

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
MAY 2021 - VOLUME LXVIII, ISSUE 5

HUHU MALU'I COVID-19 COVID-19 VACCINE



TOKONAKI MĒ 8, 2021
Saturday, May 8, 2021

TAIMI: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Time: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

**Lesisita ke ke kau 'ihe huhu malu'i ko eni
Fetu'u mai ki he fika telefoni**

*Please Call First UMC of Honolulu to Register at:
(808) 522-9555*

Feitu'u? / Where?

First United Methodist Church of Honolulu

'E 'lai pea moe kau fakatonu lea ke tokoni atu kia koe

Presented by
Inter-Agency Council for Immigrant and Refugee Services
and First United Methodist Church of Honolulu

Church Events

- 🕒 May 8th - COVID Vaccination Clinic by Appointment
- 🕒 May 13th - Mental Health Workshop at 6:30 p.m.
- 🕒 May 27th - Kupuna Hale Gathering at 11 a.m.
- 🕒 May 30th - Graduation Sunday/ Youth Sunday
- 🕒 May 31st - HOLIDAY
Facilities and Office CLOSED
Foodbank - OPEN

Ministry Musings

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

I have mentioned during the prayer time the myth of Sisyphus. Sisyphus was a king who was very clever, and a couple of times was able to cheat the Greek understanding of death: descending to Hades and the Underworld. On one occasion, he told his daughter purposely to be disrespectful in the funeral arrangements for Sisyphus. The Greek gods were so offended that they had Sisyphus brought back from the Underworld so he would be shown proper respect and he went on living for a while longer. When he died for the final time, he was given a very specific punishment so that he would be preoccupied and not have time to think about more clever ways to escape death: he was obliged to roll a large boulder up a hill. When he was almost to the top, something happened - he tripped, or the boulder ran over a stone and slipped, etc. - and the boulder rolled to the bottom of the hill and he would have to start over again...and again...and again. One of the reasons that he was consigned to this punishment was that he had gotten to the point where he thought he was more clever and smarter than the gods.

I use the myth of Sisyphus as a warning in this time of the pandemic. Despite the concerns around the J&J vaccine, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are safe, effective, and in plentiful supply. 25% of Americans have been fully vaccinated to date. Many of our own FUMC folks are either fully vaccinated or on their way by the end of this month.

Unfortunately, too many people are declaring victory over the coronavirus and discarding their masks, gathering indoors and within six feet of those outside of their households. As result, despite the enormous progress we've made in vaccinations, cases have spiked in many places in the nation.



Pastor Tom
Choi

PC: Aloha Images & Design

In addition, a significant percentage of Americans have resisted vaccinations for different reasons, but what is troubling are those who are resisting for political reasons, thinking that they (or the people they listen to) are smarter and more knowledgeable than credible scientists, all of whom continue to recommend taking precautions.

We're almost there in getting past the pandemic. Let's not be like Sisyphus, come near the top, only to have everything come tumbling down. Please consider getting vaccinated - the May 8 vaccination site at First UMC is a perfect way to do this - continue to mask up, socially distance, and avoid indoor gatherings as much as possible.

The sooner we can work together to observe the restrictions, the sooner we will get past the restrictions. My goal continues to be to come back when we can have as few restrictions as possible and do the things our church wants to do when we are back in-person - singing, hugging, children and youth together in classes, etc. Let's work together for that so that we can be a fully functioning center to do the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Grace and aloha,

Keep it up!

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



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS



GET A VACCINE

From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk



PC: Aloha Images & Design

Malo ho'omou Lelei ki he Mahina ko Me, 2021,

Fakafeta'i lahi ki he Tauhi Lelei ka ko hotau 'Eiki Toetu'u, he'ene fakafaingamalie 'a e mahina ko Me 2021 'o tau to e tu'uta lelei ai 'I he'ene 'ofa mo e tauhi lelei. 'Oku ou fiefia ke fakatalitali lelei kimoutolu kotoa pe 'a e Siasi ki he'etau Focus 'o e mahina ni. 'Oku tataki'aki kima'utolu he kaveinga: "KUO OHI KITAUTOLU 'E HE LAUMĀLIE MĀ'ONĪ'ONĪ KO E FĀNAU 'A E 'OTUA PEĀ KE TAU 'UNU LOTOTO'A KIATE IA. Koia 'oku tau fiefia ke tau 'unu'unu atu lototo'a ke ofi 'aupito ki he 'Eiki ke ne fai hotau tataki mo tauhia.

Ko e mahina ni 'oku tau ui ko e mahina ia 'o e famili, pea 'oku anga pehe ni hono ngaahi polokalama:

Me 2, 2021 Ko e katoanga Fakame ia 'a e Fanau Lautohi Fakasapate: Ko e tangata malanga: Penisimani Taufu

Me 9, 2021 Ko e Sapate Fa'e ia pea ko e malanga kiai: Tupou Seini Kelemen.

