

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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SEPTEMBER 2020



Prayers Forward!

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

Well, it looks like it is going to take a little longer for us to get to know one another now that we are back exclusively online, and in-person visiting is discouraged. Despite the not being able to meet in-person, I am glad to say that the work of the church continues unabated.

During the next few months, I and the rest of our church's leadership, will be in motion, lots of motion. We are renewing the work begun three years ago with *New Beginnings* and last year with *Hoku'iwa*.

Do not worry: we will not be re-hashing the work already done. Rather, we are going to build on what has been done and: clarify our church's direction, identify and build capacity, and go forward. The church leadership work group's meeting, planning, dialogue, and visualizing together is necessary, but we all will also depend on your work on this endeavor.

Thus, we ask you to hold us, and our whole church in prayer, asking God to help us to truly listen to each other. Please pray that we will all put aside whatever fear or preconceptions we may have, and instead be open to the fresh wind of the Spirit to surprise and guide us.

We also ask that you stay well-informed about the work being done. There will be a variety of places where you will be able to receive information. *The Caller* is one of those places, we will also be making brief summaries during the announcement time before worship, and we will be asking for more prayer during worship. We may also put the information we generate on the church website.

If all else fails: call one of us. Call me! I'd be glad to inform and discuss whatever you would like. In the meantime, the first notes from our last meeting are below. Please read them over. Pray about them, and ask God to help you share whatever comes to your heart about our future.

God bless you for your faithfulness.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeannie

(Continued on p. 3 - **Moving Forward**)

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

Give Aloha - 78424 (NCC's code)

By Paula Yamamoto, Administrative Coordinator

It's that time of year, again! Once again, NCC is participating in *Give Aloha*, Foodland's Community Matching Program. The program runs throughout the entire month of September.

All you need is a Maika'i card (sign up with Customer Service, if you don't have one). You may contribute up to \$249 per participating organization(s). Foodland and Western Union Foundation will then match a portion of your contribution to the organization(s). Only donations made with a Maika'i card will receive a partial matching gift. Open separate accounts for your family members and maximize your giving! All you need is a phone number for each account card.

If you have any questions about this wonderful program, call **Paula Yamamoto** at the church office. And please mail your receipt to the church office promptly with your name printed on it, so we may credit your giving account! Foodland does not provide us with any donor names. Mahalo!



Two Week Stay at Home/Work from Home Executive Order

Effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 27, 2020, Governor Ige has issued a two week "Stay at Home/Work from Home" order for the island of Oahu. The church office will be closed during this duration.

If there is any business that needs to be conducted, please email it to nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net. The USPS mail will be checked periodically.

Let's do our part to lessen the curve and observe the "3 W's":

Wash your hands frequently,

Watch your distance - stay 6 feet away, avoid large groups, and

Wear a face mask.

With each person's commitment to doing their part in lessening the curve, we can reset and reopen our community. We can do this! We did it before!

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.)

Letter from the Conference Minister

August 7, 2020

Aloha Faith ‘Ohana,

On Thursday, August 6, 2020, Governor Ige and other state leaders announced the reinstatement of limits on group gatherings in order to curtail the surge of COVID-19 in Hawai‘i. It was specifically stated that “spiritual services remain open.”

The Conference office “Recommendations for Reopening Church Facilities” still applies within the new guidelines of the state. Of importance for our consideration is what the Recommendations say about public worship, including forgoing singing, forgoing a fellowship time, utilizing space in order to physically distance; and the ability to clean appropriately between gatherings.

You may find the full Recommendations here: https://aef95928-d957-44a5-a5a6-e2df66341a7d.filesusr.com/ugd/1c51b0_efe7de17e7f34274ac9b68dbbeb4a82f.pdf

On Wednesday’s conference-wide Zoom meetings, I encouraged our minsters to claim their role as leaders, to lead from strength, and to lead by example. I now encourage our congregations to do the same. Claim that your church is a leader in your community. Lead from a position of medical knowledge and ethical concerns. Behave in the way you want your neighbors to behave.

