

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
MARCH 2023 – VOLUME LXX, ISSUE 3



Bilingual Cancer Seminar

**Sunday, March 5th
at 11:30 a.m. in Komuro Hall**

Following our joint worship service, we are offering a Bilingual Cancer Seminar led by University of Hawaii Cancer Center Community Health Educator, Patricia Kalo Cornett whose specialty is the Tongan community. We hope you'll join us in learning the top five cancers within Hawaii, who's at risk, and when to get screened.

A bag lunch will be provided. Please call the office at 808-522-9555 or email Paini at paini@firstumchonolulu.org for more information.



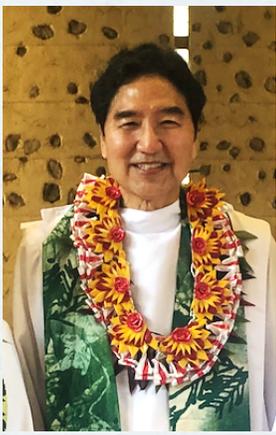
Vacation Bible School

**April 28-30, 2023
Friday and Saturday, 5-8:30pm
Sunday performance at
10 a.m. English Worship**

Growing spiritually doesn't have to be an unsolved mystery! Take a two-day journey with kid detectives as they dig into a few of Jesus' parables to solve the mysteries of how to grow their faith, how to care for, serve, and love others. They'll discover that the answers have been there all along: spend time with God, spend time with others, use your gifts, and share your story. Email office@firstumchonolulu.org for more information.

Church Events

- March 1st - Keiki Sign Dance Class starts at 5p.m.
- March 4th - Saturday Foodbank at 2-4p.m.
- March 5th – Bilingual Cancer Seminar following joint worship service
- March 9th – Coffee and Conversation 10a.m.
- March 12th – Kuata at 1p.m.
- March 14th – CFA meeting at 7p.m.
- March 18th – Hawaii District How-To Workshop at 9a.m. to 2p.m.
- March 27th – Kuhio Day HOLIDAY: Foodbank, Office and Facilities CLOSED



Pastor Tom Choi
Senior Pastor

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

LENT – SYMBOLIC OF THE WILDERNESS

[This is an adaptation of Pastor Tom's Message for All Generations from February 19]

We're in the season of Lent. It's a time of special reflection, of contemplation, sacrifice, and discipline. Often, we invite people to take on a special discipline, such as giving up something for Lent.

Now...it's quite possible that many people have given up on the Lenten discipline they started on Ash Wednesday.

If you've been counting, you know that that season of Lent is actually 46 days. That's because Sundays don't count in Lent because in the old days - and some still do this - you fasted during the week and ate on Sundays, called feast days. In secular culture, you might call them cheat days. I like "Feast Days" better.

So...if you've dropped your discipline, start up again and maybe have a feast day or two each week. For example, one of my disciplines is going to be cutting down the number of chip snacks I eat, going from basically every day to only two or fewer during Lent. It seems like a pretty easy discipline. But it's better to be realistic - the point is to begin a change in lifestyle...so do something that has an achievable goal.

Ministry Musings

As many of you know, I turned 65 a few weeks ago. I have mixed feelings about it, but the one thing that is delightful is that I have a senior bus pass. For \$45 I can take the bus anywhere on Oahu as many times as I want. No...in case you're wondering...I don't usually take the bus. But during Lent and hopefully beyond, I will take the bus around once a week to work.

There are several reasons for this. One, I can get more steps walking to and from bus stops, which addresses my physical health. If I do it once a week, I'll be reducing my carbon footprint by maybe 14%, which is small but something that keeps me mindful of taking care of the planet. On the bus, I will be able to practice something called "Finding Silence in the midst of Sound," which I talked about on February 26, which is a spiritual discipline.

In addition, it puts me in the midst of people I don't know. When you are in a car, you are very insular and isolated. It has been easy to just interact or be around people I know. On the bus, you are around strangers. It is a step for me to interact with, then perhaps reach out to others. And who knows, there may be an opportunity to help someone physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

I'm pretty excited about it because it is a brand new Lenten discipline.

Well...whatever you decide to do...whether it is something you've done before or maybe something brand new...I hope that you'll approach this Lenten season with excitement and peace and joy.

Grace and aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pastor Tom".

From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk

Kaveinga: "Fakama'u hifo mo fakatu'amelie ki ha mo'ui fo'ou (Stand firm and hope for New Life).

'Oku tau a'u mai 'eni ki he mahina ko Ma'asi 2023, pea ko e kamata'anga 'o e fa'ahita'u 'o e Leniti. Ko e fa'ahita'u 'o e hiko 'a e veve, pea kosi mo kini 'a e vao, pea fakama'opo'opo 'a e ngaahi 'api mo e ngaahi nofo'anga 'o teuteu ki he teu 'o e hoko mai 'a e 'Eiki, pe ko hono 'ai 'e taha ko 'etau teuteu ki he hoko 'a e Misaia 'o pekia pea hili 'a e 'aho 'e 3 mo e po 'e 3 pea ne toetu'u mei he pekia. Ko 'etau fakatu'amelie hili 'a e pekia, ki he Toetu'u mo e Mo'ui Fo'ou.



