

Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

JANUARY 2019

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

An Open and Affirming Congregation

As we begin a new year and reflect back over 2018, I am filled with gratitude! We are well-positioned to complete our final projects of our capital campaign. A small handful of people plan to fulfill their campaign commitments in 2019, which will allow us to do every last project without borrowing any money, which has been our plan all along. We will see demolition and construction of the expanded church office and new women's restroom in early January. We also plan to complete other minor projects by March 1: sanctuary floor, lighting, new door handles, plaques and signage, final irrigation.

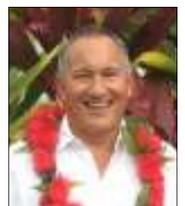
We also move into the new year with a brand new 3-year vision statement for our church. The first item is to become an official "Open and Affirming" (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ. On October 21, 2018, the Congregation voted unanimously to create a Core Team to lead us in the effort. To be ONA means that we agree to openly state that ***all people are welcome*** in our church with open arms and open hearts—welcome to attend, join as members, participate in leadership capacities, speak their truth, and (most importantly) show up as they are. This extends to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, physical and mental abilities, colors and cultures, and religious backgrounds. The Core Team has been meeting since October and is drafting an ONA Covenant, which they will present to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 27. There will then be a time of reflection and opportunities for input and questions for the Congregation until the end of February. On March 3, there will be a

special called Congregational Meeting for the purpose of voting on the ONA Covenant.

The Open & Affirming process is a one in which the entire Congregation is involved. It is important that everyone reads the draft version of the ONA Covenant. It is also important that input, concerns and questions are freely shared with the Core Team and the rest of the Congregation. The Core Team is aware that issues of sexual orientation and gender identity are often the key areas of concern for congregations going through the ONA process. Therefore, they have asked me to lead a Bible study on sexual orientation and gender at two different times: Sunday, February 3, after Aloha Hour, in my office; and Wednesday, February 6, at 7 p.m. at the Smith Memorial Parsonage. I will present biblical texts that encourage welcoming and accepting people who are different, as well as texts that are often used to condemn people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and those who question sexual and gender norms. The general presentation at both Bible studies will be identical, and there will be lots of time for people to make comments and ask questions in a safe and accepting atmosphere. ***Please sign up on the church bulletin board if you plan to attend.***

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Core Team if you have any input: Michael Horning (chair), Lee Anderson, John Gilmore, Tiffany Marrotte, Penny Osuga, Becky Sakimae, Sheri Fu, and me. Aloha nui loa!

Kahu Alan Akana



LOCAL FLOOD RESPONSE UPDATE

Thanks to Our Generous Congregation!

Thanks for the donations this year for our local flood victims! In April there were over two dozen homes in Koloa that were severely affected by the floods. Koloa Union Church brought many items right away that families needed just to get by, especially those who lost virtually every possession. We then delivered \$50 gift certificates to the Koloa Hardware Store to all of those households. Over the summer, we provided a stove to a family and a washer and dryer to another one. In December, we delivered \$100 gift certificates to Koloa Hardware Store to 20 families who are still struggling since the flood. All of the families are doing much better now thanks to the generosity of our entire island community, including KUC!

In case anyone can help, there is one family in need of a refrigerator. They were given a used refrigerator a few months ago, and it quit on them just before Christmas! The community has raised more than half of the cost of a brand new refrigerator from Home Depot, and we just need another \$200. If you can help, please write a check to Koloa Union Church with "Flood Relief" in the note section, and hand it to Penny ASAP.

ALOHA HOUR

January 06—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares
 January 13—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
 January 20—Giovanni Osuga Strong
 January 27—Odo Honjo Dunas
 February 03—Ito Rebb Shim
 February 10—Smythe Foley McCoubrey
 February 17—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares
 February 24—Ramos Baptiste Stoner

