

Focus

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

1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
DECEMBER 2019 – VOLUME LXVI, ISSUE 12

Christmas Eve Service

7:00 P.M.

We will have special music, dance, and a five piece brass ensemble. The service culminates with candles and we will end the service outside (weather permitting) on the corner of Beretania and Victoria as we wish each other and our community a Merry Christmas. Invite your family and friends to join you for this special service!



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Church Events

- Dec 8th – Tongan Kuata
- Dec 13th – Sunday School Christmas Party
- Dec 15th – Christmas Cantata
- Dec 21 – Pacific Academy of Performing Arts Holiday Showcase
- Dec 22 – Carol Sing & Commissioning of LemonAid for Love team
- Dec 24th – Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25th – Tongan Christmas Service

Pastor's Pen



Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

It's the most wonderful time of the year (along with Easter)! As we move into Advent and Christmas, I hope that you will be a part of our holiday events and activities:

We will again have an Advent-Christmas devotional guide, with submissions by our FUMC 'ohana. Our thanks to Kim Houff for coordinating the booklet.

On December 15, our Na Leo 'o Paulele choir directed by Tupou Seini Kelemeni will present its annual cantata.

We invite you to make alternative Christmas gifts this year, supporting different ministries in our Hawaii District. See elsewhere for a list.

Last month, we had the Pacific Academy of Performing Arts (PAPA) at the 10 a.m. worship service presenting selections from "Shrek: the Musical." As a continuing collaboration, PAPA will hold their holiday showcase at FUMC on Saturday evening on December 21. Our Pancakes and Praise Band will begin the show with a few selections of their own, join together on one number, and then PAPA closes the show.

On December 22, at the 10 a.m. worship service, we will have our annual carol-sing, where the service is built around learning about and singing different carols and Christmas songs. This has become a much beloved event.

Christmas Eve service is at 7 p.m. We will have special music, dance, and a five piece brass ensemble. The service culminates with candles and we will end the service outside (weather permitting) on the corner of Beretania and Victoria as we wish each other and our community a Merry Christmas

The Christ child is born! May we celebrate the most glorious birth together.

Grace and aloha,

Pastor's Page

FAKAFETA'I he'etau a'usia lelei 'a e mahina faka'osi 'o e ta'u 2019. Ko e fakafeta'i he 'ofa lahi, 'ofa haohaoa 'a e 'Otua kua tau lave ai. 'Oku tau 'amanaki atu 'eni ki he ngaahi 'aho lotu mo e ngaahi ma'unga kelesi 'o e faka'osinga 'o e ta'u, pea mo e kamata'anga 'o e ta'u fo'ou na foki.

Koia 'oku 'oatu ai 'a e fakamalo lahi ki he tokotaha kotoa pe 'o e Siasi 'I ho'omou 'ofa mo e poupu lahi ki he'etau ngaue 'o lava ai ke tau a'u mai ki he mahina kafakafa ko'eni.

- Ko 'etau Fakataha Kuata 'e fakahoko ia ki Kahuku he 'aho Tokonaki, Tisema 7, pea mo e Po-lotu he taimi 1 p.m. ki Honolulu ni he Sapate, Tisema 8, 2019. Hiva 'e taha Fanau Lautohi FakaSapate pea hiva 'e taha 'a e Siasi.
- Christmas Eve Service fakataha mo e kau papalangi he efiafi Tisema 24.
- Malanga Kilisimasi he 'aho 25 'o Tisema, he taimi 1 p.m. Katakai 'a e Kau Hiva kotoa 'o teuteu ange ki he'etau Malanga Kilisimasi, Hiva Lahi 'a e Siasi, Hiva 'a e Pancakes & Praise Band, Hiva 'a e Fanau Lautohi FakaSapate, Hiva 'a e Kakai Fefine, Hiva 'a e Kakai Tangata. Pea faka'osi'aki 'a e Halelu'ia Lahi 'o tataki 'e he Faihiva Lahi 'a e Siasi: Ffoli Maka.
- Po-Malanga Faka'osi ta'u he po 31 'o Tisema. Kamata 'a e Po-malanga he taimi 9 p.m. ki he 12 tu'apo.
- Pea ko 'etau Uike Lotu 'e kamata ia he 'aho 6 ki he 'aho 10 'o Sanuali 2020. Houa lotu pongipongi he taimi 5 a.m. (Komuro Hall) pea ko e lotu efiafi he 6 p.m. ki he Sanctuary.

