



Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

December 2016

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

The Season of Advent

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

We began the Season of Advent on November 27 with a beautiful poem read by Karen Johnson. Before lighting the Candle of Hope, Karen reminded us of the importance of “making room” for Christ and allowing God to show up in the uncertainty of our lives. Here is Karen’s poem:

ADVENT

by Karen Johnson

Make room for Christ, for the Christ child
Make room for happiness and unhappiness
Make room for other people to like you and
not like you

Make room for the sunshine, Make room
for rain.

Make room for things to go differently than
you want or think they should

And for things to go well.

Make room for rocks and trees and grass.

Make room for life to be fair and unfair

Make room for “yes,” make room for “no”...

Make room for change. Make room for not
knowing and confusion.

Make room

Keep widening the circle.

Each Sunday during Advent, I have invited artists to share their art with the congregation and talk about how their art might help us to experience the season and its themes of hope, peace, joy and love. I trust that their messages will help you make room for Christ and open yourself up to however God might come to you during this special time of year. May we find inspiration from the poets, musicians, painters and fabric artists among us.

Aloha nui loa!
Kahu Alan Akana



First Sunday of Advent





As each of us submitted our “pledge cards” for the coming year, we were given the opportunity to jot down where we felt we could share our *aloha*. We were given colorful hearts on which to write our suggestions: shut-ins, homeless, children without parents, youth, elders. These hearts were placed on the banner above. Your confidential pledge cards and “heart” ideas give us the energy and drive to ***Pay It Forward***

and to recognize “who is my neighbor?” We celebrated with a special luncheon and delicious cake!



ALOHA HOUR

December 04—Ramos Moe Baptiste
 December 11—Dunas Kunimura Osuga
 December 18—Giovanni Osuga Machin Dressel
 December 25—Odo Honjo Foley
 January 01—Rebb Ito Shim
 January 08—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey
 January 15—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning
 January 22—Ramos Moe Baptiste
 January 29—Dunas Kunimura xxxxxx

Prayers and Squares: The Prayer Quilt Ministry . . . pray without ceasing. . . 1 Thessalonians 5:17 Koloa Union Church is on the threshold of creating a new prayer ministry: Prayers & Squares: the Prayer Quilt Ministry (<http://www.prayerquilt.org>). Some first steps have been taken: the Council has approved the ministry; we have joined the organization and will be Chapter 1228; and we have a Prayer Coordinator (Karen Johnson) and an initial Chapter Coordinator (Angela Dressel). A meeting for those interested in learning more (and for those ready to join) is scheduled for January 6, 2017 from 3-5 p.m. The meeting location is to be determined. You do not need to know how to sew or quilt to join us; you just need to be willing to pray and help with the effort in any way you are able. *Fabric of Faith: A Guide to the Prayer Quilt Ministry*, by Kimberly Winston, is a lovely book introducing the ministry. Look for more information in the weekly E-News or contact Angela, addressel@gmail.com or 808-332-7371. Our most important need is for you to pray for the establishment and organization of this ministry

USHERS

DECEMBER

Sheri Fu
 Doug Duvauchelle

JANUARY

JoRae Baptiste
 Debbie Gunning

LAYREADERS

December 04—Debbie Gunning
 December 11—Doug Duvauchelle
 December 18—Graceleanor Baird
 December 25—Phyllis Kunimura
 January 01—Larry Chaffin
 January 08—Virginia Dunas
 January 15—JoAnne Machin
 January 22—Kei Osuga
 January 29—Rosemary Smythe
 February 05—Edie Moe

Our Prayers: prayers for guidance & strength for Rosemary Smythe, Don Coffman, Mike Benedetti, Mike O'Malley, Mario Mariani, Lizzie Macaninch, Jim Priest, Steven, Cammie Matsumoto, John Kube, Auntie Jeannie, Harriot Siegrist, Dave Ellis (friend of Sam/Karen Tucci), Vernon Fu, Jo Johannesen, Shore Strong, Linda (Edie's sister), Daniel Tunney, Joseph Alapai, Sheila Heathcote, Brenda, Jo Duvauchelle, Tamiko & Ted Asahi, Tiff & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of comfort for the families of Jon Togioka, Dollie Brierley, Daniel O'Flaherty, Esther Johnshoy; prayers of peace and comfort for Emiko Akana, Mieko Yamane.



Prayers and Squares

Kolua Union Church is formally Chapter 1228 of the international Prayers & Squares Ministry, and the first from the state of Hawaii. We are in the foundational prayer portion of establishing this ministry. Please join with us in opening your hearts for these prayer requests: 1). Is God calling ME to be an active member of this ministry?; 2). What is God saying to me about a vision for this ministry? Please contact Angela Dressel (adressel@gmail.com or [808-332-7371](tel:808-332-7371)) if you have questions, want to be a part of the foundational prayer group, or have ideas to share.



