

† † **THE MESSENGER** † †

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ
440 West Lanikaula St., Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
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WEB SITE: www.holycrosshilo.com

November 6, 2013

Mahalo my friends,

Your **aloha** and commitment to our Church of the Holy Cross and to all of our relationships in ministry together always gave me encouragement as your Pastor for the past 9 years. I have always felt both at home and challenged because of your commitment to our church family, friends, and all who have come to share in the use of our church facilities or who called upon us to join them in service to Hilo and our wider world community. It has been my joy to have been your pastor.

I was happily overwhelmed with the farewell dinner and program on October 26. Your many leis, the abundance of wonderful food, the singing, the comments and the friendship with all who attended (and messages from those who were unable to attend) gave a sense of deep appreciation shared in warmth. Your generous gift of the koa bowl as a reminder of Hilo, and your monetary gift, both add to my sense of your care for my family and me. "Mahalo."

Our services of worship for All Saints/Homecoming observance, and in communion on my final Sunday as your Pastor, were filled with sadness for our parting, but also with the grace and blessings of your having valued our time in ministry together. The pictures and the recitation from the children will be treasured in my heart as I remember serving as your pastor.

My family, Lois (my wife), Brenda (my daughter), and Meghan (my granddaughter) all send their "Thank You" to each of you personally and to our church as a gathered faith community for your many kindnesses and welcome relationships. My family wishes they had been able to be present for our farewell celebrations.

I will treasure moments shared with so many of you. I always felt your commitment to each other, to our church, our Hawaii Island Association, and to the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ and to their staff – your sense of mission and ministry has been filled with solid support for people and our human as well as spiritual needs. I have also been blessed to work with excellent staff colleagues who have served in ministry at Holy Cross.

I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers as you move through transition with Pastor Mary Olney-Loyd as your Interim Minister, and as you progress in your discernments in calling a new settled Pastor.

Thank you for letting my family and I become part of your lives here in Hawai'i.
May God's blessings in Jesus Christ and the love of the Holy Spirit follow you all the days of your lives, now and forever.

*Mahalo,
Pastor Tom*

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Prayer for this day's nourishment:

Creator God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I turn to you today with a thankful and open heart desiring that you will guide me toward a forgiving, humble, and compassionate spirit in all that I say and do. May the hours of this day sustain my awakening appreciation and thanksgiving for those who plant, grow, and harvest the food that nourishes my body? May the people whose hands prepared the food that gives me my energy be blessed in all aspects of their lives? As I recall the people who have shared with me in the life of the Church of the Holy Cross or who have been my friends and co-workers, I ask for you guide my memory with appreciation. May the words and meditations of my care for others be acceptable in your presence now and forevermore? In Jesus' name, Amen.

This prayer was prepared for the
Senior Ministry of
The Church of the Holy Cross, UCC,
Hilo, HI,
By Pastor Tom Olcott, Senior Minister

Pastor Tom's forwarding address after November 18th will be:

**In Care of:
Brenda Olcott
319 Harbor Pointe Dr. – Apt 5
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464**

His cell will remain: 808-557-7502

Moderator's Message

Aloha,

It has been a great privilege for me to work with the Interim Pastor Search Committee: Carolyn Lum-Bellem, Eric Tanouye, Margaret Torigoe, Bob Smith, Peter Tadaki, Reiko Masutomi, Roberta Chu, and Woody Kita. They have been dedicated, committed, and always worked with the congregation's needs as their most important criteria.

An interim minister not only serves as our Pastor to meet the ongoing needs of the congregation, but must also support, aid, and guide as necessary the Settled Pastor Search Committee. Training and experience in these skills were important in our selection.

The committee evaluated profiles for a number of potential candidates based on our assessment of their ability to meet our congregation's needs, and narrowed the field to a few prime candidates. After phone interviews with references and online video interviews with the candidates, the team prayerfully discussed

and evaluated which candidate would best fit our needs at this time.

The candidate chosen as our Interim Minister is the Reverend Mary Olney-Loyd. A covenant outlining the candidate's and congregation's responsibilities and the interim minister's salary and benefits was drafted based on UCC guidelines and Holy Cross's needs, and Rev. Olney-Loyd has agreed to it. Her ministry with us will begin in mid-January 2013. The covenant is for 12 months, and can be extended as necessary depending on circumstances. Interim pastors who have served Holy Cross in the past typically served for 18 to 24 months.

Our Interim Minister



Rev. Mary Olney-Loyd is currently Pastor of Lake City Christian Church, Disciples of Christ in Seattle. She has standing in the UCC Pacific Northwest Conference and in the Northwest Region Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. She has been a pastor for over 27 years and has both training and experience as an interim pastor. Mary has a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a Master of Music in organ performance from the University of Cincinnati. She also has training, education, and experience in Clinical Pastoral Care and congregational pastoral care.

