



NUU VINEYARD NEWS

Harris United Methodist Church

20 South Vineyard Blvd. Hon., HI 96813

WE ARE AN OPEN AND RECONCILING CONGREGATION

Website: www.harrisumc.org Facebook: HarrisUMC

April 2017

PRACTICE RESURRECTION

PASTOR'S CORNER

By now, we are well into the journey of Lent, an intense time for the believers of Jesus Christ, and the season includes demanding participation in what Jesus endured in the name of Love. Nonviolent resistance against evil powers, self-emptying, feelings of abandonment and painful anxieties are involved. All of these are anti-American cultural characteristics as we seek security, predictability, well being, and, in many cases, selfish advancing of ourselves. Gloomily, it is a serious time of traveling with our utmost leader of life.



Rev. Dr. Cheol Kwak

At the same time, this somber and challenging period also points to the triumphant moment, called resurrection. It challenges the unarguably obvious cycle of life, death, and being non-existent. This fearful and despairing experience of all living beings is summoned to restore life, and, in fact, abundant life. Ultimate hope overcomes ultimate despair. This is not about denial of death, but about the life that goes on in the Infinite Love of God. This ultimate hope is not about looking the other way when death is so real and so near, but about embracing death with the most immanent and intimate. It is an experience of life being anew by living with death every moment of life. Then, we truly are able to join with Paul as he said, "I die every day".

Being born again is about dying first

The old is gone, so an inner transformation in a form of new life happens every day. It is about being alive and celebrates life every day, breathing death each moment of our being alive. Practicing resurrection is about realizing and recognizing death in our life in the most intimate way. "I die every day" is not a statement of defeat, but is a true confession of our finite and limited life. And we finally become true to our being and being alive. In that truthfulness we may have courage to witness death in us. In that witness we may join in how Jesus lives among and within us.

Along with you, I pray that I may experience the death of my selfishness, self-centeredness, and self-approval in the course of the journey of faith in Christ Jesus. A resurrection also includes our participation in resisting the evil principles and powers in the world that brings death to those who could not live life abundantly (John 10:10). Our faith context may witness forces that are against life. In that context, following Christ leads us to a place where we experience death in our community. Practicing resurrection, there, is to bring the ultimate hope of life into a death-ridden, unjust oppression, caused by anyone or any organization.

(continued on page 2)

(PASTOR'S CORNER CONTINUED)

A church without the excitement of resurrection is like a dead body, waiting for its turn to be buried. Are there many churches, lost hopes, stale and lifeless? What we need is a life affirming witness causing the experience of death to blur and be meaningless in our hope of in Christ's resurrection. An audacious spirit should be in the breath of our church so that we may be able to confess like Paul, "I die every day." In our personal life and the life of the faith community, don't we need funerals of those evil powers that lead us to a false security and have Christ still buried?

Practice resurrection. Practice it every day so that we may not be slaves of the fear of death. The season calls us to be intimate with death so that every moment of our being alive may have Christ's mission.

Pray for each other so that our life together may have a resurrected courage to take a risk for Christ. Find your quiet place and pray that we all may be able to practice our resurrection. There, our death may have real presence, not to scare us, but to live it abundantly. Plan funerals for all the death-ridden slavery of life within and around us. So we may usher in the breath of everlasting life now.

Practice resurrection

Blessings,
Cheol Kwak, Senior Pastor



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

THE SEASONS of LENT & EASTER

“DREAMING BIG WITH GOD: CALLED TO BE A SANCTUARY”

9:00 am Nichigo Worship (Japanese Language Ministry)

Sensei Eiko Soranaka

5:00 pm Evening Worship (Contemporary Music)

Davy Lee

10:45am Worship (English Language Service)

April 2: 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture Reading: Romans 8: 6-11

“So Spiritual, So Physical”

Rev. Dr. Cheol Kwak, preaching

Communion

April 9: 6th Sunday in Lent

PALM SUNDAY ~ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11; Philippians 2:5-11

Rev. Dr. Cheol Kwak, preaching

April 16: EASTER

Joint Service with English, Nichigo, and Evening Congregations

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

“Fear Not!”

Rev. Dr. Cheol Kwak, preaching

April 23: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Galatians 5: 22-23

“No Such Law”

Rev. Rona Mangayayam, preaching

April 30: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 28-35

“You Were There on the Road, Too”

Rev. Rona Mangayayam, preaching

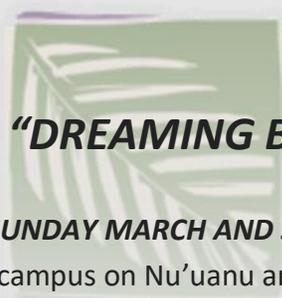
WE ARE AN OPEN AND RECONCILING CONGREGATION ~ ALL ARE WELCOME!

