

# 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  
JUNE 2023 – VOLUME LXX, ISSUE 6

### Pastor Tom's Aloha Lunch

*Sunday, June 4, 2023*  
*Following 10 a.m. Joint*  
*Worship Service*



Pastor Tom Choi will be transitioning from Senior Pastor of FUMC Honolulu to the District Superintendent of Hawai'i on July 1, 2023. His last Sunday worship service at church will be Sunday, June 4. We invite everyone to join us in the courtyard for an aloha lunch and program following the joint service.

### United Women in Faith Friendship Tea

Saturday, June 24, 2023, 3:00 PM  
Komuro Hall

All women are invited to join us for a time of fun and fellowship at our friendship tea of mini sandwiches, scones, cookies, fruit and assorted teas. Bring a friend! Please RSVP to Pastor Kim at [kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:kim@firstumchonolulu.org) or Paini at 808-522-9555.



### Church Events

- June 4<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Tom's Aloha Lunch
- June 8<sup>th</sup> - Coffee and Conversation w/Pastor Kim at 10 a.m. at HoMA Coffee Bar
- June 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday Foodbank at 2-4 p.m.
- June 12<sup>th</sup> – Kamehameha Day HOLIDAY: Office, Facilities and Foodbank CLOSED
- June 15<sup>th</sup>–June 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Conference in California
- June 19<sup>th</sup> – Juneteenth HOLIDAY: Office, Facilities and Foodbank CLOSED
- June 24<sup>th</sup> – UWF Friendship Tea at 3 PM in Komuro Hall



Pastor Tom Choi  
Senior Pastor

Dear FUMC 'Ohana:

ALOHA PUMEHANA

Well, the time is here - my last month as the senior pastor of First UMC of Honolulu, with my last Sunday on June 4. I begin by expressing my great thanks for our God through Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It has been a remarkable six years, and I am so grateful to the community here at First UMC for your support, faith, hard work, and aloha.

As I have often said, I truly felt that God called me to this church for a particular time and season, including the renovation of a building I learned to love and study nearly 40 years ago when I was a seminary student. The building of an incredible staff and volunteer team that will seamlessly carry us through the transition and beyond. And who could have predicted that a global pandemic would shut down our in-person worship service and overnight, we had to learn online worship?

It is difficult to thank everyone by name for I know that I will leave someone out. Please know that I am so grateful to you, and I will never forget you and will remember you fondly.

The good news is that I will not be far away, as I begin my term as the Hawaii District Superintendent. The better news is that Becky and the girls will continue to attend First UMC and be a part of the community.

Pastor Won-Seok Yuh and his wife, Sonya Lee, are wonderful people and you will come to love them for the distinctive qualities that they have. Please reach out to them warmly and extend to them the grace that you extended to me.

I am not good with farewells, perhaps in part because I believe that in Christ, we will always be in touch and connected through the Holy Spirit. But also, I often detach my emotions in an effort to be strong, but know that deep down, I love you all so very much and hope that God will bless you and keep you, now and forever. Mahalo nui loa a me aloha pumehana.

# Ministry Musings

## UNDERSTANDING THE PASTORAL TRANSITION

One of the most important things about this transition is the proper protocol. My last Sunday is June 4 to create some distance from me to the time when Pastor Won-Seok begins on July 1.

The difficult thing is the one year non-contact protocol: for a year, I am not to initiate contact with former members of FUMC, and members are discouraged from making contact with me, and if we do see each other, we should avoid talking about FUMC. Pastor Won-Seok should be the point of contact for questions that may come up, such as "where is this or that?"

During this year, DS Saia Tu'itahi, the new West District Superintendent, will serve as the DS for First UMC and for Pastor Won-Seok.

On July 1, 2024, it is expected that I will assume the role of DS for First UMC and for Pastor Won-Seok.

It may seem like too much, but it is actually an important part of ensuring that Pastor Won-Seok will be successful and effective as quickly as possible, and become one of the pastors of First UMC, not only officially, but also emotionally and spiritually.

It's also important to note that Pastor Linita and Pastor Won-Seok will be co-pastors. They will share the administrative tasks and ordering of the parish, ably assisted by Pastor Kim, who will continue to be the minister of discipleship and community engagement.

Note that Pastor Linita will take over my office, and Pastor Won-Seok will take over Pastor Linita's office.

In this way, we will have a smooth transition and continue the great ministry at First UMC!

Grace and aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Tom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

P.S. DS Moonyoung Lee's aloha celebration is on June 10 at 3 pm at the Trinity UMC in Pearl City. Carpooling is encouraged. Come and say aloha to our departing DS!

# From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk

Fakafeta'i ma'u pe ki he 'Otua Mafimafi he'ene 'ofa'l kitautolu pea tau tu'uta lelei ki he mahina ko Siune 2023. Ko e folau faingata'a 'oku tau folaua talu mei he kamata'anga 'o e ta'u, ka kuo tau tu'uta mai 'eni ki he vaeua malie, pea 'oku hanga ai hotau vaka ki he hifonga ki tau a'u ki he faka'osi 'o e ta'u ko'eni. Ko 'etau Fakafeta'l'anga ia he fononga 'oku tau fai.

