

# NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 63, NO. 12

DECEMBER 2020



## We Are Not Alone

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

Were you as surprised as I was at how quickly the term “social distance” became so common? At this time last year, it was not a term that I had ever used. I will wager that you had not either, but here we are.

It has been a hard year of being socially distant from family and friends, from church, too. Sometimes it feels like the term “social distance” is a euphemism for “isolation.” I know many of us have felt isolated. Such feelings usually bring on other feelings that are equally difficult: boredom, depression, sadness, even despair.

And now, here we are at the beginning of the Christmas season, a time when families and friends gather to celebrate and rejoice...except that: we still can not.

The Christian Nurture Team were discussing this just last night. There is a summary of a great article about how to overcome such feelings of isolation elsewhere in this newsletter. Even if you have not been feeling down or lonely, I still hope you will read it and try out the suggestions it offers as an exercise in gratitude.

As I reflect on this coming Advent and Christmas, I find myself thinking about how one of my favorite parts of the Christmas season is bringing out the ornaments for the church Christmas tree. I am not sure what that will be like this year as this will be my first Christmas with you, and I do not know what the ornaments look like here. (Despite the pandemic, I look forward to learning and participating in at least some of the traditions we have here.)

What made it such a joy at my last church was that the membership—and especially the children and youth—had made many of the ornaments. We made *Chrismons*. Although my laptop insists on marking the word “Chrismon” as a misspelling, it really is not. The word “Chrismon” is a combination of two words: “Christ” and “monogram.” According to the website for Ascension Lutheran Church:

*Chrismons™ Ornaments were originated and first made for use on the Christmas tree of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, in 1957 by Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer, a church member. The designs were monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ.*

(Continued on page 4-Not Alone)

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*; Mairi Manley, *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

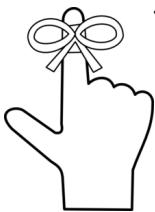
## Annual Reports Due

*By Mairi Manley, Administrative Coordinator*

To all board and committee chairs, Moderator, and Pastor, please submit your annual reports to Mairi Manley by **December 18** via email. Adhering to this deadline will be most appreciated. Reports should be in Word or Pages format, Century Schoolbook font, size 12. Any photos should be sent separately (not within the report). Mahalo.

## 2020 Contributions

*By Mairi Manley, Administrative Coordinator*



Just a reminder....in order for contributions to be credited for the 2020 tax year, they must be either mailed to the church with a USPS postmark not later than December 31, 2020 or received by the church office before 12:00 p.m. Thursday,

December 31, 2019. Contributions received after that will be credited to 2021.

## Paula's Retirement

*By Lori Yamashiro*

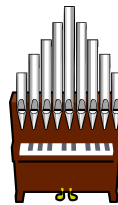
Join us on Sunday December 6, between 9:00am and 10:00am for Drive-through Communion Sunday and an opportunity to say "Mahalo and Happy Retirement" to Paula Yamamoto as she ends her time as NCC's administrative coordinator. Paula has more than ably served in that capacity for the past 14 years and we are grateful for the gifts and skills she brought to that position. And don't worry, while she is retiring, her church membership is here at NCC so she'll still be around!

## Advent Organ Chorales

### A Virtual Organ Recital

*by Katherine Crosier, organist*

Friday, December 7, 2020 • 7:00 pm



The art of hymn introductions was perfected in Germany, where the "chorale prelude" was developed by Johann Sebastian

Bach and other north German composers. The chorale prelude is a relatively short setting for organ

which is intended to introduce the hymn tune to the congregation. This concert will feature a wide variety of chorale preludes by international composers from Germany, France, Norway, and the United States: Bach, Johann Pachelbel, Hugo Distler, Marcel Dupré, Egil Hovland, Gerald Near and Paul Manz. Four singers will sing the hymns immediately following each chorale prelude.

The concert will be live-streamed and then archived on the Lutheran Church of Honolulu Facebook page on Dec. 7 at 7:00 pm: <https://www.facebook.com/LCHwelcome/>

## 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.)

## The Council Update

*By Laurie Hamano, Moderator*

November 17, 2020

Dear Friends and Members of NCC,

The Council has been hard at work facing the issues before us: 1) COVID- 19 mandates and what it means to our worship services, 2) as well as the Strategic Planning that is needed to move the church from today into our future. 3) We also have the Annual Meeting looming in January 2021 and our thoughts are: “How do we do what we need to do AND keep everyone safe?” More on this soon.

