

# NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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JULY 2020



## New Joys Ahead

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

*For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

*Isaiah 55:12*

On those mornings when I do not automatically wake-up at 5:00, I have a furry alarm clock that does the job for me. His name is Toby, and he stands on my chest—all eighteen pounds of him—purring and batting at my chin until I am up and making moves toward the kitchen to get breakfast for him and his brother.

For part of the year—about November through early March—I have little gratitude for this service. When it is still dark at 5:00AM, I would prefer not to be bothered. The thought of “five more minutes” tempts me to want to gently push him away and turn over and go back to sleep. The darkness implies that I am entitled to more time, more sleep before the cares and tasks of the day are supposed to begin.

This year, both Toby and I have found our sense of timing a bit off. During these past few months, the importance of regulating my movements (waking and otherwise) to a particular hour has not been as urgent as it was. Thus, I find myself moving around the day episodically rather than systematically.

My home office is always within arm’s reach and so I am as likely to be writing, reading, researching, etc. at 9:00PM as I am at 9:00AM. Even visiting on the phone is less likely to conform to a specific hour or length. In many ways we have been freer to fashion the day with more fluidity than formerly.

All that is going to change as our church begins to re-open and begin worshipping in our Sanctuary on Sunday, July 5. The last time you were together on Sunday morning was March 15, Pastor Wally’s last Sunday with us. We had hoped to continue to worship in our Sanctuary for a few more Sundays, but the COVID-19 virus moved faster than we thought it would. By the very next Sunday, we were all “sheltering at home,” and have been all of this while.

(Continued on page 6 - Joy)

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 Reopening

The church office will reopen on June 29, 2020. Keeping our staff safe is a high priority, so please adhere to this protocol. If there is any business that needs to be conducted, please email it to [nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net) or call the church office for an appointment. If you need to see Pastor Jeannie, she can be reached at 353-1387. Postal and commercial deliveries will be allowed, and face covering is required by anyone entering the office. Before entering the office, please conduct the self-assessment that is posted on the window adjacent to the door. Also, not more than 4 people, including staff, should be in the office at a time. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Pledging Options

*By Garrett Iha, Treasurer*

We are grateful for your continued financial support of NCC, especially during this time. 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.



## Applicants Wanted for NCC Administrative Coordinator Position

*By Stanley Chong, Personnel Committee Chair*

**Paula Yamamoto**, our long-time Administrative Coordinator, has (sadly!) announced her desire to retire. We all appreciate Paula's faithful service and wish her a happy upcoming retirement!

We are, consequently, seeking qualified applicants for the position. The position performs many essential functions, which include among others: (1) coordinates church and facility users activities and keeps the church's master calendar, (2) supports the Pastor and Moderator with administrative duties, record keeping, financial management, and communications, (3) takes and screens incoming calls and inquiries to the church, and receives and processes the incoming mail, (4) types the publication of church communications, including the worship bulletin, PowerPoint, newsletters, and e-news, (5) orders office and janitorial supplies, and assures the maintenance and upkeep of church equipment and computer network, and (6) updates the church's website and social media platforms.

## 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.)

## In-Person Worship

By Becky Kanenaka, Resident Microbiologist



We look forward to reopening the church for in-person worship service on **July 5, 2020**. 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 Nuʻuanu Congregational Church.

### Prior to Entering into the Sanctuary

- 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.]
- Quietly say the Lord's Prayer, to reduce the creation of aerosols.

- Offering plates will be placed 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 - 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.

### 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.

## Fellowship Lanai Via Zoom

By Laurie Hamano, Moderator

Dear Members and Friends,

The NCC Council would like to invite you to a “Fellowship Lanai” Zoom meeting on Sunday, **June 28, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**, so we can “walk” you all through the return to worship services and have an opportunity to say “hello” to friends and members before we all get back to church on July 5, 2020!!

Here’s how we would like to invite you:

If you are using your computer, tablet, or smart phone, click on my Zoom office link below:

Laurie H. Hamano M. Ed. CRC LMHC

Zoom Office <https://zoom.us/j/3663231268>

If you have any questions, call my mobile phone at #256-0204. We can’t wait to see you all!

