

✠ ✠ THE MESSENGER ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ WEB SITE: www.holycrosshilo.com
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Phone 808-935-1283 E-mail: holycrosshilo@hawaii.rr.com May 7, 2014

A Message from Interim Pastor Mary

Things occur in our wider United Church of Christ you will want to know about. I invite you to read a message from our Conference Minister, Rev. Charles Buck. He writes regarding a lawsuit the United Church of Christ has filed in North Carolina. The law suit is about First Amendment rights of "free exercise of religion." Here is the message from Rev. Buck:



28 April 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This morning, the United Church of Christ (UCC) filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Charlotte, arguing that North Carolina's marriage laws are unconstitutional because they limit ministers' choices and restrict the freedoms of religion and expressive association guaranteed in the First Amendment.

The lawsuit focuses on "Amendment 1," which, among other things, makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for a minister to perform a marriage ceremony for a couple that hasn't obtained a license. A Class 1 misdemeanor is punishable by up to 120 days in jail and/or probation and community service. The law also allows anyone to sue the minister who performs a marriage ceremony without a license and collect up to \$200 if they prevail. The UCC believes that this prohibition and penalties would apply to ministers performing same-gender marriages and blessings or unions where legal marriage is not intended.

This lawsuit is not about same-gender marriage, but about First Amendment rights of "free exercise of religion." It is being filed to protect the religious rights of our ministers and churches regardless of where they are on their own faith journey as it relates to marriage equality and the rights of LGBT persons.

Joining the United Church of Christ as plaintiffs in *General Synod of the United Church of Christ v. Cooper* are three UCC clergy, three couples who are members of UCC local churches, and a number of clergy and couples from other faith traditions.

It is possible that you may be contacted by the media about this case. If so, we strongly suggest that you please forward ALL inquiries to the United Church of Christ's Director of Communications, Ms. Ann Poston, at 216-736-2173 or postona@ucc.org. Additionally, if media arrive unannounced to your congregation, please prepare your staff to share this contact information with them. You can politely decline participation in an interview and ask that all responses be funneled through this media call center.

You will find news, information and resources about the lawsuit at www.ucc.org.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at cbuck@hcucc.org or 808-791-5640 (1-800-734-7610 outside O'ahu).

In Christ,

Charles Buck
Conference Minister

Guest Pastor

May 11 we welcome Rev. Ron Fujiyoshi to our pulpit. Pastor Mary will also be present in worship.

IYAA Project (Aloha to Chuuk)

The IYAA with support from our Stewardship and Mission Board will be collecting items for a project named **Aloha to Chuuk**. The goal is to fill a 20 ft container which will be shipped to Chuuk. In Chuuk the donations will be distributed, through churches, to children in need, especially on the smaller islands. IYAA has raised the cost of the trailer and shipping and now needs your help in filling it.

Donations will be received each **Saturday in May 10 to 24th from 8AM to Noon** with a projected ship date in early June.

Please drop your donations at Church of the Holy Cross Lounge on those dates. Donations will be packed for shipping.

Items needed:

Children's, infant and young adult gently used clothing :

Pants, Skirts, Shirts, Blouses, Slippers, Shoes

Adults

Boots, Shoes, Slippers, Pants, T-shirts

Kitchen and House Wares

Utensils, Pots, Plates, Cups, Towels, Sheets, fabric (no electric appliances please)

Thank you for your support.

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

Settled Pastor Search Committee's 1st Meeting

Hawaii Conference UCC Associate Minister Diane Weible provided an orientation session for the Settled Pastor Search Committee last week. The group went over the steps involved in finding a new pastor as outlined on the United Church of Christ's official website at ucc.org. The very first task is to create our Church's profile, so that candidates can find out who we are. For this task, we will be creating a survey of our membership asking you to help us identify our church's direction and the person who will guide us there.

Stefan Tanouye will serve as chairperson, with Erin Kita as secretary and Gloria Kobayashi as chaplain. As chairperson, Stefan will be the chief spokesman for the committee. Other members are: Christian Albano, Newton Chu, Janet Fujioka, Anne Sadayasu and Theone Suzuki.

Members have made five commitments:

1. Faith – to develop as faith-centered, prayer-directed people of God willing to listen to God in a four-way covenant with our prospective pastor, you the congregation, the Conference and Association and the Holy Spirit;
2. Time – to work together for a period of time which may vary from nine months to over a year, depending on how long it takes to find a new pastor.
3. Confidentiality- to inform you at every step of the process, but to not share any information about the candidates, including where they come from or gender.
4. Openness- to consider all candidates.
5. Consensus- to recommend the prospective candidate as a unanimous choice.

Please prayerfully consider what makes our Church of the Holy Cross important to you and pray for the Search Committee as we begin our work.

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!

**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**

Sat June 14 Church of the Holy Cross hosts a worship workshop and invites our neighboring UCC congregations to attend! All lay readers are **URGED** to attend! Please contact Pastor Mary or Margaret Torigoe if you can assist with snacks for morning coffee and registration. You are invited to attend!

**8:30am Registration and Coffee
9am-12 noon Workshops**

**9-11am Dynamic Worship
11-12 noon Layreaders—improve your skills
-Musicians with Ken**

Donald Schmidt and Ken Makuakane will focus on the order of worship and how it can speak its own message, and talk about the reasons why we do many of things we tend to do in worship. They will talk about use of scripture in worship, and ways to make worship come alive. Different styles of music, the use of visuals, and innovative ways to present the scripture can help breathe new life into our forms of worship expression.

Donald Schmidt
Associate Conference Minister



Ken Makuakane
Acting Papa Makua



Church Volunteers

May 11, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Jill & Theone Suzuki

Childcare:

Woody Kita

Layreader:

Carolyn Lum-Bellem

May 18, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Millie Uchima, Millie Kataoka (Memorial)

Childcare:

Dorothy Matsui

Layreader:

Millie Daikawa

May 25, 2014

Chapel Decorations:

Lily Inouye (Memorial)

Childcare:

Lei Jack

Layreader:

Newton Chu

On Sunday, June 15 we welcome Rev. Donald Schmidt, our new Associate Conference Minister to preach for us.