

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
MAY 2023 – VOLUME LXX, ISSUE 5



Calling All 2023 Graduates

Graduation Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 28. To be honored on Graduation Sunday, send your graduation photo (photo should be of just the graduate please) along with the school you graduated from and what school you will be attending next or what you will be pursuing after graduation to Office@firstumchonolulu.org. Deadline to turn in photo is **Sunday, May 21**.

FUMC Scholarship

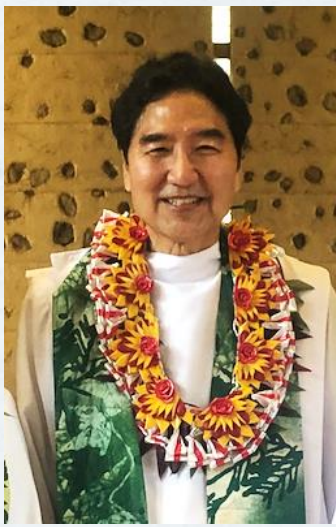
The FUMC Scholarship application is available. All those who are interested in applying will require a copy of their transcript or report card (high school only) for inclusion in the application package which is due no later than July 3, 2023 (Note: applications with transcript must be in the office by then).

Email Office@firstumchonolulu.org for an application or for more information.



Church Events

- May 2nd – Wahine Wellness: Vision Board at 6:30 p.m.
- May 4th – Coffee and Conversation at 10 a.m.
- May 6th – District Conference at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom
- May 11th – Nepal Ministry Informational Gathering with Pastor Jomesh Tamang at 5:30 p.m.
- May 20th – Mother's Day BLOOM Brunch at 8-12noon at Metro Christian Church
- May 20th - Saturday Foodbank at 2-4 p.m.
- May 26th – FUMC Preschool Graduation at 10 a.m.
- May 28th – Graduation Sunday
- May 29th – Memorial Day HOLIDAY: Office, Facilities and Foodbank CLOSED



Pastor Tom Choi
Senior Pastor

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

MAY - A FOCUS ON FAMILY AND ALOHA

May 1 is celebrated as a special day in many places around the world. In Europe, it is a celebration that comes around the halfway point between the start of spring and the start of summer. It is marked by gathering flowers and branches and weaving garlands. The Maypole, or May Tree or May Bush, has people dancing around it in celebration of the day.

In Hawaii, May 1 is celebrated as Lei Day, wear, give and receive a lei, a symbol of aloha. Each island is represented by a different flower and color. For example, Oahu's flower is the 'ilima and the color is yellow. Hawaiian culture is primarily celebrated, but other cultural traditions are often recognized.

In Tongan culture, the first Sunday of May is a celebration of children, sometimes called White Sunday. The second Sunday corresponds with the mainstream American Mother's Day, but the third Sunday is for Father's Day, instead of the third Sunday in June in mainstream American culture.

At our English service, Pastor Kim Houff will be preaching on Mother's Day. Since I rarely have had an opportunity to preach on the third Sunday of June because of annual conference, I will be preaching a "Parents Day" sermon on the third Sunday in May.

I pray that we will honor our families - however we define them - and share the aloha spirit during this month... and always.



Ministry Musings

DISTRICT CONFERENCE AND HUMU MEETING ON MAY 6

May 6 is the Hawaii District Conference and Hawaii United Methodist Union annual meeting. It is a time to celebrate the ministry of the district, elect officers for the coming year, and do any other business of the district.

The conference will be by ZOOM, perhaps for the last time we have an online only district conference. Next year, it is hoped that the district conference can be in-person.

ALOHA TO DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT MOONYOUNG LEE

In addition to the several who are moving within, to, and from the Hawaii District (including myself) is DS Moonyoung Lee. She has served us faithfully and well for around three years.

I remember when she just came in July, 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic. Her introduction to the Hawaii District was her laptop inside her room at the Ala Moana Hotel. She met a few people who delivered meals to her door with a hotel security person, placing the meal at the door, knocking, and standing more than six feet away. She oversaw the district remotely for the rest of 2020 and virtually (pun probably intended) all of 2021. In 2022, she began to interact in person.

Through it all, she ministered to the district with great grace, skill, and compassionate leadership, including her powerful preaching. Her support of First UMC during this time was much appreciated.

