

Dear Wellspring ‘Ohana and Friends,

As I look back on 2023, a year we entered with so many questions and unknowns, I'm thankful for God's faithfulness and your continued "yes" to God in our community and in your circles of connection. We began the year not knowing where we'd be ending the year, as our building's lease was up. We began the year with a projected \$129,000 budget shortfall, knowing that we'd have some big expenses our way and wanting to be prepared for them. We began the year with these unknowns and challenges confident that God was working through them, and was going to show up for us... and God did.

Whether it was in finding a place to call home just a few doorsteps away from where we used to meet, (and that came in under-budget!) or whether it was growing our connections with men leaving the prison system at Halawa, I see so many examples of God at work in and through us, right here. There's so many moments I treasure from the year— worshipping with you online and in person each week, the prayer team's moving installations as we lamented the fires in Maui and held space for our tired souls at Christmastime. Each week I'm thankful to see our growing keiki church, the kids having fun while also grappling with questions and issues of faith, teachers and helpers working to make it a brave space for our children to be formed in Jesus' likeness. Hearing 7 of our church members and friends share from the 7 last words of Jesus on Holy Week was particularly poignant. I saw God at work as Pat and our livestream, worship, and sound teams helped us gather to see and seek Jesus each week, in the weekly Lectio sessions held online, as the dance ministry invited us into worship in art and beauty and the parking team helped us find our way home here each week. I saw Jesus in how we helped feed, clothe, and bless our neighbors, in how our men's ministry really leaned into what it means to listen this past year. We would not be the same without each ministry listed below, all part of the Ministry of Wellspring— and without each of you, who make up our community. Once again I can say I'm incredibly grateful we have been able to walk together for another year.

We're still emerging from our "shipwreck of normal"— a phrase we leaned into from 2021. We've leaned into our mission of mending, equipping, releasing disciples of Jesus in 2022, and sought to be *open* in 2023— open to God's leading, teaching, inviting and correction. This year our word is *listen*, which is especially crucial in an election year which could bring all the fear, misinformation, isolation, and tribalism that election years tend to bring these days! This year we'll be listening to God's heart for us, here now, and for our neighbors, families, workplaces, our world. My prayer is that as we listen, we will experience God as the One who is able to reach, heal, bring renewal— the One who can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20)

with aloha, grace and peace,

Pastor Rebecca with Wellspring's Pastor Team

2023 Ministry Celebration Reports

Be Well Ministry — *Pastor Cheryl*

The “Be Well” Ministry is a response to help people find ways to become more physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially well, to better connect in relationship with God and others, and to lead and serve, within our church community and beyond. God is moving in this ministry through spiritual formation classes and other workshops, people are finding ways to develop and grow their relationships with God and others, as well as being equipped financially, emotionally, and spiritually. This past year we coordinated several events in our church ‘ohana & as well as reaching out into our community— one highlight was our “QPR” training, a suicide prevention training to help equip us to recognize the warning signs of suicide and question, persuade and refer people at risk for suicide for help.

Children’s Ministry — *Kathryn Lomuscio*

The number of children in Wellspring Keiki has been holding steady around or above 20 consistently since the move. The purpose of this ministry is to provide a safe place for our keiki to develop relationships with God and each other, and to teach them about God in a holistic way that leads to emotionally healthy spirituality. This past year, aside from weekly meeting on Sundays they had opportunities to gather in ways that were fun and meaningful, whether it was our summer bounce house party to celebrate their scripture memorization, the monthly Friyays to play at the pool together, or our All Hallowed Eve family movie night where they got to dress up and watch a movie that sparked conversations about change, grief, and growth.

Malama Ministries (formerly known as FLOW -Faithfully Loving Our World) — *Kimey Kalua*

The vision of this ministry is: *Malama kekahi i kekahi*- Take care of one another.

We need to take care inward to care for outward too. Thus we work hand in hand with our inreach counterparts at Wellspring. Taking care of our Mind, body, Spirit, of those we reach and ourselves as well!

Here are a few communities we have partnered with this year (and we have more plans this year for food baskets at Wellspring! Let me know if you’re interested in being part of this - we have a wonderful team and would love you to be part of it, too!)

HUGS – blessing families during Christmas & during the year who need our love and support. (Also for those families affected by the fires– we provided backpacks of needed supplies and soul care conversations.0

MAUI MUTUAL AID FUND - coming alongside the communities in Maui affected by the fires by funding their Ahapua'a- based community crisis fund

LABOR OF LOVE – feeding the homeless & developing relationships with them in Old Stadium Park

MY SISTER'S KEEPER – community projects helping our youth at KPT (Kuhio Park Terrace) & helping women transition out of the prison system

First LAP (MENS PRISON Re-entry OUTREACH) – donations & relationship building to help men coming out of prison get on their feet with God, the broader community, and their own hopes for their life.

