

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



VOL. 66, NO. 7

JULY 2023



What Did She Say?

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

You may have noticed that I tend to replace the word “kingdom” with “*kin-dom*” in many places in our life together. I use “*kin-dom*” in prayers and sermons. I may even use “*kin-dom*” when speaking casually to you and others. And it occurred to me that some of you may be wondering what is going on. I began using *kin-dom* (instead of kingdom) fairly recently. It was during the tenure of the Rev. Gabrielle Chavez, when she served as our interim Conference Minister, about five years ago. She once briefly talked about how she said *kin-dom* because it more nearly described the relationship we are drawn into by God. Rather than a vassal in the hierarchy of king and underlings, God relates to us through expressions of love.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says as much when he says, “*I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends.*” [v.15:15a]

Further, it is important to note that he says this to the disciples during what is called, Jesus’ Farewell Discourse—his way of saying goodbye to them as he makes himself ready for his Crucifixion. He wants them to understand themselves as more than his followers. They, and we, are united—through him—in a kin-group not by blood but in a common loyalty to him, over against any other connection or allegiance. They, and we, are to also love others the way that Christ has loved them, and the way he loves us.

It will probably not surprise you to know that *kin-dom* was coined by women theologians. Specifically, by a woman named Ada María Isasi-Díaz, a Cuban-American theologian who served as professor emerita of ethics and theology at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. (From Wikipedia: *As a Hispanic theologian, she was an innovator of Hispanic theology in general and specifically of mujerista theology. She was founder and co-director of the Hispanic Institute of Theology at Drew University until her retirement in 2009.*)

It was Isasi-Díaz who first brought the term into public use. However, she is reported to have said that she learned it from another womanist theologian, Sr. Georgene Wilson O.S.F. Both theologians, and many more like them, have spent their lives carefully reviewing how we use language, especially in the church.

They insist, and I wholeheartedly agree, that language is important. The language we use to describe ourselves and the way we experience the world rises out of a particular history of a people, how we have lived and made our way in the world, what we consider thriving and righteous. Language expresses a particular point of view of how the world works. More importantly, it describes, and is often a portrait, of a culture’s social structure—for good or ill. *(cont’d on page 3 - What Did She Say?)*

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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June 16, 2023

Moderator's Desk

Happy Summer to you all! Happy Shorts Sundays to you all, too! Lots happening on the campus with the partnerships and mission-driven work that we envisioned are now coming to fruition.

Community Partnerships:

Family Promise Reinvention: With the help of the Board of Trustees three rooms continue to be utilized by families. These families are off the streets and will be living here until more permanent housing can be found for them by Family Promise. Because we have a contract with Family Promise we will be marking a year soon with working with the Family Promise staff to continue bringing families in when others are placed more permanently. Once again in answer to our mission prayers!

YMCA Updates: YMCA Pali Nu‘uanu Preschool

The preschool continues to grow and admits more children. The students are now using the Old Administration office area and the room near the office. We are looking forward to greeting more children at the school soon.

Intersessions: The YMCA sponsors programs that work with the children who are out of school during the school breaks such as during the Spring, Summer, and Fall Intersessions.

Summer YMCA Intersession for elementary school children are going well with upwards of 30+ students daily. The joy of happy play coming from the gym fills the air during the day.

Capital Campaign:

As you know the NCC members have approved the Capital Campaign to raise the funds to repair and renovate the sanctuary and grounds. The Campaign will be launched as of June 25, 2023, with the Commissioning of the Capital Campaign Team members. The Campaign Team members

and leaders have been hard at work getting the plans ready to launch the campaign.

The Campaign is specific to raise the funds to renovate and repair the sanctuary and grounds. As funds have been held to repair and renovate the Old Administration building and the Kibo Kan, the focus of this Capital Campaign is for the Sanctuary and grounds only.

An architect has been hired to help us with the work that needs to be done campus wide as well as with the sanctuary to assure that we are creating a systematic approach to complete our repairs and renovations. All of this takes time, permits and careful watch over the process and to ensure our new partners are considered so there is minimal disruption to their programs.

The Council, Officers, the Boards, Committees and Capital Campaign Team members are tirelessly working together knowing that we are focused on God's mission to make sure that our church can continue to worship together, be the Gathering Place for our membership, community, children and our kupuna. We pray together that we move forward as God intended.

Faithfully,

Laurie Hamano,

A Grateful Moderator

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.)

Join Us!



Building our future
Nu'uanu Congregational Church

Capital Campaign
information gatherings

and light refreshments

Please choose one to attend:

July 23

or August 13

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary
starting July 2nd

What Did She Say?