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



“DREAMING BIG WITH GOD: CALLED TO BE A SANCTUARY”

PALM SUNDAY MARCH AND SERVICE on April 9 – 10:30am Join the “SANCTUARY MARCH” around our church campus on Nu’uanu and Vineyard Streets. (Come to Miyama Hall to make your banner for the march on April 2 & 9 at 9:00am through 10:15am) Worship service will begin in the courtyard immediately following the march. **Lenten offerings will be dedicated.** Palm leaves will be provided; donations of ti leaves are welcome...Mahalo!!

UMYF, April 14: YOUTH!! Join for activities with Keven, Skylar and Porsche. See page 10 for more.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE on April 13 - 5:30pm Healing prayers, along with voluntary hand and feet washing stations will be provided. A simple meal of soup will be served in the courtyard immediately after this service.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE on April 14– 12 noon and 5:30pm Two services will be held in the sanctuary. Chancel choir will sing at the evening service.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

PLEASE INVITE FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ALL FROM THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN US!

He is Risen



© Wildflower Ramblings

EASTER SUNDAY

April 16



10:15am

EASTER EGG HUNT

For all children! Eggs with special treats will be prepared and hidden by the YOUTH. Meet in the courtyard with your baskets!



10:45 am

WORSHIP SERVICE

Come all as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!! This will be a joint service of the English, Nichigo and Evening congregations. During the service there will be the traditional flowering of the cross. Please bring flowers for yourself and to share with others!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

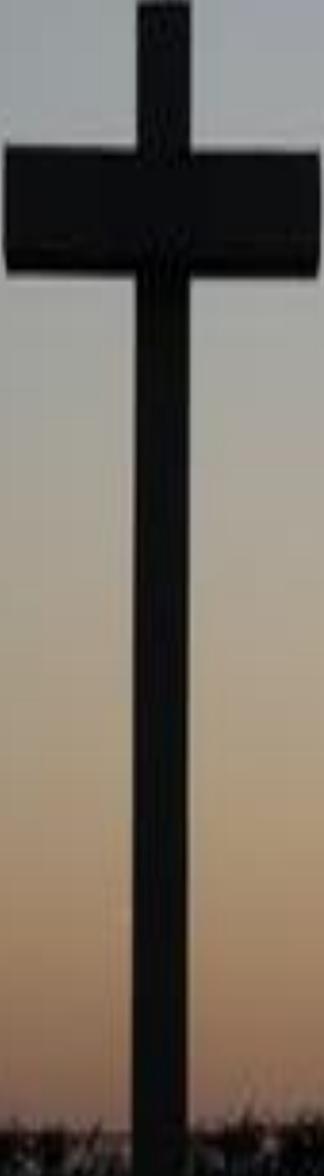
**PLEASE INVITE FAMILY, FRIENDS AND ALL FROM THE
COMMUNITY TO JOIN US!**



LENT

DREAMING BIG WITH GOD: CALLED TO BE A SANCTUARY

LENTEN OFFERING REMINDER!



We are fast approaching the fourth week of Lent, a time to reflect on the journey of our Lord to the cross. *You are invited to join and participate in the Lenten Offering which continues through **Palm Sunday, April 9.***

Through your offerings during this season, you are fulfilling the mission goals of Harris to make a difference in our community. On **Palm Sunday**, your offerings will be dedicated to agencies that assist people in need. *This year our gifts will be distributed equally among the Harris Soup Kitchen, the River of Life Mission and the Institute for Human Services, each group serving the homeless here in Hawaii.*

If you missed the distribution of the offering cloth sacks, additional ones are available in the rear of the sanctuary at the end of the service or please ask any Global Ministries member for one.

DREAMING BIG WITH GOD: OUR CALL TO BE A SANCTUARY

Church and Society has been tasked with understanding how to best live our faith through upholding social justice. Key issues at hand are inhumane immigration policies that discriminate based on race, nationality and religion, and the large number of immigrants who lack lawful immigration status and face deportation within our community.

Women and children make up three quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the 41 million immigrants living in the United States. Today, 5.5 million American children have parents who lack lawful immigration status. There are an estimated 11 million people who lack lawful immigration status.

