



LOVE NEVER FAILETH

The Spire

Central Union Church and Preschool

"We Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ!"

June 2023

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Pastor's Page • From God to Us

Rev. Mary Herbig, Minister of Congregational Life and Care

My parents always told me that if I wanted to go to college, I should study a foreign language. In my small farm town, there were only

two language options: Spanish or French. My sister was already taking Spanish and I wanted to be different (plus, the French class was rumored to be an “Easy A”). So, I dutifully enrolled and completed four years of French. Just before graduation, our French class got to travel to see a play all in French. How exciting! But unfortunately, as I sat and watched the play, I realized that that “Easy A” came with a price: I didn’t actually speak the language at all. I had absolutely no idea what was going on!

Friends, a couple of weeks ago, we celebrated Pentecost. We shared together the story in Acts 2, when the disciples were still locked away in the upper room, full of uncertainty. While they hid behind a locked door, a crowd gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Hag Shavuot, the Festival of Weeks. People had traveled to Jerusalem from all over the ancient world, speaking a multitude of different languages. I imagine that many in Jerusalem felt like I did at that French play, unable to understand or communicate with those around them. Surely the noise of that many languages created pure chaos. It must have been a wild place to be!

In the midst of that, the Holy Spirit blew in like a storm, shaking up those locked-down disciples in the upper room. With tongues of fire, she refined and transformed them. Then, with a force like a whirlwind, she pushed them right out of their comfort zones – and out of that safe, hidden space. They emerged and began to speak with those who had gathered. Suddenly,

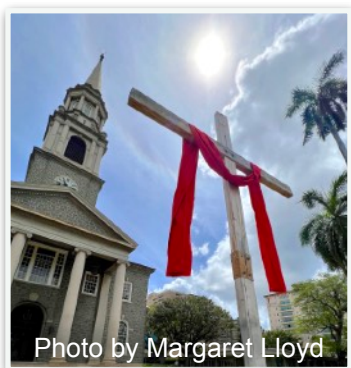
the cacophony of languages converged, and everyone could understand the disciples. Everyone could hear the good news. It was an unbelievable, confusing, wonderful event!

While this story fills us with awe (and perhaps a twinge of jealousy if we studied foreign languages), the true miracle of Pentecost was not the ability to speak and understand other languages. The true miracle was the arrival of *God within us*. Pentecost was the birthday of the Church because it is the day that the ministry of Christ moved from God to us – to you and me. It is both our origin story and our homecoming, the very foundation of our coming together as church. Like the ancestors of our faith, we have been filled with God’s own Spirit, God’s own breath, God’s own compassion for this world and for our neighbors.

If we truly believe this, then there is one critical question: *What will we do in response?* Will we try to stay in our safe, locked room because of uncertainty, fear, or a desire for comfort? Will we try to “leave God at church” until we feel like it’s the right time to let our faith into our daily lives? Will we, as a church, remain on our own campus and wait for the people to come to us? Or will we, like the disciples, allow ourselves to be shaken up by the Spirit and sent out? Will we risk letting God be God in our lives and in our church, when anything could happen?

Friends, we are at an exciting crossroads, as we prepare to welcome a new settled senior minister. Right now, it’s tempting for us to put down our work gloves and take a rest until that person we have been praying for arrives. But, that is not our call! Let us use this time to pray with our hands – to prepare ourselves for what God has in store for us through work and service! We never know what miracles God might do within and through us.

Blessings,
Pastor Mary





Update from Our Council Chair

Aloha Central Union Church!

Mahalo to all who participated in our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 21, 2023.

Whether you attended in person or online, thank you for engaging with your fellow members and allowing us to take care of the church's business. As you saw from the Annual Report, last year (May 2022 to April 2023) was a busy year for Central Union Church, and the coming year is shaping up to be even busier. Our "Step Up, Step Out" campaign has gotten us off to a good start by successfully generating enthusiasm and greater participation from Central Union members in the life of our church. The Church Council is planning a retreat for late June or early July to strategize about the projects we want to prioritize for the coming months. The Real Estate Committee is at work assessing how to best utilize portions of Central Union's real estate assets in a manner that supports our mission and ministries. And the really big news is that the Senior Minister Search Committee has recommended to the Church Council a candidate to be our next Senior Minister, and the Council has approved the candidate and called a **Special Meeting of the Members of Central Union Church on Sunday, June 25, 2023**, to consider and vote on the candidate!

