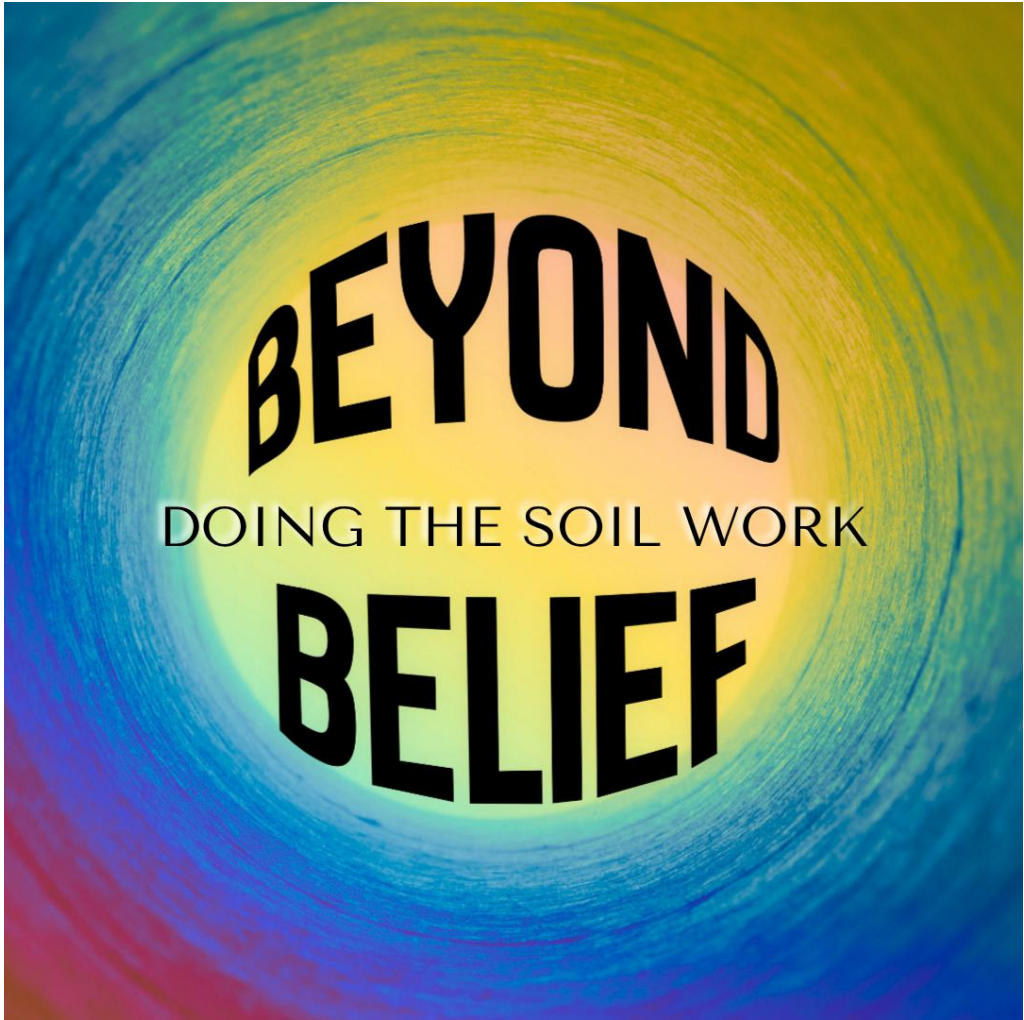


CENTRAL UNION CHURCH

A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 'OHANA

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



JULY 12, 2026
7 AM SERVICE
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ATHERTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Prelude

Improvisation on "Comfort"

arr. Roy Brunner

I Am His and He Is Mine

arr. Roy Brunner

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. Dr. Will Whitmore

*** Sharing Aloha**

Rev. Whitmore

Call to Worship *(responsively)*

Ron Mesiona

One: We come here today with a lot on our minds and a lot in our hearts. Some of us feel stretched thin, and some of us feel like our faith has hit a wall.

Many: **We bring ourselves just as we are, trusting that God meets us in the mess.**

One: Jesus once told a story about dirt, seeds, and the slow, quiet work of growing. He reminds us that deep faith isn't magic, and it doesn't happen overnight.

Many: **It takes time. It takes attention. It takes a willingness to dig deep.**

One: We want our lives to bear good fruit, but we know it takes work to clear out the rocks and pull up the weeds.

Many: **So we ask God to soften our hearts today. We want to be open to whatever needs to change.**

One: Come, let's make space for the Spirit to do something new in the soil of our lives.

Many: **Let's worship together—ready to listen, ready to practice, and ready to grow.**

*** Opening Hymn**

We Gather Together

No. 376

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

Ron Mesiona

Loving God, if we're honest, we usually want our spiritual growth to be instant. We want the beautiful harvest without having to do the hard work of farming. But You remind us today that faith is a slow, intentional process. It's about paying attention. It's about daily practice. And it's about letting You dig around in the dirt of our lives to clear out the things that are choking our joy. As we worship today, we invite You to do that heavy, gentle work in us. Soften the places we've allowed to become hard or cynical. Help us pull up the anxieties that crowd out Your voice. We don't want to just listen to Your word and move on; we want it to actually take root in us and change how we live. Give us the patience we need to grow. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Scripture

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Ron Mesiona

Music for the Day

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

arr. Roy Brunner

Sermon

Rev. Whitmore

Hymn of Reflection

We Are Many, We Are One

We are many, we are one, and the work of Christ is done
when we learn to live in true community,
as the stars that fill the night,
as a flock of birds in flight,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the branches of a tree,
as the waves upon the sea,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.

All division is made whole when we honor every soul,
find the life of God in every you and me,
as the fingers of a hand,
as the grains that form the sand,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the threads upon the loom,
as a field of flowers in bloom,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.



**We will join creation's song, make a world where all belong,
build as one in peace and loving harmony,
as the voices of a choir,
as the flames within a fire,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine;
as the snowflakes in the snow,
as the colors of a bow,
as the cluster of the grapes upon the vine.**

Words and music © Colin Gibson 1998. Permission is given to reproduce this material, with acknowledgement, for non-commercial use in a congregational or similar setting. This song was written at the request of Margaret Hamilton, incoming President of the Methodist Church of NZ.

TO RESPOND IN FAITH...

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Rev. Whitmore

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.

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.*

*** Closing Hymn**

For the Fruit of All Creation

No. 379

*** Closing Prayer** *(in unison)*

Rev. Whitmore

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. Whitmore

*** Congregational Response**

**Christ beside us, Christ before us, Christ behind us—king of our hearts;
Christ within us, Christ below us, Christ above us—never to part.**

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

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

Constance Uejio, organ

*Today's flowers have been arranged by **Gail Atwater**, with assistance from **Jodee Farm** and **Gabi Bedilion**. They have been provided by the **Frances Kay Brossy Memorial Flower Fund** in memory of **Frances Kay Brossy**, a faithful and active member of Central Union Church who loved life and loved flowers.*

Senior Minister, Rev. Rushan Sinnaduray is leading worship
at Central Union Windward today.

Mahalo to **Rev. Dr. Will Whitmore** for officiating in his stead.

Reverend Dr. William (Will) Whitmore is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, serving as Chaplain at Mid-Pacific Institute. Will, Kristen and their children, Remi, Gemma and Bob are members here at Central Union. Before his role at Mid-Pacific, Rev. Whitmore was the School Minister at Mercersburg Academy in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania for nearly a decade, where he also taught religion and history. Rev. Will's academic background includes a Ph.D. in Sports Chaplaincy from the University of Gloucestershire (UK), a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Policy and Religious Studies from the University of Denver.

~ REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS ~

This morning, we remember **Gale Young** who died on June 1, 2026. Services are scheduled for **Thursday, July 16th in the Atherton Memorial Chapel**.

Visitation begins at 9:30 AM and the service starts at 10 AM.

