

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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MARCH 2021



Our Lenten Journey With Christ

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

I am often asked about Lent. What is it all about? What are we supposed to do during Lent? Do I have to give up something?

One of my favorite Christian writers is the late Rev. Marcus Borg. In one of his articles about Lent, Rev. Borg described it as a way for Christians to “leave the land of the dead.” To do this, we need to enter into the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday, where the Christian becomes a sojourner who is invited to receive the cross of Christ, and to walk alongside Christ on his journey to Golgotha.

Painted crosses on our foreheads, made of the ashes of our palm branches from last Palm Sunday mixed with olive oil, give consent to—even invite—Jesus’ journey to the cross to be our own. Thus, as we receive the cross, we are reminded that “from dust we came, and to dust we shall return.” All of this compels us to recognize and affirm our own mortality, and that this journey with Christ is no less than a journey toward death.

However, the important thing to remember is that this is *not a death that ends life*. It is a journey that travels *through* death into *new life*. That is: we journey with Christ to his death on a cross, but also through the cross into his resurrection. We die with him that we may also rise with him to new life free on the old burdens that weighed us down and prevented us from experiencing the full life God wants us to have. Freed of the turbulence of human life and human ways of death, we may now receive the true peace that Christ knows—the peace Christ longs for us to have.

This is why, in the Gospels, the risen Christ’s first word to the disciples is often, “peace.” “Peace be with you,” he says to the disciples who are still in hiding in the upper room after the crucifixion and resurrection. [John 20:19; Luke 24:36] The peace Christ knows and offers to the disciples is a peace that has suffered violence and death through violence, but refuses to accept violence as the appropriate response to his suffering. Christ’s peace is a total rejection of all human tendency toward violence. It is an invitation to life that honors the dignity and preciousness of human beings. His peace yet another promise from God that humankind is beloved and cherished, and that God will never let us be destroyed by violence to our bodies nor our spirits.

That is why we can receive the cross and even wear it as a sign of our faith. Without Christ’s journey through death to new life with God, his death would have simply been the end of one man’s life—a life snuffed out by a human sin that only knows only one way to suppress and control human behavior.

(Continued on page 3- Lenten)

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@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 Meeting Update

Due to the pandemic mandates that caused us not to be able to meet and worship together in person, the NCC Annual Meeting which normally would be held at the last Sunday of January, was replaced by a ballot voting process for the election of officers, approval of minutes, and approval of the 2021 budget. This by no means was the best process to use, however during these unprecedented times, the NCC Council believed that this was the best option for this year.

Thank you to all of you who participated and the response for this year was commendable.

There was a total of 91 total ballots returned. We needed a quorum of 35.

Of the 91 ballots received, the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting, the minutes of the 2020 Annual meeting, and the 2021 budget passed unanimously. The nomination slate passed by a majority vote.

Thank you for your participation as well as taking part in the Zoom Dollars and Sense gathering.

The NCC Officers and Boards will be commissioned by Paster Jeannie Thompson in March..

Mahalo,

NCC Council

One Great Hour of Sharing

by Joyce Uyehara

This year's theme for OGHS "Let Love Flow" will be taken on March 21. This is one of 5 special offerings of the United Church of Christ. Contributions to OGHS make a difference in the lives of people nationally and overseas. They are often the first on the scene following a natural disaster or human origin.

The Covid 19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding have ravaged communities on the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance.

Last year more than 200 climate and weather related disasters affected millions of people and caused billions of dollars in damage. OGHS provide relief for victims of these disasters. An example of how your contributions helped is the 2020 Oregon wildfires. It was one of the worst destructive on record. At least 11 people died and 40,000 people evacuated. OGHS was there with volunteers and resources.

When you share your gifts and generosity, you ensure that even in the midst chaos and uncertainty, the power of God continues to change lives here and around the world.

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.)

Lenten

Continued from page 1

However, because of Christ’s journey, and our participation in it, we are offered the opportunity to bring his peace into our own lives, and into the lives of our families, our neighbors, and even the world.

So, in answer to the questions I often receive about Lent my answer is this:

- Lent is about peace—discovering the real peace of Christ and how it can be the peace we know and offer in his name;
- We are supposed to enter into the season of Lent with a desire to learn about this peace and to give thanks for it;
- Should give up something during Lent? Let me rephrase this a bit: *What is it, in your life, that you would like to give up? What needs to “die” in your life in order for you to have peace?*

My prayer for us all is that we will gladly take this journey with Christ, and find the peace we need in our own lives, and the peace that can heal our broken world.

