his parents had decided to remove the life support because there had been no brain activity. As we were told that family members were gathering to say their good-byes, my heart sank as I thought about his family and friends whom even I had come to know. I was heartbroken as I considered saying my final good bye to James.

As I look back to that time in the Fall, I wonder if our visits helped James to let go knowing that he will always be loved and connected through Christ. Perhaps it did. One thing I am sure of is that I know our visits helped *us* to let him go. When I think further back to even before James was in the hospital, I think of how the Lana'i Mission Trips played a part in this experience. When I look back, I can see where God was working in all the little connections through the relations we formed with the people of Lana'i Union Church over the years. It almost seems as if God was preparing us... or is it because God is *always* preparing us for when death parts us from our loved ones? Maybe preparation for the inevitable death is what life is all about.

### There are a few things I learned from journeying with James in his final days:

1. James taught me that in our helplessness, we can trust God. James' dad told us one day to keep praying because prayer is the best medicine. While I was praying, I realized that prayer is medicine for us, also. Praying invites God into our hearts so we can see how God is still working and trust that God is even in the suffering, when we weep and mourn and pray together.
2. James taught me how to love. It may be rather cliché to say that we should love someone like we're going to lose them,

(Continue on p. 2 - **Death to Life**)



## Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

1st Sunday of the month:

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

## Death to Life - Cont'd. from p. 1

but since tomorrow is not guaranteed, we are to love intensely in every moment we do have. We have an unknown number of days, a lifetime, to love and be loved.

3. James helped me to see that death is *not* the final answer. There *is* life after death—for James, and for the people who are still grieving his loss. He lives in our hearts and memories. When we live every present moment with peace, with passion, with love, we live a life that's worth celebrating and remembering even after we're gone, a life that brings life to the people around us, a life that has life after death, and really has no end.

From birth to death, we are housed in these bodies that enable us to interact with one another and the world around us. We are human *beings*, living and breathing so that we may *be* together. And maybe that's what the journey of life is. We are alive to accompany one another in love. Whether a lifetime lasts 10 minutes, 10 years, or 10 decades, a lifetime of love leaves its effects on everyone it touches. It is *for* love and *through* love that we are given life. And the Easter story is that it is through the love of Christ and his death we are given life. Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

## Sabbatical Leave

At its meeting on September 16, 2014, the Church Council approved a 3-month sabbatical for **Pastor Mary** to be taken between May 31 and November 30, 2015. However, because

Pastor Mary was granted a leave of absence from October 1, 2014 to January 24, 2015, the Church Council, together with Pastor Mary, has revised the plans for her sabbatical leave. Rather than take a 3-month sabbatical leave in the fall of 2015, Pastor Mary will take three one-month sabbatical leaves.

The first month of this sabbatical leave was in October 2015. The second month of this sabbatical leave will take place in April 2016. Pastor Mary will combine one week of study leave and one week of vacation along with one month of sabbatical leave. For her study leave, she will attend the annual conference of the Korean American Presbyterian Clergywomen in Princeton; and during her sabbatical, she will spend time in Korea to study the intersection of spirituality in Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Christianity.



During this leave from **April 4 to May 16**, the **Rev. Kyle Lovett** will preach and will be on-call for pastoral emergencies. She

may be contacted at [RevKyleL@gmail.com](mailto:RevKyleL@gmail.com) and 808-542-1332.

## 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.)

## Town Hall Meeting Summary

*The Town Hall concept of congregational gathering was adopted as part of the overall "Plan for Moving Forward as a United Church" at a special congregational meeting in November 2015. This is part of the effort to provide different opportunities to communicate with the congregation as well as to provide congregants and friends an opportunity to give and receive feedback. Facilitator Elizabeth Kent and Mr. Arthur Goto have assisted and collaborated with the summary below as part of this process of informing the congregation of this meeting. It is hoped that with these efforts in this process that more will feel ready to attend one of these meetings to provide their opinions and feel that they have been heard.*

*Moderator Laurie Hamano*

### Town Hall Meeting Summary Nuuanu Congregational Church Sunday, March 6, 2016, Noon - 1:40 p.m.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Mary. Approximately 20 people attended the Town Hall meeting.

