

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
SEPTEMBER 2022 – VOLUME LXIX, ISSUE 9

Ready to become a U.S. citizen?

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP

- Saturday, September 17, 2022 •
- William S. Richardson School of Law
- 2485 Dole St., Honolulu •
- Register: 808.956.4092 or rilcinfo@hawaii.edu •

Receive free one-on-one assistance with the citizenship application from lawyers, accredited representatives, and trained volunteers.

Sponsored by the Hawai'i chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, in partnership with Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, Pacific Gateway Center, The Legal Clinic, and the William S. Richardson School of Law Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic.



Church Events

- September 5th – HOLIDAY: Facilities, Office and Foodbank CLOSED
- September 8th – Foodbank CLOSED
- September 10th – Tongan Kuata at FUMC at 10 a.m.
- September 11th – Tongan Women's Service at 1 p.m.
- September 17th – Citizenship Workshop at UH William S. Richardson School of Law
- September 24th – Foodbank OPEN from 2-4 p.m.

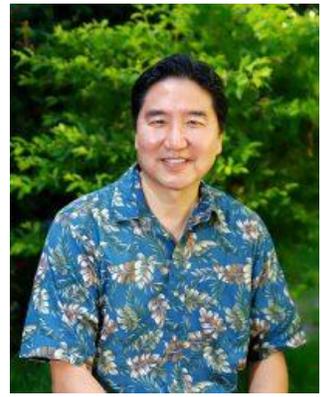
Ministry Musings

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

BACK TO BASICS

In August, I focused my preaching inspired by a book by Brian McLaren called Do I Stay Christian? I shared the reasons why or why not one would want to stay Christian or consider the faith for the first time. These include the difficult legacies of Christianity becoming more from the perspective of those in power - I did not mention the elevation of monarchs as having special blessing - "the Divine Right of Kings" - or the handshake deal that German clerics made with Adolf Hitler or the sad legacy of racism and sexism throughout Christian history.

I also mentioned the reasons why we should stay Christian, including the wonderful people who became missionaries to countries foreign to them and even dangerous to their personal safety. They stayed and supported those they touched with the Gospel, including my relatives; I think that my family would have perished were it not for the missionaries, the heroes of faith to me.



Pastor Tom Choi
Senior Pastor

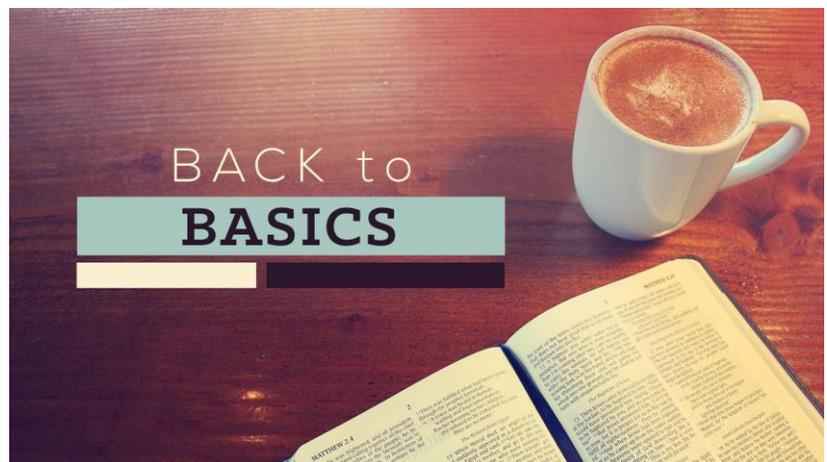
PC: Aloha Images & Design

But even as I hope that most will stay Christian and more people become curious about Christianity, I also know that in these times, better understanding of the basics of the Bible is needed. I remember hearing about a United Methodist summer camp with a biblical theme based on the story of Moses; one of the counselors on the first day of training asked, "Who's Moses?"

While more have more knowledge than that, I do believe that introducing basic principles of scripture and our faith is important. Our sermons for the next few months will focus on the basics of our faith. This will benefit those who want to learn for the first time, but also help those who know the "old, old story of Jesus and his love," and remind them of the greatness of our scripture and faith.

