

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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FEBRUARY 2023



Lent: just as we are...or could be

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

On Wednesday, February 22, many of us will observe Ash Wednesday by making our way to our Sanctuary—in the middle of the week. There, in hushed tones appropriate to thoughtfulness—ie. being filled with thought—we will listen to Scripture, pray, and we will come forward.

Instead of bread and wine, the Communion table will hold a bottle of olive oil and ashes made from the burnt palm branches we held and waved in worship on Palm Sunday last year. The oil and ashes will be mixed into a thick, black paste.

In front of the others who have joined to remember and worship, each of us will have our foreheads smudged with the sign of the cross. As it is being painted onto our heads, we will be reminded that: “From dust you came, and to dust you shall return.”

With these words the season of Lent has begun and will last for the next forty days (excluding Sundays).

Most of us remember and think of Lent as being that time in the church when we are supposed to “give up” something—usually something we like and enjoy, something that makes life more pleasant, like chocolate. For many years, we were invited to do this to show our devotion to God’s ways. It was a daily and highly physical ways of expressing regret and remorse.

While such practices can be a powerful, tactile reminder of our faults and failings, this tends to render Lent into a time of self-deprivation and punishment. It makes it a time of our, and God’s judgement on us and I really do not think that is helpful. What I mean is: this does not seem at all creative and life-giving.

Rather than punishment, Lent is supposed to be a time for reflection. We reflect on who we are...and who we could be. This means that Lent can and should be a time of creativity. It can and should be a time when we invite God’s Spirit to come into our thoughts and prayers and rouse us to new ideas about who we are, and who God believes we can be. Rather than lamenting what is, Lent is a time to dream and to pray about what could be.

While a great deal of our Lenten reflection may be personal there is also a very important communal aspect to Lent.

At the beginning of this article, I wrote that Lent last forty days starting on February 22 excluding Sundays. This is because on Sunday, when we are in church together, each of those days are supposed to be like “Little Easters.” Each Sunday in Lent is a day when we come together to worship and also to rejoice in the new life God is bringing into our lives. It is the day to pray with the rest of the church family, and to discover together who we are as a church, and who we can be with God’s continued guidance and love.

(cont’d on page 2 - 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).
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Lent

Cont'd from pg. 1

The services of Ash Wednesday will be on February 22.

- **The first service will be here in our Sanctuary at noon.**
- **The second service will be held at 5:30PM United Church of Christ at 467 Judd Street**

I hope to see many of you as we welcome the beginning of the season of Lent and all of the creativity and possibility it can bring.

Grace and Peace,
Jeannie

Kadomatsu

by Judy Keith

Kadomatsu translates literally as “gate pine” and consist of three pieces of bamboo, cut on the diagonal in three lengths, bound together with rope, and adorned with pine and plum blossoms. It is placed at the doorway of homes and businesses to bring good luck and blessings for the new year. The pine is a symbol of courage, endurance, and longevity. The three lengths of bamboo represent heaven, humanity, and earth. The bamboo represents eternal youth, strength, and flexibility. The plum blossoms symbolize strength and resilience.

Scout Troop 201 has been making kadomatsu since 1992. The proceeds are used to fund the operations of the troop and is their only fund raiser for the year. Because of the impact of the pandemic over the past two years, for the first time the scouts had to ask the families to pay membership dues. This year, one hundred volunteers made 1400 kadomatsu, raising about \$1500 for the troop. As in past years, the scouts have very graciously given the church kadomatsu for our shut ins.

Happy Valentines Day

Services for Ash Wednesday



February 22 – Noon at NCC
and 5:30 PM at United Church
of Christ Judd Street

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 22, and we will have two opportunities to worship and observe

the day.

The first service will begin at 12-noon in our church Sanctuary. We will have a brief time of worship followed by the Imposition of Ashes.

The second service will be held at our sister church, United Church of Christ, located at 467 Judd Street. The service will be held in the Sanctuary. Worship begins at 5:30 PM also followed by Imposition of Ashes.

2023 Altar Flower Donations



The chart for the 2023

Altar Flower Donations is ready to fill up! Please fill out the date that you want, either in person at service, by email at

nuuanucongregational@gmail.com,

or by calling the office at (808) 595-3935.

Here are the dates needed for March:

- March 19
- March 26

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.)

Feb 2023 (Hawaii-Aleutian Standard Time)

Nuuanu Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>29</div> 9am - Church School via 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - NCC Annual 12pm - Epenesa Fou 2pm - Freeplay Mens	<div>30</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>31</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>1</div> NCC News Deadline 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 9am - Hui Malama 4:30pm - Jammers 6pm - Lectionary Study @	<div>2</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>3</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 6pm - Scouts Troop 201	<div>4</div> 8:30am - Board of 9am - Diaconate Board @
<div>5</div> 9am - Church School via 9am - Worship Service 12pm - Epenesa Fou 2pm - Freeplay Mens	<div>6</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>7</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers 7pm - Board of Christian	<div>8</div> NCC News Deadline 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers 6pm - Lectionary Study @	<div>9</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>10</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 6pm - Scouts Troop 201	<div>11</div>
<div>12</div> 9am - Church School via 9am - Worship Service 12pm - Epenesa Fou 2pm - Freeplay Mens	<div>13</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>14</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>15</div> NCC News Deadline 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers 6pm - Lectionary Study @	<div>16</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>17</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 6pm - Scouts Troop 201	<div>18</div>
<div>19</div> 9am - Church School via 9am - Worship Service 12pm - Epenesa Fou 2pm - Freeplay Mens	<div>20</div> Caller Deadline Office Closed - 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>21</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers 6pm - Church Council @	<div>22</div> NCC News Deadline 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers 6pm - Lectionary Study @	<div>23</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>24</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu	<div>25</div>
<div>26</div> 9am - Church School via 9am - Worship Service 12pm - Epenesa Fou 2pm - Freeplay Mens	<div>27</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>28</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>1</div> NCC News Deadline 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 9am - Hui Malama 4:30pm - Jammers 6pm - Lectionary Study @	<div>2</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 4:30pm - Jammers	<div>3</div> 7:30am - YMCA Nuuanu 6pm - Scouts Troop 201	<div>4</div> 8:30am - Board of 9am - Diaconate Board @



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 Taba), Rick Au, Stephen Crosier, Fay Matsuura (Friend of Clifford Lum), Barbara Pierce, Ray Miyamoto, Cindy Taketa.

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

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Dear God, it is reassuring to know that you are with us wherever we go. Thank you for your constant presence and love. Nelson Fujinaga, our custodian for twenty five years, retired at the end of January. We thank you for his faithful and diligent service and pray that you will bless him with good health and a happy and enjoyable retirement. We elected our 2023 officers at our recent annual meeting and are grateful for the commitment of those willing to serve. As the governing bodies of our church, state and nation embark on a new year of governance we pray that you will help them to make wise decisions. Help us, as members of NCC and citizens of our state and nation, to do our part in moving forward. Enable us to live with love and kindness toward others.

Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial

Dorothy Kusumoto IMO Henry Abebara,
Stanley Iida

Thanks Offering

Paula Yamamoto
Lurline Matsumoto

Birthday Offering

Carol Chung

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
February 26, 2023.
There was 67 lbs collected in
December of 2022

Prayer of Accountability for People of Faith Following a Mass Shooting

from 1/25/23 HUCC Coconut Wireless

The ability to take life, O God, is a rush.
Our hearts thump and we feel alive when in our arrogance
we choose who lives and dies.
If would be hypocritical to pray "forgive us our arrogance" as long as
blood must be cleaned from concrete.

Hate is a powerful emotion, O God.
To seethe, plot, and plan our revenge upon those we hate
is its own kind of thrill.
To enact our hate is empowering.
It would be hypocritical to pray "forgive our hate" as long as we are
quick to remove signs of carnage.

O God, may we undertake the hard inner journey to move
from insincerity to sincerity.
Strike in us a chord that finds reprehensive cold-blooded mass shootings
and the apathetic attitudes that allow them to continue.
May we find repulsive the grip of death in our society which vaunts the
ability to spread fear while seeing as irrelevant the spread of love.

God, if we pray for our own mixture of attitudes around mass death and
its causes, then we also must pray for the families of those who lost
loved ones: sister, brother, aunt, uncle, cousin, mom, dad, child –
may these families know your presence.

We pray for those friends who lost cherished relationships
and now walk around with holes within their lives.
We pray for doctors who cannot repair the damage bullets do and for
ministers arranging unexpected funerals.

Hold us accountable, O God, for the love you freely give, but we hoard.
Amen. - *David K. Popham, Conference Minister*

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on
Sunday, February 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





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church office at 595-3935 or email:
nuuanucongregational@gmail.

Lectionary Readings for February

February 5 (Restoring Beauty): Isa 58:1-9a (9b-12) • Ps 112:1-9 (10) • 1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16) •
Matt 5:13-20

February 12 (From the Heart): Deut 30:15-20 or *Sirach 15:15-20* • Ps 119:1-8 • 1 Cor 3:1-9 •
Matt 5:21-37

February 19 (Dazzling Reign): Ex 24:12-18 • Ps 2 or *Ps 66* • 2 Peter 1:16-21 • **Matt 17:1-9**

February 26 (Abundant Grace): Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7 • Ps 32 • Rom 5:12-19 • **Matt 4:1-11**