First of all, the Council has continued to meet monthly and the officers and committee members have met in separate meetings through the Zoom platform. This has kept the members of the Council and committees out of “harms way” and has kept us keep in good pace toward 2021. We have hired Cynthia Scherr, Consultant for our Strategic Planning Committee and this hardworking group has been meeting with her twice a month since September. With the undersigned, Wayne Kodama, Lori Yamashiro, Susan Iha, Paul Yamamoto, Pastor Jeannie and Stan Chong continue to grapple with the hard questions as we face the future. What will NCC look like in 10 years, in 20? We will be bringing more to you as we to piece together a cohesive and bold plan for discussion with the membership.

The Annual Meeting is a concern right now and we are trying to figure out a way to ensure that you all have your vote on the nominations and the budget but done in a way that keeps you all safe. We are in discussion with the Parliamentarian who has helped us in the past and will pose an option to you soon by early December via letter.

Other events continue to happen – Paula Yamamoto’s recent retirement as of 11/15/2020 and we have hired Mairi Manley. Though it has

been sad for us but happy for Paula as she “skips and jumps” into retirement, we are thankful for Mairi as she tries to fit herself in some big, “Paula” shoes. The Halloween Trunk Or Treat put on by the Christian Nurture was absolutely fun and enjoyed by all the “young’ins” and those who brought their decorated car trunks and are “young at heart”. Our favorite animals came to see Pastor Jeannie for their blessings while they stayed in the car in a drive-by they got to enjoy the ride and their blessings.

Our lives are so different now with “drive-bys and online services” to help celebrate our different functions in our church. With faith and creativity there is a way for us to enjoy moving forward. The Council and the committees who are working for you certainly believe that and we ask for your prayers and support as we courageously move into 2021. By the time you get this Caller we would have celebrated Thanksgiving. My thank you to you may be late, but please know that I am... Always grateful to you and send you many blessings.

## Try Identify ‘Three Good Things’ Each Evening to Boost Happiness During COVID-19 Pandemic

*By Carol Hamada*

The following are excerpts from an article in UC Health Today of an interview with Dr. Anne Moore, an internal medicine doctor at CU Denver Internal Medicine Group and Professor of Clinical Practice at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

It is normal to feel depressed and anxious during COVID-19. Using Three Good Things won't erase sorrow, Moore said. Rather, it's a practice that can help people cope better. Each evening for at least 7 days in a row, write down three things that you made happen and were actively involved in. For example: taking the time to exercise, calling a friend, picking up groceries for a neighbor, or eating healthy food.

You need to pick new good things each day. This is not a gratitude journal. Three Good Things requires intention and action on your part.

You can do this on your own or with your family. Everyone can benefit from Three Good Things. It is best to do this exercise before bed. Focusing on good things clears your head and drives stress away, thus helping people to sleep better. If you are a morning person and will be more dedicated to focusing on Three Good Things in the morning, then that can work too, Dr. Moore said. “Everyone can see the world in a more positive way. Hope and confidence overlap,” Moore said.

## Not Alone - (Cont’d. from p. 1)

Chrismons were, I believe, Ms. Spencer’s attempt to refocus the Christmas season. It was an attempt to remove the secular and the commercial. Thus, all of the Chrismons Ms. Spencer made were meant to point to Christ—not Santa, or Rudolf—only Christ. Another important feature of Chrismons are that many of them can be found in nature all of the time: stars, flowers (ie. roses), butterflies, fish, shells, etc. All of God’s good creation is filled with them.

And guess what? You and I are Chrismons, too. We are all supposed to be walking, talking, breathing Chrismons.

As people of faith—and especially as people who have sought and received membership in a Christian church—we have made promises before God that our lives will be living proclamations of the love of Christ. We do this by accepting God’s love in our lives which means believing and living our lives as precious and beloved of God, and by loving and treating others in the same way.

