



QUARTERLY UPDATE

FIRST PREZ HONOLULU | www.raisethesails.org | JULY 2020

DEAR FIRST PREZ 'OHANA,

Kudos to you for your resilience to the times and your commitment to believe and trust in the Lord. It's no small thing to stay the course when faced with unheard-of challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Based on the feedback we've gotten from many of you, the First Prez church family continues to reach out and stay connected in all sorts of ways. You have also kept up with your financial commitments, which has made it greatly possible for us to move our ministries online and be able to reach and serve more people than before. Nearly 200 people have made commitments to Christ during our online worship services.

Your gifts have also funded much-needed improvements for our church campus (details inside).

Thank you for your encouragement during this difficult time of transition. You have been very supportive not only financially but also through your messages of affirmation and appreciation to the church staff. Thank you so much!



Warmly in Christ,

Dan Chun | Senior Pastor

P.S. If you have a recent story of how God proved Himself to be faithful and generous in your life through RAISE THE SAILS, please let me know. Drop me a note or email me at aloha@fpchawaii.org. It would really encourage others.

COMING UP →

The Buildings and Grounds Team has prioritized two projects by their impact on campus operations and are working with the Finance Team: ROOF and AIR CONDITIONING. More to come on these projects in our next quarterly newsletter.

WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 ONLINE** through the website: www.fpchawaii.org/give or www.raisethesails.org/give where you can make a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts.
- 2 TEXT-TO-GIVE:** Text "FPCHI" to 77977 and follow prompts
- 3 FIRST PREZ APP:** Choose the GIVE button on the app and follow prompts. If you don't have the app, go to the App Store (for iPhones) or Google Play (for Android phones), search for "First Presbyterian Honolulu," then download it.
- 4 MAIL** your check to the church. We can also send you pre-addressed, stamped envelopes that you can use to send in your gift. Call the church office at (808) 532-1111 to request those envelopes.

THE PRIMARY GOAL

100% ENGAGEMENT

Total # of RTS Commitments = 1,058 donors
First-Time Givers Since the RTS Launch = 110

THE SECONDARY GOAL

\$15.5 MILLION TOTAL

(inclusive of annual ministry operations for two years, repairs, and ministry expansion)

Total Committed to RTS = \$11,463,313
Actual Giving to June 30th = \$3,185,365.00

All gifts to First Prez Honolulu from Dec 2019 to Dec 2021 count toward the Raise the Sails goal. Thanks for being a part of it!

LIVING OUT GENEROSITY (a testimony)

In spite of how COVID has affected our lives, many people continue to live generously because they have experienced God's generosity in their lives. Here's what a First Prez member (who asked to remain anonymous) shared with us recently:

As a retiree on a fixed income, I have not been impacted by the economic situation, at least not yet. I've continued my weekly Raise the Sails pledge to First Prez. I've gifted cash to a couple of younger (non-retired!) folks who were laid off to help them pay their rent. I've bought extra groceries to give to a neighbor, made more donations to the Hawaii Foodbank, Foodland's Meals of Aloha, and to the World Food Program. I've also donated to Farrington High School for their food giveaway to families of their high school students, and to families of students from elementary and middle schools that feed into Farrington.

Why did I do all these? I have a home, and enough to eat. So many others do not, more now than ever before. I am helping to do for them what I would want them to do for me, if I did not have money for housing or food. As the Bible says (this one's from Da Jesus Book, a Hawaii Pidgin version of the Bible): "So, wateva you guys like people do to you guys bumbye, make lidat to dem, same ting, now. Dis everyting dat God's Rules say in da Bible, an everyting dat God's talkas wen teach." (Matthew 7:1)

CHARITABLE GIVING BOOST IN 2020: DID YOU KNOW?

Because of provisions in the CARES Act, charitable giving in 2020 has some unusual enhanced benefits. Normally a giver is limited to 60% of his/her AGI (adjusted gross income) each year when making charitable contributions. However, due to recent legislation, for the year 2020 a giver can deduct up to 100% of his/her charitable contribution.* This is an incredible benefit that is particularly timely for many of us during Raise the Sails. If you would like more information about this benefit, or if you have any questions about your particular situation, please contact our bookkeeper Debbie Carreira-Johnson (dentacct@hawaii.rr.com or 808-836-9995), or consult with your tax advisor.

**Depending on whether you are gifting cash, stocks, real estate, or other assets, your AGI limitation percentage may be different. For additional info: <https://www.ncfgiving.com/stories/the-cares-act-what-it-means-for-your-giving/>*



QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR GIVING OR HOW TO SET UP RECURRING GIFTS?