Kauai Hospice Holiday Events

Kauai Hospice will be offering "A Candle Lighting Memorial" at 3 locations on December 5 (Immaculate Conception in Kapaia), 8 (Hanapepe Hawaiian Congregational Church) & 12 (Princeville Church of the Pacific), 2016, 6 p.m.

Hawai'i Conference (United Church of Christ)

The Hawai'i Conference is assessing its mission and ministry. Interviews and focus groups have been completed on O'ahu and Hawai'i Islands. The Kaua'i module will take place the week of January 23, with the focus group at Lihue Christian Church on Tuesday evening, January 24, at 5:30. All UCC members on Kaua'i are invited to attend and give input. An assessment report will be available in March. Once the report has been reviewed by the Conference Council, a period of strategic planning of our future mission and ministry will begin.

The State of Our Finances A Financial Message from Kahu

Thank you to everyone who made financial commitments to the 2017 general fund, which supports the running of our church and reaching out to our neighbors in the upcoming year. We are now expecting over \$90,000 from our regular contributors and well-positioned for another successful year of ministry! We began 2016 with only \$60.81 in our checking account but did not have to borrow money for our regular budgeted expenses for 2015. On April 3, 2016, I announced in our worship service that our Church Council borrowed \$20,000 from our permanent funds to give us some cushion in order to pay all of our monthly bills. Having \$60 in our checking account was just not enough to stay on top of our bills! I also told the congregation that the Council intended for us to repay the loan by the end of this year.

Due to the death of some of our members and regular supporters, and financial difficulties of others, I do not expect that we will repay the loan in its entirety by the end of the year. However, as long as we have a really good December in terms of regular income, we should be able to pay at least half of the loan back to our permanent funds and still have enough in our checking account to carry us into the new year without having to borrow additional funds. In addition, part of our capital campaign money was designated to pay back some of the borrowing from permanent funds that had taken place for many years. In November, the Council approved moving \$5,000 from capital campaign money into the permanent funds in 2016 and an additional \$5,000 for the next two years in a row.

This has been a really important “turnaround” for Kōloa Union Church! In addition to getting on top of our finances, we have had a tremendously successful year with our capital campaign projects, including our new parking lot, landscaping, signage and outdoor lighting, photovoltaic solar panels, beautiful koa furnishings, and newly painted buildings. Our facilities are looking fantastic! (And there is a lot more to come in the months just ahead!) As we move forward in ministry—welcoming all and reaching out into our community by sharing aloha with everyone—I invite you to continue being generous during this final month of the year so that we can improve our financial health even further and begin 2017 in the best possible financial position.

Christmas Outreach Spare Change to Help Needy Families

We plan to give gift cards to families in our community before Christmas so that they can have food and gifts for their children. Can you bring your spare change to church between now and December 11? Just place it in the Spare Change Jar as you enter or leave the church. We will add up our change on December 11 and purchase gift cards for local stores. If you know any families we can help, have any questions, or wish to volunteer, please contact Judyth Foley at 818-726-1344.



Yvonne and Judyth
filling up the change jar

December Worship Services

All Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.

December 4: Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)

We will light the Candle of Peace and Dr. Douglas Duvauchelle will share with us his art of music. We will also celebrate Holy Communion.

December 11: Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)

We will light the Candle of Joy and Kahu Alan Akana will share with us his art of watercoloring the flowers of Hawai'i nei.

December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)

We will light the Candle of Love and Angela Dressel will share with us her art of quilting. Also, the children of the church will present our annual Christmas program.

December 24: Christmas Eve (7:30 p.m.)

We will read the Christmas story, sing carols and end the evening with the singing of Silent Night as we light candles.

December 25: Christmas Day

We will light the Christ Candle, sing Christmas carols and celebrate Holy Communion.

(Bring in poinsettias to brighten and create Christmas ambiance in our sanctuary)

Christmas Postcards

Once again we will be distributing large postcards in the community, announcing our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. In years past we took advantage of “EDDM” (Every Door Direct Mail). This postal service delivered our special seasonal postcards to every business & household in the Koloa zip code area. This year we will try a different strategy by distributing postcards to as many condos, hotels, resorts possible. If you can help distribute these postcards, advertising our Christmas activities, please see Kahu.

Christmas Party at the Parsonage

Friday, December 9, 2016, 6:00 pm.

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 and your singing voices, as we plan to sing Christmas carols!

Christmas Caroling

We will be joining the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign as they sing Christmas carols in front of Sueoka Store on December 16 & 23, 6 - 7:30 pm. Please join us for a fun time.

Stewardship

Thank you for your generous donations to our fall special mission offering, Neighbors In Need. This mission supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. You gave more than \$500! Very inspiring. Thank you for last year's Christmas Fund donations. We ask that you are so giving again this year as we will collect for the Christmas Fund on December 18, 24 & 25. This Christmas Fund is another special mission offering providing financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers and lay employees and surviving spouses. Koloa Union Church is in the top 10 of 5,100 UCC churches in our giving per capita!! We are small but mighty! Thank you for turning in your pledge cards. I am so proud to be a member of this church because our congregation truly “pays it forward.” Thank you for your generous hearts!

