

Focus

Glorifying God through our D.A.Y.S. *(Discipleship, the Arts, Young People and Service)*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF HONOLULU | 1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
JANUARY 2021 - VOLUME LXVIII, ISSUE 1

FIRST SUNDAY ZOOM SOCIAL

January 3, 2021

11:00 AM Following Worship

If you have missed seeing and talking with your church family, join us for a Zoom social on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM (following the end of worship). Kim Houff will provide some fun questions to keep the conversation interesting! Join us as we grow in faith by connecting with each other. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org to get the Zoom link.



Church Events

- 🕒 Jan 1st - HOLIDAY: Facilities and Office CLOSED
- 🕒 Jan 3rd - Zoom Social following 10:00 worship
- 🕒 Jan 4th to 8th - Tongan Prayer Week
- 🕒 Jan 18th - MLK Day - HOLIDAY: Facilities & Office CLOSED, Foodbank OPEN
- 🕒 Jan 20th - College Prep Class at 6 p.m. via Zoom
- 🕒 Jan 31st - Youth Sunday

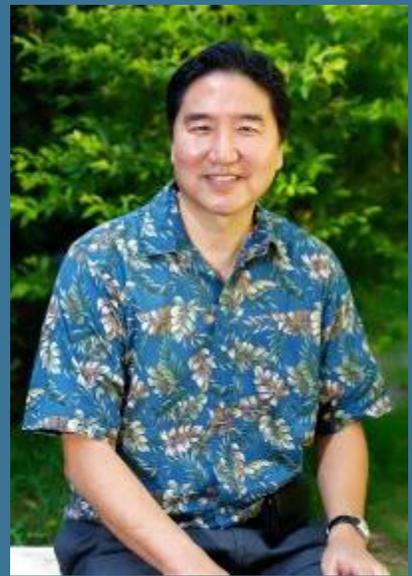
Pastor's Pen

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

2020 is behind us. For many people, the thought is, "Good riddance. 2020 was the worst year in a long time, if not for a lifetime." So, will 2021 be any better? It's hard to say. While there is great promise with the emergence of vaccines, the big challenge now is how to distribute the vaccine in large quantities, especially considering that the USA is not the only nation looking to vaccinate, and vaccines may be in shorter supply than originally hoped. We will begin the year in the middle of a cold winter for most of America (the saying, "Lucky you live Hawaii" has never meant more, as we are the only state as of this writing that is not experiencing a spike in COVID cases), which means many more cases, and likely, more deaths.

So, I am sticking to my consistent messaging to be patient, take precautions like masking, social distancing, avoid gatherings with several people. There is not going to be an instant or rapid cure for the pandemic. As one scientist said about the vaccines, they are like fire hoses, and one, two or a handful of hoses are not going to put out a raging wildfire in a short time.

It's important to keep the idea of patience in mind. I understand that the Pfizer, Moderna, and other vaccines were not the result of just 7 months of research and development, but in actuality more like 17 years, because all of the coronavirus vaccines are based on research done on the original SARS virus that emerged in 2003. It's no coincidence that the official name of the coronavirus is SARS-CoV-2. The advice of masking, social distancing and avoiding gathering has been with us from the beginning of the pandemic, and still represents the best way to mitigate the spread. Please be patient and hang on just a bit longer.



PC: Aloha Images & Design

Pastor Tom Choi Senior Pastor

WORSHIP IN 2021

With the uncertainty over when the coronavirus vaccines will make it to Hawaii in large quantities (my hunch is later rather than sooner), we will continue with online worship for the time being in 2021. When we do emerge from the pandemic, what we will do next is filled with questions. There is no doubt in my mind that online worship is here to stay. It may be that there will be people will not return regularly to in-person but opt to remain connected to our online worship.

What form that will take will be important to consider. Jason Moore, our worship consultant, will be leading a webinar that FUMC is planning to sponsor called "Both/And," exploring the options for churches who will be figuring out how to coordinated in-person and online worship. He says that an important consideration will be for whom will worship primarily be targeted? Will we be like a television talk show with more of the viewers online and the in-person congregation as a "studio audience"? Or will it be more like the online viewers are "looking through the window" as spectators but not really an integral part of an in-person focused worship?

Whatever shape worship takes, what will be important is that we focus on the worship of God in Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, as we seek to proclaim and Good News of Jesus Christ to all - in person or online. Praise be the God!

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk



Happy New Year!

