

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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FEBRUARY 2021



A Gift for the Ages

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

In late December, shortly before Christmas, if you looked past all the merchandise going on sale during the last-gasp days of Christmas shopping, you probably stumbled across a couple of shelves of heart-shaped boxes of candy, or a collection of

small stuffed animals holding red hearts bearing on them words like, “Be Mine.”

Every year it’s the same: even before Christmas is over stores of all kinds begin putting their Valentine’s Day products out for sale.

I suppose it is not so surprising. Sentiment. Sweetness (and sweets!). Emotion. Sex (*gasp*)—all of these things are big sellers on Valentines Day. For florists and greeting card makers Valentines Day and Mothers Day are the two biggest retail days of the year—even more so than Christmas.

Love sells—perhaps I should say, “talk of love” is what sells. The appeal to our emotions sells. Flashy cards, shmaltzy sentiment, cuteness-overload—all designed to capture our attention and our dollars. It all sells, and quite well, too.

The thing is: actual love takes much more than talk. It even takes more than emotion and feelings.

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1 Corinthians 13

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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 • Email: nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net • Phone: (808) 595-3935



Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

1st Sunday of the month:

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Nuʻuanu Congregational Church Second Sunday Forum

The Wisdom of Kalaupapa for Today

with Rev. Dr. Phyllis Meighen and
Dr. Lana Kaʻopua

February 14, 2021

10:30 – 11:30 am



Siloama UCC – 1866
First church in Kalaupapa Settlement

Globally and nationally we're experiencing major challenges of body, mind, and spirit: global pandemic, institutional racism, political polarity, economic hardship, family separation, social violence, and the foundation of democracy.

To whom can we look for wisdom to navigate these treacherous waters? In Hawaiʻi, those thought to have leprosy (now Hansen's Disease) who were exiled to Kalaupapa knew suffering, death, family separation, and injustice. Their experiences offer wisdom to help us meet our challenges today. They can help us mature as God's Beloved Community, as we seek to grow spiritually

- * From Fear to Faith
- * From Despair to Hope
- * From Family Separation to Restoration
- * From Oppression to Freedom
- * From Alienation to Forgiveness

The Hawaiʻi Conference Formation Team and ReSource for Christian Spirituality are developing The Wisdom of Kalaupapa as a workshop series. Through first-person stories and historical documents, we'll be able to draw upon the experiences of patients to illuminate our path, strengthen our resolve, and inspire our Christian witness in the world.

Please join the Board of Christian Nurture for a taste of the workshop series as we engage in a Zoom encounter with two members of the project team:

Rev. Dr. Phyllis Meighen - director of ReSource for Christian Spirituality, member of Lihue Christian Church, and former associate pastor of NCC.

Dr. Lana Kaʻopua - retired Chair of the University of Hawaiʻi Social Work Department, member of Kaumakapili Church, and associate of Central Union Windward UCC.

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.)

A Gift for the Ages

Continued from Pg. 1

Real love—God’s love for us—is a love that recognizes us for who we are, *sees* us clearly, and still pursues relationship with us. God’s love sees the worth and goodness that was always a part of our being before life’s jumble of competing priorities intruded; before we knew fictions, fears and disappointments and resentment, envy, anger or bitterness.

Paul knew this when he wrote his letters to the Corinthians. He also knew how the love of God had seen every moment and dimension of *his* life, had even seen the harsh, angry, brutal persecutor of Christians that he once was.

Even to this feared and choleric person, Christ extended his hand, and healed him of all his hatred and fear. In so doing, Paul’s heart and spirit were changed.

In the teaching and compassion shown to him by Ananias of Damascus, who laid hands on him and brought him God’s word of grace [Acts 9], Paul experienced a god who saw past his anger and violence and saw, instead, how a being with such passion could be equally passionate and committed to fellowship and love. Paul was redeemed by love.

That is why, when the church he had founded, the church in Corinth, began to exhibit all sorts of behaviors that threatened their continued existence, Paul offered them words of hope and instruction. He sent them letters of heartfelt love and concern, and instruction. He addressed their problems of anger, sexual immorality and other sins, and also disagreements over whether or not to consume meat offered to idols, and the distribution of spiritual gifts.

