

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ  
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September 18, 2013

***IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL!***

James Yoshiyama, Woody Kita, and I went to the Visitor Center on Mauna Kea on Thursday evening September 5. I had asked them if we could go up to see the stars before I leave. As we drove up it looked like we would be covered with fog bound clouds. As we got out and ate our sandwiches, while waiting for the sun to set, it was cold and still hazy. It seemed to get colder, so I layered up not only with the sweater I had brought, but with a jacket from Woody, and gloves and a hat that also covered my ears from James. I had to peek out at what we hoped would be the universe, but the clouds hung around until the sun set.

We went into the Visitor Center to warm up and wait for the darkness to engulf us. It did not look promising. But slowly there was an inauspicious glow from the setting sun and the fog bound clouds peeled away into the night's darkness. Car lights began to descend from higher up on the mountain.

Then a bright glow was over to our right as we looked into the direction of the frail sunset over Kona. Was it a star or a planet? We soon learned the bright, bright glow was the planet Venus and we got to view it through one of the telescopes. Then another bright glow to the left of the first – this was Saturn whose rings we could see through another telescope.

More stars, planets, and satellites began to appear. The Earth's sky had cleared for us. Thousands, maybe billions of stars graced the sky above us far away back over our heads from sunset to the east where the Sun would rise in the morning. It was hard to keep our balance and to take the vastness of the heavens all in, universe after universe. From one horizon to another we could see the dizzying arch of the Milky Way as we looked, it is the Milky Way – BUT not only was it

supposedly above us, "***we were really in the middle of it all!***" It was wonderful to behold and amazing to consider our humanity within the scope of all that was around and above us – and which engulfed us on the horizon of Mauna Kea.

Our smallness in this vast bigness – I forgot to be cold.

There was a laser pointer held by a volunteer. When the laser first came on it looked like a distant star or planet had sent a green beam of light directly to the Visitor Center and picked us out from a place of distant origin. But, then it went off, and when it was shown again it looked like the volunteer was now sending a light back in response.

***We were not alone. None of us are!*** I often say to my family "When you look at the moon at night – remember I am looking at the same moon 4,500 miles away – we are watching it together." The same universe of heaven embraces the whole earth – we are one with all that God has given us – we need to respect and honor the creation of all that is which gives us life and breath.

I wanted to go up on Mauna Kea to hold in my memory the great expanse of the universe of heavens above us and uniting us. I am sure to look up at the sky from wherever I am after I retire and to remind myself of the greater glory that encompasses us all every day in every way – I will see what is shining down on you and remind myself ***we are together in the middle of all that surrounds us*** – and I will thank God for the expanse of the togetherness we have shared in the promise, forgiveness, and love of Jesus Christ. And, I will look for a reflection of your gaze in the people around me.

*Warmest Blessings,  
Pastor Tom*

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440 West Lanikaula St., Hilo, 96720

## Moderator's Message

### Walking Through Pastoral Transition

Aloha,

First I would like to thank the congregation for your prayers during this time of transition. I encourage you to keep celebrating with Pastor Tom. There will be an Aloha celebration in the Building of Faith later in October, more details when they are firmed up (5:00pm – Saturday, October 26.)

The Interim Pastor Search committee (Church Council and Pastoral Relation Committee) has met weekly since our first early September meeting the Reverend Diane Weible –HIUCC Associate Conference Minister- who is our mentor and guide for the transition. The committee has studied the Transition guide for the Interim search and has completed the evaluation of the skills that an interim pastor should have. Now, we are in the process of looking at the resumes based on the skills that apply to our congregation.

I encourage you to review the UCC Transition guide, copies on the library shelf in the back of the sanctuary or read on line at the following:

<http://www.ucc.org/ministers/pilgrimage.html>.

We are in phase two transition time. The skills for an interim can be found in the resource guide for that section. Please keep the committee in your prayers and continue to read Isaiah 43 during this time.

Peace be with you,  
Sue

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**OCTOBER 13, 2013**

### After worship

The next General Membership Meeting of Church of the Holy Cross will be held after worship on Sunday October 13, 2013. We will be discussing and adopting the annual budget for 2014. It is included in the messenger for your review. Please review and ask questions to me or any of the board chairs or the treasurer. We welcome your questions and input.

I requested all chairs and members of the boards to serve one more year to aid in the transition process. Some members may not continue but most have accepted to stay on. If you feel that you would like to join a board please see me, Pastor Tom or any of the board chairs. All boards welcome new members and would appreciate your service.

Since our slate of officers and board members will be remaining stable we will also be approving this slate at the General Membership meeting. The slate will be sent in the next messenger.

Please plan to stay for the meeting as all inputs are important to the life of our church.

Grace and Blessings,  
Suzanne Smith  
Moderator  
Church of the Holy Cross

## THERE IS REST TO BE FOUND

I sit in the parsonage today, a little over halfway through my stay at Holy Cross, looking makai over the houses of Hilo. In the distance, water glistens. A calm blue sky stretches overhead, filled with bright clouds, and I feel at rest, thousands of miles from the busy pace of life on the mainland.

Times like this are wonderful, filled with new friends and space for reflection, exercise, and reading. At times like this, stepping outside my regular rhythm of work, home, and life, it's easy to feel at rest. We all do this: taking vacations from our routine duties, or finding space on the weekend to cook, commune with nature, or pursue hobbies that spark our passion.

Such times are special – but they can't last forever. The reality is that our lives are filled with work, family, and other responsibilities, and these are good and noble causes. At times, we may put these pursuits on hold, but we can never forget that they, ultimately, bring great richness and meaning into our world. A life spent escaping them turns out to be both boring and a waste.

I'm thankful to come to Hilo and spend time resting, praying, and growing to know this community. But ultimately, whether I find myself in Hilo, or Los Angeles, or anywhere else around the world, whether I am rested or not is not determined by *where* I am, but *with whom* I find myself. In 2 Corinthians 3:17, the Apostle writes that "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" – freedom from weariness, from exhaustion, from the pressures of daily life.

Maybe you're weary from a long week of work, growing restless in retirement, or feeling energized and excited about a new stage in your life; no matter who or where you are, you will find rest and refreshment as you draw near to God.

Much love,  
Jason Chu

## Give Aloha in September

During the month of September, you can donate up to \$249 to each non-profit organization participating in Foodland's Give Aloha campaign. Foodland will then pass on your gift to the organization along with an additional donation. Listed below is the donation number for:

**Church of the Holy Cross 77840**

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## Caregivers Meeting

Our next meeting will be on  
Tuesday, October 8, 2013.

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Building of Faith

\*We meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

Church of the Holy Cross,  
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo

### **Neighbors in Need Special Offering**

Neighbors in Need is the annual offering to support the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). This offering, which we will receive on October 6th supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two thirds of the offering is used to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. One third supports the Council for American Indian Ministries.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM which is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps you make another world possible.

### **New Associate Conference Minister**

This last year, the Hawai'i Conference has been in search for an associate conference minister, and I am pleased to announce that the search has successfully concluded.

The Conference Council, meeting last Saturday, September 7, 2013, received the nomination of the search committee and unanimously voted to call the **Rev. Dr. Donald Schmidt** as an associate conference minister.

Donald is currently the Pastor of Admiral Congregational Church in Seattle, Washington. Prior to that, he served churches in Hawaii. including Waiola (2002-08) and Ka Hana 'o Ke Akua (1997-99). While in Hawai'i, he was active in association and Conference settings, including serving as Moderator of the Hawaii Conference in 2005-06. He is also a musician, composer, writer and editor, and his writings and works have appeared in books, journals and Sunday school curricula.

Donald will be wrapping up his ministry in Seattle and will then join us in Hawaii beginning January 2, 2014. His ministry responsibilities will be determined and announced after he arrives and in consultation with me and other Conference staff.

I am extremely grateful for the excellent work of the Conference Personnel Committee, which was charged to carry out the important search task. The committee is chaired by Joanne Nakashima (Hanapepe LICC), and its members include Anne Sadayasu (Church of the Holy Cross), David Iliia (Lihu'e Christian), Dominic Inocelda (Pearl City), Ka'onohi Lee (Keawala`i), and Madeline Igawa (Kawaiaha'o). Assisting the committee in the search process were Roberta Jahrling Chair of the Conference Council: Lori Yamashiro, conference staff, and myself.

Rev. Charles Buck

### **Hawai'i Island Association United Church of Christ 'Aha Mokupuni**

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Hilo Coast United Church of Christ 28-1630 Old Mamalahoa Highway, Honomu

Agenda includes worship and reports

Driving Directions: From Hilo, head North on Hawaii Belt Road (HI-19). Turn left on Honomu Road and go up the hill. Turn left at the stop sign and go past the community center. The church will be on the left. For more information contact Association President Keola Downing at keola@hilobay.com or 808-965-9008

### **SENIOR MINISTRY**

The September Senior Ministry session will be held on Thursday the 26th, at 10am. In addition to ono grinds, Woody Kita will be our speaker. He will share information about the UCC General Synod that he recently attended. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Senior Ministry bulletin board. It is a **MUST COME** session as you would not want to miss what Woody has to share.

### **Need TVs**

The Church of the Holy Cross is requesting donations for working old flat screen TVs to replace our old TVs. If you have a TV that you would like to donate, please contact the Church office at 808-935-1283.