For those congregations on the island of O‘ahu, the Conference office recommends forgoing in-person worship until after September 13, as the virus is now considered endemic among this island’s population. By our example, we demonstrate that we hear

and heed our medical community and are taking personal responsibility against the spread of COVID-19. While government leadership has indicated a four-week window of limited activity, by moving worship solely to an online platform for the next six weeks, we further demonstrate that the UCC family on O‘ahu will go the extra mile to love our neighbors.

The Peace of Christ be with you,

Rev. Dr. David K. Popham
Conference Minister

In-Person Worship Services Suspended, Again

Right when we were just getting into the hang of the new normal routine of in-person worship at NCC, Hawaii was hit with a series of dramatic triple digit surge in Covid-19 cases! In consultation with NCC’s Medical Advisory Team: Becky Kanenaka, microbiologist; Dr. Donna Chung, Judy Keith, Parish nurse, and Lori Yamashiro, Diaconate chair, the Diaconate has decided to suspend in-person worship until further notice. August 2 was the last in-person service that was held. So we are back to having just virtual online worship services for the time being. There are several ways to access the virtual “services.” The link is posted on the home page of NCC’s website (www.nuuanu.org). It can also be accessed from the e-News (right column, NCC Ohana Videos), the e-blast (link attached), and on FaceBook.

Please help us lower the number of Covid cases by wearing a face mask, practicing at least 6 feet physical/social distancing, washing your hands frequently, avoiding gatherings over 5 people, and staying home as much as possible. Let’s be responsible role models and look out for our seniors, each other, and folks on the front line!

Keeping Tabs on NCC's Bottom Line.....

By Laurie Hamano, Moderator

Dear Members and Friends,

We wish we could have continued the worship services in person however the current COVID-19 pandemic numbers kept rising and has not abated. Due to this and with much supported wisdom, the Diaconate recommended that we shut down the in-person services for now. This was supported by the NCC Council. Safety for all of you must be our main concern.

During the last few months as I have mentioned in the past Caller, NCC was able to garner the PPP/SBA Loan through CPB (our banking institution) and was able to obtain \$42,390 to pay for payroll and other utilities. The next step as per directions from the banking institution will be to apply for the "forgiveness" program for this loan.

Additionally, the City and County of Honolulu has advertised the Small Business Relief and Recovery Fund which is granting up to \$10,000 for assistance. We have applied for this grant, and we have received confirmation that the application has been successfully sent. We are waiting for notice for approval/disapproval of this grant. This will assist us during the payroll period prior to the PPP Loan.

We are also now working with Ms. Cynthia Scher on the Strategic Plan for NCC and more will be happening soon with her and with all of you as we look positively toward our future with faith and perseverance.

Grateful for all of you,
Laurie Hamano

Moving Forward - Cont'd. from p. 1

Please consider these questions and hold them in your prayers. We ask for your input and your blessings on the process as we pursue this important work of the church.

Becoming a Missional Church

- What do we mean by "missional"?
- How will we manifest our partnership with God and the community?
- How can we draw upon our talent and *gaman*?
- What do we want to honor from the past?
- What do we need to let go of?
- What will be our case for change?
- How will we remain relevant?

Leading Transformation

- Who will lead?
- What does the congregation respond to most naturally?
- What motivates us to engage in the transformation?
- What risks are we willing to take?
- How do we stay engaged and connected during a pandemic and move forward?
- What will it take to unite the congregation and its leadership?

Building Capacity to Serve

- What do we have the capacity to do ourselves?
- Who do we need to partner with to use our campus and other assets well?
- How can our facilities serve the community best?
- What will make the best use of our strengths and strengthen us at the same time?

Institute for Human Services Wish List

At IHS, The Institute for Human Services, we provide meals, shelter, supplies, household goods and necessities. Whether it's backpacks for school children, diapers for infants or clothes for the elderly, these essentials improve the quality of life of those living in poverty.

