

# NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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JUNE 2023



## Spirit-Led

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated Pentecost together in worship. I hope the lively music and the dramatic reading of the descent of the Holy Spirit stirred your heart. As I was talking about Pentecost this morning in Bible Study (Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the choir room), I mentioned that Pentecost does not seem to be celebrated as fully and eagerly as befits the day in which the church was first gathered—the way in which Christmas and Easter are celebrated. I am not sure why this is so. I only know that I am sorry

that it is not.

I love Pentecost.

I am always intrigued by the concept of this part of the nature of God that is, at once, our protector and counselor who guides and keeps us from danger, *but which is also meant to stir-up deep feelings in the hearts and lives of all whom she touches.* (Yes, I experience of Spirit as female). I like the energy the Spirit brings into the gathered people. It is a powerful and hope-filled moment in the life of human beings.

We sing of a *Sweet Spirit*, and a *Spirit of Gentleness*. However, if you take another look at the description of what happened on that first Pentecost morning, it was greatly, madly wild—with wind and flames filling the place where the disciples were gathered. They are so lifted-up with energy and Spirit that soon they are pouring into the street. Let me repeat that: the Spirit touches them, *and they do not stay indoors.* They go out into the street, out to show themselves and to greet other people.

As they go among the throngs of Jews gathered from all over the known-world—all of them in Jerusalem for the Pentecost celebration of First Fruits—the Spirit also touches everyone they meet. Soon all of them are buttonholing each other and telling the story of Jesus and the Holy Spirit—a wild gaggle of voices and people mixing it up, communing and *communicating* with one another.

In that moment, all of the nicely constructed barriers that we built to keep us separate from each other were obliterated that morning by the Spirit. All who believed in Christ were drawn together into one family with one goal: to spread the word that God’s radical, all-enveloping love is ours. It is also out in the world, going where it will to touch more and more lives with its goodness and righteousness.

Through the gift of tongues, we were given the gift of self-revelation. We were given the ability—perhaps even the obligation—to describe the way each of us have experienced God’s love. Even more importantly, we were also given the ability to *hear* that other person’s story.

In the United Church of Christ, we like to tell others that “God Is Still Speaking.” The question I always find myself wondering about is: “are we still listening?”

(cont’d on page 3 - Spirit-Led)

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*; Nisei Building Maintenance, *Custodial Services*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.  
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## From the Moderator's Desk

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope this finds you all well. I want to catch you up on the latest "goings-on"! There has been so much prep work to get ready for the Capital Campaign's launch. The Campaign will launch in June with Team Leaders and will start on these following dates:

### Capital Campaign Tentative Calendar Dates:

1. Team Leaders Zoom meeting Thursday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m.
2. Organizational Meeting with Jill White and Team Leaders on Saturday, June 10 at 9:00am on Zoom.

### Ministries /YMCA Nuuanu Pali Preschool / Family Promise

#### **Nu'uanu YMCA:**

1. Nu'uanu Pali Preschool: They are showing signs of growth and would like to expand and use the Old Administration building. Please continue to pray for their growth and movement forward.
2. YMCA Summer Intersession: The YMCA will be having their programs in the gym once again this summer. Look forward to hearing and seeing children on our campus in June and July 2023!

#### **Family Promise:**

We continue to support the Family Promise families and are working on campus security to assure safety for the families and the preschool children. We currently have security cameras on campus and are looking for a more comprehensive security program for the campus.

I am hoping that you all keep our church and leadership in your prayers as we work toward our future and move forward courageously toward God's purpose for us.

Laurie Hamano Moderator

## Upcoming Changes to Covid Policies

With the new changes in CDC recommendations for living in the endemic phase of Covid, each person needs to assess their individual risk, and their comfort level in taking that risk. Beginning June first, wearing a mask will be recommended, but not required, for worship and other activities on campus.

If you are eligible for the new Omicron booster you are encouraged to receive it, especially if you do not plan to wear a mask. And always, if you are feeling ill please stay home and take a home Covid test. Discussion will continue regarding serving refreshments after service.

## Movie Night



You are all invited to movie night on June 3rd at 6:30pm. We will be watching Soul in the lower parking lot. If you plan to join us, email Becky at [ken214@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ken214@hawaii.rr.com). We will have popcorn and hot dogs for everyone!

## Graduate Sunday

June 11th, we will celebrate all the graduates. Please email Becky at [ken214@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ken214@hawaii.rr.com) the name of the graduate. We will also have an appreciation for the Sunday school teachers.

### **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.)

## Spirit-Led

*Cont'd from Pg. 1*

Are we still listening to what people are telling us about who God made them to be, and the way in which God has been present in their lives? Are we able to hear their stories—especially the ones of how hard some people have struggled to filter out all the voices that were not God's voice—the voices that tried to dominate every conversation and would not allow any other voice to be heard?