The first subject attendees discussed was **communication**. A concern was raised regarding planning for membership meetings and a suggestion made that if more input was solicited and there was more communication in advance, then meetings would run more effectively. Moderator Laurie Hamano stated that the omission of the topic "New Business" from the agenda of the annual meeting was an oversight, and that they would do better next time. She noted that her process now would be to request input prior to a membership meeting.

Another item of discussion was the best way to share information. E-News, which has links, is effective for those who have computers but is

not effective for those who do not use computers and some people have trouble with attachments. It was pointed out that the Church admin office does not mail hard copies of the e-news. This issue was left open. There was some discussion about where the gap, if any, was. It was noted that in the past, the moderator shared highlights each month and highlights were included in The Caller. Moderator Laurie Hamano will consider this as she starts her term.

The next subject attendees discussed was **collaboration**. It was commented that everyone wants to be heard, to have their ideas solicited, and have their concerns taken under consideration. Town meetings provide a venue for this. Moderator Hamano noted that her intention for future annual meetings is to a) have a meeting such as the town hall to discuss the agenda and b) place items on the agenda beforehand and then to send out the meeting notice to the membership once we figure out the agenda.

There was general discussion about the best ways to reach out and the need for people to inform themselves and stay involved (not a one-way street, but at the same time provide opportunities to be heard and be informed at the membership meeting). The facilitator thought that there seemed to be general agreement among attendees that major work could be accomplished in smaller venues, and that attendees thought the two-hour annual meeting would be more effective if a lot of preparation work is done prior to the meeting. There was some comment that it is easier to talk in small groups than in large groups.

The next subject attendees discussed was the **basis of member's vote as to Part I of the proposed mediation agreement**. (During the discussion the term "Part A" was used in lieu of

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## Town Hall - Cont'd. from p. 3

the label “Part I.” The term “Part I” is the correct term and is used by the Facilitator and Editors.) This discussion was energetic and dynamic, and at times, emotional. Many people participated, both in speaking and in sharing their thoughts in writing. Attendees shared their reasons for voting the way they did. Responses included (in no particular order) NCC is no longer a Japanese Church and no longer has a Japanese speaking membership; the majority of the congregation does not read, speak, or understand Japanese; question the number of people who would be served; everyone understands English; it would be inconvenient and boring to have two languages in one service; a joint service would take too much time; didn't want a joint service; the main function or purpose of a church is to worship, Jesus' Great Commission calls upon us to make disciples of all nations, there is a desire for worship in Japanese in our community, and that has been a mission of the NCC from its inception; prefer a worship service for all; wanted to give it a try; the amount of money that Part I would cost does not justify good stewardship of the congregation's contributions; and if there is a joint service large portions of it would not be understandable and would not be relevant.

The group then talked about the **consequences of the vote.** It was pointed out that the Diaconate recently created a heritage subcommittee and the provisions in the Mediation Plan to honor history and heritage passed. Another attendee pointed out that time could be spent addressing the commission to spread God's word in different ways. One view expressed was that the rejection of Part I meant that there was to be no worship services in the Japanese language at the NCC. Another attendee said that the consequence of failing to adopt that

portion brings the status of Japanese language worship services back to what it was before the mediation which was a disagreement as to the meaning of the “Ann Ito motion” passed at the 2014 annual meeting. Another attendee said that it seemed a part-time Japanese speaking minister would satisfy those who want Japanese speaking ministry. A suggestion was made to have some sort of worship after the joint service. Others discussed ways to include everyone who attends NCC.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Moderator Laurie Hamano thanked everyone for attending and participating. Pastor Mary closed the session with a prayer.

