

# 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  
FEBRUARY 2023 – VOLUME LXX, ISSUE 2



### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AND POTLUCK

**Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**12noon and 6:30 p.m. Service**

We will have a noon to 1 p.m. informal service where you can come to the sanctuary anytime during that time to receive communion and the imposition of ashes.

Our 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service will be followed by a potluck supper. All are invited to join us and bring a potluck dish of vegetarian soup, salad, bread or fruit to share.

Please call the office at 808-522-9555 or email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) with what potluck dish you will be bringing.



**Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:15 p.m.**

We will be watching the Super Bowl together on the big screen and enjoying each other's company.

We invite you to join us at 1:15 p.m. in Komuro Hall. We will provide chili and rice. You may bring your favorite pupu to share if you like. Pastor Kim will be making popcorn!

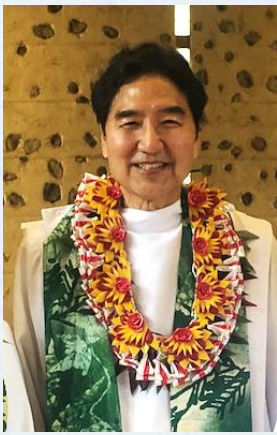
We hope to see you there!



### Church Events

- Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Foodbank at 2-4p.m.
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – Joint Service with Bishop at 10a.m.
- Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – Super Bowl Party at 1:15p.m.
- Feb 17-20<sup>th</sup> - Britt Lectures at FUMC
- Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – Presidents' Day HOLIDAY: Foodbank, Office and Facilities CLOSED
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ash Wednesday 12-1p.m. imposition of ashes (Sanctuary)  
**6:30p.m. Joint Worship Service**
- Feb 23-25<sup>th</sup> – Pacific Islanders Conference at FUMC
- Feb 26<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent





Pastor Tom Choi  
Senior Pastor

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

### THE BRITT LECTURES AT FIRST UMC - FEBRUARY 17, 18, 19 PLUS MONDAY WORKSHOP

For the first time in three years, the Britt Lectures are being held in person and back at First UMC after being held at another church for a few years.

The 2023 Britt Lecturer is Rev. Eugene Cho. He is the president and CEO of Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Prior to that, he was the pastor of Quest Church in Seattle, Washington for 18 years. He also started a non-profit organization called One Day's Wages, dedicating to ending extreme poverty. He is an outstanding and captivating speaker. I know that you will be blessed by him.



The lecture will be in-person and also livestreamed on our Facebook page.

If you plan to attend in person, you are invited to share cookies or something similar for the reception between the lectures and the Q&A sessions. If you can have them individually wrapped or bagged, that is preferred.

# Ministry Musings

## ASH WEDNESDAY ON FEBRUARY 22

Another sign that we are emerging from the worst of the COVID and into something that resembles something like activities we had previous to the pandemic is that for the first time since 2019, we will have an in-person combined Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm followed by a potluck meal (please see elsewhere in this issue for details). We will also have a noon to 1 pm informal service where you can come anytime during that time to receive communion and the imposition of ashes.

## THE SEASON OF LENT - A TIME OF REFLECTION AND CLARITY

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22, and continues through April 8. It recalls the forty days and nights that Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a time that has emphasized sacrifice and denial, such as "giving up something for Lent." Some wonder why we do this...what's the point? This year, I invite us to see Lent as a time of decluttering, of clearing out that which distracts and clouds our vision of how God is calling us. The "giving up" or "picking up" something for Lent isn't so much an endurance test or contest. It is a way that we can delve deeper into what we are meant to be and to do.

May this be a time of clarity and surprising joy.

Grace and aloha,

# From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk

Malo e Lelei si'i Kaunga Pilikimi,

Fakafeta'i ki he 'Otua Mafimafi he 'ofa hulu kuo tau lave ai he mahina hono 2 'o e ta'u 2023. Ko e mahina ni 'oku tau taumu'a 'aki 'a e kaveinga, "Ke tau tulituli ki he 'Alunga Totonu 'I hono mo'ui'aki e Lao 'a Sihova neongo 'ene faingata'a." Ko e mahina ni ke tau ma'u 'a e loto mo e mo'ui 'oku tatau mo e Lao 'a Sihova.

