

Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

APRIL 2020

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

We Are The Church

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

It seems that our lives dramatically changed practically overnight. One week, I was planning for our Lenten soup supper at the Smith Memorial Parsonage and the Sunday worship service in our beautiful sanctuary—and even planning ahead with activities and events for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. The next day, we canceled all on-site activities and began practicing isolation and social distancing. Schools closed and tourism came to a virtual halt. Since then, many have lost their only source of income, travel plans have been postponed and canceled, others have found it impossible to follow through with celebrations, such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and reunions. Of course, everyone is concerned about COVID-19 itself, especially on behalf of our kupuna, those with health issues, and others who are especially vulnerable to the virus. It is difficult to keep up with the news because the Coronavirus is spreading so quickly in many parts of our nation and world and the rules seem to change almost daily.

During these times of uncertainty, anxiety and fear, the Church as a community of faith is more important than ever. Even though we are not meeting together as a congregation, I want you to know that Kōloa Union Church is still alive and well—for we are the church when we are gathered together and when we are apart. We are still united in carrying out God’s vision for the world where everyone knows God’s love through the kindness and compassion of others.

During this time when we are physically apart, it is

important that we stay connected to one another in other ways. Providing online worship services is the best way I know to do this. We will have our worship service available by 10:30 Sunday morning every week until we meet together again, which will likely be on or after May 17. Everyone on our weekly email list will automatically get an invitation once the worship service is posted, along with announcements, prayer requests, and order of worship. I continue to feel a strong sense of community at Kōloa Union Church. The ways we communicate and relate to each other have changed. However, here are some old and new ways we are staying in touch:

☐ Our weekly online worship service. If you receive the invitation via email, just click the link that is provided. You can also go to our church website <www.koloaunionchurch.org> and click the link on our homepage.

☐ Prayer: Our church’s Prayer Leader, Karen Johnson, sends out this reminder: “Let us pray for each other and for the world.” Prayer requests are listed each week in the e-news and in the invitation to our online worship services. Please send your joys and concerns to Penny Osuga each week by noon on Wednesday if you would like them in our bulletin for our online worship service the following Sunday.

☐ Our “Koloa Union Church Ohana” Facebook page is where you can respond to worship services, and let everyone know what is on your mind and heart: this is a closed group so that what-



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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a “life changing” special mission offering of the United Church of Christ, which supports disaster, refugee & development actions. With the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world, this offering is more important than ever. This year's theme is "INVEST IN FUTURES" with some of our gifts changing lives of young boys/girls through education, empowering communities through vocational training, microcredit lending allowing individuals/communities to become self sufficient or other sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are a few ways OGHS “plants seeds of new life” for so many. Your gift truly matters in the lives of those this humanitarian outreach touches. You can send your donation via check earmarked for "OGHS" to Koloa Union Church along with your regular offering anytime during April. We have included the OGHS offering envelope for you to use. You may also give online at ucc.org/oghs_gifts; since individual congregations are recognized by the UCC for their gifts, be sure to click "Hawaii" in the "Conference" box, write "Koloa Union Church" in the "Church Membership" Box (even if you are not a member), and "P.O. Box 536, Koloa, HI, 96756" in the "Church Address" Box. Your gift makes a world of difference!



ALOHA HOUR

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
 May 10—Ito Rebb Shim (Mother’s Day)
 May 17—Smythe Foley McCoubrey
 May 24—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares
 May 31—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
 June 07—Giovanni Osuga Strong

STEWARDSHIP IN THE DAYS OF COVID-19

These are challenging times emotionally, socially and spiritually for people everywhere. They are also challenging times financially for us. Our church budget has been in good shape over the past couple of months, but our Church Council is aware that giving will likely drop in the weeks ahead. Some people may stop giving altogether due to the inability to have income for awhile. We also will not be receiving as many gifts from our generous guests and visitors to the church. Our Stewardship Committee asks each person to prayerfully consider giving as much as you are able so that our church can get through the next couple of months by fulfilling all of our financial commitments. As always, checks may be mailed to the church: P.O. Box 536, Koloa, HI 96756. All gifts are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely, Bill Dressel, Stewardship Chair



USHERS

APRIL
 RoseTatiana Ceballos
 Doug Duvauchelle
MAY
 Debbie Gunning
 Steve Sparks

LAYREADERS

April 05—Sharon Mahaffey
 April 12—Graceleanor Baird
 April 19—Kei Osuga
 April 26—Michael Horning
 May 03—Shyrl Matias
 May 10—Doug Duvauchelle
 May 17—Suzanne Pearson
 May 24—Jeannie Odo
 May 31—Rosemary Smythe

Please pray for...Healing, comfort and peace for all those infected with COVID-19; health, wisdom and support for healthcare professionals; compassion, kindness, faith, patience, and wellbeing for all the rest of us; safety for everyone traveling home to be with family, especially children, youth and the elderly; wisdom for our leaders at national, state and local levels; for the Earth and its climate; for comfort & strength for immigrants and refugees, veterans, police officers, victims of gun violence, natural disasters and bullying; prayers of comfort and healing for Christine Kube, Cheryl Hillberry, Jaime, Shellee Riggio, Bridget Hammerquist, Quintin, Kristie Schmid, Ronald Lau, Bradley Ceballos, Mimi Pagador, Glenn & Mona Ceballos, Mamie Powelson, Tara Foley, Gary Struwe, David Vitt, Jose Bulatao, Brenda, Jo Duvauchelle, Tiff & Kimo Marrotte; prayers for the family of Paul Johnson, Bill Ellacott and Chito Isonaga; prayers of comfort for Bobbie Bulatao-Franklin.



