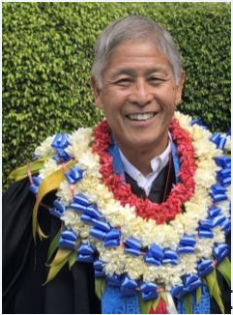


# FOCUS

## *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 2023 – VOLUME LXX, ISSUE 1



### Mahalo from Bishop Grant Hagiya

Dear Rev. Choi and Loving Members of the  
United Methodist Church:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our new Center for Leadership and Innovation. It was so thoughtful and generous of you to donate this, and I deeply appreciate your kindness. Thank you so much!

It was such a joy to worship with you on the Sunday following the farewell. Rev. Choi's sermon was outstanding, and it was such a blessing to worship with you all.

We are still basking in the joy of the Hawaii District's Farewell activities for us. The Aloha Spirit really shined through all of the activities of that week. We will never forget the thoughtfulness and generosity of the Hawaii District!

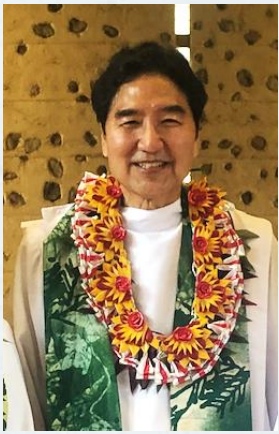
May this Christmas Holiday and the New Year be filled with joy and peace for you!

Blessings,

Grant Hagiya [retiring bishop of the California-Pacific Conference]  
President and Professor of Leadership and Innovation  
Claremont School of Theology

### Church Events

- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day Combined Service in English at 10a.m.  
No Noon Tongan Worship Service
- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – HOLIDAY: Foodbank, Office and Facilities CLOSED
- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> – Tongan Prayer Week
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Foodbank at 2-4p.m.
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – MLK DAY HOLIDAY: Foodbank, Office and Facilities CLOSED
- Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – Ho'oku'ikahi Service (Remembrance of the Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom) at 6:30p.m.
- Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Carol Kesler's Memorial at 2p.m.
- Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – Free and Delicious Food Event at 6:30 p.m.



Pastor Tom Choi  
Senior Pastor

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

### A NEW YEAR OF EVER RENEWING MINISTRY

As we enter 2023, we are nearly three years since the COVID pandemic completely changed our lives, including the way in which we did ministry as First UMC of Honolulu. We were shut down for worship from March 2020 until the spring of 2022, with the exception of a few weeks of in-person worship in our fellowship hall. In order to continue to offer worship services, we took a crash course in online worship, and continue to offer online ministry to this day.

In the New Year, we will continue to offer hybrid worship, which reaches people who are thousands of miles away. We will also begin to reinstitute in-person activities as safety allows, such as large community gatherings with food.

We will continue to offer outreach to the homeless and hungry of our community. With almost no interruption, we kept the food bank open during the pandemic and it continues to this day. The operation has evolved, but still feeds hundreds of families.

We have suspended the early morning worship service with breakfast for safety reasons, but we continue to offer to-go breakfast every Sunday morning.

Ministry has changed in many ways, but the focus remains: to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in as many ways and to as many people as we can. I'm excited about how God will inspire us in 2023!

# Ministry Musings

HO'OKUIKAHI - SERVICE OF  
REMEMBRANCE OF THE  
OVERTHROW OF THE HAWAIIAN  
KINGDOM ON JANUARY 17 AT 6:30 PM  
AT FIRST UMC

On January 17, 1893, United States military overthrew the kingdom of Hawaii, and forced the monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani, into house arrest. Pre-COVID, there was an ecumenical service of remembrance for several years. On January 17, 2023, a service will once again be held, and First UMC will be the worship venue. There will be a special speaker and music.

### THE BRITT LECTURES ARE RETURNING TO FIRST UMC

The Britt Lectures were established by Dr. Clarence and Caroline Britt of Tulsa, Oklahoma, but who regularly spent winters in Hawaii and attended First UMC. They established a lecture series to bring the best theologians, Biblical scholars, and top flight ministry practitioners to Hawaii. They were held at First UMC for many years.

I am pleased to announce that after being held elsewhere for several years, the Britt Lectures will return to First UMC in February. Please check back for information on the the 2023 lecturer.

May this be the happiest of New Year hopes and aspirations through Jesus Christ!

Grace and aloha,

*Pastor Tom*



# From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk

Fakafeta'i 'I he'etau a'usia 'a e Ta'ufo'ou ni, 2023  
Happy New Year!!!

Fakafeta'i ki he 'Otua Mafimafi 'I he'etau tu'uta mo'ui mo fiefia he ta'u fo'ou ni. 'Oku tau lea fakataha mo e Saame, "*Haleluia! Fai mei Langi na 'a e fakamalo 'o Sihova: Fai hono fakamalo 'a e kau angelo 'a'ana: Fai hono fakamalo, 'ene hosite kotoa...Ke malo'ia 'ekinautolu 'a e huafa 'o Sihova.*" (Saame 148). Ko e mahina ni ko e mahina pe 'o e fakafeta'i mo e fakamalo, he 'ilonga ha me'a 'oku manava mo mo'ui, kenau fai hono fakamalo'ia 'o Sihova ke ta'engata.



Pastor Linita Moa  
Associate Pastor

Ko e mahina ni 'e kamata'aki pe 'a 'etau Uike Lotu, 'a ia 'e fakahoko ia he hengihengi Monite, Sanuali 'aho 2 ki he 'aho Falaite 'aho 6, 2023. 'E fakaava 'a e gate he 5:30 a.m. pea ko 'etau ma'unga kelesi 'e fakahoko ia he 6 hengihengi 'I he Komuro Hall.

Ko e ma'unga kelesi efiafi, 'e fakaava 'a e falelotu he taimi 6:30 efiafi pea 'e kamata 'a e lotu he taimi 7 efiafi. Ko e kau hiva koia 'e tataki 'aki 'a e hiva talilotu he ngaahi houa lotu he 'aho taki taha: *Monite: Kahala, Tusite: Kapahulu & Waipahu, Pulelulu: Waikiki, Tu'apulelulu: Makiki, Falaite: Kalihi.*

Ko e 'aho Sapate Sanuali 8, te tau malanga he 12 p.m. pea mo 'etau Sakalameniti, mo e Polokalama Tali Ui 'a e Potungaue ki he ta'ufo'ou. Ko e Sapate 15, ka hili 'etau malanga 'e fakahoko ai 'a e fakataha 'a e Komiti Tonga ki he ta'ufo'ou. Ko e toenga 'o e ngaahi fatongia 'e toki fakahoko atu pe ia he lolotonga 'o e mahina.

Ko e taimi lelei taha 'eni 'o e ta'u, ke fai ha'o tukupa mo e palani ki ho'o fononga lolotonga 'a e ta'u fo'ou ni. 'Oku 'ikai ngata pe 'iate koe fakafo'ituitui, ka ki he famili, ki he Siasi, pe ko e ha pe ha kulupu 'oku ke kau kiai, hange ko e kalasi 'aho, kulupu hiva, ngaahi va'a ngaue 'a e Siasi 'oku ke taki ai, ko e fanau ako pehe ki he ngaahi potungaue.

'Ofa ke hoko mai 'a e Laumalie Ma'oni'oni 'o fakamalumu koe pea ke ne tataki kitautolu kotoa pe lolotonga lolotonga 'etau kamata ke fononga he vaa'ihala 'o e ta'u fo'ou ni.

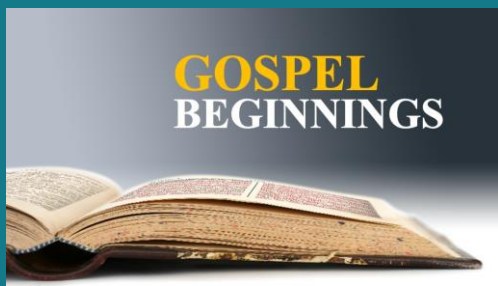
'Ofa lahi atu mo e lotu,  
*Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa*



## FACILITY UPDATES

Mahalo everyone for your understanding during the construction of the new roof for the Education Building. As it continues for the rest of January, I want to ask for your continued kokua in respecting the signs and barricades to avoid accidents and delays. Mahalo and have a wonderful New Year!

*Paini Harris*  
Facilities Director



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

JANUARY 1 – Gospel Beginnings: Matthew. Pastor Tom Choi will preach this month on the beginnings of each of the Four Gospels: We begin with Matthew, which begins with a genealogy of Jesus's lineage. This story is often overlooked but gives important insight into our faith and life.

\*\*\*\*

JANUARY 8 – Gospel Beginnings: Mark. The shortest and most to-the-point of the Gospels, Mark's story begins simply, and then moves to the story of Jesus's baptism. An interactive experience of baptism will be offered at the end of worship.

\*\*\*\*

JANUARY 15 – Gospel Beginnings: Luke. Luke's Gospel begins with an interesting introductory section and sets up the unique way that this Gospel writer presents the story of Jesus.

\*\*\*\*

JANUARY 22 – Gospel Beginnings: John. The Gospel writer who differed the most from the other three, John begins his Gospel with a dramatic hymn to Jesus, which links Christ to the beginning of Creation.

\*\*\*\*

JANUARY 29 – UWF SUNDAY  
The United Women of Faith (formerly UMW) will be featured with Tupou Seini Kelemeni speaking. The English Young Adults, who are all women, will participate.

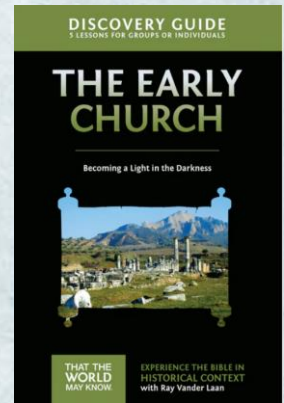
*You can access previous videos of our worship services on Facebook (First United Methodist Church Honolulu) or edited versions on YouTube. Or if you prefer a printed copy of the worship script, please call 808-522-9555 or email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) to request one be mailed to you.*

# DISCIPLESHIP

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY *Early Church: Becoming a Light in the Darkness* by Ray Vander Laan

**Following 10 AM worship**  
January 8, 15, 22, 29 and  
February 12

**In-person (Library) and  
via Zoom**



Get your new year started off right by delving into the world of the early church. We will watch a video in the Holy Land of the setting for our topic each week. The Discovery Guide allows participants who would like to explore the topic more in-depth to do so with five days of personal study. (This is optional and will not be discussed in the following session.) If you would like a copy of the book, more information, and/or the Zoom link, email [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**During 10 AM  
worship**

Sunday School is offered for elementary age students. Children begin in worship and then go to Maile Room with the teacher. Parents pick up the children at the end of service. Measure Up is a five-week series from the Gospels on Jesus' life and ministry. For more information, email [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org).



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All ladies are invited to the English Circle Meeting on Wednesday, January 11 at 11:30 in the library. Judy Olson will lead the program and we will be making our pledges for the year. All women are welcome to join us. Contact [Kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Kim@firstumchonolulu.org) for more information.



United  
Women  
in Faith

The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 17 at 7:30 PM in Komuro Hall. Please contact Kueni Maka for more information.

## THE ARTS



### Free and Delicious Food Event!

Learn easy, delicious ways to prepare nutritious meals your whole family will enjoy. Start the new year right!

**When: Monday, January 23, 6:30-8:30p.m.**

**What:**

Cooking demo, information, Q&A and food samples.

**Who:**

All are welcome! **Pre-registration** required. To register, email [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) or call (808)522-9558. Be sure to include your first and last name and the number of people in your party.

**Where:**

First United Methodist Church, 1020 S. Beretania Street.

**Presenter:** Rebecca Woodland ~ cookbook author, chef, culinary instructor, and devotee of delicious nutrition.

*This event is offered free through the generosity of Samaritan Counseling Center and First United Methodist Church. Mahalo!*

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

2022 has been a blessed year for the Young People's Ministries!

We opened up the year with Easter festivities, slightly different from the usual, but a good change as we got to go out to Kahuku UMC and fellowship with other Tongan UMC Youth. We were able to have our annual White Sunday or Faka-Me where the kids shared scriptures, music and skits. Then we opened up our Summer with outdoor activities and a two month long preparation for our annual Tongan Youth Day. That led to an opportunity to fly out to join Hawaii Island and Maui's Youth Day. Fall season brought us a new school year, football games and many more activities in between to fellowship and just be grateful that we are in each other's presence. We ended the year with a grand Christmas celebration at Aloha Stadium lights and a community service project to pass out produce and eggs to our church family as well as the community.

If 2022 taught us anything, it is that God has never left our side and never will so we will continue to give Him all the glory and praise.

We look forward to 2023 with new goals and refreshed spirits to walk in this journey together, faithfully. Ofa lahi atu!

Mele Pepa Latu  
Director of Young People's Ministry



# SERVICE

## HOPE BASKETS

To show our thanks for how God has so richly blessed us, 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. We will accept donations of gently used (or new!) dishes, utensils, pots and pans, and linens. You can also donate new laundry baskets, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, shampoo and conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and toilet paper.

Drop off your donations at the church. You can also donate money for Pastor Kim to go shopping for whatever is needed.



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Can you believe 2022 is over? Our youth as you know are no longer youth. They are Young Adults set to make their mark in the world. They do not know what the future holds but they do know they can hold on to their faith that is rooted deep in Christ.