Ko e Lao 'a Sihova 'oku faingata'a 'I he taimi kotoa pe 'oku tau fakafepaki ai mo ta'emuimui ki ai, ka 'I he 'etau talangofua ki he Lao 'a Sihova 'oku faingofua pea mo ma'ama'a pea 'oku tokoni lahi ia kiate kitautolu lolotonga 'a e fononga 'oku tau fai he ua' mahina 'o e ta'u.

Ko e mahina ni, 'oku tau teuteu atu ki he talitali 'o e kau Pisope 'a e Western Jurisdiction ki hotau 'api Siasi ni, 'I he 'aho 7 koia 'o Fepueli ni taimi 6:30 p.m. pea 'oku tau teuteu pe 'a e me'atokoni, ka 'oku kau mai 'a Vaikau'aki, Kilohana, Pearl city pea mo kitautolu ki he fanga ki'I faiva fakaholo 'ilo lolotonga 'a e houa ma'u me'atokoni.

Ko e taha 'o e me'a 'oku tau tokanga ki ai ko 'etau Talitali 'a e Pacific Islander Commission (PIC) pea kuo fakahoko hono talitali ki he ngaahi Potu Siasi ki he teuteu 'o e houa ma'ume'atokoni, ka ko e ngaahi fakataha'anga mo e polokalama 'e fakahoko kotoa mai ia ki Honolulu ni, mei he 'aho 23 'o Fepueli ki he 'aho 26. 'Oku tau talitali foki 'a e Siasi koia 'o North Long Beach, pea 'oku teuteu 'a e toko 6 ke nau folau mai mo 'enau Faifekau mo e Setuata ke tau kau fakataha 'I he PIC.

Fakataha mo e Mahina ni, 'oku fakahoko ai foki 'etau Britt Lecture pea 'e fakahoko mai mo ia ki hotau 'api Siasi ni he President's weekend, 'aia ko e 'aho 17 – 20 'o Fepueli, weekend 'eni kimu'a he PIC. Koia ko e fuofua foki mai 'eni 'a e Britt Lecture ki 'api Siasi hili ia 'a e fakafo'ou hotau 'api Siasi ni.

'Oku ou talamonu atu ki he mahina fo'ou ni, pea mo e fononga 'oku tau lolotonga fononga ai, ke tapuaki'I mo fakamonu'ia mai kitautolu kotoa pe 'I he Kelesi 'a e 'Otua Mafimafi.

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



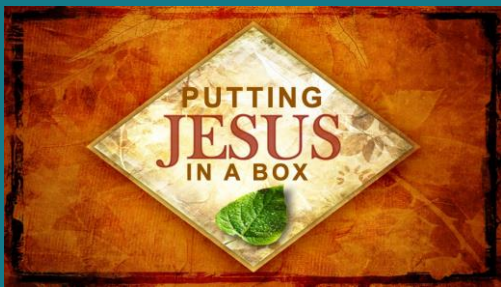
Pastor Linita Moa  
Associate Pastor

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

If you are looking for coffee and conversation, join Pastor Kim Houff at the McDonalds just across the street from FUMC, 1055 South Beretania Street, at 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 16.







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

FEBRUARY 5 - Beginning of Acts. Acts 1:1-8. Some may not know that the Evangelist Luke wrote a two-volume work on early Christianity. The Gospel of Luke focused on the life of Jesus up to his ascension into Heaven. Luke's second book is called The Acts of the Apostles, and continues with the work of Jesus's disciples and the founding and expansion of the early church. This expansion was a game changer and required the disciples to begin thinking differently about the people of the earth. Our new Bishop, Dottie Escobedo-Frank will be present and will celebrate Holy Communion.