RIVER OF LIFE- feeding the homeless in Chinatown

THE PANTRY – volunteering to help feed those in need throughout the island by shopping for their food orders

May we continue to be led by the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in our way of being to make a difference in this world with God's love as we *Malama kekahi i kekahi!*

Hospitality Ministry — *Susan Soken, Laurie Ibaraki*

Wellspring's Hospitality Team endeavors to welcome all people to our church family's table so friendships may deepen in a safe and warm environment as we break bread and share our love of Jesus and lives with one another. We welcome more team members so that we can rotate months and enjoy serving on this committee together. We help serve and coordinate potlucks monthly at Wellspring– if you've ever eaten a meal at Wellspring you'll have seen our team serving and helping to set everything up. Sign up to rotate with us and you can see for yourself the gift of getting to see people share a meal (and growing friendship) together.

Halau Ministry — *Adele Marple*

Our ministry uses various forms of dance to draw closer to Jesus. We continually seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to lead our hearts and minds to create dance movements that share the essence of the gospel. We work collaboratively with each other, valuing the process of listening to each person's input. Our dances are not performances, but are offerings of hearts of worship. This past year we partnered with the worship team in a few different dances for special services at Wellspring, including Easter and Christmas Eve.

Men's Ministry — *John Enomoto, Peter Kim, James Chickering*

This ministry's vision is to encourage a deeper faith in Christ through the Word through fellowship. The Lord is encouraging each man to develop deeper relationships through intentional listening. This year we met monthly to share in deep conversation, a meal together, and Bible study. We went through training on intentional listening and are eager to learn more as we want to see where and to whom God leads us.

Parking Ministry — Jarrett Oshiro

YOU are welcomed! This ministry's priority for the year is to increase the number of team members of this ministry. We're looking for 1 or 2 people who can rotate with us as we welcome people into the parking lot and ensure that everyone driving by knows where we are on Sundays!

Prayer and Comfort Team (PaCT) — Cheryl Uechi, Kelsey Kim

We strive to reverently embrace the body of Christ with His love and grace, pray and care for each one through the power of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit so that all are comforted and healed in their time of need and released to live in wholeness in Him. God is moving in this ministry by providing opportunities for Wellspring to pray. This includes a) Offering opportunities to pray in person in the Prayer Garden on Sundays. b) Offering Lectio twice a week online. c) Offering opportunities to pray in new ways, such as Lament With Maui - an interactive journey through prayer stations to facilitate conversations with God, praise and worship. d) Evening prayer online. e) Receiving online and in-person prayer requests on Sundays and throughout the week. These requests are circulated by email to PaCT. f) The anointing and praying for blessing of the congregation on Sundays during Communion Sundays. g) By in-person visitations.

Pickleball Ministry - Daisy Yoshimura

Talk to me anytime about this! This last year we partnered with Hugs/Malama ministry and did a tournament fundraising together. This is an informal ministry where we move our bodies on the court and connect while doing so! This is a great way to have hang-out time together and get to know each in a different context. We have a bunch of people joining the group and would welcome you as well.

Sharing Treasures Ministry - Debbi Hazama

The Sharing Treasures ministry seeks to share our 'ohana's abundance with each other, as people bring quality extra items or "treasures" they no longer need from their homes to share with others in the "sharing treasures" bookcase at Wellspring. We receive donations like books, puzzles, decor/craft/kitchen/personal care items to share with others. We are not accepting food items or clothing at this time. Mahalo!

Technical Ministries (Livestream and Sound) — Pat Pai

The Wellspring Technical Team endeavors to help the worship and pastoral team's gifts to be effectively expressed through song and word. We also strive to assist the work of all other ministry teams in our church through effective use of technology. God uses our team to assist others working in the church. We help our ministry teams to

communicate and artistically express effectively and well. We also serve God by helping the medically and emotionally vulnerable members of our congregation, as well as those who don't reside locally, to participate in our worship and ministry services from remote locations. This year we helped broadcast almost 50 services to people's homes. We also helped to coordinate everything needed to move from our old location to our new one, and we're working on making our new facility a good home to welcome people and share our worship from. We still have some construction and settling in to do to help us broadcast and would love your help with painting and nailing when the time comes to it!

Young Adult Online Class — *Gordon & Cheryl Uechi*

We seek to walk alongside young adults to discover God through Jesus in the gospels: to hear His words and see what He does. We meet weekly on zoom!

Worship Team — *Steve Avellana*

The worship team's mission is "To lead the people of Wellspring toward an authentic experience of connecting with God." 1 Peter 4:10 says "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Wellspring's worship team has faithfully served in leading our church family towards connecting with God in worship, using the musical gifts they have been given. With the addition of new team members along with the smooth transition to our new home, we are honored to serve as Wellspring's worship team and look forward to connecting with God in our new worship space. Let me know if you're interested in learning more about this ministry!

Women of Wellspring (W.O.W.) — *Anna Paro, Susan Soken*

The vision of this ministry is to provide a consistent time and place for every woman to receive and share God's love in meaningful ways, which empowers us to engage in life-enriching relationships as we journey together through the joys and struggles of becoming the person God created us to be. One highlight this year for many was when we tapped into our creative sides and created jewelry together in small group settings. We also heard from Donna Choy on her grief journey from losing her spouse and made space to talk about our own losses. We have good plans for gathering women and encouraging life-enriching relationships this new year so stay tuned.