Ko e Kaveinga 'o e mahina ni, "Ke tau falala ki he 'Otua 'oku ne fai hotau fakatau'ataina mo fakaai hotau masiva." Ko e mahina ni 'oku tau kau fakataha ai mo e fanau kuo nau lava'l mo ikuna'l 'a e lakanga ako mei he ngaahi 'apiako 'oku nau 'iai, pea teuteu ke nau hoko atu ki he ngaahi 'apiako 'oku ma'olunga ange ke hoko atu 'a e feinga. Fakafeta'l ko e pole ke tau falala ki he 'Otua 'oku fai hotau fakatau'ataina mo e fakaai 'a e ngaahi me'a kotoa pe 'oku tau masiva ai.



Pastor Linita Moa  
Associate Pastor

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



## BLOOM Brunch 2023

Thank you FUMC for investing in our young women by sponsoring the BLOOM Brunch which allowed our young ladies and their moms, or a woman who encourages and supports them, to be inspired and empowered to become all that God created them to be with great worship, motivating messages, and fellowship time!



# DISCIPLESHIP



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

JUNE 4 – “Viewing the Promised Land.”  
Pastor Tom Choi’s final service as senior pastor of First UMC. Holy Communion will be celebrated with special music and dance. An aloha luncheon follows.

\*\*\*\*

JUNE 11 – Pastor Sam Domingo preaches. Pastor Sam served as a pastor at First UMC from 1982-83 and again from 2000-2002. One of a handful of United Methodist clergy born in Hawaii, he served in different Hawaii District churches for around 30 years.

\*\*\*\*

JUNE 18 – “Love You No Matter What!”  
A Father’s Day message from Mark Brekke, our staff handyman and English young adult director. He will share about loving your children unconditionally.

\*\*\*\*

JUNE 25 – “The Ministry of a Deacon.”  
Pastor Kim Houff preaches on her ordination as a deacon in the United Methodist Church.

*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.*

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Following 10 AM worship (except first Sunday)  
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. Prior discussions included the crowning of King Charles III and the kingdom of God as well as the growth of the global church. Join us on Sundays (except for first Sundays) following 10 AM worship to discuss the topic for the day. Articles are emailed on Thursday or Friday for Sunday’s discussion. For more information, to get the article emailed and/or to get the Zoom link. Email [Kim@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:Kim@firstumchonolulu.org).



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The English group will not meet this month. Please join us for our Friendship Tea on June 24 (see first page of newsletter for more info.)

The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, June 20 at 7:30 PM in Komuro Hall. Please contact Kueni Maka for more information.



United  
Women  
in Faith

# YOUNG PEOPLE



## FUMC Scholarship

Worried about how you're going to pay for college? If you are a recent graduate pursuing a college degree or a current college student, you'll be interested to know that at First UMC we are blessed to be able to give scholarships to college students. All those who are interested in applying should acquire a copy of their transcript or report card (high school only) for inclusion in the application packet which is **due no later than July 3, 2023** (Note: applications with transcript must be in the office by then).

Email [office@firstumchonolulu.org](mailto:office@firstumchonolulu.org) for an application or for more information.

Hear, my child,  
your father's instruction,  
and do not reject  
your mother's  
teaching for they are  
a fair garland for your head,  
and pendants for your neck.  
-Proverbs 1:8-9



## Young Adult Ministry

Time flies when you're having fun. We do have fun as a group as we play and study. Yes, we play, all work and no play makes for a dull person.

This month we continue with "The Wired Word" study. This study has led us into lively discussions of current events topics. Let me tell you, our Yammers, a.k.a Young Adult Ministry, are full of the spirit and filled with knowledge of the word. I love to hear each young adult share their insights into the Bible and other studies we dive into. I'm learning new perspectives about how God works in each one of us.

Finals are done, so for those in school, enjoy your freedom, relax, spend time with God and may He direct your path for the next chapter in your life.

*Mark Brekke*

Young Adults Ministry Director

## SERVICE

### MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Did you know that FUMCH has covenant partner relationships with four Global Ministries missionaries? That means we support them with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Please join us in supporting them. If you would like to offer monetary support, make a check payable to FUMC with the missionaries name and advance number in the memo line. You can also give online at [advance.umcmmission.org](http://advance.umcmmission.org). Search by the advance number or name of the missionary.

