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Focus

*Glorifying God through our D. A. Y. S.
(Discipleship, the Arts, Young people and Service)*

1020 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814
DECEMBER 2023 – VOLUME LXX, ISSUE 12

Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.

We will have a combined service with special music, dance, and a brass ensemble. The service culminates with a candlelighting and we will end the service outside (weather permitting) on the corner of Beretania and Victoria Streets as we wish each other and our community a Merry Christmas. Invite your family and friends to join you for this special service! Join us in person or on Facebook LIVE.



Tongan Watch Night Service

December 31 from 9 p.m. to midnight

Our Watch Night Service - contact Pastor Linita Moa at revlinitamoa@firstumchonolulu.org for more information.

Church Events

- December 2 – Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.
Shaka: The Story of Aloha Preview in Komuro Hall at 1:30 p.m.
- December 3 – All Church Potluck at 11:30 a.m.
- December 5 – Church Conference via Zoom at 7:00 p.m., SPRC at 6 p.m.
- December 16 – Saturday Foodbank from 2-4 p.m.
- December 21 – Coffee and Conversation 10 a.m.
HoMA Coffee Bar
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Services:
English – 10:00 a.m.
Tongan – 1:00 p.m.
Combined – 7:00 p.m.
- December 25 – HOLIDAY: Office & Facilities CLOSED
- December 31 – Watch Night Service at 9 p.m.



Ministry Musings

by Pastor Won-Seok Yuh

“⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹And a voice came from the heavens, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.” (Mark 1:9-13, NRSVue)

Of which depiction of Jesus has your life been “disrupted?”

As a baby as the Gospels According to Matthew and Luke depict like we often see in our Advent and Christmas seasons? As the mysterious Word (*Logos*) who was in the beginning with G-d and WAS G-d as the Gospel According to John? Or was your introduction of Jesus as a fully grown man, among the many in the crowd, as the Gospel According to Mark depicts Jesus being baptized by John?

All of these Gospels each depict a moment by which we know the Jews were waiting for the Messiah, the Chosen and Anointed One. They were looking for a disruption from oppressive Roman rule, negligent and hypocritical Temple standards, and spiritual distance people felt with G-d. They were looking for G-d to liberate and free, enact justice and mercy, and redeem G-d’s people to experience once again Immanuel, “G-d with us.”

Advent, the season before Christmas, is a time of anticipation and preparation of the DISRUPTING PRESENCE of G-d with us. When thinking about the word “disruption,” I imagine most use the word to describe something uncomfortable and inconvenient. We have had plenty of disruptions within our lives, like a sudden cry of a baby, or someone sharing some surprising news, or even being led to a dry and challenging season in our lives. We pray to G-d that we would NOT have these kinds of disruptions in our everyday lives, especially when faced with disruptions of global health, natural disasters, and economic and political wars.

And yet here we are in a season of preparation, where Advent is a time that we ARE asking G-d to disrupt our lives and to intervene. We ask G-d to intervene in our dysfunction by disrupting acts of injustice and oppression. We ask G-d to intervene in our hunger and emptiness by disrupting gluttonous and greedy pursuits covered by abuse and violence. We ask G-d to intervene in our pain by disrupting our avoidance and intentional ignorance through compassion and healing. We ask G-d to intervene in our lives by disrupting our fears and weakness to a courage and bold love the world so needs!

Come and join us each week in December as we look out and prepare for the DISRUPTING PRESENCE of Jesus Christ, who comes to disrupt our lives in holy hope, peace, joy, and love!

By the Grace of G-d,
Rev. Won-Seok Yuh

From Faifekau Linita Moa's Desk



Pastor Linita Moa
Co-Pastor

“Fakafeta’i, Fakafeta’i, ko e pehe te tau noa,, fakamalo he ‘ofa ‘a hotau ‘Otua, Ne tuku ‘a Langi mo hono masani kae ha’u ‘o huhu’i ‘a e hia ‘a mamani.” Ko e lea ia ‘o e mahina fakakoloa ni, ko e fakafeta’i!

Kuo tau a’u mai ‘eni ki he mahina faka’osi ‘o e ta’u 2023, pea tau fakafeta’i kuo tau hao mai he hala fononga. Neongo ‘oku ‘ikai ngalo ‘akinautolu si’i kaunga fononga kuo nau mu’a fononga atu he hala ‘o e kau ikuna, ka ko kitautolu ‘eni ‘oku tau kei ma’u ‘a e faingamalie pea ‘oku tau fakafeta’i ai ki he ‘Otua Mafimafi.

Ko e siate folau ‘o e mahina ni, **Tisema: Ke tau ‘apasia ki he Taha ‘okú ne liliu e me’a kotoa pē, pea tau tatali mo e Fakatu’amelie.** Ko e mo’ui ‘apasia ko e mo’ui ‘oku fonu ‘I he faka’apa’apa mo e loto fakatokilalo. Pea ‘oku tuha ‘a e mo’ui koia ke

tau fai ki hotau ‘Otua he koia ‘oku ne mafeia ‘a e me’a kotoa pe, pea ‘oku ‘a e ‘Otua ‘a hono foaki mai ‘a e lelei kotoa pe ‘oku fe’unga mo kitautolu kotoa pe.

Ko e fa’ahita’u ko’eni ‘oku tau fakatu’amelie kotoa pe kiai, he ‘oku ne ‘omi ‘a e fiefia, loto mafana, pea ‘oku tau fakamo’oni ki he me’a’ofa ‘a e ‘Otua, ‘I he’ene ‘ai kakano ‘ia Sisu Kalaisi ko e tangata kakato mo e ‘Otua kakato, ke mahino ki mamani kotoa pe ‘a e ‘Ofa lahi, ‘ofa ta’efilifilimanako ‘a e ‘Otua ke hoko mai ‘ia Sisu Kalaisi ko hotau Huhu’l mo Fakalaloa, ‘io ke ne pekia ka tau mo’ui ai. Pea tau fakatu’amelie he fononga ni ki he fu’u ‘ofa koia. He ‘oku tau fakamanatu ai he ‘aho Kilisimasi ‘a e hoko mai ‘a e ‘Otua ‘ia Sisu Kalaisi.

Ko e mahina ni ‘oku ‘amanaki ke fakahoko ‘etau Charge Conference he ‘aho 5 ‘o Tisema ‘I he Zoom pe, taimi 6 pm ‘a e SPRC, pea hili koia ‘e hoko atu aipe ‘a ‘etau Charge Conference, ko hono fakaikiiki ‘e toki ‘oatu pe he uike kaha’u.

Ko e Kuata Tisema 2023 ‘e fakahoko ia ki Kahuku he ‘aho Tokonaki, 9 ‘o Tisema, pea ko e Polotu he fakahoko mai ia ki Honolulu ni he ‘aho Sapate 10 he 1 p.m. Ko e Kuata foki ‘eni ‘etau Fanau Lautohi Faka-Sapate, pea ‘oku teuteu kiai ‘etau Fanau ki he’enu fo’i item ‘e taha ki he Polotu.

Ko e ‘aho Falaite Tisema taimi 6 ‘e fakahoko ai ‘a e Paati Xmas ‘a e Kakai Fefine ‘a e Vahefonua ki Honolulu ni.

Ko e ‘aho Tusite 19 Tisema aipe ‘e fakahoko ai ‘a e Paati Xmas ‘a e Kakai Fefine ‘o Honolulu ni ki he Komura Hall.

Tetau malanga taha mo e kau Palangi he Xmas Eve taimi 7 p.m. Ko ‘etau Malanga Kilisimasi ‘e fakahoko ia he 1 p.m. ‘I he ‘aho Kilisimasi, Tisema 25.

‘Aho Sapate 31 Tisema, Te tau Malanga he 12 p.m. pea hili koia pea te tau toki Malanga Faka’osita’u he taimi 9 p.m. – 12 p.m. Pea hili ‘a e Malanga Faka’osita’u, ‘e hoko atu ai pe ‘a e Failotu ‘Uluaki ‘o e Uike Lotu, pea tau toki matuku aipe. Pea te tau toki foki mai pe he efiafi Monite ki he houa lotu efiafi he taimi 6 p.m.

Lotu Hengihengi he Uikelotu ‘e kamata ‘e Hiva Tali Lotu he 5:30 a.m. pea kamata ‘e Houa Lotu he 6 a.m. Ko e lotu Efiafi, ‘e Hiva Tali lotu he 6 p.m. pea kamata ‘e Lotu he 6:30 p.m. (Ko e fakaanga ‘eni pea ka ai he liliu ‘e toki fakahoko atu pe)

Talamonu atu ki he mahina ni, tauange ke mou ma’u ha Kilisimasi fiefia mo ha Ta’ufo’ou fonu kelesi’ia mo Kalaisi’ia foki.

