

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
MAY 2020 – VOLUME LXVII, ISSUE 5



Hurricane Preparedness Workshop via Zoom

May 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Be prepared for hurricane season!

John M. Cummings III of the Department of Emergency Management, City and County of Honolulu, will share what we need to do to be prepared for emergency situations.

Register by emailing Kim Houff at kim@firstumchonolulu.org. Kim will email you the Zoom invitation.

Call the church office at **808-522-9555** for more information.



Sunday School

Our Sunday School teachers have missed seeing their children!

Parents of all children (up to youth age) are encouraged to sign up to receive information via email on how to receive Sunday school materials for use at home.

Please call the office at 808-522-9555 or email youngpeoplesdirector@firstumchonolulu.org.



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: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

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

Coffee and seconds will not be served.

- **Wednesday Check-In**
Wednesdays: 10 a.m.
via First United Methodist Church Honolulu Facebook Live followed by a Prayer Meeting via Zoom.

- **Online Worship Services**
Sundays:
English Worship – 10 a.m.
Tongan Worship – 11 a.m.
via First United Methodist Church Honolulu Facebook Live

- **May 11 – Hurricane Season Preparedness Zoom Workshop**
- **May 30 – District Conference**

Pastor's Page

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

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

As we move into our second full month of the coronavirus lockdown, I want say how proud I am of our congregation, especially our staff and volunteers, who have done an amazing job in keeping our essential ministries in place as we continue in this extraordinary time in our history. We are so grateful in how God has worked through us all, even if it means staying in place at home. That takes considerable strength and patience. Please persevere. The evidence shows that in Hawaii, our social distancing and sheltering-in-place practices have made Hawaii one of the very best in the nation at containing the spread of coronavirus.

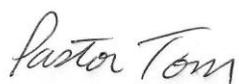
I want to update you on some changes during this time:

1. WORSHIP – we will continue online services into the foreseeable future. The blessing in disguise is that more people are experiencing our worship services than when we only had in-person services. The statistics show that we have had several times as many people viewing our online services as our in-person attendance, typically between 400-500 views for the English service and from around 700 to over 1,000 views for the Tongan service. It is highly likely that we will continue to broadcast our services even after we return to onsite worship.
2. CLASSES AND GATHERINGS – we continue to have connections through ZOOM. Our Wednesday Check-In and prayer gathering has been a great way to connect. The Disciple Fast Track, the new REVEAL course, and English youth group still meet regularly. We are exploring ways that we can provide better ministry to children.
3. FOOD BANK – is now open twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays from 2-4 pm. We provide pre-packed food bags and distribute at the front gate. Social distancing and mandatory wearing of masks on the part of our church workers are strictly followed. We are grateful to Dick and Lissi Chadwick along with other longtime volunteers, who, after decades of service to the Foodbank, are taking this time to step down from the day to day operations, primarily for their safety. Kim Houff is the primary contact person now, and we are grateful to the group of regular workers who are providing this vital service to the community. Distribution continues to increase. We also urge anyone who has a need for food not to hesitate coming to the Foodbank.
4. SUNDAY BREAKFAST – while the Pancakes and Praise service is no longer being held for the time being, we provide breakfast at 8:30. Again, we are grateful to our church workers, especially head cook Kueni Maka and her kitchen crew for getting up early each Sunday to prepare the breakfast.
5. FACILITY – we remain closed to the public. Our facilities staff is busy working on many deferred projects.

The one thing in all of this that hasn't changed is the power of grace, patience, and hope that come from God through the Holy Spirit that is alive because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In these uncertain times, we can continue to be certain of God's presence and inspiration.

Keep safe, health, and blessed!

Grace and aloha,





Sermons for 10 a.m. Online Service

May 3

Pastor Tom Choi will celebrate virtual communion. We invite you to take bread and juice (if you have it) or any food and drink to be blessed virtually. Pastor Joe Yun of the Wesley Foundation will give one of his messages for the day. Pastor Tom will have a message designed for children.

May 10 – Mother’s Day

Pastor Tom will preach on the importance of mothers. Special music planned.

May 17

Pastor Tom will explore the meaning and role of the prophets in his sermon, “Princess Cassandra,” after the Trojan princess from Greek Mythology, who had the amazing power to predict the future.

