

Nu' u Vineyard News

DECEMBER 2023



United Methodist Church members at the 62nd Nuuanu Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 21st. *Continued on Page 4. Photo Credit Greg Yamamoto.*

Join us for December Services!

Mahalo for joining us in celebrating our Stewardship campaign!

Please join us in December for Advent worship services with our theme "Journey in Hope".

You are invited to attend our special Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, 12/24 at 7:45 pm. Hear the beautiful story and sing the glorious hymns of the Birth of Jesus. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Roses on All Saints Day, Nov. 12th.

A Message From the Pastor

Aloha Harris Ohana,

This year, Advent begins with disturbing news bombarding us every day. You may be like me, in that I want to be informed, I want to know what is happening around the world, but I don't want to give all the violence and news of war so much attention that I become depressed or hopeless.



To counter all the bad news, the Worship Committee has selected "Journey in Hope" as our Advent Theme, with the words Hope, Peace, Joy and Love for the candles on the Advent Wreath.

As people of faith, who believe in the message of Jesus who preached God's grace, healing power, forgiveness and love, we have the opportunity to focus on these things during Advent. To give up, to give in to depression or hopelessness, is to deny our faith and let the negative, violent energy take over. To help us focus on the Good News of the birth of Jesus, the California Pacific Conference staff has prepared an Advent Calendar, included in the Nu'u News. You will notice that each week, the focus is the same word that we are using for our Advent Wreath -- we chose them from this calendar. Then there are suggestions each day on how we might live out the promise of Advent. There are probably too many suggestions for us to do them all, but there may be one or two each week that will be something that inspires us and that we can do to lift our spirits and help us keep our focus on Advent.

I also have been reminded of the healing that can come from focusing on our breath -- the Spirit of God (spiritus, from the Latin word for breath) that breathes life into us with each of the 23,000 breaths we take each day. One suggestion is that as we focus on our breath, we breathe in the presence of the sacred, and ex-press (breath out, voice) our gratitude. This, then, can become a breath prayer that sustains us throughout the day.

As we practice our faith with the suggestions on the Advent Calendar and perhaps practice a breath prayer, we also remember that God's wisdom is the light of the world, and the darkness will not overcome it.

May we all be strong in our faith as we Journey in Hope during Advent this December.

Rev. Dr. Fran Wiebenga

December Worship Services

Journey in Hope

Sunday, December 3

1st Sunday of Advent with Communion

Service @ 10:45 am

Luke 1:39-56, Mary's Journey to Visit Elizabeth

Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Service @ 10:45 am

Luke 1:57-79, Journey to the Temple

Sunday, December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Service @ 10:45 am

Luke 2:1-5, Journey to Bethlehem

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Service @ 10:45 am and 7:45 pm

Luke 2:1-20 , Journey to the Manger

Sunday, December 31

1st Sunday After Christmas

New Years Eve

Service @ 10:45 am

Revelation 21:1-6, All Things New



Photo by [Sincerely Media](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Updates

62nd Nuuanu Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 21st



Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto

Updates

Worship Services



Stewardship speaker, Keven Matsuura on Oct. 29.



Kai Matsuura & Marienne Mangayayam on Nov. 5.



Diane Matsuura and Rev. Fran show thank you cards given to Harris for their support with the UH Wahine Basketball Clinic.



New Harris members, Loretta and Michael Montgomery tune in via ZOOM.



All Saints Day candles on Nov. 12th.



George Nabea on multimedia for All Saints Day.



Skylar Yamamoto on bells.

Updates

Stewardship Sunday



Maya and Annie Yoshida duet on Nov. 26th.



Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto, our missionary in Japan via ZOOM.



Ukulele Fellowship performs in Miyama Hall.



Stewardship Potluck Celebration.

Harris Preschool



Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 22nd.



Visit from the Honolulu Fire Department.



Harris Preschool students learn their colors: Gray Day.

Updates

Get Acquainted with Our New Members!

Maya Yoshida



Our youth interview this month of December centers on Maya Yoshida - a young lady it seems many of us have known for all of her 16 years!

Her name is unique and we asked if there's a story behind it. Maya responded that her mom had a student named Maya who she thought

was a very nice kid so "she named me after her!"

Currently Maya is a sophomore (10th grade) at Le Jardin Academy in Kailua. (Her mom Annie has been a teacher at this school for many years.) She lists English as her favorite subject in school. Looking to the future, Maya doesn't have any specific career goals at this time but she would like to be in a profession that helps others.

Maya is passionate about singing and dancing as evidenced by her many stage performances starting at a young age. Her taste buds are heightened by ramen and boba and in her free time she likes to read and listen to music.

Maya was "born" into life at Harris UMC because all of her mom's side of the family were active participants of the church. "O give thanks unto the God of Heaven, for His mercy endureth forever" is her favorite Bible verse.

We have seen Maya volunteering at Harris as a song leader and liturgist. She was also a Harris delegate to the recent Youth 2023 conference in Florida. In addition, Maya

helps her mom with Saturday classes at 24-7 Danceforce in Kaneohe.

When asked what she was most excited about this year, May quickly responded that she is enthusiastic about being able to drive! Watch for her on our roads!

One thing that Maya wants the older generation to know about teenagers is that they want the world to be a better place and youth are trying to look to the future. We are happy to "officially" welcome Maya as a member of Harris UMC and count her as one of our special blessings!

Margaret Huntsman



You may recognize her by her smile and distinctive mid-western hat! We are delighted to welcome Margaret Huntsman to our ohana! Read on to learn more about this young woman.....

Margaret first visited Harris after she moved to downtown Honolulu in 2022. Fortunately, she visited our church website and noticed the location was close to her apartment. "Once I came, everyone was so nice to me that I never left." Margaret became involved in the life of Harris by serving as an usher/greeter and recently sang soprano in the chancel choir. The worship ministry team is happy to welcome her as a new member in 2024! Her favorite Bible verses are Isaiah 43

Updates / Upcoming

(restoration and protection promised) and Matthew 6:21 (for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also).

Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Margaret was a candy striper at the hospital where she was born and a special needs soccer buddy at her local club. She received her BA in Biology and History from Colgate University in upstate New York. The Oklahoma native then enrolled at the University of Hawaii, Manoa and obtained her masters degree in Developmental and Reproductive Biology. Currently, Margaret works as a tutor, Discovery Center pal and STEM teacher.

An excited Margaret is looking forward to a trip back to Oklahoma during the Christmas holidays to see her parents, sister and their new puppy! Her dad owns a couple of small businesses and her mother is a magistrate judge. Younger sister, Amelia, is studying Russian language at Oberlin University.

In her free time Margaret likes to crochet small creatures and enjoys watching shows on Netflix and YouTube. In addition to being an avid Star Wars fan, she is also training for a 5K. Her food favorites are Caesar salad and anything you can put into a tortilla! When asked about her hidden talent, she confessed to being good at trivia.

Now we know more about Margaret Huntsman, born in March under the astrological sign of Pisces, who pursues educational opportunities and volunteers to help others. Welcome to the Harris family, Margaret!

Submitted by Wally Wake

Poinsettia Orders



Orders will be taken for poinsettia plants to adorn our sanctuary on Christmas Eve, price yet to be determined, depending upon local availability.

These may be purchased in honor or memory of someone. Plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. Watch for more information in upcoming bulletins or see Wally Wake.

Evening Worship

Evening worship will resume the **first Sunday in December, 12/3 at 5:00 pm**. Davy Lee will speak on De. 3 and Jo Tanimoto on January 7.

Advent Bible Study Opportunities

With Rev. Fran Tuesdays Dec. 5, 12 & 19

10:00-11:00am HST "Journey in Hope" (Luke Ch. 1 & 2)

Wednesdays Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13 and 20, 6:00 -7:00pm HST "Making Room for Advent" Call Rev. Fran at 808-927-5949 or send her an email at revdrfran.w@gmail.com for additional information and the ZOOM link to join.

With Rev. John Miyahara and Rev. Brian Lee and JAUMC church members

Tuesdays Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 & 19, 7:00pm MST (4:00pm HST)

Study Guide: "An Unlikely Advent" by Rachel Bilups.

Send an email to Rev. Lee at brianlee9k@gmail.com to get the ZOOM link.

Upcoming

Tis the Season for Singing and Celebration with Na Leo Lani

Na Leo Lani chorus is grateful to Rev. Dr. Fran Wiebenga and the Harris United Methodist community for hosting our upcoming Holiday Concert on **Saturday, December 9 at 3:30 pm**. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or from NLL member, Wally Wake. We hope you will join us!

From our favorite carols to lighthearted tunes, our barbershop harmonies will have you feeling the Christmas spirit at this most joyful time of the year! Following the concert, there will be light refreshments and even a time to do some last minute shopping at our holiday bazaar, featuring handcrafted gifts and vintage items in Miyama Hall. (Please note: bazaar sales will be cash only)

We look forward to celebrating the joy of the season with you!

Blue Christmas is Dec. 16th

Harris UMC will host a Blue Christmas service on **Saturday, December 16 at 5 pm** in the sanctuary. This service recognizes the time of “blue” feelings such as pain, confusion and fear for those who have experienced losses of a loved one, relationships, employment, housing or financial setback. Our church recognizes that this is not a joyous season for everyone and we seek to provide a time and space for acknowledgment, comfort and prayer for those in need.

Christmas Eve Service is Nov. 24



Christmas Eve worship service will begin at **7:45 pm on Sunday, December 24**. Join us for this special Candlelight Service! Hear the beautiful story and sing the glorious hymns of the Birth of Jesus.

EWA BEACH UMC BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
91-660 POHAKUPUNA RD,
EWA BEACH, HI 96706

- Food Items
- Rummage Items
- Silent Auction
- Crafts
- Gift Items
- Potted Plants
- Clothing
- International Plate Lunches (pre-sale)

For more info, please email the church at ebumchurch@gmail.com

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**



Rhythms of Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love

Advent 2023

Sunday Abiding	Monday Mind	Tuesday Body	Wednesday Relationships	Thursday Work & Money	Friday Gospel & Hospitality	Saturday Rest
HOPE 3 WORSHIP As you abide, embrace the HOPE that comes from a Scripture passage.	HOPE 4 LISTEN TO A PODCAST OR READ VERSES ON HOPE	HOPE 5 WALK OR BE OUTSIDE FOR 30 MINUTES	HOPE 6 SPEND TIME WITH A HOPEFUL PERSON	HOPE 7 GIVE \$5 TO SOMEONE WHO COULD USE HOPE	HOPE 8 SHARE A WORD OF HOPE WITH SOMEONE	HOPE 9 GET 8 HRS. OF SLEEP BY GOING TO BED EARLY
PEACE 10 WORSHIP As you abide, embrace the PEACE that comes from a time of silent prayer.	PEACE 11 FAST FROM ELECTRONIC DEVICES (ASIDE FROM EMERGENCIES!)	PEACE 12 DRINK MORE THAN 1/2 GALLON OF WATER	PEACE 13 SPEND TIME WITH SOMEONE YOU TRUST	PEACE 14 REVIEW OR CREATE A FINANCIAL BUDGET	PEACE 15 INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH OR AN EVENT	PEACE 16 GET AWAY AND SPEND 30 MINUTES IN SOLITUDE
JOY 17 WORSHIP As you abide, embrace the JOY of singing a song of celebration.	JOY 18 WRITE DOWN 10 REASONS YOU ARE GRATEFUL	JOY 19 DANCE TO JOYFUL MUSIC FOR 15 MINUTES	JOY 20 A MEAL TO CELEBRATE SOMETHING W/SOMEONE	JOY 21 GIVE LAVISHLY TO SOMEONE OR A CAUSE	JOY 22 HELP SOMEONE FEEL WELCOMED	JOY 23 TAKE 30 MINUTES TO PRAY FOR TOMORROW
LOVE 24 WORSHIP Reflect on the Nativity, and embrace God's LOVE for you.	LOVE 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS BE LOVE INCARNATE!	LOVE 26 STRETCH FOR 15 MIN. AND ASK GOD TO EXPAND YOUR HEART TO PEOPLE DIFFERENT THAN YOU	LOVE 27 BLESS A PERSON'S PET/CHILD	LOVE 28 REFLECT ON 3 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR WORK	LOVE 29 SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S LOVE	LOVE 30 TAKE A LONG WALK IN GOD'S CREATION

Ongoing Ministries

Sandwich Ministry

The Sandwich Ministry meets in the kitchen twice a month and is always seeking volunteers. For more information please contact humc.sandwich.ministry@gmail.com

Soup Ministry

Meets in the kitchen on **Mondays at 6:00 am and Sundays at 7:30 am** to prepare soup for IHS. Contact Linda Matsushita at the church office 808-536-9602 for more information.

