



October 2 2019

TIMES TO SPEAK AND LISTEN

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7*

One of the treasures of our church is to provide important places for both speaking and keeping silent. Jesus was a rabbi who taught his disciples, and we have never stopped growing more faithful by the learning that comes from both listening and speaking. To this end, our church's ministries include small group discussions, Bible study, book studies, church school, and special learning events.

On Sunday, October 13, we will host a special traveling production titled, "My Name is 'Ōpūkaha'ia," from the Mission Houses Museum in Honolulu, and sponsored by the Congregational Library in Boston. This one-hour program will include a one-act, one-man play performed by the Hawaiian actor Moses Goods, along with an opportunity for discussion with museum staff members.

For us, this is a time to listen to the account of early encounters between native Hawaiians and New England Congregationalists, and the influence of Ōpūkaha'ia on the growth of Christianity a century ago. This story is a part of our heritage, with lessons for our faith and our lives today. I hope you will join me for this special event. And, yes, lunch will be provided!

This special event is one of many reasons to support this church's ministries in the year ahead. Our faith formation programs foster growth in faith at all ages by providing intentional times for the listening and speaking by which we learn and grow.

October is stewardship month, when we will dedicate our pledges for the church's ministries in 2020 to support a church where faith is deepened.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister