

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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MARCH 2023



Witness at the Cross—Lenten book study **Starting: March 1st, 10am on the lanai; 6:30pm via Zoom.**

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

Throughout the Lenten season, we will be reading a book called *Witness at the Cross*. It is written by Prof. Amy Jill Levine the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford Seminary. Prof. Levine has written many books about the Jesus and the New Testament.

Prof. Levine has an especially interesting perspective on Christianity and the New Testament as she is Jewish. That being said: one of the things you will find in her book is her deep love and respect for the Gospels, and for Jesus. Her writing is also amazingly accessible. She writes like a knowledgeable friend who is sharing something that interests and delights her.

In her book, *Witness at the Cross*, rather than focusing immediately and directly on Jesus—as much Christian preaching, liturgy, and devotion do—Prof. Levine invites readers to experience in fresh and frequently surprising ways the Crucifixion’s power to shake preconceptions about who we are, who God is, and the shape our life can take in God’s presence.

We will have two opportunities to get together and talk about the book. The first will be on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. We will meet on the lanai in front of my office. I will brew a pot of tea and there will be cookies to munch on. If the spirit moves you, you may bring something to share.

The second will be on Zoom on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:30pm. Please email the church office for the link.

Our first gathering will be on March 1st. Each week we will read sections from the Gospels that depict different individuals and groups that were present. We will read and talk about the bystanders and scoffers, the other two men who were crucified beside Jesus, the Roman soldiers who conducted Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha.

We will also talk about what happened among Jesus’ friends and supporters like the disciple known as the Beloved Disciple. The Gospels also feature the women who were part of Jesus’ followers. Several of them were the first ones to the tomb on Easter morning. Finally, there is Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph of Arimathea is mentioned only once during the story, but he had an important role to play, too. Nicodemus is a member of the Temple hierarchy, yet he too has questions. He, too, drew close and is a part of Jesus’ story.

As we read the passages in the Bible where each of these people appeared, we will consider the particular meaning and message for each of them. We will also talk about how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

(cont’d on page 2 - Lenten)

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*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*. Web site: nuuanu.org • Email: nuuanucongregational@gmail.com • Phone: (808) 595-3935

From Your Moderator

Dear Members and Friends of NCC,

Thank you to all those who participated in our Annual Meeting. We will be moving forward with the initiatives set forth in our Strategic Plan and also the Capital Campaign as approved by the NCC members last year. We would like to invite you to the upcoming events so we can have further discussion on the Capital Campaign, its purpose and process.

1) You all are invited to meet with the Team Leaders and Ms. Jill White, our Capital Campaign consultant via Zoom on **Saturday, March 4, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.** This is an organizational and informational meeting. All are welcomed. More information regarding this Zoom meeting is forthcoming.

2) Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for after worship on **Sunday, March 5, 2023**, to discuss the Capital Campaign plan and the process we'll be following. After this meeting, the congregation may sign up for small group meetings that will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023, following worship for more discussion.

Our goal for these events is to provide our NCC Ohana opportunities to ask questions and understand why the need for the Capital Campaign so that we may move forward with confidence and faith.

Mahalo,
Laurie Hamano, Moderator

Lenten

Cont'd from page 1

If you would like to read the book without participating in the gatherings, that is fine, too. The cost of the book is \$18.84. Several have already been ordered and will be available on Sunday, February 26. Please call the church office and let us know if we need to order more.

I look forward to reading and talking with you throughout the Lenten season.

Grace and Peace, Jeannie

One Great Hour of Sharing



Our gifts to *One Great Hour of Sharing* (OGHS) will be received on March 19 during worship. OGHS is an annual offering in which we participate every year in March. The gifts you give to OGHS are combined with gifts from other UCC churches to make a greater impact in the areas of justice advocacy, sustainable development, refugee and asylum issues, migration, natural disasters, and assisting those most in need and vulnerable.

Throughout the country and the year, OGHS gifts help families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Strengthened by the power of God's Spirit and your collective generosity, the United Church of Christ continues to work with partners to care for others, and not give up as together we build a just world for all. OGHS offering envelopes will be in the March issue of The Caller. Please mail them into the church office or bring them to Service on Sunday, March 19th.

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.)



From 2/15/2023 Coconut Wireless

Join Letter Writing Campaign for Closing of Red Hill

The Creation Care and Environmental task force of the Episcopal Church Diocese is partnering with Hawaii Interfaith Power and Light (HIPL) to coordinate a letter writing campaign to President Biden and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to urge the hastening of the closing of Red Hill and to allow civilian participation in the oversight committee. The Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ's Justice and Witness Missional Team encourages local churches and individuals to join this campaign and to write letters and to share on social media why it is so important to close Red Hill as quickly as possible. Read more about this action, learn how to get involved, and find sample letters on HIPL's website: <https://www.hipl.org/home/take-action/redhill>.