Prayers for comfort and strength for victims of natural disasters; prayers of comfort and healing for Tara Foley, Val, Larry Chaffin, Christie, Taylor Sakimae, Betty Sueoka, Gary Struwe, Lizzie Macaninch, Betty Bell, Karen Johnson, Kai Johnson, Betty Kataoka, Rick, Danny Finnigan, Casey Moody, Kitty Tyler, Judyth Foley, Charlotte, Suellen Nesbit, Jane, Mark Schory, Skip Hance, Jean Semph, Kilane, Sherri Mudd, Judy Hunt, Galen Kaohi, Steve Sparks, Mahina Anguay, Bobbie Bulatao-Franklin, Van Pribilovics, Scott Coffey, John Pekoe, Rowan, Cori Swanson, Rochelle Lorenzo, David Vitt, Francisca Padua, Kanaina Smythe, Jose Bulatao, Ella Batalucco, Barbara Johnson, Steven, Vernon Fu, Joseph Alapai, Brenda, Jo Duvauchelle, Ted & Tamiko Asahi, Tiff & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of comfort and peace for the families of Takeshi Nakato, Richard Stoddard, Stanwood Kanna, Bob Hammerquist; prayers of peace and comfort for Shyrl's daughter Margo and Miyeko Yamane

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on Sunday, January 27, after our worship service as we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the coming year. We need all members to attend in order to have a quorum to vote on the 2019 budget and our new leaders. There will also be a presentation by the Open & Affirming Core Team. All committee chairpersons are asked to turn in their annual reports to Penny electronically by January 14.

***USHERS*****JANUARY**

JoRae Baptiste
 Debbie Gunning

FEBRUARY

Kei Osuga

(Assigned after Annual Meeting)

LAYREADERS

January 06—Kei Osuga
 January 13—Michael Horning
 January 20—Angela Dressel
 January 27—Doug Duvauchelle
 February 03—Suzanne Pearson
 February 10—Jean Odo
 February 17—Virginia
 February 24—Rosemary Smythe
 March 03—Larry Chaffin
 March 10—Edie Moe



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Join the men of the church and their friends as they continue this winter tradition. They meet each Tuesday at Kalapaki Joe's Poipu for this time to catch up with returning snow bird friends. *Everyone* (men & women) is invited on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

PRAYERS & SQUARES

Prayers and Squares meetings will resume on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 1-4 p.m. If you know of a church member who is in need of a Prayer Quilt, please contact Angela Dressel, 808-332-7371.

THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON IMMIGRATION

A Lecture by the Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy

On Friday, January 25, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., Koloa Union Church is honored to host Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy, who will offer a talk "Theological Perspective on Immigration." An offering to strengthen the ministry of PSR will be taken, and a dessert reception in Moore Hall will follow the lecture, where people can meet Dr. Vásquez-Levy.

Dr. Vásquez-Levy is a nationally recognized immigration scholar and sought-after speaker. He addressed the General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2017. His work on immigration has led him to serve as a consultant on various documentaries and contribute a faith perspective to the national conversation on immigration—including speaking at a congressional briefing and participating in two immigration consultations at the White House. Vásquez-Levy is the author of various publications that explore migration stories in sacred texts and in people's lives.

Vásquez-Levy currently serves as the President of Pacific School of Religion (PSR), an interdenominational progressive Christian seminary located in Berkeley, California with denominational partners that include the United Church of Christ. PSR is dedicated to training theologically and spiritually rooted leaders for social change. PSR has deep ties to Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin, including a Doctor of Ministry program offered in Honolulu. President Vásquez-Levy, along with several leaders from communities across Hawaii, including Kahu Alan Akana, are partnering to strengthen ministry in the Aloha State.

We will be inviting the community to attend this lecture, and we will need some volunteers to make this a successful event, including the setup of Moore Hall, hosts to welcome people to the lecture and the reception, people to make or bring desserts, parking attendants. Please let Penny know if you can volunteer in any of these capacities.

SALVATION ARMY LUNCH

We will be serving lunch at the Hanapepe Salvation Army on Wednesday, January 30. We need 4-5 volunteers. You can meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. if anyone wants to carpool or meet at the Salvation Army around 10 a.m. Please contact Suzanne Pearson if you are able to participate: 742-2858.

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.

