

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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JULY 2022



What Heartache May Teach

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

By now, we are all aware of the tragedy that unfolded in Uvalde, and Buffalo, and...the list grows longer every week. By now, this statistic is beginning to be written on our

hearts: *our country has been averaging more than one mass shooting per day, and in the first five months of 2022, more than 400 children and nearly 2,000 teenagers were injured by firearms.*

We are no longer shocked—too many of these incidents have happened for us to be taken by surprise. Instead, we feel sharp pains of recognition because even though this may not have happened in our community, we no longer allow ourselves the luxury of thinking that it can not or will not. And this brings with it feelings of insecurity and fear for ourselves, and for our loved ones.

I believe fear is another way of registering feelings of helplessness. We do not know when the violent monster is going to appear next and so we do not believe there is a way to confront it and work to eliminate it. This is a recipe for insecurity and a loss of confidence.

Some people will purchase guns and adopt the mindset of “fighting fire with fire.” While I understand the point of view, I do not believe this helps bring an end to our dilemma. Rather, it only seems to escalate the hostilities. It makes us all vulnerable and more suspicious of each other. It labels every stranger a danger instead of an individual, and this is contrary to what we say we believe about Christ and his teaching.

(cont'd on page 2 - Teach)

A Prayer to End Gun Violence: a meditation

Christ, you wept over a city. We are in deepest despair. As we weep over the dead and injured killed by guns, in anguish, we recognize the blood stains of hatred. We hear the sounds of fear, the echoes of gunshots — once again, once again.

Christ, you came to bring us peace. We turn to you in overwhelming sorrow. How can we end this nightmare of violence? How can we build a world of inclusion, of solidarity? Give us the grace to reflect deeply and to work ceaselessly to heal the hearts; to stop the killing; to cherish all God's children.

Christ, you endured violent suffering to bring us light. We pray for the dead, may they rest in peace. We pray for the wounded, may they find healing. We also pray for the shooters, may they come to understand the full weight of their sin and repent. We pray for all of us, may we find a way to heal.

*We pray for our nation, may we end the hate. We pray for our global family, may we learn we are one.
Amen.*

from The Social Justice Resource Center
<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/gun-violence/>

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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Teach

cont'd from page 1

Inevitably, someone will quote the Bible's "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" [Leviticus 24:19-20], as justification for such a response while neglecting to acknowledge that the Biblical injunction is meant to limit our response to violence, not endorse continued violence.

So, what do we do? What can we do? At the 200th 'Aha Pae'aina which ended on June 16, 2022, the delegates adopted a resolution called, a "resolution of witness" on the subject of gun violence. It was brought forward by Central Union church, and it asks each of the UCC churches in the Hawai'i Conference to find a way to have church-wide discussions about the tragedies involving gun violence that continue to plague our country, our communities, our neighbors.

We have been asked to engage in deep conversations about the way so many of our families and neighborhoods are being torn apart. We are to have sacred conversations about these things, which is to say: we are to bring all of the love and power of God's love into the conversations we have about healing and wholeness in our communities.

The resolution asks "each church ... to pursue a course of action that best fits its skills, capabilities, and understanding." This asks each of our churches to participate in a way that reflects our own hopes, desires, and goals.

I would like for us to begin our own journey into this subject by asking that you keep this in prayer throughout July. There will be a prayer in this newsletter for you to meditate on and pray, or you may write or compose one of your own. Please make some time in the day, every day, to reflect and pray on this. In August, we will talk about how and when we can come together to share what God has given us through prayer, and decide how best to share this with others.

Friends, heartbreak need not be a threshold to despair. My prayer for us is that it

will begin a new conversation that can bring hope and life to ourselves, and others. Let us begin, now.

Grace and Peace,
Jeannie

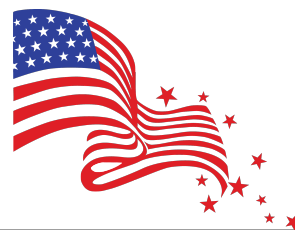
Christmas in July (aka The Christmas Fund)

By Judith Keith

Every July, Nuuanu Congregational Church celebrates Christmas in July by taking an offering for the Christmas Fund. Our gifts 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. 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. We will be receiving the collection on July 24, 2022. The offering envelope is included in the July Caller.

Happy 4th of July



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.)

Pastor Jeannie’s Installation July 17 at 4:00 p.m.

By Paula Yamamoto, Installation Committee Chair

Red is the liturgical color for celebrations, and July 17 is definitely a time of celebration as we officially install Pastor Jeannie as our Pastor and Teacher. The congregation is invited to wear red at that service. Our congregation is invited to attend in-person; all others are invited to view the service via Zoom. RSVP sign-ups are Sundays on the Fellowship lanai or call the church office at (808) 595-3935 by July 8. Cost for the bento style meal is \$20 (includes a very nice bento from Fukuya, drink, and dessert). A vegetarian option is also available. If paying with a check, write it to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with Installation Bento on the memo line.