Tai Chi

Meets every **Friday at 7:30 am** in Miyama Hall. 7:30am-8:10am exercise class. 8:10am -9:00am Taichi. Contact Sachi Taketa at the church office 808-536-9602.

Ukulele Fellowship

Meets every **Sunday at 9:30 am** in the Music Room 5. Contact Davy Lee

Kids Sunday School K-5th Grade

Meets every Sunday at **9:30am in room 3** and on Zoom. Contact Aunty Rene at rene@ohta.us for more details.

Youth Sunday School 6th -12th

Sundays at 9:30 am in room 16. Contact Skylar Yamamoto for more details. Praise Band every 2nd and 3rd Sunday.

Multimedia Volunteers Needed



The multimedia team is always looking for volunteers! Contact Mahe our Multimedia Director at multimedia@harrisumc.org if interested.



Sunday Worship

Join us every Sunday at 10:45 am in-person or on ZOOM!

Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

For more info about Sunday Worship visit: <https://harrisumc.org/what-to-expect-at-worship/>

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/91546086665?pwd=VTItYm1jbjFYM29vQ1h3ZzgyYWZJUT09>



Meetings & Events

12/3 @ 10:45 am 1st Sunday of Advent
12/10 @ 10:45 am 2nd Sunday of Advent
12/16 @ 5:00 pm Blue Christmas Service
12/17 @ 10:45 am 3rd Sunday of Advent
12/24 @ 10:45 am @ 10:45 am 4th Sunday of Advent
12/24 @ 7:45 pm Christmas Eve Service
12/25 Christmas Day- Church Office Closed
12/31 @10:45 am 1st Sunday After Christmas
1/1 New Years Day—Church Office Closed

Visit the HUMC Facility calendar: <https://harrisumc.org/facility-calendar/> for more events.

General Information

About Harris

Harris United Methodist Church is an Open and Reconciling Congregation where we believe that Jesus embraces all and celebrates in the diversity of humanity. We pray that we demonstrate His love and compassion for everyone through our actions and words.

Together, we share and pray for each other's joys & sorrows. We honor each individual's reflections, thoughts, and prayers. Our Worship Services are intergenerational where children, youth, young adults and young families blend with our adults and kupuna to serve caring and kindness.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Newsletter Deadline

January is a slow month, so the next newsletter will be a combined Jan/Feb issue. Please submit any info by Jan. 22nd to Erin at admin@harrisumc.org

Ways To Give

IN PERSON: Place your donation in the offering box at worship service on Sundays.

BY MAIL: Write a check to Harris United Methodist Church and send to 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813.

ONLINE: Go to harrisumc.org/donate or scan the QR code below with your cellphone's camera app.



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.

Ushers and Greeters Needed

The Ushers and Greeters team needs volunteers for the 10:45 am Sunday worship services. Ushers are the first people that the church attendees and visitors meet when they come to Harris UMC. If you enjoy making people feel welcome, you'll be a great usher! Contact Mel B. at 808-536-9602 or email info@harrisumc.org.

Covenant Ministries

Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto (Japan)
Jonathan McCurley (Japan)
Miguel Mairena (Mexico)

Altar Flowers

You are invited to dedicate altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. Please call the office, 808-536-9602 and indicate your chosen Sunday of dedication, name of honoree and send a check for \$48 to Harris UMC with the memo: Altar Flowers. You may also sign up using the sign up sheet located at the rear of the Sanctuary.



Contact Us!

Harris United Methodist Church
20 S. Vineyard Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 536-9602 Main Office
Office Hours: Mon thru Fri 9am-2pm
<https://harrisumc.org>
info@harrisumc.org

We Are Social!



@harrisumc



@aloha2harrisumc