

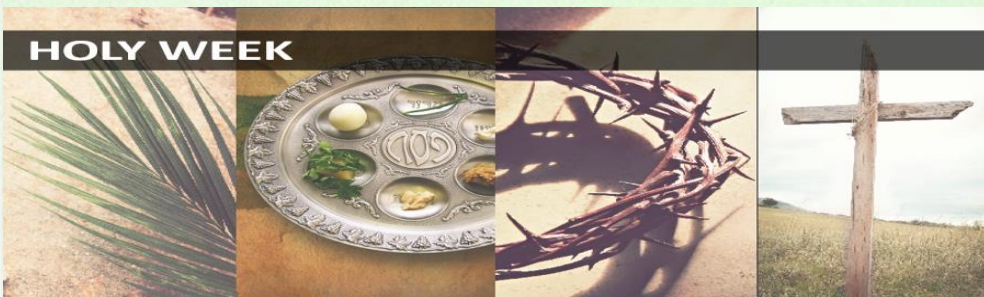
Focus

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
APRIL 2021 - VOLUME LXVIII, ISSUE 4

HOLY WEEK



March 28 - April 4

We started our Holy Week services with Palm/Passion Sunday on March 28 with Holy Communion.

April 1 at 6 p.m., we will hold our Holy Thursday virtual service with Holy Communion. This will be by ZOOM only, so please email Kim at Kim@firstumchonolulu.org for the link. It will be a modified Christian seder, so you are invited to have bread and juice ready – unleavened bread like. Cracker or matzoh if desired – herbs like parsley or endive, and salt water to replicate some of the elements of a seder, the Passover meal that Jesus has as a Last Supper.

April 2 at noon, we will have a virtual Good Friday service that will be broadcast on Facebook Live and YouTube and the recordings will be available throughout the day, into the evening and after. It will be a Tenebrae service, or service of darkness. In three of the Gospel accounts, from noon on, darkness came over the place where Jesus was crucified, so this is why the service will be broadcast at noon.

On **April 4 at 10 a.m.**, we will have a festive virtual Easter Sunday worship service with brass and special music, including a virtual choir with the Hallelujah Chorus at the end. You are welcome to join in the recording. Please email revtchoi@firstumchonolulu.org to receive the link to the reference tracks. Please make sure you mention what voice part you wish to sing. Following the service, we will be having our First Sunday Zoom Social for those who are desiring to gather with their church 'ohana to celebrate this festive day. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org to get the zoom link.

Church Events

- 🕒 April 1st - Holy Thursday Service at 6 p.m.
Tongan Service at 7 p.m.
- 🕒 April 2nd - Good Friday Service at 12 noon
Tongan Service at 7 p.m.
- 🕒 April 4th - Easter Sunday English Service at 10 a.m.
Tongan Service at 11 a.m.
- 🕒 April 15th - Conversational Tongan Workshop at 7 p.m.
- 🕒 April 24th - Aloha Harvest Food Box Distribution at 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
- 🕒 April 29th - Kupuna Hale Gathering at 11 a.m.

Ministry Musings

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

April is the month in many places where people have emerged from a long, cold winter and spring comes into full bloom. In Hawaii, it is a bit more subtle - we go from warm weather to warmer weather. But this is a time of planting, the planting of something that will sprout and then grow into the summer and a harvest in the fall.

One hundred years ago, however, a poet painted a different picture. T. S. Eliot, perhaps best known to the people of today as providing the literary inspiration for the musical "Cats," wrote a poem called the "Waste Land." He wrote that "April is the cruellest (sic) month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing Memory and desire, stirring Dull roots with spring rain." What the poem in its totality meant was that while April was usually a time of abundance and renewal, that in the times he was living in, the hopes that were sprouted were extinguished by harsh conditions.

What is known about Eliot is that he was severely affected by destruction and despair from World War I. What is also known about Eliot is that he wrote a part of this poem while he and his wife were recovering from the Spanish Flu, the last global pandemic that claimed millions of lives. His words seem prophetic as we struggle through a wasteland of illness, death, suffering, and loneliness.

The question is: will this April be another month of cruelty? We are in a hopeful situation where vaccines are in growing supply and the projections seem to be moving earlier and earlier. We may be emerging from this COVID winter sooner than ever. Except...that if we lower our guard too soon, if we begin to ignore and even reject with disdain the precautions about the coronavirus that we have so carefully observed, we may have another surge and we will be back into a "winter of discontent."



PC: Aloha Images & Design

Pastor Tom
Choi

I have already received my first vaccination shot and expect to have my second one by the end of this month. Most of the staff will also have been vaccinated by then. I have also heard that a growing number of our congregation have been vaccinated. We have, however, a long way to go before we get to a sense of safely returning to a pre-pandemic sense of "normal" and I pray that we will seek vaccinations as offered and continue to wear masks, socially distance, and avoid large indoor gatherings. And perhaps April, May, and June will lead to a summer of sunshine and then a fall reunion that is safe, complete, fulfilling!

Grace and aloha,



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS



GET A VACCINE

Keep it up!

It's critical to keep taking
precautions to prevent COVID-19

From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk



PC: Aloha Images & Design



Malo e Lelei Kaunga Pilikimi,

Fakafeta'i he 'ofa 'a e 'Otua 'o tau a'usia 'a e mahina fo'ou ni, fakataha moia mo e fa'ahita'u fo'ou 'o e Toetu'u, pea 'oku tau fakafeta'i mo fakamalo lahi he'ene 'ofa. 'Oku tau fakalaulauloto he kaveinga 'o e mahina: 'Epeleli: "Fua hotau kolosi 'o muimui 'I he tauhi sipi lelei." Pea ko e fakalotolahi ia kiate kitautolu kotoa pe, ko 'etau muimui ki he 'Eiki Toetu'u 'oku 'ikai ko e tepitepi 'ata'ata pe, ka kuo pau ke tau fua kolosi, pea tau muimui ki he tauhi sipi lelei, ka ko e 'Alo ko Sisu Kalaisi. Kuo ne ikuna 'a mate mo fa'itoka, pea kuo ne toetu'u pea ha'ele hake 'o ne 'afio he nima to'omata'u ko e Tamai Mafimafi.

Ko e mahina ko'eni, 'oku fakamanatu atu 'etau huhu vaccine covid-19, ka 'oku ke fiema'u ke fakakakato, temau tokoni atu ki he ngaahi fai'anga huhu ta'ofi covid, fetu'utaki mai ki he office 808-522-9555 te nau tokoni atu ki he ngaahi fai'anga huhu.



Kapau 'oku ke fiema'u ha tokoni fakame'atokoni, 'e ma'u atu moia he 'aho Monite mo e Tu'apulelulu taimi 2pm-4pm pea mei 'api Siasi ni. Fetu'utaki ki he 808-522-9555 ki hono fakaikiiki.

Fakamanatu atu aipe 'etau ngaahi ma'unga kelesi: Malanga Sapate taimi 11 am, Malanga Pulelulu taimi 7:30 pm, Lautohi FakaSapate taimi 12:30 pm 'Aho Sapate kotoa pe. Lotu Hengihengi Sapate taimi 6 am (Zoom). Fetu'utaki mai ki hono fakaikiiki, 808-782-2753 pe ko'eku peesi Linita Lupe Moa (facebook).

Tauange ke tapuekina kimoutolu 'e he 'Otua pea toe fakalahi atu ha ngaahi tapuaki he fononga'anga 'o e mahina fo'ou ni.

'Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu,

Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa



Happy Easter
Celebrate The Resurrection of Jesus

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

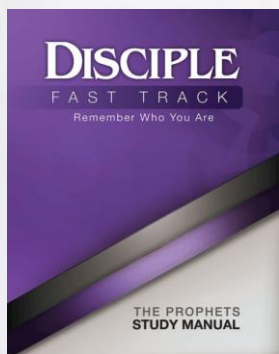
April 4 – A Festive Easter Sunday service. Pastor Tom Choi preaches with virtual brass, special music including a virtual choir singing the Hallelujah Chorus.

April 11 – The Annual Conference will be offering another of its occasional “Sabbath” services.

April 18 - Pastor Tom Choi preaches on “Hot Potato Issues in the UMC.”

April 25 – Pastor Tom Choi preaches on the dynamics of change.

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.



TONGAN BIBLE STUDY

**AKO TISAIPALE ~
LEA FAKATONGA**

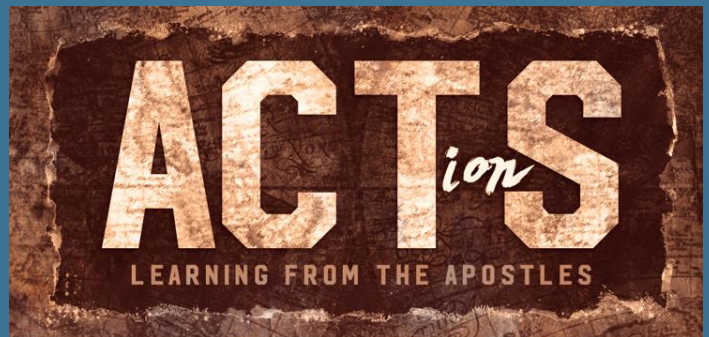
Efiafi Monite kotoa pe:
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
i he ZOOM

AKO LOLOTONGA - Kosipeli 'a Luke &
Tohi Ngaue kau 'Apositolu

DISCIPLESHIP

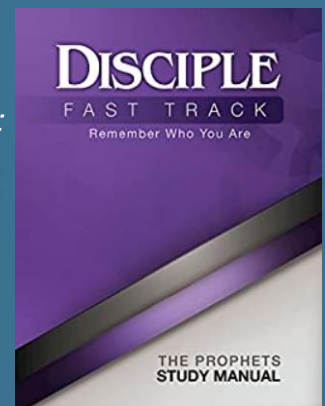
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday, April 11, we will return to our journey through Acts. All are welcome to join us as we explore the beginnings of the Christian church. We meet via Zoom following the 10 a.m. worship service (about 11 a.m.). Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information.



DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

We are offering a new Disciple Fast Track Bible Study called *Remember Who You Are: The Prophets*. The study spends 12 weeks exploring the writings of the prophets in the Old Testament. 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 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. from April 11 through June 27. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information or to get the study manual.

1. Lau folofola fakauike
2. Feako'aki e ngaahi a'usia
3. Akonaki fakalaumalie
4. Fakalotolahi ki he'etau fononga 'i he tui mo e mateaki ma'a Sisu

Telefoni kia Paini ki 'ofisi; 522-9555 pe ko e emai Paini@firstumchonolulu.org ke ma'u 'a e Fika ki he Zoom
Ofa ke mou ma'u ha Uiketapu Kelesi'ia mo e 'Aho Fakamanatu Toetu'u Fiefia Paini

Kupuna Hale

Thursday, April 29, 11-12noon
via Zoom

Join us for a time of fellowship
and learning how to age gracefully.

Jesus is the living water. As we fill our spirits daily with
the living water, so must we fill our bodies with life
giving water. Join us this month for our session on
Senior Nutrition.

We will learn the importance of staying hydrated and
eating healthy.

Please email office@firstumchonolulu.org for the
Zoom link.

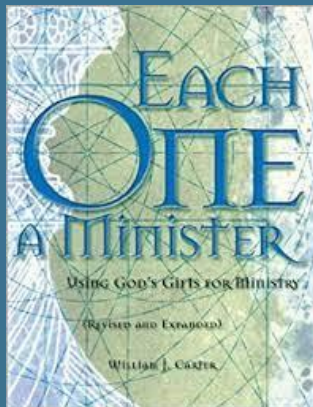


The ARTS

Lay Servant Advanced Course on Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Tuesdays, April 6 – May 4, 2021
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

Cost: Order the book "Each
One a Minister, Using God's
Gifts for Ministry"
by William J. Carter from
Amazon, Cokesbury or
Upper Room



Course Outline:

Session I: God's Intention for Us
Session II: Gifted Children
Session III: Gifts and Spirituality
Session IV: Developing and Deploying Gifts
Session V: Turning Gifts into Ministries

Registration is free and deadline to register is by **April 4, 2021.**

<https://calpacumc.formstack.com/forms/ismadvancedspiritualgifts2021>

If you have any questions, please contact Winnie Ching
at wingin322@yahoo.com.

YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

Why would people gain the whole world at the
cost of their eternal life with Christ? This
question led our young people in some much
needed discussion about our faith walk with
Jesus. As we've been journeying with Him to
the cross, it is obvious we all have a lot of
room for improvement. Being able to walk this
journey with each other has been a huge
blessing. We are forever grateful for the
greatest sacrifice so that we may have eternal
life.

Mele Pepa Latu
Director of Young People's Ministry

English Youth Group

In the safe place of youth group,
our youth are able to share the
truth about challenges and we
celebrate breakthroughs and
victories together. Our last study
was titled "More Than Pretty" by

Erica Campbell. I don't want to reveal too
much as this is a small group that trusts that
what is shared is to remain within the group.
But what I can say, is I know you would be
proud to hear them speak about their faith and
their trust in God.

I'm humbled to be the youth group leader
along with my wife, Sandi. It has been an
awesome experience for the last few years for
us to speak into the lives of our youth. Their
love for God is real and their spiritual growth
continues to inspire us. We say this now
because before you know it, our youth will be
young adults! Time sure flies when you're
having God-filled meaningful fellowship.

As we continue to gather online for youth
group, I'm encouraged as they take the lead in
finding meaningful subjects to study and
discuss. Any youth in 7th through 12th grade
are welcome to join our youth ministry. Our
next study is titled: "Stop It! No More Worry".
Email Sbrekke@firstumchonolulu.org for the
Zoom link.

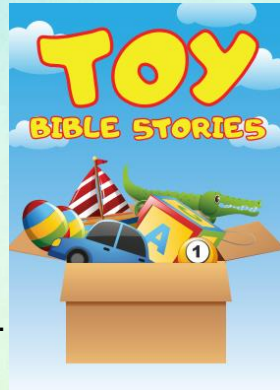
Mark Brekke
Director of Youth





Kids Church

All children in K-6 grade are welcome to join us on Sundays from 9:15-9:45 a.m. as we use common toys to teach kids that toys can teach us about serving God.



Summary: Most toy boxes are full of many different toys. We like to play with different toys for different reasons, but they are all used for one main purpose: to play. All through the Bible God used very different people to carry out his main purpose: to let the world know who God is and how much he loves us. These lessons will use common toys to teach kids Bible stories about very different people in the Bible who all have something to teach us about living out God's main purpose.

Email Office@firstumchonolulu.org to receive the Zoom invitation and have the Kids Church packet of goodies mailed to your child.

CONVERSATIONAL TONGAN WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Would you like to be able to greet your Tongan friends and colleagues or ask them how they are doing in their language? Join us as Tupou Seini Kelemen and Kuenilingi Maka help us to learn some basic phrases for conversational Tongan. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org to sign up for the workshop.



SERVICE

BACKPACKS FOR PAROLEES

FUMC is collecting items to fill backpacks that will be given to parolees to support them in their transition as they are released from prison.



