

# Focus

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

1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814  
DECEMBER 2021 – VOLUME LXVIII, ISSUE 12

## *Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.*

We will have a combined service with special music and dance. The service culminates with a candlelighting. Contact the church office to register to attend the in-person worship or to arrange pickup of your candles to join us online Christmas eve.

Service will most likely be held outdoors in our courtyard.



Photo Credit: Aloha Images and Designs

## Tongan Watch Night Service

December 31 from 9 p.m. to midnight

Our Watch Night Service - contact Pastor Linita Moa at [LinitaUMoa@gmail.com](mailto:LinitaUMoa@gmail.com) for more information.

## Church Events

- December 11 – Vaccination Clinic at 8 a.m. – 12noon
- December 24 and 25 – HOLIDAY: Office & Facilities CLOSED
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.
- December 25 – Tongan Christmas Day Service at 11 a.m.
- December 31 – HOLIDAY: Office & Facilities CLOSED
- December 31 – Watch Night Service at 9 p.m.

# Ministry Musings

## Glorifying God Through Our D.A.Y.S.

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

The season of Advent is considered the beginning of the Christian calendar. In some ways, it is - hopefully - a beginning of the return to in-person worship. We will resume in-person worship on December 5 in English and in Tongan. We will continue the Sunday Pancakes and Praise breakfast, but we do not anticipate having the Pancakes and Praise worship for the time being.

The recent identification of the Omicron variant has become a cause for concern. We will be monitoring the situation carefully and keep you posted.

Despite it all, we will continue to be steadfast in our faith and find ways to give thanks and praise. Jesus came into the world at a critical time in history. Our continued faith in the power of grace to triumph over adversity will bring us through.

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### RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We are excited about returning to in-person worship again. We will be worshiping in Komuro Hall (our fellowship hall) for the time being as we await the completion of the sanctuary renovation. Once again, we will exercise an abundance of caution and limit the numbers allowed to worship. Please make reservations on our website - [firstumchonolulu.org](http://firstumchonolulu.org). Remember to wear a mask and socially distance from those outside your household.

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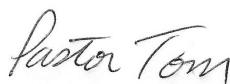
### VACCINATION CLINIC ON DECEMBER 11 FROM 8 AM TO NOON

The leading (legitimate and scientific) authorities on the coronavirus are unanimous: the best way to protect against the COVID pandemic, including the Omicron variant is through vaccination. Our church will again host a vaccination clinic for children, youth, and adults, first time and booster. If you were vaccinated more than six months ago with the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, please get a booster shot - do not wait. If you had the Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than two months again, you can get a booster shot.

This is the best way that we can be protected, as well as increase the chances that we can continue to worship in-person.

Thanks be to God for our ministry and your cooperation.

Grace and aloha,



# From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk

## Glorifying God Through Our D.A.Y.S.

Si'i Kaunga Pilikimi 'I he 'Eiki,

"Fakafeta'i, Fakafeta'i ko e pehe te tau noa, fakamalo he 'ofa 'a hotau 'Otua, ne tuku 'a Langi mo hono masani, ka e ha'u 'o huhu'l 'a e hia 'a mamani." (tau 'o e Himi #630 THSUTT).

Ko e mahina faka'osi 'eni 'o e Ta'u 2021 pea ko hono lea, "Fakafeta'i 'Eiki e 'Ofa." Ko e fu'u 'ofa ko'eni kuo tau a'usia 'o tau ikuna ai 'a e mahina faka'osi, ko e 'ofa 'ata'ata pe 'a e 'Otua, ma'ama'a atu 'a e fu'u loa na'a tau nofo tailili kiai 'a e covid-19, ka e fakafeta'i ko e 'Eiki pe. Kuo hoko 'a e huhu malu'i ke ne fakama'ama'a 'a e fu'u faingata'a ko'eni.