'Oku 'oata 'a e fakamalo lahi 'aupito ki he Siasi hono kotoa, Faifekau Malolo mo hono Hoa, Rev. Dr. Eddie & Tupou Seini Kelemeni, Setuata Lahi mo hono ki'I famili, Kepueli & Manatu Tupou, Tokoni: Dr. Sione & Fale Mafoa'aeata, pea pehe ki he Kau tangata'eiki, Kau Fine'eiki, Kau ma'u lakanga 'o e Siasi mo e Siasi hono kotoa a'usia 'etau fanau 'o kamata mei he lahitaha 'o a'u ki he si'Isi' taha.

Tauange ke fakafonu ivi mo e kelesi kotoa pe kimoutolu 'e he Laumalie Ma'oni'oni he fa'ahita'u fakakoloa ko'eni. 'Ofa ke mou ma'u ha Kilisimasi fiefia mo ha ta'ufo'ou 'oku fonu monu'ia foki.

'Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu hufia,

Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa

Sermons for 10 a.m. Service



December 1 – “The Importance of Fathers”

Pastor Tom Choi focuses on the story of Joseph, the adoptive (some say foster) father of Jesus Christ. The role of fathers in the lives of their children cannot be understated, including and especially the spiritual lives of their children.

December 8 – “Mary – The Unlikely Choice”

Pastor Tom Choi turns to Mary, the mother of Jesus, who has been celebrated and venerated, but was originally a very curious and unlikely choice to be the mother of the Christ Child.

December 15 – Christmas Cantata

The Na Leo ‘O Paulele choir, directed by Tupou Seini Kelemen, will present its annual holiday cantata.

December 22 – Carol-Sing

Kim Houff, Director of Discipleship and Community Engagement, will lead this service, giving background on several carols and holiday songs, and many of these will be sung.

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Service will be held at 7 p.m. Brass, choirs, special music and dance.

December 29 – “The Superhero Pose”

Pastor Tom explores the popularity of superheroes and how certain poses can uplift and inspire. Similarly, prayer poses have also done the same and more.



Advent-Christmas Devotional 2019

FUMC'S ADVENT-CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

Now Available!

We are so blessed to be able to present this devotional guide to you. It is a remarkable collection of different perspectives of faith from members of our Honolulu First United Methodist ‘ohana. We hope that it will inspire your own

hearts and minds as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child.

We are grateful to our devotional editor, Kim Houff, for coordinating the booklet. We are also grateful to all of the authors who contributed a devotional. You may pick up your copy (in English and Tongan) at the church office or from the ushers at



CHRISTMAS ANGELS

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Honor your family and friends this Christmas with a gift to one of these projects. Any amount may be given to any project. We will have a table set up after the service on December 8, 15 and 22 where you can pay for your gift with cash, check or credit card and pick up an insert about your selected project(s) to give to your recipient.

The projects we will support this year are:

- FUMC Tutoring Ministry
- FUMC Foodbank
- Pancakes and Praise
- Family Promise at FUMC
- FUMC Preschool Scholarship Fund
- Samaritan Counseling Center
- The Legal Clinic

Your gift will help transform our local communities!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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



The English Circle of United Methodist Women will meet at Keola Hoonanea on Wednesday, December 11, at 11:30 a.m. Our program is "A Light that Interrupts." We will enjoy a potluck lunch and will write Christmas cards. New ladies are always welcome to join us! Call Kim at the office for more information (email is kim@firstumchonolulu.org).

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.



PANCAKES AND PRAISE TUTORING

The Pancakes and Praise Band is excited to announce that our tutoring class is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-6:30pm for band members. We have 3 tutors on site. We hope to open the tutoring class to middle and high school students in the new year. See band director for more information.

