

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 63, NO. 6

JUNE 2020



A Place to Call Home

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson, Pastor

What is “home” to you?

I have been thinking about the whole concept of home for a while now. I and my critters have a new place to call home. We are in an apartment in Kaimuki. We are off Wilhemina Rise, just far enough up the mountain to have a really nice view of Diamond Head and the ocean.

I call it home, but to be honest, it isn’t, not yet. It will be when I have found a place for all my books and made the living room into a place of at least some comfort. It will be home, I tell myself, after I acquire a table where I can study and eat a meal. Right now, it is still the place where most of my boxes remain stacked, unopened.

I give thanks that my cats and dog have settled-in and seem to be adjusted. The cats have even found a place to hang put during the day: the storm drain across the street. (I wish that made me comfortable!)

As for church: thank goodness that part of life is stable. At least it is for me. Worship is the center of our life together and that has never stopped. It is astounding to me that, even though we were just getting acquainted, we were able to offer worship without missing a beat—even though the form and fashion of worship is very new for most of us.

Yes, we are still worshipping online. However, worship is happening. Yes, online worship is a challenge for me and for many of us, but that is fine because it is also calling upon all of us to ask more of ourselves and each other. The more we are asking of ourselves is a suitable offering to God—we have not abandoned our faith just because we have had to set aside most of the familiar physical trappings of worship and church life.

The result has been humbling, exciting, and has elicited from me (and I think all of us) a renewed thankfulness for each other. Just in case you have not noticed it: we have all been growing. We have all stepped-up and are participating in something new—we are being stretched. Our worship is being renewed. We are being renewed.

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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 • Email: 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 6/1-6/30

The Covid-19 “Safer at Home/Work from Home” Order has been extended by Gov. Ige until June 30. 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. 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.



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 Nuʻuanu Congregational Church with “Strengthen the Church” on the memo line. We will receive it beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020. Please mail it to NCC via USPS.



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.)

What is the Church?

By David K. Popham, Conference Minister

As we near the end of May, we do so with an extension of sheltering-in-place. This strategy has worked well to dramatically flatten the curve in Hawaiʻi and reduce the projected mortality rate. I find myself thankful for our state and county political leaders and the decisions they are making. However, as we continue to love our communities by remaining at home, there are calls from church leaders and pastors to "open up the church." I admit that I find these calls based more on the impatient ego needs of preachers than I find them based on solid faith principles.

First, the call to "open up the church" assumes the church has been closed, as if the church can be reduced to the facility in which we meet. Faith teaches us that the church is the people and the work of the church takes place in the community. As the famous benediction goes, "The worship has ended, go forth and do the work of God."

Second, for the Christian, the sanctuary has never been the building; it is the condition of our heart. Paul the Apostle wrote to the church in Corinth, "Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1 Cor. 3:16) God does not dwell in a building; God dwells in the hearts of those who follow God's ways.

In the Christian faith tradition God has never been relegated to a building. Indeed, the early Christians met in private homes, in outdoor settings and, when arrested, in jails. They did so because they understood a human-constructed building could never be the residence for the transcendent God.

Yes, we do miss seeing our family in the faith, but let us be patient in our present situation. We will get through this together because we are in God's hands. And because we are in God's hands,

we will be changed. May God change our understanding of who the church is.

Reflection from *The Coconut Wireless*, May 20, 2020 issue, Hawaiʻi Conference United Church of Christ.

NCC Mission News:

Family Promise of Hawaii

By Judy Keith, NCC Family Promise Coordinator

Hello all,

I just received this email from **Marissa Commey**, Manager of Community Engagement for *Family Promise of Hawaii*, informing us that the Emergency Shelter portion of their program will be suspended through the end of 2020.

I had mixed feelings on reading this, as I love being able to make a personal difference in a small way in the problem of homelessness in our community. However, I was already starting to feel a little stressed when thinking about the next scheduled rotation in August. So, I was delighted to learn that some of the families will be housed at Camp Mokulēʻia on the north shore. I have lots of great memories of church camps there.

This is a great solution, but it will also incur new, unplanned funding challenges. Therefore, *Family Promise* is requesting any extra financial support we can offer them. I want you to know that NCC supports *Family Promise* with an annual grant of \$1,000. This year, because of the extreme need, the Missions Committee doubled that amount.

(Continued on page 5 - **Family Promise**)



Face-to-Face Worship

By Becky Kanenaka, Resident Microbiologist

We are all looking forward to the day when we will be able to see each other and have face to face worship. When that day comes, opening up the sanctuary for face to face worship will not be an easy task. The Diaconate and the Board of Trustees have created a protocol to reduce the risk and/or eliminate the transmission of COVID19 while we worship at Nu‘uanu Congregational Church.

Prior to the Opening of the Sanctuary (Date to be determined)

- Board of Trustees will coordinate a thorough cleaning to remove dust bunnies/ mold, etc.
- All the Bibles, hymnals, pencils and envelopes will be removed from the pews. [To reduce the risk of transmitting COVID19 through these items listed above.]
- Pews will be marked off to provide at least six feet of social distancing from non-family/ household members. [To reduce the risk of transmitting COVID19 to other members of the church.]
- Service all listening devices. [Clean, replace batteries and ear foam.]
- Set-up chairs as needed if more sitting is needed to maintain the six feet or more social distancing.

Prior to Entering into the Sanctuary (Date to be determined)

- Put on your face mask prior to leaving your car.
- Your temperature will be checked with a non-contact thermometer before you enter the sanctuary. [If you have a fever, you will be asked to return to your home.]

●Worship bulletins will be passed out by an usher/greeter who will be wearing gloves. [To reduce the risk of transmitting COVID19 through the worship bulletin.]

During Worship

- Wear your face mask all the time.
 - Keep your six feet or more social distancing from non-family/household members.
 - No red attendance books. [To reduce the risk of transmission of COVID19.]
 - No singing during worship. [To reduce the creation of aerosols, thus reducing the risk of transmission of COVID19.]
 - No choir. [To reduce the creation of aerosols, thus reducing the risk of transmission of COVID19.]
 - The Lord’s Prayer, quietly say the Lord’s Prayer, to reduce the creation of aerosols.
 - Offering plates will be placed at the foot of the chancel area and at the sanctuary entrance. You may place your offering envelope in the offering plate. If you touch the plate, please sanitize your hand.
 - Joys and Concerns - there will be two microphones available. If you have to adjust the microphone, someone will wipe the microphone prior to the next person speaking.
 - Passing of the Peace - Congregants can pass the peace by waving, acknowledging each other from where they are seated.
 - No receiving line. [Keep your social distancing.]
 - If you use the restrooms during worship, wash your hands properly and use a paper towel to shut the water off.
- (Continue on page 8 - **Worship**)

Home - Continued from page 1

What is even more is that we—the deacons and I—are figuring out more ways to add to our worship experience almost every week. It is, I believe, wonderful for all of us to hear and see more and more people taking a part in reading Scripture and offering music.

Moreover, even though you are all new faces and voices to me, your participation brings new life to the whole congregation. For many, your voice and/or face is not simply a reminder of the past. Your effort and presence also elicit feelings of gladness that the relationships we have nurtured with each other are still sound and strong. Even if our bonds have evolved with time, and the changes time brings, we are still connected.

All of this is a reminder, and a sign to all of us that the love of God, which called this community into being in the first place, is still cultivated and cherished here. It is like the story Jesus tells in Matthew [7:24-27] about the importance of building on a solid foundation.

Jesus was, of course, talking about a house, and I began this article by talking about a finding a home. Both Jesus and I were thinking about something more than a place built by human hands. Home, and faith, are built in the hearts and convictions of people as they are called by God. What I want to tell you is that I am glad to be here among you. I have not yet met all of you and learned to match your name to your face. However, in these three months I have been surprised and gratified at how people have been helping and coming forth when asked. Once again, God has been proving to me, and to all of us, that a place to call home is more than a house. It is in connections wherein respect and support are offered, received, and honored—which is to say: it is among people who have learned to love others by being loved by God. Thank you for welcoming me into this church home.

As our situation, and our life together, continues to unfold, I pray we will continue to have patience with the situation, and with each other. I pray that we will continue to encourage one another and will continue to allow ourselves to be renewed. I pray we will continue to trust that God will also provide us the resources and energy to meet each new challenge. Finally, I pray that you and your loved ones will remain safe and healthy.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeannie

Family Promise - Cont'd. from p. 3

If any of you feel able and moved to donate individually, their address is:

Family Promise
The Kukui Center
245 North Kukui Street
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817

I hope all of you are doing well during this most unusual and stressful time. As a nurse, and mom of a nurse, I am so grateful that our Covid-19 numbers have been low, and I hope we can continue to successfully minimize the impact of Covid 19.