‘Ofa lahi atu mo e Lotu Hufia,

Faifekau Linita ‘U. Moa

Sermons for 10 a.m.
Worship Service



December 3

Rev. Yuh sermon for this Sunday is “Holy Disruption, Jesus!” We will be having a joint service with the lighting of the first Advent candle. Holy Communion served.

December 10

Rev. Houff tackles the question of “Peace on Earth” in the light of so many conflicts happening in the world.

December 17

Christmas Cantata – Our English language choir will be presenting a cantata with music and lessons. Rev. Yuh will preach on “Joyful Disruption.”

December 24 – Christmas Eve at 10 a.m.

Rev. Houff speaks on “Christmas Surprises” using the lectionary scripture: Luke 1:26-38.

Christmas Eve at 12 p.m. –Tongan Service

Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. – Joint Service
We will have a festive service of lessons and carols, featuring special music, a brass quintet, and at the end, candlelighting.

December 31 - New Year's Eve at 10 a.m.

Rev. Houff leads worship with lessons and hymns celebrating “The Gift of Emmanuel.”

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

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY: *United Methodist Social Principles*

Following 10 AM worship
December 10, 17, and 31
In-person (Library) and via Zoom

As the United Methodist Church prepares for General Conference, we will review the current Social Principles using Faith and Fact Cards. Pastor Kim will send the Faith and Fact Cards for each Sunday. For more information and/or to get the Zoom link, email kim@firstumchonolulu.org.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All ladies are invited to the English Circle Meeting on Wednesday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the library. We will be doing our traditional activity of sending Christmas cards to missionaries, lay missionaries, etc. as well as shut-in members and enjoying holiday snacks. All women are welcome to join us. Contact Kim@firstumchonolulu.org for more information.



The Tongan Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:30 PM in Komuro Hall. Please

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Take a break from the busy-ness of the holiday season and get to know others in the congregation with a time of conversation and coffee (or Italian soda!) at the Honolulu Museum of Art Coffee Bar just across the street from FUMC (park at FUMC), at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 21! (Museum entrance is free to go to the Coffee Bar.) We hope you can join us.



THE ARTS

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

December 12, 6:00 PM Mailie Room

Join Sandi and Kim for an evening of devotion, crafts, and snacks. We will be crafting various ornaments to take to Hale Nani to be given to the residents there. You can also take some home for yourself. These will be easy crafts for young and old to make. For more information or to RSVP, email kim@firstumchonolulu.org.



Poinsettias

On Christmas Eve poinsettias will grace our worship as the symbol of birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This arrangement is possible through your desire to honor or remember loved ones.



Cost this year is \$11. The deadline for ordering is **Wednesday, DECEMBER 13**. Please email office@firstumchonolulu.org for an order form and turn it into the office **with your payment** marked for **POINSETTIAS**. Forms may also be picked up at Sunday services at the Welcome table. We request that plants be picked up after Christmas Eve service.

YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Advent is upon us, so to say everyone is busy is an understatement! Along with the rush, I mean the joy of the holidays, some are still in college facing finals, and others are involved in additional outside activities. Needless to say, our Young Adults are busy, busy, busy! But rest assured, you will still see them all faithfully and joyfully serving as they continue to volunteer during worship service and other places.

Here at First UMC Honolulu, we have a creative group of young adults who all represent the church well by the way they serve and by the way they live. They do good, they cause no harm, and they "keep the ordinances of God". In other words, they all stay in love with God no matter what.

December Fellowship Time

December 10, 12:30 PM

Our December fellowship time will be spent at Aiea Bowl's Cosmic Bowling lanes! If you are in high school or college and would like to join us, please **RSVP by December 6** to Sandi Brekke at sbrekke@firstumchonolulu.org to receive the check in details. Limited space available.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and may the new year be full of blessings for all.

Mark Brekke, Director of Young Adult Ministry



COSMIC BOWLING



SERVICE

2023

Susannah Wesley Community Center

Program Wishlist

Help us bring hope & joy to families in need this holiday season! Seeking donations of:

NEW: TOYS & GAMES

NEW OR GENTLY USED: CLOTHES & SHOES FOR CHILDREN & TEENAGERS

GIFTCARDS TO WALMART, COSTCO, TARGET

**ACCEPTING DONATIONS THRU:
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH AT OUR CENTER
MONDAY-FRIDAY (9AM-4PM)
1117 KAILI STREET, HONOLULU
808-847-1535**

**NEED FOOD,
OR WANT
TO VOLUNTEER?**

**DECEMBER FOODBANK
2-4 PM
MONDAYS 4, 11, 18
THURSDAY 28
SATURDAY 16**

THE GIFT

GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL

ROMANS 5:8

Christmas Angel

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Don't know what to get the person who has everything? Christmas Angel donations are a double blessing – for the person your donation is made in honor of AND the ministry receiving your donation. Any amount may be given to any ministry. You can pay for your gift with check or credit card. When you make your gift, please let us know if you would like for us to email or mail an insert to you about your selected ministry(s) to give to your recipient(s).

