

# NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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## The Ingathering of the Dispersed By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

After many months, on June 6, Nu‘uanu Congregational Church will gather once again in our Sanctuary to worship. Welcome home, church!

For all but one month out of the last fourteen, our congregation has been sheltering safely at home. And the good news is that we have been largely spared the worry and sorrow of the

*Our separation from our church and the familiar routine of gathering ... was one of our contributions to the common good of the larger community.*

COVID-19 pandemic that has taken so many lives across the nation and the world.

I am very grateful to all of you for your patience and faithfulness to God and our church as we have made our way through this time. I am also deeply grateful to the Diaconate and the Trustees who have worked tirelessly at monitoring the situation and seeking-out and putting into place the best advice and practices for us all.

For our first Sunday back in the Sanctuary, our Scripture will be from Isaiah 60. In some Bibles this chapter is titled, *The Ingathering of the Dispersed*. I chose this Scripture because of its celebratory nature. It also seems a fitting Scripture for us to reflect on because in it, Isaiah reminds us that we are not the first to have been dislocated from the comfortable and familiar. We are not the first to be away from our church home.

In fact, I hope we all remember and appreciate that we were not forced from our homes (like the nation of Israel to whom Isaiah first spoke). Our separation from our church and the familiar routine of gathering was not forced upon us. Rather, it was a sacrifice that was asked of us. It was one of our contributions to the common good of the larger community. Thank you for your generosity!

During that time, we were not idle, either! We take-up our in-person gathering as we begin our new adventure in being a missional church!

Many thanks to all of you who have read through the new strategic plan, prayed about it, and affirmed it.

As I hope we all understand: our way of living into the future is going to bring some changes. Some of the ways in which we organize the way in which we engage in ministry will be modified. All change will be directed toward following Christ in ways that make us more responsive and efficient with our time and resources. *(Continued on page - 5, Ingathering)*

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



## In-Person Worship

By Lori Yamashiro

We are so excited to restart in-person on June 6, 2021! The Diaconate and the Board of Trustees have created a protocol to reduce the risk in the transmission of COVID-19 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 distributed by an usher.

### During Worship

- Wear your face mask all the time.
- Keep six feet or more social distancing from non-family/household members.
- No red attendance books.
- Unfortunately, no singing during worship and no choir...for now.
- Offering plates will be placed at the sanctuary entrance. You may place your

offering envelope in the offering plate as you enter or exit the sanctuary.

- Joys and Concerns - Someone will wipe the microphone prior to the next person speaking.
- Passing of the Peace - You can Pass the Peace by waving, acknowledging each other from where you are seated.
- No receiving line.
- 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 to keep the minimum of six feet social distancing.
- Sorry, no refreshments.
- Disinfect the restrooms for the next group to use.

We will modify our procedures as recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Hawai'i Department of Health are updated. The Council and the Boards thanks you for your patience, your flexibility, and your desire to worship in-person.

## 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.)

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## May 21, 2021

### **STRATEGIC PLAN RESULTS**

We are excited that the vote from the membership was overwhelmingly positive!

On May 18, 2021 the results of the Strategic Plan vote came in:

91 votes approved the plan out of 94 received ballots.

At its May 18, 2021, meeting, the NCC Council recommended that a Transition Team be formed and with Susan Iha as its chair. Susan will be asking for your help to formulate the way forward. And we need everyone's help to do that.

### **HOW DO WE DO THAT?**

Get excited! Let's think out of "the box"! Let's think of the many possibilities that we can get involved in through this Strategic Plan!

### **SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?**

First of all, we need to say a "BIG MAHALO" to the Strategic Planning Team for all of their hard work and commitment to the process and to NCC's future—

Consultant Cynthia Scherr for her guidance, Team members Stan Chong, Laurie Hamano, Susan Iha, Wayne Kodama, Pastor Jeannie Thompson, Paul Yamamoto, and Lori Yamashiro. They have spent many long nights and Sundays mulling over the wording and the essence of what this plan holds for us and where is God calling us.

From this point forward, we will be providing updates to you about the Transition Team's process through The Caller. We will also be asking for your help and most of all, your prayers for God's continued guidance to help us create a path toward building our future.

