



Focus

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

1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814

SEPTEMBER 2019 – VOLUME LXVI, ISSUE 9

Upcoming Events



NA LEO 'O PAULELE CHOIR POTLUCK

Wednesday, September 4
6:00 p.m. in Komuro Hall

If you would like to give the choir a try, come to the choir potluck to learn more and to fellowship. Choir practice will follow the potluck at 7:30 p.m.

New members are always welcome! If you have questions, please contact Choir Director, Tupou Seini Kelemenani at 808-548-9860.

INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES (IHS) OUTREACH

Wednesday, September 4
6:00 p.m.

Every other month we provide dinner for those who come to the Institute for Human Services for a hot meal. We need volunteers to help serve the cafeteria style dinner.

If you are available, our next outreach is September 4 at 6:00 p.m. at IHS which is located at 350 Sumner Street. Please see Paini Harris to sign-up or for more information.



The Institute for Human Services
More than food and shelter



United Methodists vow to faithfully participate in the church's ministries by their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, September 15
11:30 a.m.

Pastor Tom will be holding a Membership Class on Sunday, September 15 at 11:30 a.m. for those who are interested in membership in the church.

See Kim Houff, Director of Discipleship and Community Engagement, for more information or email kim@firstumchonolulu.org.

In This Issue:

Upcoming Events	p. 1
Pastor's Page	p. 2-3

September Sermons	p. 4
Mahalo	p. 4
Youth & Young Adults	p. 5

Ministry News	p. 6
Advent Devotional.	p.6
Calendar	p. 7



Pastor's Page

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

As we continue our denomination's journey into its future, different ideas for how to resolve our difference have emerged. One is commonly called the Bard-Jones Plan (if you search using that name, you should be able to find the full proposal), named after two bishops, progressive David Bard and conservative Scott Jones, and would keep the Methodist denomination under one umbrella but two or three different churches within. There would be a Traditional Methodist Church for those who are more conservative on LGBTQIA+ issues, a Progressive Methodist Church that would remove all restrictive language and be fully inclusive on matters concerning same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQIA+ persons. A possible third church, the Open Methodist Church, would remove the restrictive language but would not specifically mention full inclusion; this could be the more centrist option.

Another plan is called the "Indianapolis Plan" (search for Indianapolis Plan UMC). This plan would form two separate denominations: the Traditional United Methodist Church and a Centrist/Progressive UMC. There is a possibility that a separate Progressive UMC could be formed that immediately would offer full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ persons.

A third plan, called the UMCNext Plan, assumes that more traditional churches would leave the denomination and allowing a "gracious exit for them," and a special session in 2022, similar to a constitutional convention, would be held and would re-write the Book of Discipline, including the removal of restrictive language against LGBTQIA+ persons.

As we move forward, our conference leadership, led by Bishop Grant Hagiya, is encouraging us to be in dialogue. We are also encouraged to study and form a small group to develop a statement on behalf of our church as to what our direction might be. This statement would be discussed and published in our newsletter, and it is hoped that it would be adopted at our Charge Conference, which is scheduled for November 14 at 6:30 at HARRIS UMC.

Here are some resources to consider: 1) Download Bishop Grant Hagiya's Annual Conference sermon from June 13th (calpacumc.org/ac2019); 2) Go to: westernjurisdictionumc.org for statements from leadership and resources for discussion; 3) Download and read the publication; "Waiting for God's New Thing" by Gil Rendle.

As Bishop Hagiya and the Appointive Cabinet say: May God continue to guide us into becoming a "New Church" and so that we may open all our doors for our neighbors who need our love and care to create God's community among us.

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

P. S. My thanks to all who helped out at our FunFest@First, a celebration for houseless people last August 17. Special thanks to Kim Houff, who coordinated the event, ably assisted in planning and hard work before and during the event by Sandi Brekke, Paini Harris, Ongo Koli, and Pastor Linita Moa. Our thanks to the many volunteers, sister churches, and organizations that helped make this a special and memorable day!



Pastor's Page (continued)

'Oku tau fakafeta'i kotoa pe ki he 'Otua Mafimafi he'ene tauhi lelei 'o tau a'usia 'a e ngaahi 'aho ko'eni pea pehe ki he Kuata ni, 'a e Kuata 'a Ha'a Fafine mo e 'amanaki tali honau Ui. Fakafeta'i 'Eiki e 'ofa.

