

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ  
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***Stand and Forgive -  
...Everyone?***

Someone was walking slowly in front of me blocking my path. He turned and said, *"Forgive my limping along like this? I have a pebble in my shoe! I am in such a hurry that I do not have time to stop and remove it!"*

One of the great gifts we receive from Jesus in our recollection and celebration of Holy Week is the courage to be able to stand alone for the core values each of us commits to honor in the way we expresses faithful integrity. Jesus believed in God's intent for his life to be lived as a purposeful witness. He demonstrated how forgiveness also includes an encounter with suffering and change which can be misunderstood and as a result will challenge others to re-think their humanity. This forgiveness is extended to those who turn away, oppose, and oppress as well as any people who feel either shut out or over-protective of the cultures in which we live.

It all might seem to be counter productive! Forgiveness has a way of confronting and provoking resistance. Any real life offer of grace and our assurance of being able to act, speak, and express our faith in truthfulness may be unwelcomed.

I think Christianity calls for faithfulness to not be defensively self-

demanding. It calls for service to open doors to deeper truths as people reveal both their hopes and their prejudices. Then perhaps we can move beyond anticipating or erecting insurmountable barriers blocking the ways for any working together to build stronger bonds of relationship.

What often gets us into to trouble is expecting our views should be embraced by people who come from diverse opportunities and experiences. We all have something to learn from each other. We all have something to contribute. We all have gifts and insights which can enrich one another through cooperative efforts.

Yet, we also know that not everyone can agree with everyone. Sometimes the good we would stand for will require us to stand alone in the face of opposition. In fact, such standing alone may serve to clarify the differences and hard choices that need to be made. To be able to patiently love our opposition in such a circumstance may not change them to our satisfaction. However, if we can hear one another without rejecting their humanity and the spirit of their sincerity, we may open a door for others and ourselves to learn something about ourselves we had never expected.

So in his trial, I hear Jesus responding to his accusers charge that he claims to be the Messiah with the words, ***“You have said that it is so!”*** And this opens for us the door way that reveals to us how God’s love has not condemned them, but their own words have confounded their assertions.

Then, we hear the words from Jesus’ suffering on the cross, ***“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”*** Here, we discover for ourselves a triple truth: - those who crucified Jesus did not know the impact of their actions; - so perhaps, we ourselves need to exercise this same forgiveness because we do not know the fuller extent of our own actions; – and we are challenged to remember *God embraces everyone* in his son’s suffering love and acceptance.

*May this Easter Season bless  
you with the Gift of God’s  
enduring love, - Pastor Tom*  
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### ***Notes from Pastor John . . .***

Wow ! – was that a month that just went by? It seems like our plane just touched down in Hilo. Time does have a way of flying by – and not just when you’re having fun (which we are!).

Time and love share an important quality: they are best kept when they are used. The phrase “saving time” can be misleading, if by it we think that we can store up time for use at a later date. Time moves independently of our control of it.

The best of our times unfold when we use the opportunities that present themselves in the moment they come. For some moments, and some opportunities, do not repeat. So it is with love. Waiting for another day to express our love in word or deed can be a risky thing. Some moments, some opportunities, do not repeat.

That does not mean we need to exhaust ourselves in every moment, filling the time with as much frenzied activity as possible and never taking time to rest. To reflect. To pray. Time, like love, needs moments for quiet renewal. That underscores the value of keeping Sabbath in our lives.

As I look forward to our remaining two months with you, I am excited about times engaged in ministry among you – as well as times spent oceanside and in forests and on lava flows. For such times and opportunities belong to this moment which has come to us as a loving gift. From God. From this congregation.

Mahalo!

In Christ’s service,

*John Indermark*

**Holy Week  
events and activities  
at your Church of the Holy  
Cross**

***Palm Sunday, March 24th***, our sister churches which meet on our campus are invited to join us for this special ***Intergenerational Hands-On Worship Service at 10:00 AM***

**The afternoon of March 24, Palm/Passion Sunday,** Adelino Enicar and Sisincher Shorey will be married in our Sanctuary at 2:00 PM.

**SENIOR MINISTRY  
WILL NOT MEET  
MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 28  
(NEXT MEETING APRIL 25)**

**The afternoon of March 28, Maundy Thursday,** Alan Domingo and Freida Kingery will be married in our Sanctuary at 1:00 PM.

**Thursday evening, Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 PM** we will observe Holy Communion in a Tenebrae Service recalling the Last Supper of Jesus and his arrest.

**Good Friday, March 29, from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM** Pastor John Indermark will lead a prayer service vigil observing the suffering of Jesus on the Cross.

**Saturday, March 30 at 9:00 AM – Egg Dyeing** in J's Café (the old Kitchen). All are welcome to come join the creative fun and the wonderful results. Wear old clothes.

**EASTER SUNDAY, March 31  
Community Sunrise Service  
around 6:00 AM  
(at a location to be announced).**

**EASTER SUNDAY - 8:30 AM hiding Easter Eggs** around the campus. **8:45 AM Children's Easter Egg Hunt** and

activities meeting in the Lounge.

**EASTER Worship at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary Celebrating Jesus' Resurrection**

- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF choir room Sunday morning.
- **The Samoan Church** worships at 3 pm Sunday.

**Events The Week after Easter**

**Monday Night Bible Study** with Pastor John Indermark 6:30 PM Pastor Tom's office.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** with Pastor John Indermark 9:30 -11:00 AM Pastor Tom's office.

**IYAA Bible Study** in the Lounge 7:30 PM

**Friday, April 5 – Decorating the Holy Cross float for the Merrie Monarch Parade** in the Church Parking Lot Morning and afternoon.

**Saturday, April 6 - Merrie Monarch Festival Parade** – meet before 8:00 am

**HEALTHY KIDS DAY AT THE YMCA** is a fun-filled day with informational booths, demonstrations on healthy life styles, carnival-like games, contests, food and

entertainment. Admission free. Games and food will be charged a nominal fee. All proceeds will be used to support existing Y programs by providing financial aid to families who participate in our programs which build healthy body, mind and spirit.

Each year the Island of Hawaii YMCA offers an event for our community that will help families have fun through active play and educational opportunities to improve health and well-being. This year the event will be held on **Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 10:00am-2:00pm at the YMCA Lanikaula St.**

#### **YOUR MESSENGER'S NEW FORMAT AND DELIVERY:**

The US Postal Service issued new guidelines for bulk mail at the end of January, 2013. These regulations mean we will not be able to send the "MESSENGER" in the folded over legal size format we have used in the past. We now will be using 8 ½ x 11 paper and inserting the Messenger in 9x6 inch envelopes for mailing. The labeling process has also changed for us to conform to the new guidelines. As we adjust to these changes there are sure to be some delays in printing and delivery as we accustom the preparation and assembly of the Messenger to conform with the changed requirements. Please be patient as we adjust.

**APPLICATIONS AND KEY PICK-UP** for use of the Building of Faith and other church facilities will only be received **ON FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM 9:00-11:30 am**. Pastor Tom will be available to discuss any requests only during these Friday hours.

**The CARE GIVERS SUPPORT GROUP** will meet in the Building of Faith from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, April 9.

**"There comes a time, to step away from all the drama and those who create it. To surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Forget the bad, and focus on the good. Love the people who treat you right; pray for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy. Falling down is a part of life, getting back up is living."** *(Sent in by an e-mail)*