If you have a chance, I invite you to send a note of thanks to the district office, which is at Harris UMC: 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI, 96813.

Our thanks to our wonderful DS as she transitions to becoming the Superintendent of the East District on July 1!

Grace and aloha,

Pastor Tom

From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk

Fakafeta'i ki he 'Otua Mafimafi he'etau a'usia ki he mahina 'o e Famili, 'aia ko Me 2021. 'I he mahina fo'ou ko'eni 'oku tau fakamanatua ai 'a e 'Uluaki Uike 'aki 'a e Uike 'o e Fanau pea ko 'etau Fanau Lautohi FakaSapate ia fakataha mo e Katoanga Fakame 'a e Lautohi, ko e Uike hono 2 pea mo e Sapate Fa'ee, pea ko e Sapate hono 3, ko e Sapate Tamai ia. Koia 'oku o fakataha 'a e ngaahi Sapate ko'eni mo e siate folau: **Me 2023--Vivili ki he lvi mo e Mafai 'o e Laumālie Mā'oni'oni pea tau fakamo'oni ki ai 'i he hala fonongá / Seeking the power and wonders of the Holy Spirit enables us to be a witness on this journey.**



Pastor Linita Moa
Associate Pastor

'I he taimi tatau pe, 'oku tau hanga atu foki he mahina ko'eni ke tau fakahoko foki mo e teuteu ko ia ki he ongo mahina ka hoko mai, ki he teuteu 'o e Konifelenisi 'a e Cal-Pac 'I he mahina ko Siune, pea hoko atu aipe 'a e teuteu 'o 'etau katoanga Misinale he Mahina ko Siulai.

Ko e talamonu atu ia ki he ngaahi famili, pea pehe foki ki he fanau 'oku 'amanaki ke fakakakato 'a e ngaahi lakanga ako 'o e ta'u ni, pea mo e 'amanaki ki he hoko atu ki he ngaahi lakanga ma'olunga ange foki.

Tauange ke tapuekina mo fakamonu'ia kimoutolu kotoa pe 'a e ngaahi famili, pehe ki he'etau fanau ako he fa'ahita'u fakaako ko'eni.

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

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

If you are looking to connect with others in a casual way, join Pastor Kim Houff at the Honolulu Museum of Art Coffee Bar just across the street from FUMC (park at FUMC), at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 4.



Men's Walk to Emmaus Participants

Benji Taufa, Meli Moala, and Mark Brekke learned a lot and grew closer to God during the recent Men's Walk to Emmaus. The Women's Walk will take place August 24-27, 2023. For more information about the Walk to Emmaus, talk to one of the pastors (Pastor Tom, Pastor Linita, or Pastor Kim).

DISCIPLESHIP

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Following 10 AM worship starting April 16
In-person and via Zoom

We continue our current events Bible study, "The Wired Word," which provides us interesting topics to discuss—all through a biblical lens. April's discussions included "Tennessee Lawmakers Expelled, Then Reinstated" and "The Global Church Is Growing in Many Places: The Implications for Us." Join us on Sundays starting May 14 following 10 AM worship to discuss the topic for the day. Articles are emailed on Thursday or Friday for Sunday's discussion. Email Kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information or to get the Zoom link.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All ladies are invited to the English Circle Meeting on Wednesday, May 10 at 11:30 AM in the library. Our program will be "Bold Women of Faith" led by Pastor Kim Houff. We will enjoy a game of trivia and make a craft along with our discussion. Contact kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information.

The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:30 PM in Komuro Hall. Please contact Kueni Maka for more information.



United
Women
in Faith

Pentecost

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT | 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-14

Sermons for 10 a.m. English Worship Service

MAY 7 – "April Cruelty to May Hope." Pastor Tom Choi talks about April being called by a great poet as "the cruelest month" but the hope that May brings.

MAY 14 – Mother's Day
"The Advocate." Pastor Kim will be preaching on John 14:15-21 and the role that the Holy Spirit plays in our lives.

MAY 21 – "Parents Day." Pastor Tom Choi reflects on the wisdom of his pastor father and seminary trained mother.

