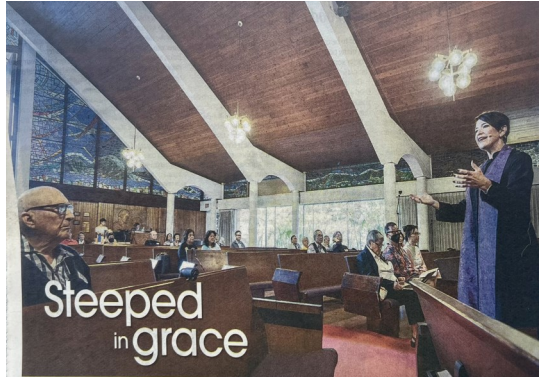




Message from Our Designated Pastor

Aloha CCH 'Ohana!



Did you know? Last year one of the projects we completed was a brand new website for Community Church of Honolulu. If you haven't explored our online home, you should take a few moments to check it out at www.cchonolulu.org: you can watch the latest worship services, learn about what's coming up, read about our history (and future!), and even give a tax-deductible donation securely online.

Last year when we were building the new website the designers working with us asked me to come up with a brief, succinct phrase that sums up our community. They explained that when people land on the home webpage of the church they need to be able to immediately identify who we are.

And so I set out to find our church mission statement. What I found was that the whole church has been working hard on answering these questions for many years, in fact. Documents from several visioning exercises you did provided by Lorraine Lunow-Luke gave me a glimpse of your discussions. Woody Chock lent me biographies of important leaders in the church to help me learn who you are. Dex Choy and Vernon Chock quickly brought me up to speed on some of the economic and property realities of the church, and many, many of you continue to share your stories with me, stories that help me to know who you are.

The end result of my sleuthing on this matter is the first sentence you will read on our website. It says: ***"Welcome to the online home of Community Church of Honolulu! We are working hard to build a community of justice and grace grounded in the teachings of Jesus."***

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Message from Our Designated Pastor continued. . .

A mission statement can't, of course, encompass all that we are: prominent historic Chinese Church, home of one of the most beautiful puakeniken trees, famous for the best aloha hour meals on the island, etc. A mission statement is instead a short collection of words that paints a big picture of who we are and who we're working to become together. Culling from the many documents I found, this sentence stuck out to me: "We are here to build a community of justice and grace grounded in the teachings of Jesus."



After pondering our mortality during Lent, over the season following Easter we'll be thinking about how we begin living out the legacy we want to leave behind us. As we make important, future-looking decisions about our property and programming and staff, it will be important to have a simple statement to keep us on track—to remind us who we are. Be ready, then, to say and hear, "We are building a community of justice and grace grounded in the teachings of Jesus," over and over. It will be there, front and center, to help us remember who we are and who we want to become.

I'm also looking forward to lunch and conversation with anyone interested in becoming a member of Community Church of Honolulu. Join me April 7, right after worship during Aloha Hour, for good food and good conversation!

Pastor Amy

Me ke aloha pumehana,

COLLEGE BOXES

We are collecting items for our college kids on April 14 in Stephen Mark Hall. These boxes have been such a caring and touching way for our church `ohana to let our college students know that our prayers and thoughts are always with them. They really do appreciate them!

This year, we are preparing care packages for five students: Kacie Kato, Kian Kato, Mia Lum, Amy Taba and Megan Uyeno.



Moderator Moment

by Marti Taba

Spring will bring much new birth and renewal to our community – we’re so glad you’ll be with us in our community at Community Church!

Pastor Amy’s series last month, “Pardon our Dust”, brought hope and a rare ability to talk about death and dying to our whole community. A special thanks to my colleague, Michelle Cantillo RN, for leading the 3 part series “Let’s Talk about Dying”, a Faith Development activity for all, during this time of Lent.

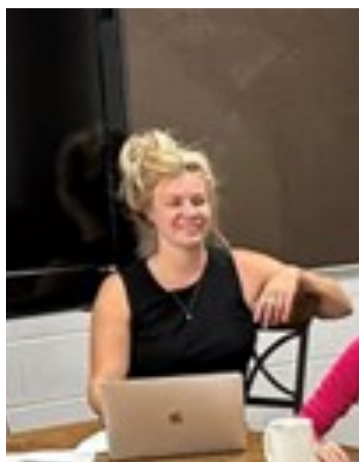


April is a time to celebrate newness, we look forward to welcoming new members! If you have been wondering about joining Community Church, please come have some Aloha Hour with Pastor Amy on April 7th after church in Leigh Hooley room in the Stephen Mark Hall.

We also invite all members to consider how they want to “Leave a Legacy”, both in action and deed, to this church, their families and the community at large. Pastor Amy Butler will again thoughtfully lead us to consider how we can leave our legacy in a spiritual, God centered context both in service and in an enrichment series with a financial planner.

Our committees are also being reborn and will be looking for members who would like to work on both keeping meaningful activities we have traditionally done as well as striking out in new, innovative ways not yet experienced before. Please look out for announcements on ways to participate.

The Pastoral Relations Committee will be meeting April 6 for the first time with our Designated Pastor Amy Butler. More information will be forthcoming about what a Pastoral Relations Committee does (once they learn more next week!) but please feel free to reach out to chair Michelle Van Rafelghem, or members Robbie Berkstresser, Lucille Choy, Art Lum, Aidan Taba, Brent Uyeno, if you would like to provide feedback about Pastor Amy or our church activities so far this year.



Executive Director Reverend Melissa Martin continues to dazzle us with her productivity. In the last month, she has arranged and completed a property inspection, standardized leases and licenses of our tenants for all property use (thank you Andy Char!), and assisted us with creating a Property Management expense policy to guide Standard Management and church leadership on approvals of maintenance and improvement project expenses. She is also helping us wrap up our first stained glass panel repairs, replaced our immediate need sinks and toilets, digitized our old building drawings (replacing them if needed, thank you Spencer Chang!), and is working with FEMA on replacing doors and locks under our security grant. We can’t thank Rev Melissa enough for investing her time and talents into our community!

continued on next page. . .

Moderator Moment continued. . .

We continue to work on refining our online service on the YouTube streaming, thank you again, our online community for your patience and faithfulness. But we do invite those able to come to service on Sundays and experience the love and warmth of our CCH Ohana, our visitors comment again and again on the welcome they feel and that they look forward to coming back!

On a personal note, I was able to have a wonderful vacation with my sisters, mom and niece in New York and write this article with joy and a feeling of renewal on the plane ride home. We look forward to Pastor Amy having an equally wonderful time away from work and obligations when she goes on vacation in April.

Please see the articles in the coming pages about our Let's Talk about Dying series, Men's Breakfast, and celebrations of Aloha Hours in March.

We hope to see everyone through the season of Easter, our community has new energy in its rebirth and renewal – please come to experience it!

Important Dates:

April 6 Pastoral Relations Committee meeting, 10am, Church Office

April 7 Executive Committee meeting, 11-1pm, Office

April 7 New Member lunch, 10:30am, Leigh Hooley Room

April 14 Women's Retreat Meeting, , 10:30 am, Leigh Hooley Room

CCH Adult Bible Study

by Mona Chock

Last month J. C. Sue shared from CCH Adult Bible Study, how prayer can enable one to grow in relationship with God; to be aware of our motives when we pray; to be aware that God is always with us, to guide us in all circumstances; to look beyond ourselves as we pray; and to show those around us God's love. Not only do we pray to God for ourself, we also pray for others and for unity.



Prayer is a gift given to us, a way in which we can commune with God. As we study the Spiritual Practice of Prayer, we can *examine our prayer habits by keeping a prayer journal for five weeks. Write down the prayers you offer to God and the ways God speaks into your life. . . look at the ways God answers your prayer, how your prayer life grows and changes, and reflect on your growing relationship with God. (Encounters With Prayers and Love, Spring 2024, pg. 13).*

CCH Adult Bible Study meets Tuesdays from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM on zoom. Our common purpose is to learn from the Bible and to strengthen our Christian community. The zoom link is available on the church webpage. All are welcome; come join us. Aloha!

Executive Director Monthly Report - March 2024

Rev. Melissa A. Martin

Each Sunday, Marti opens worship by welcoming you – the “CCH ‘*ohana.*” Admittedly I didn’t know what ‘*ohana* meant for far too many weeks. As you are all well aware, it means family - but it’s family that is bigger than blood relation. And, I have to say, I felt this ‘*ohana* before I understood what the word meant. I felt it in my interview with Marti. I saw it in the number of towels and sponges you put into my apartment. I felt it in the affirmation of our first meeting. I see it every time I open my fridge – so much food! As I have made my transition to Hawaii, I want to thank you for welcoming me so warmly.



I also want to thank you for trusting me with this ‘*ohana*’s home, this church building. My job is to help you take care of it—physically and financially.

So far in my time with you, I have worked hard to help you out with the many “home repairs” that you have already started. Here is a quick summary of what I have been up to:



1. **Plumbing Project:** New toilets and faucets have been installed in the nursery and admin building. We are now putting together a proposal to address the urgent issues in the bathrooms in Steven Mark Hall. A big thanks to Vernon Chock who has assisted me in this process.
2. **Building Inspection & Master Planning:** The inspector came to assess the building. We await his report. Once we have that in hand, we plan to put together a plan outlining future projects. These projects will be informed by the council and congregations input and by our mission statement. Mahalo to everyone who came to the building meeting in February. Keep your eyes peeled for more soon!
3. **Stained Glass:** After a brief vacation, Lionel Prevost of Kobo Glass continues restoration work on the south window. We look forward to the completion of this work and his assessment of the other windows.
4. **Air Conditioning:** Mahalo to Alison Masutani for working with John Rew of Koo Electric Hawaii. Through their shared work, we anticipate a grant to cover a major portion of the cost to install new air conditioning units in Makai 1, Makai 2, and the church office.
5. **FEMA Grant:** We are updating our grant proposal to include access controls and door updates for all exterior doors at CCH. This process is ongoing.
6. **Tenant Updates:** Standard Management is working to put into place new and updated license and lease agreements, ensuring that all our tenants are properly insured. We have two new agreements pending!
7. **By-Law and Policy Updates:** I am delighted to be working with Peter Chun to begin assessing CCH’s current By-Laws and Policies. With new technology and new partnerships comes the need to make sure our policies and procedures are up to date.

Executive Director Monthly Report - March 2024 *continued. . .*

8. **Financial Decision Making Policy:** As a result of our new relationship with Standard Management and to ensure that we make future decisions both swiftly and with transparency, the Executive Council received my recommendation to put into effect a Property Management Financial Decision Making Policy. This policy is temporary, and it will be updated as we update the by-laws. In the meantime, Council has approved the following:
- a. *Expenditures in excess of \$2,000 must be approved by a representative on the property (church employee or property manager) with written approval by the church president. In the event that the church president is not able to give approval because of a conflict of interest or absence, this duty falls to the vice-president.*
 - b. *Expenditures in excess of \$5,000 require a recorded vote of the Council.*
 - c. *However, emergency expenditures that involve manifest danger to life or property may be approved by a representative of the church (employee or property management) without prior approval and irrespective of the cost limitation described above. Should this be the case, the representative of the church or property management team will immediately contact the church president by phone/text and provide subsequent written notice to the Council.*
 - d. *Any conflicts of interest must be addressed and recorded.*

It is an honor to do this work in this “house” and with this ‘ohana, and I couldn’t do this work without you.



For your care and support!

Palm Sunday at CCH

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a donkey for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

At CCH, we improvised by having Paul, the Apupstle play the role of the donkey. Enjoy these photos of our Sunday worship at the start of Holy Week.





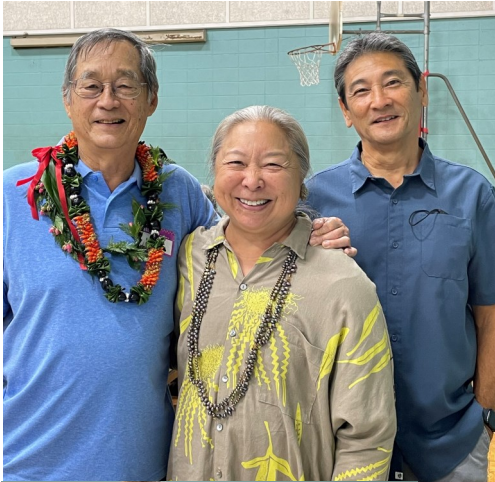
12 faithful Men of The Community Church of Honolulu gathered on Saturday, March 23, for a casual breakfast to fellowship and pray. "Ready for change" was the devotional topic, leading to a time of reflection followed by a very inspirational discussion.

Future events for the Men's group are being planned. Stay tuned!



Aloha Hour in March

On Sunday, March 3, we celebrated the 80th Birthday of our long-time member Mike Young. Friends and family were invited to worship with us before enjoying a delicious bento lunch during fellowship in Stephen Mark Hall.



St. Paddy's Day



Let's Talk About Dying

In early March, we were able to have three important conversations about death and dying with Michelle Cantillo, RN, an Advance Care Planning Coordinator for Hawaii Pacific Health. All who attended these sessions had the opportunity to learn and talk with each other about critical issues every human must confront. If you are not able to answer questions like:

Are you prepared to die?

Have you thought about what you want to happen to your body?

Have you thought about what will happen to all your stuff?

Do you have someone you can trust?

Do you have resources like legal documents, advanced care planning forms, the services of a notary, resources for writing and executing final wishes and a last will and testament?

Then the time spent with Michelle Cantillo would have been a gift for your family that's left behind.

Big mahalo to Michelle for holding these important conversations with us!



APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	1 April Fool's Day	2 Art Lum-LHR 3:30 p	3	4	5	6 HBA Parking All Day Pastoral Rel. Mtg. 10 am, office																																																																																											
7 Exec. Mtg. Office 11:00 AM Pastor Amy's Luncheon-LHR 10:30 AM	8	9 Art Lum-LHR 9 am-5 pm	10	11	12	13 CCH Photo Tour Wedding 3:00pm Private Party in SHM - 3-10 pm																																																																																											
14 Women's Retreat Mtg. - LHR	15	16 PT/Wedding 1:00pm Art Lum-LHR 3:30p	17 PT/Wedding 1:00pm	18	19 PT/Wedding 10am	20																																																																																											
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