### **SAEKO HAYASHI IS GOING TO JAIL FOR A GOOD CAUSE - YOU CAN HELP**

Yep, she's a Jailbird. And pretty proud of it.

Saeko Hayashi is taking part in the **Hilo Lock-Up 2013 benefiting the Muscular Dystrophy Association**. As a Jailbird, "I'm working to raise my bail via donations from my friends and family, all of which go to help MDA."

MDA is dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, ALS and other neuromuscular diseases. At the same time, the Association provides health care and support services for people living with these diseases — right here in our community.

Please consider supporting her fundraising efforts with a tax-deductible donation. It's easy!

Thanks in advance for joining the fight against muscle disease. Remember, every breakout means more breakthroughs for MDA. She'll keep you posted on her progress.

P.S.: Please help spread the word to your friends and colleagues.

### Request for Participants and Donors

The Board of Stewardship and Mission is inviting members and friends to join us in the **Walk to End Alzheimer's**. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, it will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at the Prince Kuhio Plaza. Registration is from 9-10 am, the Walk is from 10-11 am, and Awards will be at 11 am. All funds raised stay on the Big Island to help provide free assistance to those who need help and for their family members year-round. Over 3,000 people on the Island of Hawaii are diagnosed with some form of dementia. This year, included with the walk will be a health fair with displays and other health information at the mall.

Registration forms will be available at the back of our sanctuary. Our Team's name is "Church of the Holy Cross". Please join us for the walk, which will be a leisurely walk – our own speed and distance, or sign up to be a sponsor for one of the team members. (More information will be available on whom you may sponsor.) Last year our team came in third in the most money raised. We used the certificates we won to help buy materials for the pillowcase dresses our church members made for young girls in foreign countries. We want to continue to help out our community, so please join us in this very worthy activity. Thank you very much!

### Sakura Ensemble

The Sakura Ensemble will be making their 4th ecumenical tour to Japan this Sept and Oct. Annu Shionoya and Jean Pierre Thoma will be accompanied by Miyeko Yamane and her husband, Reverend Susumu Yamane, Minister Emeritus of The Church of the Holy Cross in Hilo.

The concert presentations will include good will concerts throughout the country:

1. **OZU UCC Church in Aso, Kyushu**
2. **Budo No Ki-Grape Tree-Life Care Center in Aso**
3. **Kobe UCC Lutheran Seminary Chapel**
4. **Reverend Kagawa UCC Kansai Gaquin Church celebrating the Oct 6 World Communion Day of Prayer in Kobe 5, 6 & 7.**
5. **West Tokyo Union Church service**

Several presentations of combined music and sumie art with renowned artist Eika Hoshinob in Ofunato and Soma in the Fukushima/Tohouku region at churches, schools and government housing which have been arranged through the assistance of the good-will organization TOHOUKU HELP which has done so much in the aftermath of the quake, tsunami and radiation disaster.

Please keep these travelers in your prayers throughout their journey.

### SAVE CANCELLED STAMPS!

The Women's Fellowship continues to collect cancelled postage stamps. These stamps are sent to a village in Germany and to New York. The stamps help to support disabled persons in the communities. Just leave a little margin around the stamp and bring them to church. There is a box for these stamps in the back of the church.

### Weekly activities at your Church of the Holy Cross

- **Choir Practice** is at 8:30am in the Sanctuary on Sundays.
- **Sunday School** at 8:45am.
- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday at 3 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF meeting room this morning.
- **Samoan Church** worships at 1pm on Sundays.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in BF meeting room at 1pm today.
- **Bible Study** Monday 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Gentle Yoga** Monday 9:30-10:30am (BF Meeting Room)
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class** meets Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. (BF)
- **Bible Study** Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m.
- **IYAA Bible Study** is held each Wednesday evening from 7:30 p.m.
- **Qi Goong exercise class** meets Friday morning 9-10:30 a.m. (BF)
- **Toastmasters** meet in the Lounge Tuesdays at 12pm

### September PRAYER LIST: Birthdays

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 18 | Kusinski, Joy   |
| 19 | Chin, John  |
| 21 | Kondo, Jennie<br>Matsui, Dorothy<br>Tanouye, Lolita   |
| 22 | Mathews, Travis<br>Murai, Emily                       |
| 24 | Jacobson, Florence<br>Nakamura, Greg<br>Sagawa, Kevin |
| 25 | Torigoe, Margaret<br>Robert, Sabrino                  |
| 28 | Okada, Irene  |
| 29 | Masutomi, Benjamin<br>Lum, Christa                    |
| 30 | Miyasato, Ronald<br>Miyake, Shirley                   |

### Electronic Messenger

If you would prefer to receive the Messenger via email please contact the Church office at **holycrosshilo@hawaii.rr.com**