The Spire

Central Union Church and Preschool
“We Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ!”

September 2019
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Throughout the countless tribes of humanity, there has been a driving force which they all acknowledge. Some call this God, Holy Mystery, Jehovah, Yahweh, Allah, and the like. Regardless of the tradition, there is a communal desire and need to have the Holy Other on their side. In the pursuit of appeasing and alerting their deity, rituals are enacted; dances are created; music is composed and a guiding set of values and beliefs emerge.

We are a part of the largest faith tradition in the world. Out of the nearly 7.7 billion people on the globe, nearly 1 out of 3 of them would call themselves Christian. This leads me to ask: what is it about this faith that has captured the hearts and lives of so many? While there are countless reasons for a person’s unique faith expression, I have this deep belief that our faith has made an imprint on the world not by our astute theology, but by the transformed lives of its people.

The Christian faith grows daily throughout our world in large part because of ordinary people sharing their extraordinary stories. Yes, your story is quite extraordinary! Too often we think our stories are drab, or mediocre, but in truth, your story is beautiful and complex; filled with awe inspiring moments and deep heartbreak; marked by a willingness to put another foot forward in this journey of life. And somewhere in the midst of that story is a moment (or moments) where God has shown up, touched you in some profound way, and you were left different.

Perhaps the most audacious belief we have is that this faith isn’t contained to just the clergy (or spiritual leaders). Instead, each and every one of us is a representative of God. St Paul says that we are ambassadors of God! Now, you may be thinking, “Who, me?!” Yes, you. You are called to shine the light of Christ, to seek to Embody the Spirit of Christ each day. And sometimes that is through the words you utter, but it is always through the way you live.

The first Sunday of September is Laity Sunday. It is a Sunday to be reminded that we are all a part of the priesthood of believers, a core belief of our faith tradition. We will rejoice in the gifts of one other in worship, and share in a potluck meal after the 9 am service! The beauty of Laity Sunday is that each and every person participates—through singing, reciting prayers and calls to worship, by showing up and being present!

What a gift you are to this world. God has knitted you together, invited you onto the journey, and uses you to spread goodness, love...God throughout our world. Just as the ‘aina speaks to the marvelous gifts of God, I trust that you are the testament to God’s good work in our world!

**Pastor’s Page**

Reverend David Rivers, Senior Minister

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**September 2019 Sermon Series**

**Gifts of the ‘Aina**

The writers of our scriptures start with the genesis of the world. It speaks that each part of that creation is ‘good!’ And then, when we turn the chapter to Genesis 2, we discover the beginnings of humanity, knitted together from the stuff of the ‘aina and breathed life into the person’s body. We are connected to the ‘aina, for the ‘aina is within us and is us. Join us as we explore the gift of the ‘aina of Hawai’i and how God uses it to bring forth life!

- **September 8** ~ Volcano/New Creation
- **September 15** ~ People
- **September 22** ~ Water/Rainbow
- **September 29** ~ Fruit of the Land
Raise the Roof Campaign
Rev. Brandon Durán, Minister of Spiritual Formation

What an amazing month of blessing we’ve experienced as a congregation! Central Union members continue to buy shingles, nails, and contribute financially to the Raise the Roof Campaign. Together we are taking care of the sanctuary that has been entrusted to us.

In addition to the financial contributions, hundreds of members have shared their prayers, to be written on the new shingles. Prayers of gratitude, prayers of hope, prayers of blessing, and prayers from the scriptures now cover us as we enter the sanctuary.

In the second week of August, workers from the roofing company came into the Central Union office and expressed their amazement. As they were installing the new shingles they were touched by the prayers written on them. They had never seen anything like it before. They were so inspired that several of the workers wanted to add their prayers of blessing to some of the new shingles as well!

The renovating work is ongoing. The contractor, AAA Roofers Hawai‘i, has been working very hard and we are on schedule to complete the project by the end of September. In mid-August the workers removed the flat roof on the Ewa side and discovered that there was no roof structural damage! Please continue to pray for good news like this. Please continue to pray for the project, for the safety of the workers, and for good weather! In addition to your prayers, we are still receiving donations to fund this necessary project. As of mid-August, we have raised $68,737 in 2019. To pay for the roof renovation project we need another $154,559.