**Next Town Hall Meeting  
May 22, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. in the  
choir room.**

## William and Jean Wood 2016 Scholarship

*By Marilyn Naka, Scholarship Committee Chair*

**Undergraduate** applications for the 2016 William and Jean Wood Scholarship are being accepted for those who will be attending a university, college, and/or institution of higher learning. Applicants must be a member, a relative, or friend of a member of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church. Applications may be obtained from the Nu‘uanu Congregational Church web site ([www.nuuanu.org](http://www.nuuanu.org)) or office (ph. 595-3935 or email [nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net)). Note: All applications and supporting documents (references, transcripts, etc.) must be received together in **one packet by April 30, 2016 (postmarked) or by 4 p.m. April 29 (hand delivered)** as specified in the instructions. Incomplete application packets received will not be considered.

## Green Day III at NCC

By Velma Akinaka, Ulu Wai Ministry

Our Ulu Wai Ministry takes care of God's creation through our overflowing love and care for the hungry and needy, for the earth, for our community, and for the next generation.

The Ulu Wai Ministry is holding its “Green Day III” on **April 23, 2016**, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., in Kosasa Hall. All proceeds collected will go to NCC’s Missions Ministry (e.g. homeless, shelters, designated non-profits dedicated to elderly/shut-ins, abused, youth, individual/group emergency needs).

We will have something for everyone! Boy Scouts Troop 201 will be joining Ulu Wai Ministry to do eco friendly waterless car washes (includes vacuuming) from 9-3 for just \$10! Car wash tickets are currently for sale. Buy tickets as gifts for others – See Wayne Kobayashi.

While waiting for your car to be washed, enjoy some spam sushi and andagi. Saunter down to Kosasa Hall and shop at the Green Day III Fair. The Free Cycling section will have gently used clothing, linens, towels, bags, shoes and small appliances “free for the taking.” Rummage sale items will be sold at slashed prices! There will also be a variety of handmade craft items (neck pillows, infinity scarves, scrubbies, bags, remnant fabrics, etc.), plants, beneficial microbes for bokashi, hydroponic items (simple hydroponic kits & fresh lettuce available), and vermicomposting items (red wiggler worms, worm tea, worm castings, worm bins) for sale at affordable prices.

Also check out the e-waste team and the shredded paper services in the parking lot. E-waste will be collected by Pacific Corporate Solutions. Materials Accepted: only desktop and laptop computers, CPUs, CRT and LCD monitors, printers, fax machines, keyboards, mice, scanner, servers, routers, telecom equipment, DVD players, VCRs, MP3 players, speakers, telephones, cellular phones, stereo

equipment, digital and video cameras, calculators, electronic boards and cords/cables. Shred-It Inc. will be collecting boxes of shredded material...3 box limit: 1st box free, \$5 each for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Box.

At 9:30 a.m. Ralph, da Worm Guy, will share his mana’o about the role of microbes in vermicomposting, how to make worm tea and how a worm bin works. At 11:00 a.m. bokashi experts, Jan and Lee Ann, will talk about bokashi and beneficial microbes at 11:00 a.m.

We welcome any donations... plants, gently used clothing, kitchen items, knick-knacks, medium size boxes, medium-large size bags etc. Bring them to church on April 17<sup>th</sup> or make arrangements with Velma for plants ([kimoment2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kimoment2@hawaiiantel.net)) or Sybil Seto for free cycle/rummage sale items ([setos2011@gmail.com](mailto:setos2011@gmail.com)).