Fakamalo lahi ki he ngaahi famili kotoa pe 'a e Siasi he fuesia 'a e ngaahi fatongia kotoa pe 'I he family, Siasi mo e Lotu, lava 'o e Katoanga Tukumo'ui 'o e ta'u, fakamalo lahi atu kiate kimoutolu kotoa pe.

'I he kuata ko'eni foki 'oku tau teuteu ai 'a hono talitali 'o e Fakataha'anga Kuata he weekend ko 'eni, pea mo e 'aho 'o e To'utupu, mo e Tali-Ui 'a e hou'eiki fafine, pea 'oku talamonu atu ki he palesiteni, mo e Potungaue 'a e Kakai Fefine tauange ke mou ma'u ha taliui monu'ia mo kelesi'ia foki he kuata ni.

'Oku ou faka'amu pe ke fakamanatu atu ki he ngaahi kalasi 'Aho ke tau 'ahi'ahi mu'a ke tau fakataha 'o fakahoko 'a 'etau ngaahi Kalasi 'aho ko e ma'unga kelesi ia 'oku lelei mo mahu'inga ki he'etau mo'ui fakalaumalie. Pea 'oku kole atu, kapau 'e lava 'o tu'o taha he mahina ko e fu'u koloa lahi aupito fakafo'ituitui mo e mo'ui fakalaumalie foki.

Fakataha mo 'etau Lautohi FakaSapate, pea 'oku kole atu ki he'etau Kau failautohi, ke mou tokanga mai mu'a ki he'etau fanau he Kuata ko'eni. 'Oku kole atu ai pe ki ha ni'ihii 'oku fiekau mai ki he kau failautohi pea kataki 'o kau mai mu'a ki he kau failautohi.

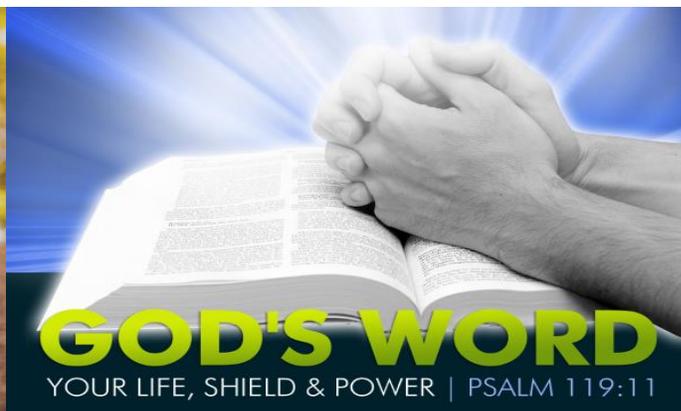
Pehe foki ki he kau hiva 'a e Praise Band, ka 'oku ke fiekau mai ki ai, 'oku talitali lelei kimoutolu ke kau mai ki he kau hiva ni.

'Oku 'iai 'a e fokotu'utu'u ki ha polokalama 'a e Young Couple, ko e polokalama pe feohi'anga ko 'eni ko e ngaahi famili fo'ou 'o e Siasi, pea kapau 'oku ke faka'amu ke ke kau ai, kataki 'o fakafetu'utaki mai kiate au, pea 'e mahino atu 'a e ngaahi fokotu'utu'u ki he polokalama fo'ou ko'eni 'a e Siasi.

Faka'amu pe he mahina ni, ke tau lau faka'aho 'a e folofola, felotu'aki mo fehufia'aki 'a e ngaahi Kalasi 'aho mo e ngaahi famili.

'Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu,

Faifekau Linita. 'U Moa





Sermons for the 10 a.m.

September 1 – “The King, The Queen, and First Church”

Pastor Tom Choi talks about the history of First Methodist Church and its clash with the events surrounding the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, on this, the birthday weekend of Queen Lili'uokalani. Holy Communion will be celebrated. A true potluck lunch will follow.

September 8 – “A Stronger Heart”

Pastor Tom preaches on the anniversary of his heart attack, how his life has changed, and the lessons learned.

September 15 – “Payday, Someday”

Pastor Tom focuses on the dangers of Ahab and Jezebel's life, and how unfaithful living may seem like the easier path, but in time turns out to be the much more difficult path.

