

# NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 64, NO. 8

AUGUST 2021



## Summer Sabbath

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

It has been a long-time coming, but summer travel has finally been deemed safe to do again, so long as one adheres to CDC protocols, and so a lot of people have been on the road. Indeed, at this point in the season, most of us have already heard/shared numerous stories about how family and friends are choosing to spend these long, warm days.

Relatives—children and grandchildren, sisters, brothers—have made the sojourn back to the “old homestead,” or they have opened their homes and put aside other activities to gather for family reunions. Then, of course, there are the weddings... the brides are always beautiful, but I often pity the groom

whose outfit is seldom suited to the heat.

Each season of the year brings its own activities, its rituals and routines, but summer is famous for the breaking of routine for the sake of rest and/or recreation. It’s a time for family, and a vacation adventure in a foreign place...like Disneyland.

Then, there are *staycations*—the vacation that is spent at home. The pandemic did not count as a staycation. However, many people are still finding it more comfortable to spend their summer break in their own backyard.

All of this breaking-from-routine is not only a good thing, believe-it-or-not, it can even be a blessed thing. We call it “vacation,” or “reunion,” or simply “visiting” or “resting,” but what all of these things have in common is a deliberate and concerted effort to step away from what we know and do the rest of the year.

It is recognizing that no matter how rewarding we find our regular lives, vacations are a commitment to giving oneself a time for rest and rejuvenation from the routine stress and obligations “regular life” quite naturally includes.

In fact, if we will let it, a summer break can be a commitment to break the conceit we may have for one routine and *allow God to remake the rhythm of our lives*.

Is it as wonder-filled to you as it is to me, that God thought about this need we would have eons ago and made it a part of the first story we are told about God and humankind? Way back, in the Garden of Eden, after all had been made and pronounced “good,” God stepped back from God’s labors and rested. Much later, as the Hebrew people were led from slavery to freedom, once again, God intervened in their determined trek toward the Promised Land and decreed that even this critical journey was to be put aside one day of the week to rest.

(continued on page 2-Sabbath)

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**

## Stewardship of the Community

by Lori Yamashiro

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Isaiah 58:6-7*

Two of our 2030 goals in our Strategic Plan deals with our community: to use our facilities to serve our community and to partner with others in the community to bring programs to our campus. Did you notice that both goals have people/programs coming to us? The goal is to have our facilities used to help our community but before we get there, we need to go out and talk to our neighbors, the community. And who is our neighbor? Is it the folks literally living on the

other side of our property line? Is it the entire Nuuanu valley? Or is it bigger than that? Good questions worth wrestling with! The prophet Isaiah is calling us out to take care of our community. Did you notice the “us?” That means you and me and the whole NCC. Are there ministry opportunities that you’d like to either learn more about or get involved in? Are there ministry opportunities that you think NCC should look into? The Transition Team is open to ideas and suggestions so we can be better stewards of the community! Please feel free to share your ideas with Susan Iha, Laurie Hamano, Paul Yamamoto or myself. We are called to be good stewards and with your help and God’s guidance, we will be.

## Sabbath

*Continued from Pg. 1*

For many years in our country’s history, we followed this custom. In fact, we put laws in place prohibiting business or commerce on Sunday—blue laws (thanks to the Puritans—our ancestors in the faith). There are, to this day, still some states with blue laws on the books. They are few, but they still exist.

The thing about Sabbath that should be important for Christians, is that God recognized, ordained, and blessed our work—not by giving us *more* work but—by also giving us time to rest and give thanks for the good work God has done through us. God, through example and Scripture, tells us that rest is just as important as labor, and that even those times of rest are filled with God’s presence and blessing; that time away from routine—a break in our daily lives—is yet another opportunity to experience the wonder of God’s love and care of us.

I hope all of us are taking a little time this summer to rest and enjoy family and friends, or just some “down time.” I, too, will be taking some time off in August to *finally* have hip replacement surgery and will be on medical leave from August 27 through September 17. I pray all of us will have the blessing of rest and the rejuvenation it brings.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeannie

## 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.)



## Give Aloha will be Back

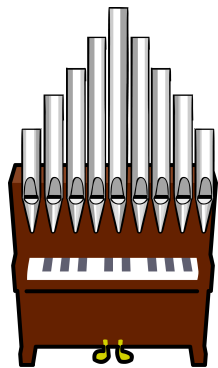
by Mairi Manley

During the month of September 2021, you may make donations through Give Aloha at Foodland, Sac N Save, or Foodland Farms. The cumulative total of up to \$249.00 per person/per transaction is allowed.

Please drop off or mail your receipt to the office by December 31, 2021 so that we may add it to your donation total for the year.

## Learn to Play the Organ!

By Katherine Crosier



The American Guild of Organists-Hawaii Chapter is accepting scholarship applications from August 1 to August 31, 2021 for the scholarship period October 2021 through September 2022. Auditions will be held in September 2021.