Pastor Linita Moa
Associate Pastor

'Oku ou fiefia ke fakamalo lahi atu kiate kimoutolu kotoa pe 'a e Siasi 'o e Honolulu, 'a e Kainga Tonga kotoa pe 'I ho'omou loto-to mo taliangi 'o fuesia 'a e ngaahi fatongia kotoa pe he mahina kuo tau situ'a kiai, 'a e talitali 'a e kau Pisope, pea lava mo e Britt Lecture, pea hoko mai aipe ki he PIC. Koia 'oku ou fakamalo lahi 'aupito kiate kimoutolu kotoa pe, mei he DS Malolo, Rev. Dr. 'Etuini Kelemen, Setuata Lahi, Kepueli Tupou mo e Tokoni, Dr. Sione Mafoa'aeta mo e Siasi hono kotoa pe, 'I ho'omou ala nima mo e fofonga malimali 'I hono talitali 'o e Kakai ki hotau 'api ni. Ke 'a e 'Otua 'a hono fakakakato atu 'a e fakamalo ni mo e loto hounga'ia mo e 'ofa mo e lotu.

Ko 'etau fononga he mahina ni, ko 'etau Kuata Ma'asi he 'aho 11 'o Ma'asi, ko e fakataha kuata ia ki Vaikau'aki, pea tau polotu taha mai ki he Honolulu ni he 1 p.m. Manatu'iangē pe ko e Kuata 'eni 'a e Kakai Tangata, pea 'oku hiva 'e taha 'a e Kakai Tangata, pea hiva 'e taha 'a e Siasi.

Fakataha mo e teu ki he Kuata, 'oku fokotu'utu'u foki mo e Potungae Talavou 'a e Vahefonua ke tau 'Apitanga Pekia/Toetu'u he mahina ko 'Epeleli, ka ke tau teuteu atu pe kiai.

Tauange ke hoko 'a e mahina ko'eni ke tau fononga mo e fakatu'amelie ki he mo'ui fo'ou 'I he pekia mo e toetu'u 'a hotau fakamo'ui. 'Oku ou 'ofa lahi atu kiate kimoutolu kotoa pe, pea ke tapuaki mai mo fakamonu'ia kimoutolu mei he Laumalie Ma'oni'oni.

Faifekau Linita 'U. Moa



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

If you are looking for coffee and conversation, join Pastor Kim Houff at Honolulu Museum of Art Coffee Bar just across the street from FUMC (park at FUMC), at 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 9.





Sermons for 10 a.m. English Worship Service

MARCH 5 – Rev. Sam Domingo, guest preacher. Pastor Sam, who served first church several years ago, will again be the guest preacher. He is one of the best preachers in our district, so don't miss it!

MARCH 12 – "The Wilderness Change." Pastor Tom Choi uses the writings of William Bridges, an expert on change and transition, who in turn used the biblical image of the Exodus as a model for how people should approach change in their lives. Girl Scout Sunday will also be celebrated.

MARCH 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, which took place in a wilderness setting – a mountain top. 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.

MARCH 26 – The Woman at the Well. Rev. Tom Choi preaches on the story of the Woman at the Well found in John 4.

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.

DISCIPLESHIP



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY *Roll Down, Justice!*

Following 10 AM worship

March 12, 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?

If you would like more information, and/or the Zoom link, email kim@firstumchonolulu.org.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All ladies are invited to the English Circle Meeting on Wednesday, March 8 at 11:30 in the library. Our program will be "Call to Prayer and Self Denial." Contact Kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information.



The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 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.



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

The first months of 2023 have kept us on our toes and we are ever so grateful to God for his grace and love. We joined our UMC churches at the Martin Luther King parade, sang at the 30th Anniversary of Queen Lili'uokalani Ho'okuikahi service and at the Britt Lectures and danced for the College of Bishops' dinner. And most importantly, we have been keeping up with the weekly scriptures during our Friday programs, spending more time in the Word and challenging ourselves to be better followers of Christ.

Sunday School in the Tongan language has a new time now and is now followed by the Tongan Worship service on Sundays, except for the first Sunday of the month and any special events. Malo aupito to our teachers Taina Lolohea, Ungatea Pahulu, Olita Mafi, Lutiana Haunga, Maletina Matangi, Finau Uluave, Kaiona Taufu, Tuulau Lolohea and to our Sunday School Director, Sisifale Haunga. Snacks are provided after. Special thanks to those who have already signed up to prepare - Fe'ofu'aki Mateaki, Meli Foliaki Moala, Sione Mafoa'aeata and Alisi Moala.