March

Community Church of Honolulu (O'ahu)
 Waialua UCC (O'ahu)
 Chuukese Cong'l Church of Christ (O'ahu)
 Waianae Samoan Church (O'ahu)
 Ko'olau Hui'ia Protestant Church (Kaua'i)
 Church of the Pacific (Kaua'i)
 Waihee Protestant Church (Maui)
 Church of the New Testament (O'ahu)
 Waikoloa Marshallese Ministry (Hawai'i Island)
 Kosrae Honolulu Cong'l Church (O'ahu)

UCC Issues Special Appeal for Turkey, Syria

From 2/8/23 UCC Coconut Wireless

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake has struck the area around the border of Turkey and Syria, killing thousands of people and injuring countless more. The United Church of Christ (UCC) has been in contact with partners in the affected region and is assessing the most critical needs and ways in which the UCC can respond.

*The UCC has issued an appeal to assist those affected by the devastation in the region and others. If you are willing to help, please write a check to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church and write Turkey & Syria Earthquake relief in the memo line!

Capital Campaign Information

Dear Members and Friends of NCC,

We are planning two events in the coming weeks. We are excited to be able to invite all of you to join the meeting with the Capital Campaign consultant on March 4, 2023 Saturday on Zoom. Ms. Jill White who is our Capital Campaign Consultant will be meeting with all the leadership as well as anyone in the congregation who is interested in the Capital Campaign process. We are learning together how to make this all work successfully. Here is the Zoom ID information for you to use. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Hawaii time.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84751437930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84751437930?pwd=YjZ2RkcyajdmajJDenE3SkdFMjZVZz09)
[pwd=YjZ2RkcyajdmajJDenE3SkdFMjZVZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84751437930?pwd=YjZ2RkcyajdmajJDenE3SkdFMjZVZz09)

Meeting ID: 847 5143 7930

Passcode: 810647

We will have a Town Hall meeting the next day on March 5, 2023 after service for those in the congregation who did not partake in the meeting with Jill White on March 4, 2023. We hope to see you all there!!

In faith, Laurie Hamano, Moderator



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

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
Psalm 25:4-5*

Dear God, thank you for your love and mercy and help us to grow in our relationship with you during this season of Lent. We are thankful that the number of new cases of COVID-19 in Hawai‘i has steadily dropped and restrictions have been eased. Help us to individually continue safe practices. We pray for places and people affected by natural disasters, especially Turkey and Syria in the aftermath of a disastrous earthquake. Continue to be with them and guide and sustain them through the difficult times of clean-up, rebuilding and rehabilitation.
Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial

Albert Matsumoto IMO Nomura Family:
Yonezo, Yone, Walter, Janet, Francis,
Rev. Joseph, Edith, James
Dorothy Kusumoto IMO Stanley &
Fumiko Kamita
Fran Miyamoto IMO Sachiko Monzen
Carol Chung IMO Edith Matsumoto

Birthday Offering

Gloria Gainsley
Howard Mau
Alejandria Ellen Galariada
Kimie Fujioka

Thanks Offering

Ethel Yamaguchi

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
March 26, 2023.
There was 83 lbs collected
in January.

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.

Please have Altar Flowers delivered on Fridays, between 8 am and 4 pm or Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. There will not be anyone working on Saturday's until further notice.

Here are the dates needed for March and April:

- March 26
- April 2
- April 16
- April 30

Can You Bring A Can - For The Food Pantry?



A guest speaker, Ann Leake, from Kaumakapili Church will tell us about their food pantry ministry on March 12. This is one of the organizations that Nuuanu supports through the Missions Committee. Food collected in February and March will be donated to this ministry.

Invitation to Bible Study

Anyone who is wanting to join the bible study group is more than welcome to. For the month of March, there will be 2 different ways you can join. The book being discussed is *Witness at the Cross*.

The first is meeting Pastor Jeannie on the Lanai right outside of her office on Wednesdays, starting at 10 am.

The second is by zoom on Wednesday nights, starting at 6:30 pm. Please let Mairi or Pastor Jeannie know if you would like to join so we can get you the zoom link.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on
Sunday, March 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 March

March 5 (Bold Blessing): Gen 12:1-4a • Ps 121 • Rom 4:1-5, 13-17 • **John 3:1-17** or *Matt 17:1-9*

March 12 (Thirsty Voices): Ex 17:1-7 • Ps 95 • Rom 5:1-11 • **John 4:5-42**

March 19 (Restored): 1 Sam 16:1-13 • Ps 23 • Eph 5:8-14 • **John 9:1-41**

March 26 (Breath of Hope): Ezek 37:1-14 • Ps 130 • Rom 8:6-11 • **John 11:1-45**