We are collecting the following donated new items:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Bath Towel & Wash Cloth
- Disposable Razors
- Plastic Forks & Spoons
- Boxed Detergent
- Sheets, Pillow & Pillow Case
- Instant Coffee, Hot Cocoa, Cup Noodles
- Hairbrush or Comb
- Toilet Paper
- Bar Soap
- Shaving Cream
- Water Bottles
- Antiseptic Cream
- Facial Tissue
- Band Aids
- Deodorant
- Body Lotion
- Nail Clippers
- Trail Mix Nuts
- Writing Tablet & Pen/Pencil
- Backpacks

Please call the office at 808-522-9555 to make arrangements to drop off donations. Monetary donations are also welcomed, go to firstumchonolulu.org, click on GIVING and select BACKPACKS.

ALOHA HARVEST FOOD BOX



Those who are in need of food are eligible to pick up the Aloha Harvest 'Ohana Pack which will be distributed on **April 24 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.** at Trinity United Methodist Church. Households **must pre-register** by calling the **church office at 808-522-9555** to be able to pick up the 'Ohana Pack. **Deadline to register is Thursday, April 15.**

The 'Ohana Pack includes a box of produce and dairy, a box of frozen meat, one gallon of milk, and a flat of eggs. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org if you are interested in helping with the distribution or would like more information.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All women are invited to the English Circle of UMW meeting, on Wednesday, April 14 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Tupou Seini Kelemen will lead the program "Unbound to Share the Good News." If you would like to join us, please contact Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org to get an invitation to the meeting.

The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Please contact Tupou Seini Kelemen to get the invitation to the meeting.



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



APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>All classes and Worship Services are held online. Online committee meeting times to be announced.</i></p>				<p>1 2-4pm FoodBank 6pm Holy Thursday Service 7pm Tongan Holy Week Service</p>	<p>2 HOLIDAY Office & Facilities CLOSED 12noon Good Friday Service 7pm Tongan Holy Week Service</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>EASTER 4 8:30am Pancake Breakfast 8:45am Disciple Fast Track 10am Online English Worship 11am Online Tongan Worship 11am Zoom Social</p>	<p>5 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study</p>	<p>6 6-8pm Lay Servant Adv Class</p>	<p>7 10am Wednesday Check-In 5pm Keiki Sign Dance Class</p>	<p>8 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Women's Bible Study (Beth Moore's "Chasing Vines")</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 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</p>	<p>12 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study</p>	<p>13 6-8pm Lay Servant Adv Class</p>	<p>14 10am Wednesday Check-In 11:30am UMW English Circle 5pm Keiki Sign Dance Class</p>	<p>15 2-4pm FoodBank 7pm Conversational Tongan Workshop</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 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</p>	<p>19 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study</p>	<p>20 6-8pm Lay Servant Adv Class 7:30pm UMW Tongan Circle</p>	<p>21 10am Wednesday Check-In 5pm Keiki Sign Dance Class</p>	<p>22 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Women's Bible Study (Beth Moore's "Chasing Vines")</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 11am-1pm Aloha Harvest Food Box Distribution@ Trinity UMC</p>
<p>26 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</p>	<p>26 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study</p>	<p>27 6-8pm Lay Servant Adv Class</p>	<p>28 10am Wednesday Check-In 5pm Keiki Sign Dance Class</p>	<p>29 11am Kupuna Hale 2-4pm FoodBank</p>	<p>30</p>	



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
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. Moonyoung Lee



We are honored to have your support and would like to share other ways we have responded to the changing needs of our community amidst of the global pandemic:

- We offered unemployment filing assistance.
- We launched a pilot program called **PromotED (Promoting Education)** that works with 4th-7th grade Kalihi students, parents, and teachers/ counselors, addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on our vulnerable families who need stabilization assistance and educational support to ensure grade advancement.

Thank you for helping us bring hope and light to our community.
Joni N. Chun, Executive Director

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)