Sita Vaivao, Band Director

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS FOR 2020

If you would like to honor loved ones or give thanks for a special occasion, you may donate the altar flowers for Sunday service and we will put your dedication in the bulletin. You may provide the floral arrangement yourself or make arrangements with the office to order the floral arrangement for you. Please call the office (522-9555) to select a date, let us know who you are honoring, and make arrangements



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 January 1 at 6 p.m. at IHS located at 350 Sumner Street. Please see Paini Harris to sign-up or for more information.

FAMILY PROMISE

January 26 - February 1, 2020

The mission of Family Promise Hawaii is to mobilize existing community resources to aid families with children experiencing homelessness and help them transition to sustainable independence. We will host up to four families for the week of January 26-February 1. There are many opportunities to serve during the week that the families are here. Please see Kim Houff or call the church office at 808-522-9555 to find out how you can help.

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 see Kim Houff.

Food Bank operating hours:

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

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

English Youth Group

What a busy holiday season we are in, but that doesn't stop our youth from shining their Jesus light! Whether it's through their athletic gifts, dancing gifts or servant hearts to bring hope and joy to those in need, you can be sure Christ is being glorified in the church and outside the walls of this church because our youth love Jesus.

You see, it's not just the holidays, it's Christmas and our youth know it's not just about receiving presents and Christmas trees, it's about the birth of Christ and giving and being grateful for His love.

Please continue to pray for our LemonAid for Love mission team as we journey to Nepal. Thank you so much for your love and support for this mission.

Merry Christmas and may the Lord bless you abundantly in the coming year!

Mark Brekke, Director of Youth



LemonAid for Love is heading to Nepal on Christmas Day 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, make house calls to encourage the believers, and put on a women's conference. Here's how you can partner with us on this journey:

Prayer Requests

- ♥ For the health of our team, especially for Sara who has a broken thumb, Sandi a pinched nerve, and Marina who has multiple food allergies.
- ♥ For the safety of our team as we travel to/from and in Nepal. It will take us 3 days to arrive in Nepal and it is a 6-hour bumpy jeep ride to one village.
- ♥ For the kids attending the camp to come to know Jesus just by seeing HIM in our girls – we are not allowed to proselytize, or we could be arrested.

Donation Requests

- ♥ New crayons and color straws for craft projects
 - ♥ New, gently used or crocheted beanies
 - ♥ Sponsor a child or conference attendee - \$10 each
- You may drop off donations to the church office or bring them to church on Sundays by December 8.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

December is a busy time for everyone, and it is no different for the Young People's Ministry! Here's a list of our upcoming events that you won't want to miss:

December 8: The Tongan Sunday School will be performing at the December Kuata.

December 13: We are having a combined Christmas Party for the English and Tongan Sunday School! Please join us for a festive and joyous celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ on Friday, December 13 at 7 p.m. in Komuro Hall. RSVP to Mele Pepa Latu at YoungPeoplesDirector@firstumchonolulu.org.

January 20: Save the date for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade. We will be marching from Magic Island to Kapiolani Band Stand then gathering for an all church picnic!





FACILITIES UPDATE

ARE YOU AWARE THAT WE SERVICE MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND PEOPLE AT OUR FACILITIES EVERY WEEK?

I know, it is unbelievable but thankfully they don't all come the same day, however, they can all come on Sunday which would be fine! Now take that and multiply it by 5 loaves and 2 fish. Yes! One hundred fifty-six thousand people use our facilities per year. No wonder our facilities look tired and worn. We thank God for the roof over us plus the 2700 others on a weekly basis.

As we approach the holiday business, I would like to take this opportunity to ask all our church family for whatever additional help you can give. If God lays it on your heart to help, here are some ways you can help us:

- Call the church office to make reservations for your functions at least 2 weeks in advance.
- End your function on time and vacate the premises right away so the staff may close up and go home on time to their families.
- Clean the kitchen after you use it and especially – if you make a mess, clean it up.
- If you move chairs out of the front gate, please put them back after you use them.
- If it is not yours, ask permission to use or borrow it.
- If you borrow something, return it as soon as you are done.
- Pick up loose trash and dispose of it properly.
- Keep rocks in rock garden, and off grass. Mahalo!

