

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ
440 West Lanikaula St., Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone 808-935-1283 E-mail: holycrosshilo@hawaii.rr.com

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February 26, 2014

A Message from Interim Pastor Mary

In Matthew 17:1-9 we hear a story about Jesus being “transfigured.” Jesus’ appearance was transformed and there was a glow about him. His face shone and his clothes were dazzling white.

This is a time of change at Church of the Holy Cross. Pastor Tom has left; I am here. There is newness and change. Gary and I are grateful for the many kindnesses you have shown us as we are new to Hawaii, Hilo, and to this congregation! We extend our gratitude to you for your words and deeds welcoming us.

Worship is one way we celebrate God’s presence each Sunday. Through praise and prayer, scripture, singing, and sacrament we worship so that we are able to go into the world serving God in our daily lives. We are nurtured by the community and by God’s word. We are inspired by singing; we are fed by the bread and the cup.

The Deacons and I talked about our worship service recently. We are trying a change in the order of worship during Lent: The prayer of confession, assurance of God’s forgiveness and the Gloria Patri will be nearer the beginning of worship. This means the pastoral prayer will follow the sermon. In our conversation a deacon suggested this: If someone arrives at worship with a concern and has an opportunity to let go of it through prayer, it may free one to worship more fully. We welcome your thoughts and comments.

May God’s presence bring you joy and peace! And may you share that joy and peace in our community and the world.

P.S.

Lent begins Wednesday March 5. Lent is the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays. Each Sunday is a mini-Easter, as we remember Christ’s resurrection. Early Christians began the practice of preparation for adult Baptism before Easter, culminating with Baptism on Easter. So we take on practices of study and prayer during Lent.

Some persons “give up” something for Lent. I invite you to “take on” a spiritual practice – daily scripture reading, prayer and or service. Please consider our study called “Unbinding your Heart” – Wednesdays 9:30 am or 5:30 p.m. for a salad supper and study at 6:15 p.m.

Looking Ahead:
Palm Sunday April 13.
Worship on Maundy Thursday, April 17th
Easter April 20th

Pastor Mary

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Lenten Wednesday Supper and Study

Beginning Wednesday, March 5, the Board of Christian Education is sponsoring a **6 week long Wednesday evening salad supper and study group. We'll meet at 5:30 pm** – please bring something prepared to go into a big chef salad (greens, carrots, chopped veggies, meat, cheese, etc.) drinks provided. After supper we'll gather to study and conversation about the book: **Unbinding your Heart**, by Martha Grace Reece. Mary Olney-Loyd will lead the study. We'll conclude by **8 pm. Families with children are welcome – “child friendly food” is provided as well as an activity for children. We will meet in J's Café.**

Unbinding Your Heart will help us deepen our spiritual lives using scripture and prayer. The conversations will help us look at CHC and see how others see this church. During this interim time we'll learn how other congregations share their faith and think about what is working or what might work at CHC. **This will help us think about the future of CHC! Dates for the group are Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9.**

Please sign up by calling the Church office.
Unbinding your Heart costs approximately \$13. If you need assistance we will provide your book.

Moderators Message

Settled Pastor Search Committee
Attributes, Commitments and Volunteer/
Nomination Form

The first steps toward the settled pastor search have been completed. Desired attributes and skills have been defined and a volunteer/nomination form is available. Please remember that if you wish to nominate someone you should first seek their permission.

The committee will be made up of 5 to 8 voting members, and not all who volunteer or are nominated may be chosen to serve in this way. The moderator will serve as a nonvoting member. Only one member per family may serve on the committee, which will be chosen by the church council and recommended by the UCC search and all process. The council will strive to have the search committee reflect and represent the entire congregation.