Fakafeta'i he'etau a'usia 'a e Ta'u Fo'ou ni, pea ko e 'ofa 'ata'ata pe 'a e 'Otua Mafimafi kuo tau tu'uta lelei ai ki he Ta'u Fo'ou ni, 2021. Fakafeta'i 'Eiki e 'ofa hulu, 'ofa lahi kuo mau ta'imaie ai. 'Oku talitali lelei kotoa pe kimoutolu ki he 'uluaki mahina 'o e ta'ufo'ou ni, pea ko 'etau lea kotoa pe ia, Fakafeta'i ko e 'Eiki pe, na'e taki mai 'etau fononga mei he ta'u kuo hili na, ki he ta'u fo'ou ko'eni. 'Oku tau fiefia foki ke tau kau fakataha he Uike Lotu 'o e Ta'u ni, mo e loto fakafeta'i.

Ko 'etau Uike Lotu te tau ngaue'aki pe 'a e Zoom, ke tau kau fakataha, pea 'e tataki pe kitautolu 'e he'etau kau Failotu, pea 'oku faka'amu pe ke tau ngaue'aki 'a e founa maheni 'o e Uikelotu, ko hono kehe pe ko hono fakakakato Zoom pe 'I homou loto fale 'a e ngaahi ma'unga kelesi, 'aia ko e 6 a.m. pea mo e 6 p.m. he 'aho Monite Sanuali 4, 2021 ki he Falaite Sanuali 8, 2021.

Koia fakatauange ke tapuekina kimoutolu kotoa pe 'e he 'Otua Mafimafi, he ngaahi ma'unga kelesi 'o e Uike Lotu 'o e ta'u fo'ou ni, pea ke malu'l kitautolu kotoa pe he fononga 'anga 'o e ta'u fo'ou ni.

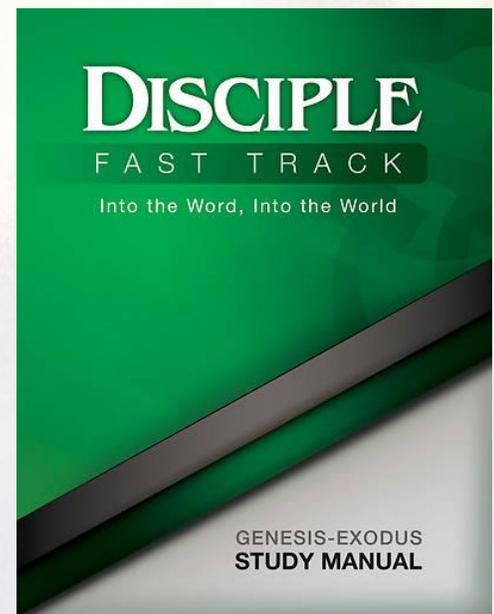
Kataki ko 'etau Momo koia ki he 'uluaki Kuata Ma'asi 'e feinga ke kakato atu ia ki he Uike Lotu.

'Ofa Lahi atu mo e Lotu,
Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa

Disciple Fast Track Study in Tongan

The "Disciple Fast Track" bible study in the Tongan language continues into the New Year and all are welcome. We are halfway through the New Testament study which will be completed in mid-January. We will then start the new study: The Old Testament: Genesis/Exodus starting on Monday February 1st. Please contact Painsi at the church office or Painsi@firstumchonolulu.org to get more information.

Ko e Ako Tisaipale fakauike he po Monite 'oku hokohoko atu ai pe ki he Ta'ufo'ou. Efiaki Monite kotoa, taimi 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm., pea 'oku 'ataa ki ha taha pe 'e fie kau mai ki ai. 'Oku ou fakaafe'i atu koe ke kau mai ki ai. Ko e houa 'e taha ko e ki'i taimi si'isi'i ka ko hono 'aonga mo e feako'aki 'oku a'usiaa, 'oku tolonga mo 'aonga ki he hala fononga. Ko e kalasi lolotonga 'e 'osi ia he 'aho 18 'o Sanuali (Fuakava Fo'ou) pea hoko atu leva ki he Kalasi hono hokoo - 'aia ko e Fuakava Motu'aa ia (Senesi/'Eikisoto) he 'aho 'uluaki 'o Fepueli. Fetu'utaki leva kia Painsi ki 'ofisi pe 'imeili hangatonu pe ki ai, Painsi@firstumchonolulu.org ki hono fakaikiiki.



THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

LUKE 4:19

Sermons for 10 a.m. Online Worship Service on Facebook Live

January 3

Pastor Tom Choi preaches on "The Year of the Lord's Favor."
Holy Communion will be celebrated.

January 10

Pastor Tom Choi preaches on "A World of Ungrace."

January 17

The worship on this day focuses on the anniversary of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

January 24

What Would Jesus Say to . . .? Pastor Tom will focus the sermon on imagining what Jesus might say to one of the major figures in the world today.

