



MĀNOA VALLEY
CHURCH

Mānoa Connection

Connecting our 'ohana

eNewsletter

March 6, 2024



Palm Sunday - March 24, 10:00 am service (Youth Sunday)

Good Friday - March 29, 7:00 pm service (in-person only)

Easter Sunday - March 31, 7:00 am (in-person only) and
10:00 am services

Invitation to bring cut flowers to help decorate our traditional floral cross!

Easter Family Activities after 10:00 am service.

Links

[Online Donations](#)

[Thought For The Day](#)



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Art Connection Group Celebrates Easter and Supports Charity by Cat Iwami

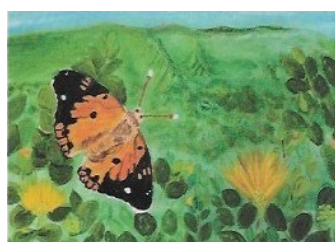
Come and celebrate Easter Sunday with us! The Art Connection Group has painted inspirational rocks and will offer them to Easter worshippers for a small donation. The money collected will go to support one of our local charities. The group will also be giving out a sweet Easter sticker to everyone who comes to celebrate the Resurrection. Accordingly, the group painted blooming butterflies. Enjoy!



Clair



Dianne



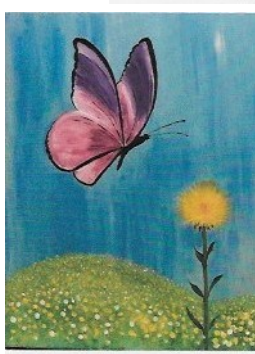
Inga



ONE



Bonnie U.



Donna



Melanie



Cat



Clair

Pastor Abe's Message

Join Us for Mānoa Valley Church's 2024 Family Camp!



As spring approaches, this year, we have a special opportunity to come together as a church family in a way we haven't for nearly a decade and a half. The time has come to reignite a treasured tradition—we are delighted to invite you to Mānoa Valley Church's 2024 Family Camp, taking place from Friday, May 24th, through Sunday, May 26th, at Camp Mokulē 'ia. All are welcome to attend, from our cherished kūpuna to the youngest among us, including friends, neighbors, co-workers, and anyone you hold dear. It will be a time to celebrate the gift of our community as we deepen our bonds with one another and with God and spend time in God's beautiful creation.

We understand that leaving the comfort of home can be daunting for some, especially our kūpuna. We will do our best to provide ease and accessibility to ensure your comfort and enjoyment. We encourage you to embrace this opportunity to experience joy, connection, renewal, and laughter, as we create memories that we'll reminisce about for years to come. Whether you're hoping to immerse yourself in nature, seeking quality time with friends, wanting to meet new people, or desire some "alone time" gazing at the ocean, Camp Mokulē 'ia offers something for everyone.

- **Fellowship and Community Building:** Talk story and share meals with friends, old and new, as we weave new threads of connection within our Christ-centered community.
- **Fun for All Ages:** From crafts for the little ones, morning/evening walks on the beach, and special activities designed for all ages, there's something for everyone.
- **Spiritual Growth:** Join our large group sessions, small group studies, or prayer sessions at the camp, all aimed at nurturing our faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **A Beautiful Setting:** Camp Mokulē 'ia offers the perfect backdrop for reflection, relaxation, and fun. Whether you're gazing at the stars or listening to the waves, we trust you will be blessed by God's creation and His presence.

Since our retreat will be held on Memorial Day weekend, individuals have the option to extend their stay through Monday, May 27th, for a nominal extra cost (pay only for meals, or nothing at all if you provide your own food). If you're interested in taking advantage of this extra day of relaxation at Camp Mokulē 'ia, post-Family Camp, please contact the church office.

The cost for this special weekend is between \$125-\$200 per person (depending on your lodging preference)—this will cover lodging, meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch), and all community activities (some special outings may incur an additional cost). Register before March 25th to receive a \$25 Early Bird discount. We understand that the cost for the camp may be a consideration for some; please reach out to us. We're committed to ensuring everyone who wishes to join can do so!