As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support of *Family Promise*.

Blessings,
Judy



Happy 103rd Birthday!

By Lori Yamashiro, Diaconate Chair



On May 17, 2020, **Chikako Yamashiro**, aka Aunty Chic, celebrated her 103rd birthday! Born in Makaweli, Kauai, Aunty Chic moved to Honolulu and became a nurse in the psychiatric unit at Tripler Army Medical Center. Working with soldiers who were almost twice her size, you know Aunty Chic had to be one tough, but compassionate, cookie! After retiring from Tripler, Aunty Chic enjoyed traveling the world and visiting the places she always dreamed of going to. Aunty Chic now resides at 15 Craigside where she enjoys making yarn lei, playing solitaire on her iPad and serving as Resident Council President.



We give thanks and praise to God for Aunty Chic, our oldest NCC member, and wish her all the blessings that each new day brings! Happy Birthday! (Photos courtesy of Janel Ikeda.)

Congratulations, Graduate!

Congratulations to NCC member, **Stephanie Chung**, who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Roosevelt High School on May 20, 2020. Stephanie is the daughter of Dr. Donna Chung and sister to Scott. She will be attending Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon in the Fall (or whenever school reopens).



Photo courtesy of Lori Takeyama-Goshi.

We wish Stephanie the very best in all of her endeavors, and pray that God will watch over her as she pursues her dreams and goals! Congrats, Stephanie! We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments!



Left to right: Stephanie, Donna, and Scott.
Photo courtesy of Dawn Young.



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

Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert.

1 Peter 5:7-8

Dear God, thank you for helping all of us in Hawai‘i work together to flatten the curve in our fight against COVID-19, resulting in a gradual economic recovery plan for our state. Continue to guide our governor and mayors as they make decisions regarding reopening businesses. We are anxious about a resurgence of positive cases of the virus. Help us to diligently follow recommended practices that will keep us safe and lessen the spread of COVID-19 as we go back to work, participate in approved activities or continue to stay at home. Grant us resilience and a positive spirit of cooperation. We pray for the 2020 graduates of high schools and higher learning institutions; their lives and celebrations of this major accomplishment have been greatly affected by the pandemic. Watch over them, guide them and bless them as they job-seek or move on to further education. Amen.

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial Offering

Herbert and Yoi Endo - IMO Jack Endo

Setsuko Takahashi - IMO Vera Kurima

Helen Pierce - IMO Pauline Namiki

Albert Matsumoto - IMO Edith Matsumoto

Allen Miyakado & Family - IMO Yukiko

Okumura

Birthday Offering

Patricia Katayama

Gail Wenos

Thanks Offering

Albert Matsumoto

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 **July 26, 2020**. Monetary donations accepted, too. Checks may be made to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with Hawai‘i Food Bank on the memo line. Mahalo.



Worship - Continued from page 4

After Worship

- Orderly exit of sanctuary led by ushers and greeters to keep the minimum of six feet social distancing.
- No refreshments. [Reduce the risk of transmission of COVID19]
- Disinfect the sanctuary in preparation for the next group using the sanctuary for worship.
- Disinfect the restrooms for the next group to use.

These procedures may seem restrictive; however, all these procedures will be put into place once the sanctuary is opened for face to face worship, to reduce the risk or eliminate the risk of COVID19 transmission. As we learn more about this virus, along with the current recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Hawaii Department of Health, we will modify how we do our face to face worship. The Council and the Boards thank you for your patience, your compassion, your adaptability, your resiliency, and your desire to worship face to face after COVID19.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on Sunday, July 26

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!



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Lectionary Readings for June

June 7 (This is Good): Gen 1:2:4a • Ps 8 • 2 For 13:11-13 • Matt 28:16-20

June 14 (Sarah Laughed): Gen 18:1-15 (21:1-7) and Ps 116:1-2, 12-19 or Ex 19:2-8a and Ps 100 • Rom 5:1-8 • Matt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 21 (Daring Discipleship): Gen 21:8-21 and Ps 86:1-10, 16-17 or Jer 20:7-13 and Ps 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18 • Rom 6:1b-11 • **Matt 10:24-39**

June 28 (Holy Welcome): Gen 22:1-14 and Ps 13 or Jer 28:5-9 and Ps 89:1-4, 15-18 • Rom 6:12-23 • **Matt 10:40-42**