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom



From Faifekau Linita Moa's Table



PC: Aloha Images & Design

Si'i Kaunga Pilikimi 'I he 'Eiki,

Fakafeta'i ki he 'Eiki he'etau a'usia 'a e mahina fo'ou, Sepitema 2022, pea mo hono siate folau: **"Ko hotau Ui ke Nofo 'a Kainga he Komiiuniti 'o e 'Otua."** Ko e mahina foki 'eni 'o e Potungae 'a e Kakai Fefine, pea 'oku 'amanaki ke fakahoko ai 'enau Taliui

Sepitema 'I he Sapate hono 2, Sept. 11, 2022. Ko e Taliui 'oku 'uhinga ia ki he Ui mo'ui 'a e 'Otua ki he Fefine Kalisitiane, pea ko e ha 'ene tali ki he Ui kuo fai 'e he 'Otua, pea 'oku fakafofonga ia 'I he polokalama taliui 'oku fakahoko he Siasi he Sapate kuo vahe'I ke fakahoko ai 'a e Taliui. Ko e Taliui koia ko e talaloto ia 'a e Fefine Kalisitiane 'aki 'ene lilingi hono loto 'I he 'aho 'o e 'Otua mo e Siasi pea mo 'ene tukupa ke kei fieme'angaue'aki ia 'e he 'Otua he 'aho kotoa pe 'o a'u ki he ngata'anga 'o 'ene mo'ui.

Koia 'oku faka'amu ke tau teuteu atu 'a e Kakai Fefine kotoa pe 'o e Siasi ke tau kau he Taliui mo'ui he ta'u ko'eni, mo e fakafeta'i ki he 'Otua Mafimafi 'I he'etau kau ai.

Ko 'eni 'a e ngaahi polokalama ki he mahina ni:

- ❖ Sapate Sepitema 4, 2022 – ko e Malanga & Sakalameniti, Taliui Fakakolo, mo e Fakataha teu Kuata.
- ❖ Tokonaki Sepitema 10, 2022 – 10 a.m. Fakataha Kakai Fefine 'I Falelotu
 - 10:30 a.m. Fakataha 'a e Kau Faifekau 'I he Maile Room
 - 11:30 a.m. Fakataha Faka-Kuata ki Falelotu
 - 1:00 p.m. Ma'ume'a tokoni ki he Lanai mo e teniti
- ❖ Ko e taha 'o e polokalama fo'ou ki he mahina ni ko e polokalama ki he kau toulekeleka 'o e Siasi, 'oku fakafuofua 'eni ki he kau ta'u 70 'o lahi hake. 'E toki fanongogongo atu 'a e 'aho mo e feitu'u 'e fakahoko ki ai he ngaahi Sapate 'o Sepitema, ko e feohi'anga pe 'a e kau Toulekeleka (seniors) pea fakafeohi mo fepotalanoa'aki ki he tupulaki 'enau mo'ui, neongo ko e ngaahi taimi faingata'a ki he kau toulekeleka 'e ni'ihi. Koia ko e faingamalie 'eni ki he feohi mo e fevahevahe'aki 'a e kau toulekeleka, pea ka 'oku 'iai pe he taha he siasi 'oku fie kau mai ki he polokalama fakafeohi ko'eni pea 'oku faka'ofa'ofa pe ke kau mai kiai.

Faka'amu pe ke hoko 'a e mahina ko Sepitema ko e mahina 'o e fiefia mo e lotomafana ma'a hou'eiki fafine he teu 'o e Kuata Sepitema Taliui pea pehe pe foki ki he Siasi hono kotoa.

'Ofa lahi atu mo e hufia,

Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa

The Education Building is getting a new roof! Work begins on September 19 so keep an eye out when you are on campus.

BACK to BASICS



Sermons for 10 a.m. English Worship Service

SEPTEMBER 4 – "Back to Basics - Sabbath"
Pastor Tom Choi begins a new series giving in introduction/refresher on some Basic Christian teachings. This Sunday's focus, in observance of Labor Day weekend, is on sabbath and the need to rest and re-create. Scripture passages: Genesis 2:1-3

SEPTEMBER 11 – "Back to Basics - The Great Commandment"
Pastor Tom discusses one of his favorite passages of scripture and expands on the meaning of loving God and loving your neighbor. Scripture passage: Matthew 22:35-40.

