

# Nu' u Vineyard News

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 JULY 2024 

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The graduates: Marianne Mangayayam, Kai Matsuura, and Maggie Inouye with Rev. Dr. Frances Wiebenga on Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 9th. *Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto. Continued on Page 4.*

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## Mahalo for Your Support!

Thank you for joining us for worship in June. Please join us for July worship services and Harris UMC's Anniversary on July 14th!



Davy Lee delivering the message "The Mustard Seed" (left) and Liturgist, Margaret Huntsmann (right) on June 16th.

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# A Message From the Pastor

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Aloha Harris Ohana,

July begins a new appointment year in the United Methodist Church. There are quite a few changes in the Hawaii District, and we are asked to keep all of the Hawaii churches and pastors in our prayers especially this month as both pastor and church people get to know one another.



I am grateful to be returning to Harris UMC for the second year. My original commitment was to be an interim pastor for one year, but I trust that God has great things in store for us as we begin another year together. This is just an example of how God works with us, guiding us and leading us. One of my mentors in years past was a woman I looked to for guidance and wisdom, and she would often say, "Isn't it fun to see God at work." I remember that often, and it helps me to know that the Holy Spirit is at work in the church and in all of us, bringing us into relationships and opportunities that are beyond our earthly understanding. And these relationships and opportunities are always for our good and our well being, helping us grow in the grace of the Risen Christ.

So, as we pray for the Hawaii United Methodist Churches, I also ask for your special prayers for Harris UMC and for me as your pastor for this year. I ask for your prayers for the pastor who will come to the church after this year, for the one who either was not ready, or not available to come until next year. I ask for your prayers for the good work we will do together during this year. It will be our privilege to worship together, sing and play music together, enjoy the opportunities of the study groups and the Spiritual Formation Ministries, and as we care for one another and support our missions and ministries.

July is not quite like the New Year, but almost. I know we begin again with open hearts, ready to receive God's blessings with joy and gratitude.

Rev. Fran



# July Worship Services

Sunday, July 7  
7th Sunday After Pentecost  
with Communion

Service @ 10:45 am

*Traveling Light*

Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 14  
8th Sunday After Pentecost

Service @ 10:45 am

*Celebrating Our Legacy*

Ephesians 1:11-14

Sunday, July 21  
9th Sunday After Pentecost

Service at 10:45 am

*Jesus Proclaims Peace*

Ephesians 2:17-22

Sunday, July 28  
10th Sunday After Pentecost

Service at 10:45 am

*Preaching with Bread and Fish*

John 6:1-15

Photo by [Christopher Paul High](#) on



# Updates

## Worship Services



Christian Scholarship Recipient, Marianne Mangayayam (left) and Iolani High School Graduate, Kai Matsuura (right) on Graduate Recognition Sunday.



Youth Praise Band on the 4th Sunday after Pentecost—June 16th



Nanami Mata on the organ during June 16th worship service.



Hospitality, George Nabea (left), and Song Leader Diane Matsuura (right).



Summer Intergenerational Ukulele group performance during worship service on June 30th.



# Updates

## Rev. Dr. Frances Wiebenga

Here are some interesting facts about our current interim pastor that may surprise and delight you!

Frances Marie Wiebenga was named for her grandmother and has Dutch ancestry on both her parents' sides. Born in the midwest (Michigan), she spent most of



her childhood in Venice, Florida. The midwest called her back and she attended Hope College in Holland, MI where she majored in music. Continuing her education, Fran enrolled in Southern Methodist University where she obtained a master's degree in music and spent time as a music and piano teacher. At SMU she became interested in theater and dance and was a choreographer and actor!

Seattle, WA was her next stop where she discovered the United Methodist Church and her call to ministry. She is a graduate of Claremont School of Theology, where she obtained both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. The California-Pacific Annual Conference has been her home since then. Rev. Fran has served churches in South Central LA, West Los Angeles, and Santa Maria, CA. before being appointed to Hilo and Wahiawa UMC.

In her free time Fran likes to swim, play the guitar and piano. Her travels have taken her to hike the Grand Canyon, and camp in Yosemite and Redwoods National Parks. Fran and Walter enjoyed trips to India, Kenya, Ireland and Machu Picchu. She enjoys art museums and the Getty Museum, north of LA, is one of her favorites. Open your Bibles to Galatians 5:22-23 to read Rev. Fran's favorite Bible verse.

Fran was asked, "What motivated you to come out of retirement and take the interim position as pastor at Harris?" Here is her response.....



"Many of you knew my husband, Walter Killough, who was a member of Harris UMC when he lived in Honolulu. We got married in 2008 and he passed away in August 2022. I gave myself a year to mourn, and I appreciate the help of grief support groups and counselors during that time.

Toward the end of that year I began to be ready to think beyond that time of mourning, and had just wondered what I would like to do when I received a call from DS Lee about coming to Harris UMC. God really does work in mysterious and wonderful ways, and I give thanks that God knew that to complete the



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# Updates

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healing of my loss of Walter I needed to be in the church, with other people of faith. So, after a short time of prayer and discernment, I said ‘yes.’ I am truly grateful to be here at Harris UMC as your interim pastor.”

Here is her answer when asked to share facts that would surprise us... After she retired in 2014, Rev. Fran practiced yoga and has a 500 hour Yoga teaching credential. Her nearby yoga studio closed because of the pandemic, or she might be a yoga teacher today! In addition, Rev. Fran has practiced Contemplative Prayer for many years and actually enjoys reading and studying Theology!

