

FOCUS

*2020 Vision: Glorifying God through our D. A. Y. S.
(Discipleship, the Arts, Young people and Service)*

1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
APRIL 2020 – VOLUME LXVII, ISSUE 4



Holy Week Services

April 5-12

Please join us online for Holy Week Services.

On Facebook Live – navigate to the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu page and scroll down to find the video.

Palm Sunday – April 5

on Facebook Live

English Worship at 10 a.m.
Tongan Worship at 11 a.m.

Holy Thursday – April 9

on Facebook Live

English Service at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 10

on Facebook Live

English Service at 12noon
Tongan Service at 1 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 12

on Facebook Live

English Service at 10 a.m.
Tongan Service at 11 a.m.

FREE Yoga Videos

With COVID-19, our lives have changed significantly and we have to take precautions to keep ourselves and each other safe. Therefore, until further notice, our yoga class will be suspended.

However, practice is especially important now with so much global fear and upheaval. We need yoga to help us be calm and peaceful.

One of our yogis, Yukari Kunisue, shared YouTube links to some of her chair yoga videos and her favorite yoga videos from another yogi.

Chair Yoga for Upper Body:
<https://youtu.be/UiMa6ojMtto>

Chair Yoga for Lower Body:
<https://youtu.be/sud0XxwbmWc>

Chair Yoga for Whole Body:
<https://youtu.be/XFsDm3aWZKY>

Adriene's video for beginners:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7AYKMP6rOE>

Yoga with Adriene:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/yogawithadriene>

Church Events

- **Foodbank**
Mondays: 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Distribution of food is at the first floor main gate on Beretania Street.

- **Pancakes Breakfast**
Sundays: 8:30 a.m. until all meals have been served.

Distribution of breakfast is at the first floor main gate on Beretania Street.

Coffee and seconds will not be served.

- **April 9 – Holy Thursday Online Communion**
- **April 10 – HOLIDAY Facility and Office CLOSED**
- **April 10 – Good Friday Online Worship Services**
- **April 12 – Easter Online Worship Services**

Pastor's Page

2020 Vision: Glorifying God Through Our D.A.Y.S.

Dear Beloved 'Ohana of First UMC:

The coronavirus has changed nearly everything in our lives at this time, including the life of our church. I want to update you on the major changes (please understand that shifting circumstances may cause a change in any of the following):

- As you know by now, the biggest change is that we will no longer have in-person worship services on our church campus through at least April 30, and perhaps longer.
- We have been having Sunday worship online, by Facebook Live. <https://firstumchonolulu.org/this-sunday/>
- In addition, we will provide links to recorded worship services afterward: <https://firstumchonolulu.org/worship-services-archive/>
- Our Sunday worship times will be: English worship at 10 a.m. and Tongan worship at 11:00 a.m.
- We no longer have worship at 8:00 a.m. but have been continuing to provide breakfast only from 8:30. Unfortunately, the medical team has been shut down for the time being.
- All meetings, Bible studies, and other gatherings will be postponed on campus or held online.
- Our plan for now is to have the Foodbank open twice a week: Monday and Thursday from 2-4 p.m. To ensure social distance, the Foodbank distribution will be on the first floor.
- Some of our generous hearted younger members have offered to do shopping for our higher risk members. Please email the office at office@firstumchonolulu.org to make arrangements.
- The facility will be closed to the public until further notice.
- We invite you to continue your gifts, tithes, and offerings by mailing your offerings, or online: <https://firstumchonolulu.churchcenter.com/giving>.
- The one thing that will not change is the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is to Christ that we turn for guidance, strength, patience, creativity and resilience for such a time as this. We will continue to seek new and innovative ways to proclaim the Good News and pray that you will be present with us virtually and spiritually!

HOLY WEEK IN APRIL – DIGITAL WORSHIP

We will have Holy Week activities online coming up from April 5 -12.

- Palm Sunday on April 5 – English worship at 10 a.m. and Tongan worship at 11 a.m. on Facebook Live – navigate to the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu page and scroll down to find the video.
- Holy Thursday, April 9 – at 6:30 p.m., Pastor Tom will lead a brief service with a virtual blessing of the communion elements – you are invited to make this virtual Lord's Supper a part of your evening meal celebration.
- Good Friday, April 10 at noon – the English service will be at noon, The Seven Last Words of Jesus, designed by Kim Houff. The Tongan service at 1 p.m. on Facebook Live – navigate to the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu page and scroll down to find the video.
- Easter Sunday – English worship at 10 a.m. and Tongan worship at 11 a.m. on Facebook Live – navigate to the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu page and scroll down to find the video.

Grace and aloha,





Easter

WHEN HOPE CAME TO LIFE

Sermons

for 10 a.m. Service

April 5 – Palm Sunday

Pastor Tom Choi compares the triumph and tragedy of Holy Week with the current challenging situation.

