

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 64, NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2021



The Best Medicine

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

Most of us remember a regular feature in *Reader's Digest* called, *Laughter is the Best Medicine*. I do not know if the magazine still has this monthly feature. I do not know if the magazine even still exists. However, I do believe in the premise. I believe that laughter is good medicine, and that we should allow ourselves a good healthy dose of it as often as possible.

I was reminded of this as I was reading a devotional sent out a few years ago by the UCC's *Still Speaking Writers' Group*. One of the writers, Rev. John Edgerton of Old South Church in Boston, titled his article, *Sarah Laughed, So Can You*.

Rev. Edgerton recalls how Sarah laughed when she overheard an angel say something that seemed too absurd to even contemplate. The angel said that she, Sarah, was going to conceive and bear a child [Genesis 18:10-12]. Sarah laughed because, as the Bible delicately puts it: she was so old that "it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women." [v.11]

Sarah's laughter was an expression of surprise—after so many years of trying, hoping, and praying—how could this be true, *now*?!

Aside from this very natural response, there is another part of Sarah's laughter that occurs to me which was Sarah and Abraham's years of trying, hoping, and praying only to face month-after-month, and then year-after-year of disappointment.

It is difficult to think of the decades that had come and gone in their life together without the happy sounds of children in their tent. The silence of their meals together must have been a constant source of sorrow—the same start and end of every day, all devoid of the children they had so wanted.

For Sarah, it would also have been embarrassing and a source of shame as people often thought such things to be God's judgement on the woman.

Despite this sadness, the Bible does not even suggest there was anything other than love and respect between Sarah and Abraham. In the midst of the daily routine of living, they had built a life together. One assumes that, over the course of their years together, they had found a way to put aside their sorrow and disappointment and go on with life.

Suddenly, a door that had been closed for so long was again flung open. However, at this point in her life, *in old age*(!), how else could Sarah possibly respond *except* with surprised laughter at such an absurdity. In that moment, there was no room for belief *or disbelief*, only surprise and amazement.
(continued on page 2-Medicine)

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



Give Aloha will be Back

by Mairi Manley

The cumulative total of up to \$249.00 per person/per organization is allowed. During the month of September 2021, you may make donations through Give Aloha at Foodland, Sac N Save, or Foodland Farms. The organization code for Nu‘uanu Congregational Church is 78424.

Please drop off or mail your receipt, with your name at the top of the receipt, to the office as soon as you can. The absolute deadline to turn in your receipt is by December 31, 2021 so that we may add it to your donation total for the year.

Medicine

con't from pg. 1

And so, Sarah laughed, astonished yet not distrusting of God's announcement concerning her.

Rev. Edgerton saw in this story a way to talk about how we people of faith are still being called out to a life and a ministry that is just as surprising—and in some ways, absurd—as the announcement that Sarah received. We, too, are being called out into a future with God, to a ministry that can and will change the world for good. Us—Nu‘uanu Congregational Church—God is calling us into ministry and mission.

Rev. Edgerton imagines that most of us will wonder at God's choice to use us, and advises us to do what Sarah did. Go ahead and laugh, he says, "It makes room inside us for God to work miracles."

I agree: laugh. Laugh because it brings fresh air into the lungs and then releases it back to warm the world. Laugh because there is always time enough for sorrow. Laugh because laughter can clear away the cobwebs, refresh the mind, and help make us to ready to begin a new adventure. Laugh because it is, indeed, good medicine.

As you know, I will be taking some time off for hip replacement surgery. I look forward to returning on September 19. I look forward to many years with all of you, years filled with ministry and laughter together.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeannie

Thank You!

From Kairos Kobayashi

Thank you so much for picking me as a recipient of the Nu‘uanu Congregational Church Scholarship! My family and I are deeply blessed to receive this, during this difficult time of Covid-19. We are truly grateful! Blessings and wishes to you all!

Sincerely, Kairos

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.)

In-Person Services

by Mairi Manley

The medical team and Diaconate met in August. Due to the concern of the active Covid cases, hospitalizations, hospitals at or near maximum capacity, they have decided to cancel In-Person Services for the last 3 weeks of August. They will meet again on September 1 to decide what to do in September.

We have posted our online services in our website at nuuanu.org. Look for the “click here” link on the home page to view the services.

If you haven’t heard by now, my dad, Neal MacPherson, will be doing the online services while Pastor Jeannie is getting her surgery! Let’s hope and pray for a speedy recovery for Pastor Jeannie!

