

# NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 63, NO. 5

MAY 2020



## Overcoming the World

*By Pastor Jeannie Thompson, Pastor*

As I write this, we are looking at sheltering in place for another month. This has been disorienting for a lot of us. I know it has been for me. Getting all of my belongings and my two cats (Toby and Brother Tom) and my dog (Darby) and moving here to Oahu was a bigger ordeal than I had thought it was going to be. I kept thinking I did not have very much to pack—I...was...wrong—I had much more than I thought and that made moving...unpleasant.

At any rate, we made it—thanks to several friends who helped along the way. (One even gave me her car so I would have one here on Oahu.) Still, I have found that moving is one of my least favorite things to do!

Then, just as I was hanging-up my clothes and figuring-out which grocery store was closest, the “shelter in place” order was issued.

Suddenly, everything had to be re-set. In very quick order, all of the people and missions that use our church buildings were asked to make other arrangements. After a few days, Nelson was asked to wait at home until we could all come back, and Paula and I began working from home instead of coming into the church. Very quickly, we all realized that everything about ministry, even worship, was going to have to be “different.”

Funny thing: worship has continued (thank you Darwin!) and God’s love keeps going forth despite the challenges: Bible study on Wednesday evening (via a computer program called Zoom); conversations and sharing are still happening—some are just beginning— via calling and texting, and we are learning more about each other remaining close. Indeed, I have been making phone calls and having “visits” to introduce myself to people over the phone.

Another amazing thing is what is happening beyond the human community: the earth itself is getting a chance to rest and heal.

(Continued on p. 3 - **Overcoming**)

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*; Paula Yamamoto, *Administrative Coordinator*; Nelson Fujinaga, *Custodian*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.  
Web site: [nuuanu.org](http://nuuanu.org) • Email: [nccadmin@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiintel.net) • Phone: (808) 595-3935



## Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

1st Sunday of the month:

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

## Church Office Closed 5/1-5/31

The Covid-19 “Stay at Home/Work from Home” Order has been extended by Gov. Ige until May 31. The church office will continue to be closed during the duration of the order. If there is any business that needs to be conducted, please email it to [nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net). The USPS mail will be checked periodically.

## Pledging Options

*By Garrett Iha, Treasurer*

We are grateful for your continued financial support of NCC, especially during this time. But while our sanctuary doors may be closed, worship is still happening, pastoral calls are still being made, Boards and Council are still meeting, the Diaconate and Ohana Ministries are still doing "visitations" via phone calls. Church is still happening. While we may have to be apart for another month, we hope that you will continue to support the work of the church. Here are a few ways to continue your support: Pledges can be mailed directly to the NCC business office at 2651 Pali Highway, Honolulu, HI 96817. Another easy way to continue to pledge is through the automatic bill payer feature available through many financial institutions. Please see your financial institution to see if this option is available to you. NCC appreciates your continued commitment to continuing our ministry at NCC.



## The Paycheck Protection Program

*By Laurie Hamano, Moderator*

We, as your NCC Council, are continuing to look for ways to keep the ministries continuing and the staff employed through this difficult and unprecedented times. On April 4, 2020, after a discussion with the Council about the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) through the Federal Government, the Council submitted an application to Central Pacific Bank for such help during this COVID-19 crisis. What is important about this loan is that it may be partially or wholly eligible to be forgiven, if we adhere to the guidelines of use.

Shortly after submitting our application, we received confirmation that our application was received. Then on April 14, 2020, NCC received a “Reconfirmation Conditional Approval” of the PPP loan. This was quite reassuring as the Federal Government shut down the application portal just a few days after we submitted our application.

(Continued on p. 4 - Payroll)

## 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.)

## Diaconate Update

By Lori Yamashiro, Diaconate Chair

Even though the church doors are closed, we are still being the church. Worship continues online. The Diaconate and Ohana Ministries are making phone calls to check in on some of our members and friends. Prayer requests, joys and concerns are being received by Pastor Jeannie and members of the Diaconate. The Missions Committee continues to be in conversation with Family Promise. Sew Fun is sewing from home.

In order for us to continue being the church, we've needed to pull together our gifts, talents and time. We are extremely grateful to **Darwin Ing** and his assistant **Josie** who have done such a wonderful job of recording and editing our weekly online worship services. Thank you to all who have helped, and will be helping, with these services.

As we look forward to the eventual end of the stay at home order, the Diaconate is drafting a plan to reopen the church for worship. We want to be prepared when the order is lifted and be able to provide a safe environment for worship. We will continue to keep you updated.