April 12 – Easter Sunday

We will have a festive celebration of Christ's resurrection, with a special message by Pastor Tom and special music and dance.

April 19 and 26

The worship services will have special elements plus messages by Pastor Tom focusing on FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions. One of the first questions answered is “Is the Coronavirus a judgement from God?”



Is the
CORONAVIRUS
a Judgement from
GOD?

Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii



*Helping people through
compassionate counseling*

For over 30 years, First United Methodist Church has supported mental health and wellness in our community through counseling rooms at the church. Thank you for being a safe, welcoming place for people who need help, regardless of their ability to pay.

You touch the lives of many people, including a single mother coping with substance abuse and parenting issues; a woman coping with depression and anxiety, whose health insurance will not cover services; and a senior on fixed income working through life changes.

In these challenging times, mental health is more important than ever. Feeling stressed, anxious, and depressed are common responses.

Individuals, couples, and families can now receive professional mental health counseling from the comfort, safety, and convenience of their home. Each telehealth session is confidential, private, and secure, with a licensed Hawai'i counselor.

If you or someone you know need someone to talk to, please call us at 808-545-2740. We will get through this together.

Rachelle Chang, Executive Director

Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i

You can learn more about counseling, donate to the Client Assistance Fund, or volunteer for our board or in the office by emailing info@samaritanhawaii.org, calling us at 808-545-2740, or visiting www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org.



Samaritan
Counseling Center
Hawaii

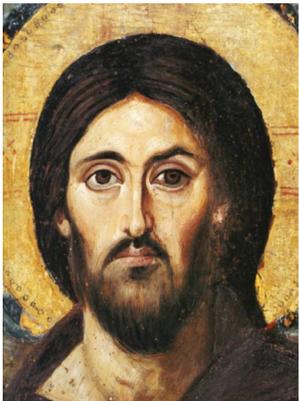
2020 VISION: DISCIPLESHIP



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All ladies are invited to the English Circle of UMW meeting, on Wednesday, April 8 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please contact Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org to get an invitation to the meeting. Our program will be “Holy, Bold Women Lead.” All women are welcome.

The Tongan Circle please contact your ministry leader for information on your next meeting.



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

April is a great time to join the Sunday Bible Study group. We will begin a new study on April 19 at 11a.m. The study is called REVEAL: Sharing the Story of Jesus in a Multireligious World. This material discusses the six key practices for sharing the story of Jesus in a multireligious world. All are welcome to join us via Zoom. Contact Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org to get included on the invitation for the meetings or for any questions about the study.

2020 VISION: ARTS

ONLINE MUSEUM TOURS

While you are spending more time at home, did you know that you can tour many famous museums?

Check out the beautiful art that adorns the Vatican Museum (including the Sistine Chapel!) at <http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.html> (You can also just search for Vatican Museum Virtual Tour.)



The Louvre offers four different online tours at <https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>.



If you want to connect with our Methodist heritage, take a virtual tour of The Museum of Methodism and John Wesley's House virtually at <https://www.wesleysheritage.org.uk/your-visit/virtual-tour/>,

2020 VISION: YOUNG PEOPLE



ENGLISH YOUTH GROUP

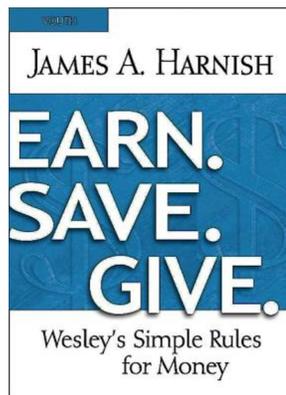
Our youth are doing their best in dealing with the lockdown. We are grateful to Mark Houff for leading us through the *Earn. Save. Give.* Curriculum. Mark's teaching the youth some sound Godly wisdom in dealing with money. After all, it's God's money and we are learning valuable tips on how to best steward what God allows us to earn.

We all agree that it would be smart to teach financial stewardship in middle and high school. Hopefully while you're home in lockdown you'll see our youth online as they continue to worship God sharing their creative gifts even during these trying times.

The Youth Group will continue to meet online during the COVID-19 Lockdown. All youth 7th to 12th grade are welcome to join us! Email the office at office@firstumchonolulu.org to be added to the online invite.

We pray you all remain healthy and safe and hope to be together in live worship before our next newsletter.

Mark Brekke
Director of Youth



RESURRECTION COOKIE ACTIVITY



Celebrate Holy Saturday (April 11) by making Resurrection Cookies to be enjoyed on Easter Sunday. While this activity is designed to be done with children, anyone will appreciate the symbolism of these cookies. Be sure to read the scriptures referenced in the activity!

