

“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World”

1020 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 ♦ Volume LXV ♦ Issue 1 ♦ February 2018

PASTOR'S PAGE



Dear FUMC 'Ohana: ^{SEP}Lent is a special time in the church. It is a time that people of faith set aside for a focused time of reflection, meditation, sacrifice, devotion to God, and spiritual disciplines. The season of Lent recalls the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness before he began his three-year public ministry that changed the

world. It also recalls the 40 years that the Hebrews spent in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land.

Traditionally, people used to fast during the week, taking Sundays to eat, called Feast Days. That's why it seems like there are more than 40 days between Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, and the Saturday before Easter, the end of Lent. For people who don't fast, they have decided to "give up" something for Lent. Often, it is a self-help time, where people give up meat, or soda, or something like that. Others "pick up" something for Lent, like devotionals, maybe write a letter a day to people with whom they've been out of touch. Still others decide to map out 40 days of doing a different thing each day.

This year, I'm going to follow my daughters' conviction to be vegetarian, and restrict meat consumption to twice a week. I'm also going to experiment with a phone app called "Calm," which is free in the Apple app store and Android. It plays calming sounds and images, like ocean, rain, etc. (One cautionary note: it will automatically take you to a sign-up page that will offer a free trial, then will charge you \$59 for a year's subscription; you do not have to sign up for this! It is a free app).

The Church-wide worship and study theme in Lent will be the book Momentum for Life by Pastor Mike Slaughter, who is our coach/consultant. It is a comprehensive guide to becoming more fully engaged in God's mission for our individual and community lives.

Please also join us for Ash Wednesday service: February 14 at 6:30. We will have a brief service where we will symbolically burn our sins, receive Holy Communion, and receive the imposition of ashes. Afterwards, we will have a simple supper of vegetarian soup, bread, and fruit. The meal will be provided, and soup will be served in earthenware bowls (as the supply lasts) and you are invited to make a freewill donation and keep the bowl.

This will be a wonderful time of blessing. We invite you to join us.

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

Fakafeta'I ki he 'Otua Mafimafi he tauhi lelei kuo ne fai ma'akitautolu 'o tau a'usia ai 'a e mahina hono 2 'o e ta'u ni. 'Oku faka'ofa ma'u pe 'a e fu'u ivi liliu 'a e 'Otua 'ia Sisu Kalaisi ko hotau Koeli 'I he'etau ngaahi me'a.

'Oku ou puke 'a e faingamalie ko'eni ke fakahoko atu 'a e fakamalo loto hounga mo'oni meiate au mo e Fafekau Kilohana, Tevita Fatumea Moa he tokoni lahi kuo mou fai mai ki he ki'I famili ni, lolotonga 'a e fakaevaha na'e hoko. Tauange ke fakakakato mei he Ta'ehamai 'a e tapuaki mo fakamonu'ia kiate kimoutolu kotoa 'a e Siasi pea pehe foki ki he Feohi'anga He'ikai teu masiva.

Kuo lava lelei foki 'a e konga 1 & 2 'o e landscaping 'o 'apisiasi ni, pea 'oku tau fiefia kotoa pe he faka'ofa'ofa 'a e 'api ni, pea fakahoifua ki he 'Otua Mafimafi foki.

'E kamata foki 'a e tokangaekina 'etau Lautohi fakasapate he mahina ko Fepueli 'o hokohoko atu pe. Pea pehe ki he'etau Youth mo e Young Adults. Ko e taimi ko'eni 'e kamata leva mo e tokoni'I 'a e fanau ako ki he'enua homework ki he uike kotoa pe. Ko hono fakaikiiki 'e fakamahino atu ia he kamata'anga 'o Fepueli. Pehe ki he ako'I 'a e fanau ki he Hiva tu'unga fasi fakatonga ki he kaha'u 'o 'etau ngaue.

'Oku ou fakahoko atu foki heni 'a e kole fakamatoato ki he kakai 'o e Siasi fekau'aki mo e va'a ngaue koia 'a e Hiva lahi 'a e Siasi. 'Oku fu'u fiema'u 'aupito 'a e kau mai ki he Hiva Lahi 'a e Siasi he ko ia 'oku ne fuesia 'a 'etau ngaahi ma'unga kelesi 'o e Siasi he Sapate kotoa pe. Pea 'oku kole fakamolemole lahi atu ki he kakai 'o e Siasi ke mou kau mai mu'a 'o tokoni'I 'a e Hiva lahi 'a e Siasi. Ko e faka'amu ke tautau toko 20 'a e fa'ahi, solo, 'oloto, tenoa, mo e laulalo, ke toko 20 'a e fa'ahi. Ko e taha 'eni 'a e va'a ngaue 'oku fu'u fiema'u 'aupito 'a e tokoni ki ai.

'I he kuata ko'eni, 'oku tokanga ki he uki 'a e hiva 'a e Kakai Tangata ke ne fakafofonga 'a e va'a ngaue kakai tangata he Kuata ni.

'Oku ou 'ofa lahi atu kiate kimoutolu mo e talamonu atu ki he ngaue 'oku tau fai 'I hono Siasi. 'Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu.

