

The Messenger

Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ

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www.holycrosshilo.com

Feb. 18th, 2015

CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS

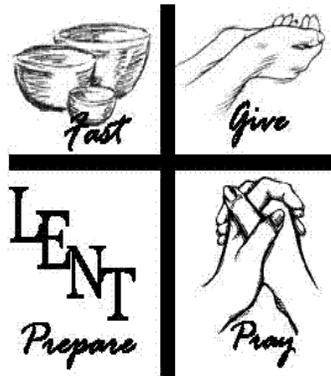
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday
9:30 am-01:30pm

Wednesday
09:30 am—12:20 pm

*Important Dates to
Remember:*

*Sun, Feb. 22nd
General
Membership
&
Board of Deacons
Mtg after Worship*

*Wed, Feb. 22th
Annual Meeting
after Worship*



Lent begins February 18 – Ash Wednesday

At the conclusion of Bible Study on Feb 18 we will have a brief service of prayer and ashes, for those who wish to receive them. Come at 10:45 am if you are not able to come to Bible Study. Begin the season of Lent with a time of prayer and reflection. Ashes will be available for those who wish to receive them.

Sunday, February 22nd

General Membership, Board of Deacons Meeting and the Annual Meeting will be held after worship. Please plan to remain after worship for this important meeting with the congregation.



Monday, March 2, 2015

6:30 pm—8:30 pm

**Bravo Test Service of
Remembrance**

**61st Anniversary of hydrogen bomb exploded in
Marshall Islands. This special service is held in our
Sanctuary. Please see pg. 4**

**Sunday, March 15
One Great Hour of
Sharing Offering
Received.**

Envelopes will go out
with Mar. 4th Messenger



Maundy Thursday April 2

service of Holy Communion in the evening. This quiet, reflective, service commemorates when Jesus shared the bread and cup with his disciples at the Passover. The choir will sing.



**Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday,
March 29.**

That day we'll celebrate with a parade of palms and hear the story of the final days of Jesus' life.



Easter Sunday April 5

festive worship celebrating
Christ's Resurrection. Special
Refreshments follow.

Pastor's Corner

My spiritual practice lately is to be gentle with myself. Recovering from illness this is especially important! As I am more gentle with myself – I am more gentle with those around me. It all works for good. I'm reminding myself to choose this attitude with the help of loving friends and spiritual guides. Jesus is one of those friends: He looks on persons with so much compassion in the Gospels. Have you noticed?

One of my favorite compassion stories of Jesus is Matthew 9:20-22. A woman who had suffered ill health for 12 years touches the fringe of his cloak. Jesus turned, and seeing her said – "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." (NRSV) She was healed immediately. Did Jesus see the fear or anxiety in her eyes? Could he tell she had been ill so long? When I think of Jesus in this story – I imagine that when he saw her compassion filled him and he extended it to her.

I've read that new research shows that humans are actually hardwired for compassion. Because human babies need nurturing, human brains are wired for nurturing behavior – in order for children to survive. Compassion and other positive emotions are contagious!

Kindness begets kindness -- like pay it forward! Compassion is contagious! Was this part of what Jesus was trying to communicate? I invite you to start small. Once a day, rephrase a critical thought or statement about yourself. Then do the same with someone you love. After that find something positive to say or do for someone you do not love. And let it multiply! Increase the times you practice compassion. Pray for someone else in need, especially someone with whom you are not very friendly. Your offering for One Great Hour of Sharing, in March is another way to share compassion.

May this be part of our Lenten practice of our faith – compassion with self and one another. And see how it multiplies!

Peace & Joy, *Mary*

Visiting Our Members Tuesday, March 3 at 10:30 am in Pastor's Study

Are your visiting church friends in a care facility? Would you be willing to visit older persons in a nursing home or in their home? Would you help with this valuable ministry? Pastor Mary will gather us together on Tuesday, March 3 at 10:30 am. We'll share what works and she will provide insights. Please contact Margaret Torigoe or Pastor Mary with your questions. Please come!

LENTEN COVENANT

This year, instead of giving up something I suggest taking on a spiritual discipline: daily scripture reading and prayer. I invite you to read a chapter from an Old Testament book and a chapter from a New Testament book each day. We will pray for one another and Church of the Holy Cross, UCC. You will receive a list of other persons in the covenant and their requests about how to pray for them. If you miss a day do NOT read twice as much the next day, to guard against discouragement. Forgive yourself for missing a day and begin again. If you need more suggestions talk with me about your questions. Keep the top portion and submit the bottom

Name _____ e-mail _____ or

Address _____

I covenant to read a chapter from the Old Testament and a chapter from the New Testament daily beginning Wednesday, February 18 and concluding on Saturday, April 4. I covenant to pray for the others who are also reading scripture daily.

With my name please pray that _____
_____ In Our Prayers.

ALL BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS

A paragraph on J's Mini-Mart was not completely printed in the Annual Report for 2015. Below is the entire paragraph which provides information on how the Mini-Mart funds were used in 2014.

“J's Mini-Mart: Our congregation fully supported our monthly J's Mini-Mart. Food items, vegetables, fruits, and flowers, donated and purchased, helped us earn \$1,183, which includes the HI-5 redemption proceeds. Monies from this fund were used to help one of our Samoan families with travel costs, a gift for the Hi'ilani Project baby and mother, \$600 to help with the “Aloha Chuuk” shipping costs, \$200 to the Kalaupapa Fund, \$500 to Kalapana Maunakea Church for their Friday feeding program following Hurricane Iselle, and a \$2000 gift to the UCC Global Ministries to help support families in Fukushima, Japan.”

