

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ
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January 22, 2014

A Message from Interim Pastor Mary

Dear Church,

A church leader I know addresses the members and friends of her denomination – as “church,” recognizing that we are the body of Christ, at worship and doing ministry in our community and the world.

On January 19 I invited you – church – to answer this question: ***The gift, blessing, strength or value I love most about Church of the Holy Cross is....*** Thank you for all your responses! There is still time – please write it down and share your loves with me! I’m sharing what YOU love about CHC here – so you can see what others wrote. The words in quotation marks indicate quotes from your comments.

There are several groupings of things you love: The most mentions category is HOSPITALITY and COMMUNITY: Many of you wrote about this experience of welcome at CHC. You said you love the “welcome, fellowship, feeling loved, loving hearts, kindness especially to shut-ins, belonging, I always feel welcomed, support in time of trouble, caring for one another & refreshment time.” Marvelous! A sense of community and offering hospitality to those who enter the doors is vitally important.

Something related is “ACCEPTANCE” – you wrote you value acceptance of diversity, non-judgmental attitude, ethnic diversity of congregation, sharing the building with other congregations, inviting new immigrants. “The best part of CHC is that the congregation is a family that does not judge but supports each other.”

Wonderful! This is part of what intrigued me about CHC before I ever met you. I’m so grateful you value diversity! In the United Church of Christ there is a powerful statement of welcome and inclusion: *No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey – you are welcome here.* We sing these words when we the song: You Are Welcome Here.

Related to this is the mission in the community and the world in which CHC is involved. Dedication of the congregation and sharing time and talents are also valued. You value children and involving them in worship.

CHC finds worship meaningful: You value the “sermon, God’s Word, learning about Jesus and God, increasing and strengthening my beliefs and knowledge, singing, and the wonderful music.” Worship strengthens us so we may “make daily choices and live an honest Christian life.”

Worship is the time we gather weekly to praise God, grow in our experience and love for Christ and one another, so that we can share God’s love with our community and the world. Music is a love of mine; we share this.

COMMUNITY, HOSPITALITY, LEARNING, ACCEPTANCE, DIVERSITY are powerful values! Thank you for sharing your ideas. We are beginning the process of discovering our values and strengths.

I long to hear your ideas, joys, concerns and longings for Church of the Holy Cross!

Peace & Joy,

Pastor Mary

PS: A note about my schedule: My work week will be Sunday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday will be my days off, mostly. There are some weeks when I plan to change my days off. In February Gary and I have visitors from the mainland twice. I will note these changes in the worship folder and the Messenger.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your hopes and dreams for CHC. Monday through Wednesday I hope to meet with you. If those days are not convenient we can make other arrangements to get together.

Generally on Thursday I write my sermon and prepare for worship.

Moderator's Message

Aloha and blessings,

We are in an exciting time. Last Sunday was our first worship with our Interim Pastor, Mary Olney-Loyd. It was a service filled with new beginnings and preparation for us to cross the threshold from our past to the future that waits. This in-between time, the time between settled pastors, is one for reflection, prayer, discovery, searching, learning, and letting go so that we will be ready to embrace the new.

It is now the time when we begin the steps of establishing the permanent pastoral search committee. The first steps will be taken by the church council, which will meet on Sunday January 26 to consider what attributes, talents, and skills are needed to serve on this committee. It is important to remember that the search for a settled pastor is an act of worship and as such will proceed on God's schedule, not man's. The council and permanent search committee will both need to approach their tasks with study, prayer and patience. In fact, the UCC process recommends that the search committee first select a chaplain and spend its first meetings sharing each other's faith journeys. From that sharing trust, respect and confidence will develop in the group and sustain them through the work ahead.

Once council develops the unique attributes for Church of the Holy Cross a detailed description of these as well as the other commitments, such as time and the format for nomination or volunteering, will be distributed to the congregation for consideration. You may volunteer, or you may nominate someone (with their permission) to serve.

A subcommittee called from the church council will review all submissions. This subcommittee will recommend a slate of possible candidates to serve and the council will form the committee from that list. The permanent pastoral search committee will have only 5 – 8 members, so not all who express interest may be chosen to serve in this capacity. As the work progresses there will be many other ways for all to serve in this vital ministry of our congregation.

The search committee will be asked to make commitments to God, our church, and each other. Below is one of the commitments a member will make if they choose to serve.

From the UCC guide:

A Faith Commitment . . . The task of the Search Committee is very simple and very complex. Initially the task is spiritual. Search Committee members make a faith commitment to develop as faith-centered, prayer-directed people of God willing to listen to God in the process of seeking a new pastor. Search Committee members engage in a 4-Way Covenant—a Covenant with their prospective pastor, the congregation, the Conference and Association, and the Holy Spirit.

The UCC process for search and call can be found at <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/search-and-call/section-3-the-search-and-call-process-in-the-ucc.pdf> or in the sanctuary on the book cart where there are two binders with the process. We are in section three: "The Search and Call."

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Sue Smith

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS

Starting January 1, 2014

Monday-Friday

9am-4:30pm

Lunch

12pm-1pm

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, January 14, 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

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.

Messenger Articles

If you would like to submit an article for The Messenger, please send it via email or physically bring it into the Church office. The next Messenger will be February 12, 2014

Senior Ministry

Our January Senior Ministry will be this Thursday from 10 am to noon. In addition to the delicious food, Pastor Mary will give the meditation and Woody Kita will be our speaker. Come, join the group and have a good time together. As usual, it will be in the Building of Faith.

Clergy Gather in Early Spring

The 2014 Hawai'i Conference Clergy Retreat will be held Monday, March 31, to Wednesday, April 2, at Courtyard King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island. Details and registration information will be available soon.

Other activities at 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 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF mtg. room
- **Samoan Church** worships at 12pm on Sundays.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in BF meeting room at 1pm today.
- **Bible Study** Monday on break
- **Gentle Yoga** Monday (BF Meeting Room) on break
- **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.
- **Prostate Cancer Support Group** 1st Thursday of the month, 12pm in the Lounge
- **Ron Fujiyoshi, Ohana Opakele** meets in the Lounge every Thursday at 9am.
- **Bell Choir** every Saturday at 3pm in J's Café

Church Volunteers

January 26, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Ethel Yoshimasu, Ichiko Hisanaga, Teddi Mukai

Childcare:

Lois Jean Tanouye

Layreader:

Millie Daikawa

February 2, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Margaret Torigoe

Childcare:

Carol Morioka

Layreader:

Carol Morioka

February 9, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Lily Inouye

Childcare:

Joyce Nakamoto

Layreader:

Janet Fujioka

Pastor Mary's Bible Study Times

In February I'd like to begin Bible study again. Please fill out questionnaire below and return it to the church office or to me. I anticipate doing both Bible study and possibly a book study which includes scripture and prayer.

Please cut out and return to the Church office.

Please list as many times as are possible for you in the survey.

Bible Study Survey

- _____ Monday evening 7 pm
- _____ Monday afternoon 1 pm
- _____ Tuesday morning 10 or 10:30 am
- _____ Tuesday afternoon 1 pm
- _____ Wednesday evening 7 pm
- _____ My best time is: _____

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Best phone number to reach me at:
