

Makawao Union Church

A WEEKLY 'ELELE during this time of Sacred Distancing

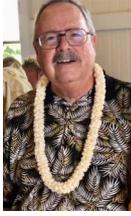
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MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM PASTOR ROBIN



These past three weeks I have had the privilege to witness nothing short of a miracle as we have embraced the moment brought on by COVID-19 and made the pivot to remote working and online living. There have been so many favorite moments that it would be hard to recount them all in a short article but they all center around your magnificent love and care for one another and your desire to remain connected even if it means learning some newfangled computer stuff!

I have watched as nearly everyone has discovered the magic of video conferencing—to see and hear one another in real time is a George Jenson cartoon come true for many of us! For others it has been a way of life and work for a while. For all of us it is a lifeline as we practice our Sacred Distancing and observe the Stay At Home orders wherever we find ourselves in the world.

But what has been an even bigger miracle is to see how you have embraced your call to “be the church” in this new circumstance where you do not have your buildings to define your sense of mission and ministry. I am watching as the Deacons develop a care network that will support and sustain all of us with love and practicalities in this particular crisis. We will have a structure to build upon after we reopen our campus, a structure that will support our connections and help us as we grow. And when we have a hurricane we will be ready to mobilize again!

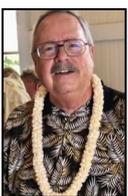
I am watching as the Fellowship Committee is crafting ways to strengthen connections during our Aloha Hour. I am watching as our new Worship Tech and Worship Design teams are crafting our Sunday worship experience with me so it feels familiar and honors the history of Makawao Union Church. I am watching as we continue to honor our commitment to the homeless shelter meal and look for ways to give back even as we are asked to stay at home. I am watching as our Trustees keep moving ahead on the projects that are so important to our eventual return to campus. I am watching as our young people gather and begin forming a youth group.

Most importantly, I am watching as we live the words of our covenant that says, “*We strive to be a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind and spirit of Jesus.*” There is among us a deep feeling of vitality despite the separation. And while there are many churches that will not survive this crisis I am certain that we will come through COVID-19 stronger and more able to “be the church” in this brave new world that is emerging right before our eyes.

You give me hope. You give the island of Maui hope. You give the world hope. May the **Spirit of Hope** continue to rise from within us and flow into the world around us as a witness to the God who fills us with this Spirit now and always.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Aloha Dear Makawao Union Church Members and Friends,



This month’s ‘Elele comes to you as part of our new Weekly Updates. You have surely noticed that our church’s routine has drastically changed due to the virus and the daily measures we are taking to sustain the church while also preserving and protecting lives. We can assure you, however that our beloved church is continuing its ministries to our members and friends and it is even thriving. This is a direct result of your church leadership’s dedication and work in addressing and solving new challenges while still supporting those responsibilities and unique qualities of fellowship and spirituality that we cherish as our Makawao Union Church.

Your Boards and Committees are continuing to accomplish their tasks, but now we are in virtual meetings using Zoom. A portion of the lyrics of an old hymn that I like says “*new occasions teach new duties.*” Well, this old Luddite now knows how to Zoom and to keep in touch. **Cont. on pg. 3**

MEETINGS AND UPDATES



We are all getting the hang of this Zoom meeting thing. It is a gift that we can meet and continue to live out our mission and ministry.

This coming week there will be the following meetings on Zoom. Look for meeting invites in your email.

- Thursday 4/2 @1PM—Fellowship
- Friday 4/3 @2PM—Council
- Saturday 4/4 @4PM—Worship Tech Run-through
- Tuesday 4/7 @10AM—Worship Tech Debrief
@3PM—Worship Design Team
- Wednesday 4/8 @10AM—Deacons
- Thursday 4/9 @10AM—Fellowship
@6PM—Maundy Thursday Tenebrae

ONLINE WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We had our second online worship last Sunday and are getting the hang of the technical realities required to offer an interactive experience where we worship God together but apart. If you missed last week here is the link to watch.

[Click Here](#) for last weeks' worship service.

Much thanks to Lewis Gamble for his editing magic!

This weekend we enter Holy Week with a **PALMS TO PASSION AND COMMUNION SUNDAY**.

While we will not be able to greet one another with Palms at the sanctuary we are inviting you to **have your own flora ready to wave during the Prelude**. The people living in Jerusalem have palms as a native species. This is true for some of us on Maui as well. But for those without palms in your yards we encourage you to pick whatever is native to you—fir, pine, grass—or even a piece of fabric to wave as a symbol of your celebratory welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem.

