



Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

April 2017

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL ABOUT THIS PLACE

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

A few weeks ago marked my 3rd anniversary as Kahu of Kōloa Union Church. I mentioned in church on February 26th that these past three years have been some of the best years of my life. I probably thought about Hawai'i every day during the previous 20 years I lived back on the mainland (after living in Honolulu until 1994), knowing that someday, somehow, I would return to live in the islands of my ancestors once again. Little did I know that there would be a church filled with such loving and caring people who would welcome me with open arms to serve as your Kahu.

As I think about what we have accomplished together as a church during the past three years, I am grateful for all that has happened. I could write about the success of our capital campaign, our increased attendance, the doubling of giving to our budget, or how there are many more children involved in the life of our church. All of these are very good things; but there is something else that is even more important than income or statistics. A friend of mine who recently visited our church summed it up by saying, "Alan, there is something really special about this place." He was referring to how

he felt by being among us. He felt a sense of community, of goodness, of God's Spirit, of aloha.

I think this is how many people feel when they visit Kōloa Union Church. They may say it with different words, but I often hear our visitors tell me what a special place they sense when they are among us; and I feel it too! Every Sunday morning I realize how blessed I am to be among such a special people of faith where all truly are welcome and we work together to make our island and our world a place where God's love is demonstrated, seen and felt.

As we continue our Lenten journey by focusing on the many ways we are blessed by God, may we remember our church that truly is a really special place; and may we prepare our hearts for Easter Sunday by welcoming the risen Christ, who continues to bring new life within us and around us. Just as the first Easter was a surprise to so many, may God surprise us this Easter with blessings that are bigger than we can even imagine; and may we stand ready to share those blessings with others!

Aloha nui loa!
Kahu Alan Akana



SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

March 5: start rehearsals for Easter play

March 27: a fun day at Hanalei Pier

April 9: Palm Sunday & play
“You Can’t Have Easter Without....”



April 14: 11:00 am Decorating Easter eggs & pizza lunch (please sign up)



April 16: Easter Sunday church at 10:30 am; egg hunt & Aloha Hour at our parsonage at noon (please sign up)



June 9—13: Kokee Youth Retreat at Waiveke cabins (details to follow)



ALOHA HOUR

- April 02—Ito Rebb Shim
- April 09—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey
- April 16—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares
- April 23—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
- April 30—Giovanni Osuga Machin Strong
- May 07—Odo Honjo Foley
- May 14—Ito Rebb Shim
- May 21—Smythe Chaffin McCoubrey
- May 28—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares

OGHS—One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God’s message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. This is one of the special missions to which we contribute. We will collect this offering on April 9, 13, 16. Please give with open hearts.



aring resources. changing lives.

USHERS

- MARCH**
Phyllis Kunimura
Graceleanor Baird
- APRIL**
Virginia Dunas
Doug Duvauchelle

LAYREADERS

- April 02—Virginia Dunas
- April 09—JoAnne Machin
- April 16—Kei Osuga
- April 23—Rosemary Smythe
- April 30—Edie Moe
- May 07—Kerry Mori
- May 14—Debbie Gunning
- May 21—Doug Duvauchelle
- May 28—Graceleanor Baird
- June 04—Phyllis Kunimura

Our Prayers: Prayers for guidance & strength for Ella Batalucco, Virginia Dunas, Billy (Patsy’s cousin), Jean (Joy’s friend), Barbara Johnson, Bob Gulde, Al Pugsley, Jerry (Phyllis Kunimura’s nephew), Lizzie Macaninch, Steven, John Kube, Dave Ellis, Vernon Fu, Jo Johannesen, Shore Strong, Linda (Edie’s sister), Daniel Tunney, Joseph Alapai, Sheila Heathcote, Brenda (Judyth Foley’s daughter), Jo Duvauchelle, Tamiko & Ted Asahi, Tiff & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of peace and comfort for Emiko Akana, Mieko Yamane: prayers of comfort for the families of Jeannie Pacarro, Harriot Siegrist, Aaron Kakinami.



Membership Gathering, Interested in Learning More about our Church?

On Sunday, April 2, Kahu Akana and the Deacons will meet with people who are interested in learning more about Kōloa Union Church and what is involved in becoming a member of our congregation. We will cover such subjects as: our church's history, vision and mission; the various groups within our congregation; what we believe about God and Scripture; affiliation with the United Church of Christ; and benefits and expectations of membership. Those who participate in the gathering may choose to join the church, but there is no obligation to do so. The gathering will take place in Moore Hall after Aloha Hour, approximately 12:30 to 3:00. Please sign up on the bulletin board or by contacting the church office. Childcare provided.

Soup Suppers and Reflection, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

This year during Lent, we continue our time of reflection on the "Beatitudes" from the Gospel of Matthew. Each Wednesday through April 5, we begin with a soup supper in Moore Hall at 6 p.m., followed by a time of prayer, reflection and conversation about the Beatitude of the week, based on the theme, sermon and Scriptures from the previous Sunday.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, April 13 at 7 p.m.

Join us in the sanctuary as we commemorate Jesus' last supper with his disciples. The theme of the evening will be the final Beatitude of Jesus: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

Easter Egg Decorating and Lunch, Friday, April 14, at 11 a.m.

The children of the church and their families are invited to our annual Easter egg decorating party in Moore Hall, followed by lunch. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many to prepare for and how much lunch to order. Invite your friends!

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 16

6:00 Sunrise Service at Kukuiolono Park in Kalaheo
 10:30 Easter Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary
 11:45 Church Picnic at the Smith Memorial Parsonage
 (Including an Easter Egg Hunt for the children!)

`Aha Mele, Friday, April 28

Each spring, the churches of the Kaua`i Association of the United Church of Christ gather for a delicious meal and live music presented by our churches.

This year's `Aha Mele will be hosted by Hanapepe United Church of Christ: 4481 Kona Rd, Hanapepe. The church is located on the southwest corner of Kaumuali`i Highway and Kona Road. Further information, including the times for the evening, will be determined any day now and we will keep you posted when we hear more.

Dinner: A delicious meal will be provided by Hanapepe United Church of Christ. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet at church if you plan to eat. It is important to give Hanapepe UCC an idea of how much food to prepare.

`Aha Mele. Join us after dinner for our annual "songfest" where every church of the Kaua`i Association of the United Church of Christ is invited to sing a song or present a musical number.

`Aha Mokupuni Business Meeting: The business of the Kaua`i Association will be conducted the following morning, *Saturday, April 29*. All are welcome to attend in order to find out what is happening and support the mission of the Kaua`i Association.

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'ele at the church office @ 742-6622 or through her church email address: kucpenny@gmail.com.

Former members, **Tom & Sue Yamasaki**, recently celebrated their 70th anniversary!!! Congratulations. Enjoyed having former pastor, **Rev. Susumu Yamane**, visit us and



Dan/Naomi Giovanni. Always enjoy our regular visitors such as **Steve/Nancy Brockschink** from



Oregon. **Rev. Janet Long & Dan Clark** were here, too. **Janet** filled our pulpit on 2 Sundays & also shared her beautiful voice with us.



Thanks, **Carole Pugsley**, for filling in as layreader (twice!!). My Canadian "twin", **Jane Reed**, was here with her parents! Speaking of twins...



Missed **Becky** while she was on her 3-week SoCal vacay with friends & family!! And



now **Sarah, Jayden & Garrett** are home!! Loving our snowbirds being here!! Thanks to

your generosity, we accepted \$574 for the **Henry Opuka-ha'ia** Scholarship Fund. The automatic sprinklers are

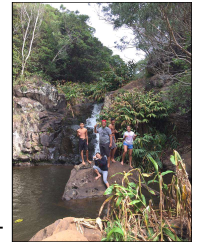


IN on the streetside! Thanks to **Dan & Naomi** for spending a day planting more greenery on the front berms and in the main garden area! Our church youth

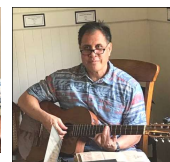


LeEllen just had a birthday!!

had a fun "Kokee retreat", another one coming up in June. **Tiffany's** pic was in the



"*Kauai Family*" magazine representing "Child & Family Service, Ohana Support Services Parent Partner." According to MSN, Hawaii is "one of the top states for healthcare, one of the healthiest populations, lowest mortality rates in the US!!" Again, lucky we live Kauai, eh? **Kahu** had a fabulous "**Alan Akana Gallery**" opening, 100+ people visited, many of them purchased *originals*, posters, cards, prints!

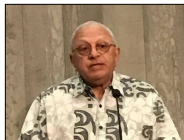


Enjoyed our annual *Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper*. No costumes or prizes this year, just pancakes & sausage for 33 hungry mouths. The next night was the 1st of our 6 Soup Suppers, then *Ash Wednesday Service*.





Can you find Bonnie??



music, great potluck lunch.



Kahu had lunch with **Aunty Chito** & niece **May**. **Al** & **Carole** checked out “their” PV panels atop the church roof. Checked out 2 **Teslas** models in Poipu. There was **Al Pugsley** assisting the **Tesla** team. **Toyo**



flew off to Honolulu to attend a wedding!!! **Kei** & **I** went to Japan for a



few days: Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka: lots of sushi and ramen, rides on the bullet train (**Shinkansen**), world famous **Tsukiji Fish** auction, shopping, miles of walking & exploring, castles, aquarium. Thank you, **Krystina** & **Kaylee** & **Doug**, for our special music.



Another winning “Church at the Beach.” We had about 100 attendees! Great service, great

Alan Akana Gallery

Featuring the Flowers of Hawaii

At the Smith Memorial Parsonage
3281 Waikomo Road, Koloa

Sunday, April 23, 3-5 p.m.
Live Entertainment & Refreshments

Please invite friends and neighbors!

For those who are able, you are
requested to park at Koloa Union
Church.



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
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Penny Osuga,
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kucpenny@gmail.com

Kathleen Dahill
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Newsletter - April 2017

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