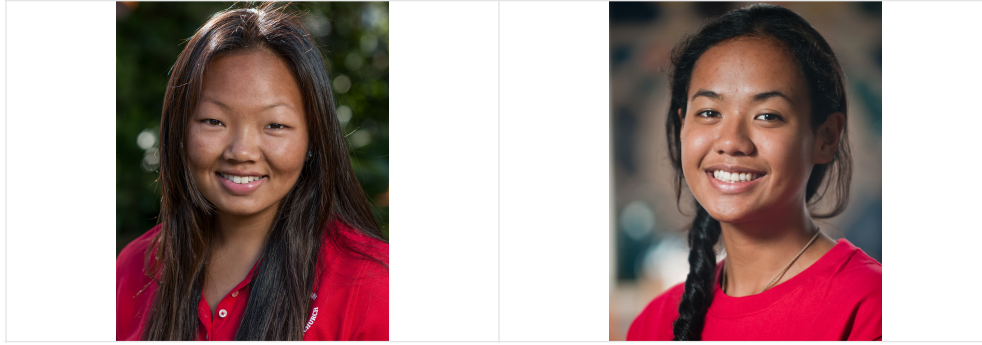
Ralph, da worm guy, will also be having additional community worm sessions on at NCC on Monday evening, **April 18th**, 6:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, **April 19th**, 9:30 a.m. To sign up, call (595-3135 after 7 p.m.) or email “Worm Woman” at [kimoment2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kimoment2@hawaiiantel.net).

## Bonhoeffer

By Chester Naka

***“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.”***

Who is this Dietrich Bonhoeffer and what make him say this? Eric Metaxas has created a small group study DVD program to help us understand the spiritual truths that guided Bonhoeffer during a dark period of history. Come and learn how these spiritual truths can be an inspiration for us even today. Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m., **beginning April 3, 2016** in room 206.



## Congratulations to Kristen Young and Makaiwa Kanui!

**Kristen Young** and **Makaiwa (Tong) Kanui** have been invited to participate in this year’s Christian Leadership Forum, June 1-4, in Atlanta, Georgia. The Christian Leadership Forum, a program of Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE), will gather 200 leaders (doctoral students, scholars and church leaders) from U.S. and Canada to discuss vocational questions, exchange ideas in ministry, and connect with a community of peers. Nominated by the Rev. Mary Paik, Makaiwa and Kristen are among 75 young adults who were chosen to participate in this year’s Forum with all expenses paid by the FTE.

The theme for this year’s Christian Leadership Forum is “Leading Differently” and will feature speakers and workshop leaders such as Father Michael Pfleger and Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Village Presbyterian Church.

Kristen served as a College Summer Intern at Nu‘uanu Congregational Church (NCC) in 2013. Since then, she has served as a Youth Ministry Intern/Leader at NCC year-round. In May, she will graduate from the University of Hawaii with a BS in Family Resources and a BA in Spanish. Upon graduation, she will serve as a volunteer mission worker in Peru for one year, as a part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. Kristen is a member of United Church of Christ, Judd Street.

Makaiwa served as a College Summer Intern at NCC in 2011 and 2012. Makaiwa graduated from Mills College (2015) with a BA in Art with a minor in Ethnic Studies. Currently, she is on staff at InterVarsity Student Fellowship, serving the University of Hawaii in Hilo. Makaiwa is a member of Ola‘a First Hawaiian Congregational Church in Kurtistown, HI.

Located in Decatur, GA, Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) is a leadership incubator that inspires young people to make a difference in the world through Christian communities. Since its founding in 1954, FTE has provided resources, events, networks, grants and fellowships to cultivate tomorrow’s leaders, pastors and theological educators. FTE provides a forum through which gifted, purposeful students, young adults and partners explore their passion, purpose and call. NCC’s College Summer Internship program began with a Pastoral Internship Grant from FTE; and we continue to value FTE’s support and partnership.

## 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 113 lbs. of assorted food items. Our next collection will be **April 24, 2016**. Monetary donations accepted, too. Checks may be made to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with Hawai‘i Food Bank on the memo line. Mahalo.



