

Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

MARCH 2020

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

Lent: A Time of Reflection

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

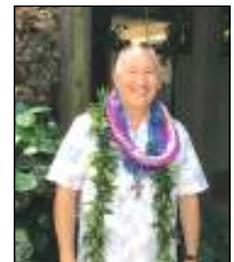
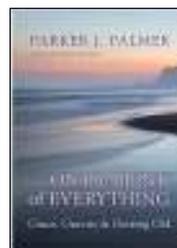
As Lent begins this year, I am grateful for this time of deeper reflection once again. Last year I spent Lent in southern Europe. I arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, on Ash Wednesday and attended Mass that evening at Basílica da Estrela, an ornate Baroque basilica within walking distance from my hotel. I was impressed with the stunning building—inside and outside—but what impacted me the most was the sheer number of people who had gathered to reflect and pray. Every pew was filled and I could barely find room in the narthex to stand. The service was filled with prayer, liturgy, beautiful music, and, of course, the marking of the ashes on the foreheads of everyone who walked to the chancel at the end of the service.

Besides the two years I attended Catholic elementary school, Ash Wednesday and Lent were not a part of my tradition growing up. As an adult I began attending churches where they were. At first I thought it strange that Christians would gather to remember that they were going to die (the ashes) and focus so much on the death of Jesus and the cross. However, after some thirty years in ministry I have found it ever so helpful to remind myself that each day is a gift, regardless of how many I have left, and that those days are numbered by God if not by me. The time of reflection during Lent has helped me to not fear death. More importantly, it has helped me to not be afraid of living fully with courage and with as much love and joy as my heart can hold.

This year, I have decided to use as my Lenten guide Parker Palmer's book, *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old*.

“It is a beautiful book of reflections on what we can learn as we move closer to “the brink of everything.” But this book is not for elders only. It was written to encourage adults of all ages to explore the way their lives are unfolding....a set of meditations in prose and poetry that turn the prism on the meaning(s) of one's life, refracting new light at every turn.”

I will begin sharing some thoughts from the first chapter of the book on Ash Wednesday (February 26) and then reflecting on a new chapter each week during our Lenten soup suppers, ending with the final chapter at our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service (April 9). I invite you to join me during Lent as we consider the many ways that grace shows up in our lives—whether we are walking with confidence, falling down, lying face-down on the ground, getting up, or learning to walk again.



Aloha nui loa!
Kahu Alan Akana

HONORING OUR MISSIONARY HERITAGE

Sunday, March 29, 2020
Worship Service 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We will have a special worship service to honor the missionaries on the day before the 200th anniversary of their arrival to these island. Kahu's message, special music and dance will commemorate this occasion.

Alan Akana Gallery Reception 2-5 p.m.

Join Kahu at the Smith Memorial Parsonage for a reception honoring the early missionaries to Hawai'i. He will give a talk at 3 p.m. about the first missionaries to arrive in 1820 in Kona and also the mission presence in Kōloa. Enjoy entertainment, refreshments and sale prices. More information to follow!

**ALOHA HOUR**

Mar 01—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares
Mar 08—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
March 15—Giovanni Osuga Strong
March 22—Odo Osuga Kube
March 29—Ito Rebb Shim
April 5—Smythe Foley McCoubrey
April 12—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares (Easter potluck)
April 19—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
April 26—Giovanni Osuga Strong
May 03—Odo Osuga Kube

SHROVE TUESDAY/PANCAKE**TUESDAY/MARDI GRAS/FAT TUESDAY**

Join us on Tuesday, February 25, 6 p.m. for our annual pancake supper. This tradition can be traced back to 1000 A.D. It is a time to feast and consume restricted foods during Lent such as leavened flour, eggs, milk.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 26, 7 p.m. We mark Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent. It follows Shrove Tuesday. It is traditionally a time of fasting and prayer in preparation for receiving or reaffirming baptism as Easter.

