

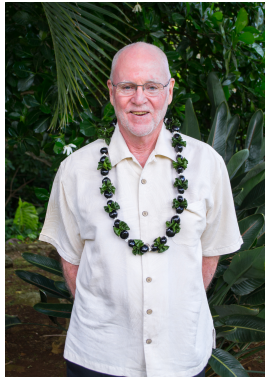
NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 62, NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2019



The Values that Hold Us Together

By Neal MacPherson, Interim Pastor

The time is soon coming when I will be ending my ministry among you, and I have been thinking of the values that hold you together as a congregation and give you hope for the future. I would like to mention some of them.

Nu‘uanu Congregational Church is blessed with a **rich heritage**, which speaks of boldness and faithfulness. When we think of the “Nu‘uanu Saints” and all that they accomplished not only in the church but also in the larger community, we are surely inspired to envision a new beginning for our congregation in this place and this time.

NCC is a congregation in which **you care for each other**. I have witnessed among you a genuine spirit of compassion. When the word “compassion” is broken down into its separate parts, it means “suffering with” and we are reminded of how St. Paul describes life in the Body of Christ. “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it, if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26). As long as we care for one another in this way, there is hope for the future.

The life of NCC is shaped by **faith, hope, and love**. (1 Corinthians Chapter 13). I believe that you are coming more and more to understand these values that shape your life together. I once again recall the insight of my friend Douglas John Hall who in a number of writings has said that we need to remember that faith is not certainty, but rather a basic trust in God’s presence and leading; that hope is not sight, but rather a journey towards that which we cannot yet see; and that love is not a power that controls, but a power that puts the interests of others before our own. As long as the life of NCC is governed by faith, hope, and love, you will be blessed.

Finally, I believe that Nu‘uanu Congregational Church is a congregation genuinely committed to a **witness for justice and peace and the integrity of creation**. Through your involvement in Family Promise and your sponsorship of the annual Green Day, you are doing your part to make the world a better place in which to live. Of course, there is always more that you can do, but we trust that the Spirit will reveal to you new opportunities for faithful witness.

(Continue on page 2 - Values)

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. Neal MacPherson, *Interim Pastor*; Paula Yamamoto, *Administrative Coordinator*; Nelson Fujinaga, *Custodian*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.
Web site: nuuanu.org • Email: nccadmin@hawaiiintel.net • Phone: (808) 595-3935 • Fax: (808) 595-2848



Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

1st Sunday of the month:

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Values - (Continued from page 1)

Please know that all of you will be in my thoughts as you journey forth. I will anxiously await news of the calling of a new pastor to be with you and for you as you embark on paths both familiar and new. In the words of Dag Hammarskjöld:

*For all that has been— Thanks!
For all that shall be— Yes!*

Grace and Peace,

Mahalo and Aloha!

By Laurie Hamano, Moderator

Dear Members and Friends of NCC,

It has been an honor working with Pastor Neal these past two years. I can't believe it when we realized he has been with us for these years as the time has gone by so quickly. I can't thank him enough for being with us and helping us stabilize our church and helping us place NCC on a course toward the future with optimism and faith.

Again THANK YOU, Pastor Neal, for your spiritual wisdom and quiet strength as we have planned and worked together for the good of Nuʻuanu Congregational Church.

As we look toward the immediate future, the Executive Officers have met with Pastor Wally

Ryan Kuroiwa who has graciously agreed to be the next Interim Pastor starting March 10, 2019.

Please pray for the Search Committee as we move forward to identifying a pastor for us and for our future.

Once again, I ask for your prayers and faith in the process and for the NCC Council and committee members as we continue to move forward with love and God's guidance.

Sincerely,
Laurie Hamano

2019 Annual Congregational Meeting Recap

By Lori Yamashiro, Clerk

At the January 27, 2019 Annual Meeting, the congregation approved the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting, the 2019 Budget and the nomination slate. A special word of thanks was expressed to Pastor Neal for his ministry at NCC. Please refer to the 2018 Annual Report for the 2019 Budget and nomination slate. Copies of the report are available in the church office.

NCC's Vision Statement

Nuʻuanu 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.)

Update from the Pastoral Search Committee

By Stanley Chong, Committee Chair

Greetings from your Pastoral Search Committee! For anyone who missed the January 27, 2019 service and annual meeting, here’s a brief recap of my verbal report.

As you may recall, the Search Committee, comprised of Donald Ikeda, Josie Ing, Ann Ito, Cheryl Chock, Shirley Miyamoto, Carol Hamada and myself, was commissioned on October 1, 2017.* Since then, we have made steady progress, including drafting and finalizing NCC’s local church profile (essentially, a comprehensive statement of our church in all its various aspects, such as membership, activities and participation, finances, future direction and vision, and so on), and establishing a nice working relationship with the folks at Hawai’i Conference UCC.

