

NU‘UANU CALLER

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



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NOVEMBER 2023



Listening and Singing Peace —an out of season experience

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

It is much too early for Christmas carols. Indeed, it is much too early for anything related to Christmas. Yet, I cannot help but find myself thinking about a particular carol—a hymn—the words keep running around in my head. The melody, and a particular singer, the late Karen Carpenter, who included it in her album of Christmas songs many years ago. I can hear her voice singing the words of this prayer.

The song began as a poem written by Henry Wordsworth Longfellow. He wrote it on Christmas day, 1863—*I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day*. In a short essay on Longfellow’s poem, blogger Justin Taylor explains how the poet wrote his poem after receiving the news that his eldest son had been shot, and had only narrowly escaped being paralyzed, while serving in the Union Army in the Civil War. Taylor writes:

[Longfellow] wrote a poem seeking to capture the dynamic and dissonance in his own heart and the world he observes around him that Christmas Day. He heard the Christmas bells ringing in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the singing of “peace on earth” (Luke 2:14), but he observed the world of injustice and violence that seemed to mock the truthfulness of this optimistic outlook.

Most of us know this feeling, especially right now as news of the war in Ukraine, and the continuing tragedy and violence in Israel-Palestine moves from brutality-to-brutality. What is even harder to accept is that these are *only* the wide-scale acts of violence that are making the headlines this week. Most of us are aware that there are many more violent conflicts in many other parts of the world that we do not hear about with as much regularity, nor with headlines blaring, nor with color photographs showing us the suffering.

We do not see all of the suffering. We do not have to. We know it is there.

Our hearts know this. Our spirits ache with it. Our minds can just barely contain all of the arguments each side offers as justification for the continued destruction and violence of other human beings.

How shall we respond?

Longfellow wrote a poem. For some of us, this may seem like a small, ineffective activity. Yet it must be admitted that the poem has lasted long after the canons of that conflict have been silenced; long after all of those guns have been left to rust on the battlefields. *(cont’d on pg 2 - Listening and Singing)*

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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Listening and Singing

Continued from page 1

This is because these things—our prayers, songs, petitions—can be more than words. They can be actions. They can contain as much spirit as we are willing to allow them... especially when we embrace in them God’s Spirit. This is the Spirit that is grasping our hand even now, tugging at us, leading us toward God’s light and truth which is the path to the only lasting peace we will know.

When will we follow with courage and perfect faithfulness?

I do not know. All I know is the hope I see in the sign one of my neighbors pinned up beside their garage. All it says is; “World Peace.”

I can also hear it in the poem that became a song, that became a hymn, and a Christmas carol, and that I am humming to myself far too early in the year. I can hear Karen Carpenter’s warm, low, alto voice singing the opening lines—Longfellow was lamenting in those first lines. Later, toward the end, as he moves from sorrow to faith, Carpenter’s voice moves with him into the upper register of her vocal range to declare the certainty of God’s presence: *“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep! The wrong shall fail. The right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to [all].”*

My friends, in this unseasonable time of sorrow and suffering, I pray we will listen for songs of hope and for the strength of God’s love and peace. I hope we will find our own voice to sing such songs, to recite them, perhaps to even write them. But no matter how we experience them, I hope we will join in the chorus, even in every season of our lives.

Grace & Peace,
Jeannie

Volunteers for the Office

During the week of Thanksgiving, Mairi is looking for volunteers to cover the office in shifts of 8 am to 12 pm and 12pm to 4 pm. Please let Mairi know if you are able to volunteer.



Kadomatsu Presale

Scouts Troop 201 will be doing another Kadomatsu pre-sale after church service on Sunday, November 5th. If you didn’t get to order your Kadomatsu on October 22nd, here’s your chance!

The Missions Committee wants you to know...

Sukkah

We will be putting the sukkah up on November 15th at nine am. Volunteers are needed to help with this. Let Judy Keith know if you can help.

White Christmas

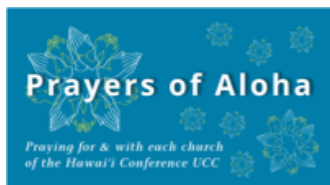
It's not too early to start picking up gift cards for White Christmas. Advent is right around the corner. We will be collecting gift cards to share with Family Promise, River of Life Mission, & Transition House. Think of places like Foodland, Long's or Ross for basics or maybe places like McDonald's or Jamba Juice for a treat.

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.)



