

Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

WELCOME THE HOLIDAYS!

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

We were just getting out of September this year when I started noticing holiday decorations in stores. By early October, Costco had rows filled with holiday treats, gifts and décor. It seems like the holiday reminders come earlier and earlier every year. Truthfully, this doesn't bother me one bit because two of my favorite days of the year are Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Like many of you, I like to celebrate Thanksgiving with prayers of gratitude. This year, I am especially thankful for our church. We have accomplished so much this past year: voting unanimously to become an official "Open & Affirming" congregation of the United Church of Christ, celebrating an extraordinarily successful capital campaign (raising over \$425,000), welcoming new members, and so much more! I am also extremely grateful for my 3-month sabbatical in southern Europe where I focused on "Beauty, Art & Spirituality." I invite you to spend some time this month—and on Thanksgiving Day itself—offering prayers of gratitude for all of the blessings that our church has brought to you, as well as the many other blessings in your life.

Christmas is a day when I consider the birth of life and hope all around me and in the world. As I remember the advent of Jesus, I am convinced that the world needs his message today just as much as it needed it 2,000 years ago. I invite you to consider the ways that life and hope are present in your heart and all around you, and also how you might be part of bringing more of those two things to the world. Kōloa Union Church is a place of life and hope for us all. Let us be open to how the Spirit is birthing life and hope among us; and let us nurture them wherever and however they show up in our lives.

As we enter this season when we focus on gratitude and new birth, may God's unconditional love touch us in fresh and meaningful ways.

Aloha Nui!
Kahu Alan Akana



YEAR-END GIVING TO THE CHURCH

As we approach the holiday season, our Church Council would love to end the year in the black. At this point in time, here is what it will take to do so: those who made pledges will fulfill their pledges; loose offering will go up significantly during the holidays (which it normally does); members and friends will make additional Christmas gifts to the church's general fund of \$10,000 (estimate). Please remember to bring gifts to the church (or have them postmarked if delivered by U.S. Postal Service) *before* January 1 in order for them to be counted on your 2019 end-of-year statement.



ALOHA HOUR

- Nov 03—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
- Nov 10—Giovanni Osuga Strong
- Nov 17—Odo Osuga Kube
- Nov 24—Ito Rebb Shim
- Dec 01—Smythe Foley McCoubrey
- Dec 08—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares
- Dec 15—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
- Dec 22—Giovanni Osuga Strong
- Dec 29—Odo Osuga Kube

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 15, 10:30 a.m.
 The church Sunday School and youth will be presenting a Christmas program on Sunday, December 15. Practice will be during Sunday school, please let Tiffany know if you can attend. And don't forget to come to church on to enjoy our talented youth!



USHERS

NOVEMBER

- Christine Kube
- Michael Horning

DECEMBER

- Graceleanor Baird
- Doug Duvauchelle

LAYREADERS

- November 03—Shyrl Matias
- November 10—Doug Duvauchelle
- November 17—Suzanne Pearson
- November 24—Jeannie Odo
- December 01—Rosemary Smythe
- December 08—Karen Johnson
- December 15—Edie Moe
- December 22—Kerry Mori
- December 29—Debbie Gunning

Prayers for the Earth and its climate; for comfort and strength for immigrants and refugees, veterans, police officers, victims of gun violence, natural disasters and bullying; prayers for all those traveling this week; prayers of comfort and healing for Glenn & Mona Ceballos, Fay Bartels, Lonnie Jackson, Lady Ipo and her `ohana, Clyde Fujikawa, Jim & Linda Taylor, Jim Nesbit & Sheila Harman, Aimee, Loren, Ellen, Nick, Bridget Hammerquist, Donald Horcher, Bill Dressel, Mamie Powelson, Karl Bartels, Tara Foley, Larry Chaffin, Gary Struwe, Lizzie Macaninch, Mark Schory, Skip Hance, Bobbie Bulatao-Franklin, Rowan, Rochelle and John Lorenzo, David Vitt, Jose Bulatao, Ella Batalucco, Brenda, Jo Duvauchelle, Tiff & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of comfort and peace for the families of Martha Stanifer (Sandi Fabian's mother) and Tamiko Asahi; prayers of comfort for Shyrl's daughter Margo and Miyeko Yamane.



DEACONS MEETING/COMMUNION

Deacons will gather for their monthly meeting this morning at 9 a.m. in Kahu’s office. They will be serving Communion during the Sunday service.

KAUAI ASSOCIATION UCC FALL `AHA MOKUPUNI

A fantastic `Aha Mokupuni is planned for today, 3-7 p.m. at Lihu `e United Church, 4340 Nawiliwili Rd, Lihue (behind King Auto). This year's theme is "Huaka`i Me Ke Aloha" (Journey with Love) and the entire event will be intergenerational. There will be music from all ages, conversations about the various journeys we have all been on in our churches, group singing led by Doug Duvauchelle, and a message by Kahu Akana!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Monday, November 11 in observance of Veteran’s Day.

LECTIO DIVINA

Wednesday, November 13, 7 p.m. Join us at the parsonage (3281 Waikomo Road) for a time to quietly reflect on the Scriptures. In Christianity, Lectio Divina is a traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God’s word.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

November 17. The church council will meet after Aloha Hour in Kahu’s office.

THANKSGIVING LUNCH

November 24. Join us at our annual potluck Thanksgiving luncheon after Sunday service. Look for the sign up sheet to bring your favorite dish.



Alan Akana Gallery

HOLIDAY SALE

Sunday, November 24, 2- 5 p.m.
3281 Waikomo Road

The parsonage will be decorated for the holidays!
Holiday refreshments will be served!
Everything will be at least 20% off!
A perfect time to do your holiday shopping!



ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 26, 7:30 a.m. Join the church members and friends for a fun, relaxing breakfast at the Holoholo Grill located in the Kōloa Landing complex. Let Michael Horning or Penny Osuga know if you would like to attend.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 28.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are every Thursday, 7—8 p.m. Bring your voices and your friends. You will enjoy being part of this melodious group under the direction of Kathleen Dahill.

SOCIAL ACTION—THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Its been a great year. Kōloa Union Church has partnered with St. Raphael church in food donations/distributions. Church volunteers serve lunch every 5th Wednesday at the Hanapepe Salvation Army facility. We continue collecting blankets and pillows for the homeless, stamps, spare change for food and gift cards and assist with snacks for Kōloa School students. We will again be putting together Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes for needy local families. Look for the sign up sheet.



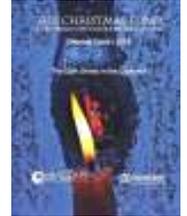
PARKING REMINDER

As we approach the busier time of the year, we ask those who are able to consider carpooling or park at Kōloa School or along Waikomo Road. This will provide parking for the elderly, our visitors and those who have mobility issues.



CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

This special offering, administered by the United Church of Christ Pension Boards, provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas "thank you" checks. Each year, UCC congregations throughout the country collect this offering to assist faithful servants of God who are facing financial difficulties. We not only share hope, peace, joy and love with them; but they, in turn, pass these things along to others in their communities and in the world. We will collect the Christmas Fund offering on December 22, 24, 25.



DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Watch for dates and times.



CHRISTMAS PARTY December 6, 6 p.m.

Join us at our annual Christmas party at Kahu's home—the Smith Memorial Parsonage (3281 Waikomo Road). Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner & your singing voices for Christmas carols.



CHURCH WORK DAY December 7, 8 a.m.

Time to spruce up the church and grounds for the holidays. Bring your buckets, rags, gloves. Lunch will be served.

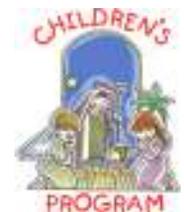


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Join us at the parsonage (3281 Waikomo Road) for a time to quietly reflect on the Scriptures. In Christianity, Lectio Divina is a traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM December 15, 10:30 a.m.

The church Sunday School and youth will be presenting a Christmas program on Sunday, December 15. Practice will be during Sunday school, please let Tiffany know if you can attend. And don't forget to come to church to enjoy our talented youth!



NO CHURCH BREAKFAST December 24, 7:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE December 24, 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE December 25, 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED December 25, 26 and January 1, 2020.



*You may feel lost & alone,
but God knows exactly where you are and He has a good plan for your life.*

AUNTY NIELE'S NEWSY NOTES

By Penny Osuga

NOTE: Penny Osuga is Aunty Niele, our reporter for this column. Niele is the Hawaiian word for "nosy." If you have any news to share in this column, please contact Aunty Ni'e at the church office @ 742-6622 or through her church email address: kucpenny@gmail.com.

Congratulations to **Debbie** who did the "half marathon" walking 13.1 miles (Kaua`i marathon)!!!! Congratulations to our friend, **Pam (Clyde) Klaumann** who made 25+ jams and jellies for the **Monterey County Fair!** That alone is impressive, right? Top THAT off by winning 11—1st place, 10—2nd place, 3—3rd place, 3—best of show!!! Always a treat chatting with church friend, **Ida Verschoof** all the way in Michigan! She sends her "aloha", promises to surprise us with a visit "one of these days!" Another treat: chatting with **Phil/Mary Anderson**, former church members, now in Arizona! They phoned to "catch up" and send their "hellos." **Phil** was our church treasurer when they lived in Po`ipu. Enjoyed another beautiful Po`ipu "church on the beach." Wonderful music, sermon, attendance, potluck lunch. Did you know:

there are 5 TRILLION pieces of plastic in the oceans? 300 tons of floating debris? 14 BILLION

pounds are dumped into our oceans each year? 1 MILLION marine life die due to that plastic? Great having **Howard & Carol Jory** in church—they were in Paris the same time our **Kahu** was on his European sabbatical—but they were unable to meet.

Pat Chaffin took **Kahu** to her haku lei making class at Kukui`ula—beautiful results! **Kei & I** had another fun trip to Japan...then to northern California with family & friends (too bad abalone season is closed this year due to the illegal poaching!!) and celebrating our 51st anniversary while there! Thanks for the time off and for the office volunteers: **Joni &**

Tiffany & Naomi! When we got off the plane from Japan, walked over to the inter-island terminal, the 1st smiling face we saw was.....While I was in Northern California, **Penny J** was in Melbourne, Australia visiting her daughter and family! They saw the terracotta warriors at the Nat'l Gallery, went to the Royal Melbourne Museum, hiked a redwood forest and more!! During this time I guess you could say our **Kahu** was "Penny-less!" Always a treat having **Kahu's** sister and sis.in.law, **Alison** and **Juli** visit. Also very nice having **Cammie Matsumoto** in church. **Judyth** made a trip to California—visiting family and a check-up. **Debbie** is beautiful as she danced in the **Mokihana Dance Festival**. Maybe she'll dance in church for us one day! **Fay & Belinda** traveled "far and wide" — Amsterdam, Gibraltar,

London, Paris, Lisbon.....I probably missed a few cities! Thanks to **Steve, Doug,**

Michael, Chris, Kathleen for their fabulous rendition of Ho`omana. **Rory** celebrated her 8th birthday and **Caleb** his 9th! **Bill Dressel** looked good walking down the runway with their dog, "**Pope Pixie**", at the annual **Humane Society** dinner (*Vatican Security!!*)! **Al & Amy Sugano** enjoyed a quick trip to Oregon. Thanks to **Tom & Lynda Armbruster** for the beautiful flowers in memory and in honor of **Dr. Jared Knapp Smith** for his dedication to the people of Kaua`i as a physician and his contributions to the island. **Tom & Lynda** are vacationing in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, visiting friends and exploring. **Lee Anderson** had fun in Utah and SoCal. **Suzanne** enjoyed a trip to Canada. I enjoyed 2 weeks with our





Texas grandsons, celebrated my birthday and our youngest grandboy's bday. Flying home, stopover in LAX, bumped into **Rodney &**

JoRae heading home from LV. Congratulations to **Steve & Norma Sparks** celebrating their 48th anniversary! AND becoming the newest members at Kōloa Union. Thrilled having them be part of our KUC `ohana. October 8, 12:15 p.m. the pinnacle of a successful capital campaign on all levels: hopes, dreams, goals. A couple from New York pulled into our parking lot & walked to the office. They pulled in because "of the beautiful landscaping and beautiful welcoming church." In the sanctuary, I gave them some history, they took pictures and were in awe of "us!" High fives to all of YOU! They live 10 blocks from Columbia—where **Palani** is in school!! **Owen, Amber, Evan, Nolan, Toby** and their entire `ohana went to Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka! **Dan & Joy King** visited the Holy Land. Working on updating the church directory. Let **Penny O** know if you have any changes. Thanks to all of YOU for turning in your 2020 commitment cards and your continuing generosity. With this information the church council/budget committee can work on the 2020 budget. And thank you for your generous contributions to the **Neighbors In Need** special mission. Supporting these "special missions" puts us in a very elite group (out of almost 5,000 UCC churches in the US) of "5 for 5" churches. **Kahu** was featured in the Kaua'i Midweek's "Chasing the Light" (produced by **Karen Johnson's** sister, **Lynne**) titled "Seven Generations." **Steve &**



Yvonne Stoner enjoyed some Maui time with family. Gotcha!!! Thanks, everyone, for the beautiful leis & your glowing contributions as we surprised **Kahu** on "*Pastor Appreciation Day*." Members &

friends from Kōloa to New Hampshire (**Sam & Karen Tucci**) & everywhere in between sent in their "words of appreciation" that were read in church. Then a very special hula by **Rose. Kelsey Duvauchelle** was



on-island and in church! Thanks to **Tiffany** for "preaching" one Sunday ("It's My Choice") while **Kahu** was on personal/study leave. Sorry I missed it. And thanks to **Cathy Evans** for also delivering a sermon ("My Spiritual Journey"). Both were moving and inspirational. **Bill & Angela** are all over the place: NV, NYC, PA, Bermuda. **Lee & Carol Bowen** flew to North Carolina to visit family!!! Kaua'i held its first annual Poke Fest at the Kōloa Landing Resort. Heard **Sam Choi** was "in the house." Congratulations to **Taylor Sakimae** who was the overall winner! Woo woo **Taylor!**