May 24 – Aldersgate Sunday

Pastor Tom Choi celebrates the 282nd anniversary of the “heart warming” experience that Methodism’s founder, John Wesley, had. This was the pivotal event in inspiring Wesley, leading to a worldwide movement that we are a part of today.

May 31 – Youth Sunday

Our youth will participate in various elements in our worship service.

Happy Memorial Day!

Our Memorial Day observances will look much different this year since the lock down has been extended, but perhaps this is a reminder to us that Memorial Day is not about picnics and food. Memorial Day is a federal holiday to remember those who died in military service. While we are on lockdown, we can celebrate the true meaning of the holiday with some of these ideas adapted from the United Methodist News Service article “Twelve Ways to Observe Memorial Day.”

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/twelve-ways-to-observe-memorial-day>

- Pray for all who have given their lives for our freedom. While you are praying, pray for those who are currently serving our country.
- Wave a or fly the flag at your home. Give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy because of the sacrifice of so many.
- Learn about issues affecting veterans. We have seen a couple of veterans who are homeless at the food bank. The Veteran’s Administration has housing, but they do not want to go there. Pray for our veterans.
- Glorify Jesus as the Prince of Peace and reach out to those whom others may forget. Make calls or send letters to those in nursing homes. Send a letter to a person in prison. Say hello to the homeless.



2020 VISION: DISCIPLESHIP



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All ladies are invited to the English Circle of UMW meeting, on Wednesday, May 13 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 led by Kueni Maka. All women are welcome.

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

WEDNESDAY CHECK-IN AND PRAYER MEETING

Pastor Tom is streaming a reflection for our Wednesday Check-In. Find it on Facebook Live at 10:00 AM. If you would like to join in a prayer meeting following the check-in, contact Pastor Tom at revtchoi@firstumchonolulu.org receive the Zoom invitation.

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

We will be starting the study of the New Testament for Disciple Fast Track on May 10. New members are welcome to join us. Disciple Fast Track is an intensive Bible study with Bible reading and reflection six days a week. We currently meet via Zoom from 8:45-9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. If you would like to join the group, email Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org to get included on the invitation for the meetings or for any questions about the study.



It's Christmas in May! Since we have another month of living under the stay-at-home order, Kim thought this would be a good time for us to work on our Advent-Christmas devotional. As in years past, Kim will give you a scripture and you will write a short devotion based on that passage. Pastor Tom suggested watching a Christmas movie before writing your devotion if you need help getting into the Christmas spirit. Email Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org or call her at 210-837-3313 to pick a scripture or for more information.

2020 VISION: ARTS

HYMN SINGING

We hope that you have enjoyed the "choir" singing the hymns for our virtual service. If you are interested in being part of the choir, contact Pastor Tom at revtchoi@firstumchonolulu.org to receive the instructions via email. All voices are welcome!



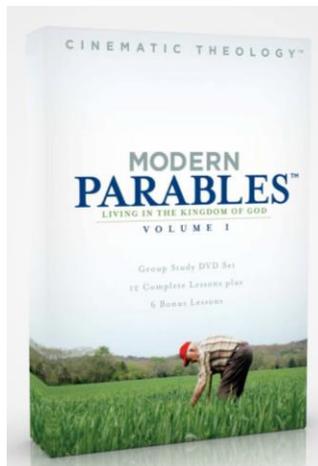
MUSICAL OFFERINGS

We would love to have more members of the congregation highlight their musical talents in our virtual worship services. Contact Pastor Tom or Pastor Linita for more information.

2020 VISION: YOUNG PEOPLE

ENGLISH YOUTH GROUP

How is it with your soul? We hope as you're reading this newsletter your health and your spirit are in top shape. Our youth continue to stay connected to each other and to God thanks to technology and to Mark Houff. Mark is doing a wonderful job facilitating online a great study focusing on parables.



Where is your treasure? What is your treasure? We are learning that the best treasure of all is the Kingdom of God. We don't want to bury it, we want to share it so more of God's children can experience the only treasure that matters. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ – "the eternal treasure".

To all the graduates, congratulations! We know the stay-at-home order is not fair. You have the right to be disappointed and to feel cheated at not being able to have a graduation ceremony. Don't let that steer you away. I pray you stay close to God knowing He works all things for good.