Cont'd from Page 1 ever you share may be kept among the members which are listed on the page. If you would like to join the page, simply become a Facebook friend of Penny Osuga and ask her to add you to our group.

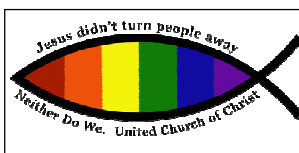
☐ Spiritual care: Our Deacons are responsible for the spiritual interests of the church and community, including care for the sick, poor, and sorrowing. Please contact any of them if you need assistance: Michael Horning (Chair), RoseTatiana Ceballos, Doug Duvauchelle, Debbie Gunning, Christine Kube, Kei Osuga, Rosemary Smythe, and Steve Sparks. I am available for pastoral care and will be doing this mostly by phone. Please don't hesitate to call, text or email any time. As usual, I'll be checking email at least twice a day and my cell phone is with me most of the time.

☐ Outreach: Amber Strong, Chair of our church's Outreach Committee, oversees pick-up and drop-off of food and other items to needy people in our community. Please contact Amber if you know of a neighbor in need or if you would like to donate items. If you would like to donate money, please send a check to "Koloa Union Church" with "Outreach" in the note section. Money in this fund is only used to assist needy families in our community.

Aloha to all of you!

I hope everyone will remain safe and healthy in the days to follow. I wanted to let you know that the council voted to send a contribution to the Open and Affirming Coalition in the amount of \$250. Even as we are asked to distance ourselves during this pandemic, we must always remember to be open to everyone with the warmest of Aloha. I pray that this passes quickly and we are back to greeting each other with open arms.

May God bless and protect us all.
Michael Horning, Chair of Deacons



☐ Phone calls: if you are wondering how a member or friend of the church is doing, pick up the phone and chat. We are going to need to do this more than ever in the weeks ahead. I invite you to reach out to someone who may be lonely, discouraged, sick, or frustrated.

☐ Church office: Penny Osuga will be working mostly from home during this time and is also available to talk by phone. Please don't hesitate to call her with any church business.

We join the United Church of Christ in taking a stand for life and health, especially for the most vulnerable people in our communities. We can make a big difference in containing the virus by continuing to practice social distancing. Even though the many recent changes feel disruptive, I believe they will save many lives over the long run. I am confident that we will get through this. I have found it ever so helpful to remind myself that each day is a gift. I urge you to live fully with courage and with as much love and joy as your heart can hold. As a final note, I invite you to do something each day that will bring you great joy!

Aloha nui loa!
Kahu Alan Akana

?????Looking Ahead?????

- May 15, 16- `Aha Mele & `Aha Mokupuni in Princeville?
- May 26-All Church Breakfast?
- May 30- Leadership Retreat at the parsonage?
- June 7-Church on the Beach, Poipu?
- June 27-2nd annual Kaua`i Pride parade?
- July 20-Plantation-style Living: Art, Stories, Refreshments at the Smith Memorial Parsonage?
- July 25 —Koloa Plantation Days Parade?
- August 20-23—2nd annual Sunday School Kokee Retreat?



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.

Top 14 beaches in the US: **Kaua`i's Honopu Beach**, north shore, next to **Kalalau Beach**! Thanks to our Wednesday night AA group who bought TWO new folding tables for Moore Hall, replacing two broken tables. Much appreciated! **Sam & Karen Tucci** could not go on a 2-week Caribbean cruise because of COVID-19. Church choir sang "L*O*V*E"

for us—totally cute! **Bruce & Becky** enjoyed having all their "kids" home!



Presented **Kahu** a lei to celebrate his 6th anniversary with us. The lei was a very small token of our appreciation for all he has done for and brought to us. The time has flown by, just look around to see the improvements and changes and upgrades, fuller sanctuary on Sundays! **Mahalo to Kahu** and ALL of YOU! Woo woo, glad having **Kathleen** back after injuring her foot. One of our **Kahu's** paintings will hang in the new Honolulu **Hale Kipa** facility!!! It was donated by **Jeannie Odo**. So so happy having all our snowbirds here with us. Enjoyed having **Mike Canorro** in church. **Kahu, Penny J, Michael and Lee** enjoyed the *National Tropical Botanical Gardens* tour of the canoe garden. **Caleb** was a cool candle lighter one Sunday! The **Girls Scouts** were busy selling their cookies! **Sydney, Rory, Skylar!!** Wow! Could it be? **Evan Batalucco** celebrated his 15th birthday?!?! High fives to **Chase and Rae**— Students of the Month



for being *Quality Producers*. **Tom Armbruster** has served on *San Marino PTA Academics Advisory* committee for 15 years!!!

