

Nu'u Vineyard News

APRIL 2024



Palm Procession on Nuuanu Avenue. Palm Sunday, March 24th. *Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto. Continued on Page 4.*

Mahalo for Joining Us!

Thank you for joining us for Holy Week worship services in March. Please join us in April for Sunday worship and preparations for the 2024 Rummage Sale!



The Handbell Ensemble performing during Palm Sunday worship service.

A Message From the Pastor

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This is the greeting that we began worship with on Easter Sunday. My prayer is that it will echo through our mind and heart as we live into this Easter season. The thought for the day on Easter was “Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life.” (Janine DeGiovanni) That is exactly what Easter is.



I confess to you that I have begun watching a few news programs again. I want to know what is going on as we prepare for what is a very important election in November, and also I am curious by nature. Much of what we call news today is negative, and discouraging. I need the message of Easter to remind me that hope, Resurrection and new life is the final answer. As I live into Easter, it helps me to find many signs of new life, and hope.

From the birds singing their lyrical calls to one another early in the morning, to the joy on the faces of those who were singing together or listening to the music during Easter worship, to the resilience of the people of Lahaina and Maui who are beginning to find their way back from the devastation of the fire, I see hope, renewal and new life all around.

Someday I will preach on improvisational theater. In improvising, actors are trained to say, “Yes, and . . .” because that opens the possibility to move on with the sketch. As soon as the actor says, “No!” it stops the flow of the action; it cuts off the possibilities to develop the story or build on the previous dialogue.

Easter is the “Yes, and . . .” that brings God’s renewing power of hope into our lives. The message of Easter helps us move through life knowing there are always possibilities to bring about good, taking advantage of opportunities for ourselves and the ministries of the church to bring help, healing and wholeness. It is God’s creative action and Resurrection power that moves us along in the experiences we have of fellowship, worship and outreach. It is the “Yes” of God’s grace and love that holds us and then calls us to follow Jesus to “feed my lambs,” as we find in the appearance of Jesus to Peter and the disciples in John 21:1-19. And then, when we have done all we are called to do here on earth, Easter is the promise of a new heavenly home.

So let us rejoice in this Easter season, saying “Yes, and . . .” to all the possibilities that make our lives full and meaningful, being grateful for each day, taking advantage of every opportunity to follow Jesus and “feed my lambs.”

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Aloha,

Rev. Dr. Fran Wiebenga

April Worship Services

Sunday, April 7
2nd Sunday of Easter with Communion
Service @ 10:45 am
John 21:1-19
“The First Breakfast”

Sunday, April 14
3rd Sunday of Easter
Service @ 10:45 am
John 4:1-26
“Living Water”

Sunday, April 21
4th Sunday of Easter
Service at 10:45 am
Matthew 13:31-32
“Festival of God’s Creation”

Sunday, April 28
5th Sunday of Easter
Service @ 10:45 am
Guest Speaker: Davy Lee

Photo by Nina Grębowska on Unsplash

Updates

Palm Sunday—March 24



Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto.



Harris Ohana Fun Day— March 10



Fun games at Harris Ohana Fun Day on March 10th.

Harris Preschool



Harris students learn about the life cycle of monarch butterflies.



The preschool students prepare for an egg hunt on March 28th.

Updates

Get Acquainted with our New Members!

Michael & Loretta Montgomery



Our focus this Nuu News is on a couple who joined Harris long distance last year from Phoenix, Arizona:
Miss Loretta and Michael “Rocket” Montgomery!

This couple that we greet on Zoom most Sundays actually met on an Internet dating site 2002! Both were recovering from failed relationships resulting in divorce and according to the couple, “We hit it off right from the start!” A strong commitment to marriage was something they both were seeking.

They eventually met in person in Las Vegas and have been together ever since.