September 22 – “The Call to Adventure”

Pastor Tom preaches on the calling of several of the prophets, including Samuel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.

September 29 – “The Samaritan Woman at the Well” - Youth Sunday

Pastor Tom preaches about this unlikely person who becomes the first evangelist to the Samaritans. Evangelism is something that each of us can do, no matter how unlikely it is we think we are for the task.

Copies of the worship script are available via email at office@firstumchonolulu.org or stop by the office for a hard copy.

Mahalo for Your Kokua



Heifer International

“Heifer International gratefully recognizes First United Methodist Church for serving the Lord through faithful efforts and exercising your gifts and donations to end hunger and poverty. This congregation has richly blessed families in need with gifts of livestock and agriculturally sound training to help families become self-reliant.”

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.”

– Proverbs 19:17

Piere Ferrari, CEO of Heifer International

Susannah Wesley Community Center

“On behalf of the staff and clients of the Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC), I share our heartfelt appreciation for your generous matching gift of \$7,000. . . Your gift is truly a blessing as it is supporting our core operational needs which in turn, assists SWCC continue our mission to serve as an instrument of God's love.”

For over 120 years, the Susannah Wesley Community Center has provided community-based prevention, intervention and treatment services to children, their families, individuals, the elderly and newcomers to the islands. It is through the generous and regular support from partners like FUMC that we are able to continue to provide programs and services that strengthen and empower individuals, families, and the community.”

With Appreciation,
Joni N. Chun
Executive Director



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY



It's been quite a busy summer preparing for our annual Tongan Youth Day. The theme this year was "Justify Your Faith in Jesus" and our memory verse was from John 19:35. We challenged ourselves to dig deeper into our faith in Jesus and to be like John in this scripture, to be a witness and testify through our words, our actions and when we're up there performing our songs and dances. Youth Day preparation is always a fun time to fellowship but it can be a lot of work, so I want to thank everyone who played a role in teaching, planning, feeding and praying over our ministry.

Sunday School will begin a new curriculum on Sunday, September 8th. We are looking for volunteers to be Sunday School teachers/helpers for both English and Tongan as well as volunteers to help provide light snacks. Please contact me for more information or to sign up at 808-469-6800 or email youngpeoplesdirector@firstumchonolulu.org.

Mele Pepa Latu
Director of Young People's Ministry



ENGLISH YOUTH GROUP

Although our youth have been extremely busy outside of church with sports and performing arts, they never miss a chance to show their love for God through serving locally by helping the homeless at our FunFest@First and by reaching out to remote areas in Nepal to help those that some people call "the forgotten".

Our youth know God has not forgotten them and, with all your continued support, more lives are being blessed everyday by the many clean water wells being installed all over Nepal.

The youth want to thank our FUMC 'ohana for believing in them and for all the love and support you continue to show. We are greater together!

Mark Brekke
Director of Youth



YOUTH CONFIRMATION RETREAT

October 18-20
FUMC Honolulu

Save the dates of October 18-20 for the confirmation retreat. All middle and high school youth (including those already confirmed) are invited to attend. Rev. Sarah Heath will be our speaker. Check her out at revsarahheath.com.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Wednesday, September 11
11:30 a.m. in the Library



The English Circle of United Methodist Women will meet in the second floor Library on Wednesday, September 11, at 11:30 a.m. Our program is "In the Beginning, There Is Light" led by Tupou Seini Kelemani. New ladies are always welcome. Bring a lunch and 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.

LUNCH ON THE LOOSE

Thursday, September 19
11:30 a.m. at
Cinnamon's at the Ilikai



All are welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 19 at Cinnamon's at the Ilikai, 1777 Ala Moana Blvd. #180. Valet parking is \$1/hr (with validation from the restaurant).

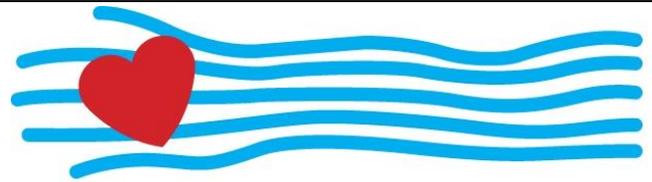
Contact Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org or the church office at 808-522-9555 to reserve your spot.