In Hawai'i, the estimated number of immigrants who lack lawful immigration status and who may face deportation is 21,000. The largest number of people come from the Philippines. The second largest number are from Japan. Women make up the majority of the undocumented community. Four thousand (4,000) live with US citizen children. A majority of those who are of working age are employed (66%).

Recent Executive Orders have banned the entry of Muslims into the country from six countries and have also increased the budget and personnel of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with the ultimate goal of deporting immigrants who lack lawful immigration status within our community. These types of measures are a result of anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment and also have fueled anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment. Hate crimes such as arson, graveyard defacement and shootings based on religion and national origin have risen within the past five months since the election.

How do we respond as a faith community to the spread of hate? Most importantly how do we address the growing fears and concerns of those within our own community?

Church and Society proposes that we strongly support communities facing discrimination and the threat of deportation. There are many ways that Harris can help. We have been discussing and discerning what is possible given what Harris could offer those in need. The wide variety of providing kokua ranges from a non-discriminatory membership policy in regards to citizenship status to what has been called Sanctuary or offering temporary shelter to those facing deportation. It could include supporting and/or legal immigration clinics, hosting more immigrants rights workshops and supporting other churches who are offering shelter.

We hope Harris church members are willing to help all people regardless of their immigration status or their faith. We are called to do the work of Christ and to uphold the dignity and human rights of all people. We ask fellow members of the church to engage in this process of discernment. Church and Society has been meeting with Ministry Teams and the various groups within the congregation. We hope to engage in meaningful discussion with church members on these issues.

Submitted by Darlene Rodrigues, Church & Society Chair

IMPORTANT CHURCH CONFERENCE - APRIL 9

News Flash -- With the approval of the District Superintendent, Pastor Cheol has called for a special **Church Conference on Sunday, April 9 to be held in the Church Sanctuary immediately after the Palm Sunday Service.** Church Conferences are called (rather than Charge Conferences) to encourage broader participation by members of the church in the matters to be discussed and possibly approved at the meeting.

All professing members of the congregation present at a Church Conference have an equal voice and vote.

Three issues will be considered on April 9. They are as follows:

- a. **Ordained Ministry Candidacy.** SPRC plans to bring forth for approval a recommendation on qualified candidates for Ordained Ministry. Under the Book of Discipline such candidacies must be approved by a Charge (Church) Conference. Upon successful completion of the prescribed candidacy program, candidates are eligible for appointment as a local pastor. Those appointed as local pastors become clergy members of the annual conference. During the candidacy period, Harris would provide spiritual and limited financial support to the prospective pastors.
- b. **Church Investment Policy Revision for Remaining Bequest Funds.** Currently, any funds received by Harris Church by bequest that remain after completion of Church Council approved projects must be turned over to the Harris Foundation for investment purposes. Experience has shown that at times better investment opportunities might become available from other sources. Therefore, the Finance Committee and the Foundation propose to amend the current approved policy to allow the Finance Committee the flexibility to invest such remaining bequest funds in the most beneficial manner rather than automatically transferring the funds to the Foundation for investment.
- c. **Harris UMC as a Sanctuary Church.** For the past several months, many meetings and discussions have been held concerning whether Harris should declare itself a Sanctuary Church assisting undocumented persons from other countries. Church and Society has been tasked to prepare and present at the Church Conference a motion setting out the recommended course of action Harris should follow to assist these folks in the coming months and years.

A vote will be taken on the first two topics. However, as our participation as a Sanctuary Church is still being explored, a vote may or may not occur. All three of these matters are of importance to the future of Harris Church. Therefore, you are encouraged to share your thoughts and concerns at the Church Conference. Please plan to attend.

Submitted by Dennis Pacht, Church Council Chair

CHURCH CONFERENCE
Sunday, April 9
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
Sanctuary

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

DREAMING BIG WITH GOD: CALLED TO BE A SANCTUARY

What did you “give up” for Lent? Food? Bad habits? Spending on non-essentials? According to the United Methodist website, *“Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.”*

We can see the evolution of the meaning of this sacred season which emphasizes one’s desire to be more faithful to God as we reflect on our personal motives and actions more deeply. At Harris UMC we are going a step further as we discern our “Call To Be A Sanctuary”. This discernment means we must look beyond ourselves to the plight of others by providing as safe, temporary place for someone in danger of being deported. Yes, this requires challenging ourselves to listen to people who are afraid of being separated from their loved ones. Yes, this requires asking questions: who will make the decision and who will take the action on behalf of the church? How do we know what the person(s) is like? Who else may want to join that person? What liability does the church need? How will we provide food, transportation etc. etc. etc.?

Our Church and Society Ministries Team along with other deeply committed folks are offering to talk with your small group to flesh out concerns. Contact Darlene Rodrigues. Take advantage of opportunities to listen to speakers. Put yourself in the place of such an individual, their family, their life. Discernment is hard work and we can do it! Ultimately, God is calling us to be faithful, not to know all the answers. This may be our life-long, daily discipline.

“Keep loving each other like family. Don’t neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place.” Hebrews 13:1-3 (CEB)

Submitted by Diane Matsuura, Lay Leader





HARRIS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES

HOLY WEEK EVENTS!

PALM SUNDAY, April 9: Sunday school will end a bit earlier so that all can participate in the “SANCTUARY MARCH” around our church campus on Nu’uanu and Vineyard Streets. See page 4 about making a banner! Gather at the church entrance at 10:30am and join in our on PALM SUNDAY SANCTUARY MARCH! Children will join with Chancel Choir in Worship service to sing the anthem “Sing Hosanna!”.

UMYF, Friday April 14: YOUTH!! meet at 9:00am at Youth Room to prepare for Sunday’s Easter Egg Hunt. Attend and participate in the noontime Good Friday service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE on April 13 - 5:30pm Healing prayers, along with voluntary hand and feet washing stations will be provided. A simple meal of soup will be served in the courtyard immediately after this service.

GOOD FRIDAY on April 14– 12 noon and 5:30pm Two services will be held in the sanctuary. Chancel choir will sing at the evening service.



EASTER & EGG HUNT! Sunday school will end a bit earlier so that all can join in the Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15am, planned by our Youth Ministry! Over 300+ eggs will be hidden in the preschool courtyard area. *Bring your baskets!!!* Worship will follow and children will sing “Easter Morning”. CHRIST IS RISEN!!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ONLY ONE MONTH REMAINS!!

Applications are now available for **The Christian Education Scholarship Program** of Harris United Methodist Church. Eligibility requirements include being a member/constituent of Harris UMC or Hawaii District UMC and open to students currently enrolled or accepted into an accredited institution.

Deadline for submission is April 30th, 2017. To download the application, plus further details on the scholarship, application, eligibility and submission requirements, please see Harris UMC website at harrisumc.org.

HARRIS RUMMAGE SALE



Saturday, APRIL 29th 8:30am-12:30pm

Downsizing? Clearing clutter? YES!! We are having a **RUMMAGE SALE!!** Save the date and help support the Harris Ministries.

The Call...

Disciples (Women, Men and Youth): If you have not been contacted by the Section Chairs and have time to help, please contact either Rummage Co-Chairs: Annette Okimoto or Sachi Taketa . You may leave a message at the Church Office by calling 536-9602.

The Team Activity...

-  Assistance to remove donations from the stage area or storage bins, unpack boxes, etc. on “Grubby Monday”—April 24th from 9 am to 1 pm (lunch will be served).
-  Assistance through out the week during the week of April 25th from 9:00 am-noon to unpack, sort and price all the donated items for the sale day. We will potluck lunch during the work week--sign up sheet will be made available.
-  Assistance on “Rummage Sale Day: for sales, security, parking and clean-up.

Donations (new and/or clean/gently used items)...

-  Home made Bake Sale and Refreshments: We are going to again include a mini-bake sale. Donations of homemade goodies would be appreciated. Bring on Friday if it does not need to be refrigerated or the day of sale already pre-packaged in ziplock bags. We hope to again sell Jade Dung’s famous “somen salad.” Donations of bottled water or juice to sell will also be appreciated.
-  Donate your new and used “treasures.” Items may be brought to Miyama Hall stage area from April 3rd (during the hours 9 am to 2 pm). However, because of limited storage space if you can keep until April 24th it would be appreciated.
-  We accept clean clothes, dishes, kitchen-ware, white elephants, linen, books, toys, etc. Make sure that electronic or electric equipment is in working condition.
-  Please no furniture, including cribs or toys in which children sit upon—any recalled items.
-  It would be helpful, if you can box, separate and label your donations.

**GET YOUR
RED OF
STUFF**

Come join us!
**It's a wonderful opportunity to build a
Christ-centered community as we learn about
each other and our church programs.**





Preschoolers enjoying an afternoon at the Nu'uauu YMCA swimming pool.