And then we have **Steve Sparks**, front and center of the "Talk Story" in the Garden Island! **Steve** is a cancer survivor who is upbeat, positive, extremely grateful. Congratulations to **Missy** who welcomed a new 8# grandson, **Jonah. JoAnne, Mo, Lynn** with their entire `ohana spent a week at Disneyland! I wonder how many miles they walked each day!?? **Dan & Naomi** are off to NY to visit family. I think I heard Lihue broke 29 heat records this summer!!!! Celebrated our Capital Campaign Grand Finale! Our new Hawaii Conference minster, **Rev. Dr. David Popham**, preached. Check out the beautiful landscaping, the building improvements, the new signage, plaques. Another event I missed: Kanikapila Sunday at the Alan Akana Art Gallery. Fun, food, dancing! Also missed the October "all church breakfast." Thanks to the ladies of our Prayers & Squares group....**Angela** presenting **Rev. Phyllis Meighen** prayer squares for the Kalaupapa Care Home. Our awesome Salvation Army lunch servers! **Doug and**



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Jeanette enjoyed a few chilly days in LV! **Chris and Kathleen** flew all the way



to Pennsylvania to visit **Chris'** 97 year old mom, who is well, thriving, still lives solo!!! Was SO good having **Sherry Hines** in church. Always love seeing her big smile. *Hau'oli la hanau* to our former pastor, **Rev. Art Mampel**,

recently celebrating his 85th birthday! **Joey Rebb** traveled to Japan in October with a group of friends.

Paul & Joni were big supporters of "Whiskey & Tee" American Cancer Society/Breast Cancer Awareness event. **Paul & Joni** also spent time exploring Molokai—still on my bucket list. **Debbie!!** Old Koloa Sugar Mill Run—1st in her category! Even in the rain! High fives, **Deb!**



FOOD PANTRY

Kōloa Union Church is partnering with the St. Raphael Church to provide food boxes to local Kōloa families each month. We will be collecting and donating non-perishable food items to the St. Raphael Food Pantry. St. Raphael distributes food boxes to local Kōloa families and helps to stock a snack closet at Kōloa Elementary School for needy kids. Please drop off any non-perishable foods such as canned goods, packages of rice, cereal and pasta (please no fresh produce or packages that have been opened). Pre-packaged snacks for Kōloa School can also be donated (i.e., individual packs of goldfish, applesauce, granola bars, etc.). Drop off is at Kōloa Union Church Sunday mornings during service or at Penny's office Monday – Thursday 8 am to 12 pm. (Please call the office before delivery). Amber is willing to arrange a pickup from home for anyone who is unable to bring goods to the church during these times. You can also donate your time by volunteering the 3rd Thursday of each month from 9 am to 12 pm, helping to assemble the boxes for distribution. Please contact Amber Strong if you have any questions, need to arrange pick up, would like to volunteer at 907-227-9045 or amberkn@yahoo.com.



PRAYERS & SQUARES

Prayers & Squares is an international, interfaith outreach organization that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Kōloa Union has had a Chapter since 2016. The purpose of this ministry is to promote prayer through the use of quilts. Our motto is: "It's not about the quilt; it's all about the prayers." Quilts may be requested for **church members** who are in crisis and need the healing power of prayer. Each quilt is lovingly made, and the congregation takes part in finishing the quilt by hand-tying the knots and offering a silent prayer for the recipient. We thank Cathy Evans for bringing her organizational skills and energy to the Prayers and Squares Ministry at Kōloa Union Church. To request a quilt contact Debbie Gunning (808-652-7899). We also have Prayer Squares available. *Pule Hoaloha* (Prayer Friends with a Prayer Square) are available for anyone in need of prayer support.* Contact Elizabeth Mares, 808-635-8899, for more information. Our group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 1-3 p.m. in Kahu's church office. Sewers and non-sewers are welcome to attend. *We appreciate donations, in any amount, to help with the cost associated with the *Pule Hoaloha* ministry.



HALLOWEEN 2019



Rum tasting fun!!

**KOLOA UNION CHURCH
P.O. BOX 536
3289 POIPU ROAD
KOLOA, HAWAII 96756**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



**AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

SUNDAY EVENTS
10:30 a.m. Sunday School and
Worship Service

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Alan Akana, Pastor
revdocakana@gmail.com

Penny Osuga
Administrative Assistant
kucpenny@gmail.com

Kathleen Dahill
Director of Music
kdahill@WildwdStudios.com

Phone: (808) 742-6622
www.koloaunionchurch.org

KOLOA UNION CHURCH NEWSLETTER

November/December 2019

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