FUMC FOODBANK

Are you looking for a place to serve at FUMC? Do you have 2 hours a week to volunteer? Our Foodbank is in much need of volunteers!

Available shifts are: Monday, Wednesday or Thursday from 2-4 p.m. and Tuesday or Friday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Volunteer once a week, twice or all 5 days – whatever fits your schedule.

If you would like to volunteer, please see Lissi Chadwick, call the office at 808-522-9555 or email office@firstumchonolulu.org.



give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

GIVE ALOHA THROUGH FOODLAND

Just shop at a Foodland, Sack n Save, or Foodland Farms in September, use your Maika'i card, and tell the cashier you wish to make a donation to First UMC # **77948**.

Foodland will match a portion of our donations. These monies will support our Foodbank. Save your receipt!

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL**

We will be creating our own Advent/Christmas devotional again this year. See Kim Houff, Director of Discipleship and Community Engagement, to select a Scripture passage, and you will provide the devotion! We will have the list of scriptures available starting the first Sunday in September along with a sample devotional.

Completed devotions are **due Sunday, October 6**.

For more information, contact Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org or call the office.



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



SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8am Pancakes & Praise 10am English Worship followed by potluck lunch 1:00 p.m. Tongan Kuata	2 HOLIDAY OFFICE & FACILITY CLOSED	3 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 7 pm Trustees Mtg	4 6 pm IHS Outreach 6 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Potluck 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Choir Practice	5 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	6	7
UMCOR Disaster Academy @ AKUMC						
8 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Disciple's Path 11:30am Youth Grp 12 noon Tongan Worship 3pm Tongan Prayer Service	9	10 OFFICE & FOODBANK CLOSED 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 6:30 pm CFA Mtg	11 11:30 am UMW English Circle 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Choir Practice	12 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	13	14
15 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am New Member Mtg 11:30am Youth Grp 12 noon Tongan Worship 3pm Tongan Prayer Service	16	17 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 8 pm UMW Tongan Circle	18 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Choir Practice	19 11:30am Lunch on the Loose 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	20	21
22 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Bible Study 11:30am Youth Grp 12 noon Tongan Worship 3pm Tongan Prayer Service	23	24 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 7 pm SPRC Mtg	25 6 pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Language Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Choir Practice	26 12noon Yoga 6:30 pm Tongan Women Prayer Group 8:00 pm Tongan Choir	27	28
29 8am Pancakes & Praise 8:30-11:30 am Health Clinic SNAP Assistance 10am English Worship - Youth Sunday 11:30am Bible Study 11:30am Youth Grp 12 noon Tongan Worship 3 p.m. Tongan Service	30					



First United Methodist Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Leaders & Staff

Pastors: The Rev. Dr. Tom Choi
The Rev. Dr. Linita 'U. Maa

Director of Discipleship & Community Engagement:
Kim Houff

Assistant to the Pastors: Sandi Brekke

Facilities Director: Paini Harris

Director of Youth: Mark Brekke

Director of Young People's Ministry: Mele Pepa Latu

Choir Directors: Tupou Seini Kelemeneni, Fololiena Maka

Accompanist: Jason Eom

Finance Administrator: Ongo Koli

Custodians: Heamasi Koli, Pat Sheppard,
Pongi Vehikite, Sia Lolohea

CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:

Resident Bishop:
Bishop Grant Hagiya

District Superintendent:
Rev. Dr. Se Hee Han

LEMONAID FOR LOVE MISSION TO NEPAL

Dec. 25 - Jan 6

The LemonAid for Love girls (Marina & Sierra Choi, Sara Brekke, and Callie Cayaban), their parents, and mentor, Ashleigh Houff, are heading to Nepal to see the wells they have raised money for with the help of supporters like FUMC. They will also put on a kid's camp for one of the villages and make house calls to encourage the believers. The moms and Ashleigh will also put on a women's conference.



Please keep the team in your prayers as they prepare for this life-changing mission. Please also pray for their upcoming fundraisers: Sept 22 and Oct 13 at FUMC, Nov 1 at New Hope Dance School, Nov 10 at New Hope Manoa, and Nov 23 at Parker UMC Craft Fair.

Check out our website: www.firstumchonolulu.org



Email: Office@Firstumchonolulu.org



Instagram: [firstumchonolulu](https://www.instagram.com/firstumchonolulu)



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



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