

THE SPIRE



LAITY SUNDAY

The Tashima 'ohana leads
the Call to Worship
in the 9 AM service



Pastor's Page: "Imagine Together"

Rev. A. Rushan Sinnaduray
Senior Minister

Friends,

I was reading an article recently about a certain kind of bacteria that has learned to live forever. According to the story, these single-celled creatures survive through periods of severe drought, heat, or cold by reshuffling their chemical processes. They put up molecular gates around their most important parts — gates for which “the only key is the return of favorable conditions”. It seems that bacteria that shut themselves down and close themselves off this way can live for decades, centuries, or possibly longer.

In so many ways that is a little like what we do in the Christian Church when the environment and context we find ourselves in becomes unfavorable: we put up hard walls around the core of faith, worship, and church life and prepare to enter into a state of hibernation. I mean, just look around. The wider culture has become less favorable ground for growth. Religious pluralism is a reality now in a way that it wasn't fifty years ago. Jobs, families, and politics are all changing. The ethnic makeup of our communities is different than it was when our churches and denominations were growing and flourishing. One appealing answer is to pull back, hoard our limited resources and maintain the status quo until things around us change.

The problem is that I don't think that this is a faithful response. It's just not possible to shut down and wait. The church is, as St. Paul tells us, a body with many parts, not a single-celled organism. Bodies are always changing along with their world. They're connected to the world

outside. We have to trust that God is at work within us as well as around us, and that what God is doing may feel unexpected, uncomfortable and a little frightening at times.

In October we will begin our annual Stewardship Campaign. The theme of our campaign this year is “Imagine Together”. During October, our worship and sermons will challenge us to begin dreaming and imagining the future for this vital community of faith and will also challenge us to discern ways in which each and every one of us can use our time, talent, and treasure to help us renew, revitalize and re-energize Central Union Church. I am also looking forward to beginning the process of sharing my thoughts for a vision and

strategic plan for our church as we look to the future. I am so excited to embark on this journey of imagining our future together with each of you. This is an exciting time to be a part of Central Union Church as we work together to discern God's dream for this part of the body of Christ in this time and place.

During October and over the next 12-18 months, we will be asking ourselves what it means to be open to the movement of God's Spirit, and asking ourselves

to imagine what that will mean for us as we travel into the future. Unlike the closed-down, immortal bacteria, the key to our life as a faith community is not in holding fast to what we've always done and hoarding our resources but trusting that we are held in the hands of God as we take some risks in faith, as we think creatively and as we remain open to the movement of God's Holy Spirit in and through us. Come, let us imagine together!

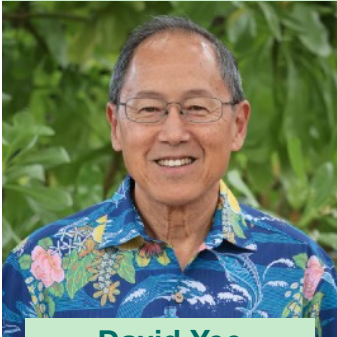
Blessings,
Pastor Rushan



Annual Member and Budget Meeting

On September 8, we held our first Annual Member and Budget Meeting, sharing in the work and business of our church. We reflected on the past year and looked ahead to what God has in store. The outgoing Treasurer and Chair gave reports, and eight people were elected to fill the following positions on the Council. Bios for these newest council members can be found in [The Spire, July 2024](#). Our new Church Council will be installed in the 9 AM worship service on September 22.

Council Officers



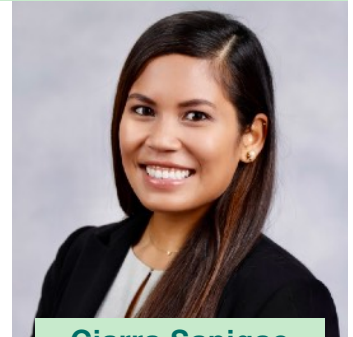
David Yee
Chair



Brody McMurtry
Vice Chair



Colleen Ho'omana
Secretary



Ciarra Sapigao
Treasurer

At Large Council Members



Sam Failla
Class of 2027



Paul Hayes
Class of 2027



Joan Murata
Class of 2027



Melveen Chun
Class of 2025



At his final Council meeting as Chair, Carl Schlack was presented with a gift of gratitude for his “foresight, wisdom, calmness and faith” during his time of leadership on the Council. **Mahalo, Carl!**

“As much as we think of this church as ours because we occupy this particular space, at this particular time, I think it’s important for us to remember that Central Union has a history, and before it was *our* church, it was the church of the generation that preceded us, and the generation that preceded them. Of course, Central Union doesn’t belong to any of us. *It belongs to God* – and we’re simply the current caretakers, the stewards of the church and its ministry at this time. Let us always strive to be worthy of that responsibility.”
– Carl Schlack, in his final address to the congregation at the closing of the Meeting



Carl passes on the torch – and Christmas blazer (worn by two former pastors) – to newly elected Chair David Yee... who believes the tradition should continue with the current minister instead!

Back to School at CUPS

Alana Anderson, *Advancement & Communications Manager, Central Union Preschool*

With the end of the Summer Session and two-week intercession for the keiki and faculty, CUPS began the 2024-2025 new school year with all the promise for a great start and upcoming term! Monday, August 12, welcomed Group A while the following day, Tuesday, saw the students of Group B descend onto campus. Parents renewed their daily morning routines either at Autoline or Gerrell Gate to drop off their keiki and the days are, once again, filled with laughter and joy from classrooms and during recesses outside on the playground.