Lastly, for anyone interested in helping with the Roof Completion Celebration Party please contact Don Clifford.

Staff members writing the congregation's prayers on the shingles.
New CUPS Cottages

Marie Hook, Preschool Director

On Sunday, August 18, after the 9:00 AM service, the congregation gathered on the preschool campus in the shade of the shower tree for the much anticipated dedication of Phase 2. Cara Nakamura, of the Preschool Committee, followed by Tom Kiyabu, CUC Council Chair, welcomed the guests. A message was read on behalf of Linda Schmitt who will be teaching in the Green Cottage and who starts her 43rd year of service at the preschool. Pastor David then led the congregation in the dedication ceremony. Closing remarks and an invitation to view the Green and Pink cottages was given by Marie Hook. Cara, Tom, David and Marie removed the maile lei, allowing guests to enter the classrooms.

Quite a bit of “ooz” and “ahhhs” were heard as people entered the carefully prepared, beautiful environments. Many commented on how beautiful the classrooms were as well as how bright and inviting the windows and skylights are. As guests walked through the cottages, they noticed the quality of the furniture built by Quakers. Some guests even ventured to try out the child-sized furniture.

The road to completion of Phase 2 has had its gifts and challenges. However, it is truly evident that there was and continues to be Divine intervention in this project.

The ability to provide high quality early education in a high quality environment should make everyone involved very proud. Teachers and families are excited to be at home in the Green and Pink cottages. There is no other preschool like Central Union Church Preschool and Kindergarten.

I like to think about those 14 bold mothers, who worked to established the preschool in 1928, and wonder what they would say about the new facilities.
2019 Give Aloha: Foodland’s Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

This September, Central Union Church is participating in Foodland’s Give Aloha program! Every year Foodland, Sac ‘n Save and Western Union combine to donate money to the charities that are important to their customers in Hawaii.

For each dollar given, Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of that donation, up to a total of $250,000 for all organizations combined. Donor names will be confidential and will not be released.

You can pay your September pledge, or donate up to a cumulative total of $249 (per person, per organization). Go to Foodland with your Maika’i card [free at any Foodland service counter] and go to any cash register to pay your donation with cash, check or credit card, naming Central Union Church-#78511 as a recipient. You will receive two receipts with your name, Central Union Church’s name, and the donation amount on them. Keep one for your records and turn one into the church office by mail, or in the collection plate, so you will get credit on your giving statement. If you would like your donation to go towards the Windward campus, please make sure to write ‘Windward’ on your receipt prior to sending it into the Church office.

Central Union Church - #78511

PLEASE pay your September pledge, or give an extra donation, through “Give Aloha!” We benefit tremendously from Foodland’s generosity, but only if you go to Foodland in September and donate. Thank you for all your support and let’s make your money go further through “Give Aloha”!

Questions? Please call or email Brittany at 440-3017/ brittany-hopkins@centralunionchurch.org

Fine Art and Fellowship: A Paint Night

Join us for a time of painting, fellowship, and laughter! Artist Ronny Lynn will guide us as we paint waterfalls cascading down the Ko’olau’s.

Saturday, September 21
Session One: 3:00-5:00 PM
Session Two: 6:30-8:30 PM

Cost: $15/person
Location: Central Union Windward
38 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

There are only 20 spots available in each session, so hurry and reserve your spot today!
RSVP: mary-hohey@centralunionchurch.org or (808) 440-3048
Fall Women’s Retreat  Lisa Haley, Women’s League
November 8 to 10, 2019
Celebrating Wonder Women!

We have delighted in our Pohnpeian sisters’ gifts of handmade yellow head-lei - which also happen to look like Wonder Woman’s “truth lasso” (from Marvel Comics). Let’s think together about how we can strive to live with integrity and bring our own truth to each experience....

pictured: Women’s Retreat 2018

Join us at Camp Mokule’ia in November and think deeply, laugh heartily, rest gloriously, and revel in the wonder of being with God’s “Wonder Women” in a place of beauty and renewing energy.