Please also pray for the families of **Yvonne Shaw**, who died on June 30, 2026, and **James Hueue**, who died on July 3, 2026. Their services are pending.

LEARNING TREE: EBOLA, An Update

Come to a special Learning Tree gathering **TODAY, at 10 AM**, in the **Women's Building**! Join us as our own Joe Elm, a medical scientist, gives us an update regarding Ebola. All are welcome.



CHURCH-WIDE-SUMMER-CELEBRATION-POTLUCK-PARTY



The whole Central Union ‘ohana is invited to the Parish Hall for a summer celebration (following **one combined worship service at 10 AM in the Sanctuary**) on **July 19!** Bring a favorite dish/side to add to the spread! So far we've got hot dogs, hamburgers, vegetarian chili, rice, and Pohnpeian fried chicken. (You can drop off your food and labeled serving utensils in the Parish Hall before the worship service.) In addition to the potluck, there will be a sundae bar in honor of National Ice Cream Day, fresh popcorn, water play outside for keiki, and fellowship for all!

Come and enjoy! Friends welcome!

SUMMER JAZZ VESPERS ON SUNDAY, JULY 19TH!



Join us in the **Atherton Memorial Chapel from 5:30 to 6:30 PM on July 19, 2026**, as our Summer Celebration continues by bringing together amazing musicianship and holy inspiration for a service of prayer, meditation, silence and music.

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

If you would like to commemorate a birthday, anniversary or other occasion with flowers at a Sunday worship service, please contact Dona Hanaïke, through Natasha at (808) 440-3004, or flowers@centralunionchurch.org.



NEW MEMBER MEETING – JULY 26, 2026, AT 10 AM



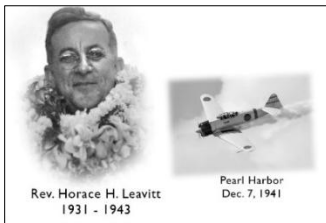
Interested in becoming a member of CUC?! On **July 26th, at 10 AM, between the 9 AM and 11 AM services**, join Pastor Rushan in the Rewick Board Room (in the Admin Building) to learn more about church membership! Please RSVP to cuc@centralunionchurch.org by 5 PM on Thursday, July 23rd.

FLORAL ARRANGERS NEEDED

Do you have a knack for arranging flowers? Would you like to learn how the church floral arrangements are made? The CUC Flower Committee is happily welcoming new people to learn and help with the floral arrangements that can be seen in our worship spaces each Sunday. If you're interested in being part of this blossoming ministry, contact Dona Hanaike for more info: flowers@centralunionchurch.org.



NEW FROM THE CUC ARCHIVES...



The Reverend Horace H. Leavitt, Central Union's 17th Senior Minister (1931-1943), is the latest addition to cuchistory.org—Central Union's history website and digital archive! Rev. Horace Leavitt lead Central Union through some of the most challenging times, starting with the Great Depression, a severe global economic downturn from 1929 to 1939. The period was characterized by high rates of unemployment and poverty. People didn't have food or work. Our elders could share heart-wrenching stories. During this time, Leavitt's accomplishments included the formation of the Women's League (1934), the construction of the first Women's Building (1935), and the original Parish Hall (1937). After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Rev. Leavitt with CUC members stepped up by providing temporary homes for more than a hundred people left homeless. Our Great Lawn became a victory garden for all. During the nighttime blackouts, following the attack, Central Union provided moonlight evening organ concerts with the programs printed in luminous ink. For more info, contact CUC Historian, Karl Hedberg: historian@centralunionchurch.org.

GUARD YOUR PERSONAL ITEMS

Reminder while on campus: We are fortunate to have a large, open campus with lots of people passing through for different reasons. To protect your belongings, we recommend not leaving things unattended in public spaces. Please be vigilant and guard your personal items and valuables.



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 **9:00 AM and 11:00 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 **9:00 AM and 11:00 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 2:00 PM** in the Youth Room to play video and board games.

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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announcements sent
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bit.ly/getcuweekly*

