



Resolved

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

You will most likely receive this newsletter after January 1st. So, I hope you had a blessed time with family and friends during Christmas and New Year’s Eve. You have most likely already made your New Year’s resolutions, too (if you do that sort of thing).

I, however, am writing this in December, and haven’t the faintest idea what to “resolve” in 2024.

It isn’t that I haven’t any shortcomings that I would like to focus on. Neither is it because I haven’t any goals for myself and our church. I actually have quite a list of each. The problem is narrowing down each list to a manageable one or two items.

I suppose some of us still make a New Year’s resolution because a fresh, new year is so inspiring. It’s like a new beginning; last year no longer matters. Today is all that counts.

A new calendar adds to our confidence. Clean and unblemished by tasks and obligations, a new calendar looks like freedom. All the days unmarked by commitments or promises. There are even no doctors’ appointments written down.

For briefest of moments, I can pretend to be free of the endless physical therapy sessions to which I am still going, and all other obligations. With a brand new (short) list of goals and objectives, I turn my gaze toward the expanse of new days and weeks, empty spaces on the calendar waiting to be filled with my new ambitions.

On January 1, I will be hopeful and determined. My purposes will be clear. My prospects well defined and marked out, and with high hopes I will embark on the new adventure that is “*the year of our Lord, 2024.*”

(cont’d on Pg. 2)

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

— Alfred Lord Tennyson

Resolved

Cont’d from Pg. 1

How long will my “resolve” last? I do not know at this moment. The problem with resolutions—New Year’s resolutions in particular—is that the clean, unmarked calendar does not last long in that condition. Before very long, the blank spaces are filled in with all of the other responsibilities that go along with daily living. The *new* tasks associated with the “resolutions” find their way to the “back burner” of my life. There, they are left to “simmer.”

In the meantime, what shall I resolve for 2024?

This morning, I opened an email, an e-newsletter I receive from writer and theologian, Diana Butler Bass. Oddly enough, she did not write too much of anything. Instead, she printed a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

The poem speaks of “ringing out” all of the griefs and sorrows of the old year, and “ringing in” all of the brave aspirations for the new year. Tennyson does not make resolutions. Rather, he invites into the world that which is good. By “ringing out” the bad things of the old year, he creates a space where the good things may enter in and thrive—a new canvas of the heart and mind—a place where the Spirit will have room to nudge and speak and teach.

Suddenly, I think I have a resolution that I will not have a problem keeping: I will read more poetry this year.

May you and your family be blessed this year and always. May God’s Holy Spirit touch your lives in many new and wonderful ways, and may our life together be one of joyful ministry.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Jeannie

Documenting Your Wishes

Save the dates! The Diaconate is sponsoring, in partnership with Kokua Mau, two sessions that can help you consider, and communicate with your loved ones about, your wishes for end of life care. No one really likes to think about this, and it can be difficult to talk

about. But there is a lot that can be done to make it easier. The sessions will be on February 11th & 25th. Because it is so important that your loved ones understand your wishes we strongly encourage having your adult children participate in person, or on Zoom.

Thank You Note

Dear Members of NCC,

Thank you for the beautiful Kadomatsu. Thank you also Dr. & Mrs. Uyehara for taking the time to deliver the Kadomatsu to my home.

I’m also very grateful to all the members of NCC who send me so many of those thoughtful and nice holiday greeting cards.

I wish all a very healthy and Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Sincerely, Tazuko Miyashiro

Central Union’s Scholarship Opportunities

The Women's League of Central Union Church is happy to announce that we are now accepting applications from students for the Kenneth O. and Doris A. Rewick Educational Aid Fund and the Ruth C. Scudder Scholarship for the 2024-2025 academic year. Applications will be accepted through the ScholarsApp online platform only. Visit <https://scholarsapp.com/> to create an account and for additional information. Please e-mail cucwlscholarship@gmail.com with any questions. Deadline for complete applications is **February 28, 2024**.

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 the Moderator's Desk

In God's Hug

Dear Church Family and Friends,

By the time you receive your Caller the Christmas and New Year's holidays would be done and gone. I am hoping though the memories of that precious time with your family, church family, and friends will last longer and create that wonderful sense of bliss and peacefulness.

I also hope that you have seen our partnerships in action by the activity around the Church during the Christmas holiday. The scouts and their family and friends were out in full force in the gym and parking lot creating the kadoomatsu that some of us ordered and took to our family homes. My husband Wayne and I had a chance to volunteer and work side by side with the scouts and families. There were a lot of organized activities and hard work that created the kadoomatsu that were delivered to the homebound and to many families in our church. We are blessed to have the Scouts as part of our Church's mission.