Pastor Mary believes strongly in participation by the laity in the worship service and also encourages children to participate. She has been active in her community and has helped to enhance current missions of the churches she has served. She is active in the greater church and previously worked with Rev. Linda Petrucelli of Hilo Coast UCC, who served Holy Cross during Pastor Tom's sabbatical, on disaster relief projects. Mary looks forward to participating in worship music and in music groups in the community. She and her husband Gary are looking forward to their stay in Hilo.

Gary is interested in birding, music, astronomy and singing in the choir. We tentatively expect them to arrive in Hilo on January 15, 2014.

If you would like to hear some of Mary's sermons and see pictures of her current church's activities, check their web site:

www.lakecitychristianchurch.org/

Pulpit Coverage

The Deacons have worked diligently to insure that we have Supply Pastors for our Sunday worship, our Christmas Eve service, and coverage for emergencies. Reverend Ruth Farrell (a member of our church), Reverend Larry Walter, and Reverend Ron Fujiyoshi will provide most of our needed pulpit coverage. Larry Walter and other local pastors who know our church will be available if needed for funerals. If you are aware of anyone who is in need of pastoral care, please contact Margaret Torigoe or Eric Tanouye.

The Search: the Next Steps

After Pastor Mary is on board, a Settled Pastor Search Committee will be formed and begin their task. Members of this committee must be committed to the process, able to fully participate in meetings, able to maintain absolute confidentiality, full members of the congregation and other qualities. A fuller description of the criteria will be distributed when we begin the committee formation process at the end of the year. Nomination for the Settled Pastor Search Committee can be from the congregation or by interested members themselves. The committee will be selected by the Church Council, following the guidelines in the manual on how to build the committee to represent all aspects of the congregation. The committee and congregation will enter into a time of congregational self-study. Areas addressed in this study may include changing congregational dynamics, changing demographics, and any other issues that are important to our congregation and the Hawaii Conference.

During this Holy season it is good for all of us to take time to pray, study, celebrate our Savior's birth, enjoy time with family and friends and reflect on our years with Pastor Tom and the years to come.

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion..." Philipians 1:6a

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
Sue Smith

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS

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

OUT OF OFFICE: 11am-12pm
Starting Nov. 5th,
OPEN

Tuesday and Thursday: 9am-12pm

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, November 12, 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

Walk To End Alzheimer's Disease

Six Holy Cross members walked the halls of Prince Kuhio Plaza on October 12 for the 2013 Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease. The team was recognized for raising the 2nd highest team amount for the 2013 walk. All was not "work", however, because along the way health fair booths were visited and birthday gift shopping was accomplished. Thank you to this year's walkers (Bob Smith, Eileen Shiraishi, Margaret Torigoe, Gloria Kobayashi, Barbara Iwami & Woody Kita) and to our many church members' contributions to help end Alzheimer's Disease.

Thank You

I would like to thank this year's 2013 Budget Committee for their work in helping us to adopt a new budget for 2014. The Committee consisted of Margaret Torigoe, Carolyn Lum-Bellem, Roberta Chu, Sue Smith, Bob Smith, Joyce Nakamoto, Moira Tanaka, Stefan Tanouye, Peter Tadaki, and Pastor Tom Olcott. Thank you everyone for a job well done!

Eric Tanouye

Order Poinsettias Now!

Orders for Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday worship are being taken on the sign-up sheet, with Dennis at the church office or Cindy Debus. Cost is \$9.20 for each plant. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, Nov. 17th. Please make checks out to Cindy Debus.

Thank you.

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

Everyone's invited to our November pre Thanksgiving session. It's FREE and it's sponsored by the Women's Fellowship and the Senior Ministry. It will be held on November 21st at 10am in the Building of Faith. Please sign up on the Senior Ministry bulletin board or call the church office if you're able to attend.

NOVEMBER PRAYER LIST: Birthday

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

04 Suyama, Esther
05 Yamauchi, Darlene
07 Lin, Dennis
09 Kimura, Tricia
16 Nakayama, Robin
19 Kamimura, Hatsue
Halloran, Henry
20 Kobayashi, Raymond
Ota, Laura
23 Miyashiro, Mildred
24 Gota, Margaret
Inouye, Gordon
Yamane, Joy
28 Selifis, Rosendo
29 Tanouye, Lois Jean
30 Ushijima, Kendal

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 Thursday of every month in the Lounge, 5:30-7pm.