Are we willing to hear that voice and that story?

For most of the life of the world, minority voices have not had much respect or attention. LGBTQ+ community, immigrants in any country, differently abled people, people of color in most western societies, and many, many more communities of people have not just been ignored, they have been silenced.

Indeed, you did not have to be a part of a minority. One of the largest groups of people on the planet—women—in many cultures and in many ways, women were also silenced and allowed only limited rights and dignity.

Jesus promised: the Holy Spirit came down to us two thousand years ago *and is still with us*, and always will be. We have been given the powerful love of God who not only lives with us, but also lives within us. This is Holy Spirit is here, and always will be.

I pray we will allow ourselves to receive her and make her welcome among us and within us, inspiring us to new heights of blessedness and blessing in God's name.

I hope we will always be ready and willing to say: *Come, Holy Spirit!*

Grace and Peace,  
Jeannie

*Happy Father's Day*



## June 2023

First United Protestant Church (Hawai'i Island)  
Samoan Cong'l Christian Church (O'ahu)  
Keanae Cong'l Church (Maui)  
Haili Cong'l Church (Hawai'i Island)  
Pu'ula UCC (Hawai'i Island)  
Kawaiaha'o Church (O'ahu)  
Hanapepe Hawaiian Cong'l Church (Kaua'i)  
Puka'ana Cong'l Church (Hawai'i Island)

## Central Union Church to hold E-Waste Recycling Event

*From 4/19/23 Coconut Wireless*

Central Union Church (1660 South Beretania Street, Honolulu) is hosting an e-waste recycling event on Saturday, June 24, from 9 – 11 a.m., in the Punahou Street parking lot.

## Family Promise is looking for donations!

Family promise is excited to announce that Family Promise of Hawai'i will be housing 4 families this month!! With their move-in quickly approaching, they are in urgent need of items to furnish their units. Please see the list below for items that are needed. If you or someone you know is interested in donating, please contact Judy Keith at [judykeith808@gmail.com](mailto:judykeith808@gmail.com).

Items needed:

2x Couches  
2x Dining tables & chairs  
Plates, bowls, cutlery  
Pots & pans  
Bookshelves  
Artwork & decor



## 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*

We have received two new requests for prayers for health reasons. Please pray for Mike Chung and Susan Hirano.

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*

*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35*

Dear God, thank you for your faithfulness and constant unconditional love. We celebrated Pentecost Sunday at the end of May and thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the help of the Holy Spirit may we be loving, kind and caring in all our relationships. We are concerned about rampant gun violence in our nation and pray for patience, kindness and tolerance and less anger, hate and violence. We pray that state and national legislators will work to achieve consensus and enact common sense laws that will minimize this great national problem. Our children and their teachers recently ended the school year. Keep them safe as they enjoy their summer vacation. As we honor fathers this month, bless and guide them and help them to raise their children with love and wisdom.

Amen.

**HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!**



## Special Gifts

*Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!*

### In Memory of

Albert Matsumoto IMO Sidney Kosasa,  
Minnie Kosasa, Mitsue Kosasa  
Howard Ishihara IMO Ruth Matsumoto

### Thanks Offering

Muneo Hamada  
Stella Nakama  
Mike and Carol Chung

### Birthday Offering

Ululani Hirohata



## Deadline for Articles

Nu'uano 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  
June 25, 2023.  
*We collected 84 pounds of food  
On the last Sunday of April.*

## 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](mailto: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.*

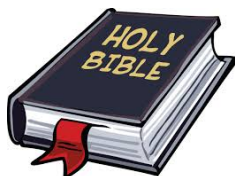
June is filled. The dates in July are July 16 and 30th.

## 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 June.

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**





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**June 2023**

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### Lectionary Readings for June

**June 4 (This is Good):** Gen 1:1-2:4a • Ps 8 • 2 For 13:11-13 • Matt 28:16-20

**June 11 (The Call of Abram):** Get 12:1-9 and Ps 33:1-12 **or** Has 5:15-6:6 and Ps 50:7-15 • Rom 4:13-25 •  
Matt 9:9-13, 18-26

**June 18 (Sarah Laughed):** Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Ps 116:1-2, 12-19 **or** Ex 19:2-8a and Ps 100 •  
Rom 5:1-8 • Matt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

**June 25 (Daring Discipleship):** Gen 21:8-21 and Ps 86:1-10, 16-17 **or** Her 20:7-13 and Ps 69:7-10,  
(11-15), 16-18 • Rom 6:1b-11 • **Matt 10:24-39**