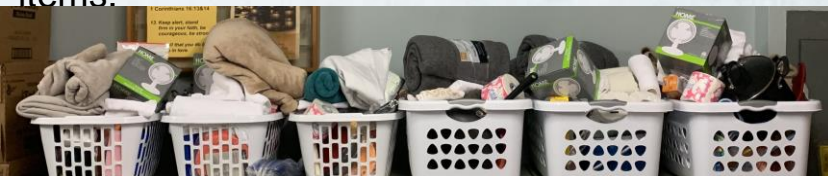
- Jonathan (J.J.) Park – 3022592
- Krista Givens – 15184Z
- Andrew Lee – 3022316
- Claudia Genung Yamamoto – 118682

### DISASTER RELIEF FOR GUAM AND SAIPAN

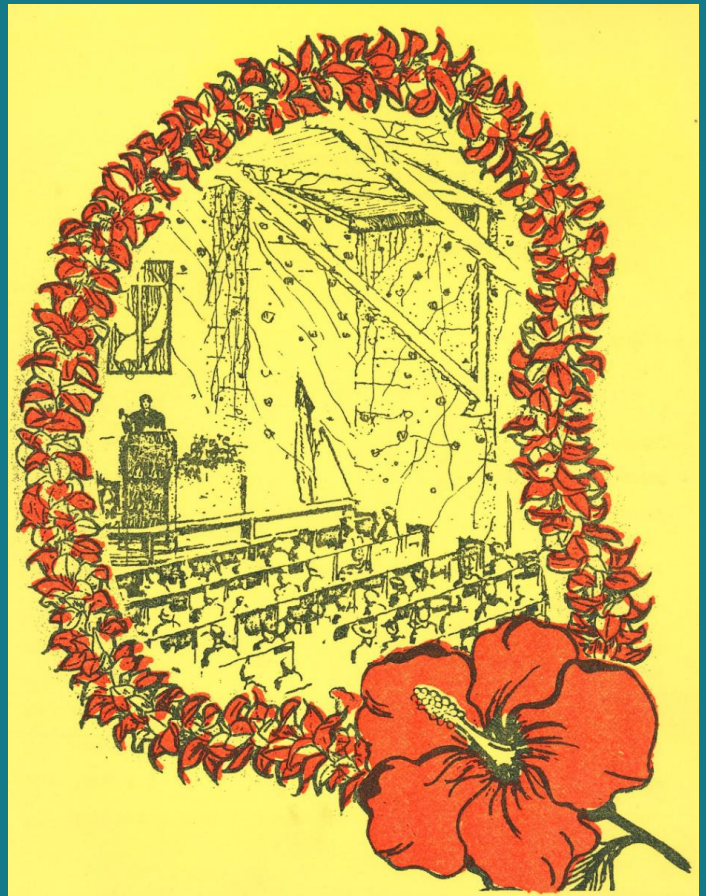
Guam and Saipan have just gone through a devastating typhoon. If you wish to make a donation to assist these places with a United Methodist presence, please make checks payable to First UMC and write "disaster relief" in the memo section. If giving online, go to our website, [firstumchonolulu.org](http://firstumchonolulu.org) and under the giving link, you can select "disaster relief."

### THANK YOU!

In May, thanks to your generosity, Catholic Charities picked up seven HOPE (Helping Other People Excel) Baskets to give to people transitioning from homelessness to housing. We filled seven baskets thanks to your donations (one is not pictured!) We will collect items for more HOPE baskets later this year so continue to bring in gently used household items.



## THE ARTS



### From the FUMC Archives

This is the bulletin cover for June 25, 1989 - the "Farewell to Carmen and Harry" – the service in appreciation of Rev. Dr. Harry Y. Pak and his wife Carmen. This seems to be a fitting feature since we will be saying farewell to Rev. Dr. Thomas Choi on Sunday June 4, 2023.

### 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, June 8.





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

# JUNE 2023

The staff and tenants joined together for a potluck lunch to say farewell to Pastor Tom. It was our first campus potluck since the pandemic.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BC= Butterworth Chapel KH = Komuro Hall L = Library MR = Maile Rm S = Sanctuary YR =Youth Room				1 <b>2-4pm FoodBank</b> 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) <b>8pm Tongan Choir(S)</b>	2 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	3
6am Tongan Worship 4 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am Joint Worship Service 11:00 am Pastor Tom's Aloha Luncheon	5 2-4pm FoodBank 7pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	6	7 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	8 10am Coffee & Conversation @ HOMA <b>2-4pm FoodBank</b> 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) <b>8pm Tongan Choir(S)</b>	9 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	10 <b>2-4pm Foodbank</b>
6am Tongan Worship 11 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) 1pm Kuata	<b>HOLIDAY 12</b> <b>Kamehameha Day</b> <b>Office, Facilities and Foodbank Closed</b>	13	14 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	15 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	16 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	17
6am Tongan Worship. 18 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	<b>HOLIDAY 19</b> <b>Juneteenth</b> <b>Office, Facilities and Foodbank Closed</b>	20 7:30pm UWF Tongan Circle	21 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	22 <b>2-4pm FoodBank</b> 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) <b>8pm Tongan Choir(S)</b>	23 7-9:30pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	24 3pm UWF Friendship Tea (KH)
6am Tongan Worship. 25 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	26 2-4pm FoodBank 7pm Tongan Bible Study (Zoom)	27	28 7pm English Choir (Choir Rm) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	29 <b>2-4pm FoodBank</b> 6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) <b>8pm Tongan Choir(S)</b>	30	



## 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. Moe

**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



**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)