We are also inviting you to **Set Your Table** as we share communion in our homes. Our communion celebration is a reenactment of the Passover Seder that Jesus and his followers were celebrating that last night they had together. The Seder is a meal and a celebration enacted at home. This week we will all be at home and can **set our personal communion table using what is most meaningful for us**. Whether china or wood, bread or crackers, juice, wine or water, Pastor Robin will guide us in this intimate ritual of the Lord's Supper.



This is Pastor Robin's table as an example of what you might do.

After worship, **PLEASE STAY!** The **Fellowship Committee** is inviting you to get acquainted and **share your personal communion tables** during our breakout time of **Aloha Hour**. What is on your table? Why did you select those pieces for your table? And if you didn't set up a table, what did you use for your plate and cup? What represented the Body of Christ, the bread? What was the Blood of Christ, the juice? Your randomly selected small group will have **ten minutes for sharing**. Join Us!

To experience **Worship this coming Sunday** you can join us via Zoom

[CLICK HERE](#) for Palm Sunday Worship

Apr 5, 2020 **10:30AM** Hawaii, **4:30PM** Eastern

Or join from your **Zoom App** using this **Meeting ID: 847 870 983**

We have added a **Password** for your security: **946540**

Or you can call in and listen by your telephone at **+1 669 900 6833 US**

On Thursday April 9th we will gather at 6PM Hawaii time for a **MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE** service. We will share readings, communion and extinguish our candles as a sign of entering the Passion with Jesus. This important ritual of the church is more poignant than ever as we enter the darkest days of the pandemic. The link for the Maundy Thursday Service will be sent next week. Please join us for this time of reflection and prayer.

EASTER SUNDAY IS coming and we want you to get ready by picking out your favorite hat to wear during our Easter Celebration. The Fellowship Committee will be inviting you to do something fun for next week so watch for more information about Easter Sunday in next week's 'Elele.



HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Rose	3
Alicia Freese	10
Emily Hickman	11
Nancy Bohn	13
Nikki Geiger	13
Darlene Pittman	15
Lori Busta	16
Kiele Braun	18
Shaun Lyons	24
Jay Slaughter	24
Julie Brown	26
Jackson Mayberry	26
Julia Rose	30

We are extremely fortunate to have great people come forward to assist us in our virtual worship services. This invaluable opportunity to support and serve our congregation and many more, is what **The Church** must do to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in times such as these.

So, what can each of us do to support our treasured church? Prayers are at the top of list. Please come to virtual worship each Sunday. Seeing your smiling, friendly faces in the small boxes is an absolutely **chicken skin experience**. We do need to have everyone continue their pledges and remember our church's long time commitments to the Maui Food Bank, the Homeless Shelter and other agencies who provide assistance. Now is also a good time to reach out to each other, your family, friends and others from your church family. (Also invite others to our virtual worship service).

Mahalo Nui Loa. With God's Help, May It Be So.

Jay

SECURITY UPDATE



As we move deeper into the digital landscape, a place many of us had no desire to enter, please be assured that we have a talented group of experienced internet experts helping us stay safe as we Zoom and email and make connections across our interconnected webs.

We have paid close attention to the updates with regards to Zoom and have implemented changes to the settings of meetings to eliminate "Zoombombing" to the greatest extent possible. In addition, when we move to the MailChimp platform for mass emailing (next week, if all goes well) we will be fully in compliance with international data control standards.

So we all remain safe:

- ◇ We will not post the links to our worship or meetings on any social media or publicly on our website. Please do not post to yours.
- ◇ We will never sell your personal information to anyone. Period!
- ◇ We can assist you if you are concerned about your privacy settings on your devices.

Thanks for being on this wild and amazing journey into the digital age! We are all in this together and beautiful things are happening.

REMEMBER...

We hope you are staying up to date with important information put out by Maui County or your local authorities about the Stay At Home orders we are all under. While it may be difficult to understand why we cannot be around one another if we don't feel sick, it is important that you follow the guidelines of your Stay At Home order to enact our love and care for one another. Enacting Sacred Distance keep us all safe and healthy.

-DO go outside and walk, stroll, dance, sing, laugh and walk your animals!

-DONT gather with those not already in your household.

-DO wash your hands A LOT! And wear a mask when you go out!

-DON'T touch your face if you can help it.

-DO pray and ask God how you can help your neighbors while being safe.

-DON'T worry about the future. God is with us so who can be against us?

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Pastor Rascal remains steadfast in his job of watching over the campus on Baldwin Ave. He says he is praying for everyone and can't wait to see you all soon!