## Aloha Nada!



**April 10** will be **Nada Marriott's** last day as our organist. Nada has been our faithful organist since June 25, 2006. We will certainly miss her professional musicianship and cheerful smile! Nada and her husband Greg will be moving to California in a couple of months. We are sad to see her go, and wish both of them a fond aloha. Nada, know that if you are ever visiting in Hawaii, you are always welcome at NCC!

If anyone has any leads for an organist, please see **Mabel Suzuki, Stan Chong, or Paula Yamamoto**.

## In Loving Memory



Our deepest condolences go out to the family of the late **Edna Yoshiko Ito**. Edna passed away on February 25, 2016, just ten days after her 100th birthday. She is survived by son Russell (Carol) Ito and granddaughter Beth Ito. A celebration of life service will be held at NCC on Sunday, **April 3, 2016** at 4:00 p.m. Visitations to start at 3:00 p.m. The service will be officiated by Pastor Mary.

## Recycling

*By Wayne Kobayashi*

**Bring your items on Sunday, Apr. 24**

The pick up day is the first Thursday of the month. Please help our volunteers by removing caps from bottles, rinsing and separating all containers. Only HI-5¢ items are accepted.

Proceeds go toward Hui Malama.



## 2016 Refreshments (Bring, Serve & Clean Up)

**January** - Church Council  
**February** - Missions Committee  
**March** - Board of Trustees  
**April** - Sew Fun  
**May** -  
**June** - Board of Christian Nurture  
**July** -  
**August** - Chancel Choir  
**September** - Diaconate Board  
**October** - Finance Committee  
**November** -  
**December** -  
 Please dispose all trash into the dumpster. Mahalo!



## 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**

**Dawn Hayashi, 595-7289**

**Marge Honjiyo, 550-3075**

**Alice Ishihara, 550-3187**

**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: **Ann Akama, Kimiko Bristow-Canfield, Carol Hamada, Mack Hamada, Charlene Hasegawa, Edna Ito, Fumiko Kamita, Yuriko Konno, Minnie Kosasa, Rev. Armin Kroehler, Janet Kurokawa, Michael Kurokawa, Leslie Lum, Ethel Nitta, Amy and Chikao Nogami, Francis Nomura, Florence Osumi, Masaji Saito, Terry Stone, Matthew Stucke, Mayee Wong, Gloria Yamabe, Glenn Yamada, and Marie Yoneshige.**

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

### **Prayer Corner**

*By Alice Ishihara*

*I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

**Joshua 1:9**

Loving God, thank you for your continuous caring presence. Help us to be strong and full of courage to live each day without fear. Be close to us in our needs. Fill us with energy, courage, and wisdom to care for each other. Thank you for lighting our way with your continuous presence. **Amen.**