You will be receiving information about the Senior Minister candidate shortly after publication of this edition of *The Spire*. Thereafter, **three informational sessions** will be held to allow church members to learn more about the candidate and his family from members of the Senior Minister Search Committee and the Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee. **The first informational session will be Sunday, June 11, 2023, from 10 to 11 AM in the Women's Building on the**

Honolulu campus. The following two meetings will be on Sunday, June 18, 2023 – one will be from 10 to 11 AM in the Women's Building on the Honolulu campus and the other will be from 11 AM to 12 PM in the Sanctuary on the Windward campus. We hope you will be able to attend at least one of these meetings. Our Senior Minister candidate will be preaching on June 25 at a special 10 AM service in the Sanctuary on the Honolulu campus and also at our 10 AM online service, after which church members will move to the Parish Hall for our 11 AM Special Meeting of the Members of Central Union Church to consider and vote on the candidate.



These are exciting and important times for Central Union so I hope you will join me in praying for our Church. As it says in Philippians, chapter 4, verse 6, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."*

Mahalo,
Carl Schlack
Council Chair

Women's League Scholarship 2023-2024 Awardees

On behalf of the 2023 Women's League Scholarship Committee (Laura Dornbush, Yosen Lam, Elizabeth Roulston, Sylvia Young) we are pleased to announce this year's 23 scholarship recipients who will each be awarded \$2,000 for the 2023-2024 academic school year.

Twenty-one of the scholarships are provided by the **Kenneth O. and Doris A. Rewick Educational Aid Fund** honoring Rev. Dr. Ken Rewick who served as Senior Minister at CUC from 1970-1974 and his wife, Doris Rewick, who was a former CUC Preschool Director and actively involved with the Children's Ministry. Please join us in congratulating this year's Rewick scholarship recipients!

Charisse Abut (Lahainaluna High School)
Cody Cristobal (Punahou School)
Jeric Eligado (Waipahu High School)
Jadelyn Fujii (Lahainaluna High School)
Matthew Gante (James Campbell High School)
Elle Kim (Kalani High School)
Yeunggyun Kwon (Kealakehe High School)
Andrew Lee (Kalani High School)
Kristine Joyce Locquiao (James Campbell High School)
Anela Melia Mosqueda (Mid-Pacific Institute)
Kylah Nagao (Damien Memorial School)
Thalia Perpignan (Pearl City High School)
Mariah Iris Edu Ramo (Waipahu High School)
Torrance Satta-Ellis (Konawaena High School)
Rayna Shafter (Island School)
Kayla Sylva (Kalani High School)
Leah Tacadena (Waipahu High School)
Avril Rose Valdez (Waipahu High School)
Noah Watanabe (Mililani High School)
Alana Wesly (Castle High School)
Andrew Yang (Kalani High School)

This year we have two awardees of the **Ruth C. Scudder Scholarship** established by the Women's Society of Central Union Church in 1915 in memory of Mrs. Scudder, who was the wife of former CUC pastor, Rev. Dr. Doremus Scudder. Please join us in congratulating this year's Scudder scholarship recipients!

Jessica Brenes (Kaiser High School)
Ariana-Nalani Sumajit (homeschool)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations, Class of 2023!



AYDEN CHAN,
Fanny Yeung's
4-year-old
grandnephew,
graduated from
Wilson Preschool.



MICHAEL HALLMAN,
son of Bob & Becky
Hallman and grandson
of Roy & Nyle
Hallman, graduated
with a Master of
Divinity from Talbot
School of Theology,
Biola University.



MARIO HERRERA,
Cayanna Herrera's
husband, graduated
with a Bachelor of
Science in Business
Administration from
the University of the
People.



SARAH MUDRICK,
Eleanor Mudrick's
daughter, received her
Master of Science in
Education and Secondary
in English from Johns
Hopkins School of
Education. She currently
teaches at Laupahoehoe
Community Public Charter
School on the Big Island.



**KASE MAALAH
OSHIRO,**
Glen and Jan
Wakamatsu's
grandchild,
graduated Cum
Laude from Colorado
Mesa University.



MAYA KAUI SCHLACK,
Carl Schlack and Shauna
Candia's daughter,
received her Master's
Degree in Counseling
Psychology (School
Counseling) from
Chaminade University of
Honolulu.



**RUBY OHELOHELO
TAMAYO,**
Glen and Jan
Wakamatsu's
grandchild, graduated
from Kailua High
School with Academic,
STEM & CTE Honors
Certificates.

**We rejoice with these and all
graduates of the Class of 2023,
and the communities behind
their success! May they feel
loved and supported as they
continue their journey.**

Meet Our New Comptroller!