Ko 'etau ngaahi tu'utu'uni ki he mahina ni 'e anga pehe ni:

- 'Oku tau 'amanaki ke tau kamata 'a e ma'ulotu ki 'Api Siasi he Sapate 'Uluaki 'o e Mahina ni, Tisema 5, ka te tau kei muimui pe ki he tu'utu'uni fakangatangata 'o e tokolah, 'aia 'e kei vaeua pe 'a e ngaahi kulupu Hiva ke tau ngaue'aki. 'E toki fakahoko atu he'etau ngaahi ma'unga kelesi Sapate 'a e vahevahe 'o e ngaahi kulupu ki he taimi 12 p.m. mo e 2 p.m. he 'aho Sapate.
- Ko 'etau Christmas Eve service 'e fakahoko ia he efiafi Tisema 24, 2021 he taimi 7 p.m. pea 'oku faka'ata atu pe ke mou lava mai kiai.
- Ko 'etau Malanga Kilisimasi he 'aho Tisema 25, 2021 'e fakahoko ia he taimi 11 a.m. 'o e Tokonaki, Tisema 25, 2021.
- Ko 'etau ngaahi malanga faka'osi ta'u 'e fakahoko pe ia he 'aho Falaite, Tisema 31, 2021 'I he taimi 9 p.m. ki he 12 midnight.
- Pea ko 'etau Uike Lotu ki he Ta'ufou, 'e fakahoko atu ia 'I he 'aho Monite ko hono 3 'o Sanuali 2022 ki he Falaite 'aho 7 Sanuali 2021, ki 'api Siasi aipe, 'I he pongipongi mo e efiafi 'o kapau 'e faingamalie aipe 'a e tukunga 'o e covid-19.
- Ko e ngaahi ma'unga kelesi kehe, kataki 'o tau lele'aki pe 'a e founa ko'eni 'oku tau lolotonga ngaue'aki kae'oua leva ke tau foki he mahina ni, 'o tau toki sio ai ki he tukunga, pea 'e toki fakaongo atu.
- Ko e ngaahi palani ia 'oku tau lolotonga fokotu'utu'u kiai he taimi ni, tuku kehe 'o kapau 'e toe 'iai ha liliu ki ai.
- Ko kimoutolu koia 'oku te'eki ke huhu malu'l, fika 'uluaki, pe ko e huhu fika 3 'aia 'oku ui ko e booster, 'oku faingamalie 'a e huhu ko'eni 'e fakahoko 'I 'api Siasi First UMC Honolulu he 'aho Tisema 11, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., ko ia ko kimoutolu koia 'oku fiema'u 'a e huhu ko'eni, ta mai leva ki he 'ofisi 'o e Siasi: 808-522-9555 'o book ha'o appointment/reservation, ki he 'aho Tisema 11, 2021 ki 'Api Siasi ni.

Tauange ke mou ma'u ha Kilisimasi Fiefia mo ha Ta'ufou monu'ia he hala fononga 'o e ta'u kafakafa ko'eni. Ko e fakaikiiki 'o e ngaahi fatongia 'e toki fakahoko atu ia he'etau ngaahi ma'unga kelesi 'o e Sapate.

Fakafeta'i ma'u pe ki he 'Eiki!

*Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa*

## *Sermons for 10 a.m. Worship Service*



### **December 5**

Pastor Tom Choi continues the series based on the Dr. Seuss story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." In this sermon, the reasons why the Grinch had a heart two sizes too small are shared. Holy Communion celebrated.

### **December 12**

"Light and Truth." Continuing the story of the Grinch, Pastor Tom explores how the Grinch needs to see something different than darkness and lies.

### **December 19**

"The Heart that Grew Three Sizes." Pastor Tom concludes the story based on the Matt Rawle book with this same title.

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Carols, special music and message, plus candlelighting at the end.

### **December 26**

"Boxing Day." Not about a holiday on the pugilistic sport, Pastor Kim Houff talks about a tradition in countries that follow the United Kingdom practice of sharing gifts on the second day of Christmas.

*Our worship service can also be viewed from our webpage – [firstumchonolulu.org](http://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](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) to request one be mailed to you.***

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

### **ADVENT STUDY: *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes***

**Sundays: November 28 – December 19 following 10 a.m. worship**

**Wednesdays: December 1 – 22, 7 p.m.**

Our Advent study this year explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas!* All are welcome to join the discussion.

Email [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) for more information or to get the Zoom link.



### **Sundays at 9 a.m. via Zoom**

This is a wonderful time of the year and we hope your keiki will enjoy discovering the magic of the Christmas story through our NEW series called "Christmaas Science: Christmas Experiments." Each week we will perform a simple science experiment that will remind kids of a specific moment in the Christmas story.



If you are new to Kids Church, email [Office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Office@firstumchonolulu.org) to receive the Zoom invitation, registration form and Kids Church Activity Packet.