Register on-line through CUC website:

centralunionchurch.org -> community -> adults -> women’s retreat

Or visit the link directly...

https://centralunionchurch.org/community/adult-education/

Aloha Sunday, September 15th at 9 AM

Central Union Church has a long tradition of hosting the Royal Court during Aloha Week in Hawai‘i. For the community at large (and the Hawaiian community in particular), it is a statement that Central Union is highly supportive of our State. For our own congregation, it is a reminder of the heritage of our land, and its strong Christian foundation.

This year’s Aloha Festivals celebrates Nā Mo‘olelo ʻUkulele: ‘Ukulele Stories. The ʻukulele is symbolic of the multicultural heritage of the Hawaiian Islands. Hawaiians named it “ʻukulele” or “jumping flea” in reference to the jumping motion of the fingers on the strings while playing. It was proclaimed the national instrument of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i by Queen Liliʻuokalani in the late 1800s. Today, the ʻukulele is the State of Hawai‘i’s official musical instrument and Hawai‘i’s musical ambassador to the world.
Central Union Church Events This Fall!

The Learning Tree - Sundays at 10:00 AM in the Women’s Building, learn more at centralunionchurch.org/community/adult-education/

Women’s Prayer Group - Wednesdays at 7:00 AM in the Rewick Board Room, for details email Margie: margie3@me.com

Women’s Book Group – Wednesdays from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM in the Youth Room, for details email Alice: alice-taum@centralunionchurch.org

Men’s Bible Study - Wednesdays at 7:00 AM in the Music Building, for details email Karl: kahr.hedberg@icloud.com

Pastor David’s Book Series - Wednesdays at 11:30 AM starting on September 4 in the Rewick Board Room, for details email Natasha: natasha-dator@centralunionchurch.org

Mindful Movement Class - Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in the Women’s Building, for details email Marion: marionlm2002@yahoo.com

Centering Prayer - Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the Rewick Board Room, for details email Carol: carol.alevizos@gmail.com

Morning of Centering Prayer - 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM in the Women’s Building, for details email Carol: carol.alevizos@gmail.com

Jesus is the Question, Series for Women with Pastor Mary - Tuesdays at 5:30 PM starting on Sept 24, for details email Pastor Mary: mary-herbig@centralunionchurch.org

Pastor Brandon’s Bible Study - Tuesdays at 5:30 PM starting on Nov 19, for details email Pastor Brandon: brandon-duran@centralunionchurch.org

Daily Devotional - Online every day at centralunionchurch.org

Women’s Retreat - Nov 8th-10th, for details visit https://centralunionchurch.org/community/adult-education/

Young Adult Group - for details email Pastor Mary: mary-herbig@centralunionchurch.org

Faith Action - Monthly meetings at 6:00 PM, for details email Evie: evyhao@gmail.com

Theology on Tap - Monthly meetings at 4:30 PM, for details email Lucinda: windwarducc@hawaii.rr.com

Windward Bible Study Group - Thursdays at 10:30 AM in the Windward Sanctuary, for details email Lucinda: windwarducc@hawaii.rr.com

Youth Group - Sundays at 10:00 AM in the Youth Room, for details email Kristen: kristen-young@centralunionchurch.org

Sunday School for Keiki - Sundays at 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM, for details email Cayanna: cayanna-herrera@centralunionchurch.org

Kids Night Out for Keiki - Oct 5 and Dec 7 at 5:30 PM, for details email Cayanna: cayanna-herrera@centralunionchurch.org

Blood Drive - Sunday, September 22, 8 AM to 1 PM. Reserve an appointment at www.bbh.org.
Central Union Church has partnered with Habilitat for this year’s Christmas Tree Sale to help raise funds for the many historic restoration projects around campus. Place your orders online and share with all your friends on social media! Pre-orders are due by 10/18/2019! Orders may be placed online as easy as…

1. Log on to www.HawaiiChristmasTrees.com
2. Choose Your Tree / Pick Up Location
3. Under Group Name Select “Central Union Church”
4. Submit Your Order

Or by filling out a printed form and mailing your check to:

Attn: Accounting Department
Central Union Church
1660 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Please notate: “Christmas Tree Pre-Order” in the memo section of the check.

Christmas Tree Pick Up Tickets will be mailed to you in mid-November. Mahalo and Mele Kalikimaka!