Below are the upcoming events we look forward to. If you're interested in working with our young



people, we welcome your help! Especially for the two big events coming up in April - Easter Camp and VBS. Please email youngpeoplesdirector@firstumchonolulu.org or call my cell, 808-469-6800.

UPCOMING YOUNG PEOPLE EVENTS

Young People's Program: All Fridays in March at 7 pm

Virtual HIM Conference: Thu 3/16 thru Sat 3/18 - Youth Room

Sunday School (Tongan): Sun 3/19

Sunday School (Tongan): Sun 3/26

Community Service Project to power wash the basement parking: Mon 3/27

SAVE THE DATES

Easter Camp: April 7 - 9

Vacation Bible School: April 28 – 30

Mele Pepa Latu

Director of Young People's Ministry

"Roll Down, Justice!" Lenten Study

YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

The YAMmers (Young Adult Ministry members) have had a great start to the Lenten study, "Roll Down, Justice!" where we are reminded of the work that still needs to be done to "seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."

In the first lesson, we learned that we are all children of God no matter what others say, what the world says, what the church says! We discussed how we could be more welcoming in our family, community and church.

Here are some of the Young Adult's suggestions of how our church could be more inclusive:

- Improve access in the sanctuary for people with physical challenges – move the area for wheelchairs and walkers closer to the front of the sanctuary and next to the aisle closest to the bay doors facing the courtyard.
- Improve worship experience for people with hearing or visual challenges – provide large print scripts.
- Grow relationship between congregations – have combined Youth and Young Adult events more often (i.e., camp, lock-in, workshops, service projects, etc.)

We look forward to learning more about how we can make a difference in our family, our church, and our community as we seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Mark and Sandi Brekke
Young Adults Ministry

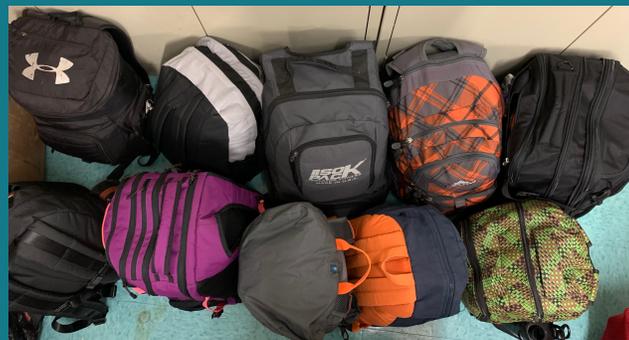
SERVICE

One Day's Wages

Our Britt Lecturer, Rev. Eugene Cho, spoke about the non-profit he and his wife started, One Day's Wages, which encourages people to donate one day's wages to change lives around the world. This month, we encourage you to check out the website, onedayswages.org, to see the impact that your giving could make by giving people access to water, providing malaria nets, or educating kids. A great Lenten discipline would be to take the money you save by giving something up and put that towards a charity such as One Day's Wages. Check out the projects they support at onedayswages.org/projects.

Backpacks for Parolees

Because of your generosity, we put together 10 backpacks for parolees! Believe it or not, each backpack contains toiletries, comb, a few snacks, utensils, pillow, blanket, sheets, towel, washcloth, water bottle, note pad and pen!





**First
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Methodist
Church
of Honolulu**

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



MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BC= Butterworth Chapel KH = Komuro Hall L = Library MR = Maile Room S = Sanctuary YR = Youth Room			5:00pm 1 Keiki Sign Dance (BC) 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	6:30pm 2 Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	7-9:30pm 3 Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	2-4pm 4 Foodbank
5 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am Joint Worship Service 11:00 am Aloha Fellowship 11:30 am Bilingual Cancer Seminar (KH)	6 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	7 11:30am 8 UWF English Circle (L) 5:00pm Keiki Sign Dance 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	8 10:00am 9 Coffee & Conversation 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 1:00pm Kuata	13 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	14 7pm CFA meeting via Zoom	15 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)	18 9-2pm District How-To Workshop at FUMC
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)	20 2-4pm FoodBank 6:30pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	21 7:30pm UMW Tongan Circle	22 5:00pm 22 Keiki Sign Dance (BC) 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	23 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	24 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	25
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 KUHIO DAY. HOLIDAY Foodbank, Facilities & Office CLOSED Youth & Young Adults Service Project	28	29 5:00pm 29 Keiki Sign Dance (BC) 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	30 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	31 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	32



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: 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



SAVE THE DATES
Palm Sunday, April 2
Holy Thursday, April 6
Good Friday, April 7
Easter Sunday, April 9

Check out our website: www.firstumchonolulu.org



Email: Office@Firstumchonolulu.org



Instagram: [firstumchonolulu](https://www.instagram.com/firstumchonolulu)



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