During these first few weeks of school, children are getting acclimated to a new classroom environment, reacquainting themselves with both returning and new peers, and learning the rules and routines of the classroom schedule.

2024-2025 looks to be an exciting year with annual events already gearing up to get started. Throughout the month of September, visit any Foodland, Foodland Farms, and Sack N Save statewide to donate up to \$249 to CUPS using code #78270. More events are sure to follow... stay tuned! Connect with CUPS on Instagram (@[CUPSKeiki](#)) and Facebook (@[CUPS Keiki](#))!



Youth Contribute to a “Genki” Future



Healthy, vital, energetic – in Japanese, these qualities can be expressed by the word *genki*. Our youth voted to donate a portion of their earnings from the 2024 Punahou parking fundraiser to [The Genki Ala Wai Project](#). The mission of the project is to empower students, teachers, and the community to work together to restore the ecosystem in the Ala Wai Canal by deploying 300,000 Genki Balls, specially-made mud balls containing beneficial microorganisms that help digest sludge. On Saturday, September 7, our youth group sponsored a wider community event making Genki Balls and tossing them into the canal. Since the start of the project in 2019, over 165,991 Genki Balls have been launched into the Ala Wai in an effort to make the canal safe for fishing and swimming again!

Jazz Vespers



Pictured: Marion Lyman-Mersereau

September saw our first Jazz Vespers service combining prayer, meditation, a range of readings, and marvelous musicianship for holy inspiration. Featured musicians (left) were Rachel Gonzales (vocals), Jim Guss (guitar), and Eric Nakamoto (bass). **Join us for Jazz Vespers every first Sunday! 2024 services coming up: October 6, November 3, December 1.**

Troop 777 Welcomes New Scouts!



Do you know a boy who thrives being outdoors and loves adventure? Encourage him to join Boy Scouts! For over 100 years, the Boy Scout program has helped create generations of leaders and outstanding citizens by allowing boys to explore their interests, serve their communities, and discover their talents through youth-led activities like hiking, camping, and volunteering!



SCOUTS | BSA

Troop 777, chartered by Central Union Church, is hosting its annual **Recruitment Open House** on **Friday, October 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM** in the Central Union Diamond Head Music Room. If you are interested in attending or learning more about Scouting and Troop 777, contact our Membership Coordinator at membership@troop777.org!



Laity Sunday • “Hearers and Doers of the Word”

On September 1, we celebrated Laity Sunday when lay members lead us in worship, reminding us that ALL of us – not just ordained clergy – are called to minister in the world! Carl Schlack, outgoing Council Chair, preached a sermon based on James 1:17-27, reflecting on God's transformative love and the experiences that have given him a glimpse of “the depth and breadth of God's love for us.”



As **receivers** of God's love,
we cannot help but eventually
become **doers** of God's love.

— Carl Schlack, outgoing Council Chair & preacher
Laity Sunday, September 1, 2024

September is Time to Give Aloha at Foodland



give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

CHURCH

#78511

PRESCHOOL

#78270



GIVE ALOHA
SEPTEMBER 1-30



This month you can go to any Foodland cash register with your Maika'i card (free at any Foodland service counter) to make a donation with cash/check/card, naming Central Union Church **#78511** or Central Union Preschool **#78270** as the recipient.

Through Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program, Give Aloha, you can donate any amount, up to a total of \$249 (per person, per participating organization) and we'll get even more in return. Submit your receipt to the Church Office by mail or in the offering plate to get credit on your giving statement.

Please consider paying any part of your pledge, or make an extra donation, through Give Aloha this September – and make your money go farther!

LOOKING AHEAD

September 15: Aloha Sunday (7, 9, 11 AM)

9 AM - Royal Court present

10 AM - Young(ish) Adults Brunch Bunch

Service of Healing & Prayer

5:30-6:30 PM (third Sundays)

Atherton Chapel



September 22: New Members Meeting

10 AM, Rewick Board Room

September 26: Young(ish) Adults Dinner

Church, 6:00-7:30 PM, Atherton Courtyard

October: Stewardship season!

Theme: "Imagining Together"

October 6: World Communion Sunday,

Pet Blessing (7, 9, 11 AM)

10-11 AM - **Potluck**

5:30-6:30 PM - **Jazz Vespers**, Atherton Chapel

October 11: Boy Scouts Troop 777

Recruitment Open House

6:30 PM, Music Building

October 13 & 27: Learning Tree

10 AM, Women's Building

UPCOMING SMALL GROUPS

The Questioning Christ (with Pastor Mary)

Mondays, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

October 14, 21, 28, November 4

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

October 15, 22, 29, November 5

Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas (with Pastor Rushan)

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

November 19, December 3, 10, 17

Thursdays, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

November 21, December 5, 12, 19

SERVICE of HEALING & PRAYER



THIRD SUNDAYS • 5:30-6:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 15 • OCTOBER 20 • NOVEMBER 17

ATHERTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL, CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

Join us on the **third Sunday** of the month for this intimate and contemplative service including Taizé music, prayer, silence, and laying on of hands. Discover a place of healing for your soul rooted in the traditions of the Scottish island of Iona where Celtic Christianity flourishes. All are welcome.

PET BLESSING



10.6.24

CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

**LIFE GETS RUFF.
COME GET
BLESSED.**

Remembering Our Saints

Please hold in prayer the family of **William Jackson** who died on August 9, 2024.

A service will be held on Sunday, September 15, 11:30 AM at Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery.

