



# *NCC News* September 3, 2017



*A Weekly Newsletter of Nu'uaniu Congregational Church*

## **Summer Worship Time - 9:30 a.m. through September**

Just a reminder that our summer worship time is at 9:30 a.m.

The 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship hour will stay in place through the month of September. This will give the Church Council time to act on a proposal by the Diaconate to keep the 9:30 a.m. worship hour on a permanent basis.

The reasons behind the proposal are two:

- 1) 9:30 a.m. may be more convenient for families with young children. Often, Sunday is the only day of the week when families with small children can enjoy a more relaxed beginning of the day, and it perhaps might be easier for them to consider participation in worship if we were to begin the service a little later.
- 2) If the beginning time of worship is 9:30 a.m., the choir practice can take place prior to worship, beginning at 8:15 a.m. instead of the usual warm-up at 8:30 a.m.  
If choir practice can take place before worship, adult education classes can be held after morning worship and free up choir members who might want to take advantage of educational opportunities. The Diaconate believes that adult education for adults is a top priority for the church in these days of religious change.

The Church Council will act on this proposal at its September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Before the 19<sup>th</sup>, anyone who has strong feelings about this proposal to make the 9:30 a.m. worship time permanent are invited to express their feelings in writing or by phone to **Laurie Hamano**, our Moderator, or **Mabel Suzuki**, the chair of the Diaconate. Your prayerful consideration of this proposal is encouraged.



## Give Aloha - Month of September

Heads up! We are once, again, participating in Foodland's Give Aloha program during the month of September. Foodland and their partner, Western Union, will match a portion of any contribution made to NCC through the store. At any Foodland or Sack n' Save store, you may make a contribution to NCC (pledge, special offering) up to \$249 per Maika'i card. Foodland does not provide us with the names of donors, so please place your receipt in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Be sure the receipt has your name and type of giving, so we may credit your giving account properly.

All contributions and matching grants will be returned to NCC in October. Be good stewards and help us raise money for our ministries. The more you give through this program, the more Foodland and Western Union will give back to the community....and to our church! Mahalo!



## Pastor's Vacation

From **September 4 until September 26**, **Neal** will be on vacation. He will be traveling to Nova Scotia, to the place where he spent the first years of his life, and where, as he says, he will be enjoying "visiting his family, especially his brother Ian: walking along the 500 year-old-dykes built by the French Acadians; viewing the Bay of Fundy tides, the highest in the world; eating lobster and Digby scallops; enjoying the farm produce of the late summer; and, perhaps, seeing the beginning of the fall colors."

In his absence, **Wally Ryan Kuroiwa** will be preaching, leading the Wednesday evening Lectionary Study, and offering pastoral assistance if needed.

## Office Help Needed



**Paula** will be on vacation **October 6 through October 23**. If you are able to volunteer in the office, please see her. Mahalo to those who have already signed up. Your help is much appreciated!

## Lectionary Bible Study

The Wednesday evening Lectionary Bible Study has resumed. After a simple supper at 5:30 p.m. on the Fellowship lanai, participants gather with Neal to study the scripture readings for each forthcoming Sunday. All are welcome.

## **UCC Emergency Aid Appeal - Hurricane Harvey**



The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal to help with long term recovery following Hurricane Harvey — a catastrophic storm that has already displaced thousands of Texans and left more than thirty people dead.

The needs of our sisters and brothers in Texas are great, and they face a long road to recovery. Please continue to pray for all who have been affected by this disaster, as well as for all who are assisting with the relief and recovery efforts.

In times like this and through our generous gifts we show not only our care for one another, but also the healing and helping hand of God who is “*our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*” (Psalm 46:1). Join in the response to help by making a contribution. Checks may be written to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with “Hurricane Harvey” on the memo line. Thank you for your caring and compassion.

### **Pastor Neal’s Sermons**

Pastor Neal’s sermons may be downloaded from our website at [www.nuuanu.org](http://www.nuuanu.org). Click on the “Worship” tab. Printed copies are still available for those who prefer a hard copy.

The New Beginnings small group led by Laurie Hamano and Gail Wenos offer these prayers for each day of this coming week. You are invited to use them as a guide for your daily prayers.

Verse of the week:

*We can make our plans, but the Lord directs our steps.*  
Proverbs 16:9

MONDAY:

Begin this day with prayers of thanksgiving for all of the blessings that God has given NCC through the years. Thank God for the positive impact it has had in individual lives and in the community in the past. Thank God that He does have a purpose and a mission for us in the future.

TUESDAY:

As the home groups continue to meet, pray that God's presence would be felt as people share their thoughts and ideas.

WEDNESDAY:

Ask God to open our minds and hearts to discern God's mission for NCC.

THURSDAY:

Ask God to give us clarity and wisdom as we seek to understand the difference between a membership church and a missional church.

FRIDAY:

Father, help us to let go of our wants and needs of the past, so we can be free to follow your leading as you show us Your mission.

SATURDAY:

As we continue to pray, ask God to restore our unity, energy, hope, and faith as we complete this process.