In March we finished our winter season of soccer shots and swimming lessons. We are so glad to have had so many children participate in the programs. We had about half the school participate in either soccer or swimming...some did both! Many of the parents have mentioned that they notice what a big difference the swimming lessons are making when they take their children to the pool or beach.

We also learned about different kinds of weather, celebrated Girls' Day and St. Patrick's Day, and went on a field trip to the Butterfly Exhibit at Pearlridge.

This month we are looking forward to celebrating Easter and Earth Day, while learning more about bugs.

Help us Spread the Preschool Word!

If you, or anyone you know, works in a downtown office or business with an employee newsletter, we would love the opportunity to promote our preschool. Please contact preschool director Kapua Hussey at 532-4175 or harrispreschoolhi@gmail.com to help out.

GIRLS' DAY CELEBRATION

TO CELEBRATE GIRLS' DAY ON MARCH 3RD, THE PRESCHOOLERS MADE ORIGAMI DOLLS AND STRAWBERRY MOCHI. THEY ENJOYED GETTING TO DO A SIMPLE COOKING ACTIVITY. WE INCLUDED THE RECIPE WE USED IF YOU'D LIKE TO TRY IT AT HOME. 😊



Preschoolers putting the final touch of potato starch on their mochi.



Strawberry mochi is yummy!!!

Microwave Jello Mochi

(Source: Honolulu Star Advertiser)

Ingredients: 3 oz. pkg gelatin, any flavor, 1 c sugar, 2 c mochiko, 2 c cold water, potato starch

Directions: Spray microwaveable pan with non-stick cooking spray. Combine all ingredients and stir until smooth. Pour into prepared pan. Microwave on high for 6 minutes. Stir center and microwave for 3 to 5 minutes longer. Cut with a plastic knife. Roll into balls and coat in potato starch.



NEWS FROM CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

An Invitation for YOU!

We are blessed to have another opportunity to help our friends/students at Central Middle School and here is your chance to participate! Many of the students do not have or own covered footwear and attend school with slippers or sandals at best.

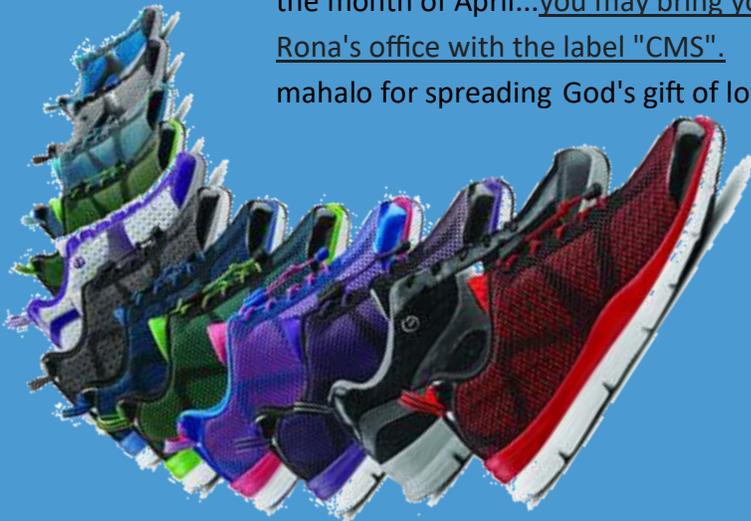
THEY WILL BE HAVING TWO UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL & MAY WHICH REQUIRE STUDENTS TO WEAR COVERED SHOES:

Grade 6 Track Meet at MaeMae Elementary School (4/7/17)

Grade 7 Field Trip to Kualoa Ranch (5/8/17)

Principal Anne-Marie Murphy has put the call out to various community friends, and is asking for donations of lightly used **ATHLETIC SHOES**. **ALL SIZES** will be accepted. They are even willing to further clean them in a washing machine if need be!!