During the month of May, we will continue our *Modern Parables: Living in the Kingdom of God* study led by Mark Houff. All youth are welcome to join us via Zoom every Sunday in May at 10:45 a.m. Email Sandi Brekke at sbrekke@firstumchonolulu.org for the Zoom invite.

God bless you all, we pray you stay healthy and safe. We'll all get through this together.

Mark Brekke
Director of Youth



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

During COVID-19 my relationship with God has gotten closer spiritually. During this quarantine, my family and I have had some time to sit down and focus more on God. I actually have the time to meditate and pray to Him at home. Before COVID-19, I can imagine myself right now being busy helping my mom and grandmother watch my younger siblings. I would also have been busy with school and trying to bring my grades up. There really wasn't much time to do the things I can do now to strengthen my relationship with God. I have more time now to pray not only for my family but for Him to shower His blessings on everyone during this strange time. I also have the time to express how I truly felt to God and how I feel like I am not good enough. But just having a one on one talk with God, He showed me that no one is perfect and life isn't always perfect but that we can learn from our mistakes. I also learned that no matter what we go through God is always with us, in our hearts and spiritually. My relationship with God has gotten closer where I can always trust Him with my problems because I know that He will always be there for me. Hope everyone is doing well. Remember that God is always there with you to encourage you, just open up to Him.

Malo Aupito, Ve'a Mikaele – Youth President



On February 28, I went to my first camp along with 18 youth members of the church. At first, I didn't want to go because I thought it would be boring, but instead I decided to at least give this camp a try. As we got to Mokuleia, where the camp was located, I found that it was filled with different Methodist churches from around the Hawaiian Islands. I met other youth members from different churches and made new friends. This camp's theme was "All About You". My experience at this camp was life changing. We worshipped, had small group talks, and also had great guest speakers. This camp definitely helped me build a solid relationship with God. Before, I was not a church person considering the fact I always thought church was boring and sitting inside was useless. Even at Sunday school, my teacher Tulau would always ask me and my class "Where do you see God?" and I'd always reply with a "I don't know". This year's camp helped me understand my purpose of going to church and receiving Jesus into my heart. Throughout the camp, I've seen God all around me, especially during worship.

Stacey Taupo'u, Youth Crowd Controller

2020 VISION: SERVICE



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) from 2-4pm. If you or someone you know is in need of food, please come to the church main gate during one of our Foodbank days and times.

If you are not in need of food assistance but have extra of the following items, we are accepting donations:

- Canned vegetables & fruit
- 16 or 32 oz bags of rice
- Bread
- Jelly

We are also accepting monetary donations: 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! ❤️



2020 Census

Less than 50 percent of people in Hawaii have completed the census! Have you completed your 2020 Census?

You might be thinking that it is not important to be counted in the census, but it is extremely important. Did you know that census data is used to determine

- What daily services, products, and support is needed for you and your community?
- The distribution of billions of dollars in federal funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources?
- The number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives?
- How congressional and state legislative districts should be drawn?

Your family needs to be counted! Responding to the census is confidential. The numbers are tallied and shared without the specifics of each family. If you have not completed the census, please do so as soon as possible at 2020census.gov. In this time where it is hard to serve our community, you can serve your community by completing the census!

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



Flashback: Mother's Day 2018

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 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		<i>All classes and Worship Services are held online.</i>			1	2
3 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	4 2-4pm FoodBank	5	6 10am Wednesday Check-In	7 2-4pm FoodBank	8	9
<i>Mother's Day</i> 10 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	11 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Hurricane Preparedness Zoom Workshop	12	13 10am Wednesday Check-In	14 2-4pm FoodBank	15	16
17 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	18 2-4pm FoodBank	19	20 10am Wednesday Check-In	21 2-4pm FoodBank	22	23
24 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	25 Holiday: Facilities & Office CLOSED 2-4pm FoodBank ONLY OPEN	26	27 10am Wednesday Check-In	28 2-4pm FoodBank	29	30 District Conference via Zoom



First United Methodist Church

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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 Kelemani, 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



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Check out our website: www.firstumchonolulu.org



Email: Office@Firstumchonolulu.org



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



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