Me 16, 2021 Ko e Sapate Tamai ia pea ko e malanga kiai: Dr. Sione Mafoa'aeata

Me 23, 2021 ko e Sapate ia 'o e Penitekosi ko e malanga kiai: Sioeli Mafi.

Me 30, 2021 ko e Sapate ia 'o e Tolutaha'i 'Otua pea ko e malanga kiai ko Pupunu Pulu.

Neongo 'oku tau kei 'I he taimi 'o e pandemic pea te tau kei ngaue'aki pe 'a e malanga he facebook mo e ope, koia ai te tau fai pe 'a e lelei taha 'e ala lava ki he fakahoko atu ai 'a e ngaahi ouau 'o e ngaahi Sapate fakamamafa 'o e mahina ni.

Fakatatau ki he ngaahi fakataha 'oku hanga mai mei mu'a, 'e fakahoko 'etau PIC Annual Meeting he 'aho 29 'o Me, 2021 pea 'e fakahoko pe 'I he zoom, te u toki fakahoko atu hono fakaikiiki 'amui ange.

Ko kimoutolu 'oku te'eki ke ma'u 'a e huhu (vaccination) ta'ofi Covid-19, ko e 'aho 8 'o Me, 'e fakahoko ia 'I 'Api Siasi: First UMC 'o Honolulu he taimi 8:30 am ki he 3:30 pm. Koia fetu'utaki hake ki he 'ofisi 'o e Siasi; 808-522-9555 kia Paini ke ke lesisita ki he huhu ko'eni. 'Oku ta'etotongi pe 'a e huhu ko'eni.

'Oku 'iai foki mo e lotu hufia he Pulelulu mo e Tu'apulelulu kotoa pe he 12pm-12:30pm he messenger. Ka 'oku ke fiehumai ai, kataki fetu'utaki mai. Fakataha ka 'oku te'eki te ke ma'u 'a e Tohi Laufolofola 'a e Siasi, fetu'utaki kia Meli Foliaki ke ma'u atu mei ai.

Tauange ke tapuaki mai kimoutolu kotoa pe, pea ke tau 'unu'unu atu lototo'a kotoa pe 'I he ivi 'o e Laumalie Ma'oni'oni he mahina ko'eni.

'Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu,

Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa

Celebrating
Mother's Day
God Bless Our Moms!

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

May 2 – Preschool Sunday

Pastor Tom Choi preaching – “Crying in H-Mart”. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

May 9 – Mother's Day.

Pastor Tom preaches and our Keiki Sign Dance class will be dedicating their dance to their moms and all women who have loved and invested in a child.

May 16 – Ascension of our Lord celebrated

Kim Houff, Director of Discipleship and Community Engagement preaches on “We are Witnesses.”

May 23 – Pentecost Sunday

Pastor Tom Choi preaches on “Inspiration and Passion”.

May 30 – Youth Sunday – Graduation Sunday

Our youth will give a heartfelt testimony, participate in various elements of worship and we will honor our graduating seniors.

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

Mental Health Workshop Am I Sad? or Am I Depressed?

Thursday, May 13, 2021
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

In honor of National Mental Health Month, join us for a discussion on the difference between sadness and depression led by Diana Honeker, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist from Samaritan Counseling Center. You can sign up on Event Brite or by emailing Kim@firstumchonolulu.org.



Kupuna Hale

Thursday, May 27, 2021

11-12noon via Zoom

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



When we abide in the vine and deepen our roots the more we recognize we can depend on God every second of the day even when we may not remember each moment in the day. Join us this month for our session on *Early Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease*.

We will learn the difference between forgetfulness and dementia and what we can do to exercise our mind.

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

Discipleship Ministries eLearning

Did you know that anyone can take free classes through UMC Discipleship Ministries? This is a great way to grow in discipleship. Check it out at <https://discipleship-ministries.teachable.com/>.



The ARTS



Artwork by: Sara Brekke (2015, 6th grade)

Thank you to Sara Brekke for sharing a poster she created in 6th grade to bring awareness to bullying. The effects of bullying have serious and lasting negative impact on our mental health. Evidence has shown that being a victim of bullying leads to higher rates of depression, insomnia, feelings of hopelessness, loneliness, low self-esteem, suicide ideation and suicide attempts.

May is Mental Health month. Mental health is something everyone should care about. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a great impact on the mental health of people of all ages. People often don't seek help due to the stigma around mental health struggles. Now, more than ever, it is critical to reduce that stigma and find ways to stay connected to our community.

If you are struggling with adapting to changes the pandemic has caused, adapting after trauma and stress, dealing with anger and frustration, bullying, or physical, emotional or verbal abuse, please seek help.

For more information or for help, contact National Alliance on Mental Illness - Hawaii State at 808-591-1297 or email info@namihawaii.org or visit their website at <http://namihawaii.org>.

Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii
1020 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 808-545-2740
Email: info@samaritanhawaii.org
Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm

YOUNG PEOPLE



English Youth Group

I have to confess . . . sometimes I worry. And I know that does not please God. That is why I am so thankful for our youth group. Last week our youth selected a very timely bible plan titled "Stop It! No more worry." We were reminded to trust God and call on Him to help us with the things we can change and to not worry about things we cannot.

Each week I continue to marvel as each youth boldly shares gems from our reading. Sandi and I may be the ones leading our youth group, but our youth are filled with the love of God and we are blessed to learn from them each week as God is filling their hearts and minds with Godly wisdom.

Even though we are still apart, worry not, especially about our youth, they are keeping close to God and thriving.

Mark Brekke
Director of Youth

Calling all 2021 Graduates!

Call the office at 808-522-9555 or email office@firstumcholonolulu.org for instructions on how you can be honored on Sunday, May 30, Graduation Sunday. **Deadline Sunday, May 23.**

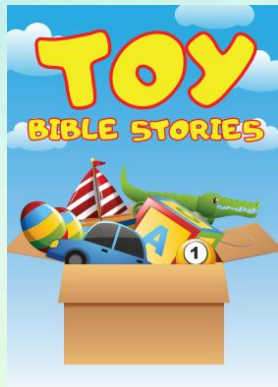
FUMC Scholarship Prep

The FUMC scholarship application will be available soon. All those who are interested in applying should acquire a copy of their transcript or grade report for inclusion in the application package. Email office@firstumcholonolulu.org for more information.



Kids Church

All children in K-6 grade are welcome to join us on Sundays from 9:15-9:45 a.m. as we continue our series called "Toy Bible Stories" where 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.

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



Mission u 2021
There's Far More Here
THAN MEETS THE EYE

So we're not giving up. How could we? Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without (God's) unfolding grace. [...] There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, The Message (MSG)

All are invited to participate in Mission u 2021 sponsored by CALPAC United Methodist Women. This year is a ZOOM format so there is no need to travel. Mission u is an opportunity to study a spiritual growth topic, a geographic area, and an issue impacting society. Participants grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of women in the fulfillment of mission. This mission education program strengthens leadership and membership of United Methodist Women. Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information or to receive the link to sign up for classes.

SERVICE

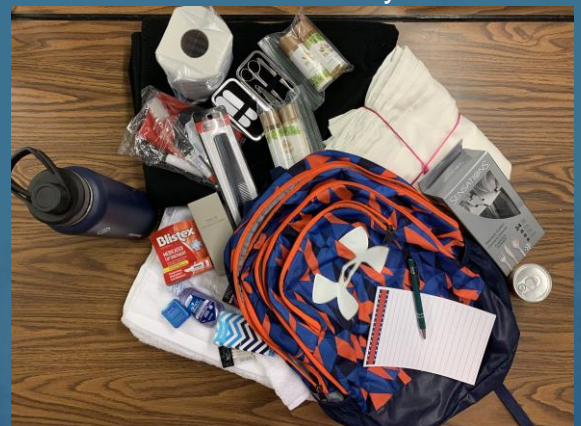
ALOHA HARVEST FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION

Mahalo to all who volunteered! Our food distribution was a great success thanks to the collaboration of Aloha Harvest employees and wonderful volunteers from Trinity and First UMCs. We look forward to hosting another Food distribution in the future in partnership with another church.



BACKPACKS FOR PAROLEES

Because of your generosity in giving items and money for backpacks as well as for the Easter offering, we are filling 5 backpacks to overflowing with much-needed items for those recently released from prison.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All women are invited to the English Circle of UMW meeting, on Wednesday, May 12 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Kim Houff 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 the link to the meeting.

The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 19 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



Girl Scouts Foodbank Tour

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Graduation/Youth Sunday 30 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	HOLIDAY 31 Facilities and Office is CLOSED 2-4pm FoodBank		All classes and Worship Services are held online. Online committee meeting times to be announced.			1
2 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	3 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	4	5 10am Wednesday Check-In	6 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Women's Bible Study (Beth Moore's "Chasing Vines")	7	8 FUMC COVID Vaccination Clinic by Appointment Only
Mother's Day. 9 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	10 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	11	12 10am Wednesday Check-In 11:30am UMW English Circle	13 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Mental Health Workshop – Am I Sad? Or Am I Depressed?	14	15
16 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	17 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	18 7:30pm UMW Tongan Circle	19 10am Wednesday Check-In	20 2-4pm FoodBank	21	22
23 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	24 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	25	26 10am Wednesday Check-In	27 11am Kupuna Hale 2-4pm FoodBank	28	29



First United Methodist Church

1020 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1492

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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



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)