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

All ladies are invited to the English Circle Meeting on Wednesday, December 8 at 11:30 a.m. at



Pastor Kim's house. We will be doing our traditional activity of sending Christmas cards to missionaries, lay missionaries, etc. as well as shut-in members. All women are welcome to join us. Contact [Kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Kim@firstumchonolulu.org) to get the address.

The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Please contact Tupou Seini Kelemen to get the meeting invitation.

## THE ARTS



### FUMC'S ADVENT – CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL

*Now Available!*

We are so blessed to be able to present this devotional guide to you. It is a remarkable collection of different perspectives of faith from members of our Honolulu First United Methodist 'ohana. We hope that it will inspire your own hearts and minds as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child.

We are grateful to our devotional editor, Kim Houff, for coordinating the booklet, and Ongo Koli, for translating the majority of devotions into Tongan. We are also grateful to all of the authors who contributed a devotional. You may pick up your copy (in English and Tongan) at the church office, download a pdf copy from [firstumchonolulu.org](http://firstumchonolulu.org), or request one be emailed to you at [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org).

### Poinsettias

On Christmas Eve poinsettias will grace our worship as the symbol of birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This arrangement is possible through your desire to honor or remember loved ones.



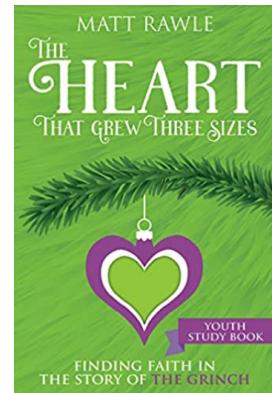
Cost this year is \$10. The deadline for ordering is **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19**. Please email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) for a form and turn it into the office **with your payment** marked for POINSETTIAS. Forms may also be picked up at Sunday services at the check-in table. We request that plants be picked up after Christmas Eve service.

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

We are so excited to be able to meet in person after only being able to gather via Zoom for over 18 months! We invite anyone in high school or college to join us on Sundays following the 10 a.m. English Worship Service. We will meet in the Youth Room on the second floor of the Education Building.

This Advent season we will be exploring the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas!* Some of the questions we'll be discussing are how did the Grinch's heart grow three sizes come Christmas morning? How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we hate is the one thing that changes our lives?



To help us reconnect, we will be hosting a private wood painting party for our youth and young adults at Indi & Dash Co. in Kaneohe on Sunday, December 19 at 12:30 p.m. We will be fellowshiping and creating our own custom designed Aloha or Welcome sign (see samples below). If you are in high school or college and would like to join us, please RSVP by December 10 to Sandi Brekke at [sbrekke@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:sbrekke@firstumchonolulu.org) to receive the registration form and to select your design. You must have at least your first vaccination shot or provide a negative COVID test within 72 hours of the party.

May God bless you and make His face to shine upon you during this Christmas season!

*Mark Brekke, Director of Youth  
Sandi Brekke, Office Manager and Youth Group Assistant*



# SERVICE



## CHRISTMAS WISH LISTS

You can help give a family a merry and bright Christmas this year by donating a new toy, clothing, or gift card. We have selected four children from three families to bless this year. You can purchase items from their wish lists or gift cards. (Please indicate the amount on the gift card.)

- 5-year-old male: roller skates, hot wheels cars, bike, size 11
- 4-year-old female: pink roller skates, barbie dollhouse, princess bike, size 10
- 1-year-old male: toys, clothing, size 7
- 1-year-old male: toys, clothing, size 8

Please drop off items at the church no later than Friday, December 17. If you would like to donate money, Pastor Kim will be happy to go shopping. If you have any questions or would like more information, call the office at 808-522-9555 or email [Kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Kim@firstumchonolulu.org).

## FREE VACCINES 1ST OR 2ND DOSES, BOOSTERS CHILDREN 5-17 AND ADULTS

**Saturday, December 11, 2021  
9:00 AM to 12 noon**

First United Methodist Church  
1020 So. Beretania St, Honolulu  
Interpreters on site Tongan, Thai, Lao  
Language access for all as needed

**Registration needed by 12/6/21:**

Pastor Ongo Koli (Tongan)

808 726-8749 ; or

Terrina Wong

[terrina@pacificgatewaycenter.org](mailto:terrina@pacificgatewaycenter.org)

**Mahalo to partners**

Department of Health (Community Outreach and Office of Language Access)  
Hawaii Public Nurses  
HING  
Kalihi-Palama Health Center  
Pacific Gateway Center  
United Methodist Church of Honolulu

Made possible through funding by  
the Kaiser Permanente Foundation

**Please wear your mask  
No ID or insurance required  
but if you have, please bring  
with you**

Moderna and Pfizer vaccines



## Christmas Angel

### Alternative Christmas Gifts

Don't know what to get the person who has everything? Christmas Angel donations are a double blessing – for the person your donation is made in honor of AND the ministry receiving your donation. Any amount may be given to any ministry. You can pay for your gift with check or credit card. When you make your gift, please let us if you would like for us to email or mail an insert to you about your selected ministry(s) to give to your recipient(s).

