

# THE SPIRE

Pictured: Our youth enjoying cool treats during our summer celebration of Christmas in July!



## Pastor's Page: Created to be Together



**Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray,**  
*Senior Minister*

Velcro is such an amazing invention, isn't it? It is sticky stuff. The tiniest patch has substantial strength and countless uses. You can hang pictures. Seal clothing from cold or rain. And secure shoes and batten down covers. Do you know the history of Velcro?

George de Mestral, a Swedish electrical engineer, was taking a walk in the woods in the 1940s, and was frustrated that both he and his dog were covered with a whole lot of burdock seeds ... and they were difficult to remove. The way these seeds attached themselves to his clothing fascinated George and he embarked on studying more closely the "hook" design of these seeds which led to the invention of Velcro.



Have you wondered how Velcro works? Velcro is made from nylon and polyester, and has two parts. One strip made with tiny hooks and another strip has tiny loops. When they are pressed together these

hooks and loops attach and can provide significant strength – until they are pulled apart.

The irony is that by themselves, each strip is useless. It has no stickiness at all. It is just a patch of nylon hooks and polyester cloth with the potential for connection. The strength only comes through connection.

God is relational and God created us to be in community. Our hearts and souls are little hooks or loops that find greater strength when they are connected with others and with God. It is how we are made.

God has created us to be together. And as church we have been given the calling to be connected – we find strength in connection.

Our experiences tell us that sometimes, maybe often, we are not as unified as God calls us to be. Sometimes we find ourselves in the church having the feeling of being out there alone forgetting that connection brings strength. Being connected, being united, brings strength and blessings.



Our church is a big tent. We have people from diverse backgrounds, with a diversity of beliefs, with diverse experiences, perspectives and stories. We have different understandings of who and what we are called to be and do in life. We have different understandings of what it means to live out our faith. That diversity is what makes us strong.

In the last few months, we have begun the intentional, and slow, work of rebuilding and renewing this church community after several years of struggle, pain, trauma, challenge and transition. The work is going to be hard, there are going to be challenges and we are going to disagree. As we continue to work, to dream and to imagine together about where God is calling us as a community of faith, let us remind ourselves again about the importance of remaining connected to the church 'ohana, about the ways we find strength in being united and that we are always connected to our God of extravagant grace and love.

Blessings and peace,  
Pastor Rushan



# Meet the Nominees for Church Council

**Carl Schlack,**  
*Church Council Chair*

Aloha Central Union Church!

Less than two months from now, on Sunday, **September**

**8, 2024, Central Union Church will hold its Annual Membership and Budget Meeting** for the current fiscal year (2023-24). Preparations for the annual meeting require a substantial amount of time and involve many hands which is why planning began weeks ago. Three of the more important and time consuming tasks that need to be completed before the meeting are: (1) the creation of the proposed budget that will be presented to Members for consideration and approval (Church Treasurer, David Yee, has been working diligently and faithfully for weeks on a draft budget that will be made available to all Members for review in advance of the meeting), (2) the preparation of the Annual Report of Central Union Church that will be made available to all Members prior to the meeting (currently, the Annual Report is being compiled by ministry/committee chairs and Church staff), and (3) the assembly of a slate of candidates to fill the Council vacancies resulting from Members whose terms on the

Council will conclude at the annual meeting (to be considered and elected by Church Members attending the annual meeting).

As to the foregoing slate of candidates, at its monthly meeting on June 27, 2024, the Council reviewed and unanimously approved eight candidates who were proposed and vetted by the Nominations and Governance Committee to fill the positions of the four At Large Council members and three Officers whose terms will end soon.

Please take a few minutes to acquaint yourselves with these Members of Central Union who are willing to dedicate their time and talent to serve on the Council, by reviewing the following biographical information. And keep in mind that our governing Bylaws allow Central Union Church members to propose additional nominees for Officer and At Large Council positions by complying with the requirements of Bylaws Section 4.3.C.

Should you wish to contact me, please email [council-chair@centralunionchurch.org](mailto:council-chair@centralunionchurch.org).

Mahalo,  
Carl Schlack

## Council Chair (2-year term) David Yee



My better half Maura Yee and I were married at Central Union Church in 1981. Our children Alicia and Alex are Central Union Preschool alumni. In 2004 I became active as a Deacon for three years. That was followed by service as a Trustee, and subsequently multiple terms as a member of the Church Council. While on the Council, I have chaired committees/ministries such as Budget, Administrative and Finance, Investments, and Buildings & Grounds. I've also been a member of Stewardship and the Vision Team. Currently I serve as Treasurer and Chair of the Real Estate Committee.

## Council Vice Chair (2-year term) Brody McMurtry



**Brody McMurtry** is CEO of Good Current, a solar development and finance company located in Hawai'i. He has developed over 50 public and private sector clean energy projects in Hawai'i with more than \$750 million of energy savings. His most recent projects are the Kona Village Solar Microgrid, the multi-campus University of Hawai'i efficiency and renewable energy project, and the City and County of Honolulu Solar and Efficiency project. Earlier in his career, Brody practiced law, worked at a solar technology startup, and did projects in Zambia, Uganda, and Japan. Brody and his wife Dawn have been members since 2019.

