

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ  
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April 23, 2014

## ***A Message from Interim Pastor Mary***

When have you gone to a new place for a meeting or an event? Could you find it easily? Was it clear how to enter? How were you welcomed? Did you know how you should respond during the event? Would you go back a 2<sup>nd</sup> time?

Gary and I were in Kona three weeks ago for the Hawai'i Island Clergy Retreat. We had a great time! One afternoon I wanted to find a particular store. I had been told how to get there using the tourist map. I was told it was within walking distance. Well.....It was a VERY LONG WALK up hill! The directions were not at all clear and I had to ask again.

Yet once we found the store we received wonderful hospitality! The clerk learned we had walked and immediately offered us water. She was very helpful. We did not even buy anything – but I would certainly go back again if I need their products in the future.

It can be quite intimidating to enter a church for the first time. Yet a friendly smile and a warm greeting certainly help. Greeting from other persons at the passing of the peace also helps. So does an invitation to stay for refreshments, if they are being served. There is a fine line between a warm welcome and overwhelming persons. So I invite you to be aware of signals new persons give.

In our Lenten study we talked about bridges and barriers. In what ways are we building bridges with our community? What kind of barriers do persons encounter when they come to Church of the Holy Cross? I invite you to ponder these questions, look around, and pretend you are entering a new place for the first time. Or better yet visit another congregation – return and tell us about your experience. We are about welcoming persons as Jesus the Christ welcomes us!

May the presence of the Easter Jesus, the Risen One bring you peace and joy!

Peace & Joy,  
***Pastor Mary***

## **Meet and Greet for CHC Visitors and New Members**

Would you like to learn more about Church of the Holy Cross? Are you interested in becoming a member? Are you a new member? We'll have a time in May to ask questions, learn more about Church of the Holy Cross and the United Church of Christ, and talk about the possibility of becoming a member of CHC. If you're interested please speak to Pastor Mary, Eric Tanouye, or Margaret Torigoe.

## **Senior Ministry**

Everyone's invited to our Senior Ministry luncheon on Thursday, April 24th, 10 am to 12 noon. We will be treated to a May Day performance by students of E'Makaala School. We will also have Holy Communion and lunch following the program. Lunch is FREE for everyone attending. Please call the church office 935-1283 or call Moira Tanaka if you're able to attend.

## **CHC IN MERRIE MONARCH PARADE**

We are putting together a float for the Merrie Monarch Parade to show the community and guests how far we have come,  
"....Hilo Japanese Christian Church in 1891 ....."  
to "CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS."

**HELP IS NEEDED!!! Please come this  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY from 9 a.m.  
Friday, we work until it is ALL DONE!**

Please bring flower shears, if you have them.  
See you there!!! Watch us in the parade on Saturday in downtown Hilo. It starts at 10:30 a.m.

## **Pretty Egg-citing!**

Thanks to all the helping hands, Easter was a pretty "egg-citing" event! A special shout out to Shirley Miyake (basket maker), Connie Yoshiyama (egg deco coordinator), Kay Kawachika (lunch creator), Hajime Hayano (egg hider) and Ruth Farrell (Easter lesson) for lending your special talents. What a wonderful way for our keiki to celebrate Easter!

## **Coffee Ministry with UH Hilo Students**

Have you noticed the new coffee outreach to University students? Anna Kennedy is leading the way providing a smiling face and a free cup of coffee to students on Monday mornings beginning about 8:30 am. Do you wish to help? Contact Anna. This ministry is to offer a friendly face and greet students. It's doing a new thing! This idea came out of a conversation with the Deacons.

## **Celebration of Graduates**

The Church of the Holy Cross Board of Christian Ed will be have a celebration of graduates on May 18, 2014 during worship. Please let the church office or Yoko Hayano know the following information:

Name  
Graduating From  
Entering into (Post Graduation)  
please email Yoko at:  
yokohayano@gmail.com

## **Bread for the World Reforming U.S. Aid May 4, 2014**

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah speaks of life as God intends it. Life is more than simply receiving good things. It is also participating in creating a good life and a society that reflects God's desire for an abundant life for everyone.