We give thanks and continue to keep in our prayers members of our NCC Ohana who are keeping us safe, educating our children and keeping us well stocked, such as health care workers, teachers, school administrators, members of the National Guard, first responders, mail carriers, and others without whom we would not be able to get through this crazy time.

Until we can be together again, please keep safe, please feel free to be in touch and remember to keep the faith.

## Overcoming - Cont'd. from page 1

Am I eager to “get back to normal?” The short answer is, no.

First: because I am still new here and do not know what “normal” looks like in this church. But more than that it is because I am convinced that too much has happened for us to go back to life the way it was. Too many people have been displaced. Too many have experienced the loss of loved ones, loss of livelihood, loss of home, loss of independence, etc. For many people, much will have to happen before they can return to some semblance of what their “normal” life was like before the pandemic. As one writer recently pointed out: *we are all in the same storm but we are not in the same boat.*

This is what is going to be the new normal: finding out just how many more people are now in need of the love of Christ as it flows through and finds purpose in the life of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church. I may be wrong, but it just may be that our “new normal” is going to be realizing just how strong and vibrant the love of Christ has been in this church family all along. We have always known this but now we get to celebrate it with new a heart and spirit. I also believe that our new normal is also going to be in finding more and more places, and among more people, to serve God—it will be in welcoming more people into the love and caring that God has poured out among us for so long. Together, we will figure out how to do this.

In case you are wondering, the answer is “yes” we are ready for this new adventure. I know this because God has been telling us this for a long while. One of the most direct things Jesus ever said was this: *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”* [John 16:33]

(Continued on p. 6 - New Adventure)

## Letter From Our Moderator

By Laurie Hamano, Moderator

Dear NCC Members and Friends,

We have now spent our Sundays in front of a TV or computer with Pastor Jeannie for the past six Sundays. Yes, it has been unprecedented, but it is an example of “pulling out all the stops” and jumping into something new. We have Diaconate and Council meetings conducted on the Zoom app. The Diaconate has a telephone tree to keep in touch with people who are at home “sheltering in place” and those considered in the “at risk” category as we face the COVID-19 information daily. Throughout these past six weeks we have seen how this church jumps in and takes care of church services for their friends and members. Below is what I sent to the hardworking Diaconate team members, Pastor Jeannie, Darwin, Russell, Paula, and Jieun. I am sure you may share the same feelings with me. Please let your church members and participants who have made these services come to fruition a “BIG MAHALO” for all that they are doing and will do while we all shelter in place because of COVID-19.

*There have been times that I can remember that I have been bursting with pride to be a part of this faithful, loving church. I have added another experience today (Easter Sunday). I am so proud to be part of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church and so humbled at the love that you all have put into the services and how meaningfully it was put together for us all.*

*Darwin, we cannot thank you enough for your thoughtful and creative endeavor in putting all of the services together. And Pastor Jeannie, no one could have ever told you, nor you might not have believed that your first month was to deliver services to an "empty" church. It was done with love and depth and we received your message.*

*To Lori, Judy, Paula, Jieun and Russell, many, many thanks, and you all remind me that we all are the sum of parts and we bring this church to new heights due to love and faith.*

I thank all of you who are staying positive and taking care of yourselves during this time. And I thank this wonderful crew of hardworking, imaginative, faithful friends and members of our church who make this church the loving church it is.

Again, my faithful appreciation,  
Laurie (*Proud to be your Moderator*)

## Payroll - Continued from p. 2

And on April 21, 2020, our PPP loan was deposited into our checking account! Thank you to our Bookkeeper Stacey Edralin, Central Pacific Bank and all those who helped to get this application submitted.

In faith, Laurie

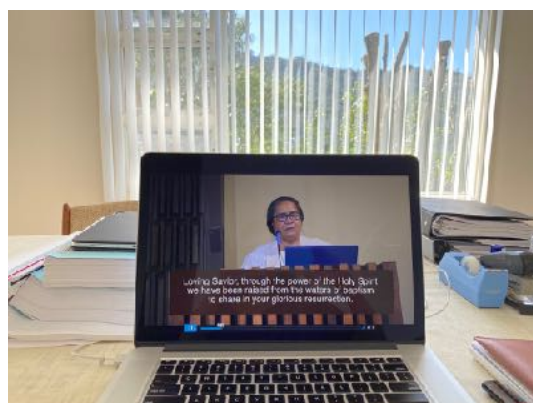
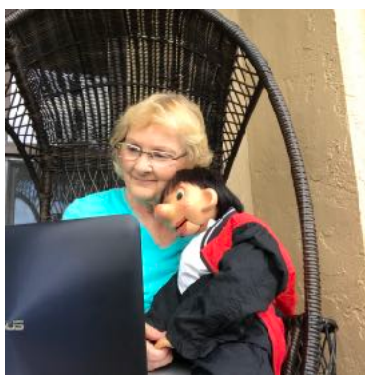
## Strengthen the Church