USHERS**MARCH**

Christine Kube
Michael Horning

APRIL

RoseTatiana Ceballos
Doug Duvauchelle

LAYREADERS

March 01—Rosemary Smythe
March 08—Karen Johnson
March 15—Edie Moe
March 22—Kerry Mori
March 29—Debbie Gunning
April 05—Sharon Mahaffey
April 12—Graceleanor Baird
April 19—Kei Osuga
April 26—Michael Horning

Prayers for the Earth and its climate; for comfort & strength for immigrants and refugees, veterans, police officers, victims of gun violence, natural disasters and bullying; for all those traveling this week; prayers of comfort and healing for Schooney `ohana, Kathleen Dahill, Jessie, Quintin, Kristie Schmid, Ronald Lau, Bradley Ceballos, Leroy, Tom, Mimi Pagador, Ellen, Jim Nesbit, Glenn and Mona Ceballos, Lonnie Jackson, Lady Ipo and her `ohana, Clyde Fujikawa, Jim and Linda Taylor, Mamie Powelson, Tara Foley, Gary Struwe, Lizzie Macaninch, Mark Schory, Rowan, Rochelle Lorenzo, David Vitt, Jose Bulatao, Brenda, Jo Duvauchelle, Tiff and Kimo Marrotte; prayers for the family of Chito Isonaga; prayers of comfort for Bobbie Bulatao-Franklin and Shyryl's daughter, Margo.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Our soup suppers this year will take place at the Smith Memorial Parsonage (3281 Waikomo Road in Kōloa) on Wednesday evenings, March 4 through April 1, from 6-8 p.m. Kahu Alan Akana will lead a discussion each week on Parker Palmer’s book, “On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity and Getting Old.” It’s a book about living fully and aging gracefully—no matter what age you are! The gatherings will also include some time for personal reflection. You do not need to read the book to engage in the lively conversations that we will be having. However, we have ordered 10 books for those who would like to read ahead, dig a little deeper, and possibly come with questions or ideas for discussion. Books will be available for \$15 on Sundays beginning March 1 or at the church office during office hours. A soup supper will begin promptly at 6 o’clock on each of the Wednesday evenings. If you are able to bring soup and bread for one of the evenings, please sign up on Sunday mornings or by calling Penny Osuga at the church office. Soup, stew or chili are all acceptable. We request that you not include red meat, mushrooms or monosodium glutamate in the ingredients. Salad and dessert are optional.



2020 FULL SPEED AHEAD!!!

Thank you for a very productive and positive annual meeting. All committee reports were presented, discussed and approved by the congregation. Thank you to the officers: **Doug Duvauchelle, Rosemary Smythe, Yvonne Stoner, Becky Sakimae**; the deacons: **Michael Horning** (chair), **Debbie Gunning** (secretary), **Christine Kube, Kei Osuga, Rosemary Smythe, Doug Duvauchelle, Steve Sparks** (new) and **RoseTatiana Warken Ceballos** (new); Committee chairs: **Elizabeth Mares** (new), **Dan Giovanni, Tiffany Marrotte, Becky Sakimae, Amber Strong** (new), **Karen Johnson, Bill Dressel, Penny Osuga**. We voted for representatives to the `Aha Pae`aina: **Kahu, Doug Duvauchelle, Michael Horning** (alternate) and `Aha Mokupuni: **Kahu, Michael Horning and Graceleanor Baird**. We look forward to another exciting, rewarding and growing year! We are always looking for volunteers in all areas of the life of KUC—see any of the officers or deacons to volunteer.



PRAYERS & SQUARES 1st Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.

Prayers & Squares is a ministry promoting prayer using hand-tied quilts. Our motto: “It’s not about the quilt; it’s all about the prayers.” To request a quilt for church members in crisis, call Debbie Gunning at 808-652-7899. P&S meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, 1-3 p.m., in Kahu’s office. All sewers and non-sewers are welcome!
Next meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 1 p.m.



ALL CHURCH / MEN’S BREAKFAST Tuesdays, 7:30 a.m.

The men of the church are enjoying their weekly winter breakfasts on Tuesdays (all but the 4th Tuesday of each month) at 7:30 a.m. at Kalapaki Joe’s in Poipu. All Church breakfasts for men and women will remain on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:30 a.m. at Holoholo Grill in the Kōloa Landing Complex.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, March 26 in observance of Prince Kuhio Day

AUNTY NIELE'S NEWSY NOTES

By Penny Osuga

NOTE: Penny Osuga is Auntie 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 Auntie Ni'e at the church office @ 742-6622 or through her church email address: kucpenny@gmail.com.