Please call me in the office if you have any questions. If I don’t have an answer, I will get one for you. Thank you for your understanding on this situation.



Church World Service and the earthquake in Hatti

CWS is conducting damage assessments with partners. This process will likely take several days, given communications limitations and the magnitude of the quake. Our team will also conduct an assessment of the houses and schools that have been constructed through CWS programs in recent years to determine whether there are new needs among those program participants.

We anticipate that our response will focus on recovery and rehabilitation. We know that will include housing reconstruction, trauma recovery support and water infrastructure repairs in the municipality of Pestel, a community that our team worked with to recover following Hurricane Matthew.

Please consider helping with the recovery by making a donation right now in support of CWS's response.

Church World Service assisting Afghan refugees

Church World Service have been assisting individuals who served alongside the U.S. mission in Afghanistan and urges the Biden administration and Congress to prioritize the evacuation of all of the more than 18,000. The organization, along with other U.S. partner agencies, will provide services for arrivals through case management and resettlement services.

“These men and women put themselves at risk to support the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. They were interpreters, they were cooks, they were office workers. They took on a great number of roles to keep Americans safe and defend their nation. With the withdrawal of U.S. forces, however, they are increasingly vulnerable for that service,” said Erol Kekic, Senior Vice President for the Immigration and Refugee Program at Church World Service. “That’s why we are involved from the moment they set foot on American soil, so they can focus on family and the future, not the fear they’ve been living in for far too long.”

Church World Service welcomes refugees across 17 states through 23 offices. They provide services to newly arrived refugees and immigrants, helping them to integrate into local communities, find jobs and learn the necessary skills to support their new lives in the United States.

Please mail your check, payable to:

Church World Service

P.O. Box 968

Elkhart, IN 46515

Church World Service, Inc., is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.



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

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, 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

I lift up my eyes to the hills---from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

Dear God, thank you for your sustaining love and help. We are thankful for the few Sundays that we were able to worship in-person in our sanctuary. However, the COVID pandemic continues to dictate our decisions and actions. We need your help. Positive cases are greatly rising in Hawai‘i and the nation and our hospitals and their staff are overburdened. Continue to help and watch over the medical workers who are caring for the stricken. We pray for increased vaccinations. Protect the children, teachers and staff in schools. Guide our health and government decision makers. Amen



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial Offering

Lori Takeyama-Goshi IMO Marie Yoneshige

Kimie Fujioka IMO Marie Yoneshige

Jeanne Liu IMO Marie Yoneshige

Amy Muroshige IMO Marie Yoneshige

Paula Yamamoto IMO Marie Yoneshige, Mary

Oshiro

Birthday Offering

Howard Ishihara

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.

Food Drive

By Judy Keith



On September 5 we will do our monthly collection for the Hawaii Foodbank, whether our worship is in person or virtual. If things are not safe enough for us to worship in person, we will be offering drive through communion, so please bring your donations to church. In the first year of the pandemic, the Hawaii Foodbank had to purchase more than 12.5 million dollars worth of emergency food. Their regular annual budget is \$400,000. So the need is great. Last month we collected 209 pounds of food and 1,525 dollars.

Monetary donations are always welcome. We will no longer accept checks made payable to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church for the Hawai‘i Foodbank. **Please make checks payable to: Hawaii Foodbank.**

Altar Flower Arrangements

by Mairi Manley



I would like to thank whom I called for the month of August and being able to Flexible with being able canceling their Altar Flower donations at the drop of a dime! I will be letting you know what dates we still need Altar Flower donations when we start In-Person Services again.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on Sunday, Sep. 26

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'uano Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU HI
PERMIT NO. 354

Address Service Requested

September 2021

To discontinue receiving the
Nu'uano Caller, please call the
church office at 595-3935 or email:
nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Lectionary Readings for September

September 5 (Be Opened): Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Ps 125 • Isa 35:4-7a and Ps 146 • James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 • **Mk 7:24-37**

September 12 (Who are you, Jesus?): Prov 1:20-33 and Ps 19 • Isa 50:4-9a and Ps 116:1-9 or *Wisd of Sol* 7:26 - 8:1 • James 3:1-12 • **Mk 8:27-38**

September 19 (First in Caring): Prov 31:10-31 and Ps 1 • *Wisd of Sol* 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or *Jer* 11:18-20 and Ps 54 • James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a • **Mk 9:30-37**

September 26 (Courage for Community): Ester 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 and Ps 124 • Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Ps 19:7-14 • James 5:13-20 • Mk 9:38-50