Debbie Gunning, Stewardship Chair

Office Closed

Monday, December 26, 2016.

Committee Chairs

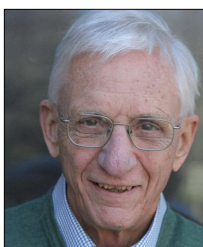
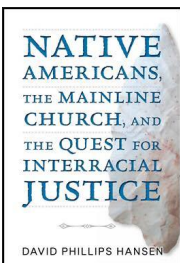
All committee reports must be turned in to Penny by January 8 in order for the annual report to be collated and printed.

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.

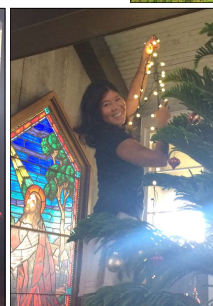
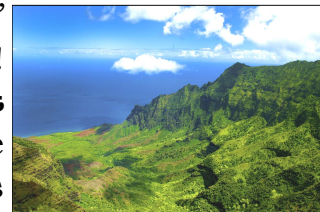
Looking for more *lay readers* and *Aloha Hour* volunteers. Please see Penny if you could possibly volunteer for either or both. Thanks to the **Pugsley's** generosity by gifting us with PV panels here at the church, last month our carbon offset was 430# and we saved the lives of 5 trees!!! **Dan & Naomi** just returned from their 2-1/2 weeks in Italy. Then they are off to a **Sting** concert on Oahu! **Virginia Dunas** had a fun birthday celebration in Kokee with friends. It is time to update our directory. If you have any changes in address, phone #, email, please let **Penny** know, ASAP. Our former pastor, **Rev. David Hansen**, wrote a book released on November 29!!!



Check it out!! *Native Americans, the Mainline Church and the Quest for Interracial Justice*. As children, we al-

ways came up with creative excuses for skipping church—BTW none of them ever worked—**Mike & Fran Johnshoy** had the best reason EVER! Their neighbor's cow fell into their pool!!!! Good one, huh??? **Krayson** went on a band trip to Oahu: visited the *Bishop Museum*, musical functions, etc. Speedy healing prayers for **Rosemary** (hip replacement) and **Uncle Diki** (cataract). Thank you, **Bruce Sakimae**, for hauling away (and offering to haul away in

the future) access trash from behind the church kitchen. What a huge help!!! The *Garden Island* printed a wonderful article about **Bruce** and the true meaning of friendship. Eh, lucky we live KAUAI!! The *Nat'l Geographic* has recognized KAUAI as "Best of the World" destination in 2017!!! Thanks to **Rodney & Uncle Diki** for the beautiful Christmas



tree that stands in our sanctuary. Thanks to our "#1 tree decorating team"!!!! Thank you, **Karen Johnson**, for sharing her Advent poem and lighting the 1st Advent candle. Can you imagine how happy **Sharon McCoubrey** was having daughter, **Joy**, home for Thanksgiving?! Last time we saw **Joy** was at our *Capital Campaign* kick-off party at the **Giovanni's**. **Kei & I** were thrilled to have **Chris & Tara** (our dtr & son.in.law) home from San Francisco. **Kahu** was happy beyond words to have son, **Palani**, on island with other Stanford students. If you have not done so, please turn in your "2017



pledge cards.” These help the Council & Finance Committee create a budget for the coming year. Thank you, **JoAnne**, for tending to the plants in the sanctuary. Thank you, **Judyth**, for spearheading and organizing serving lunch at the *Salvation Army* on the 5th Friday of November. Thanks to volunteers: **Missy, Yone, Mike** and **Fran**. A huge “high five” to **Judyth, Sharon, Missy** for organizing and gathering

and shopping and packing and delivering “10 Thanksgiving boxes” to families in need. These boxes were filled

with a turkey(!!!), canned corn, fresh dinner rolls, mashed potatoes, butter, sweet potatoes and much more! And thanks to all of you for your generous contributions. Awesome! I noticed **Evan Batalucco** with a

cast on his wrist. Luckily, that didn’t seem to slow him down. Was wonderful having **Cathy Evans** here with us

again. She brought friend, **Becky**. Thank you all for a delicious and filling Thanksgiving luncheon!



Thanks to our hardworking crew who dusted, scrubbed, vacuumed, power washed, swept, mopped, sprayed & wiped on our church clean-up day.



Enjoyed meeting the friends and family of **Owen & Amber Strong** visiting all the way from Alaska!!! The **Sakimaes** had a full house with all the “kids” home for Thanksgiving. How joyous is being surrounded by all four grandchildren!!! Did you see 600 Hawaii youth in the annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade! Very impressive and thrilling. They must have been cold in 40 degree weather!!! The church **Sunday School** is busy sewing, prepping, practicing, rehearsing as they will do the entire Sunday service on December 18! Get your cameras ready!!





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



KOLOA UNION CHURCH

SUNDAY EVENTS

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

STAFF

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

Penny Osuga,
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Kathleen Dahill
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