Our lives are meant to be signs of the love and goodness of Christ—the Good News of God’s love personified. We are to share this Good News with others, too, in all sorts of ways: through prayer and acts of charity and compassion. We also do this by reading Scripture and allowing God’s word to shape our

lives, and supporting others who are doing the same. Most of all, we are to “point to Christ” by being courageous and generous in our faith.

This is, I know, easier said than done especially as the problems and needs of the people, and the world around us, seem to become more complex. It is not easy to keep up with all that continues to happen, and it is often maddening to realize that the world will not slow down for any one of us. Indeed, the world and its many constituencies, particularities, and peculiarities rumbles on, seemingly with little regard for the struggles or achievements of the past, or the needs or desires of any one person or community. It leaves many of us feeling left behind, cast off and adrift—isolated.

Remembering what is important is often difficult. This is why it is important to the life of our spirits to receive and be nurtured by Christ’s presence, and our good news is that the signs of Christ’s presence are *not* difficult to find. They are all around us *all of the time!* We just need to be a little more intentional about looking for them and seeing them.

This is what I believe Ms. Spencer realized and brought to our attention: that God has placed the mark of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit’s presence all around us. The world around us fairly trembles with the presence of God and because of that we need never feel alone and isolated. Indeed, we too can become Chrismons. This is my prayer for my own life, and for yours: that we may allow ourselves to be so well nurtured by the love of Christ that our whole lives are signs of his love.

I also pray that today, and always, you will know the pleasant companionship and love of Christ who came into the world so that we need never be alone.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeannie



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## Mango Chutney: A Labor of Love

by Dr. Donna Chung

This Thanksgiving, as we gather our favorite foods, you may wonder how Don Ikeda started making mango chutneys and jams and jellies. I know I did. I asked Don some questions and thought I might share the story with you. Dr. Ikeda is originally from Maui. Don and June would take their kids to visit his mom, in Maui, during the holidays. His mother had a common mango tree in her yard. It was about 40 years ago that he noticed that so many of the mangos were falling and he thought it was a shame to waste. Being the inquisitive and thorough person that Don is, he found that the Maui Agriculture folks had a cookbook with a recipe for mango chutney. I can just see the lightbulb going on in Don's head!

I have always heard about Nu'uuanu Congregational Church's huge fundraiser with plants, food and more. Don Ikeda's mango chutney made its debut at the NCC Fundraiser some 40 years ago. Then in Iao Valley, Don found lilikoi and started making lilikoi jams which were also a hit. Through generous friends, Dr. Ikeda expanded his repertoire of fruits, to include guava and various other fruits. Right on the NCC grounds was, and still is, a large calamondin tree. Two or three congregants picked the calamondin fruits and as Don tells me they thought, "Let's give it to Don to see what he can do with it." A new jam was created. You may be one of the congregants who first picked those calamondin for Don to try.

There were many discoveries along the way. Don found that common mangoes or a second choice, Chinese mangoes, made for the best chutney. Other mangos did not result in the best chutney quality. He says that "Other than making the product, going out to locate and pick the mangoes and all the fruits are great adventures as well as peeling and cutting the fruits and then storing the fruits in the freezer." Most fruits require added pectin to solidify the jams/jellies, so they are not runny. It's yet another factor, as pectin can be difficult to obtain

and is rather expensive. Being a physician and meticulous in all that he does, the sterility and food safety of the products were of utmost importance to Don. With the sterile technique and vacuum method that he personally developed, he was able to improve upon traditional methods of canning and preserving the chutneys, jams, and jellies.

A vital part of the methodology is the use of proper jars (and covers), another item which is quite expensive. That is why saving these jars and lids and returning them to Don is a way we can help him perpetuate this treasured NCC tradition. Dr Ikeda's chutneys, jellies and jams are an annual or semiannual affair at NCC. His vision grew larger and larger and he also donates chutney and jams to the Mo'ilili Community Center, the Japanese Cultural Center and other churches, including a Catholic church in Kaneohe!

Truly, what started as a great adventure has become a labor of love, as the whole process takes great effort and time. "This whole process gives me a whole lot of satisfaction and joy in being able to give folks some comfort and making their lives better and most of all, helping these non-profit organizations to survive."