Aloha, I'm Angie Barboza. I was raised in Kona, Hawai'i, graduated from Parker High School in Waimea, then went on to the University of Hawai'i at Windward obtaining an associate's degree, and then on to Cal State Fullerton to finish my degree in Business Administration & Accounting. I have worked as a Controller and Accountant for the last 20 years in a variety of industries: restaurants, a law firm, and a CPA's office. I truly enjoy working in a non-profit and Christian environment. I enjoy shopping, weight training, cooking, and being with my husband in my free time. I look forward to joining the Central Union community and contributing towards CUC's mission to Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ.



CUC Youth

Melissa Thach, *Youth Director*

The month of May was a whirlwind for students, parents, and teachers, but we met together on Sundays to share food, prayer requests, and discuss the series we've been watching, *The Chosen*.

After the school year ended, we were able to present a donation from our 2023 Punahou Parking fundraiser to Washington Middle School, one of our neighbors, for improvements needed on their campus. We also volunteered at the Serving Aloha food distribution on our first Wednesday out of school! We'll continue to help over the summer.

We are looking forward to a summer full of serving and fun! Come join us!



Zoe Lau, Sohn Santos, and Kapai Santos with Principal Michael Harano at Washington Middle School

Keiki Corner

Cayanna Herrera, *Director of Children's Ministries*

This past month, we were privileged to host another Godly Play Storyteller training session which was set up by Hawai'i's only Godly Play trainer, Jenny Wallace, and was open to O'ahu congregations. We met new people, made new friends, and enjoyed a day of learning, fellowship, and great food!

In the coming weeks, we will be focusing on stories about The Holy Family, The Ark and the Flood, The Great Family, and The Exodus. We are excited to hear more stories about the origins of our faith!



Aloha Around the World

Cayanna Herrera, Music Teacher, Central Union Preschool

For the first time since 2019, Central Union Preschool once again invited our families together in person for our annual Lei Day program on May 5. Families were treated to performances inspired by Korea, Japan, Fiji, Mexico, Brazil, and Hawai'i that expressed our theme of Aloha Around the World. We even closed with one class reminding us that It's a Small World After All and singing all together that here in Hawai'i, We Make A Rainbow. After three years, it was a joy to celebrate our aloha together again!



Pastor for a Day



One Central Union Preschool student got to join the church staff as pastor for a day! Pastor Hadley won this unique experience through the preschool's Dazzle 2023 online auction and got to spend the afternoon alongside Pastor Mary helping with pastoral care calls, checking in with staff members, preparing for the preschool's Aloha Chapel, and recording for the online worship service. With Pastor Mary being the sole pastor on staff right now, she enjoyed having another pastoral colleague for the day!

Wear Orange for Gun Violence Awareness



Evie Hao, *Community Ministry*

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. CUC's Community Ministry invited CUC members and friends to stand with Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action, organizations that work to help communities build a future free from gun violence. Several CUC members joined the wider community at a candlelight vigil beneath the orange-lit Aloha Tower on June 2 over Wear Orange Weekend. Sunday worshipers were invited to wear orange on June 4 to honor those who've lost their lives to gun violence and also gun violence survivors.



The Wear Orange movement began in 2015 to honor the birthday of Hadiya Pendleton who was shot and killed at 15 years old on a playground in Chicago. For her birthday, her friends commemorated her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.



We remind ourselves of “On Becoming a Church Against Gun Violence: A Resolution of Witness”—authored by Rev. Brandon Durán and Rev. Mary Herbig, sponsored by Central Union Church, and affirmed at the 200th ‘Aha Pae‘āina of the Hawai‘i Conference UCC in 2022—which entreated the Conference, its churches and their members, “to make their voices heard in the wider community;” that “the time has come for us all to actively promote peace and engage in efforts to end gun violence.” It implored churches “to pray for peace and for an end to these horrific acts of violence, and to let our prayers move us to meaningful action.”

Attend the Special Meeting

on Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 11 AM in the Parish Hall or by Zoom! Members will vote on the candidate for CUC's next Senior Minister.

Note: July 2023's publication of *The Spire* will come out on July 13, the second Thursday of the month rather than the first Thursday. As usual, it will first be published in the *CU Weekly* and on centralunionchurch.org, then mailed in the days following to those who've opted to receive a hard copy.

Remembering Our Saints

Please hold the family of **Susannah Villa**, who died on May 27, 2023, in your prayers during this time. Services are pending.

Please also remember the family of **Kitty Yannone**, who died on June 1, 2023, in your prayers during this time of mourning. Services are pending.

