

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ
440 West Lanikaula St., Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
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October 16, 2013

Blessings Both Backwards and Forwards

Hindsight is supposed to give us wisdom. So, I suppose foresight will give us anticipation for things as yet unseen, but on which we focus our vision with the magnifying power of faith. I am generally expecting some things will happen on an expected schedule, yet I know that the sharper details of reality will appear in my experience with *unexpected* precision. These events will be totally different from the images which are before me. Anything real is far better for the sheer enjoyment of our experiences than anything we might imagine.

Our ministry together has given me the blessings of experiences shared with you – real time and real events – real blessings. Your welcome was gracious, your on-going commitment and concern for others and Our Church of the Holy Cross ohana happened in our coming together and so enriched our relationships. For this I say thank you – Mahalo!

Your Interim Pastor and your next Settled Pastor will come to value your enthusiastic participation in the life of our church in ways that will be similar to the care and kindness I have experienced. However, these blessings for them will un-fold in ways which will be almost totally different from our time together and in forms shaped by the gifts of their ministry and your relationships with them as new and different pastors who care for you as members of our church.

As no two people are alike – *no two pastors are alike*. The transitional change of pastorates will enrich the ministry of Your Church of the Holy Cross, and your personal lives as you welcome them into sharing relationships and invite them to know you personally with your families as well as friends. They will be blessed more than you might imagine by the openness of your hospitality. I know I have been blessed by you in the gift of the time and events and cares we have shared.

We are reminded "God makes all things new" – transforms us! Such faith is proven for us because of the richness we have already known in both the challenges and the joys we have already experienced. Both the past and the present enable us to have been nourished and to have a sample taste of what is before us even if these events are yet unknown in detail.

Our Church of the Holy Cross is blessed as a congregation where we can experience the "building of our faith" (*every pun is intended* here to spark our imagination as we see ourselves as people of God and more than the buildings in which we gather).

I pray for Christ's blessings with personal thanksgiving for the time we have been together and for the transitions in ministry you will experience with your new Interim and new Settled Pastors.

*Warmest Blessings Always,
Pastor Tom*

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**The Church of the Holy Cross, UCC
440 West Lanikaula St., Hilo, HI 96720**

Moderator's Message

The Transition Process: An overview

Stage 1: The Pastoral Vacancy

This is when we celebrate the time Pastor Tom has been with us and say our goodbyes. The UCC process provides guidance for the departing Pastor and Pastoral ethics of the leave taking process. It provides guidance on the Pastoral exit interview with suggested questions and templates. The guide also provides suggested liturgies for the Farewell.

For us, this phase will be 3 months. Pastor Tom's last day is November 3, three months from the acceptance of his retirement/resignation letter by the Church Council. This is the time to remember, celebrate, and express our thanks, best wishes, and goodbyes.

Stage 2: Transition Time --Securing Transitional Leadership (Interim Pastor)

Average time to secure Interim leadership, 3 to 6 months

The focus of this time is the acquisition of interim pastoral leadership and the use of supply pastors until the interim is on board. This process runs concurrently with the Pastoral Vacancy Process. The group tasked with selection of the interim minister is the church's governing board. At Church of the Holy Cross, that is the Church Council. We also include the members of the pastoral relations committee. One member of the Council, vice moderator Stefan Tanouye, will not participate in the interim process but will be part of the full time pastoral search committee.

Our committee has met regularly since the beginning of September. We review interim pastor profiles provided by the Hawaii Conference UCC. The conference is responsible for ensuring that all applicants meet UCC criteria for polity, educational background and other essential areas. All applicants are subject to a rigorous background check. All applications are considered confidential, and committee members cannot discuss applicants with other members of the congregation.

After the applications have been reviewed, based on the needs of our congregation, a limited number will be selected for phone interviews. After the interviews and contacts with references, and the candidates, the interim committee will make the interim selection. It may take up to 3 months from the selection to the start of the interim's ministry with us.

Between the time Pastor Tom leaves to when the interim is on board, we will have supply pastors. During this time, members of the congregation who feel led may also provide the teaching during our worship service. Once we have selected and called an interim minister the next phase will begin: the search for our new permanent pastor.

Interim Pastors serve 12 -18 months on average. It is critical that we take the time to follow the steps of the process and do so with prayer, patience, and dedication. We ask for your support during this time of transition.

As we proceed through this time of transition I will provide details on the search and call process, including how the search committee for the permanent pastor is chosen.

If you have any questions on the process or progress please feel free to contact members of the Church Council or Pastoral Relations Committee. Please remember that we cannot discuss specific applicants and can only provide information on the process and our progress.

Team members

Moderator	Suzanne Smith 969-3729
Secretary	Margaret Torigoe 935- 4071
Treasurer	Roberta Chu 934-8315
Auditor	Peter Tadaki 969-9324
Deacons Chair	Eric Tanouye 966-9898
Trustees Chair	Carolyn Lum-Bellem 959-6111
Stewardship & Mission	Robert Smith 969-3729
Christian Education	Joyce Nakamoto 959-0261
Pastoral Relations	Woody Kita 959-6554
Pastoral Relations	Reiko Masutomi 959-8715

Current Meeting Schedule – all meetings are confidential

- Dates may vary depending on the availability of references and candidates for contact
- 10/10 6PM - 2 new candidate profiles to review and reference call questions to complete and refine.
 - 10/12/ to 10/15 Candidate's phone references called
 - 10/13 after Congregational meeting Candidate interview question customization and interview practice
 - 10/15 6PM Candidate Reference reports and selection of candidates for interviews. All interviews via Facetime, Skype or conference call.
 - 10/17 6PM Interview question customization for remaining candidates
 - 10/18 – 10/20 candidate interviews via Skype, Facetime or conference call Times TBD based on candidate availability

Peace be with you
 Sue Smith, Moderator

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9am-4:30pm

OUT OF OFFICE: 11am-12pm

CLOSED

Tuesday, Thursday

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.

Electronic Messenger

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

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

MAHALO

From the Chow Family:

Thank you for being a part of Leroy's life. He had fun with you and was lucky to have shared so many good times.

Much Mahalo for your Love and Aloha.

Frances Chow
Elroy, Joan and family
Delroy and family
LeRoy, Shanel and family
LeAnne and Rex
Royson
RoAnne

Japanese Culture Day

The Japanese Community Association of Hawaii (JCAH) will once again present the Japanese Culture Day in Hawaii Festival (Bunka No Hi) on Saturday, November 16, 2013. The biennial event will be held at the Honpa Hongwanii Hilo Betsuin Sangha Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This year's event will be dedicated to Mr. Yasuo Kuwaye who passed away earlier this year. He was one of the early organizers of the Association and was committed to the preservation and perpetuation of Japanese culture and arts and was recognized by the Japanese government with an imperial decoration.

Senior Ministry

Our October Senior Ministry session will be held on Thursday October 24th, 10 -12 am in the Building of Faith. We will need assistance in arranging flowers and delivering meals and/or flowers to various individuals and would appreciate volunteer assistance. Please call me (Maira at 959-8679) if you're able to assist. We will not have a speaker, but we will have a delicious lunch!

Sacred Memories

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday and Homecoming on Sunday, October 27, at our 10:00 AM Worship Service with the lighting of candles of remembrance followed by a pot-luck lunch in our Building of Faith. If you have had a loved friend or relative die within the last year (since October 28, 2012) and would like to have their name remembered in the Sunday Bulletin and read during the lighting of the candles, please call the church office 808-935-1283 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday during office hours and provide the Office Manager, (Dennis Lin) with the spelling of their name and the month in which they died. "Mahalo" for your cooperation as our prayers reach out to you as you recall the sacred memories of your loved ones.

Reminder

For students participating in the All Saints Day pumpkin painting, please bring a set of junk clothes to change into.

25th Annual Domestic Violence Family Peace Walk & Vigil

Please join us for the 25th Annual Domestic Violence Family Peace Walk & Vigil "Lost, Live, Love" on Friday, October 25, 2013, at the Aupuni Center in Hilo. This event unites the community to recognize those who lost their lives due to domestic violence and to raise community awareness and advocacy during October — the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This year's "family peace walk" will commence @ 4:15pm at the Kamehameha statue. We will then progress up Pauahi Street around Hale Kaulike Court House, and meeting up with sign waivers on Kilauea Ave. The vigil will then take place at 5:15pm at Aupuni Center with the Lighting of the Candle ceremony, and being that it is the 25th anniversary of this community event we will be recognizing four individuals from the community for the Purple Ribbon awards in recognition of those who dedicated their time and support to victims of domestic violence. Information tables will be available.

OCTOBER PRAYER LIST: Birthday

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

- 17 Ushijima, Andi
- 21 Nakamura, Chiyoko
Nakasone, Laura
Tanaka, Moira
- 22 Suzuki, Theone
- 25 Mortimore, Avis

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.
- **Samoa 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 on break
- **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 and the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month in the Lounge, 5:30-7pm.