



# Focus

*Growing in Christ through Spirit, mind, body and 'ohana*

1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

FEBRUARY 2019 – VOLUME XXVI ISSUE 2

## Upcoming Events

### SUPER BOWL FELLOWSHIP

February 3 at 1:00 p.m.

*Growing in Christ through 'ohana* is one of our missions. Our first 'ohana fellowship time in 2019 will be Super Bowl Sunday!

We will be watching the Super Bowl together on the big screen in Komuro Hall and enjoying each other's company.

Please bring your favorite pupu to share and FUMC will provide the popcorn! We hope to see you there!



### HALE NANI NURSING HOME OUTREACH

February 9

Our Young People's Ministry will be sharing the love of Jesus with the residents of Hale Nani Nursing Home on Saturday, February 9 at 10:00 a.m.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful outreach, please see Mele Pepa Latu for more information.

### LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Due February 10

With the success of our Advent devotional guide, written by members of our First UMC 'ohana, we will have a Lenten devotional guide.

Our office staff will be compiling and editing the devotional guide. We

invite you to contact the office for a list of scriptures available if you are interested in writing a devotional.



### 5 LOVE LANGUAGES

February 25 at 6-8 p.m.

Join us for a FREE community workshop. Learn five ways to express your love and build stronger relationships with children, romantic partners, family, and friends. Please register **by Feb. 20** to ensure your spot. To register email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) or call 808-522-9555. Child care and snacks provided.

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## Pastor's Page

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

This month is one of the most pivotal in the history of our denomination. From February 23-26 in St. Louis, Missouri, a special session of the United Methodist General Conference will be held to respond to a report overseen by the Council of Bishops called A Commission of the Way Forward. The report is to give recommendations on the issue of human sexuality and the Church. 864 delegates from the United States, Africa, the Philippines, and Europe will decide the direction of the denomination for the future. Of those, there are four delegates from our California-Pacific annual conference; I am blessed to be one of them.

On February 3, I will be preaching at the 10:00 a.m. service on the impact this issue has on our denomination and our local church, as well as emphasizing my personal hope: that despite our differences, we will remain united as a denomination and a church.

On February 10 at 10:00 a.m., I will be preaching on the scriptural/theological insights on this issue.

On February 10 and 17, we will continue our Adult Bible studies on this topic, which will be in-depth and with essential dialogue.

Please pray for the delegates and our denomination, as we come to this critical point in our denomination's history. If you wish to learn more, please go to this link: <http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2019-special-session>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The annual Britt Lectures return from February 15-17 plus a morning workshop on February 18. This year's lecturer is Dr. Diana Butler Bass, who is a Christian history professor who writes extensively on American religion and culture.

Please note that the lectures will be held at the Christ United Methodist Church on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. On Sunday morning at the 10:00 a.m. service, however, Dr. Bass will be preaching at First UMC. It is expected that the Britt family will be worshipping with us on that Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Since our Advent devotional guide, written by members of our First UMC 'ohana, was an unqualified success, we will have a Lenten devotional guide, which this year runs from March 6 through April 21. Our office staff will be compiling and editing the devotional guide. We invite you to contact the office if you are interested in writing a devotional.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please save the date! On March 3 we will be honoring some of our members as Living Treasures of First UMC. It will be a way to recognize some of our *kupuna*. It will be a combined service with a meal afterward. Please don't miss it.

Blessings to you during this momentous month!

Grace and aloha,

*Pastor Tom*





Hawaii District United Methodist Church

# 2019 Britt Lectures

With DR. DIANA BUTLER BASS

## Location

Christ United Methodist Church (1639 Keeaumoku St, Honolulu)

## Date & Time

February 15-17, 2019 (Fri-Sun)

Main Sanctuary 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(followed by Q & A to 9:30 p.m.)

Workshop Feb 18 (Mon): 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

15 (Fri)

### *The Gratitude Gap: Why is Thanks So Hard?*

Take a look at the world around us. Are we living out of a place of gratefulness? Diana finds that claim to be at odds with the discontent that permeates society.