I look forward to our journey together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jeannie

P.S.

During Lent, the Wednesday Bible Study Zoom will be reading and discussing a Lenten devotional published by the Presbyterian Church. The theme of the devotional is justice and peace. You can obtain a free copy via this free download: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Lent-2021.pdf>

The Zoom link will be on the church webpage.

Calls for General Synod Workshop Proposals and Virtual Choir

From HawaiiConference UCC - Coconut Wireless

Save the dates—the UCC's first virtual General Synod will take place July 11-18, 2021! The 33rd biennial gathering of the church will adopt a Sunday to Sunday schedule that will run from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Hawai'i time, each day under the theme, <https://www.ucc.org/fees-set-schedule-taking-shape-for-special-edition-general-synod/>. The 33rd General Synod was originally scheduled to take place in person July 16 – 20, 2021, in Kansas City, MO. Registration can be found at <http://www.generalsynod.org> will open on April 13.

The General Synod workshops application is now open and you can apply <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/71913-United-Church-Of-Christ ,.> There is an attached one-page document with more information. Workshops will be presented the week *before* General Synod, on July 7 – 10. There will be 50 synchronous and asynchronous offerings and workshops will be available to all paid registrants to General Synod. The deadline for all applications is **March 26**.

Thank You

by Mairi Manley

I would like to say thank the NCC Congregation for supporting me through this learning process. I have been here for five months now and it is still a pleasure to work for Nu‘uanu Congregational Church.

I have met a few people in person but I can't wait to match everyone else's face with their names.



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. Fay Matsuura (Friend of Clifford Lum)**

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

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Romans 12:12

Dear God, thank you for the many blessings we have received--especially your steadfast, unconditional love. In this Lenten season help us to grow our trust and faith in you as we seek a closer relationship with you. Help us to remember and follow the teachings of Jesus. We are thankful for our temperate climate in Hawai'i and pray for those who are suffering extreme weather conditions. Protect and watch over them and give them strength, courage and fortitude. Open our eyes to the needs of others around us and help us to respond with patience and love.

Amen



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial Offering

IMO Amy Nogami

IMO Isami and Mildred Tsukamoto

Birthday

Barbara Mau

Kimie Fujioka

Becky Kanenaka

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.

Second Sunday Forum

Zoom information
Dates will always be the second Sunday of the month

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87599891917?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87599891917?pwd=VGpYNkJOUUtVUjlIraGpuQVZ3UU5QZz09)
[pwd=VGpYNkJOUUtVUjlIraGpuQVZ3UU5QZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87599891917?pwd=VGpYNkJOUUtVUjlIraGpuQVZ3UU5QZz09)

Meeting ID: 875 9989 1917
Passcode: NuuanuCC

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on Sunday, March 25

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.



Japanese Translator

by Mairi Manley

Is there anyone that is able to read Japanese?

I am taking an inventory of the old Nichigobu office. There are a small amount of books that are written in only Japanese and I would like to know what the title of the books are. Please call the office at (808)595-3935 or email at nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Covid Vaccinations

by Donna Chung, M.D.

Reminder: Covid vaccinations are available for those who are 75 years old and older.

The Covid vaccines are highly effective rate and prevents hospitalizations and deaths due to Covid infections. The rate of severe allergic reactions to the Covid vaccine is 11.1 per 1 million vaccinations. This is an extremely low rate. In addition, the severe allergic reactions can be treated by qualified medical staff.

In order to schedule a vaccination at Blaisdell Concert Hall, call Queens Hospital phone number **691-2222, Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Covid vaccination appointments are also available at Kaiser Permanente, for members and non-members alike at **432-2000, Monday- Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

After the vaccination is received, you will be given your appointment for the second vaccination.

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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Lectionary Readings for March

March 7 (Beautiful Law): Ex 20:1-7 • **Ps 19** • 1 Cor 1:18-25 • Jn 3:14-21

March 14 (No Matter What): Num 21:4-9 • **Ps 107:1-3, 17-22** • Eph 2:1-10 • Jn 3:14-21

March 21 (Deep in Our Hearts): Jer 31:31-34 • Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 11:9-16 • Heb 5:5-10 •
Jn 12:20-33

March 28 (Into Jerusalem): (Liturgy of Psalms) Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 • Mk 11:1-11 or Jn 12:12-16
(Liturgy of Passion) Isa 50:4-9a • Ps 31:9-16 • Phil 2:5-11 • **Mk 14:1-15:47** or Mk 15:1-39,
(40-47)