Also, the final amount sent for the Christmas Fund in 2014 was \$1,497.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Give and change the world... It really is that simple. All of us have the power to give and the gifts we give make the world more the way God intended it to be—a place where everyone has what they need.

When the Apostle Paul visited the early churches in Macedonia, they became excited about the ministry opportunities he laid before them. They would be part of an offering received for the poor and suffering in Jerusalem, due to a devastating famine. This offering or ministry was a way for Paul to model the unity of all believers and provide a mechanism for showing their care and concern for one another.

One Great Hour of Sharing continues this ministry today. We are called to care for those far and near from disaster relief, to training programs to healthcare. Your gift makes a major impact on the lives of real people.

This year the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering will be dedicated on March 15th. Look for the next Messenger for further information and an offering envelope to help change the world.

Barbara Iwami

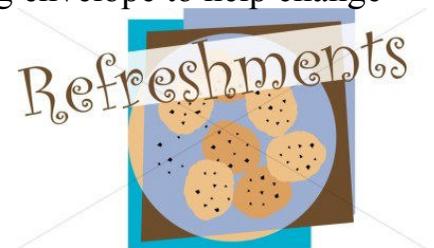
HELP WANTED TO SERVE REFRESHMENTS

This is an invitation for groups of at least 3 persons to serve refreshments after worship on 3rd Sunday most months. Punch supplies and cookies will be provided so the group needs to set up the punch and arrange the cookies, serve and clean up after. Gifted members may share their favorite dessert or other food, if desired.

A potluck luncheon will be held on April 12 as we bid aloha to Pastor Mary.

August 9th is the Church Picnic and in December, we ask for goodies for the social after the Christmas Eve candlelight service.

Please sign up on the bulletin board, call the church office or Margaret at 895-0994. Thank you! Margaret Torigoe



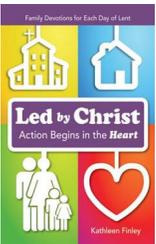
Adult Education - Bible Study—*Mark's Gospel*

Bible study Monday's 6:30 pm Wednesdays 9:30 am

"How can we live faithfully in tough times? What do we do when we think God seems unconcerned about us or what's happening around us? How do we remain true to what we believe?" Michael Trinor, a Biblical scholar from Australia, asks these questions.

Throughout the ages, even since 70 A.D. Christians have pondered these things. During Lent we'll look at Mark's Gospel: the first written down and the shortest! And it helps us consider these questions -- for the audience of Mark's Gospel grappled with these things too!

At the conclusion of Bible Study on Feb 18 we will have a brief service of prayer and ashes, for those who wish to receive them. Come at 10:45 am if you are not able to come to Bible Study. Begin the season of Lent with a time of prayer and reflection.



Lenten Devotional Booklets available at worship or at pastor's study: ***Led by Christ: Action Begins in the Heart***. Is a devotional booklet designed for families. It also works well for adults. As Christians, how do our lives reflect the saving love of our redeemer? This question is central in this devotional booklet for Lent. The Author, Kathleen Finley, is a visiting instructor in Religious Studies of Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA.

Ash Wednesday, March 18, a brief service of prayer, reflection and ashes. Come to Bible Study at 9:30 am or come at 10:45 and share with us. Everyone is welcome. Those who wish will receive ashes, as a sign of turning away from sin and toward God – which is what we call *repentance*. You may receive ashes on the back of your hand or on your forehead.

Bravo Test Remembrance Cont'd from page 1

On March 1, 1954 the U.S. gov't tested Bravo, the hydrogen bomb, on Bikini atoll in the Marshall Islands. The test proved to be 1,000 times stronger than the Hiroshima A-bomb. The Bravo test Remembrance Worship Event, the 61st anniversary of the Bravo test, is organized by Marshallese Pastors in Hilo. And will include 1) Service of Remembrance 2) "Nuclear Savage" DVD and 3) Testimonies representing two of the atolls most effected by the Bravo test.

The Messenger

The Messenger is a bimonthly newsletter distributed by the Church of the Holy Cross in Hilo. If you have an article please either send it via email in word format to holycrosshilo@hawaii.rr.com or via post by Feb. 27th.

The next scheduled Messenger will be March 4, 2015.

February Ushers:
Barbara Inami, Lei Jack
&
Millie Daikawa

February 1, 2015
Chapel Decorations
Margaret Torigoe
Layreader:
Millie Daikawa

February 8, 2015
Chapel Decoration
Lily Inouye (Mem.)
Layreader:
Janet Fujioka

February 15, 2015
Chapel Decoration
Else Ushijima (Mem)
Layreader:
Carolyn Lum-Bellem

February 22, 2015
Chapel Decoration
Hats Kamimura
Layreader:
Margaret Torigoe



FEBRUARY 2015

- 4 Deborah Watabayashi
Joanne Yamauchi
- 4 Susan Palea
- 8 Kachie L. Robert
- 15 Anita Mathews
- 20 Dean Ushijima
- 24 Mildred Daikawa
- 26 Esther Kodani
- 27 RoAnne Chow
Mindy Kudo