

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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MARCH 2022



Lent: a journey, a secret room

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

Everywhere you go, there is a secret room. To discover it, you must knock on walls, as the detective does in mystery houses, and listen for the echo that portends the secret passage. You must pull books off shelves to see if the library shelf swings open to reveal the hidden room.

I'll say it again: Everywhere has a secret room. You must find your own, in a small chapel, a tiny café, a quiet park, the home of a new friend, the pew where the morning light strikes the rose window just so.

The Art of Pilgrimage, by Phil Cousineau

In his book *The Art of Pilgrimage*, Phil Cousineau writes that in every sacred journey, there is a hidden space we must find, a place along the path where we will begin to understand the deep mystery of our pilgrimage. While I am drawn to the poetry of such an idea I must admit that this also feels like a complication: the pilgrimage that is Lent is a journey toward a deeper understanding of Christ's resurrection, a deeper relationship with Christ. That seems like enough of a challenge without adding-on a treasure hunt.

Yet Cousineau's point is well taken: the push-and-pull of modern life is not terribly helpful to the heart and spirit in search of a deeper, stronger relationship with Christ. For such an endeavor you need to be able to hear yourself think. We need to be able to hear the Spirit's voice stirring in among our daily internal dialogue of lists, griefs, frustrations, and even joys. Thus, a "secret" place, a space removed from the daily routine of life does begin to sound like a real treasure.

For most of us, it helps if we slow down and step out of our routine, allow ourselves deep breaths that cleanse and release all that has been confined—the questions, doubts, cares, and even our own hopes. Lent is that time of the year wherein we invite the Spirit to speak more clearly than ever before. It is the time of year when we promise—ourselves and God—that we will listen more carefully, more thoughtfully, and especially more courageously.

What also occurs to me is that Cousineau's advice—to find this "secret room" in the midst of our everyday lives—is also the project of the Lenten book we will be reading together.

Lent In Plain Sight also encourages/challenges us to find the holy in the midst of the everyday objects of life: dust, bread, shoes, towels, etc. It is "a devotion through ten objects."

(cont'd on page 4 - Lent)

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*.

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Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

1st Sunday of the month:

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Happy 337th Birthday, J. S. Bach!

*Monday, March 21, 7:00 pm
Lutheran Church of Honolulu
1730 Punahou Street*

On the occasion of Bach's 337th birthday, organists **Katherine Crosier** and **Jieun Kim Newland** will present an all-Bach program, featuring solo organ pieces, organ with instruments, and organ duets featuring the two Beckerath pipe organs at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. Guest instrumentalists include Darel Stark on violin, Alex Hayashi on oboe, Roger Koopman on trumpet, and the University of Hawaii Chamber Choir, Jace Saplan, director. Featured will be the Concerto for Violin in D minor; Brandenburg Concerto No. 3; the rarely-performed Prelude, Trio and Fugue; and the opening chorus of Cantata 172 in an arrangement for two organs.

The concert is the concluding event in a weeklong festival of organ music, "Celebrating the Pipe Organ in Hawaii," presented by the American Guild of Organists, Hawaii Chapter. More information about the week's events may be obtained at agohawaii.org.

Suggested donation, \$25; donations in any amount are welcome. The American Guild of Organists is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization.



February 20, 2022

From the Moderators Desk

News from the YMCA and NCC Council:

NCC planned to start the YMCA KUPUNA program funded with a City Grant in early February. Several things happened. 1) The COVID-19 numbers grew exponentially and again 2) In-Person Worship services were postponed. The Ad-Hoc Medical Team were concerned about these numbers and about NCC members' participation.

Therefore, by informing the YMCA program of our misgivings they found another site for February at Windward YMCA. We are sorry for this change but the Council felt that this would be the best for now. We will continue our discussions with the YMCA to begin the Kupuna Program in the Fall of this year.

However, this has not stopped the discussion and planning for the YMCA Spring Intersession to happen March 14 to 18, 2022. More on this as we receive the information from the YMCA advisors. We will proceed with this program if the YMCA reports that there are sufficient students to run the program.

Keep your eyes open for the latest happenings coming your way!!

Aloha, Laurie Hamano, NCC Moderator

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.)



Our gifts will be received on March 27

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

This year's theme for One Great Hour of Sharing, "Love Remains", will be taken on March 27. OGHS is at work throughout the year, all around the world sharing resources and changing lives. The United Church of Christ works with domestic and international partners to provide support to health, education, refugees, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives.

Examples of relief last year includes: Fair Housing Alliance in Florida to build affordable rentals for farm workers and other low income workers. In Massachusetts, assisted asylum seekers with housing and other basic needs. They were there to help Haitians with earthquake recovery. They assisted in obtaining water filters for residents in Benton Harbor, Michigan. In Colorado, through "firearms recycling center" they bought back guns to advance gun safety. These are a few examples of OGHS at work.