Check out our [Amazon Wish List](#)

For the Keiki

Children's headphones to support e-learning
TV tables to be used as school desks
New yoga mats for baby tummy time

Cleaning Supplies

Mops, Buckets, Clorox Wipes, Glass Cleaner
Toilet Paper & Paper Towels

Food Items

Rice (large bags - 50lbs ideal)
Canned Beans & Canned Meats
Packaged Foods such as instant noodles, saimin, pasta
Fresh foods including fruits and vegetables

Home Goods

Blankets, Sheets & Pillow Cases
Bathroom Towels & Wash Cloths
Laundry Soap & Fabric Softener
Cooking Utensils
Dishwashing Soap

Clothing

Women's & Men's Casual & Business Clothes
Shoes, Slippers & Sandals
New undergarments for people of all ages including diapers

Toiletries

Shampoo & Conditioner
Deodorant
Baby Wash

Razors & Shaving Cream
Feminine Products

School Supplies*

Backpacks
Notebooks
Pens & Pencils & Pencil Cases
Pocket Folders
Rulers
Educational Books

**Each summer, we need at least 100 back-to-school kits to help school-age children. Due to limited storage capacity, we can only accept these items in July and request that supplies be pre-packaged as kits.*

List updated in August 2020.

All donated items go directly to IHS clients, free of charge.

Many of these items are often packaged to create welcome home gift baskets, toiletries kits and back-to-school sets in which we must have enough items to produce about 20 to 50 at a time. Groups can help purchase enough supplies and assemble these for distribution. Gift cards from stores such as Walmart, Target and Ross and cash donations help greatly too.

Donation Drop Off: Kaaahi Women & Family Shelter | 546 Kaaahi Street | Pull up to the gate/drop off center on side of the building at Kaamahu Place.





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, Craig Oshiro, Mary Oshiro, 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

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

Dear God, as our daily activities continue to be dictated by COVID-19, we thank you for your comforting, empowering and steadfast presence. The daily triple-digit rise in our state's positive cases is worrisome, and we ask that you guide our decision makers as they issue changing guidelines to stop the virus' spread. Empower all of us in Hawai'i to cooperate and act responsibly. Especially help our school administrators to act to keep our children safe. Besides the pandemic, help us to remember that our planet is also in danger and enable us to work to combat climate change. Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Thanks Offering

Stuart Fujioka

Memorial Offering

Dorothy Kusumoto - IMO Julia Nakamura

Paul & Paula Yamamoto - IMO Sutemi & Dora

Yamamoto, Edith Matsumoto, Federico Pascua

Melvin & Joyce Uyehara - IMO Pauline

Namiki, Federico Pascua, Chikako Yamashiro, Alice Ishihara, Edith Matsumoto

Carol Hamada - IMO Mack Hamada

George Naito - IMO Nancy Naito

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 **September 27, 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, Sep. 27

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.



In Loving Memory



Our deepest condolences go out to the family of **Alice Ishihara** who passed away on August 1, 2020. Alice is survived by husband Howard, son Mark, son-in-law Clayton Matsumoto, and grandson Kiyo Matsumoto. She was pre-deceased by daughter Ruth Matsumoto. Please keep the Ishihara family in your prayers.

Also, please keep the family of **Yukie Gross** in your prayers. Yukie passed away on August 19, 2020. She is survived by son Robert (Barbara) Gross and grandsons Jordan, Brandon, Jonathan; and great three great grandchildren. Yukie served as NCC’s Moderator 1991-1992 before transferring to Mountain View Community Church where her son is the Pastor.



On July 21, 2020 **Marie Yoneshige** celebrated her 99th birthday with daughters Ann Yoneshige and Sarah Swisher. Happy belated birthday, Marie! Wishing you many more birthdays and God’s abundant blessings!



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nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Lectionary Readings for September

September 6 (Remember, Restore, Renew): Ex 12:1-14 and Ps 149 • Ezek 33:7-11 and Ps 119:33-40 • Rom 13:8-14 • Matt 18:15-20

September 13 (Road to Freedom): Ex 14:19-31 and Ps 114 or Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21 • Gen 50:15-21 and Ps 103:(1-7), 8-13 • Rom 14:1-12 • Matt 18:21-35

September 20 (Tensions in the Wilderness): Ex 16:2-15 and Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 • Jon 3:10-4:11 and Ps 145:1-8 • Phil 1:21-30 • Matt 20:1-16

September 27 (God's Sustaining Presence): Ex 17:1-7 and Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 • Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32 and Ps 25:1-9 • Phil 2:1-13 • Matt 21:23-32