Council Secretary (2-year term)

Colleen Ho‘omana



Born and raised on O‘ahu, **Colleen Ho‘omana** grew up serving in her local Hawaiian church, instilling in her a lifelong commitment to community and service. She pursued graphic design in art school in Colorado but found her niche in facilities management, beginning with technical writing and progressing into leadership roles. Colleen now serves as the Director of Site Management and Building Engineering for a local facilities company. Alongside her wife, Melinda Dallass, and their two children, Grace and Sofia, she has been a dedicated member of Central Union Church for six years. She shares, “I’m deeply grateful to Central Union Church for providing a welcoming and inclusive space for my family to worship together. The church's loving community has been a tremendous blessing in our lives.”

Council Treasurer (2-year term)

Ciarra Sapigao



**Ciarra Sapigao, Esq., CPA** was born in Honolulu, Hawai‘i and was raised in Central Union Church. Her parents, Frank and Chariza Sapigao, have been members of CUC for over 30 years. Ciarra and her brothers, Francis and Izachar Sapigao, attended CUC Preschool, were baptized and confirmed at CUC, and were active members of the CUC Youth Group. Ciarra is a graduate of Punahou School and went on to obtain her BS at Boston College. After graduation, she worked for six years as a CPA at the New York City office of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Ciarra moved back home to Hawai‘i to attend

law school at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law, where she earned her JD. After law school, she worked for two years as a Litigation Attorney at Lung Rose Voss & Wagnild, a local civil litigation firm. Currently, Ciarra serves as In-House Counsel at the Ward Village office of Howard Hughes Holdings Inc.

At Large Council Member (3-year term, Class of 2027)

Sam Failla



**Sam Failla** was born and raised on O‘ahu. He and his spouse Peggy have been members of Central Union Church for about 40 years. They have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren. Sam has served in the past on the Diaconate, the Board of Trustees, and the Church Council as well as currently serving on the Buildings and Grounds Committee and on the Central Union Windward Ministry. Sam holds Electrical and General contracting licenses as well as a real estate license and has served on the Building Board of Appeals for the City and County of Honolulu as well as on the Board of Electricians and Plumbers for the State of Hawai‘i. Sam graduated from ‘Iolani School, Emory University for his undergraduate degree, and Georgia State University for his Masters.

At Large Council Member (3-year term, Class of 2027)

Paul Hayes



**Paul Kaleiokalani Hayes** and his wife, Lindsey Garnick, recently became members of Central Union after being married by Rev. Mary Herbig at Kualoa Ranch last year. His parents were also married at Central Union. Paul was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai‘i, and now lives in Palolo Valley. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with both bachelor and master’s degrees in Architecture and Urbanism, and most recently from the Stanford Graduate School of Business MBA program. Paul previously worked as a designer and now works for Howard Hughes as a real estate developer. He and his wife are looking forward to making lifelong connections and supporting the church.

At Large Council Member (3-year term, Class of 2027) **Joan Murata**



I was born and raised in Kailua, O’ahu and lived there with my parents and three siblings. At the age of five, I was introduced to Christianity when I began attending church services near our home. In 1968 I moved to California where I lived for 15 years, ten of which were spent as an assistant to a successful entrepreneur who appointed me an officer for three of his companies. When I became a single parent, my primary focus was raising my daughter and putting a plan of action in place. I had public relations/advertising/sales/publishing experience so I decided to become a partner in a publishing company. Media-HI became the primary publisher for HVCB which included vacation planners and maps for each island. We published several other publications as well as the first vacation planner for the island of Moorea in Tahiti. Then came the digital age and print became obsolete. Upon retirement I wanted to keep busy and worked as a Branch Administrator for Edward Jones for several years.

In the early 1980s I became a member of CUC. I have one daughter, 36 years old. Since inception I have chaired Membership & Fellowship, taught Sunday School (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, preschool), led Deaconesses, Women’s League, Pastoral Search Committee, Flower Committee; served as Thrift Shop Manager/ volunteer, CUC Trustee, and for over 15 years been responsible for the 11 AM service in Parish Hall.

At Large Council Member (1-year term, Class of 2025) **Melveen Chun**



**Melveen Chun** was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai’i and grew up in the Kapahulu area. A graduate of the University of Hawai’i with a bachelor’s degree in Nursing, Melveen has worked as a Registered Nurse at a local hospital in Aiea for the past 20 years and truly enjoys helping people. Melveen’s ‘ohana consists of her spouse, Mae Acio, and they are proud parents to their 4 year-old son, Mateo Acio-Chun, who has attended Central Union Preschool for the past two years. Melveen and her spouse have been congregants of Central Union Church for over five years now. “We are especially thankful and appreciative of the supportive, inclusive, and caring environment Central Union Church and its congregants consistently strive to provide to everyone.”

## Green Team in Action

**Carolynn Bell Tuttle, Green Team**

**“We are the caretakers of the Largest Ocean in the World.”**

*—Spokesperson for Samoa delegation at the 2024 Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture held on O’ahu earlier in the month of June*

Central Union celebrated its twelfth annual E-Waste collection event on June 22! Teaming up with the Growing Green Community Recycling Clean-Up Program, volunteers from the Lions Club and State Representative Scott Nishimoto, diligently unloaded old computers, cell phones, iPads, TVs, and other electronics for safe recycling. The gathered e-waste will be transported to California, where reusable components will be repurposed into new products. This initiative helps prevent e-waste from filling up landfills and safeguards our water sources, ensuring the safety of our aquifer for current and future generations. Big thanks to everyone who participated in recycling their e-waste! Mark your calendars for next year's event on June 21, 2025 – we look forward to seeing you there!



# Keiki

**Cayanna Herrera**, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Godly Play kicked off the summer with our Central Union Church Preschool friends at the beginning of summer school. On June 23, the ministry held a Door Person Training session for our youth volunteers, and on June 30, we introduced our congregation to Godly Play during intergenerational worship at all three of our services on our Honolulu campus!



With the middle of July came Christmas In July with lots of food, fellowship, and fun in the sun with our 'melted snow day'.



On July 22 we will kick off our annual weeklong Compassion Camp for children age 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. In the coming weeks, we will be wrapping up our summer and heading back to school.

On **August 11**, we invite you to join us for our annual **Back-to-School Backpack and Teacher Blessing!** As we look ahead, we thank you for your prayers and support for all we have experienced and we hope you will join us for our upcoming events!

# Youth

**Melissa Thach**, *Youth Director*



This summer our youth have been volunteering at Serving Aloha every Wednesday, usually followed by lunch together, and making time for fun. We went to watch *Inside Out 2* and discussed themes of the movie together, including the importance of our feelings and paying attention to what they're telling us. We took a tour of Central Union with church historian Uncle Karl and got to climb up to the clock tower!



In just a few days, we will travel to Kauai for our Confirmation/Back-to-School kickoff retreat where we will begin our journey of exploring different belief systems in order for each youth to be able to articulate what they believe about God and the world. We will also spend time with another UCC youth group and enjoy the beauty of Kauai. Thank you all for your prayer and support of our amazing youth!

## Intergenerational Worship • June 30



The whole congregation got to experience Godly Play in each of the worship services ([online](#), too) through the story of Joseph. Keiki remained throughout the service and engaged in storytelling, wonder, and work – a few of the components of the Godly Play faith formation method which is used in our Sunday School. In August, there will be more opportunities for all ages to explore Godly Play in Learning Tree presentations on August 11, 18, and 25, at 10 AM in the Women’s Building. Everyone is encouraged to join and play!

## Christmas in July • July 14



Christmas in July invites us to focus on the birth of Christ without the busyness of the winter holidays, and reminds us that we don’t need to wait for December 25th to celebrate love, peace, and the God who is with us! Christ is born every day, in and through us. We celebrated with carols, a potluck, and fellowship!

# LOOKING AHEAD

**July 21: Women's League Scholarship Reception**, 10 AM, Women's Building

**July 25: Empty Homes Tax Presentation**, 6:00-7:30 PM, Women's Building  
*Sponsored by Community Ministry & HiHAC (Hawai'i Housing Affordability Coalition)*

**July 22-26: Compassion Camp**

**July 26-28: Youth Retreat on Kaua'i**

**August 1: Registration opens for 35th Women's Retreat**

**August 11: Back-to-School Sunday**

**August 11, 18, 25: Learning Tree**, 10 AM, Women's Building  
*Godly Play for ALL! Stories will tie in with the sermon for the day.*

**August 22: Chancel Choir** rehearsals start

**September 1: Laity Sunday**

**September 8: Annual Meeting, 11 AM**  
10 AM: One in-person service, Sanctuary

**September 15: Aloha Sunday**

### Young(ish) Adults Events

- **August 11: Polo Outing**
- **August 25: Breakfast Bunch**
- **September 26: Dinner Gathering**



## Women's League Scholarship Reception



**Sunday, July 21, 2024, 10 AM**  
Central Union Church Women's Building

The Women's League awarded scholarships (\$2,000 each) to 22 students for the upcoming school year! ALL are invited to a special reception to congratulate and celebrate the awardees on July 21!

CENTRAL UNION CHURCH • MUSIC MINISTRIES

## 'UKULELE CLASS for beginners

**FREE 6-week session**  
*Donations welcome*

**SUNDAYS • 1:00-2:00 PM**  
August 18, 25; September 1, 15, 22, 29

**Central Union Women's Building**  
1660 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

**Keiki to kūpuna!**  
Keiki under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult

'Ukulele not provided  
Check out the ['Ukulele Lending Program](#) at Hawai'i public libraries!



**REGISTER  
ONLINE**  
*Space is limited!*

[bit.ly/uke-cuc](https://bit.ly/uke-cuc)

With CUC Worship Team Leader  
**Wade Cambern** of Hawaiian Style Band!



## Remembering Our Saints

Please hold in prayer, the family of **Marilyn Keomalū**, who died on July 4, 2024. Services are pending.