To guide them into better ways of interacting with each other, Paul wrote a full description, a definition of what love is, what it looks like, how our lives and our actions are shaped and our whole being fashioned into a new life by love, real love. Hence, 1 Corinthians, chapter 13.

Most of us know this part of 1 Corinthians as a passage often read at weddings.

While it is appropriate and beautiful to apply it to how love should exist in marriage, 1 Corinthians 13 was really meant as words for all of us to live by—*all of the time*. It was a description of the love God offers us and the people love can make us into, individually, but also collectively—as a church, as a community, as a people

During these times of pandemic and unrest my prayer, for myself and all of us, is that we will turn again and again to Paul’s definition of love and be comforted and inspired by God’s love for us. I pray that we will have faith, and I pray we will open our lives to receive and offer hope. Most of all, I pray we will continue to open our lives to God’s love that we may offer it to the world around us—our families, friends, and community—for this God’s gift to us. It is a gift for the ages.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Jeannie Thompson

Current Covid Vaccinations on Oahu

by Donna Chung, M.D.

Appointments are now being made for those who are **75 years of age and above**. The covid vaccines are safe and extremely effective in preventing serious illness due to covid-19. They are being administered by appointment only. Appointments can be made through Queens, and HPH (Hawaii Pacific Health: the company that owns Straub, Kapiolani, and Pali Momi). I am not familiar with the Kaiser system, but I understand that they are giving vaccinations by appointment also. Right now, Castle/Adventist is not making appointments until they get more vaccine.

If you have an appointment with Queens, you will be vaccinated at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. If you have an appointment with Hawaii Pacific Health, you will be vaccinated at Pier 2 Cruise Terminal. At both places, you must bring proof of your registration and your picture ID and insurance cards with you at the time of your vaccination appointment.

Continued on page 5 - Vaccinations



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 Matsumoto (sister of Masa Tabe), Rick Au, Stephen Crosier.**

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

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:9-10.

Dear God, thank you for your constant presence, guidance and help. We are thankful that we are receiving COVID vaccinations and pray for efficient distribution of the vaccines. Help us to diligently follow safe practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As we start a new year of governance we pray for the leaders of NCC, our state legislature and the U.S. executive and legislative branches.. Bless them with wisdom, open-mindedness and a spirit of cooperation. Help us to be peacemakers and enable us to love one another, fight what is evil and hold fast to what is good. Amen



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Birthday Offering

Ruth Gushiken

Lois Tao

Jo-Ann Bristow

Thanks Offering

Ruth Gushiken

Howard Mau

Frances Ito

Doreen Takaki

Dorothy Kusumoto

Barbara Mau

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.

Vaccinations

Cont. from pg. 3

To register at HPH, please click on this and fill out:
<https://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org/surveyor/i2yon3cyqtvuy6re5oq>

To register with Queens, please click on this:
<https://covid.queens.org/vaccination>

Then click on the blue box at the right, near the bottom
"SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT"

If you try to make an appointment with Queens or Hawaii Pacific Health, but cannot, I can help you.
Please leave me an email or voicemail or text with best way to reach you .
Donna's email: hawaiimakai1234@gmail.com
Donna's cell phone: 268-2828

Year-End Donation Statements

by Mairi Manley

Please keep an eye out for your statements. They were mailed out on Friday January 22, 2021. If you did not receive one and would like one, please email Mairi Manley at nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on Sunday, Feb. 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.



Wear a mask!

Cover your nose and mouth



Wait 6 feet apart!

Avoid close contact



Wash your hands!

Or use hand sanitizer





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February 2021

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church office at 595-3935 or email:
nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Lectionary Readings for February

February 7 (Source of Strength): Isa 40:21-31 • Ps 147:1-11, 20c • 1 Cor 9:16-23 • **Mk 1:29-39**

February 14 (Compassionate Community): 2 Kings 2:1-2 • Ps 50:1-6 • 2 Cor 4:3-6 • **Mk 9:2-9**

February 21 (God's Loving Paths): Gen 9:8-17 • **Ps 25:1-10** • 1 Peter 3:18-22 • Mk 1:9-15

February 28 (Always Close): Gen 17:1-7, 15-16 • **Ps 22:23-31** • Rom 4:13-25 • Mk 8:31-38 or
Mk 9:2-9