A shocking 41 million people, about half of them children, are now at the risk of starvation in approximately 43 countries. The world hunger crisis is being driven by conflict, climate change and Covid 19.

We continue to change lives through out the world to fight injustice, oppression, starvation and bring peace.

HCUCC Participates in Relief for Tonga Campaign

from 2/16/22 UCC Coconut Wireless

Danny Tengan, HCUCC's Disaster Ministries Coordinator, informs us that the Conference will be participating in the Relief for Tonga campaign. Many families in Tonga have lost all or many of their personal belongings. A 40' container will be loaded on Saturday, March 12 for transport to Tonga.

They will be collecting donated items such as clothing, personal hygiene items, face masks, towels, sheets, tarps, tents, kitchen items and small power tools. Donations can be dropped off at Wesley United Methodist Church (1350 Hunakai Street, Kahala, O'ahu), the last of three Saturdays is on March 5, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Churches can consolidate their donations at their church and have them delivered at one time if they prefer.

Volunteers are also needed:

- To help sort in the afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on each of the drop-off dates.
- To load the container on March 11 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and on March 12 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., and from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. HCUCC Disaster Ministries will provide a forklift to assist with loading the container.

Please contact Danny Tengan at dstengan@gmail.com for any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

In-Person Services

We will be starting In-Person Services on Sunday, March 6, 2022. There will be singing in service as well, with an area in the sanctuary if you don't feel comfortable singing.

Please join us in Communion Sunday (elements will continue to be prepackaged) and bring your donations for Hawaii Foodbank.

Alter Flower Sign up

by Mairi Manley

The sign up chart will be up on March 6 As well. As of right now, the spaces available for march are as follows:

- March 6
- March 20
- March 27

Please call, (808)595-3935, or email me, nccadmin@hawaiiintel.net, so we can get your name on the list.

Lent

Continued from pg. 1

Most of all, we are invited to make a space in the busy-ness of life in order to experience God’s sacred presence, to dwell with the Spirit, and to lay bare all that we are, and all we are carrying. In so doing, we invite Christ to do what he longs to do for each and every one of us: he wants to share our burdens, our suffering. He also wants to share our joy. In truth, Christ wants to be a constant partner and presence in our lives. He wants to go with us into every trial and every joy. He wants us to know that we are not alone—we are never alone.

Lent is a time of year when we very intentionally consider what that means. With Christ and the Holy Spirit’s help, we are invited to consider the obstacles to such a life and receive God’s help to remove them.

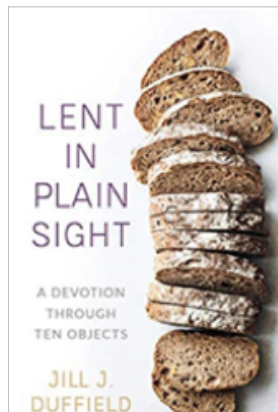
Perhaps Cousineau is on to something after all. A “secret room: might be just the thing to accomplish this—a place of quiet, but also a place of privacy wherein we may be completely open and vulnerable with God.

However you enter and travel through the journey that is Lent, I pray that you will know the release and lightness that is life with God. I pray you will experience the deep joy and love that God offers you as we travel with Christ through his Lenten journey even through his time of trial, and especially to the joy and triumph of his resurrection.

Grace and Peace,
Jeannie

Lent 2022 Devotional

by Rev. Jeannie Thompson



God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. Very often, it is through the mundane that we hear God’s quiet voice.

In this devotion for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers’ attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus’ final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, *Lent in Plain Sight* reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

Please call the church office if you would like to order a copy of the book—\$12.50. Starting Thursday, March 3, the Lenten Study will be: Thursday, 6-7 pm via Zoom, **Meeting ID: 823 8355 4195**; Friday, 9 – 10 am, on the patio in front of Pastor’s office.

From Hui Malama



The last and tallest of the 4 Norfolk pine trees was cut down on February 19, 2022. This took a bit of risk, calculation, and skill. The lumberjack made a perfect cut and the tree crashed and fell between the sanctuary roof and fence/power line.

Stan Chong also helped with this. The other smaller trees were cut 2 weeks ago.

Anyone needing exercise are welcomed to help dump the branches and stumps to the nearby edge, above the stream. The fallen trees have been cut into pieces. Please let Wayne Kobayashi or Russell Ishida know if you can help with this!

UCC Officers Share Prayer for Ukraine

by [UCC Leadership](#) | published on Feb 24, 2022

“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” Proverbs 6:16-19

As the attention of the world turns to the ignored cries for peace from the people of Ukraine, we the officers of the United Church of Christ join our prayers with those of churches and people of faith all over the globe that the attack against Ukraine will cease. As a Just Peace Church, the United Church of Christ calls for the de-escalation of violence and a return to diplomatic negotiations, the only true way conflict ever ceases. We urge our members to pray throughout the day for peace and protection against the evils of war for the people whose lives and wellbeing are in danger, and to make this Sunday a day of collective prayer and fasting for a peace that only God can bring.

Holy God,

Hear our prayers for all those who will die today because of war in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. Grant them an end to the suffering of this world and eternal peace that is only found in You.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed can be avoided and a new, just peace

can be forged out of this crisis. We ask God grant wisdom to the leaders of nations, calling them to end provocation on all sides and invest instead in “the things that make for peace” as called for in all our faith traditions (Luke 19:41-2).

We pray for an end to the deep insecurity and mistrust on all sides, and call on leaders to build trust, based not on military might or alliances, but on the basis of our shared future and common humanity. Now is a time in which past harm should be acknowledged and addressed, and new partnerships can be envisioned.

We pray for and call on our leaders to have the courage to take small, verifiable, and independent steps toward peace, inviting others to reciprocate. Now is time to invest in conflict resolution, diplomacy and international cooperation — not more weapons which only escalate tension in the region.

Be with those suffering in ways that we cannot.

Protect them from devastation in ways those positioned in authority will not. Shield and comfort them as they confront the terror of violence that surrounds them. Hold them close to your heart and stay the hand of the enemies against them. Give us the courage and the strength to cry aloud against wickedness in high places that dare to harm others made in your image.

Comfort the children and heed their cries to be saved from harm in this world.

Make us a people who love our children, all of our children, more than we love greed, power, and control. Overturn governments of tyranny wherever they are found. Disrupt the intentions of evil and give us power to stand against demonic forces of greed and control. Grant that peace and justice come to warring nations by the hands of those courageous enough to stand and study war no more. Let Thy kin-dom come on earth as it is in heaven, we pray.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.



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

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Psalm 62:8

Dear God, thank you for your everlasting love and guidance. Enable us to trust in you and seek your help in all situations that we encounter. We are grateful that we can turn to you for strength and protection, as you are our refuge. We are thankful that the positive COVID-19 cases are decreasing in Hawai‘i and that the lifting of some restrictions are being considered. Help us to follow recommended practices to keep us safe and stop the spread of COVID-19. We look forward to in-person worship services again. Guide our national and world leaders as they continue to work together for peace.

Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial Offering

David Maeshiro IMO Eileen Maeshiro

Birthday Offering

Kimie Fujioka
Barbara Mau

Thanks Offering

Fran Miyamoto, Thanks for Pastor Jeannie’s Prayers
Lois Tao
Clifford Lum

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.



Hawaii Foodbank

The collection date is the first
Sunday every month!

The Hui Malama Team Still Hard at Work

Your Hui Malama Grounds & Maintenance Team is still hard at work caring for the church yard and its facilities. We’ve been planting, transplanting, watering, and weeding, almost daily, as much as our ailing bodies can do.

Thanks to Stan Chong for his donation of quartzite pieces. These were used in areas where no vegetation was willing to grow. The bell in front of the church is now surrounded with quartzite and mondo grass. We transplanted the regular mondo that was growing among the dwarf mondo, and put the bigger sized mondo adjacent to the bell. Mondo amidst quartzite: an attractive sight! The best thing is that the raw dirt is covered so that when the wind blows, there will be less dirt flying around especially on our faces! And, when it rains, hopefully, there will be less mud since the dirt will be covered with vegetation.

Unfortunately, the tree on the Pali Hwy side of the front of the church died. Its' death was confirmed by two Scout fathers. The plant was dug up, with great effort, and was replaced by a red leaf tree. This tree, and the other ones similar to it, are from the house of the late Masayoshi Matsuoka. His family has had a number of members who have gotten married at Nu‘uanu Congregational Church. The late Masayoshi Matsuoka lived by Old Pali Road for many decades. Those who knew him well said he was a “great guy.”

Your Hui Malama team continues to work for the benefit of the Church and its members in efforts to glorify God, and create a Garden of Eden-like atmosphere around the sanctuary such that people will find our church to be a place of refuge and peace. We are thankful to all church members that have supported the Hui Malama team by donating your cans for us to recycle, and use for church improvements. Thanks also for the kind church members who provided lunch and snacks to the Hui Malama team throughout the years.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on
Sunday, Feb. 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





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Lectionary Readings for March

March 6 (Wilderness Companions): Deut 26:1-11 • Ps 91:1-2, 9-16 • Rom 10:8b-13 •
Luke 4:1-13

March 13 (Strong & Tender): Gen 15:1-12, 17-18 • Ps 27 • Phil 3:17-4:1 • **Luke 13:31-35** or
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 20 (Open Invitation): Isa 55:1-9 • Ps 63:1-8 • 1 Cor 10:1-13 • Luke 13:1-9

March 27 (Embracing Love): Josh 5:9-12 • Ps 32 • 2 Cor 5:16-21 • **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**