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FEBRUARY 12 – Pastor Joe Yun preaches; he is the pastor of the Wesley Foundation serving University of Hawaii at Manoa. Several First UMC students are a part of the Wesley Foundation ministry.

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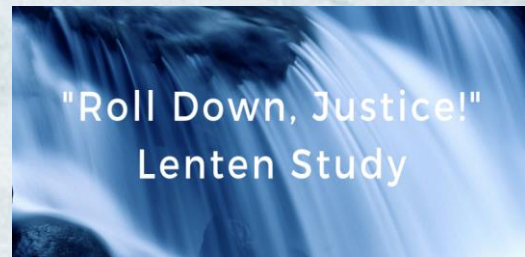
FEBRUARY 19 – Putting Jesus in a Box. Matthew 17:1-9. Pastor Tom preaches about one of the most amazing events in human history – the Transfiguration of Jesus. Yet, the disciples who are with Jesus during that experience don't quite get it. Jesus is transfigured, but the disciples can't figure it.

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FEBRUARY 26 – First Sunday in Lent - "The Happiness of Silence." Jesus went into the wilderness to pray and reflect for forty days and nights. The wilderness can be a confusing time, but it also can be a time of clarity, often marked by an absence of the sounds of urban life. Pastor Tom will explore the benefits of silence and quiet as we journey into Lent.

*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



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY *Roll Down, Justice!* **Following 10 AM worship** February 19, 26 and March 2, 19, 26, and April 2 **In-person (Library) and via Zoom**

This Lenten Biblical Reflection, Roll Down, Justice!, written by Faye Wilson and featuring the music and reflections of Mark A. Miller, poses the following questions to believers:

- What are you prepared to give in order to have a closer walk with God?
- What can you give in order to embrace anew the work of justice?

Mark Miller has written a collection of songs, lyrics and music, which remind us of the work we have to do. We all learn in different ways and this study calls us to sing to ourselves and to each other the call that we each have to do to “seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” Carry the commitment to care – to bring about justice in God’s world – as a song in your heart. Roll Down, Justice! If you would like more information, and/or the Zoom link, email [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org).

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All ladies are invited to the English Circle Meeting on Wednesday, February 15 at 11:30 in the library. Tupou Seini Kelemen will lead the program, and Lucy Low will provide lunch. All women are welcome to join us. Contact [Kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Kim@firstumchonolulu.org) for more information.



The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30 PM in Komuro Hall. Please contact Kueni Maka for more information.



# THE ARTS

## Keiki Sign Dance

*Wednesdays, March 1 – April 26  
(no class March 15 – Spring Break)*

*5:00 – 6:00 P.M. in Butterworth Chapel*

This FREE dance class is open to all PreK-6 graders. We will use American Sign Language signs put to music to tell a story. It is a fun and creative way to learn a new language as well as express ourselves through dance!

Our instructor, Sandi Brekke, has been dancing Creative Sign for over 23 years. She has taught Keiki Sign Dance classes for the past 6 years. Sandi's assistant and husband, Mark has been dancing for over 20 years.

To register, email the office at [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org).



The class will perform at Youth and Young Adult Sunday service, April 30 at 10:00 a.m. which will be livestreamed on our Facebook page.

# YOUNG PEOPLE

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

It's a new year but we have the same purpose. To glorify God in all we do. Our goal is to grow in our relationship with God and with each other.

As we fellowship in YAM (Young Adults Ministry) we of course feed our bodies with food, but we also continue to feed ourselves spiritually with the Word of God.

As I've said before, our group brings wisdom and fun to every gathering. We hope and pray that you all have a healthy year in body and in spirit.

*Mark Brekke*

Young Adults Ministry Director



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*During 10 AM worship*

Sunday School is offered for elementary age students.

Children begin in worship and then go to the Maile Room with the teacher. Parents pick up the children at the end of service.

Rise & Shine is a five-week series from the New Testament on Easter. This session begins on February 19.

For more information, email [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org).