Thank you to **Rev. Janet Long** for filling our pulpit while our **Kahu** was on a much deserved vacation in January. **Palani** and GF, **Isobel**, visited Kaua'i! I believe our friend, **Marie Buckner**, broke all records for bringing in the most friends to church! (**Al & Carole Pugsley** held the previous record!) Our fab choir blew me away 2 weeks in a row: "Here I am" and "We Shall Overcome." **Nancy Murphy** went whale watching and her boat was surrounded by hundreds of dolphins!!! **Doug and Jeanette** enjoyed a long cruise around New Zealand! AND **Bill and Angela** headed that way too (New Zealand and Australia)! **Kei and I** went to Fukuoka, Japan for a week. Two hour train ride to Nagasaki— China town and visit the atomic bomb site and Peace Garden. Nagasaki had "hidden Christians" since the 17th century! Watched Super Bowl LIV in Japan, in Japanese, sadly, no commercials. What a wonderful time of the year for us as all our "snow bird ohana" return to Kauai! Enjoyed having **Cammie Matsumoto** in church! Had a successful annual meeting. Thank you to all our members for participating. Wow! Did you see **Kahu's** picture in the Garden Island (Kaua'i Midweek) and **Elizabeth Mares?** and **Krayson** (front page sports section)?!! We have famous people among us, right? So so nice having **Mike and Fran Johnshoy** in church. We miss them now that they don't live on island. Ran into church friend, **Chel**



Hauser, in Safeway! She is always so cheerful and smiley! Celebrated



Lucy Ceballos' 95th birthday with TWO

delicious cakes! Thanks to **Rev. Caroline Miura**, for filling our pulpit while our **Kahu** was at a **Pacific School of Religion** Board Meeting in Berkeley (check out our cute candle lighters—**Sydney & Kairi**). **Rev. Caroline** always has an uplifting message. And thanks to talented **Nancy Murphy and Fay Bartels** for providing our music while **Kathleen Dahill** is recovering from a broken foot.

Enjoyed **Nancy, Becky, Doug** providing our "praise song." Have you been following **Lee Anderson's** recent travels—San Francisco, Mexico cruise, San Diego and more! One word for the church youth bake sale: **WOW!** Their goal was \$450, in fact, they made a whopping \$1,400! Thanks to the moms



and everyone for their super delicious contributions. And thank you to the church members and friends who always support our church youth. Had a very busy and successful Valentine event at the **Alan Akana** art gallery. Attendance: about 60! Enjoyed **Kahu's** video, short talk and **Michael DeMotta**, Curator of Living Treasurers at the *National Tropical Botanical Gardens*. Refreshments, door prizes, snacks! **Kahu** and **Penny J.** worked very hard.



The kids had a fun bowling night in January! Our baseball boys, **Caleb and Kron!!!** Our caring volunteers packing food bags at **St. Raphael's: Belinda, Beryl, Amber, Tina, Lynette, Owen, Becky** (photographer). **Lee & Carol** enjoyed a fine dinner at **Tidepools!** My invitation to join them must have gotten lost in the mail???

Kahu & Pastor Jeannie Thompson (at **Pastor Jeannie's** farewell gathering). **Kahu** went to a fabulous **Jim Brickman** concert with friends,



got to go backstage!!!! He saw our Hawaii Conference minister, **Rev. Dr. David Popham** and his wife; Hawaii Conference Office Coordinator, **Lori Yamashiro.** **Ken McMillin & Doug**

practicing ukulele. The latest beautiful prayer quilt given to a church member in need of some extra prayers—well done, ladies!



At one of our men's Tuesday morning breakfasts. Thank you, **Doug and Rose** for the beautiful hula and song. Enjoyed our annual **Taco Toss** dinner with our visiting snowbirds! (Missed the **Pugsleys, Tuccis, Ellenbergers**). **Amber (and Owen) Strong** celebrated her birthday on Oahu with friends, dinner at the **Moana Surfrider!!** Got greetings from our Canadian friends: **Jane, Aubrey and Beverly Reed.** We miss them. Congratulations to our **Rose Tatiana** who was honorably recognized by our **Mayor Derek Kawakami.** **Rose Tatiana** was presented a proclamation for helping Kaua'i's seniors live healthier and more meaningful lives through nutrition, exercise and mindfulness. Thanks to **Dan & Naomi** for spending a beautiful Friday afternoon cleaning our church grounds.



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

MARCH 2020 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**

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KOLOA UNION CHURCH NEWSLETTER

March 2020

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