16 (Sat)

### *From Private Feeling to a New Path for Community*

Diana shows how gratitude can be understood through four different lenses, examining how it affects us emotionally and ethically on a personal level and on a communal level.

17 (Sun)

### *Radical Gratitude: A Way of Resilience & Resistance*

Diana offers suggestions for reclaiming gratitude that can lead to greater connection with God, our loved ones, our world, and even our own souls.

18 (Mon)

### *Going Deeper with Lecturer, Dr. Diana Butler Bass*

Diana conducts a breakout session with clergy in a three hour workshop to delve deeper in understanding gratitude and how we practice it.



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## DR. DIANA BUTLER BASS

Diana Butler Bass (Ph.D. Duke University) is an award-winning author and internationally known public speaker and thought leader on issues of spirituality, religion, culture, and politics. Diana is the author of ten books, the most recent being *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* in which she offers suggestions for reclaiming gratitude that can lead to greater connection with God, our loved ones, our world, and even our souls.

**\*BOOKS:** *Grounded: Finding God in the World —A Spiritual Revolution*, *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening* and *Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*.

**\*Lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, please call the district office at (808) 536-1864.**

## This Month's Sermons at the 10 a.m. service

### February 3 – "LGBTQ+ and the UMC"

Pastor Tom will preach on the aspects of the Commission on the Way Forward, including the three plans being proposed to address human sexuality and the church. Because of the subject material, the children and middle school youth will see the second half of the Dreamworks animated film, "The Prince of Egypt."

This Sunday will be a combined service with Holy Communion.

### February 10 – "LGBTQ+ and the Bible"

Pastor Tom Choi will explore what the Bible actually says on this topic and some of the interpretive decision made by both conservatives and progressives.

### February 17 – Guest Preacher Dr. Diana Butler Bass

Our 2019 Britt Lecturer will be the preacher for this Sunday morning.

Diana Butler Bass (Ph.D. Duke University) is an award-winning author and internationally known public speaker and thought leader on issues of spirituality, religion, culture, and politics. Diana is the author of ten books, the most recent being *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks* in which she offers suggestions for reclaiming gratitude that can lead to greater connection with God, our loved ones, our world, and even our souls.

### February 24 – Kim Houff, preacher

Our director of outreach and community engagement will speak on "What is the Soul?" This is the first installment of our Lenten sermon series based on John Ortberg's book, *Soul Keeping*. All are welcome to join the Bible Study class after the service to delve further into the topic.



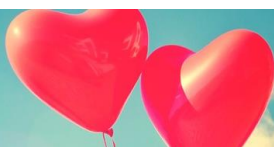
"Thank you for your generosity to the University of Hawai'i [Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project]."

We are grateful for your commitment to educate students through your dedication to philanthropy and the advancement of higher learning. Your contribution helps prepare our students, faculty, facilities and programs to meet the challenges facing our school and broader community. Support from alumni and friends like you makes an undeniable difference in the lives of Hawai'i students.

Thank you for affirming our vision for the UH system and the education we deliver."

Mahalo nui loa,  
Terri Alvaro  
Director of Donor Relations

**Hawaii H. O. M. E. Project**  
Homeless Outreach & Medical Education





## YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

Praise be to God for all His blessings! We began our Friday Fellowships in November of last year and have been hosting it twice a month since. This is open to children ages 3 to 18 years old and so far an average of 30 young souls have shown up looking to learn about Jesus while having some fun. We want to thank all the volunteers who prepared dinner, led activities, and watched over the kids. . . .llaisa Uhilamoelangi, Sini Pepa, Piueti Maka, Olivia Ve'a (Pepa), Ate Moala, Ariitema Vulivalu, Mataele Moala, Katokakala Leha, Loisi Nau and Emalata Maka.

