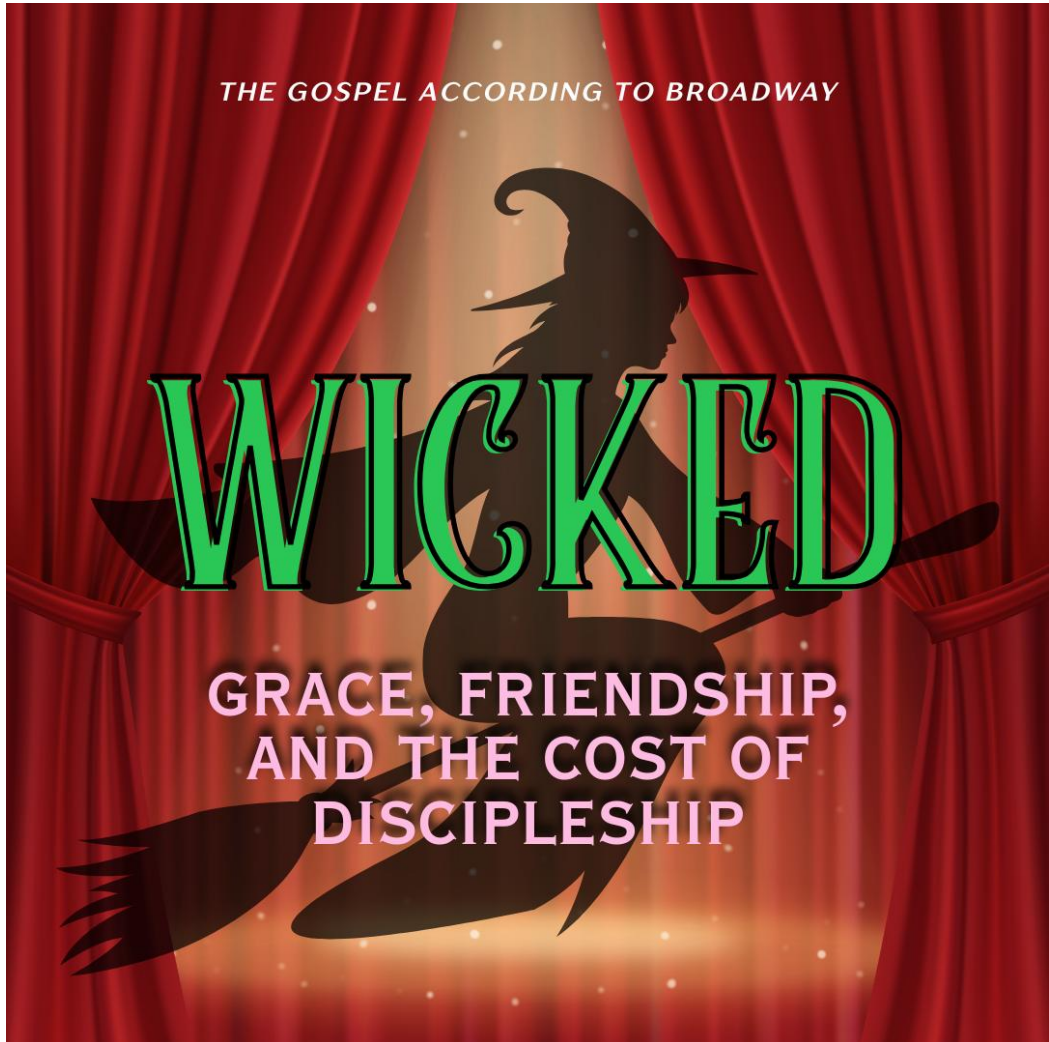


CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 'OHANA

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



MAY 3, 2026

9 AM SERVICE

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • COMMUNION SUNDAY
SANCTUARY

Gift of Music (8:45 AM)

Lei No Kaiulani

John Edwards

Dr. Christopher Kelsey, baritone

Puā Ka Nahele

Queen Lili'uokalani

Miranda Saenz, soprano & Brett Keniston, tenor

Ka Wai Māpuna

Queen Lili'uokalani

Dr. Christopher Kelsey

Ahe Lau Makani

Queen Lili'uokalani

Miranda Saenz & Brett Keniston

Margaret Lloyd, piano

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS...

From many places we gather here. This is a high point of our week. We see our friends. We make new friends. And we spend time with the loving Christ who meets us where we are, as we are. In this Sanctuary we worship, and through worship the courage within us is kindled to inspire courageous living beyond this place.

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray

*** Sharing Aloha**

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Stephen Courtney

One: God does not see as the world sees.

Many: The world looks at appearances, but God looks at the heart.