Church of the Holy Cross will once again join in the fight against hunger by participating in the Bread for the World's 2014 Offering of Letters: Reforming U.S. Food Aid. You can help end hunger by:

1. Writing a letter to our Congressional members to help reform and support funding for emergency and development food aid.
2. Baking or creating home items for sale at Holy Cross's Bread for the World Bake Sale.
3. Buying delicious food and homemade items on May 4th

Letter writing materials will be available in the back of the Sanctuary on May 4<sup>th</sup> (bring your own address labels to save time). The Bake Sale will be on the lanai area following worship service. All proceeds from the Bake Sale will be sent to Bread for the World.

## **Kodomo No Matsuri Children's Day Festival**

The Japanese Community Association of Hawaii will be sponsoring the Children's Day Festival on Saturday, May 10, 2014 from 10am-2pm at Sangha Hall. Admission is FREE.



Save the date! **June 8-10** Vacation Bible Schools is going to WOW! All ages (including adults!) are invited to grab a hammer, find a paintbrush, and put on their creative thinking caps. At Workshop of Wonders, we'll discover how ordinary becomes extraordinary with God. Experience the love of Jesus. Start an adventure. Use your imagination and creativity to build your faith. Plan to join us and be WOWed!

### June 14, 2014 Enhancing Worship Workshop

Hawai'i Conference United Church of Christ – Ken Makuakane, Program Associate for Church Vitality, and Donald Schmidt, Associate Conference Minister – will present a workshop on Enhancing Worship. There will be a special session for lay readers to help you hone your skills! Time to be determined.

### Church Volunteers

**April 27, 2014**  
**Chapel Decorations:**  
*Millie Daikawa*  
**Childcare:**  
*Clarice Suzuki*  
**Layreader:**  
*Mary Ann Katayama*

**May 4, 2014**  
**Chapel Decorations:**  
*Malia Mattos*  
**Childcare:**  
*Eileen Shiraishi*  
**Layreader:**  
*Esem Flaisek*

**May 11, 2014**  
**Chapel Decorations:**  
*Jill & Theone Suzuki*  
**Childcare:**  
*Woody Kita*  
**Layreader:**  
*Carolyn Lum-Bellem*

### CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday**  
**10am-4:30pm**  
**Lunch**  
**12pm-1pm**

**Friday**  
**10am-12pm**

**For Building of Faith Rentals and Key pickup**

## Acts of the Apostles

### Bible Study begins Monday April 28, and Wednesday April 30

What occurred after Jesus' resurrection? What happened to his closest followers? How did they spread the "Good News"? The Acts of the Apostles, which is volume 2 of Luke's Gospel, tells these action packed stories. Miracles occur; the Good News spreads quickly. Even in a land where following Jesus is dangerous the message spreads rapidly!

There are many similarities to being a Christian today and the experience of first century Christians. This study will help us look at scripture and our faith today, in our own context.

The only text you need is your Bible.

Times:

Monday evening 6:30 pm

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Name

Wednesday morning 9:30 am

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Name

Questions? Please speak with Mary Olney-Loyd.

You may call the church office to sign up or fill out this form and return to office.

### A Bouquet of Thanks!

Many thanks to all who made our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter services so meaningful and joy-filled! Thanks go out to our musicians – Dennis Lin, and Pedro Kaawaloa, Kate Wilson, and Kayleen Yuda, and all our choir members. Thanks go out to all who took part in reading parts in the Passion drama on Palm Sunday and the Easter Gospel lesson. Thanks to those who helped prepare and lead Maundy Thursday service, including the pastors of the Chuukese Church, Rev. Saburo Robert, The Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa, Rev. Take Sunia, The Marshallse Assembly of God Church, Rev. Brandy Kaben, and the United Church of Christ of Pohnpei, Rev. Henry Wilson. Thanks to Cindy Debus for organizing the lilies for Easter. Thanks to our Deacons and all who assisted in the lovely refreshment time on Easter. Thanks for the Board of Christian Education and all who assisted in the egg decorating and the Easter egg hunt!