The projects we will support this year are:

- FUMC Foodbank
- Pancakes and Praise Breakfast
- FUMC Preschool Scholarship Fund
- Nepal Water Wells
- Family Promise
- Love Beyond Borders: The Interfaith Movement to End the Pandemic ([icrinc.org](http://icrinc.org))

Your gift will help transform our local and global communities! For more information, call the office or email [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org).





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



*Louise      Alohalani      Alexis      Malie, Kui, Alana*

## Keiki Sign Dance Class

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>For in-person Worship Services, please pre-register at <a href="http://www.firstumchonolulu.org">www.firstumchonolulu.org</a></i>			1 7pm Heart that Grew Three Sizes	2 2-4pm FoodBank	3	4
5 6am Tongan Worship via Zoom 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast 9am Kids Church via Zoom 10am Online English Worship 11:00 am Heart That Grew Three Sizes 11:00 Youth & Young Adults 12noon Tongan Worship 2pm Tongan Worship	6 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	7	8 11:30am UMW English Circle 7pm Heart that Grew Three Sizes	9 2-4pm FoodBank	10	11 8-12noon Vaccinaiton Clinic by appointment
12 6am Tongan Worship via Zoom 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast 9am Kids Church via Zoom 10am Online English Worship 11:00 am Heart That Grew Three Sizes 11:00 Youth & Young Adults 12noon Tongan Worship 2pm Tongan Worship	13 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	14	15 7pm Heart that Grew Three Sizes	16 2-4pm FoodBank	17	18
19 6am Tongan Worship via Zoom 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast 9am Kids Church via Zoom 10am Online English Worship 11:00 am Heart That Grew Three Sizes 11:00 Youth & Young Adults 12noon Tongan Worship 12:30pm Y&YA @ Indi & Dash 2pm Tongan Worship	20 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study	21 7:30pm UMW Tongan Circle	22 7pm Heart that Grew Three Sizes	23 2-4pm FoodBank	HOLIDAY 24 <b>Office &amp; Facilities CLOSED</b> <b>7pm Joint Christmas Eve Service by reservation</b>	25 <b>11am Tongan Christmas Service</b>
26 6am Tongan Worship via Zoom 8:30am Pancake and Praise Breakfast  10am English Worship 12noon Tongan Worship 2pm Tongan Worship	27 2-4pm FoodBank	28	29	30 2-4pm FoodBank	HOLIDAY 31 <b>Office &amp; Facilities CLOSED</b>  <b>9pm Tongan Watch Night Service</b>	



## First United Methodist Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Church Leaders & Staff

**Pastors:** The Rev. Dr. Tom Choi

The Rev. Dr. Linita 'U. Moa

**Minister of Discipleship & Community Engagement:**

Rev. Kim Houff

**Office Manager:** Sandi Brekke

**Facilities Director:** Paine Harris

**Director of Youth & Handyman:** Mark Brekke

**Director of Young People's Ministry:** Mele Pepa Latu

**Choir Director:** Tupou Seini Kelemen

**Accompanist:** Jason Eom

**Finance Administrator:** Ongko Koli

**Custodians:** Heamasi Koli, Pat Sheppard,

Pongi Vehikite, Sia Lolohea

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### **CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:**

**Resident Bishop:**

Bishop Grant Hagiya

**District Superintendent:**

Rev. Moonyoung Lee



### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Did you know that members of the congregation create the beautiful altar flower arrangements each week? If you would like to sign up to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, email the office at [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) or call the office to choose your date. You can choose to arrange the flowers yourself or have one of our talented members do the arranging.

**Check out our website:** [www.firstumchonolulu.org](http://www.firstumchonolulu.org)



**Email:** [Office@Firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Office@Firstumchonolulu.org)



**Instagram:** [firstumchonolulu](#)



**Facebook:** First United Methodist Church Honolulu



**Twitter:** [HonoluluFUMC](#)