## SERVICE

### Update from the Legal Clinic

Since opening its first office on the second floor of First UMC in fall of 2019, The Legal Clinic (TLC) has grown tremendously in its first 3 ½ years. Executive Director Bettina Mok reports that, thanks to this welcoming space—offered by the church with renovations sponsored by a generous member of the FUMC ohana--TLC could go right to work, providing free immigration legal services to some of the most vulnerable members of our immigrant communities, including several clients affiliated with the church.

TLC has now provided services for over 400 Hawai'i residents, and in partnership with other community partners and legislators, advocated for significant new resources and policies that will benefit tens of thousands of underserved foreign-born Hawai'i residents. During the 2022 Hawai'i State legislative session, TLC actively supported the advocacy efforts of the Filipino Legislative Caucus and Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, which resulted in several pro-immigrant bills including: limited purpose state IDs for non-drivers, additional staff positions at the Office of Language Services, and significant funding for legal services for low-income residents, and a reestablished system of statewide Immigrant Resource Centers.

Bettina recently shared: "We are so grateful to our host church, First UMC, for a safe and accessible space to meet clients in, ever supportive church staff and leadership, and generous unrestricted funding support since the beginning. All of this has allowed us to grow so quickly, and TLC is blessed to call First UMC 'home'!"

### Mahalo from Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii

Mahalo to First United Methodist Church for your mission of hope and healing, from all of us at Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i.

Your generous gift supports someone like 82-year old Sarah (name changed). She suffered from overwhelming depression, was homeless for a time, and survived several suicide attempts. Her insurance covers mental health counseling, but payments to her counselor are low, and she cannot afford her copay.

She writes, "I would like to thank my [counselor] for his concern, prayers, skill, and tender heart... [He] has shown understanding and generosity of spirit, renewing my faith in medicine and ministry. I am eternally grateful to him and all who support the work of the Center."

With your help, we can offer mental health counseling to people regardless of their ability to pay. Thank you for being a mental health champion!



Samaritan  
Counseling Center  
Hawaii





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

UWF Sunday –  
 Installation of  
 2023 Officers



# FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BC= Butterworth Chapel KH = Komuro Hall L = Library MR = Maile Room S = Sanctuary YR = Youth Room			1 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	2 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	3 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	4 <b>2-4pm            Foodbank</b>
5 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am Joint Worship Service 11:00 am Aloha Fellowship	6 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	7	8 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	9 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	10 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	11
12 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am SHIP (MR) 11:00 am Sunday Adult Study (L) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship 1:15 p.m. Super Bowl Party (K)	13 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	14	15 11:30am UWF English Circle (L) 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	16 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	17 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH) <b>7-9:30pm            Britt            Lectures (S)</b>	18 <b>7-930pm            Britt            Lectures            (S)</b>
19 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am SHIP (MR) 11:00 am Sunday Adult Study (L) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship 1:30 pm Tongan Sunday School (S) <b>7-9:30pm Britt Lectures (S)</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b> 20 <b>Foodbank,            Facilities &amp;            Office CLOSED</b> <b>9-12noon Britt            Lectures (S)</b>	21 7:30pm UMW Tongan Circle	<b>ASH WED</b> 22 <b>12-1pm            Imposition of            Ashes (S)</b> <b>6:30pm Joint            Ash Wednesday            Service (S)</b>	23 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S) <b>4-9:30pm            PIC</b>	24 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH) <b>9:30-5pm            PIC</b>	25 <b>9:30-5pm            PIC</b>
26 6am Tongan Worship. 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am SHIP (MR) 11:00 am Sunday Adult Study (L) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship 1:30 pm Tongan Sunday School (S)	27 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	28				



## **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 Kelemeneni, Fololiena Maka

**Accompanist:** Jason Eom

**Finance Administrator:** Ongo Kali

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

Sia Lolohea, John Kelemeneni

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### **CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:**

**Resident Bishop:**

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

**District Superintendent:**

Rev. Moonyoung Lee

## **Saturday Foodbank**

**February 4, 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)**