See you soon,  
Laurie

## Christmas in July UCC Christmas Fund Offering

By Velma Akinaka, Missions Committee

For over 115 years the *Christmas Fund*, formally known as the “Veterans of the Cross Fund,” has been one of the United Church of Christ’s annual core special mission offerings. This Fund allows UCC to offer supplements, health premium subsidies, and emergency assistance to active or retired clergy/lay employees and their families. Christmas gift checks also are given to hundreds of retirees and to those who are disabled. There are more and more retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. At this time of year each of us is given this opportunity to be a part of this ministry and show our appreciation to those who serve our churches.

We will be receiving the offering on July 26, 2020. Checks may be written to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with Christmas Fund on the memo line.

## Personnel - Continued from Page 2

Applicants should have a college degree or two to four years of equivalent related experience and/or training, and strong communication and interpersonal skills. Applicants must be able to keep information confidential, to work independently with little or minimal supervision, and to problem solve and work cooperatively with others. Also, applicants should demonstrate an ability to use both PC and Mac platforms and other software.

Interested applicants should send their resume to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church at [nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net). No phone calls, please.







*By Becky Kanenaka, Board of Christian Nurture*

The Board of Christian Nurture (BCN) created a survey on Survey Monkey. Below is the link to the survey. Click on the link and you should open the survey. If you are having problems with the site, please email me at [hiken214@gmail.com](mailto:hiken214@gmail.com).

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XPTK6JY>

Please fill out this survey by **July 3, 2020**. Survey Monkey will be conducting maintenance on their website; therefore, the link will not work after July 3, 2020. Sorry for the inconvenience. The survey was created to find out what the members, family and friends of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church would like to see, hear, learn regarding Christian Education. Our new normalcy has changed how we provide these educational opportunities. I encourage everyone to participate in the survey. The survey should take 3 to 4 minutes. Thank you very much for your feedback which will help the Board of Christian Nurture move forward for the activities in the Fall and Spring.

## Summer Activities

BCN is planning a Drive-In Movie night on **July 18, 2020** at Nu‘uanu Congregational Church lower parking lot. Movie time will start about 6:30 pm. Popcorn and pre-packaged juice or water will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own additional snacks. Please RSVP by July 12, 2020 if you are



attending by emailing Becky at [hiken214@gmail.com](mailto:hiken214@gmail.com) or text Becky at 808-282-4321.

## Graduate Sunday

**Save the date: August 9, 2020**

Nu‘uanu Congregational Church would like to acknowledge the graduates. Please email the names of students that graduated this year to: Becky at [hiken214@gmail.com](mailto:hiken214@gmail.com).

Stephanie Chung	Roosevelt High School
Layne Fujioka	University of Hawaii, Manoa

## Congratulations, Graduate!

Congratulations to **Layne Fujioka**, son of Stuart and Gayle Fujioka, on his recent college graduation. Layne received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and Math from UH Manoa. Proud grandmothers are Kimie Fujioka and Fusae Uyehara.



Photo courtesy of  
Stuart Fujioka.

## Joy - Cont'd. From page 1

Although people continue to contract the virus, the governor's office, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and a plethora of other government (state *and* federal) entities, has given churches the signal that it is alright to come together for worship...with restrictions and sanitation protocols in place.

Toward that end, our Board of Trustees have put together a comprehensive plan for re-opening the church for ourselves, and for the many others who use our church buildings. The Diaconate Board has also written their own plan for how we may come together safely for worship.

You will receive all of the materials that each group has produced so that you, too, will know and understand what is going on. There will also be an electronic meeting—a Zoom Meeting—on June 28, at 10:30AM. This will be a meeting wherein we will be able to discuss with each other what our worship service is going to look like.

Our time away from our church building has been strange and difficult for a lot of us, but there have also been some wonderful surprises and gifts that have come our way. For example, more of you have consented to take-on a part of worship—a prayer, a song, an instrumental. I would dearly love to keep that as part of our regular worship experience. It has been so wonderful to offer to God so many additional voices raised in song, prayer, and praise! We were also able to involve our Sunday School in a way they have not been able to join us before. What is more: they liked the experience and would like to try it again!

I would like to thank you all for your patience during this odd season in our lives. I am grateful for your faithfulness and for the new ways in which you have participated and offered prayer

and praise. I look forward to building on these new skills and talents we have all discovered. God is, indeed, doing a new thing among and through us!

