

The logo for 'MAUI Strong' features the word 'MAUI' in large, 3D block letters. Each letter is filled with a different scenic photograph of Maui, including beaches, mountains, and forests. To the right of 'MAUI', the word 'Strong' is written in a large, blue, cursive script font.

Congregants and friends of the First Church in Albany, hear this salutation from the Apostle Paul: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” – Romans 15:13.

Over the past week, we have seen devastating reports that the island of Maui, specifically the town of Lāhainā, has suffered a catastrophic wildfire. Over 100 people are confirmed dead while close to a 1000 people are estimated to still be missing. The loss of life is only exacerbated as thousands have lost their homes, so much of their physical community, as well as historically and culturally significant Hawaiian landmarks.

That is why, in this letter and on behalf of the Deacons of First Church, I am inviting you to give as you are able to a special offering to the Hawaii Community Foundation’s Maui Strong Fund. Both the organization and the fund have been recommended by State of Hawaii and federal officials for its trustworthiness and its ability to fund immediate and long-term needs at the discretion of the responders to this crisis.

First Church will be accepting donations to be given to this fund through Sunday, August 27th. You can give in the offering plate or by turning your gift in to the office. All that we ask is that you indicate that you are giving to this cause by writing in the memo line of the check, or simply place your gift in the envelope found in the bulletin or office.

As many of you know, I was born and raised in the State of Hawaii; it is my home. And so, it’s been quite shocking to see my little corner of the world be headline news for the past week, which is why, in this letter, I am also inviting you to hope. Hoping is an audacious thing. It is only natural to react to tragedy and catastrophe with fear and anxiety. However, as people of the resurrection, we can, together, audaciously move from anxiety to hope. Reformed theologian Jürgen Moltmann has some wonderful words about anxiety and hope:

“What anxiety and hope actually have in common is a sense of what is possible. In anxiety we anticipate possible danger. In hope we anticipate possible deliverance.”

“Hope is more than feeling. Hope is more than experience. Hope is more than foresight. Hope is a command. Obeying it means life, survival, endurance, standing up to life until death is swallowed up in victory. Obeying it means never giving way to the forces of annihilation in resignation or rage.”

Congregants and friends, we are invited to live out the audacious command to hope. Let’s make hope palpable for the people of Maui both monetarily and spiritually.

Mahalo nui loa, The Rev. Trey Tirpak

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Prayers, Joys & Concerns

- Family and friends of Carol "Peggy" Moore Carter, as they mourn her passing
- Becky Gardner
- Virginia Giguere and family as they mourn the passing of her brother Jason Miller in June.
- Sam, son of Barb and Dave Andrews, recovering from surgery
- Carol LaBatte
- Sharnelle Jones
- Joeanna Brown
- Norma McClement
- Norma Jean Ballou
- For Sara Bonam-Welge and family
- Deborah Paris, daughter of Betty Pierce
- Sam, cousin of Barb Andrews
- For Barb and Dave Andrews as they take on the role of caretakers
- Ken Lucas, friend of Philip Labatte
- Kokese Ballou
- For Jennifer Recene Gallagher
- Ruth and Josue Torres
- For Jim, Rose Hunsberger's father
- Alexis Parry, niece of Cheryl Gowie
- Gail Santimaw, friend of Judith Utley-Suess
- John Utley, brother of Judith Utley-Suess
- Judith Utley-Suess, for strength
- Harold Bushnel
- Alex Bliss
- Mary Weijola
- Cheryl Gowie
- Ralph McNeil, brother of Norma Jean Ballou
- Anthony, of the Brown Family
- Donna Schultz
- Olivia Gaydushek
- Clergy, staff and leaders of the First Church in Albany
- For our Maui Family (Ohana) as they recover from the recent wildfires.
- Prayers for all areas of conflict across the globe. May we all remember to lead with love.
- For an end to gun violence here in Albany, in the U.S., and around the world.



EVENTS THIS WEEK



Su	AUG 20	10AM	Drive-In Worship at FCIA, also on Zoom Aloha Attire Competition Lemonade Lull
Mo	21	9AM	Food Pantry - temporary location
We	23	9AM 12PM	Food Pantry - temporary location AA Meeting in the Parlor, Centering Prayer in the Powell Rm.
Th	17	11:30AM	Hotdogs in the Park



UPCOMING EVENTS

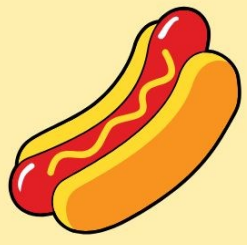
- Aug. 27 - Sunday AW, Special Communion in Clee Park
- Sep. 3 - Sunday 10AM, FOCUS Worship at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Albany (No worship at FCIA)
- Sep. 4 - Monday, Labor Day Holiday, Office & Pantry closed
- Sep. 24 - Return to Indoor Worship, Blessing of the Prayer Shawls



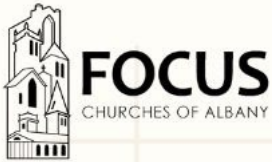
For all other announcements, prayer concerns, etc., scan this QR Code and click the "Announcements" button at www.firstchurchinalbany.org



Join us each Thursday,
from 11:30am-1:00pm
in Clee Park
for a free Hot Dog lunch



ONLY 2 WEEKS LEFT! Please Share and Come to Help Out!



2023 FOCUS SUMMER WORSHIP



SEPT
03

**Emmanuel Baptist Church at
10:00 a.m.**

Both In-Person and Online
To join online via Zoom, please visit:
emmanuelalbany.net



**When joining online, please bring your own
communion elements. All are welcome!**

www.focuschurches.net

Find the Carpool Link on our website: www.firstchurchinalbany.org



An invitation from **THE CAPITAL REGION INTERFAITH CREATION CARE COALITION**

**Join the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care
Coalition (www.capitalcreationcare.org) at our next
meeting on September 18 at 7 PM by Zoom.**

**Our speakers will be Joan Howard from Home Earth
Alliance and Sheree Cammer and the topic is "Life is
good! Regenerative practices and EcoLandscaping."**