Paini Harris, Facilities Director



**POINSETTIA
ORDERS**
December 1 - 8

On Christmas Eve poinsettias will grace our altar as the symbol of birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This arrangement is possible through your desire to honor or remember loved ones.

The deadline for ordering is **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8.**

Limited quantities are available. Please email office@firstumchonolulu.org for a form and turn it into the office **with your payment** marked for POINSETTIAS. Forms may also be picked up at Sunday services on December 1 and 8.

We request that plants be picked up after Christmas Eve service.



TONGAN WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

December 31 from 9 p.m. to midnight

Our Watch Night Service will be held in the Sanctuary and will be followed by a feast in Komuro Hall.

All are welcome to join us!



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



Kueni Maka and the Pancakes and Praise breakfast crew

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8am Pancakes & Praise 9-11n am Health Clinic 10am Joint Worship with Fellowship Luncheon	2	3 4:30pm Tutoring for Band 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg	4 6pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm PP&E Mtg 6:30 pm Tongan Service 7:30 pm Na Leo'oPaulele Choir Practice 8:15pm Cantata Rehearsal	5 12noon Yoga 4:30pm Tutoring for Band 6:30pmTongan Women Prayer Group 7:00pm Creative Sign Dance Class 8:00pmTonga Choir	6 7:30-9:30 p.m. Young People's Ministry	7
8 Poinsettia Orders DUE 8am Pancakes & Praise 9-11:30amHealth Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Adult Study 11:30am Youth Group 12pmTongan Worship 3pmTongan Prayer Service	9	10 4:30pm Tutoring for Band 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 Service 7:30 pm Na Leo 'o Paulele Choir Practice 8:15pm Cantata rehearsal	12 12noon Yoga 4:30pm Tutoring for Band 6:30pmTongan Women Prayer Group 7:00pm Creative Sign Dance Class 8:00pmTonga Choir	13 7pm Sunday School Christmas Party	14
15 8am Pancakes & Praise 9-11:30amHealth Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Adult Study 11:30am Youth Group 1pmTongan Worship 2pm Tongan Holiday Feast	16	17 4:30pm Tutoring for Band 5:30 pm Centering Prayer	18 6pm The Family Table Bible Study 6:30 pm Tongan Service 7:30 pm Na Leo'oPaulele Choir Practice 8:15pm Cantata Rehearsal	19 12noon Yoga 6:30pmTongan Women Prayer Group 7:00pm Creative Sign Dance Class 8:00pmTonga Choir	20	21 6pm PAPA Holiday Showcase
22 Christmas Angels DUE 8am Pancakes & Praise 9-11:30 am Health Clinic 10am English Worship 11:30am Adult Study 11:30am Youth Grp 1pm Tongan Worship	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS Holiday - Facilities & Office CLOSED 11:45am LemonAid for Love depart for Nepal Mission 1pm Tongan Christmas Service	26 12noon Yoga 6:30pmTongan Women Prayer Group 8pmTongan Choir	27	28
29 8am Pancakes & Praise 9-11:30 am Health Clinic SNAP Assistance 10am English Worship 11:30am Adult Study 1pm Tongan Worship	30	31 5:30 pm Centering Prayer 9pm Watch Night Service				

Sunday, December 15:
 Christmas Cantata
 by Na Leo 'O Paulele directed by
 Tupou Seini Kelemei

Sunday, December 22: Carol-Sing
 with many carols and holiday songs being
 sung.
 LemonAid for Love Nepal Mission team
 will also be commissioned on this
 Sunday.

Tuesday, December 24:
 Christmas Eve Service
 We will have brass, choir,
 dance and special music.

Sunday, December 29:
 We welcome special guest,
 Ruth Freeman, harpist.



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. Moa

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 Kelemen, 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

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

We have a part-time staff position open for a Director of Children's Education for the English Ministry.

We are looking for an experienced person for our English Ministry's children's program. Connections to military helpful.

For more information, contact Pastor Tom Choi at office@firstumchonolulu.org or call the office at 808-522-9555 during office hours Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



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)