The projects we will support this year are:

- FUMC Preschool Scholarship Fund
- Samaritan Counseling Center
- Susannah Wesley Community Center
- Acts of Repentance Scholarship Fund
- Other church-sponsored ministry you would like to support (You can write in the ministry name)

Your gift will help transform our local and global communities! For more information, call the office or email kim@firstumchonolulu.org.





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



Thanksgiving Meal with Church Ohana

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BC= Butterworth Chapel KH = Komuro Hall L = Library MR = Maile Room S = Sanctuary	YR = Youth Room				7pm ¹	²
6am Tongan Worship (KH) 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am Joint Worship Service (S) 11:30 am All Church Potluck	2-4pm ⁴ FoodBank 6:30pm Evening Study via Zoom 7pm Tongan Bible Study via Zoom	12noon ⁵ Yoga (KH) 6pm SPRC 7pm Charge Conf (Zoom)	11:30am ⁶ UWF English Circle (L) 6pm Dance Ministry (KH) 7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	6pm ⁸ District UWF Xmas Party (KH) 7pm Tongan YYA(S)	9am Hanging of the Greens (S) 1:30pm Shaka Movie Preview (KH)
6am Tongan Worship ¹⁰ 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Bible Study (L) 12noon Tongan Worship 12:30pm Young Adults Ministry (Aiea Bowl) 1:30pm Tongan Sunday School (KH)	2-4pm ¹¹ FoodBank 6:30pm Evening Study via Zoom 7pm Tongan Bible Study via Zoom	12noon ¹² Yoga (KH) 6-8pm Crafting for a Cause (MR)	7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	7pm Tongan Sunday School Xmas Party (KH)	2-4pm Foodbank
6am Tongan Worship ¹⁷ 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Bible Study (L) 11:30 am Young Adults Ministry (YR) 12noon Tongan Worship 1:30pm Tongan Sunday School (KH)	2-4pm ¹⁸ FoodBank 6:30pm Evening Study via Zoom 7pm Tongan Bible Study via Zoom	12noon ¹⁹ Yoga (KH) 7:30pm UMW Tongan Circle	7pm English Choir (KH) 7pm Tongan Worship (S)	6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)		
CHRISTMAS EVE ²⁴ 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Bible Study (L) 1pm Tongan Worship 7pm Joint Candlelight Service	HOLIDAY ²⁵ Office & Facilities CLOSED 1pm Tongan Christmas Service & Feast		7pm Tongan Worship (S)	6:30pm Tongan Women's Prayer Group (BC) 8pm Tongan Choir(S)	7pm Tongan Youth & Young Adults (KH)	
NEW YEAR'S EVE ³¹ 6am Tongan Worship 8:30am Pancakes and Praise Breakfast (grab and go only) 10am English Worship/Sunday School 11:30 am Adult Bible Study (L) 12noon Tongan Worship 9pm-midnight Watch Night Service	January 1 5:30am Tongan Service (KH) 6pm Tongan Service (S)	January 2 5:30am Tongan Service (KH) 6pm Tongan Service (S)	January 3 5:30am Tongan Service (KH) 6pm Tongan Service (S)	January 4 5:30am Tongan Service (KH) 6pm Tongan Service (S)	Jan 5 5:30am Tongan Service (KH) 6pm Tongan Service (S)	January 6



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. Linita 'U. Moa
Rev. Wan-Seok Yuh

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,
Johnie Kelemen, Sia Lolohea

CONNECTIONAL LEADERS:

Resident Bishop:

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

District Superintendent:

Rev. Saia Tu'itahi

Hawai'i District UMC 2023 Advent Booklet



Pick up your copy of the Hawaii District UMC 2023 Advent Booklet at worship or request a digital copy by emailing kim@firstumchonolulu.org. The Advent booklet provides a Scripture and devotional reading for each day of Advent.

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)