And finally, this interviewer had to ask...You seem so organized and aware of deadlines - what’s your time management secret? Years ago Fran was able to go to a day-long “planner school” when the Franklin planner was at its most popular. Tips are to use one planner (although she uses one for worship/Sunday planning and has one for everything else). Set short term and long term goals and review them frequently and see the preparation that needs to be done for what is coming up. She is really aware that if she doesn’t fulfill her own goals and what needs to be done for the ministry of the church, it impacts the staff and their time, and the congregation and our worship experience. “Even more important, I think it is part of our

spiritual experience to be mindful of how our lives intertwine and interact, and I want to bring the best experience possible for all of us together, in all that I do.”

*Submitted by Wally Wake*

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## Nuu News Articles

For the past couple of years we have featured interviews with our Harris staff and new members in the Nuu News.

Are there other people you would like to learn more about? If so, please contact Wally Wake, wakew052563@gmail.com who will be taking time off for the August issue to be with family.

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## Experiencing the 2024 California-Pacific Annual Conference

As elected delegates from Harris to the Cal-Pac annual conference there was work to be done before our June travels to LA!

1. Attendance at the District conference meeting May 11 from 1-3 pm
2. Reading the 82 page Preliminary Report received one week prior to the annual conference. The Report contained 28 reports from conference committees and 6 recommendations, 11 resolutions and 3 rule changes - to be voted upon during the Plenary sessions.
3. Two days prior to our departure we attended the District pre-conference briefing from 3 -4:45 pm.

On June 12 at the registration table we received an additional 9 page participant guide.

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# Updates/Upcoming

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The theme of the conference was Flourish - a word designed to encourage us to do well and bloom in our own lives, in the community we are serving, and in our churches. Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank urged us to go deep with the people that surround us and flourish with the people we notice, those we don't, and the ones who are invisible, and those who are suffering.

A barefoot Bishop Dottie delivered her open, welcoming message by urging us to set our churches free from the shackles/bonds that constrain us. End spiritual hunger by 1) building relationships with people, 2) tell the stories of Jesus, 3) work on making our spaces/places of warmth and love. Ask the possibilities of ..... "what if?"

Another highlight featured the Acts of Repentance video, and presenters Rev. Amy Wake from Trinity UMC and native Hawaiian, Colette Anderson from Waianae UMC. In addition, a special conference offering was taken for Susannah Wesley Community Center in the heart of Kalihi.

On the schedule for the 1,000+ attendees were 6 worship services and 6 plenary sessions. Efforts at improving communication were evident with screens displaying translations in English, Spanish and Korean. For a few of the sessions, American Sign Language interpreters were available. Each lunch or dinner had a special focus and celebration. Natividad (Naty) Lagaso from Aldersgate UMC received the Bishop's award for her devotion and service to the conference.

The Board of Ordained Ministry welcomed back one person whose orders were surrendered many years ago, but who is now entitled to have them back under the General Conference's decision this year to reinstate those who had their orders removed or surrendered them due to their sexual

orientation, gender identity, or for celebrating a same gender wedding or union.

We also welcomed one person transferring under our new Safe Sanctuary policy, which expedites the transfer process for those who are transferring to our conference due to incompatibility in their conference or denomination with their own sexual orientation, gender identity or stance on same sex weddings. The 2024 Conference culminated with the commissioning and ordination of new deacons and elders

This was the second year no Conference budget was presented but was delayed until the special session in October. Hawaii again was the highest district in the conference in paying apportionments for 2023. Our district has always paid 100% or close to 100% ever since we became a district in 1967!

*Submitted by Lorraine Kadooka and Wally Wake*

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## Evening Worship



Join us for Evening Worship **Sunday, July 7th at 5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary with a potluck following service. Davy Lee will deliver the message "Brilliance" based on Hebrews 1:1-3.

## Peace Bell Ringing



Join us **August 6th at 9:00 am** in the Harris Courtyard for a short prayer for peace. This is the anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, Japan.

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# Ongoing Ministries

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## Evening Worship

Evening worship meets the **first Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary with a potluck following service. Contact Davy Lee for more information.

## Royukai

The Royukai Senior Fellowship meets on the **3rd Thursday of every month from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm** in Komuro Lounge. Contact Jo Tanimoto at the church for more info.

## 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](mailto: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

On break for summer. Will resume in August. Contact Aunty Rene at [rene@ohta.us](mailto:rene@ohta.us) for more details.

## Youth Sunday School 6th -12th

On break for summer. Will resume in August. Contact Skylar Yamamoto for more details.



## 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

7/4 INDEPENDENCE DAY, Church Office Closed

7/7 @ 5:00 pm Evening Worship, Sanctuary

7/9 @ 5:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting, Room 10

7/11 @ 6:30 pm Worship Team, ZOOM

7/14 @ 10:45 am Anniversary Sunday, Sanctuary

7/18 @ 9:30 am Royukai Senior Fellowship, Komuro Lounge

7/18 @ 6:30 pm SFM, ZOOM

7/30 6:00 pm Finance Committee, ZOOM

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



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# General Information

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## 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 August newsletter by Monday, **Aug. 26th** to Erin at [admin@harrisumc.org](mailto:admin@harrisumc.org)

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## 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@harrisumc.org)

## We Are Social!



@harrisumc



@aloha2harrisumc