January 31 - Youth Sunday

Pastor Tom preaches the sermon "If Only. . ." The English Youth Group will participate in various worship elements.

Our worship service can also be viewed from our webpage – firstumchonolulu.org soon after our Facebook Live worship ends at 11 a.m. and on YouTube. Or if you prefer a printed copy of the worship script, please call 808-522-9555 or email office@firstumchonolulu.org to request one be mailed to you.

DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

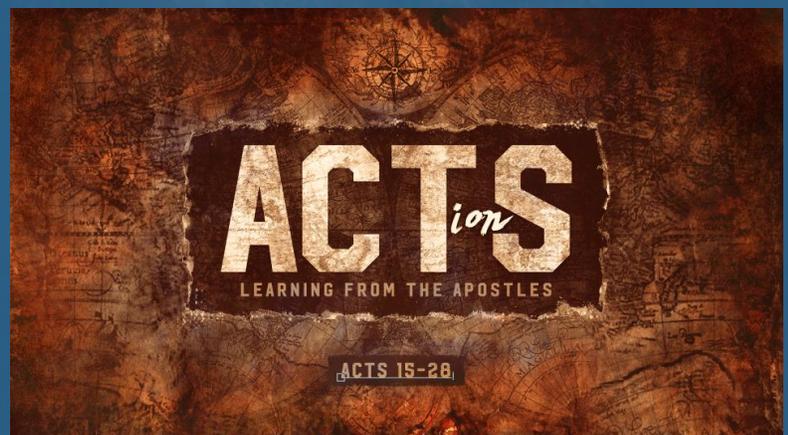
We are offering a new Disciple Fast Track Bible Study called *Into the Word, Into the World: Luke - Acts*. This study spends 12 weeks looking at Luke and Acts. This is an in-depth study with readings six days a week. Join this class

if you want to dive deeper into God's Word. It is helpful if you have taken a Disciple Bible study before, but it is not required. The class is offered on Sundays from 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM from September 6 through November 22. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information or to get the study manual.



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY STUDY

We will continue our study of Acts starting with chapter 15 on January 10. New people are always welcome to join us! We meet at 11:00 AM following the 10:00 AM worship service. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org for the Zoom link.



The ARTS



Jeremiah 29:11
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future."

This piece by Amalia Houff reminds us that God has a plan for us just as he had a plan for the holy family.

ENGLISH YOUTH GROUP

Christmas was a true celebration of the greatest gift of love. I think it's fair to say that this past year has been challenging, especially for our youth. They have been missing out on many experiences most teens were able to enjoy year after year. They have shared that it's the fellowship and gathering they miss most. I'm so thankful to God for filling their hearts with His love to help carry them through this pandemic. They are resilient, they are strong and most of all they have faith. Faith that God has amazing plans for them and for you.

Wishing everyone a Happy Healthy New Year!

Mark Brekke
Director of Youth

YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

We're finally here in the new year and 2020 is behind us now! But how much is really going to change? Whatever the case may be, God remains at the forefront of it all! Malachi 3:6, "God is always the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He never changes. He is so faithful, so constant, so loving and so true!"

At the end of 2019, I was brainstorming ideas and making plans for the new year just as everyone else was. By April 2020, all those plans went out the door and I'm sure the same happened for you too. Not that I'm afraid of that happening again this new year but there are still a lot of uncertainties and opportunities to learn new things. I humbly ask for your prayers over this ministry and our young people!

With that being said, I would like to thank those who have stepped up and helped with different areas of this ministry. I would also like to thank the pastors and staff for being supportive while I focused on home as we welcomed the newest addition to our family. I truly miss seeing everyone and can only imagine how much our young people have grown. God bless you and your loved ones. God bless this new year and may it be better than the last.

Mele Pepa Latu
Director of Young People's Ministry

College Prep Class



Wednesday, January 20, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

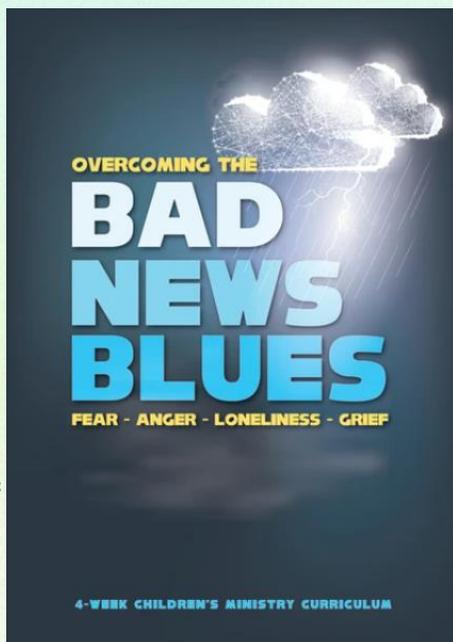
Are you in 8th-12th grade and thinking about college but don't know when or how to start planning or if you can even afford it?

Join us for this FREE College Prep Class and learn why a college education is important, why it's important to start planning early and how to get started. If you have questions about whether or not to take the SAT/ACT test or apply for early acceptance, you'll want to join us. To register call 808-522-9555 or email office@firstumchonolulu.org.



Sundays at 9:15 a.m. via Zoom

All children in K-6 are welcome to join us on Sundays for a fun and biblically based curriculum to help build your child(ren)'s spiritual foundation. We will begin the new year with a lesson called "Reset" to help us start the year off with a clean slate. For the remainder of January, we will learn how to overcome the "Bad News Blues."



Email Office@firstumchonolulu.org to receive the Zoom invitation.

COLLEGE PREP CLASS

Wednesday, January

If you are in the 9th grade, you should be starting to plan for college. If you don't know how to get started or even if you can afford it, this class is for you!

High Schoolers and parents, join us for this FREE College Prep class and learn why a college education is important, why it's important to start planning early and how to get started. If you have questions about the college search process, this class is for you!

To register, call the office at 808-522-9555 or email office@firstumchonolulu.org.

SERVICE

HOPE BASKETS

For the new year, we are putting together H.O.P.E. baskets for Catholic Charities to distribute to people who are moving from homelessness into apartments! These H.O.P.E. baskets are called that because they provide hope and they help other people excel. If you have been cleaning out your house, we will accept donations of gently used dishes, utensils pots and pans, and linens. You can also donate laundry baskets, laundry detergent, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and toilet paper. You may call the office at 808-522-9555 to make arrangements to drop off your donations.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All women are invited to the English Circle of UMW meeting, on Wednesday, January 13 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Kim Houff will lead the program on "The Dignity of Work." If you would like to join us, please contact Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org to get an invitation to the meeting. All women are welcome.

The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 19 at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact Tupouseini Kelemeneni to get the invitation to the meeting.

Do Good While You Shop!

Begin your shopping at UMCMarket.org (select First UMC Honolulu as your ministry to support) and our feeding ministries will receive a percentage of your purchase for participating websites.

If you shop Amazon.com, use smile.amazon.com instead. Select First United Methodist Church Honolulu as your charity. Amazon will give us a percentage of your purchase.



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



2019 Ala Moana Centerstage Outreach

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
YOUTH SUNDAY 31 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 9:15am Kids Church 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Acts Study 11am Youth Group		<i>All classes and Worship Services are held online. Online committee meeting times to be announced.</i>			1 HOLIDAY Office & Facilities CLOSED	2
3 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 9:15am Kids Church 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Zoom Social 11am Youth Group	4 6 am Tongan Prayer Service 2-4pm FoodBank 6 pm Tongan Prayer Service	5 6 am Tongan Prayer Service 6 pm Tongan Prayer Service	6 6 am Tongan Prayer Service 10am Wednesday Check-In 6 pm Tongan Prayer Service	7 6 am Tongan Prayer Service 2-4pm FoodBank 6 pm Tongan Prayer Service	8 6 am Tongan Prayer Service 6 pm Tongan Prayer Service	9 9:00am Faith Friends small group
10 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 9:15am Kids Church 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Acts Study 11am Youth Group	11 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	12	13 10am Wednesday Check-In 11:30am UMW English Circle	14 2-4pm FoodBank	15	16 9:00am Faith Friends small group
17 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 9:15am Kids Church 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Acts Study 11am Youth Group	18 HOLIDAY Office & Facilities CLOSED 2-4pm FoodBank	19 7:30pm UMW Tongan Circle	20 10am Wednesday Check-In	21 2-4pm FoodBank	22	23 9:00am Faith Friends small group
24 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 9:15am Kids Church 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Acts Study 11am Youth Group	25 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	26	27 10am Wednesday Check-In	28	29	30 9:00am Faith Friends small group



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 (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
- 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 Kali
- Custodians:** Heamasi Kali, Pat Sheppard,
 Pongi Vehikite, Sia Lolohea

CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:

- Resident Bishop:**
 Bishop Grant Hagiya
- District Superintendent:**
 Rev. Moonyoung Lee



Keola Hoonanea has Market Units available. The rent starts off at \$666.00 and can go as high as \$783.00 depending on your income. If you are interested, please call 593-6858 for an application. You can also go to Keola Hoonanea to pick up an application.

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)