(from [A Little Bit Crunchy A Little Bit Rock and Roll](#))

1 cup whole pecans	wooden spoon
1 teaspoon vinegar	zip lock bag
1 cup sugar	tape
3 egg whites	Bible
pinch of salt	

Preheat oven to 300F. Place pecans in zip lock bag and let the children beat the pecans with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, he was beaten by the Roman Soldiers. **Read: John 19:1-3**

Let each person smell the vinegar. Put one teaspoon of vinegar into the mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, he was given vinegar to drink. **Read: John 19:29-30**

Add egg whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us eternal life. **Read John 10:10-11** Sprinkle a little salt in each person's hand. Let them taste it and put a pinch into the bowl. Explain this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers and the bitterness of our own sins. **Read Luke 23:7**

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him. **Read: John 3:16 and Psalms 34:8**

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color of white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sin have been cleansed by Jesus. **Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3**

Fold in the broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheets. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. **Read Matthew 27:57-60**

Put the cookies in the oven, close the door and **TURN OFF THE OVEN**. Give each person a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. **Read Matthew 27:65-66**

Explain that they might feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. **Read John 16:20 and 22**

On Easter morning open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. Inside the cookie you'll find a small hollow hole.

Explain that on the Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. **Read Matthew 28:1-9**

HE IS RISEN!

2020 VISION: SERVICE

H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Excel) BASKETS

Thank you to those who donated household items or made a monetary donation so we could purchase household items to fill two (2) H.O.P.E. Baskets!

The baskets were given to Catholic Charities to provide their homeless clients upon move-in into their rental unit, helping to turn empty apartments into homes.

In this time of uncertainty, this small gesture gives hope and shares the love of Christ with those who are less fortunate than we are.



FUMC FOODBANK



We are grateful that during this long coronavirus lockdown we are able to keep our Foodbank operating two days a week (Mondays and Thursdays) as well as continue our Pancakes Breakfast on Sundays, especially in light of the growing number of unemployed.

It is possible through your continued generosity and dedication to our First UMC of Honolulu *'ohana* during this difficult time. As you may know, your offerings are dedicated to supporting the mission and ministry of the church directly, as building maintenance and salaries are supported by other sources. This means your offering has the greatest impact on the lives and ministries in our church and our community.

We invite you to continue your gifts, tithes, and offerings by mailing your offerings, or online: download the "Church Center" app; after setup find First UMC Honolulu. Or go to <https://firstumchonolulu.churchcenter.com/giving>.

Mahalo in advance for your generosity! ♥

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES DURING LOCKDOWN

During the COVID-19 Lockdown, many of us are finding we have time on our hands and wondering what can we do while still following the order to stay at home and practice safe social distancing.

Here are some ideas:

1. **MAKE MASKS** – many medical staff are asking for masks. Here is an easy to follow YouTube video for those of you who can sew. <https://youtu.be/SB2xyo-uSSU> If you don't sew but would like to donate supplies call or email the church office to arrange pick up. We will also arrange pick up of finished masks.
2. **CONNECTION CALLS** – we need volunteers to call and check on our members who are at high risk. Call at a time that is convenient for you at least once a week. We will match you with someone in our congregation who needs a friendly call to see how they are doing, if they need anything and to pray with them. To volunteer email Kim at Kim@firsumchonolulu.org or call 210- 837-3313.





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



FUMC FoodBank

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<i>All classes and Worship Services are held online.</i>			1	2 2-4pm FoodBank	3	4	
	5 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am The Daniel Plan 10:45am Youth Group	6 2-4pm FoodBank	7	8	9 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Online Service	10 Holiday: Facilities & Office CLOSED 12noon Good Friday Online English Service 1pm Good Friday Online Tongan Service	11
	12 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship	13 2-4pm FoodBank	14	15	16 2-4pm FoodBank	17	18
	19 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Adult Study: Reveal 10:45am Youth Group	20 2-4pm FoodBank	21	22	23 2-4pm FoodBank	24	25
	26 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Adult Study: Reveal 10:45am Youth Group	27 2-4pm FoodBank	28	29	30 2-4pm FoodBank		



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

Office Manager: 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

LOIS BALSLEY SCHOLARSHIP 2020

The Lois Balsley Scholarship is a legacy gift from Ms. Lois Balsley to help aspiring students reach their educational goals.

There is a limit of one application per congregation of a graduating high school senior who plans to enroll in a two or four year institution of higher learning (community college, vocational school, college or university), in the Fall of 2020. This year five scholarships will be awarded to selected students in the amount of \$2,000 each.

Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted. Please contact Mele Pepa Latu for an application at youngpeoplesdirector@firstumchonolulu.org.

Check out our website: www.firstumchonolulu.org



Email: Office@Firstumchonolulu.org



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



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