Those who volunteer or nominate a member need to write a note discussing why they or their nominee can serve this vital ministry of the church and the talents they bring to the committee. Those who serve must be regular in attendance to worship, active in the life of the

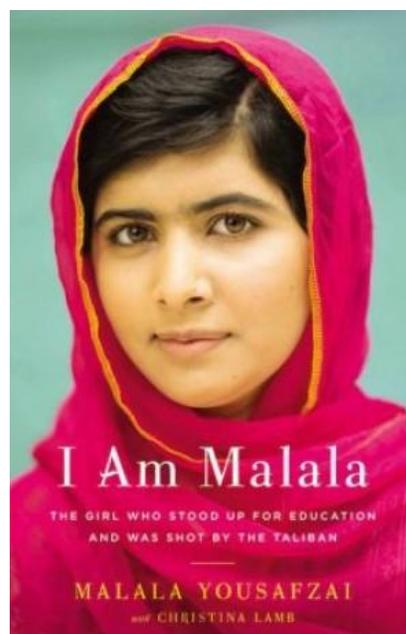
church and committed to the Church of the Holy Cross with their time, talents and treasure.

One crucial attribute that search committee members need is the commitment to prayer and being open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discussions and deliberations. That means taking time to pray, reflect and allow the Holy Spirit to work through everyone on the committee. While we may have a schedule in mind, ultimately the pace of the work will be determined by the Holy Spirit. Openness to working at God's pace will allow the team to develop a long term view and vision for our future.

As the committee begins its work with the congregation, both the congregation and the committee will need to be sensitive, compassionate, good listeners and flexible to the other's needs. This is hard work and it will require teamwork, compromise, an open mind ready to learn new things, and dedication to the mission of calling our settled pastor. Each committee member should bring a positive attitude and the ability to find joy in doing God's work. Any old grudges or hurt feelings must be put aside.

This may sound like a description of Super Member. But our congregation is made up of exceptional individuals who have not only these attributes but many more. So please, if you feel led, take time to pray and reflect on the mission and the commitments below and consider whether you should volunteer to serve in this act of worship: the calling of a settled pastor.

Peace, Blessings and Joy
Sue Smith
Moderator



Book Review

Book Review:
I Am Malala: the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban. Little Brown, 2013. 327p.

15-year old Malala Yousafzai was shot in the head by a Taliban fighter on October 9, 2012 while riding home on a school bus in Mingora, Swat Valley,

Pakistan. Their reason: because she is an advocate for the education of girls. Since this violent act which resonated around the world, Malala has become a symbol of courage and an international spokesman for her cause. She wrote this memoir while recovering and recuperating from very serious brain injury in Birmingham, England. She is brilliant, always at the top of her class at her father's school, Kushal School. She writes with great conviction and fearlessness and credits her deep faith in her Muslim God and the great love and support of her father, who is himself a proponent of peace, justice and education and for her mother, who is illiterate. Through her family's support and her deep conviction that the Koran preaches equal treatment of women and girls, she began speaking out for the education of girls when she was only 11 years old. Her memoir, written in collaboration with foreign correspondent Christina Lamb, will inspire you. It will also give you an easy-to-understand history of Pakistan and how the Taliban influences Muslims to violence.

Just recently, the launch of her book at Peshawar University in Pakistan was cancelled because in her home country she is a controversial figure. Her opponents claim she is a tool of Western public relations and she faked her shooting to live in the West. Currently, she is unable to return home because the Taliban has again pledged to kill her. Although identified, her shooter has yet to be found. (Reviewed by Gloria Kobayashi.)

THANK YOU FROM DEACONS

Our Chapel Decoration list is complete for the year until Feb. 2015. The updated calendar is posted or please call Margaret (935-4071) if you would like a change or cannot help us this year.

REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2014

Refreshments will be served from J's Café on the 3rd Sundays of each month. You may sign-up to help set-up and serve the punch and cookies which will be provided. If you wish, you may bring goodies, too. Extra help with goodies will be welcome for Easter Sunday (Apr 20) and Christmas Eve service.

No 3rd Sunday refreshments in months with Special Sundays: August 10 - Church Picnic; October 26- All-Saints Day & Homecoming potluck luncheon; December 24 – Christmas eve worship. Thank you for your help!

Senior Ministry

Our senior ministry session will be THIS THURSDAY, February 27th, 10 to 12 noon. Gary Loyd will be our speaker. Come, enjoy the time together and get to know Gary a little better.

Also, a delicious and nutritious lunch will be served.