One: God calls us beyond easy labels of good and wicked, friend and foe.

Many: God calls us to see one another with mercy.

One: Jesus invites us to love without limits.

Many: To love even when it is hard. To stand for what is right. To choose grace over fear.

One: Come, people of God who are seen, known, and loved by God.

Many: Let us worship the One who looks at the heart and teaches us how to love.

*** Hymn**

Help Us Accept Each Other

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;

teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.

Be present, Lord, among us and Bring us to believe:

we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life

we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.

Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,

to love them as we find them or as they may become.

**Let your acceptance change us so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

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*** Prayer of Invocation** (*in unison*)

Stephen Courtney

**Loving God, you see us as we truly are. Open our hearts to your truth,
our eyes to your grace, and our lives to your love. Teach us to see one
another as you see, and to love as Jesus loves - with courage, compassion,
and mercy. Be present with us now. Amen.**

Time for Keiki

Cayanna Herrera

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Scripture

1 Samuel 16:7
Luke 6:27-36

Marion Lyman-Mersereau

Music for the Day

For Good

Stephen Schwartz

Sarah Young, mezzo soprano & Ezinne Dawson, mezzo soprano

Sermon

WICKED: GRACE,
FRIENDSHIP, AND THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Sinnaduray

Music for Reflection

The Wizard and I
Ezinne Dawson

Stephen Schwartz

TO RESPOND IN FAITH...

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Rev. Sinnaduray

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

O I Pahn Seiseilok

(You Are Never Alone On Your Spiritual Journey)

Pohnpei Ministry Choir & Chancel Choir ~ Robinson Fredrick, director

To give online to support our mission and ministry, scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera OR type bit.ly/give2cuc into your web browser and select "General Fund" from the drop-down menu.



* Doxology *(sung in Hawaiian)*

Ho‘onani i ka Makua mau,

Ke Keiki me ka ‘Uhane nō,

Ke Akua mau, ho‘omaika‘i pū,

Ko kēia ao, ko kēlā ao.

‘Āmene.

Praise God,

From Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

*We practice open communion here at Central Union Church, which means that **all** are welcome to gather at Christ's table and to share in this meal – a symbol of our connectedness to each other, to all of creation and to God. We invite you to come forward using the side aisles to receive Holy Communion. Once you have received communion, you may return to your seat via the center aisle. In addition to regular bread, there will also be a gluten-free option available at the station on the Ewa side – please indicate to those serving if you require gluten-free bread.*

Communion Music

O Come to My Heart

arr. Mary McDonald

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(in unison)*

We give thanks that we have gathered together in this sacred place, and been refreshed at this table. We rejoice in the giftedness of each person here. We are grateful for who we are for each other. May we go forth into the world in courage and peace to share the unfailing love that we have experienced in this meal. Amen.

AND GO FORTH IN LOVE.

God's love cannot be contained within the walls of this Sanctuary. Take the love of Christ from this place into your homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

* Hymn

How Great Thou Art

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.**

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!**

**E ke Akua nani kamaha‘o,
Nau no i hana ka honua nei,
Me na hoku, ka uila ka hekili
Ho‘ike ana i Kou mana e.**

Hui:

**E mele au I ka Ho‘ola e,
He nani no, He nani no.
E mele au I ka Ho‘ola e,
He nani no, He nani no.**

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* Closing Prayer (*in unison*)

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than
we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in
the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

(Adapted from Ephesians 3:20-21)

* Benediction

Rev. Sinnaduray

* Congregational Response

**Then let us go to serve in peace, the Gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.**

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Postlude

Unconditional

Dan Chadburn

Our WORSHIP is ended...our SERVICE now begins.

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Margaret Lloyd, piano

*Today's flowers have been lovingly arranged by **Dona Hanaike**, with assistance from **Gabi Bedlion**, and have been provided by **Joe & Barb Elm** and **'Ohana**, in loving memory of Joe's mother, **Willida Elm**, who was a Sokakyo-level ikebana master. Willida, who would have been 102 today, May 3rd, passed away at 98 in 2022.*

TODAY IS PACIFIC ISLANDER AND ASIAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY



PAAM (Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries) **Sunday** is observed in the United Church of Christ (UCC) on the **first Sunday in May** to recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans in the life of the UCC. PAAM is part of the UCC's Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM) which advocates for the racial and ethnic concerns within the United Church of Christ.

TODAY WE ALSO CELEBRATE LEI DAY

Hawaiian lei are known as symbols of aloha. The first lei contest, referred to as Lei Day, was held on May 1, 1928. Poet laureate, Don Blanding, originally from Oklahoma, came to Hawai'i in 1915 after seeing a play in Kansas City called "The Bird of Paradise" that depicted a romantic (and completely fictional) Hawai'i. In 1927, Blanding and a fellow "Honolulu Star-Bulletin" newspaper writer named Grace Tower Warren came up with the idea of honoring the tradition of the lei, which they thought to be in decline. The first Lei Day was held on May 1, 1928, and was a resounding success. It took place in the lobby of Bank of Hawai'i and the official judges that day were: Princess Abigail Wahiikaahuula Campbell, Elizabeth Lahilahi Webb (lady-in-waiting for Queen Lili'uokalani) and Ali'i Lucy Kalaniki'eki'e Davis. The festival included a lei competition in which lei were judged based on the appropriate use of flowers and colors of islands as designated in 1923 by Hawai'i's Territorial Legislature's Joint Resolution #1. Ever since this inaugural lei competition in 1928, we continue to celebrate May Day in Hawai'i as being synonymous with Lei Day. It is our unique and special way to celebrate our shared traditions. (source: Kamehameha Schools website - ksbe.edu)



NEW MEMBER MEETING – TODAY AT 10 AM

Interested in becoming a member of CUC?! Join Pastor Rushan, TODAY, at 10 AM, in the Rewick Board Room (in the Admin Building) to learn more about church membership!



JAZZ VESPERS: TONIGHT!



Join us in the Atherton Courtyard from **5:30 to 6:30 PM, tonight, May 3, 2026**, as we bring together amazing musicianship and holy inspiration for a service of prayer, meditation, silence and music.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BROADWAY

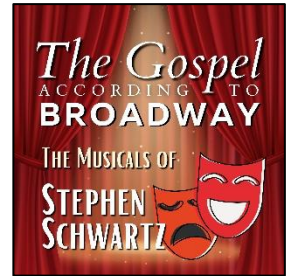
A Sermon Series • April 19 – May 17, 2026

In the next few weeks, we invite you to experience the good news in a fresh way through *The Gospel According to Broadway: The Musicals of Stephen Schwartz*.

Drawing on beloved Broadway shows, this series explores how faith, grace, justice, and purpose are revealed through modern storytelling and song. Rooted in the United Church of Christ's belief that **God is Still Speaking**, this series echoes Pastor John Robinson's reminder to the Pilgrims that "the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from his holy Word." We listen for God's voice not only in Scripture, but also in the culture and stories that surround us today. Join us as we discover how God continues to speak—on the stage, in community, and in our lives.

Sermon Schedule:

- **Today** – *Wicked: Grace, Friendship, and the Cost of Discipleship*
- **May 10** – *The Prince of Egypt: Deliverance and Divine Calling*
- **May 17** – *Pippin: The Search for Meaning*



REGISTER FOR COMPASSION CAMP 2026



Kids ages 3-11 are invited to **Compassion Camp** hosted by our Children's Ministry from **July 20-24**. Suggested donation is \$65. Space is limited. Learn more and register online: bit.ly/cuc2026compassion.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTRAL UNION CHURCH



Thank you for joining us in worship today. Your presence and participation are an important part of shaping this experience of worship for all of us. **Know that whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey of life and of faith, you are welcome here!**

If you are a guest here today, we would love for you to become a regular part of what God is doing in and through this church community. Let us know you visited today by completing this brief form here: bit.ly/cucguest, or by using this QR code,



so that we can reach out to you and welcome you to our community.

Large Print Bulletins: Large print editions of the worship bulletin are available; please let an usher know if you need one.

Nursery: A staffed Nursery is available during the **9 AM and 11 AM services**. Children, ages birth through three years, may be left in the Nursery where they will be cared for during the service.

Sunday School: We offer a Sunday School program for children, age 3 through 5th Grade, during the **9 AM and 11 AM services**. Children participate in the first part of the service and will leave for Sunday School following the Time for Keiki.

Youth Group: We offer a Youth Group for young people in grades 6 through 12. This week, the Youth will meet **between Noon and 1:30 PM** in the Youth Room.

Young(ish) Adults: We have a Young(ish) Adult ministry here at CUC for Generations X, Y, Z. We gather monthly and would love to connect with you! For more information, please email youngish@centralunionchurch.org.

Our Ministers are Every One of Our Members!
Senior Minister, The Rev. A. Rushan Sinnaduray

Please note: By attending events on campus, you may be included in photos and videos recorded by church representatives. Your presence grants your permission to be in these photos or videos, which may be used for communications or archival purposes. If you do not wish to be photographed or included in communications, you may let a church representative know. Mahalo!

Central Union Church – A United Church of Christ 'Ohana
Celebrating transforming lives since 1887!
"We Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ!"
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