

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 66, NO. 4

APRIL 2023



A Family Christ Has Made

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

Throughout the Lenten season, a group of us read a book called *Witness at the Cross* written by Prof. Amy Jill Levine the Rabbi Stanley M. Kessler Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Hartford Seminary.

Some of us met in-person over tea on Wednesday mornings. While the evening group met via Zoom. It was interesting how each group had distinctly different responses and questions. Mostly, we were amazed by how much more there was to “see” and learn as we reflected on the different people who were present at the crucifixion.

I do not believe it is an exaggeration to say that most of us do not notice the different people Jesus encounters that day as he makes his way to Golgotha. Most of us focus on him; his pain, and how cruelly the Savior of the world was treated by the very people he had come to save.

By focusing her book on the bystanders, Prof. Levine helps us see what the human response was on that day—the good and the bad. Rather than encountering them as two-dimensional characters who have little or no meaning we are asked to consider them as real people with real fears and expectations... just like us.

With the eye of a historian, Prof. Levine describes what it was like to be a centurion or an important Pharisee who comes to faith. She helps us have a much fuller understanding of the two criminals who were crucified on each side of Jesus. She uses scenes from her own life and popular culture to ask herself, and the reader, what Jesus’ crucifixion means to us in our day and age.

The effect on the reader, as we consider the human characters Jesus saw and interacted with as he was crucified, is that we begin to “see” the crucifixion with greater clarity. That is, rather than the spectacle of the crucifixion, the reader begins to focus on what Jesus’ suffering has meant beyond the crucifixion as an event.

What was especially poignant for some of us was the depiction of Jesus in the Gospel of John when Jesus—from the cross—entrusts to the Beloved Disciple, the care of his mother—he made them into a family. From the very depths of his suffering, Jesus’ attention was outward focused, focused on the care and well-being of others.

He was focused on helping his disciples to see what the love he has for us can mean in our lives and our love toward others, even without his physical presence. For love of him, we can move closer to one another in new relationships of love and support. In his name, we can come to see one another as a family that Christ has made—not only here among our NCC church family, but far beyond, even into the world.

(cont’d on page 2 - Family)

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

Family

Cont'd from Pg. 1

As we move toward the joy of Easter morning, I pray we will go on this journey with Christ to his cross and new life together through the various **services of Holy Week, April 2 through 9.**

- **On April 2—Palm Sunday to Passion Sunday during 9:00AM worship.**
- **April 6—Maundy Thursday: Scripture and Jook at Community Church at 6:00PM**
- **April 7—Good Friday Taizé Around the Cross at NCC: Noon and 6:00PM**
- **April 9—Easter Sunday at 9:00AM worship Easter Egg hunt to follow service.**

Praying for a blessed Easter for you and your family.

Grace and Peace,
Jeannie

50th Anniversary!

Do you remember "Step Into the Sunshine?" Or the Choir Clap? How about Colby's Missing Memory?

Then you must remember the Ka Mele Nani O Ke Akua Singers! They were NCC's children's choir that was started in 1973 by Rennie Mau. This year would be the choir's 50th anniversary! What, no way! It's true! And to celebrate the choir, its ministry and all the good fun we had, we'll gather on the evening of Saturday, September 16 at NCC to catch up, eat, maybe sing a little and give thanks!

Please mark your calendars, pass this information on to others who were involved in or with the choir (yes, parents too!) and if you have any pictures you want to share, please contact Carol (Matsumoto) Chung, Paula (Pang) Yamamoto, Lori Takeyama-Goshi or Lori Yamashiro.

More information and details to follow.

Hui Malama Work Day Change

by Wayne Kobayashi

The Hui Malama group will be changing its work day from the first Wednesday of each month to the last Friday of each month. The group gathers at 9 am for a short devotion, then do different tasks, like weeding, yard work, light maintenance and repair, etc. This ends before noon. Anyone interested in helping out are welcomed. You may contact any of the group members (Wayne Kobayashi, Micki Sasaki, Joyce Uyehara, Ruth Gushiken, Lani Hirohata, Claire Nakatsuka, Sybil Seto or Russell Ishida).

NCC Scholarship

We will be starting to take applications for our annual scholarships. The deadline is May 31, 2023.

Your Application with the Personal Essay, (2) Scholarship Reference Forms, and a certified transcript from your current school must be postmarked by Saturday, May 27, 2023 or dropped off to the office by 4 p.m. on May 31, 2023.

Have a blessed Easter



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 3/8/2023 Coconut Wireless

Association Holds Spring Meetings

- **Kaua'i Association** is planning its Spring Mokupuni for Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6.
- **Hawai'i Island Association** (HIA) will hold its Spring Mokupuni on Saturday, May 6.
- **O'ahu Association** will hold its Spring Mokupuni on Saturday, May 20.