We also have informed the Hawai'i Conference Foundation (HCF) that the NCC membership overwhelmingly approved having the Conference and Foundation consider moving their offices to NCC's campus. There are so many more decisions to be made before this can happen, but

we wanted to make sure the HCF knew how supportive NCC was toward their relocation to our campus. We pray that we can work out the many necessary decisions that are needed so that we can partner successfully with them.

More on the Strategic Plan is on its way to you!!

NCC Council

## **2021 Strategic Plan**

*by Mary Ann Saito*

I am excited about NCC's Strategic Plan and thank the committee for preparing it. The mission statement, "We faithfully worship and serve God by welcoming and engaging the community and opening our hearts and doors, touching the heart and spirit of all." is the crux of the whole plan! This is an opportunity to build on our strengths that we have nurtured and exhibited the past 135 years. Going forward as a mission-driven church, with God's guidance, I foresee a revitalized congregation as we invite the community to our campus for various purposes and expand our outreach into the community. As we respond to the needs of the community we will continue to fulfill one of the items that we adopted in NCC's Vision Statement on September 16, 2007. Let's join in and get started on our Strategic Plan!

## **Alter Flower Arrangements**

*by Mairi Manley*

In preparation for June 6, 2021 In-Person Worship Service, we have the Alter Flowers List up in the NCC Office. The June 6 and June 13 Alter Flower donations have already been taken *care of by our two very generous donors in preparation of our services.*

If you would like to sign up for Alter Flower Arrangements, please call or email me at (808)595-3935 or [nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net). I will let you know if the date is already taken.

## Stewardship of Time

by Lori Yamashiro

We can agree that our time is very valuable and therefore, we don't want to waste it. But are we being good stewards of other people's time? If you're meeting someone, are you on time or even early?

When you go to a meeting, have you read the materials in advance?

When someone is talking to you, do you stop what you're doing and give the person 100% of your attention?

Let me tell you about my Dad. He could do anything, he could fix anything, and he could cook! We never had to call a plumber or electrician. He built the extension on our house. Did I mention he cooked?

In the last years of his life, Dad dealt with a number of serious health issues as well as the beginning stages of dementia. He no longer cooked or did laundry or fixed things. Eventually, I moved back home to help take care of Dad.

While I inherited my Mother's stunning good looks, I got my Dad's sense of humor...and his very short temper so you can imagine that some of our evenings got pretty loud: I didn't raise his pillow high enough. He moved too slow. I didn't water or fertilize the plants enough. He tried to do things he's not supposed to do. I put too many raisins in his oatmeal. He drove me nuts.

Then I had an epiphany, an "ah ha" moment. It dawned on me that I had the opportunity to make what ever time Dad had left a bit more enjoyable or I could keep fighting with him and make his remaining days unpleasant. While I wish I could say we didn't argue anymore, we still did but not as much.

And I kept reminding myself that if my time is important to me, shouldn't I also be a good steward of other people's time?

You are invited to



Second Sunday Forum

Featured speaker: CJ Johnson, he will share his knowledge of the three COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 guidance.

CJ Johnson is the Project Specialist with the COVID-19 Outreach and Public Health Education Project at the Hawaii State Department of Health. He has over a decade of experience in clinical and community health education, community organizing and non-profit leadership, with a particular focus on environmental and systemic barriers to health equity. His mission is to develop community partnerships to ensure that the Department of Health's COVID-19 guidance is timely, accurate and informed by community needs.

When: Sunday, June 13, 2021  
10:30 am

Where: Zoom  
Zoom ID: 875 9989 1917  
Password: NuuanuCC

## Ingathering

*Continued from Pg. 1*

What will not change is our commitment to each other as partners in service, and especially as brothers and sisters in Christ. In fact, none of these plans could have been possible, and none of the plans we make will be possible without the fellowship and prayerful support of all of us.

This congregation and its long history of service to the community, our leadership in ministry and mission—this has been the guide and the inspiration for the new strategic plan. What guided us was knowing that all of the good things NCC has accomplished has been in Christ’s name and for the glory of God. God’s Spirit has been in every endeavor and we know this by the many people who have been touched with healing, growth, and new life.