Tiana Penn Taufa, Director of Children's Ministry, has moved back to Tonga to continue ministry with her husband and family. We will miss her enthusiasm for sharing God's love and thank her for sharing this gift with us! Mele Pepa Latu will take over Tiana's responsibilities. Please contact Mele if you are interested in volunteering in any way. We could use volunteers to help lead activities, teach music and dance, be a Sunday School teacher for both languages in English and Tongan and to help prepare snacks/meals, etc.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 1 – Young Adult's Fellowship, 7 pm, K-Hall

February 8 – Young People's Fri Fellowship, 7 pm, K-Hall

February 9 – Hale Nani Outreach, 10 am

February 10 – Sunday School (English) resumes

February 22 – Young People's Fri Fellowship, 7 pm, K-Hall

*For updates, please follow our Facebook page @FUMC Honolulu Young People's Ministry*

*Mele Pepa Latu, Director of Young People's Ministry*

## YOUTH GROUP

What a joy it is to watch our youth serve. Giving of themselves to help make enjoyable memories for the families that FUMC hosted in January during Family Promise week. They created such a powerful and fun experience. You could hear the laughter down the halls and you could see the smiles on the parents' faces as they watched their children play. Once again, another proud moment as our youth continue to grow in their gifts.

UPCOMING EVENTS: March 31 – Youth Sunday

*Mark Brekke, Director of Youth*

## THE SINGLES MINISTRY (TSM)

"May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". May God fill us with his joy, peace, faith, grace and Holy Spirit now and throughout the year. In 2019 we look forward to many things but at the top of the list is growing this ministry by outreaching to young people in our community. In the month of February we look forward to the Wesley Foundation retreat, reaching out to young adults and planning events for 2019.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 1-3 – Wesley Foundation College and Young Adult Retreat

Join the tsm movement!

*Ana Makaleinani Namoa, TSM coordinator*

## LUNCH ON THE LOOSE

All are welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship on Thursday, February 21 at Merriman's (Ward Village) at 11:30 a.m.

Contact the church office

at 522-9555 or email Kim at

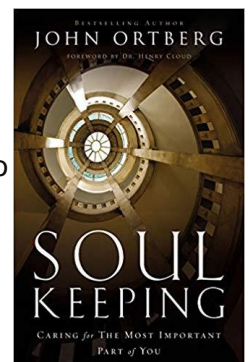
Kim@firstumchonolulu.org for the location and to reserve your spot.



## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

On February 24, the Sunday Bible Study will begin a new study for Lent: *Soul Keeping* by John Ortberg. All are welcome to join the study at any time.

Ortberg has written a book by the same name that goes along with the study that you can purchase to further enrich this Lenten Study.



## PARTY BY THE PARK 2019

Party by the Park is a wonderful community event that will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> this year. Our church will host this all community event for the homeless with food, music, haircuts, and more! A great serving opportunity! If you would like to help with planning for the Party by the Park event, come to our first planning meeting on Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Kim Houff at Kim@firstumchonolulu.org

## Volunteer Opportunities

### OFFICE HELP

Do you enjoy talking to people and helping others? We would love to have some help in the office.

Specifically, we would like to have someone come in on Tuesday mornings during our staff meetings and Friday mornings to answer phones and greet any visitors who may come to the office. This person could also do small office tasks during this time (i.e. prepare newsletter for mailing, updating bulletinboards, etc.). If interested, please call the office at 808-522-9555 or email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org).



### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS NEEDED

We have some great teachers who have dedicated themselves to our children. It would be great if we can give them a break. We are looking for volunteers to volunteer once a month or as a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering or for more information, please see Mele Pepa Latu or email her at

[YoungPeoplesDirector@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:YoungPeoplesDirector@firstumchonolulu.org).

### FOOD BANK

Our food bank, a wonderful outreach to our community, needs volunteers! Do you like to shop, pack food, talk to people at the window, shelve food items, sort, or clean? The Food Bank can use your skills! Contact the church office at 808-522-9555 for more information or stop by the Food Bank during operating hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2 – 4 p.m.

Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES (I.H.S.) DINNER

Every other month on the first Wednesday of the month, First UMC provides dinner for those who come to IHS for a hot meal. We have a great crew who prepare the meal but we need volunteers to help serve the cafeteria style dinner. If you are available, our next outreach is March 6 at 6 p.m. at IHS located at 350 Sumner Street. Please see Paini Harris to sign-up or for more information.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The English Circle of United Methodist Women will meet in the church library on Wednesday, February 13, at 11:30 a.m. for the program, "Women Investing in Shalom." Bring a lunch and come join us. The Tongan circle meets at 8 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Women of any age are invited to join the United Methodist Women.



### UMW English and Tongan Circle Officers





**First  
United  
Methodist  
Church  
of Honolulu**

1020 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1492  
(808) 522-9555 Fax (808) 528-3992  
Website: [www.firstumchonolulu.org](http://www.firstumchonolulu.org)

# FEBRUARY 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7pm Singles Ministry	2
3 8am Pancakes & Praise 10am Joint Worship with Fellowship Luncheon  1:00 p.m. Super Bowl Fellowship (K-Hall)	4	5 5:30 pm Centering Prayer	6 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Rehearsal	7 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	8 7pm Young People's Ministry  7pm Singles Ministry	9 10:00am Hale Nani Outreach
10 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Bible Study 11:30am Youth Grp 1 pm Tongan Worship	11	12 5:30 pm Centering Prayer  6:30 pm CFA meeting	13 11:30 UMW English Circle 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Rehearsal	14 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	15 7pm Singles Ministry	16
17 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship* 11:30am Bible Study 11:30 am Youth Grp 1pm Tongan Worship  Britt Lectures 7p.m. @ Christ UMC	18 <b>HOLIDAY</b> Office Closed  Britt Lectures 9 a.m. @ Christ UMC	19 5:30 pm Centering Prayer  7 pm Party by the Park Planning Meeting  8 pm UMW Tongan Circle	20 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Rehearsal	21 11:30 am Lunch on the Loose 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	22 7pm Young People's Ministry  7pm Singles Ministry	23
24 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship** 11:30am Bible Study 11:30am Youth Grp 1pm Tongan Worship	25 6:00 p.m. 5 Love Languages Workshop	26 5:30 pm Centering Prayer	27 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Rehearsal	28 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir		

February 15-18: Britt Lectures - Dr. Diana Butler Bass will be lecturing on being Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks. Friday to Sunday lectures are at 7 p.m. at Christ UMC; Monday workshop at 9 a.m. All are welcome to attend these free lectures.

\*SPECIAL NOTE: Dr. Bass will preach at the 10 a.m. service at First UMC on Sunday, February 17.

\*\*Kim Houff, Director of Discipleship & Community Engagement will be preaching at 10 a.m. service.

February 25: 5 Love Languages Workshop - Learn 5 ways to express your love and build stronger relationships with romantic partners, family, and friends. Child care and snacks provided.

To register, call the church office at 808-522-9555 or email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org).





## First United Methodist Church

1020 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1492  
(808) 522-9555 Fax (808) 528-3992  
Website: [www.firstumchonolulu.org](http://www.firstumchonolulu.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Church Leaders & Staff

**Pastors:** The Rev. Dr. Tom Choi  
The Rev. Dr. Linita 'U. Moa

**Director of Discipleship & Community Engagement:**  
Kim Houff

**Pastoral Intern for Multicultural Ministry:** Ongo Koli

**Church Administrator:** Paini Harris

**Assistant to the Pastors:** Sandi Brekke

**Director of Youth:** Mark Brekke

**Director of Young People's Ministry:** Mele Pepa Latu

**Choir Directors:** Tupou Seini Kelemen, Fololiena Maka

**Accompanist:** Jason Eom

**Custodians:** Heamasi Koli, Pat Sheppard,  
Pongi Vehikite, Sione Palu

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:**

**Resident Bishop:**  
Bishop Grant Hagiya

**District Superintendent:**  
Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han



*Photo Credit: Aloha Images and Designs*

**Check out our website: [www.firstumchonolulu.org](http://www.firstumchonolulu.org)**



**Email: [Office@Firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Office@Firstumchonolulu.org)**



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