MAY 28 – Day of Pentecost. Pastor Tom Choi reflects on this important day in the Christian calendar. The color is red and worshipers are encouraged to wear that color.

GRADUATION SUNDAY. We will be recognizing our graduates with a video presentation.

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.

YOUNG PEOPLE

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 28, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Congratulations to all our graduates! If you would like to attend our graduates' graduation ceremonies, please see the information accompanying their photo.



**Siloni Haunga and
Soileata Haunga**

Sacred Hearts Academy
Saturday, May 27 at 3 p.m.
at Blaisdell Arena



**Paea Gloria
He Lotu Finau
Masima Mafi**

Kaimuki High
School
Saturday,
May 20
at 5 p.m.
at
Waikiki Shell

**Ofa Hemo'oni
Vehikite**

Kaimuki High
School
Saturday,
May 20
at 5 p.m.
at
Waikiki Shell



**WE EXIST 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!**



MOTHER'S DAY BLOOM BRUNCH

Saturday, May 20, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We are SO excited to be able to attend BLOOM again this year! Join us for a morning filled with worship in 'Olelo Hawai'i by Zeo Worship (Imua and Tiffa Garza, Kamu Sing, and Tiffany Thurston), inspiring messages, and empowering stories to help you to "BLOOM" where you are planted and become all God created you to be. Lunch will be provided and is included in the registration price.

First UMC is graciously sponsoring this event for youth (12 and older) and young adult females and their moms. It's **only \$20 per person!** Seats are extremely limited.

To register, email sbrekke@firstumchonolulu.org with the number of tickets and your names.

THE ARTS

**Samaritan Counseling Center Presents
WAHINE WELLNESS: VISION BOARDS
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Komuro Hall**



- Do you ever feel overwhelmed about which direction to take in your life?
- Would you like help organizing your thoughts about which direction to head next?
- A vision board can be an anxiety reducing, self-care tool to help prioritize and plan your future!

Come create your vision board with us!

Email kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information and to sign up.

SERVICE



**Nepal Ministry Informational
Gathering
Thursday, May 11, 2023
5:30 p.m.
Maile Room**

We are honored to host Pastor Jomesh Tamang from Nepal on Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m. He will be sharing about his ministry, updating us on the progress of the water wells, and where God is leading his ministry.

We invite all to join us for a spirit filled evening of fellowship. We especially encourage those who have supported Pastor Jomesh's ministry and water wells for Nepal or who may be interested in supporting these ministries to attend.

Pupus will be provided.

To RSVP or for more information, email Sandi at sbrekke@firstumchonolulu.org.





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



MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BC= Butterworth Chapel KH = Komuro Hall L = Library MR = Maile Rm S = Sanctuary YR =Youth Room	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:30pm Vision Board Workshop (KH)	7pm English Choir (Choir Rm) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	10am Coffee & Conversation at HOMA 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	1:30pm District Conf. (Zoom)
6am Tongan Worship 7 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship Service 11:00 am SHIP (MR) 11:00 am Sunday Adult Study (L) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship	8	9	11:30am UWF English Circle (L) 5:30pm Nepal Meeting (MR)	11 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	12 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	13
6am Tongan Worship 14 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship Service 11:00 am SHIP (MR) 11:00 am Sunday Adult Study (L) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship	15	16	 7:30pm UWF Tongan Circle 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	18 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	19 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	20 8am BLOOM Brunch 2-4pm Foodbank
6am Tongan Worship. 21 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship Service 11:00 am SHIP (MR) 11:00 am Sunday Adult Study (L) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
	2-4pm FoodBank 7pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	7pm Charge Conf./ CFA	7pm Tongan Worship (S)	6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	10:00am Preschool Graduation (S, KH)	
GRADUATION SUNDAY. 28 6am Tongan Worship. 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship Service 11:00 am SHIP (MR) 11:00 am Sunday Adult Study (L) 11:00 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship	HOLIDAY 29 Memorial Day Office, Facilities and Foodbank Closed	30	31			
			7pm English Choir (Choir Rm) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)			



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: Ongu Kali

Custodians: Pongi Vehikite, Pat Sheppard,

Sia Lolohea, John Kelemen

CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:

Resident Bishop:

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

District Superintendent:

Rev. Moonyoung Lee



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)