When asked why they decided to join Harris, here is their response. They visited several churches in the Phoenix area but never really felt they belonged. Near the end of the Covid pandemic, Loretta and Michael decided to send some money to her mom’s old church, Harris UMC, in addition to their local church. Loretta’s mother was a member of Harris for 61 years. By this time, Miss Loretta was not able to leave the house due to her illness and the couple hoped someone from their Phoenix church would come to visit

occasionally. Unfortunately that was not the case. Since they could no longer attend church in person, they decided to try an “online” church and Harris was their first choice! After a phone conversation with Rev. Fran, all agreed that a long distance membership was a great answer to their needs.

Miss Loretta and Michael both had careers that demanded a lot so they created a marriage of two “workaholics.” He was an architect with experience and certification in building codes, fire codes, and the Americans With Disabilities Act. Currently he is a building inspector for real estate developers which he loves doing. Miss Loretta was a teacher, first, last and always and loved teaching first graders. Her work ethic and teaching style brought from her birth state of Hawaii made her stand out as an exceptional teacher in her school. Other teachers marveled at how she was able to keep her class and her students organized and focused! Miss Loretta’s American name means “pure”. Her middle name is Shinobu, which means “graceful endurance.” Considering all she has been through, and the grace and good spirits she has maintained through it all, Michael believes Shinobu is the perfect name for her.

Michael is a photography buff while Miss Loretta used her skills to sew, cook, and do cross stitch. In 2008 she won 19 ribbons from the Arizona State Fair for her creations! Miss Loretta was a Girl Scout troop leader, a school tutor, and volunteered at Diamond Head Theatre and Queens Medical Center

Updates

during her time in Hawaii. Over the years this couple has traveled to every major U.S. city as well as trips to Canada, Mexico and Japan. Michael's taste buds lean toward fettuccine alfredo and scallops, while Loretta misses local Hawaiian food like manapua, huli huli chicken, pork hash and Korean barbecue. Michael says there are restaurants in Phoenix that call themselves Hawaiian but they don't even come close to the real thing!

The couple expresses their deep appreciation to Rev. Fran for her personal visit to their home in Phoenix and feels blessed by the welcome, prayers and communication from Harris members. Loretta's favorite Bible verse is: Proverbs 18:24 "The man of too many friends will be broken in pieces and come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." And for Michael, he chooses Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God, that is, for those who are called according to his purpose, all things are working together for good."

Please send your aloha and blessings to Loretta and Michael as they join us from afar for worship and Bible study. Should you wish to drop them a message, their email address is mmontgomery15@cox.net and home address: 11026 N. 27th Ave, Phoenix, AZ. 85029.

Submitted by Wally Wake

Harris Handbell Ensemble



The Harris Handbell Ensemble performing "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" Arr. By Jason W. Krug on March 17th during worship service.

Harris Parking Lot Re-striping



Big mahalo to the Trustees and the Honolulu Community College for organizing and re-striping the Harris parking lot on March 16th.

Updates/Upcoming

United Women in Faith Event



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) held their Mid-Winter Event for Hawaii District on February 24, 2024 at Parker UMC. The program focused on "Healing Community in a Hurting World." Meleanna Meyer, artist, author, teacher, and filmmaker shared a traveling mural called Aina Aloha.



Frontside of the mural showing hope for the 'aina.



Artist Meleanna Meyer.



Backside of the mural depicting pain.

Many artists worked collaboratively to create a mural which depicts the hurts in the history of Hawaii. The front of the mural shows HOPE in the "aina." The back of the mural shows pain in red. Everyone in attendance was touched by Meleanna's healing message.



Attending the event were Rev Fran, Karen Ginoza, Carole Suzui and Karen Hill.