Visit [agohawaii.org](http://agohawaii.org) to download an application. For details, e-mail Elizabeth Wong at [ew\\_ago\\_hawaiichapter@yahoo.com](mailto:ew_ago_hawaiichapter@yahoo.com)

## Road Work That Started in May

The road work has moved on down towards Akamu Pl. We have brand new driveways and complete access to the campus, that is until they start to repave the highway itself. No word yet on when that will be!

## Second Quarter Donation Statements

The 2nd Quarter statements are printed and will be ready for pickup at worship service on August 1, 2021. Included in the packet is a letter from Lori Yamashiro and Income Expenses up until June of 2021. Please ask for them either before or after service.

They will be mailed to you if the statement is not picked up by the end of worship service on August 8, 2021. Mahalo!

## Foodbank and Family Promise School Supply Drive

by Judy Keith

Thanks to all who supported the Foodbank and School supplies collections last week. Your generosity was overwhelming. We collected 209 pounds of food and checks totaling \$1,525.00 for the Foodbank and so many school supplies that we were able to donate to both Family Promise and Puuhale Elementary School. The needs in our community are even greater than usual this year and it was wonderful to see the outpouring of donations to the two drives.



## Ohana Ministry

*By Mae Au*

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**

**Sybil Seto, 550-3068**

**Lori Yamashiro, 292-5249**

When you pray, remember the following and their caregivers: **Kimiko Bristow-Canfield, Marcia Grimsley, Carol Hamada, Preston Iha, Howard Ishihara, Leslie Lum, Craig Oshiro, Mary Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, Lurline Matsumoto (sister of Masa Tabe), Rick Au, Stephen Crosier, Fay Matsuura (Friend of Clifford Lum), Barbara Pierce, Nelson Fujinaga, Ethel Yamaguchi.**

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*

*For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand;  
it is I who say to you, Do not fear, I will help you.*

Isaiah 41:13

Dear God, we often have concerns and fears and thank you for your continued presence and help. Our children are returning to school this month after distance learning last school year due to COVID restrictions. Help them and their teachers to adjust to being back in the classroom while following prescribed safety guidelines. We pray for their safety and for successful teaching and learning. As we continue to cope with COVID-19 and the spreading Delta variant we pray for workers who tirelessly care for the stricken. Watch over firefighters who are battling wildfires on the U.S. west coast. Keep them safe and help them to complete their task.

Amen



## Special Gifts

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

### Memorial Offering

Frances Miyamoto IMO Yoko Asada  
Paul Yamamoto IMO Milton Hirohata, Kazuo  
Tomaso, Yoko Asada, Lillian Sakane  
Wayne Kobayashi IMO Alice Ishihara  
Barbara Mau IMO Marie Yoneshige  
Barbara Mau IMO Lawrence Nakama  
Micki Sasaki IMO Marie Yoneshige  
Micki Sasaki IMO Kazuo Tomasa

Ruth Gushiken IMO Marie Yoneshige  
Howard Ishihara IMO Alice Ishihara  
Tazuko Miyashiro IMO Marie Yoneshige  
Helen Pierce IMO Marie Yoneshige  
Frances Miyamoto IMO Julia Nakamura  
Kurt Nakamura IMO Marie Yoneshige  
Joan Kaimikana IMO Marie Yoneshige

## 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.

## Special Gifts

*Continued from Page 4*

### Birthday Offering

Cherie Nakamura

## Recycling

*By Wayne Kobayashi*

### Bring your items on Sunday, Aug. 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.



## Food Drive



Missions Committee has started the Foodbank collections again! The Hawai‘i Food Bank collection will be held on the last Sunday of every month. Our next collection date will be on **August 29, 2021**.

Monetary donations accepted, too. Make checks payable to: Hawai‘i FoodBank. Mahalo.

## Altar Flower Arrangements



In preparation for In-Person Worship Services, we have the Altar Flowers List up in the NCC Office. The chart will be out during worship service on Sundays. If you don’t get a chance on Sunday, it will be in the office.

If you would like to sign up for Altar Flower Arrangements, please call or email me at (808) 595-3935 or [nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net). The following dates are still open:

- September 5, 2021
- October 24, 2021
- November 7, 2021
- November 21, 2021
- December 12, 2021
- December 19, 2021

## 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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**August 2021**

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### **Lectionary Readings for August**

**August 1 (Bread of Life):** 2 Sam 11:26-12:13a and Ps 51:1-12 • Ex 16:2-4 and Ps 78:23-29 • Eph 4:1-16 • **Jn6:24-35**

**August 8 (Shaping Community):** 2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and Ps 130 • I Kings 19:4-8 and Ps34:1-8 • **Eph 4:25-5:2** • Jn 6:35, 41-51

**August 15 (Wisdom Quest):** I Kings **2:10-12; 3:3-14** and Ps 111 • Prov 9:1-6 and Ps 34:9-14 • Eph 5:15-20 • Jn 6:51-58

**August 22 (At Home With God):** I Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and **Ps 84** • Josh 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Ps 34:15-22 • Eph 6:10-20 • John 6:56-69

**August 29 (Be Love):** Song of Sol 2:8-13 and Ps 45:1-2, 6-9 • Deut 4:1-2, 6-9 and Ps 152 • **James 1:17-27** • Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23