SEPTEMBER 18 - "Back to Basics - The Great Commission"
Pastor Tom talks about the sending forth Jesus gave the disciples before leaving earth and how we live that out in contemporary times. Scripture passage: Matthew 28:16-20

SEPTEMBER 25 – "Back to Basics - The Great Requirement"
Pastor Tom Choi explains this famous passage with the help of the young adult group. Scripture passage: Micah 6:1-8

You can access previous videos of our worship services on Facebook (First United Methodist Church Honolulu) or edited versions 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.

SERVICE

Backpacks for Parolees



It is time to prepare backpacks for those being released from prison. We are collecting these new or gently used items:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Hairbrush or Comb
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Bath Towel & Wash Cloth
- Disposable Razors
- Facial Tissue
- Antiseptic Cream
- Sheets and Pillowcases
- Non-liquid Detergent
- Instant Coffee
- Cup Noodles
- Deodorant
- Body Lotion
- Nail Clippers
- Bar Soap
- Shaving Cream
- Toilet Paper
- Band Aids
- Water Bottles
- Trail Mix/Nuts
- Hot Chocolate
- Granola Bars

You may bring your items to the church on Sundays or call the office at 808-522-9555 to drop off donations during the week. Monetary donations are also welcomed, go to firstumchonolulu.org, click on GIVING and select BACKPACKS. For more information email Pastor Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org.



HI-5 Recycling for Preschool

During the month of September, United Women in Faith will be collecting HI-5 Recycling for the Preschool Scholarship Fund. Bring your HI-5 recycling to the church and place it in one of the blue bins. Please empty containers completely and remove caps from bottles. For more information, contact Pastor Kim at kim@firstumchonolulu.org.

SPIES OF THE BIBLE



SECRET MISSIONS IN THE BIBLE

Kids Church

Sundays at 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

This month we will continue our series “Spies of the Bible”. This series will look at some of the stories about spies, hidden identities, and sneaky behavior, revealing a God who is in control.

Lessons:

September 4: Jonathan – Jonathan snuck into enemy territory with his armor bearer. When the two of them were discovered, they were not afraid. Jonathan had prayed and he knew that the Lord had given him victory. **Objective:** Kids will learn that it is important to start every day in prayer asking for God’s guidance.

September 11: David – When Saul entered the cave, he had no idea that David was hiding inside. David could have used the opportunity to kill the king, but instead he refused to harm the king that God had anointed. **Objective:** Kids will learn that we should not seek revenge even when we are being wronged.

September 18: Esther – Esther was the undercover queen. Esther took a big risk when she went to the king, revealing who she was and asking for his help to save her people. **Objective:** Kids will learn sometimes we have to take a leap of faith as we serve God.

September 25: Pharisees – In this Bible story the hero, Jesus, had to defend himself from some spies. The Pharisees sent spies to ask Jesus difficult questions, hoping to trip him up and find an excuse to arrest him. Jesus answered all of their questions with wisdom, and the spies fell silent. **Objective:** Kids will learn that spending time daily in God’s Word, gives us the wisdom we need to face life’s challenges.

Email Office@firstumchonolulu.org to receive the 2022 Zoom link, registration form and Kids Church Activity Packet.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Adults Ministry (YAM)

When I first became a Youth Director, I was excited and nervous to take on the responsibility of guiding a group of middle school age young Christians. Those nerves disappeared quickly as I was blessed by the strength and conviction of each member of our group. Wise beyond their years and on fire for the Lord. Here at First UMC, having my wife Sandi by my side has made being the Director of Youth & Young Adults enjoyable. Her unwavering relationship with God along with her many gifts has attributed to the spiritual growth of the group. This reflection came to me this morning as my daughter Sara was about to leave for her first day of college. She is the last member of the young adults to enter this new chapter in her life. I hope and pray that they all stay connected to God. Proverbs 22:6: ***Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.***

Thank you Lord for this amazing group of Young Adults that have blessed our church and blessed our lives. Watch over them Lord and be with Sandi and myself as we continue to lead them. In Jesus Name Amen.

