

March 24, 2026

Aloha kākou,

The back-to-back Kona lows have left destruction and heartbreak around our beloved islands. Communities, congregations, and families are facing a long cleanup and recovery and for some on Maui they will be attempting this recovery on top of the ongoing recovery from the Maui wildfires. Times like this can test our faith and resiliency.

As followers of Jesus, I encourage us to rally around the greatest commandments that Jesus gave us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Love is the foundation of faith. It reminds us that because of his love for us, Jesus re-gifted himself to us through the resurrection that we will gather to celebrate in less than two weeks. Let us rally around that love of God and neighbor today with acts of compassion, mercy, and hope in the weeks to come.

We want everyone to know that you are not alone in your grief or your recovery. We are here not only to listen and support but also to help out. Even while our conference minister, the Rev. Dr. David Popham, is off island, we are working hard to put our love into action. Danny Tengan, HCUCS Disaster Response Coordinator, dstengan@gmail.com, is leading our flood recovery response for HCUCS. He is a member at Hawai‘i Kai UCC on O‘ahu and has decades of experience in recovery response.

In addition, the National UCC Office has issued an appeal and to set up an account to receive donations that will be used for the recovery processes here in Hawai‘i. If you are able, we encourage both individuals and congregations to consider donating directly to the “Hawaii Flood Appeal” at <https://support.ucc.org/hawaii-flooding-2026>.

As we enter Holy Week, please keep our congregations and ‘ohana who have been impacted in your prayers and put your love into action.

lesū pū,

Rev. Jonathan Roach, PhD.



Associate Conference Minister