Cont'd from pg. 1

Here in Hawai‘i, but also in many other places, we know how true this is. Some of us can still remember hearing stories of how speaking anything but English was punished. In so doing it was not only the words of the language that were suppressed. It also served as a judgement on the people who spoke the language. By privileging one language over another, it declared which language and which culture was to be considered superior.

This is some of my thinking on how I use kin-dom in speaking and in worship. As I said earlier, it is something I have come to in just the past five years or so. So, I am not perfect in my usage. I still “slip-up” occasionally. However, I do use “kingdom” when I believe it is appropriate. For example, in the Lord’s Prayer where my use of “*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*” is deliberate. I use it there in the Lord’s Prayer because it retains Jesus’ declaration of his sense of hierarchy—that God and not Caesar, nor Caesar’s Roman Empire is the superior. As one commentator has written, using the word kingdom, “*is asking God to set up God’s reign on earth instead of the martial, stratified, and repressive reign of Caesar.*”

Although we will never be God’s equal, God has embraced us in a loving relationship and calls us beloved. Christ opened the door for us to live in *kin-dom* with each other. So, to be in love with God means that we conform our hearts, minds, and spirits to God’s because in God we have discovered a way of living life with hope and compassion. We have found God’s way to be one that is life-giving—for ourselves, but also for all people.

Most of all, through Christ and the Spirit, we have been brought closer to one another. Through him we are kindred, we are sisters and brothers, we are kin to one another living in *God’s kin-dom* here on earth as it will be in heaven.

Grace & Peace,
Jeannie

Christmas in July

From the Hawaii Conference website

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks.

This offering will take place on Sunday, July 30, 2023. Please write “Christmas in July” in the memo line.



July 2023

Hanapepe UCC (Kaua‘i)
Pookela Church (Maui)
Kaumakapili Church (O‘ahu)
Hau‘ula Cong'l Church (O‘ahu)
Pohakupuka Cong'l Church (Hawai‘i Island)
Hauoli Kamana‘o Church (Hawai‘i Island)
Pearl City Community Church (O‘ahu)
Kaulanapueo Cong'l Church (Maui)
Hawai‘i Kai UCC (O‘ahu)
Palapala Hoomau Cong'l Church (Maui)
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

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, 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

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24*

Dear God, thank you for every day and your loving, guiding presence as we daily try to do you will. We pray for the YMCA Summer Intersession program at NCC. Enable the leaders to execute their plans and help the children to have a safe and enjoyable summer. Our Capital Campaign has started and we pray that you will guide all those who are involved in the campaign and lead them to satisfying results. At long last Oahu Transit System has just begun to operate and we pray for success as trains add to the city transportation options. As we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th we thank you for our freedom and pray for our nation. Help our national decision makers to act with wisdom and integrity as they work to enact laws to solve our nation's many problems.
Amen.



Special Gifts

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

In Memory of

Albert Matsumoto IMO Rev. Masaichi Goto,
Mrs. Masu Goto
Howard Ishihara IMO Paul Hirota

Birthday Offering

Fred Takara
Helen Pierce
Dorothy Kusumoto

Thanks Offering

Shirley Yamamoto
Fran Miyamoto
Katsuto Yatsuoka
Shirley Miyamoto
Kimie Fujioka

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
July 30, 2023.
*We collected 84 pounds of food
On the last Sunday of May.*

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.

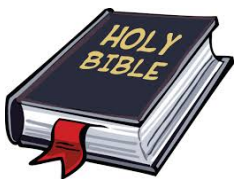
The date in July is July 30th. August is filled.

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 July.

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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2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

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July 2023

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

Lectionary Readings for July

July 2 (Holy Welcome): Gen 22:1-14 and Ps 13 **or** Her 28:5-9 and Ps 89:1-4, 15-18 • Rom 6:12-23 • **Matt 10:40-42**

July 9 (Chosen Journeys): Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and PS 45:10-17 *or Song of Sol 2:8-13 or* Zech 9:9-12 and Ps 145:8-14 • Rom 7:15-25a • **Matt 11:16-19, 25-30**

July 16 (A House Divided): Gen 25:19-34 and Ps Ps 119:105-112 **or** Isa 55:10-13 and Ps 65:(1-8), 9-13 • Rom 8:1-11 • **Matt 13:1-9, 18-23**

July 23 (Wheat and Weeds Together): Gen 28:10-19a and Ps 139:1-12, 23-24 **or** Wisd of Sol 12:13, 16-19 *or Isa 44:6-8* and Ps 86:11-17 • Rom 8:12-25 • **Matt 13:24-30, 36-43**

July 30 (Weaving the Future): Gen 29:15-28 and Ps 105:1-11 *or Ps 128 or* 1 Kings 3:5-12 and Ps 119:129-136 • Rom 8:26-39 • **Matt 13:31-33, 44-52**