Other Community Partnerships such as **Family Promise continue on our campus**. Three families are staying with us on campus, and we hope and pray that they will find permanent housing soon. Our pledge to the Family Promise organization remains positive and will continue in 2024.

The **YMCA Pali Nu‘uanu Preschool and YMCA intersessions continue to thrive**. We look forward to next summer's intercession and will continue to discuss with the YMCA more ways to partner in the future.

As you all know the **Capital Campaign** was incredibly successful! We not only met but exceeded our goal. We owe that all to your "heart" and love for this church and sanctuary. We have been meeting with the architect to help us identify repairs that are necessary for the entire campus and what takes priority as we move toward 2024 so that proper permitting can happen in a timely fashion. The spalling was completed on the outside of the sanctuary, the old Administration building, and the gym. Further repairs and planning continue for the entire campus. We will continue to provide you with updates on the projects.

We are in our **Stewardship Campaign now**. Once again, based on our pledges, we are looking long and hard at our budget, trying to reduce where we can, however costs such as our insurance have significantly increased every year. Ways to bring down our budget deficit are imperative so that we do not continue to run a deficit budget. The budget will be discussed at our "Dollars and Sense" on January 21, 2024, as we ready the budget for our Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024.

We will be sending a letter to the membership of the times of "Dollars and Sense" and the Annual Meeting as well as the agenda items soon.

I am always amazed as we look back at our year at NCC and revel in how we have walked through another year "hand in hand" comforting each other, supporting each other, cheering the leadership and membership onward, and being the church family that we have come to trust with God holding us in a huge bearhug. May we never take that for granted.

In God's hug, Laurie Hamano, your 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

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, 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

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

Dear God, thank you for your love and guidance throughout the past year and we pray for your continued presence in our lives as we meet the challenges of the new year. Be with us and guide our decisions when we meet at our annual congregational meeting and enable us to move forward with our Capital Campaign plans.

2023 was the hottest year ever recorded.

We pray that all the nations that attended the recent COP28 climate summit in Dubai will work towards solutions to stop continued global warming. Help us to individually do our part by following recommended practices. We are grateful for the love and support of our families and friends. Help us to relate to them, and even strangers, with patience and kindness. Amen

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

In Memory of

George Honjiyo IMO Howard & Alice Ishihara

Sets Takahashi IMO Howard & Alice Ishihara

Lani Hirohata IMO Howard a& Alice Ishihara

Helen Pierce IMO Howard Ishihara

Mary Ann Saito IMO Howard Ishihara

Paul Yamamoto IMO Howard Ishihara &

Katsuto Yatsuoka

Thank You

Ethel Yamaguchi

Pat Katayama

Lois Tao

Gloria Gainsley

Don Ikeda

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
January 28, 2024.
*We collected 183 pounds of
food in November.*

Thank you from Temple Emmanu-el

Temple Emmanu-el is grateful to you for being such supportive neighbors. Your generosity in sharing your parking means a lot to all of us.

With Aloha, Carolann and the Board Rabbi and Staff at Temple E.

2024 Altar Flower Donations



2024 Altar Sign-up sheet is up. If there any dates you want to sign up for ahead of time. Please email the office nuuanucongregational@gmail.com

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.

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.

Conversation and Tea



This event on Thursday mornings are on hold until Further notice. Updates will be in the weekly news and the next Caller issue.

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.



Invitation to Bible Study

Anyone who is wanting to join the bible study group is more than welcome to.

Pastor Jeannie will be having the Bible Study via zoom.

Please let Pastor Jeannie know if you would like to join the group.

The In-Person Bible Study is on hold for now.



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

Lectionary Readings for January

January 7 (Defining Moments): Gen 1:1-5 • Ps 29 • Acts 19:1-7 • **Mark 1:4-11**

January 14 (Known and Loved): 1 Sam 3:1-10, (11-20) • **Ps 139:1-6, 13-18** • 1 Cor 6:12-20 •
John 1:43-51

January 21 (Follow Me): Jonah 3:1-5, 10 • Ps 62:5-12 • 1 Cor 7:29-31 • **Mark 1:14-20**

January 28 (Power to Do): Deut 18:15-20 • Ps 111 • 1 Cor 8:1-13 • **Mark 1:21-28**