Pastor Linita 'U. Moa

NEW STAFF POSITIONS

- **Church Administrator**—Paini Harris has moved from her position as Church Secretary/Office Manager to the position of Church Administrator. Please contact Paini with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the building and facilities as well as the custodial staff.
- **Assistant to the Pastor**—Sandi Brekke grew up at Wahiawa UMC and was very active in the youth group. She was Pastor Tom's assistant at Aiea UMC and developed programs for kupuna at Kaiser Permanente. Sandi will be taking over managing the office from Paini.
- **Ministerial Intern**—Kim Houff is a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church seeking Deacons' orders. She plans on graduating in June with a Masters of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in Ohio. She is excited to see what God has in store for her at FUMC-Honolulu.
- **Youth Director**—Mark Brekke was the Youth Director at Aiea UMC under Pastor Tom's direction. Mark and Sandi are very involved at their own church, New Hope Christian Fellowship, serving on the Halau, Nepal Missions and facilitating pre-marital classes. In the past, Mark also served as an assistant in the 2nd-3rd grade class of Children's Ark (Sunday School). If you know of any youth who would like to grow deeper in their walk with Jesus in a fun and engaging way through the youth group, please see Mark.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Women of any age are invited to join the United Methodist Women. We have two circles. The Tongan circle meets at 8 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. The English language Circle usually meets at 11:30 am in the library on the second Wednesday of each month. Please join either circle to grow in faith, hope, and love in action!

Please note this month we will meet on the first Wednesday, February 7—bring your lunch and join us, drinks will be provided. The program is the annual "A Call to Prayer and Self Denial" and the theme is *Learning for a Lifetime: Developing Leaders*. If you are not able to attend but want to participate in the offering, please contact Tupou Seini Kelemen or Barbara Fernandez.

WEEKDAY REFLECTIONS

The ministerial intern, Kim Houff, will be posting reflections each weekday on the church Facebook page. These posts will help us to reflect on the message of the sermon throughout

the week. Be sure to "like" the church's Facebook page (First United Methodist Church Honolulu) so that you will receive the reflections in your Facebook message feed.

BUILDING AND FACILITIES

Happy New Year! As part of the effort to make our grounds & facilities "welcoming", the custodial staff, Masi, Pat and Pongi, are dedicated to do their best to keep up with the demands of these old buildings. With the schedule below, we are pleased to share with you that we now have almost 3 times more custodial service than what we had in the past 10 years! And although we have increased our hours, we continue to ask for your cooperation in maintaining the cleanliness of our buildings and facilities. Please report to the church office or the custodian on duty, any damage, leak, or any unusual activity on the grounds.

Hours of coverage:

Monday	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Tuesday	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Wednesday	6 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Thursday	6 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Friday	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Saturday	6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Sunday	6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

FACILITY USE UPDATE

The Administrative Council has affirmed a request from our facility staff that there is to be no use of the facility, particularly of the kitchen, without prior approval. Effective immediately, seven days notice must be given to the Church Administrator, Paini Harris, to schedule use of the facility. Thank you for your cooperation.

CHURCH QUIET HOURS

Effective immediately, church quiet hours will begin at 9 pm. At that time, all outside activities will cease and doors will be closed. This will allow us to be good neighbors.

LUNCH ON THE LOOSE

All are welcome to meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Little Village Noodle House on Thursday, February 15. Call Carol Kesler at 926-0288 to reserve your spot.

BRITT LECTURES

Britt Lectures will be held at Christ United Methodist Church February 16-18 at 7 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church. This year's speaker is Rev. Mark Tidsworth. We are blessed to have Rev. Tidsworth as the speaker for our 10 a.m. worship service on February 18.

February

**repeats weekly*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6:30 pm SPROUTs	2 *7 –8 pm The Singles Ministry *8 pm Youth & Youth Adults	3
4 10 am JOINT Worship	5	6	7 11:30am UMW English Circle *6:30 Tongan Language Ser- vice *6:00 Na Leo O Paulele Choir Practice	8 7 pm Finance Committee	9	10
11 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10 am English Worship 11:30am Bible Study 12 Tongan Worship	12	13 7 pm Trustees	14 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service and Meal	15	16 7 pm Britt Lec- tures @ Christ UMC	17 7 pm Britt Lec- tures @ Christ UMC
18 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Bible Study 11:30am Youth Group 12pm Tongan Service	19 Holiday— Grounds Closed	20 8 pm UMW Tongan Circle	21	22 7 pm Adminis- trative Council	23	24
25 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Bible Study 11:30am Youth Group 12pm Tongan Service	26	27 6:30 pm Change & Release Teams	28			

Check out our website: www.firstumchonolulu.org



Email: Office@Firstumchonolulu.org



Twitter: [HonFirstUMC](https://twitter.com/HonFirstUMC)



Facebook: [First United Methodist Church Honolulu](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUnitedMethodistChurchHonolulu)

First United Methodist Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter editor: Sandra Mactagone

Church Leaders & Staff

Pastors: The Rev. Dr. Tom Choi

The Rev. Dr. Linita 'U. Moa

Ministerial Intern: Kim Houff

Church Administrator: Paini Harris

Assistant to the Pastor: Sandi Brekke

Youth Director: Mark Brekke

Choir Directors: Tupou Seini Kelemen

Fololiena Maka

Pianist: Mia Lin

Custodians: Heamasi Koli, Pat Sheppard,

Pongi Vehikite

CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:

Resident Bishop:

Bishop Grant Hagiya

District Superintendent:

Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han

THE LAST WORD

February is Black History Month. It does not take long to understand why Black History Month is celebrated. It would be hard to miss what is happening in the national news in terms of racial tensions and divisions across the country.

In celebrating Black History Month, we can look at how far we have come and we can dream about what it can be like in the future.

We build the future by building relationships. These intercultural relationships are crucial for overcoming racial tensions, growing the church and becoming the church that God has called us to be.

The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) helps build those relationships through resources and support for churches. GCORR is committed to helping the church embrace cultural diversity in our congregations and communities. The agency also is committed to equipping the church to engage with other cultures.

When we give generously to our apportionments to the [World Service Fund](#), we are supporting the work of GCORR.