We began receiving minister profiles from around May 2018 and, to date, we have reviewed about thirty candidate profiles. The committee meets regularly, at least twice a month, and we diligently review and discuss pastor profiles at our meetings. Unfortunately, to date, we have yet to identify a leading candidate or candidates.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the Search Committee is committed to staying the course. We continue to work diligently, and we remain hopeful that God will bless our efforts, and that the Holy Spirit will guide us in this search process. We are grateful for the congregation’s support, and we humbly ask for your continued support and prayers.

Aloha in Christ,
Stan Chong, Chairperson

*The Pastoral Search Committee is responsible for all aspects leading to the identification and nomination of a pastor for our church, including,

for example, drafting our local church profile, reviewing pastor candidate profiles, interviewing candidates, and negotiating the terms of a proposed call agreement. The membership, however, makes the final decision on any candidate to be called as our pastor.

Membership

By Lori Yamashiro, Diaconate Chair

When our church was started back in 1885, I wonder if our founding members ever thought that NCC would still be here 134 years later? After all, they left their homes, families, friends and life as they knew it for what was supposed to be a 3-year job. As they started new lives in Hawai’i, they also converted to Christianity, which meant giving up the religion they grew up with and was so closely tied to their identity.

What did it mean to be a member back then? Was it all about sacrifice? There must’ve been some good things, including the promise of eternal life and knowing that God loves them unconditionally, that they would stick it out. I imagine they were probably alienated and looked down upon by other Japanese who remained Buddhist, so perhaps the church provided a place where they could not only gather to worship, but to support each other through crisis, celebrate their joys, and help their community. Maybe they used the “tanomoshi” system of mutual assistance, where they collected money from all the members and gave the total to a single member to pay off debts or fund a wedding or funeral. And perhaps that’s how they figured they could fund the church, so more people could be helped.

And what does it mean to be a member today? The church by-laws spells out our “duties,” but what does that mean to you?

(Continued on page 4 - **Membership**)

Membership - Cont'd. from p. 3

I do hope that when future generations look back, they see that the members of NCC continued to worship together, supported and prayed for each other, worked in ministry together and pooled their resources together for the church to continue its mission and ministries in spite of many challenges.

So in this time of transition, may we model the faith, strength, and flexibility of our founding members as we continue the ministry as members of NCC.

(Excerpts from the NCC By-Laws, Article V - Membership)

Section 4 - Duties - “Members are expected to be faithful to all duties essential to Christian life; to attend regularly the services of the Church; to pledge and give systematically for its support and its benevolences; to participate and share in its organized work; to seek diligently the spiritual welfare of their fellow members.

Section 5 - Rights - “All members may expect ministration of the Church and shall have the right to participate in all Church activities, except, however, that only regular, active members shall have the right to hold any elective office in the Church and the right to vote on any and all questions concerning the affairs of the Church, unless otherwise specifically provided by law, the Charter of Incorporation or these By-Laws.

Section 6 - Categories - (A) Active - “An active member is one who diligently and faithfully, to the best of his or her ability, endeavors to carry out his or duties as a member of the Church.”

Green Day VI Preparation

By Velma Akinaka

Plastic Garden Pots and Gardeners Needed

Keep looking for more of those garden items sitting around and waiting to be rejuvenated and working again. Two inch and four inch (washed out) plastic garden pots are needed to give a plant a new home. Ask friends and family the following: “If you have a pot-home with some lonely soil and no resident, we have many hardy small plants for you to just pop into your lonely pot to easily manage (guaranteed easy) until April when we will pick them up.



Another item we are looking for are clean, beautiful and/or interesting looking containers for water gardens which are at least 1 gallon – 5 gallon in size.”

The Green Day VI gardeners are also looking for peanut size styrofoam pieces (used to cushion mail items) which will be recycled as drainage “rocks” for the plant pots.

Email kimoment2@hawaiiantel.net, call 595-3135 after 7 p.m., or see Velma for any pot or plant donations or questions.

Start collecting items for the rummage sale (good condition kitchen items, small appliances), e-waste (computers, keyboards, monitors, etc. – no televisions, please), and plant sale.

We will also have your favorite sushi Spam musubi, and waterless car wash for you. Watch for more details in the March Caller and NCC News.