By Sybil Seto, Missions Committee

Each year, we receive a special missions offering called *Strengthen the Church*, an offering that invests in the vision of the United Church of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking.” Your offerings are directed to your church’s Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry for these purposes. Some of the money will also go to programs associated with the New Beginnings process. Checks may be written to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with “Strengthen the Church” in the memo line. We will receive it beginning May 31, 2020.



## Worshipping Online





## 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**

**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: **Kimiko Bristow-Canfield, Marcia Grimsley, Carol Hamada, Charlene Hasegawa, Preston Iha, Alice Ishihara, Howard Ishihara, Michael Kurokawa, Leslie Lum, Ethel Nitta, Amy Nogami, Mary Oshiro, Federico Pascua, Bertha Shinagawa, Matthew Stucke, 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*

*It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8*

Dear God, we thank you for your presence and guidance as we continue to follow our city and state leaders' regulations and recommendations to stop the spread of COVID-19. Grant us patience, strength and stamina as we live through this crisis. Thank you for all the front line workers, such as those in health care, first responders, teachers and administrators, grocery workers, and others who are keeping things going. Watch over them, help them do their important work and keep them safe. Be with the unemployed and help them through their difficulties. Enable the scientists to develop a vaccine and an effective cure for COVID-19. Guide city, state, national and world-wide leaders as they deliberate and make decisions about the next steps until this pandemic is no more. Amen.

Happy Mothers Day!

## New Adventure - Cont'd. from p. 3

I want to thank all of you for your patience and for contributing to the healing of our world community by staying home and taking care of yourselves. Please continue to do this—and if you feel so moved, **call me! My number is: 353-1387.** I would very much like to visit with you over the phone—and don't be surprised if I call you first!

I also want to thank all the members of our Church Council for being so diligent about their

duties as the leaders among us. Please keep them in your prayers.

In the next few months, as we see what is possible and begin to make new plans, I ask you to continue in prayer and meditation about what God is doing and how God's Holy Spirit is leading. Together we will bear witness to the way love can and will build and renew—the way God is even now “overcoming the world.”

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Jeannie*



## 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 247 lbs. of  
assorted food items.  
Our next collection  
will be **June 28,  
2020**. Monetary  
donations accepted,  
too. Checks may be made to  
Nu‘uanu Congregational Church  
with Hawai‘i Food Bank on the  
memo line. Mahalo.



## William and Jean Wood 2020 Scholarship Applications - (Deadline Date Changed to May 31)

**Undergraduate** applications for the 2020 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.

**\*Note:** All applications and supporting documents (references, official transcripts, etc.) must be received together in **one packet** by **Sun., May 31, 2020 (postmarked)**. **Incomplete application packets received will not be considered.**

**Due to the extended Covid-19 “Stay at Home/Work From Home” order, the church office will be closed for the month of May, and application packets will only be accepted via USPS mail (no hand deliveries).**

## Recycling

*By Wayne Kobayashi*

### Bring your items on Sunday, June 28

Please help our  
volunteers by removing  
caps from bottles, rinsing  
and separating all  
containers. Keep labels  
on. Only HI-5¢ items are  
accepted. Proceeds go  
toward Hui Malama.



## 2020 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!



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

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HONOLULU HI  
PERMIT NO. 354

**Address Service Requested**

**May 2020**

To discontinue receiving the  
*Nu'uano Caller*, please call the  
church office at 595-3935 or email:  
[nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net).

---

### **Lectionary Readings for May**

**May 3 (Powerful Witness):** Acts 24:22-27 • Ps 23 • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • John 10:1-10

**May 10 (Enduring Witness):** Acts 7:55-60 • Ps 31:1-5, 15-16 • 1 Peter 2:21 • **John 14:1-14**

**May 17 (Witness of Love):** Acts 17:22-31 • Ps 66:8-20 • 1 Peter 3:13-22 • **John 14:15-21**

**May 24 (Spirit of Witness):** Acts 16:1-14 • Ps 68:1-10, 32-35 • 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 • **John 17:1-11**

**May 31 (Pentecost Sunday):** Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30 • Ps 104:24-34, 35b • 1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21 • John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39