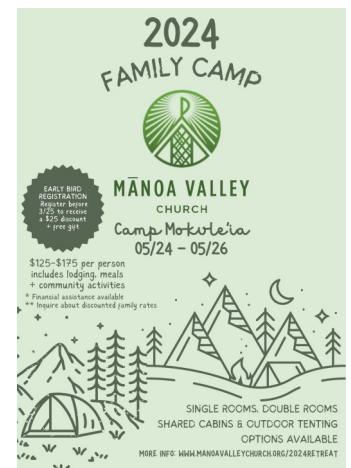
Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, community connection, or simply a change of pace, don't miss this opportunity to attend MVC's Family Camp at Camp Mokulē 'ia. And we encourage you to invite others! What better way to share the love and light of Jesus in our community than inviting your children, grandchildren, neighbors, co-workers, and friends to join us? This camp is a firsthand opportunity for people to experience the incredible community and the wonderful things that God is doing at Mānoa Valley Church.

To register or learn more, please visit our [website](#) (click) or contact the church office.

Let's make this family camp a memorable time in our journey together as a church community, building stronger bonds, making new friends, and deepening our faith. We can't wait to share this special experience together.

Hope to see you there! Abe

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20



Important Information for MVC Worshippers by Roger Au

What will you do if faced with an Active Threat at church? Imagine someone intruding upon the sanctity of Sunday worship with a weapon and intent to harm. On February 18, 2024, over 40 congregants participated in an Active Threat presentation provided by **Danny Tengan**, Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ Disaster Coordinator. Danny has decades of emergency response experience with the State of Hawaii and as a military Reservist. He also provided training tailored to our campus for all our staff members.



Danny Tengan

What do we do when an active threat arises?

- *We can alert any member of the worship team when we recognize a potential threat.* We must be aware of our surroundings and recognize strangers to our campus who appear out of place, clothed inappropriately for our weather, or otherwise acting strangely.
- *We can call 911 immediately* and alert police to the location of the Active Threat.
- *We can take action using the strategy Run-Hide-Fight* recommended by the FBI, HPD, UCC and the Department of Homeland Security.
 1. Immediately exit the sanctuary away from the threat. Potential routes are through the end of the Haawale Place cul-de-sac, or to the Manoa Fire Station, or along Huapala Street.
 2. If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide, preferably behind large structures such as pillars, or under pews, out of view.
 3. As a last resort, and only when life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the attacker. Danny play-acted an attacker and challenged: “What are you going to do?” Distract the attacker by throwing any object. Act as aggressively as possible against him/her. Commit to your actions - do not fight fairly. **THIS IS ABOUT SURVIVAL.** Throw items and improvise weapons. Yell!



What is MVC doing to improve our security?

The gate to the preschool will soon be replaced with a hydraulic auto-closer, exit panic hardware, and an entry cypher lock, which will help protect our precious students and staff. The Trustees are currently developing a project to increase security by extending the existing fencing to enclose the sanctuary. We are also repairing and improving the security camera system.

An Opportunity to Address Basic Needs Worldwide



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ and is collected during Lent. Working with international partners, the UCC works to provide sources of clean water, food, education, and health care to people around the world. It helps to resettle refugees and displaced persons in war torn areas and provide emergency relief and rehabilitation after a natural disaster.

We will receive this offering on March 17. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated. Make your check out to Mānoa Valley Church and write “OGHS” on the memo line.

Here are two interpretations of Pastor Abe's sermon on the 6th Commandment (Sunday, February 25, 2024).

Thou Shall Not Kill by Inga Park Okuna

Holding onto anger
Saying a sarcastic remark
Insulting them directly
Is adding fuel to a spark

Just as damaging as murder
Judgment is required
When you feel contempt
And vengeance is desired

Recognize this is in you
Confess and ask God to forgive
Hold onto the promise of cleansing
And choose how you will live

Only living under the cross
Can you see the severity of sin
And then forgive others
And let the healing truly begin

Be the one who works it out
And trust in God above
Instead of acting out in anger
Be the one who shares God's love



By Sue Yamamoto and Owen

"Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God has
forgiven you."
Ephesians 4:32



| Date | Event |
|--------------------|---|
| | MVC Family Camp—Register before March 25 to receive a \$25 Early Bird discount |
| Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 | "40 Days of Decrease" Zoom, 12 noon |
| Mar. 17 | One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received during worship |
| Mar. 24 | Palm Sunday, 10 am, Youth Sunday |
| Mar. 24 | Snacks by Finance Committee |
| Mar. 29 | Good Friday, 7 pm, in-person only |
| Mar. 30 | E-Newsletter article deadline |
| Mar. 31 | Easter Sunday, 7 am (in-person only) and 10 am. Easter Family Activities after 10 am service. |