## Special Gifts

*Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!*

### **Birthday Offerings**

Taichi Nomi

Setsuko Takahashi

### **Thanks Offerings**

Ululani Hirohata

Betty Morikawa

Jane Uyechi

Mary Oshiro

Paula Yamamoto

### **Memorial Offering**

Ethel Yamaguchi - IMO of Dr. Alan Miyamoto

Mae Au - IMO my mother, Laura Uehara

Barbara Mau - IMO June Yamashiro

Alejandria Ellen Galariada - IMO Panfilo &

Maria Costales

# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>27</div> <div> <div>6:00 AM Sunrise Service</div> <div>9:00 AM Church School/ Nursery</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service – Easter</div> <div>10:30 AM Nichigobu Support Group</div> <div>10:30 AM Chancel Choir</div> </div>	<div>28</div> <div> <div>Prince Kuhio Day – Office Closed</div> </div>	<div>29</div> <div> <div>6:30 PM Special Council Meeting</div> </div>	<div>30</div> <div> <div>Send e-News</div> <div>NCC News Deadline</div> </div>	<div>31</div> <div> <div>Planning Ahead.....</div> <div>May 15-22 - Family Promise</div> <div>May 22 - Start of CSI Program</div> <div>May 30 - Service of Remembrance</div> <div>May 30 - Office Closed</div> </div>	<div>1</div> <div> <div>6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201</div> </div>	<div>2</div> <div> <div>8:30 AM Board of Trustees</div> <div>9:00 AM Board of Christian Nurture</div> <div>9:00 AM Sew Fun</div> <div>10:00 AM Missions Committee</div> </div>
<div>3</div> <div> <div>9:00 AM Church School/ Nursery</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>10:30 AM Adult Study</div> <div>10:30 AM Youth Group</div> <div>11:30 AM Praise Band</div> <div>3:00 PM Visitation</div> <div>4:00 PM Memorial Service for Edna Ito</div> <div>5:00 PM Reception</div> </div>	<div>4</div> <div> <div>8:30 AM Tai Chi</div> </div>	<div>5</div> <div></div>	<div>6</div> <div> <div>Send e-News</div> <div>NCC News Deadline</div> <div>9:00 AM Hui Malama</div> </div>	<div>7</div> <div></div>	<div>8</div> <div> <div>6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201</div> </div>	<div>9</div> <div></div>
<div>10</div> <div> <div>9:00 AM Church School/ Nursery</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>10:30 AM Adult Study</div> <div>10:30 AM Youth Group</div> <div>11:30 AM Praise Band</div> </div>	<div>11</div> <div> <div>8:30 AM Tai Chi</div> </div>	<div>12</div> <div> <div>6:30 PM FACE</div> </div>	<div>13</div> <div> <div>Send e-News</div> <div>NCC News Deadline</div> </div>	<div>14</div> <div></div>	<div>15</div> <div> <div>6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201</div> </div>	<div>16</div> <div></div>
<div>17</div> <div> <div>9:00 AM Church School/ Nursery</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>10:30 AM Adult Study</div> <div>10:30 AM Youth Group</div> <div>11:30 AM Praise Band</div> </div>	<div>18</div> <div> <div>8:30 AM Tai Chi</div> <div>6:00 PM Ulu Wai Worm Talk</div> </div>	<div>19</div> <div> <div>9:30 AM Ulu Wai Worm Talk</div> <div>6:00 PM Church Council</div> </div>	<div>20</div> <div> <div>Caller Deadline</div> <div>Send e-News</div> <div>NCC News Deadline</div> <div>9:00 AM Hui Malama</div> </div>	<div>21</div> <div></div>	<div>22</div> <div> <div>Green Day Set Up</div> </div>	<div>23</div> <div> <div>Green Day</div> </div>
<div>24</div> <div> <div>9:00 AM Church School/ Nursery</div> <div>9:00 AM Worship Service</div> <div>10:30 AM Nichigobu Support Group</div> <div>10:30 AM Adult Study</div> <div>10:30 AM Youth Group</div> <div>10:30 AM Chancel Choir</div> <div>11:30 AM Praise Band</div> </div>	<div>25</div> <div> <div>8:30 AM Tai Chi</div> </div>	<div>26</div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div> <div>Send e-News</div> <div>NCC News Deadline</div> </div>	<div>28</div> <div></div>	<div>29</div> <div> <div>6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201</div> </div>	<div>30</div> <div></div>



**Nu'uano Congregational Church**  
**2651 Pali Highway \* Honolulu, HI 96817**

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**April 2016**

To discontinue receiving the  
*Nu'uano Caller*, please call the  
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### **Lectionary Readings for April**

**April 3 (Resurrection Witness):** Acts 5:27-32 • Ps 118:14-29 or Ps 150 • Rev 1:4-8 • John 20:19-31

**April 10 (The Way Forward):** Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) • Ps 30 • Rev 5:11-14 • John 21:1-19

**April 17 (Life-giving Acts):** Acts 9:36-43 • Psalm 23 • Rev 7:9-17 • John 10:22-30

**April 24 (Imagine):** Acts 11:1-18 • Ps 148 • Rev 21:1-6 • John 13:31-35