Mahalo Don Ikeda, for this taste of home, this comfort food that is part of Nu'uuanu Congregational Church, and that is so precious to us in this year of 2020.

## Save the Date!

By Becky Kanenaka, Board of Christian Nurture



December 13, 2020 via zoom

We will have a guest speaker from the Samaritan Counseling Center, Rev. Dr. Gary Augustin. He is eager to present and facilitate a discussion group about coping and isolation during the pandemic with the holidays.



## 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, Howard Ishihara, Michael Kurokawa, Leslie Lum, Amy Nogami, Craig Oshiro, Mary Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, and Marie Yoneshige, Lurline Matsumot (sister of Masa Tabe).**

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*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

Luke 2:8-12

Dear God, thank you for your gift of your son, your faithfulness and love. Help us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas-the birth of Jesus Christ. This season is usually a jolly time of good cheer, happiness and sharing with family and friends. Instead, we are going through a difficult time, trying to control the spread of COVID-19 by limiting our contacts with others. We ask for your guidance and protection. Despite our challenges we are blessed with and thank you for all that we have and for the support of family, friends and our church. Amen



## Special Gifts

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

### Memorial Offering

Fran Miyamoto - IMO Alice Ishihara, June Ikeda, Yuriko Konno, Edith Matsumoto, Alice Matsuwaki, Pauline Namiki, Julia Nakamura, Federico Pascua, Eiko Soranaka  
Ellen Galariada - IMO Alice Ishihara, Federico Pascua, Pauline Namiki  
Shirley Miyamoto - IMO Pauline Namiki, Doris Fuchikami, Alice Ishihara, Federico Pascua

Dorothy Kusumoto - IMO Bill Kusumoto  
Scott Furukawa - IMO Rev. Grant Lee

### Birthday Offering

Ethel Yamaguchi  
Norman Osumi  
Shirley Miyamoto  
(Continued on page 7 - **Gifts**)

## 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.

## Gifts - Cont'd. from page 6

**Thanks Offering**  
Ethel Yamaguchi  
Claire Furukawa  
Frances Tagami

## Recycling By Wayne Kobayashi

### Bring your items on Sunday, Nov. 29

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.



## Thank you!

(Thank you note from Bill and Jean Wood Scholarship Recipient)

To the NCC Family -

Thank you so much for your financial support! I am getting to learn so many things about the animation industry from my main teacher - Tony Bancroft - the co-director of the 1998 *Mulan* Animated Disney movie - as well as talented and well-respected artists and animators brought in by Tony as teachers or guest speakers such as legendary animator James Baxter and Emmy Award winner William Dely. I feel that I have grown and improved so much as an artist during my time at APU - and your support helps me continue this amazing journey of growth and discovery. I am truly blessed.

Thank you again and God Bless! - Kyla Koboyashi

## Ohana Ministries Homebound

by Mae Au

Blessings to everyone at Nu'uanu Congregational Church's family.

During these unusual times, it is imperative for us to create new ways to remain in contact with each other. This year we will deliver poinsettia plants to our homebound brothers and sisters. This will temporarily replace our Kadomatsu gifts of previous years due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Ohana Ministry acknowledges and thanks our special friends for their loving and precious handmade quilted pocket prayer hearts which we inserted in each Thanksgiving card sent to our homebound brothers and sisters. Merry Christmas.

## Wear a mask!

Cover your nose and mouth



## Wait 6 feet apart!

Avoid close contact



## Wash your hands!

Or use hand sanitizer





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

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**December 2020**

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church office at 595-3935 or email:  
[nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net).

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### **Lectionary Readings for December**

**December 6 (Messengers in Hope):** Isa 40:1-11 • Ps 85:1-2,8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mk 1: 1-8

**December 13 (Shouts of Joy):** Isa 61:1-4,8-11 • **Ps 126** or Luke 1:46b-55 • 1 Thess 5:16-24 • Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 20 (Birthing a Promise):** 2 Sam 7:1-11, 16 • Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4, 19-26 • Rom 16:25-27 • **Luke 1:26-38**

**December 27 (Long Awaited Gift):** Isa 61:10-62:3 • Ps 148 • Gal 4:4-7 • **Luke 2:22-40**