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou — Happy New Year to all! May this new year bring all you wish for...and more. Survived a busy holiday season here at Koloa Union, love the festivities, decorations, busy-ness of the season, visitors from near & far, new



friends, old friends. **Caleb & Sydney** had shabu-shabu dinner with **Frank Delima!! Kahu**



asked for our "two cents" and he got just that—**Penny Lee Jessup**, our gallery manager AND me, **Penny Osuga!!!** LOL. Had the



huge pleasure & great honor of meeting **Peter & Heather Simmons**. They are Big Island friends of **Dan & Naomi Giovanni** who DONATED the koa used to make the breathtaking front doors and beautiful bench!!! I hope **Peter** doesn't mind, but he got teary-eyed when he saw the beautiful products of his donated raw koa. Thanks, **Shellee**, for lighting the 1st Advent candle, sharing and dancing her story of "divine



hope." **Krayson, Kron, Kairi** are ready to start the holidays. What a wonderful surprise, former members, **Clyde & Sarah Shiraki** stopped by for a short visit.



Another fun church Christmas party under our belt: great food with great friends AND singing Christmas carols! **Uncle Diki**



4 generations!!



celebrated his 88th bday! Thanks to **Rosemary** for our beautiful Advent wreath; to **JoAnne**, for filling in as layreader—while here on vacay; to **Joni**, for power washing the slippery sidewalk (in the rain!!); to church members



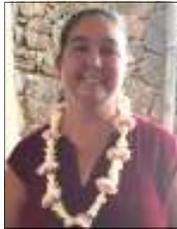
who sang with the Salvation Army @ **Sueoka Store**; to **Kathy**



for the song "Happy Birthday, Jesus" that she composed and taught to our Sunday School; **Tiffany** & moms for the best ever Christmas program, "New Star"; **Missy & Judyth** for "stuffed" Christmas stockings gifted to those less fortunate in our community; to



all of you who donated \$\$ and gift items; **Fay** for playing the organ while filling in for **Kathleen**; **Michael** for leading ukulele class when **Doug** wasn't available—tourist mom & son visiting from Canada loved it; for **Sharon's** beautiful hula as she and **Don** lit the Advent candle of *love*; our choir for beautifully singing us through the



holidays. Awesome having **Rev. Don & Judy Asman** visit. **Kairi**, our little angel. Thanks to **Virginia, Krayson, Evan** for participating in the Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day services. Great having **Kelsey, Spencer, Logan** home for the holidays. What a gift having **Jim Nesbit & Chris Sweitzer** perform during Christmas Eve service offering "Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth"!!! Fab article on the front page of the TGI Friday about Kahu's 25th anniversary of water coloring. Loved having my high school classmates, **Daryl Dobashi** and **Marian**



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Egan attend church on Christmas Eve. **Sharon Mahaffey** flew to California to visit her dad; **Virginia** flew to Singapore, Thailand and beyond for 2+ months; **Sharon McCoubrey** flew to California (north & south) to visit friends/family; **Becky** is also in SoCal for a month; **Palani** is home from NYC for two weeks; **Matt, Trudi, Skylar, Rory** went all the way to the east coast: lots of adventures including the Salvador Dali Museum. Always a big treat when **Rose** dances hula for us. Thanks to all who helped make our dream come true: as a 3rd generation KUC member, I was thrilled beyond words to be presented with a certificate naming the new office after my grandparents (**Tasaburo & Aki Okamura**), my parents (**Kiyoshi & Takako Shintani**) & **Kei & Penny Osuga!!** Renovations to begin in January. **Kei's** Denver sister & sister.in.law (**Irene & Sachiko**) were here to help in the presentation!! Thanks, **Shellee**, for sharing your talent with us. High fives to our Stewardship chair-women, **Virginia & Rosemary**. They worked hard throughout the year generating monetary gifts for our special missions. e.g. the 2018 Christmas Funds totals topped all previous contributions at an impressive \$1534, thx to all of you!!! Sometimes it seems KUC is always asking for money, and you have been very generous, but remember, the missions we support are approved by the church Council and congregation. Thank you for a blessed year.



Hau`oli makahiki hou!!!!



KOLOA UNION CHURCH
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JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER



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
Kathleen@WildwdStudios.com

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KOLOA UNION CHURCH NEWSLETTER

January 2019

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