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

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, Marcia Grimsley** (Sheila Knutson’s sister), **Carol Hamada, Charlene Hasegawa, Janet Kurokawa, Michael Kurokawa, Leslie Lum, Ethel Nitta, Amy Nogami, Mary Oshiro, Michi Takeyama, Matthew Stucke, Glenn Yamada, and Marie Yoneshige.**

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

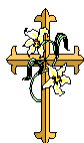
Prayer Corner

By Mary Ann Saito

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2 (NIV)

Dear God, at the onset of a new year of governance, we thank you for our leaders at NCC, our state legislature and the U.S. Congress. Guide them, and grant them a peace-loving spirit and self-control to avoid unnecessary conflict. May decisions be made with wisdom and compassion to benefit all. Help us to be peacemakers and to show tolerance for others in love. We pray for the end of our long government shutdown. Help the federal government workers to recover from the negative effects of the shutdown. Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Birthday Offering

George Naito
Gloria Gainsley
Jo-Ann Bristow
Pauline Namiki

Thanks Offering

Ruth Gushiken
Doris Fuchikami
Ululani Hirohata

Susan Yokomoto
Howard & Barbara Mau
Mildred Nakamura
Betty Morikawa
Kimie Fujioka
Taichi Nomi
Gloria Gainsley
Pauline Namiki

Memorial Offering

Helen Pierce - IMO Mary Montiel
Claire Nagatori - IMO Irene Nagata

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 January, we collected 242 lbs. of assorted food items. Our next collection will be

February 24, 2019. Monetary donations accepted, too. Checks may be made to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with Hawai‘i Food Bank on the memo line. Mahalo.



Scriptures Read at Neal’s Last Sunday Service

Micah 6:6-8

Psalms 85:8-13

2 Corinthians 4:1-12

John 17:14-21

Question: Why did Neal choose these scriptures to be read?

The space below is reserved for your reflections.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on Sunday, Feb. 24

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.



2019 Refreshments (Bring, Serve & Clean Up)

January - Church Council

February - Missions

March - Sew Fun

April - Board of Trustees

May - Nichigobu Support Group

June - Board of Christian Nurture

July - Board of Christian Nurture

August - Chancel Choir

September - Diaconate

October - Finance

November - Open

December - Open

Please dispose all trash into the dumpster. Mahalo!

February 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 27 Family Promise 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Annual Congregational Meeting | 28 8:00 AM Tai Chi | 29 Planning Ahead..... Feb. 3 - Installation of Officers/Neal's Last Day Feb. 18 - Office Closed Feb. 23 - HCUCC Church Leaders Event | 30 NCC News Deadline 6:30 PM Lectionary Study | 31 7:30 AM Advanced Tai Chi | 1 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201 | 2 8:30 AM Board of Trustees 9:00 AM Sew Fun |
| 3 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Mahalo/Aloha Luncheon | 4 8:00 AM Tai Chi | 5 NCC News Deadline 9:00 AM Hui Malama | 6 NCC News Deadline 9:00 AM Hui Malama | 7 7:30 AM Advanced Tai Chi | 8 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201 | 9 8:30 AM Diaconate Board |
| 10 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Chancel Choir | 11 8:00 AM Tai Chi | 12 NCC News Deadline | 13 NCC News Deadline | 14 7:30 AM Advanced Tai Chi | 15 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201 | 16 HCUCC Church Leaders Event |
| 17 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Chancel Choir | 18 Office Closed 8:00 AM Tai Chi | 19 6:00 PM Church Council | 20 Caller Deadline NCC News Deadline 9:00 AM Hui Malama | 21 7:30 AM Advanced Tai Chi | 22 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201 | 23 HCUCC Church Leaders Event |
| 24 9:00 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Chancel Choir 10:30 AM Nichigobu Support Group | 25 8:00 AM Tai Chi | 26 NCC News Deadline | 27 NCC News Deadline | 28 7:30 AM Advanced Tai Chi | 1 6:30 PM Boy Scouts Troop 201 | 2 8:30 AM Board of Trustees 8:30 AM Diaconate Board 9:00 AM Sew Fun |



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February 2019

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nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Lectionary Readings for February

February 3 (Prophet on the Edge): Jer 1:4-10 • Ps 71:1-6 • 1 Cor 13:1-13 • **Luke 4:21-30**

February 10 (A Surprising Catch): Isa 6:1-8, (9-13) • Ps 138 • 1 Cor 15:1-11 • **Luke 5:1-11**

February 17 (Surprising Teaching): Jer 17:5-10 • Ps 1 • 1 Cor 15:12-20 • **Luke 6:17-26**

February 24 (Love Your Enemies): Gen 45:3-11 • Ps 37:1-11, 29-40 • 1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-50 •
Luke 6:27-38