The men of the church enjoyed their time together gathering every Tuesday morning for breakfast at *Kalapaki Joe's Poipu*. The All Church breakfasts will

continue meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month, 7:30 a.m. *Holoholo Grill* once COVID-19 is controlled and contained. Heard from our friend, **Ida Verschoof**, who wintered in Florida. As always, she sends her "aloha" to everyone. Our super duper KUC team bagging and distributing food at **St. Raphaels: Fay, Sharon,**

Steve, Amber, Mrs. Ve, Graceleanor, Berry, Belinda, Becky. Dan and Naomi went on their annual trip to Arizona to enjoy "spring training 2020." I would guess they went to watch the **SF Giants??** The entire event was closed down the following week. Our world is topsy turvy right now... self quarantine, do your social distancing and we WILL get through this. I still don't understand the connection between COVID-19 and toilet paper? Can someone explain this to me please? **Palani and Isobel** made it here safely and are waking at 4 a.m. to do their on-line classes from Columbia. Our daughter is dealing with 3 age-appropriate school packets for our 3 grandsons, ages 10, 8 and 6. Luckily **Nikki** works from home all the time! **Becky** flew to SoCal to baby sit for **Peter and Sarah.** Are you on our e-news list? We send weekly emails with church updates, prayers, joys, concerns, happenings. If you want to receive these emails, contact Penny in the office. Was so much



fun having church members, **Dan and Joy King** visit, even if only for 1 week. Good having them in church and we had lunch at **Keoki's**. **The Strongs:**

Owen, Amber, Evan, Nolan, Toby spent time with friends in Arizona! **Dan and Naomi**



removed the thorny, very happily overgrown bougainvilleas—took many afternoons and many trips to the green waste. Thanks for the constant work of beautifying our church grounds. Our diligent **Prayers & Squares** team hard at work:



Graceleanor, Elizabeth, Sheila, Debbie, Bonnie.



Note: **Kahu's** very clean and organized closet in



the background, thanks to **Penny J and Penny O.** Super having **Aunty Jo** back home, getting stronger every day—



enjoying **Kiawe Roots** Happy Hour (with **Sheryl, JoRae, Joni, Krystina**). The **Shims** had planned to



go to Tokyo to enjoy the extraordinary cherry blossoms, but as we all know, such a trip was not possible. So they headed to Kaua'i's

north shore and created their very own Hawaiian cherry blossom festival! Had a fun and filling Pancake Supper in late February. Got to feed a CHEF (**Mark Ruiz!!!**). Thanks to **Palani & Isobel** for putting up our new street sign informing everyone that “*all on-site worship is cancelled.*” Thanks, **Missy** for the Sunday flowers: red ginger and blue jade! **Lee & Carol Bowen** made it home safely, bypassing a stopover in CA. Sadly, we didn't get to say “aloha” all our snowbird ohana. Very excited having **Cathy Evans** on island. Down side—cannot even get to see her. Thanks, **Chris Sweitzer**, for video-taping **Kahu's** weekly sermons, then sharing them with the us & world. We *need* **Kahu's** weekly sermons in these worrisome days. So darn proud of our deacons: **Michael, Debbie Steve, RoseTatiana,**



Kei, Christine, Rosemary, (Doug)—they had a 2-hour Deacons meeting with **Kahu** on ZOOM!...modern way to video chat during a meeting/conference! It was very cool! And very productive! Check in with **Kauai Poke!** They will deliver on certain days!! YUM!! AND **Kiawe Roots** is opening on Tuesday, March 31, for curbside pickup orders and delivery!! 25% discount on curbside orders!!! Count me in!!! Hope everyone survived all the rain we got. **Kukuiula Harbor** looked like it was filled with chocolate milk!! A big *mahalo* to **Rodney Baptiste**—he power-washed the entire back area for us!



There are so many changes, challenges, adjustments we all must make during this time of so many unknowns with the COVID-19. I have decided not to change the newsletter format, good to have some familiarity, I think. So although Koloa Union has cancelled all on-site events and gatherings, I have still posted the schedules as if we were “open for business.” I am working mostly from home. I do minimal work at the office. I am always available through email (kucpenny@gmail.com) or church phone (808-742-6622) or my cell (808-651-0153) if anyone has questions or concerns. We WILL get through this. Be safe, stay healthy, sanitize.

Penny



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

APRIL 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
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kucpenny@gmail.com**

**Kathleen Dahill
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kdahill@WildwdStudios.com**

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KOLOA UNION CHURCH NEWSLETTER

April 2020

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