Church Volunteers

March 2, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Miyoko Tanita (Memorial)

Childcare:

Moira Tanaka

Layreader:

Jayson Rekis

March 9, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Dorothy Matsui, Amy Saito

Childcare:

Carol Morioka

Layreader:

Bob Smith

March 16, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

Childcare:

Cindy Debus

Layreader: Jane Kawazoe

March 23, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Goya Family (Memorial)

Childcare:

Yoko Hayano

Layreader:

Ruth Niino-DuPonte

March 30, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Michi Koizumi

Childcare:

Joyce Nakamoto

Layreader:

Anne Sadayasu

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS

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

SERVICE DAY

There will be a Service Day on March 22, 2014 at 8:30am. Please help support your Church of the Holy Cross by spending time to clean and upkeep the campus. Every little bit helps! We hope to see you there!

† **THE MESSENGER** †
 CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, HILO
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March 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9am Musicfun 1pm Bell Choir
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Church Council Mtg 8:30am Choir Practice 9am Pohnpeian 10am Worship 1pm Chuukese 1:30pm Tongan 12pm Samoan 4pm 1st Hilo Marshallese	10am Moira Tanaka BF	PB Ministry 9am Musicfun 12pm Toastmasters Bible Study 1pm Pastor's Study 3:30pm Rhythm of Life	7pm Tongan Church 7:30pm IYAA Bible Study 6:30pm Ballroom Dance	PB Ministry 9am Musicfun Ohana Ho'opakele 9am Lounge 12pm Prostate Support Group 5pm Toastmasters	9am Qigong 12pm-2:30pm Bank of Hawaii BF	9am Musicfun 1pm Bell Choir
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Choir Practice 9am Pohnpeian 10am Worship 1pm Chuukese 1:30pm Tongan 12pm Samoan 4pm 1st Hilo Marshallese	Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Study	9am Musicfun 10am Caregivers 12pm Toastmasters Bible Study 1pm Pastor's Study 3:30pm Rhythm of Life	7pm Tongan Church 7:30pm IYAA Bible Study 6:30pm Ballroom Dance Bible Study 9:30am Pastor's Study	9am Musicfun Ohana Ho'opakele 9am Lounge	9am Qigong	9am Musicfun 1pm Bell Choir
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Trustees Mtg 8:30am Choir Practice 9am Pohnpeian 10am Worship 1pm Chuukese 1:30pm Tongan 12pm Samoan 4pm 1st Hilo Marshallese	Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Study	9am Musicfun 12pm Toastmasters Bible Study 1pm Pastor's Study 3:30pm Rhythm of Life	7pm Tongan Church 7:30pm IYAA Bible Study 6:30pm Ballroom Dance Bible Study 9:30am Pastor's Study	9am Musicfun Ohana Ho'opakele 9am Lounge 5pm Toastmasters	9am Qigong	8:30am SERVICE DAY 9am Musicfun 1pm Bell Choir
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Choir Practice 9am Pohnpeian 10am Worship 1pm Chuukese 1:30pm Tongan 12pm Samoan 4pm 1st Hilo Marshallese	Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Study	9am Musicfun 12pm Toastmasters Bible Study 1pm Pastor's Study 3:30pm Rhythm of Life	7pm Tongan Church 7:30pm IYAA Bible Study 6:30pm Ballroom Dance Bible Study 9:30am Pastor's Study	9am Musicfun Ohana Ho'opakele 9am Lounge Senior Ministry 10am BF	9am Qigong	
30	31					
Deacons Mtg, J's Minimart 8:30am Sunday School 8:30am Choir Practice 9am Pohnpeian 10am Worship 1pm Chuukese 1:30pm Tongan 12pm Samoan 4pm 1st Hilo Marshallese	Prison Ministry BF Bible Study 7pm Pastor's Study					

Settled Pastor Search Committee Volunteer Form

I, _____, volunteer to serve on this committee.

Attach a brief note explaining why you would like to serve on the committee and the talents you bring to it.

Please submit by March 3, 2014 to the Church office or to Sue Smith.

Settled Pastor Search Committee Nomination Form

I would like to nominate _____

Nominated by _____

I have received _____ permission to submit their name.

Attach a brief note explaining why you believe your nominee should serve on the committee and the talents she/he brings to it.

Please submit by March 3, 2014 to the Church office or to Sue Smith.