Hawai’i Foodbank Donations

In August, we will start accepting donations for the Hawaii Foodbank on the last Sunday of the month.

However, our collection for July will be on Communion Sunday, July 3rd.

Altar Flowers



We have the altar Flower sign up chart up when we worship on Sunday’s If you can’t come to service and would like to sign up, please call or email Mairi in the church office. The phone number is (808) 595-3935 and email is nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

The available date in July is:

- July 31, 2022

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to do simple office things during the week of July 18 - 22, 2022. Mairi will be going on vacation to Kauai for the week, with no internet access.

If you would like to help, please call or email Mairi to sign up. The email address is nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net and office phone number is (808) 595-3935.

Available dates:

- Monday, July 18, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 20, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Week of July 3

Hanapepe UCC (Kauai)
Pookela Church (Maui)
Kaumakapili Church (Oahu)

Week of July 10

Hau‘ula Congregational Church (Oahu)
Pohakupuka Congregational Church (Hawai‘i Island)

Week of July 17

Hauoli Kamana‘o Church (Hawai‘i Island)
Pearl City Community Church (O‘ahu)
Kaulanapueo Congregational Church (Maui)

Week of July 24

Hawai‘I Kai UCC (O‘ahu)
Palapala Ho‘omau Congregational Church (Maui)

Week of July 31

Central Christian Church (Hawai‘I Island)
Paia Hawaiian Protestant Church (Maui)
Kaua‘i Marshallese Ministry (Kaua‘i)



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, Ethel Yamaguchi.

Reminder: Names are added or deleted in the Prayer Corner by individuals, family members or friends. Please inform the Ohana Ministry coordinators if you want your name included or deleted in the Prayer Corner.

Prayer Corner

By Mary Ann Saito

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Romans 12:2, 9-12

Dear God,

we are finally able to install the Rev. Jeannie Thompson as our pastor. Thank you for guiding NCC during the years of COVID-19 restrictions.

We ask for your continued blessings as we continue to discern your will and become a more missional church. We pray for our shut-ins and those listed on the prayer list. Watch over them and embrace them with your healing love. As our nation celebrates July 4th we pray for our national leaders. Endow them with integrity, wisdom and cooperation and enable them to make sound decisions that affect us all. Amen



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Thanks Offering

Howard Mau

Birthday Offering

Helen Pierce
Dorothy Kusumoto

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 for
July is July 3.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on
Sunday, July 31

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.



Six Tiny Stories with Great Message

1. Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.
That's FAITH
2. When you throw your baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. *That's TRUST*
3. Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake us up.
That's HOPE
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. *That's CONFIDENCE*
5. We see the world suffering, but we still get married and have children. *That's LOVE*
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am 90 years old... I am sweet 16 with 74 years experience.' *That's ATTITUDE*

Much Appreciation for Mondo Grass Donation!

Big thanks to Velma Akinaka for her unselfish donation of dwarf mondo for the beautification of our church campus. Velma, Joyce Ueyehara, Micki Sasaki, and Claire Loo Nakatsuka spent the morning digging out weeds, replanting, and transplanting mondo grass that Velma gave from her yard at home. Dwarf mondo is costly and hard to come by. We appreciate Velma's kind heart in sharing her precious mondo grass with us. With some work, the front of the church and the mondo patches will one day be in better shape.

Thanks to all the people who have at one time or another through the decades worked on the yard at NCC such that it is as beautiful as it is.

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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2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

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July 2022

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church office at 595-3935 or email:
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Lectionary Readings for July

July 3 (Surprising Prophets): 2 Kings 5:1-14 and Ps 30 • Isa 66:10-14 and Ps 66:1-9 • Gal 6:(1-6), 7-16 • Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10 (Caring Neighbors): Amos 7:7-17 and Ps 82 • Deut 30:9-14 and Ps 25:1-10 • Col 1:1-14 • Luke 10:25-37

July 17 (Work and Work): Amos 8:1-12 and Ps 52 • Gen 18:1-10a and Ps 15 • Col 1:15-28 • Luke 10:38-42

July 24 (Shaped by Prayer): Hos 1:2-10 and Ps 85 • Gen 18:20-32 and Ps 138 • Col 2:6-15, (16-19) • Luke 11:1-13

July 31 (Soul Investment): Hos 11:1-11 and Ps 107:1-9, 43 • Eccl 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 and Ps 49:1-12 • Col 3:1-11 • Luke 12:13-21