I look forward to seeing you, and I pray we will give thanks for the new things we have been given by staying connected and moving forward boldly.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Jeannie*

## In Loving Memory



Our hearts are saddened by the passing of two of our members in June.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, June 11, 2020, **Federico Pascua** peacefully passed away from life on earth to life eternal. He is now reunited with his wife Mamerta and all the other saints in heaven. Federico is survived by son Fred (Leigh) and grandchildren Emily, Quinn, and Shane Ellis. A service of remembrance will be held when the Covid situation settles down.

Two days later, our oldest NCC member, **Chikako Yamashiro**, aka Aunty Chic, passed away on June 13, 2020 at the age of 103. She is survived by sisters Haruno Souza, Rachael Yamashiro, and Marge (George) Honjiyo, and countless number of nieces (Lori Yamashiro), nephews (Paul Yamamoto), grand-nieces (Lynn Mochizuki) & nephews, and great grand-nieces & nephews! Private service pending.

Please keep the Pascua and Yamashiro Ohana in your prayers.



## 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, 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*

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. Preamble: U.S. Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776

Dear God, our nation is in crisis, dealing with increasing positive cases of COVID-19 and systemic racism that sometimes results in police brutality against people of color, especially black men and women. Help us remember how Jesus loved all people and enable us to treat everyone with dignity, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference or nationality. Guide Congress and cities throughout the nation as they attempt to reform policies on social justice and equal protection under the law. Help all of us to take COVID-19 seriously and follow guidelines to lessen its spread. Thank you for your everlasting love, strength and guidance. Amen.



## Special Gifts

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

### Memorial Offering

Howard and Alice Ishihara - IMO Ruth Matsumoto

Albert Matsumoto - IMO Edith Matsumoto

Dorothy Nakagawa - IMO Mutsuo Nakagawa

### Birthday Offering

Helen Pierce

Frances Tagami

### Thanks Offering

Kimie Fujioka

Bow Chu Goto

Mae Au

## 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.



## 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.



## Family Finally Reunited!

*By Darryl Young (5/20 FaceBook Post)*

“Family Group Hug Time...FINALLY! KarenFay Ramos-Young  
received her latest COVID-19 test result last night...she is now  
negative! After 9 weeks of battling this virus, each of us is COVID  
negative and we can finally be together under one roof again!  
Pictured here is the one who was hospitalized for 4 weeks in critical  
care, the one who self-isolated for 2 weeks with a moderate (but  
painful and exhausting) infection, one who suffered a mild infection  
with pop-up body aches, migraine and loss of taste, one who was  
unknowingly asymptomatic who infected the last one  
with underlying medical conditions...thankfully she  
developed no symptoms besides losing her sense of  
taste during her 2.5 week isolation. Not pictured here  
is the elder who developed the severe infection  
(trouble breathing and talking)...she was ‘in the  
outback’ gardening at the time:)

Thank you everyone for your comforting words of  
support, ongoing prayers and endless love...each and  
every one of you helped us stay afloat during this  
very challenging (and seemingly endless) period...we  
are so deeply appreciative and grateful beyond words  
to each one of you.” (Reprinted with permission.)







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

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**July 2020**

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### **Lectionary Readings for July**

**July 5 (Chosen Journeys):** Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Ps 45:10-17 or Song of Sol 2:8-13 • Zach 9: 9-12 and Ps 145:8-14 • Rom 7:15-25a • **Matt 11:16-19, 25-30**

**July 12 (A House Divided):** Gen 25:19-34 and Ps 119:105-112 • Isa 55:10-13 and Ps 65:(1-8), 9-13 • **Matt 13:1-9, 18-23**

**July 19 (Wheat and Weeds Together):** Gen 28:10-19a and Ps 139:1-12, 23-24 8 • Wisd of Sol 12:13, 16-19 or Isa 44:6-8 and Ps 86:11-17 • Rom 8:12-25 • **Matt 13:3-24-30, 36-43**

**July 26 (Weaving the Future):** Gen 29:15-28 and Ps 105:1-11, 45b or Ps 128 • 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Ps 119:129-136 • Rom 8:26-39 • **Matt 13:31-33, 44-52**