Mark Brekke, Director of Young Adults Ministry

Thank you First UMC for investing in our young ladies and assisting them with registration for this year’s BLOOM Brunch. BLOOM exists to equip, encourage, empower, and inspire the next generation of female leaders to bloom where they are planted and become all that God created them to be.



Tongan Young People’s Ministry Youth Day 2022



DISCIPLESHIP

Sunday Bible Study

Following 10 AM worship
Each Sunday except 1st Sunday
In-person and via Zoom



Our “The Wired Word” current events Bible study continues to provide us interesting topics to discuss—all through a biblical lens—with discussions of Nancy Pelosi receiving communion and Coach Kennedy praying on the football field following games. Join us on Sunday following 10 AM worship to discuss the topic for the day. Articles are emailed on Thursday or Friday for Sunday’s discussion. Please email

Kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information or to get the Zoom link.

Hawaii District United Women in Faith

Annual Celebration Who Can We Be Together?



United
Women
in Faith

Saturday, September 17 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Registration 9:00 am \$15 per person
Harris UMC—20 S Vineyard Blvd

Join us in person (!) as we: * Bid aloha to outgoing District Officers and welcome the new ones * Present our 2021 pledges. * Rekindle friendships * Share stories with our sisters.

* Listen to an inspirational message by Reverend Kim Houff *

Wearing a mask is recommended.
Please bring your local organization's 2022 pledge.

Register by emailing Dorinda Dunlap at dorindadunlap916@gmail.com. Deadline to register is September 12.

Tongan Youth Day



THE ARTS



Vacation Bible School





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



SHIP (Second Hour Interactive Program):
 Cookie Eating Minute-to-Win-It Game

SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BC = Butterworth Chapel KH = Komuro Hall MR = Maile Room S = Sanctuary YR = Youth Room				1 2-4pm Foodbank 6:30pm Ray Vander Laan Study (Zoom) 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir (S)	2 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	3
4 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship 11:00 am Sunday Social (Library) 12noon Tongan Worship	5 HOLIDAY Facilities, Office and Foodbank CLOSED	6	7 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	8 Foodbank CLOSED 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir (S)	9 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	10 10am Tongan Kuata
11 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 9am Kids Church via Zoom 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am SHIP - Keiki Sign Dance (MR) 11:00 am The Wired Word (Library) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship 1:00 pm Tongan Women's Service	12 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	13	14 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	15 2-4pm Foodbank 6:30pm Ray Vander Laan Study (Zoom) 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir (S)	16 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	17 Citizenship Workshop 9:30-2:30 UWF Annual Gathering (Harris UMC)
18 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 9am Kids Church via Zoom 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am SHIP - Keiki Sign Dance (MR) 11:00 am The Wired Word (Library) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship	19 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	20 7:30pm UWF Tongan Circle (KHall)	21 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	22 2-4pm Foodbank 6:30pm Ray Vander Laan Study (Zoom) 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir (S)	23 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	24 2-4pm Foodbank
25 6am Tongan Worship. 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 9am Kids Church via Zoom 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am SHIP - Keiki Sign Dance (MR) 11:00 am The Wired Word (Library) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship	26 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	27 7pm Trustees	28 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	29 2-4pm Foodbank 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir (S)	30 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	



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

Minister of Discipleship & Community Engagement:
Rev. Kim Houff

Office Manager: Sandi Brekke

Facilities Director: Paine Harris

Director of Young Adult Ministry & Handyman:
Mark Brekke

Director of Young People's Ministry: Mele Pepa Latu

Choir Director: Tupou Seini Kelemen, Fololiena Maka

Accompanist: Jason Eom

Finance Administrator: Ongu Koli

Custodians: Pongi Vehikite, Pat Sheppard,
Sia Lolohea, John Kelemen

CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:

Resident Bishop:
Bishop Grant Hagiya

District Superintendent:
Rev. Moonyoung Lee

FREE AT-HOME OTC COVID-19 TESTS

Thanks to Aloha Harvest, we have COVID-19 tests to give away.

Call the Office at 808-522-9555 to request COVID-19 Tests.

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)