Contact Debbie (bookkeeper):
dentacct@hawaii.rr.com
(808) 836-9995

To learn more about RAISE THE SAILS, visit

[RAISETHESAILS.ORG](https://www.raisethesails.org)

SOME THINGS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR : COMPLETED CAMPUS PROJECTS THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, WE'VE COMPLETED TWO PROJECTS SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER IN APRIL 2020:

MULTICEPTOR REMEDIATION

The City and County of Honolulu required all owners of a multiceptor (a specific type of grease interceptor) to upgrade their systems, in order to comply with Environmental Protection Agency regulations. First Prez (along with various shopping centers, restaurants, and schools) was required to remove and replace its current waste water systems. This included tearing out some storage spaces downstairs and installing new pumps and tanks. We then had to run new piping from our kitchens to a new 2,000-gallon grease interceptor outside of the building. We're grateful to the Lord that despite

the challenges of the weather, working around campus events, and technical issues, the project has been completed on time and under budget.



KITCHEN EXHAUST FANS

We recently replaced one of three kitchen exhaust fans on our roof. These fans are critical to the operation of our revenue-generating kitchens upstairs and downstairs. We are grateful for how our Buildings and Grounds Team came up with a way to replace the fans using a long-reach crane, instead of a helicopter, which saved us thousands of dollars.



ONLINE CHURCH

As of this writing, our in-person Sunday worship services remain suspended, but we are working on the logistics of resuming tentatively later this year. However, we have given the go-ahead for smaller groups to begin meeting in person, if they feel safe to physically gather. More details at www.fpchawaii.org/reopening

In the meantime, many of our ministries continue to thrive online (see list below). Details available at www.fpchawaii.org/connect-from-home

- **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:** 8AM, 9:30AM, 11:11AM, and 4PM. Video sermons from previous Sundays also available on the website.
- **DIGITAL CONNECT GROUPS:** virtual small groups open to anyone who wants to discuss the sermon right after each Sunday worship service.
- **KO'OLAU KIDS CHURCH:** We post age-appropriate video teachings for preschoolers, grade schoolers, and pre-teens and activity sheets for parents to use with their kids
- **YOUTH GROUPS:** Middle schoolers and high schoolers meet online almost every day through Zoom video conferencing for activities.
- **YOUNG ADULTS SMALL GROUP:** Young adults gather Sundays at 12:30PM to discuss the Sunday sermon.
- **MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP GROUP:** Men of all ages meet online through video conferencing for prayer, friendship, support, and honest sharing of their lives. Thursdays 6PM.
- **SUPPORT GROUPS:** DivorceCare (for those divorced), GriefShare (for those grieving), Facing Cancer with Hope (for those with cancer).
- **HEAVEN:** An 8-week online study on what the Bible says about heaven. Ongoing on Wednesday nights till Aug 26 on Zoom at 7PM. Hosted by Vintage Ministry.
- **ALPHA:** A practical introduction to the Christian faith where attendees can discuss and ask questions without feeling judged. Aug 5-Oct 14
- **ROOTED:** A weekly small group experience to help you explore a deeper relationship with God and learn to live your unique purpose in life. Aug 6-Oct 25.
- **JUST SHOW UP:** An online weekly session where attendees read along and listen together to beautifully recorded readings of the Bible.
- **DAILY DEVOTIONS:** Thoughts and reflections written by the staff published weekdays on www.fpchawaii.org.

SERVING THROUGH THE COVID CRISIS

- Through your generosity, First Prez was able to give:
 - + \$5,000 to The Pantry, a project of Feeding Hawaii Together, to distribute food to families in need;
 - + \$5,000 to Agape International Missions (AIM) to support rescued women who were working in garment manufacturing facilities that are now closed due to COVID.
- Your generosity supports various mission partners, like Robert and Naomi Puyu of Youth with a Mission (YWAM) in Papua New Guinea. One of the things they're working on is a leadership academy and vocational school in the capital city Port Moresby, to which our church gave seed money.
- Your generosity also helped fund the construction of YWAM's Open Heaven Discipleship School in Bangladesh, and supported the staff there furloughed due to COVID19.
- In spite of the pandemic, we continue to support our full list of local and global mission partners.
- July 25 will mark the 10th year of our school-supplies drive called Waimanalo Back-2-School Outreach led by the Women's Ministry, benefiting the students of Waimanalo.
- We are forming teams who can help the houseless community in Waimanalo pack their belongings and store them in a safe place 48 hours before the anticipated arrival of a storm during this hurricane season.