The most amazing aspect of all of this dreaming, visioning, and planning is that the new life we hope to offer to others will also be the beginning of new life for our church, too! It is really inescapable: when we open our hearts and lives to care for others, we, too, are touched by the love and caring that we offer. This is because all love comes from God, and when we turn our lives toward God we become like ever-flowing streams of life, we become God’s channel of life to others.

I look forward to greeting many of you on June 6, and more throughout the summer. Until then, may God’s Spirit envelope your life and give you joy.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jeannie

## Rev. Yoko Asada Passes Away

*by Arthur Goto*

Reverend Yoko Asada, NCC’s Associate Pastor for Nichigobu and Ohana Ministry from May 1998 to March 2002, passed away in Tokyo, Japan on April 27, 2021 (Japan Time). Her Japanese language ministry was extremely well received and appreciated as evidenced by the strong

attendance at those weekly services and at the morning (English) worship service at which she preached when she passed through Hawaii upon the completion of her subsequent ministry in New York City. Pastor Asada published a compilation of all of the monthly columns she wrote for the NCC Caller during her tenure, titled “Rainbows Bridging Cultures and Faith”. The Nichigobu Support Group extends sincere condolences to her family in Hawaii and Japan.



## Christmas in July

*By Judith Keith*

Every July Nuuanu Congregational Church takes up a collection for Christmas in July. This money goes to fill grant requests for emergency aid for retired ministers and lay church workers in the United Church of Christ. Typically the requests come from individuals who have retired from small churches with limited means.

However, this year grant requests have skyrocketed due to the Covid pandemic, with requests coming from larger churches as well. The need is acute and urgent. The typical grant request is for two thousand dollars. Ninety five cents of each dollar raised goes directly to those needing help. Please support the Christmas Fund as generously as you are able when we take up the collection on July 25, 2021.

Another offering envelope will be in the July Caller just in case you misplace the one included in this Caller.



## 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, Leslie Lum, Craig Oshiro, Mary Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, Marie Yoneshige, Lurline Matsumoto (sister of Masa Tabe), Rick Au, Stephen Crosier, Fay Matsuura (Friend of Clifford Lum), Barbara Pierce, Nelson Fujinaga.**

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*

*May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans.*

*Psalm 20:4*

Dear God, we are thankful for the progress that has been made as we continue to cope with COVID-19. We rejoice hearing the good news that we will begin worshiping together in person again. We thank you that our council, boards and committees have faithfully continued to carry on the work of the church in the interim. Continue to empower them, and each of us, to align our plans and endeavors with your will. Guide all our decisions as we strive for success in meeting our goals. Bless all fathers and give them patience, strength, humility and love as they nurture their children. Amen

**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**



## Special Gifts

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

### Memorial Offering

*Correction from May 2021 Caller:*

*George Honjiyo IMO Milton Hirohata*

Dorothy Kusumoto IMO Yoko Asada

Helen Pierce IMO Yoko Asada

### Thanks

Ethel Yamaguchi

Patricia Katayama

Mitsuo & Lurline Matsumoto

### Birthday

Helen Pierce

## 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.

Someone has written these beautiful words. It's a must read. Try to understand the deep meaning of it.

1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.

2] So why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large and the Rear View Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, Look ahead and Move on.

3] Friendship is like a BOOK.. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.

4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.

5] Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!

6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

## Recycling

*By Wayne Kobayashi*

### Bring your items by Sunday, June 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.



## 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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**June 2021**

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[nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net).

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### **Lectionary Readings for June**

**June 6 (God's Will):** 1 Sam 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15) and Ps 138 • Gen 3:8-15 and Ps 130 • 2 Cor 4:13-5:1 • **Mk 3:20-35**

**June 13 (Flourishing):** 1 Sam 15:34 - 16:13 and Ps 20 • Ezek 17:22-24 and Ps 92:1-4 , 12-15 • 2 Cor 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17 • **Mk 4:26-34**

**June 20 (Pushing the Boat Out | Father's Day):** 1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 and Ps 9:9-20 or *1 Sam 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16 and Ps 133* • Job 38:1-11 and Ps 107:1-3, 23-32 • 2 Cor 6:1-13 • **Mk 4:35-41**

**June 27 (Healing Powers):** 2 Sam 1:1, 17-27 and Ps 130 • Wisd of Sol 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or Lam 3:22-33; Ps 30 • 2 Cor 8:7-15 • **Mk 5:21-43**