November

Kahikolu Congregational Church

(Hawai'i Island)

Makiki Christian Church (O'ahu)

Kalihi and Moanalua Church (O'ahu)

Kahikuonalani UCC (O'ahu)

Makawao Union Church (Maui)

Kahuku Congregational Church (Hawai'i Island)

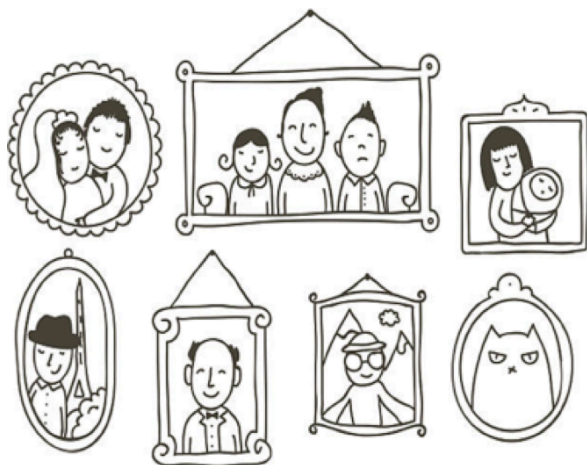
Living Stones Church (Hawai'i Island)

Kalapana Maunakea Congregational

Church (Hawai'i Island)

Kailua Christian Church (O'ahu)

Liliuokalani Protestant Church (O'ahu)



Photographs for All Saints' Day—

Please bring a photograph of a loved one for our annual observance of **All Saints' Day** on Sunday, November 5. This is a special time to remember all our loved ones who have died, especially those who have died in the past year. What we acknowledge and celebrate is that through Christ death does *not* have the last word. Together, on **All Saints Day** we remember them with love, and thank God and them for their life and faithfulness.

Nuʻuanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service—2023 *Strong Roots, Strong Life*

This year, our annual Nuʻuanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (NVITS) will be held on November 21, 2023. The host will be our sister church, United Church of Christ at 467 Judd Street.

This year's theme is *Strong Roots, Strong Life*. Our inspiration for the theme is the banyan tree that managed to survive the Maui wildfires that swept through west Maui. To honor the people and to help contribute to the recovery, the annual interfaith Thanksgiving service will be dedicated to the people of Maui.

Thus, the offering we receive during the service will be donated to *Maui Strong* which is a project of the Hawaii Community Foundation. *Maui Strong* is providing financial resources to support immediate needs. However, *Maui Strong* will also provide resources for the long-term recovery for the people and places affected by the wildfires.

During the service, the choir will sing "Lahaina Luna," and we will join them. We will hope with them and the people of Maui that a time of renewal will begin. We will sing of our hope for the healing of the people and the land.

Please plan on attending, being part of the choir or the audience, or watching the livestream on UCC Judd Street's YouTube channel. All the information you will need will be in the November *Caller*, and in the Sunday bulletin announcements leading up to November 21st.

Give Aloha



Please make sure that you send us your receipt, either on Sunday, in the mail or email a picture of it to

nuuanucongregational@gmail.com. The receipt must be received by December 22, 2023 and have your name, amount, store number, and time of your transaction so that we can credit the donation to the right person/family!



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

Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Happy are those whose strength is in you. Psalm 84:4-5a

Dear God, thank you for all the blessings you have given us. As we bless animals this month we thank you for all that we receive from our pets-unconditional love, companionship, protection and improved physical and emotional health, to name a few. We remember the importance of celebrating World Communion Sunday together with Christians worldwide in recognizing our unity in Jesus Christ. Sponsoring a trolley with UCC Judd Street and Central Union to ride in the Honolulu Pride Parade on October 21 is an act of our support for the LGBTQ+ community. Help us to continue our love and support for them. Our Capital Campaign ended on Celebration Sunday with the happy news that we exceeded our goal of \$810,000. Thank you, Lord. We appreciate the work and leadership of the Capital Campaign committee and pray that you will continue to bless their endeavors as they complete final tasks. Amen.



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

In Memory of

Fran Miyamoto IMO June Ikeda, Alice Ishihara, Sachiko Monzen, Agnes Ogata, and May Yap

Thank You

Fred & Ginny Takara

Birthday

Jayne Uyeche
Micki Sasaki
Stella Nakama

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
November 26, 2023.
*We collected 71 pounds of food
in August.*

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 following dates are available:

- November 26
- December 3
- December 31

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. There are 2 different ways you can
join.

*While Pastor Jeannie is out, the in-person bible study
will not be happening.

The second is by zoom on Wednesday nights starting at 6:30 pm.
Pastor Neal will do these while Pastor Jeannie is recovering from knee
surgery. Please let Mairi 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 August.

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.





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Lectionary Readings for October

November 5 (Partners in Service): Josh 3:7-17 and Ps 107:1-7 **or** Mic 3:5-12 and Ps 43 • 1 Thess 2:9-13 • **Matt 23:1-12**

November 12 (Tending God's Light): Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Ps 78:1-7 **or** Wisd of Sol 6:12-16 *or* *Amos 5:18-24* and Wind of Sol 6:17-20 *or* Ps 70 • 1 Thess 4:13-18 • **Matt 25:1-13**

November 19 (Extravagant Opportunity): Judg 4:1-7 and Ps 123 **or** Zeph 1:7, 12-18 and Ps 90:1-8, (9-11), 12 • 1 Thess 5:1-11 • **Matt 25:14-30**

November 26 (Reigning Compassion): Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 and Ps 100 **or** Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 and Ps 95:1-7a • Eph 1:15-23 • **Matt 25:31-46**