Join UCC's All Church Read

The Join the Movement (JTM) Toward Racial Justice campaign invites individuals, congregations, associations, and conferences to join this year's All Church Read with the book, *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi.

The All Church Read is scheduled to run from the beginning of April through June and will culminate during a virtual Juneteenth celebration. A faith-based facilitator's guide and conversation prompts will be available soon on the JTM website, <https://www.ibramxkendi.com>.

"The reason we want this to be our all-church read is we want every person in the UCC to be thinking about and practicing the new world of racial justice that we're trying to build," said Sharon Fennema, JTM curator. Velda Love, UCC minister for racial justice and JTM lead added, "being in the movement toward racial justice means that you are engaged in community work, advocacy work, activism work and responding to calls to action. . . This is a lifelong journey."

Attendees at General Synod this summer will have an opportunity to hear Kendi speak on the topic of raising antiracist children at a fundraising dinner for the Join the Movement Capital Campaign. People can sign up to attend this dinner when registering for Synod.



April 2023

Crystal of Salvation Church (O'ahu)
 Waialua Cong'l Church (Moloka'i)
 Koloa Union Church (Kaua'i)
 Cup of Freedom UCC (O'ahu)
 Wahiawa UCC (O'ahu)
 Epenesa Fou CC Samoan Church (O'ahu)
 United Community Church (Hawai'i Island)
 Kokokahi UCC (O'ahu)

Walk for Water to Shut Down Red Hill

Participate in the Walk for Water to Shut Down Red Hill on Sunday, April 23, at 8:00 a.m., at Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island in Honolulu. The Walk, organized by kūpuna volunteers, is a benefit for the Sierra Club of Hawai'i's ongoing work to shut down Red Hill and protect O'ahu's water. If you can't walk, you are invited to make a financial contribution. For more info and registration, visit www.redhillwalkforwater.com. To walk with others from the Hawai'i Conference, contact kyoung@hcucc.org.

NCC Recycling

by Wayne Kobayashi

Starting April, the scouts of Troop 201 will be doing the recycling that Hui Malama was doing. This is a service project for the troop. Proceeds will continue to go towards the church. Hui Malama had been doing the recycling over the past 20 years, but as its members age, it was time to get younger people involved. Please continue to bring all HI-5 recyclables to church.



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: Ljnda Mau, 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

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again. Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Luke 24: 2-9

Dear God, as we celebrate with the usual Easter traditions of dyeing eggs, egg hunts, eating chocolate bunnies and eggs and enjoying family dinners, help us to remember that Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Thank you for your love and your gift of your only son who died on the cross for our sins.

We rejoice in his resurrection and the promise of eternal life for those who believe in him. Help us to remember his actions and teachings and help us to love and care for one another. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Birthday Offering

Mae Au

Fran Yano

Thanks Offering

Ray Miyamoto

Muneo Hamada

Mae Au

Ruth Gushiken

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
April 30, 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 April and May:

- April 16
- April 30
- May 14

Can You Bring A Can - For The Hawaii Foodbank?



The last Sunday of each month is Missions Sunday. Please bring a canned good or other non-perishable food on that day. Boxes will be available to collect them. All gifts will be taken to the Hawai'i Foodbank.

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

Please bring your HI-5 items any day in April.

Leave them outside the recycling shed behind Kibo Kan. Please help the scouts by removing caps from bottles, rinsing and making sure the containers are clean and empty. Keep labels on. Only HI-5 items are accepted.



Wear a mask!

Cover your nose and mouth



Wait 6 feet apart!

Avoid close contact



Wash your hands!

Or use hand sanitizer





Nu'uuanu Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

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

Address Service Requested

April 2023

To discontinue receiving the
Nu 'uanu Caller, please call the
church office at 595-3935 or email:
nuuanucongregational@gmail.

Lectionary Readings for April

April 2 (Palm/Passion Sunday): Liturgy of the Palms: Ps118:1-2, 19-29 • Matt 21:1-11
Liturgy of the Passion: Isa 50:4-9a • Ps 31:9-16 • Phil2:5-11 • **Matt 26:14-27** or *Matt 27:11-54*

April 9 (Easter): Acts 10:34-43 or *Jer 31:1-6* • Ps 118:1-2, 14-24 • Col 3:1-4 or *Acts 10:34-43* •
John 20:1-18 or *Matt 28:1-10*

April 16 (Holy Language): Acts 2:14a, 22-32 • Ps 16 • 1 Peter 1:3-9 • **John 20:19-31**

April 23 (Breaking Bread): Acts 2:14a, 36-41 • Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 • 1 Peter 1:17-23 • **Luke 24: 13-35**

April 30 (Powerful Witness): Acts 2:42-47 • **Ps 23** • 1 Peter 2:19-25 • John 10:1-10