Article and Photos submitted by Karen Ginoza and Karen Hill

United Women in Faith – Spiritual Life Retreat

Come and be inspired by our Spiritual Leader, Rev. Fran Wiebenga and her message about how Jesus offers water to sustain us spiritually. **Sat., April 13th from 9:30am-2:30 pm at Kilohana UMC. Register by April 8th. See attached flyer. Registration fee=\$15.**

Quench the Thirsting of Our Souls

Hawaii District United Women in Faith Spiritual Life Retreat

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
(Registration starts at 9:00 am)

Kilohana United Methodist Church (Niu Valley)
5829 Mahimahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

Registration due by April 8, 2024
Registration fee is \$15

*The scripture theme is **John 4: 1-26** (Living Water). Come and be inspired by our Spiritual Leader, **Reverend Fran Wiebenga** (Harris UMC). Hear her message about how Jesus offers water (which is both living-giving and life-saving), to sustain us spiritually. We invite you to participate in our prayer stations and inspirational craft-making as an opportunity to reflect, meditate and pray, following Rev. Fran's special message.*

Limited number of airfare scholarships are available for neighbor island attendees.

Childcare available for 5 years old and under. (\$25 deposit per family required).

If interested in airfare scholarships or childcare, **prior arrangements must be made.** For requirements, please contact Deanna Espinas at espihawaii@juno.com or call 808-228-6345 by **April 8, 2024.**

Name of church: _____

Contact person: _____ Cell#: _____ Email: _____

Names of attendees:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Mail registration and check to Registrar: Dorinda Dunlap, 1519 Nehoa St. #403, Honolulu, HI 96822. (Check payable to **UWF Hawaii District**). Or email Dorinda at dorindadunlap916@gmail.com and pay at the door on April 13, 2024.

Late registrants are not guaranteed to receive lunch.



United
Women
in Faith

RUMMAGE SALE

April 20, 2024
9:00am to 12:30pm

Clothing



Kitchenware



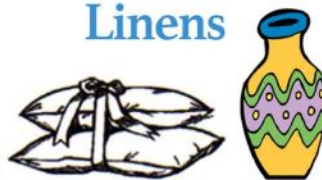
Dishes

Toys & Books



Some
NEW
Items
Available

White Elephant
&
Linens



Refreshments & Baked Goods

** Proceeds to support Harris UMC Ministries
Call 536-9602 for more information*

Upcoming

Evening Worship



Join us for evening worship **Sunday, April 7 at 5:00 pm**. Jo Tanimoto will be delivering the message “Cut it Out!” based on Romans 8:38-39. Potluck dinner to follow.

Rummage Sale—April 20th

Wow, Easter is over---God has indeed renewed us to move forward in our creativity and imagination. With all the good/bad “news” that surrounds us—the answer is in our heart. Trust yourself—let go what you don’t need to own e.g. fear.

Let’s connect in mind, body, spirit as we work together and prepare for our 2024 Rummage Sale. We need everyone’s help to continue the work of our church ministries to outreach to the community. Thank you to those who are helping even your “neighbors” to bring donations to the church. I know we are reluctant and sometimes to commit, but thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help and even take on the leadership role in the various sections. I think the community looks forward to our Rummage Sale as much as we do. The PRICE IS RIGHT for all the treasures/goodies we offer.

Reminder: Dante will be setting up the tables in Miyama Hall on Sunday, April 14th.

Grubby Monday starts at 9:00 am on April 15th to unload the stage and containers of all the donations received that we will need to sort and price for Sale Day, April 20th. Hence, men are welcome and needed....remember this is an All Church event. Light lunch will be served only on

Grubby Monday.

We will be selling home baked goodies; so goodies can be brought to the church on Friday, April 19th in the morning or on Sale Day before the Sale begins. Donations should be pre-wrapped/packaged.

Yes!! The noodles will be cooked by our men for take-out and it was really popular and yummy last year so buy early.

Soft drinks and water will also be sold.

Yes, we know that we are getting older, but didn’t you feel “energized” by the fellowship amongst the volunteers—catching up on the news, getting to know each other and of course serving the public.

If you have not been contacted and want to help, please contact the Section Chair that you worked with last year; or leave a message at the church office, 536-9602 for Annette Okimoto or Sachi Taketa. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Volunteer Opportunities at Nu’uanu YMCA



“Healthy Kids Day” will be held on **April 27 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**. Volunteers are needed to man game booths or popcorn

machine for 2 hour shifts. No experience necessary! They are also looking for volunteers to lead workshops, demonstrations or activities for kupuna or keiki groups Friday afternoons: kupuna from 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Keiki from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. If you’re interested in any of these opportunities please contact Diane Matsuura ~ dianematsuura@outlook.com

Justice for Hawai'i

PONO

VOTE FOR **Petition #20582-IC-R9999 United Methodist Apology for the Illegal Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.**

On January 17, 1893 a group of mostly sugar cane plantation owners seized the independent nation of Hawai'i, aided by 162 U.S. Marines who acted without the knowledge of the U.S. President. The President later concluded the overthrow was illegal and worked to return the Kingdom to its Queen Lili'uokalani. But then a new U.S. President was elected. In 1898, President William McKinley, also a Methodist, annexed Hawai'i without a treaty, against international law, and contrary to the petitions of the Hawaiian people.

Rev. Harcourt W. Peck, who later became Pastor of First Methodist Episcopal Church in Honolulu, took up his rifle to participate in the removal of the monarchy. He succeeded in solidifying Methodism in Hawaii through his continued armed participation with the revolutionaries. Meanwhile, the Queen was arrested and imprisoned in her own palace. Royal lands and property were stolen and the Hawaiian language banned. Today the people of Hawaii continue to experience the after-effects of the overthrow.

As United Methodists, our faith calls us to pursue the path of repentance, reparations, reconciliation, and restoration; to follow the way of Jesus Christ; to live the love of God and seek justice for all who have been harmed by colonialism.

QUEEN LILI'UOKALANI (1838-1917)



Upcoming

General Conference 2024

Planning a big family wedding with dozens of people coming in for a weekend is challenge enough.

But imagine trying to bring more than a thousand people together from four continents for a gathering that lasts two weeks.

They speak 10 languages, have various dietary needs, require multiple hotel rooms and must be able to come together to pray, worship and make decisions that affect millions of United Methodists. Hundreds of these visitors also need visas just to attend.

The assembly, originally planned for 2020 in Minneapolis, is being held from April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dr. Mona Bomgaars is attending as a visitor. Others from Hawaii attending is DS Tom Choi, Rev. Won Seok Yuh, JoAnn Fukumoto, Rev. Amy Wake.

The Hawaii District Acts of Repentance Committee received a \$5,000 grant from Harris Foundation to attend and present the Petition for the United Methodist Apology for the Illegal Overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Here are some other issues that will be raised and voted on at General Conference:

- Remove the harmful language
- Repeal the entire Traditional Plan and all LGBTQ prohibitions.
- Adopt Revised Social Principles
- Adopt Regionalization
- Stop disaffiliations from restarting and expanding

Let us hold our delegates and friends in prayer as they make important decisions for the United Methodist Church.

Contact Karen Ginoza for more information.

Christian Education Scholarship- Harris UMC



Applications for the Christian Education Scholarship Program through the Harris Foundation are available on the website. [https://harrisumc.org/spiritual-formation-](https://harrisumc.org/spiritual-formation-ministries/)

[ministries/](https://harrisumc.org/spiritual-formation-ministries/). Eligibility requirements include being a member/constituent of HUMC or Hawaii District UMC and being a student currently enrolled or accepted into an accredited institution. **Due: April 30th, 2024.**

Na Leo Lani Concert



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 9:00 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

4/1 Easter Monday-Church Office Closed
4/7 @ 5:00 pm Evening Worship, Sanctuary
4/9 @ 5:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting, Room 10- POSTPONED
4/11 @ 6:30 pm Worship Meeting, Zoom
4/13 @ 9:30 am UWF Spiritual Life Retreat, Kilohana UMC
4/15 @ 9:00 am Grubby Monday, Entire Campus
4/18 @ 6:30 pm Spiritual Formations Ministry, ZOOM
4/20 @ 9:00 am Rummage Sale, Entire Campus
4/30 @ 6:00 pm Finance Committee, ZOOM

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

Please submit any info for the May newsletter by **April 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