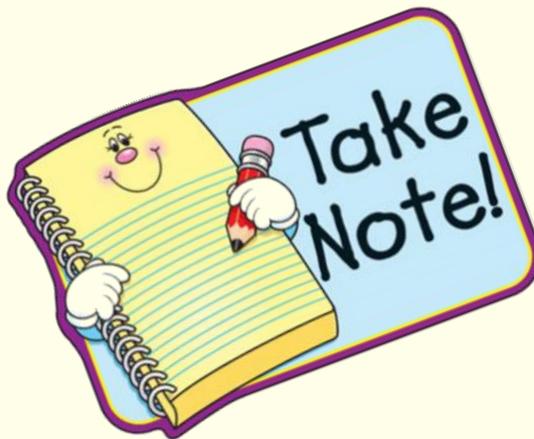
Please bring your donations to church. Obviously, one event is happening very soon and we will give whatever is collected prior to April 7 to Central Middle School and hopefully, they will have collected enough covered footwear for the students to participate in the Track Meet event. However, we will continue to accept your donations throughout the month of April...you may bring your donations to the office or to Pastor Rona's office with the label "CMS". As we widen our SANCTUARY doors, mahalo for spreading God's gift of love and for your loving arms to welcome and embrace all in our midst.





**IMAGES FROM
MARCH
EVENTS...
“DREAMING
BIG WITH
GOD: CALLED
TO BE A
SANCTUARY”**





Our brothers and sisters in the Mountain Sky Area (Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conferences), are facing difficult times leading up to the Judicial Council meeting in April when a ruling will be made on whether Karen Oliveto can be a bishop in the UMC. There is overwhelming support for her within her conferences, but some churches have lost members who cannot accept leadership from a lesbian bishop and have taken a subsequent financial hit from this.

Yet the churches are seeing this as a critical time of witness to the meaning of the Church as the body of Christ loving and redeeming the world; as they are carrying on and hanging in, they would appreciate our prayers and to know they are not alone.

Harris has committed to being a *PAL (Prayers And Letter) Congregation* during this time. Please pray for our assigned sister congregation, **Platteville UMC**. If you would like to show your support through a letter or note, please send it to PO Box 326, Mead, CO 80542-0326.

For more information on this issue and the UMC Judicial Council, please go to:
<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/judicial-council-april-2017-docket>

MEN MAKING BREAKFAST

MMB is back!

April 23 in Miyama Hall

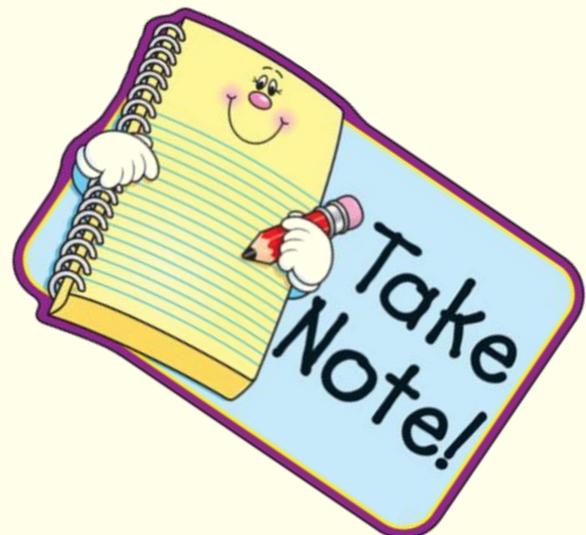
8:30am-10:15am

***Come-n-eat the joyful & spirited
breakfast cuisine prepared by our***

MMB chefs!

Contact John Miyahara for details...

ALL ARE WELCOME!





- ⇒ **RUMMAGE SALE, Saturday April 29.....save the date!! See page 11 for details.**
- ⇒ **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: Saturday, APRIL 8th, 9:00am in KOMURO LOUNGE**
- ⇒ **SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE: APRIL 9 in SANCTUARY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE**
- ⇒ **Electronic Giving:** If you are not yet signed up for e-giving and are interested, please contact Sachi Taketa for more information at 808.536.9602. You will no longer need to worry about carrying a check or cash to put in the offering plate or send through the mail.
- ⇒ **YOU are invited to become a member of Harris United Methodist Church!** Please contact Pastor Cheol Kwak (808.536.9602) or Pastor Rona (rona@harrisumc.org or 808.738.7727) if you are interested in joining our Harris Ohana!

NEWSLETTER deadline is 15th of each month
Submit to Cheryl Yamamoto: news4harris@gmail.com

Sustainability Covenant

"God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore for its own sake and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family"

If you are receiving a hard copy version in the mail, please reconsider the sustainable alternative by reading it online from the church website. This will save our blessed & fragile environment and decrease postage & paper costs in the long term. Online versions are in color and will include all submitted photos/graphics; email and hard copy versions will be in black & white and text only.

To receive your newsletter via email rather than by postage mail, CONTACT:
news4harris@gmail.com

We thank you for practicing good stewardship!!

Facebook: HarrisUMC

Website: www.harrisumc.org