Through the years I've had the privilege of being part of their spiritual growth and their collective choices are worthy of praise. I feel confident that they will all stay connected to God through every new venture.

We grew closer this weekend as we ended the year with a fulfilled fellowship time of painting, eating, laughing, and sharing a difficult journey we took this past year and what God revealed to us through that journey.

Let's start off the new year celebrating God's love and grace that is extended to our Young Adults and to each and every one of us.

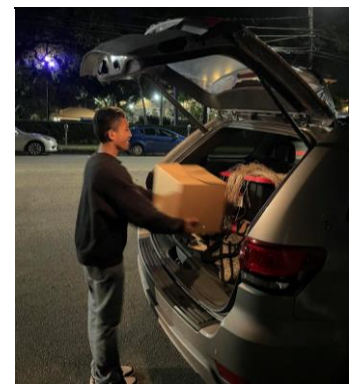
God Bless and Happy New Year!  
Mark Brekke  
Director of Young Adult Ministry





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

Young Peoples  
 Ministry  
 community  
 service project –  
 distributing  
 produce boxes to  
 our congregation  
 and our  
 community



# JANUARY 2023

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday                          |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b> 1<br>8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only)<br>9am Fijian Bible Study (BC)<br>10am English Worship Service<br>11:00 am Aloha Reception<br>NO TONGAN WORSHIP AT NOON  | <b>HOLIDAY</b> 2<br><b>Foodbank, Facilities &amp; Office CLOSED</b><br>5:30am Tongan Service (KH)<br>6pm Tongan Service (S) | 3<br>5:30am Tongan Service (KH)<br>6pm Tongan Service (S)                                     | 4<br>5:30am Tongan Service (KH)<br>6pm Tongan Service (S)  | 5<br>5:30am Tongan Service (KH)<br>6pm Tongan Service (S)                    | 6<br>5:30am Tongan Service (KH)<br>6pm Tongan Service (S) | 7                                 |
| 8<br>6am Tongan Worship<br>8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only)<br>9am Fijian Bible Study (BC)<br>10am English Worship<br>11:00 am Sunday Bible Study (L)<br>11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR)<br>12noon Tongan Worship                 | 9<br>2-4pm FoodBank<br>6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)   | 10  | 11<br>11:30am UWF English Circle (L)<br>7pm English Choir (KH)<br>7pm Tongan Worship (S)                   | 12<br>6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC)<br>8pm Tongan Choir(S)         | 13<br>7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)           | 14<br><b>2-4pm Foodbank</b>       |
| 15<br>6am Tongan Worship<br>8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only)<br>9am Fijian Bible Study (BC)<br>10am English Worship/Sunday School<br>11:00 am Sunday Bible Study (L)<br>11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR)<br>12noon Tongan Worship  | <b>HOLIDAY</b> 16<br><b>Foodbank, Facilities &amp; Office CLOSED</b>  | 17<br>6:30pm Ho'oku'ikahi Service of Remembrance of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom (S) | 18<br>7pm English Choir (KH)<br>7pm Tongan Worship (S)   | 19<br>6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC)<br>8pm Tongan Choir(S)         | 20<br>7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)           | 21<br>2pm Carol Kesler's Memorial |
| 22<br>6am Tongan Worship<br>8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only)<br>9am Fijian Bible Study (BC)<br>10am English Worship<br>11:00 am Sunday Bible Study (L)<br>11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR)<br>12noon Tongan Worship                | 23<br>2-4pm FoodBank<br>6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)  | 24  | <b>Office</b> 25<br><b>CLOSED</b><br>9am Staff Retreat<br>7pm English Choir (KH)<br>7pm Tongan Worship (S) | 26<br>6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC)<br>8pm Tongan Choir(S)         | 27<br>7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)           | 28                                |
| 29<br>6am Tongan Worship.<br>8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only)<br>9am Fijian Bible Study (BC)<br>10am English Worship/Sunday School<br>11:00 am Sunday Bible Study (L)<br>11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR)<br>12noon Tongan Worship | 30<br>2-4pm FoodBank<br>6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)  | 31  |  | BC= Butterworth Chapel<br>KH = Komuro Hall<br>L = Library<br>MR = Maile Room | S = Sanctuary<br>YR = Youth Room                          |                                   |



## 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:** Paini 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:** Ongo Kali

**Custodians:** Pongi Vehikite, Pat Sheppard,

Sia Lolohea, John Kelemen

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:**

**Resident Bishop:**

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**District Superintendent:**

Rev. Moonyoung Lee

## Saturday Foodbank

January 14, 2023

2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Distribution takes place at the  
Sanctuary main doors on  
Beretania Street.

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



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