

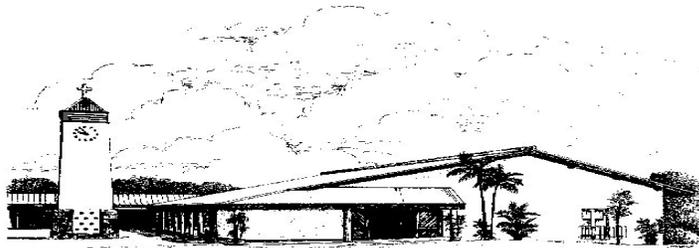
First United Protestant Church

United Church of Christ

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www.fupchurch.org



Return Service Requested



Welcome to First United Protestant Church Hilo, Hawaii

First United Protestant Church of Hilo is part of the greater United Church of Christ and was founded in 1868. We were originally named the First Foreign Church, and were known early on for our hospitality and welcome to sailors who came to the Big Island of Hawaii. Today, as a community of faith we are committed to the personhood of Jesus Christ, we are committed to being in unity with the Body of Christ, and we are committed to the work Christ calls us to in the world. On Sunday's we have meditation beginning at 9:50am and worship begins shortly after 10:00am. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!!

Sunday Morning Meditation	9:50 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:00 am
Kosraean Mid-Week Service	7:30 pm Wednesdays
Kosraean WCA Service	7:00 pm Fridays
Kosraean Sunday Worship Service	1:30 pm Sundays
Children's Ministry offered during Worship Service	

Other education, youth programs, and activities offered throughout the week.

Weekly schedules are listed in the Sunday worship bulletin.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

March 2020

First United Protestant Church

Sermon Themes for March 2020

***Sermon themes and Scripture texts may change at the Pastor's discretion.**

****Meditation begins every Sunday at 9:50am during the prelude.**

Sunday, March 1st, 10:00 AM - Scriptures: Matthew 4:1-11. Sermon Title: *"Mastering Temptation."* **First Sunday of Lent.**

In many ways Jesus shows the struggle of temptation in this scripture. He was a poor Jewish rabbi, in a Roman occupied world, who found himself out in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. A wilderness where danger lurked around every corner and where his own body was exposed to the harsh elements of nature. He would have been hungry, thirsty, and tired and tempted to succumb to his human needs.

Sunday, March 8th, 10:00 AM - Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-4a. Sermon Title: *"The Promise of God's Blessing."* **Second Sunday of Lent.**

The journey that Abraham is about to make in this scripture is the same journey that all people of faith are often asked to take. It is the departure in our lives from what is old, treasured, and known for the pursuit of promised blessings. Part of that faith journey is believing in the promise of God's blessings or that we will be okay in leaving the old behind, even when there is no visible evidence of that yet.

Sunday, March 15th, 10:00 AM - Scriptures: John 4:5-15. Sermon Title: *"Defying Expectations."* **Third Sunday of Lent.**

In this scripture Jesus sets social expectations aside, speaks with this Samaritan woman, and in doing so he makes an astonishing break from his culture. He challenges and breaks the long-held boundaries between men and woman and between Jews and Samaritans. He crosses the social boundaries of religion, race, and gender, and in doing so he shatters social expectations that upheld gender discrimination, religious hostility, and social status.

Sunday, March 22nd, 10:00 AM - Scriptures: Psalm 23 or John 9:1-41. Sermon Title: To Be Announced. **Fourth Sunday of Lent.**

Psalm 23 is probably one of the most known scriptures in all the Bible. It is an allegory, or metaphor, about a shepherd who cares for his sheep through hard struggles, but is ultimately cared for and delivered by God. This psalm feels as if it has a message of sorrow, but really deals with some of the difficult things we may experience in our faith journey. While people often quote this psalm, its message strikes at the heart of those who have fought battles and carried burdens.

Sunday, March 29th, 10:00 AM - Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14 or John 11:1-45 Sermon Title: To Be Announced. **Fifth Sunday of Lent.**

God's people are portrayed, in a vision to Ezekiel, as dry bones in a valley. As Ezekiel prophesies God's word, the bones become living bodies that stand on their feet and become an exceedingly great army as the breath of God enters into them. The image let's Ezekiel know that Israel, which

In The Name of Truth, Life, and Love: A Monthly Message from the Pastor

Beloved of First United Protestant Church,

I first wanted to celebrate with you the joy of knowing that the vision and mission statements prepared by the Visioning Retreat in Team in the Fall of 2019 were adopted by the congregation during our annual congregation meeting last month on February 9th. I believe they are not only markers or signs directing us to who God is calling us to be, but I believe they will help guide our church toward its future. We hope to make the vision and mission statements a regular part of our worship bulletins, website, and newsletters, reminding us and those who visit us, about who God is calling this church to be in the world.

After Ash Wednesday on February 26th, the Season of Lent is now underway. Lent takes place over a period of six weeks, which ends up being 40 days and nights. It is a period of time where people of faith are encouraged to reflect on the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus. Many people observe Lent by maintaining a spiritual practice or making some type of sacrifice. It is common these days for people of faith to start daily prayers or devotional readings, or surrender their favorite foods, a particular vice, or even negative thoughts. Whatever your sacrifice happens to be, it is thought to be a reflection of Jesus' own withdrawal into the wilderness and the dependence on God he learned to see him through his time in the wilderness.

Jesus' time in the wilderness is often thought of as a metaphor for going through a tough time, experiencing some sort of trial, or enduring an unexpected discomfort that occurs in life. Wilderness experiences are usually not planned or expected and can be hard on us personally. We can feel hurt, persecuted, crushed, alone, and confused during wilderness experiences. And the hard truth is, those we interact with on a daily basis may not see the inner struggles or challenges we are experiencing. The hurt and pain of our wilderness experiences are not always obvious to those around us. Sometimes that hurt and pain is covered up with half smiles, passivity, or by the responsibilities we are obligated to fulfill each day.

Since these wilderness experiences are not always easily seen or identified, I want to encourage you this Lenten Season to be kind to others, and to do so, because we cannot always know what others are going through and how their experience in the wilderness is impacting them. This Lenten Season I want to encourage you to practice softening your hearts, being there for others through caring words and actions, and by offering patience and forgiveness to people, especially during times that have been difficult for you. I believe if we can stretch ourselves in this way, we might help those experiencing a time in the wilderness see that they are not alone, nor do they have to go through these times alone. God can use us to help others see that resurrection is still a possibility.

May the Love of God continue to be with you all.



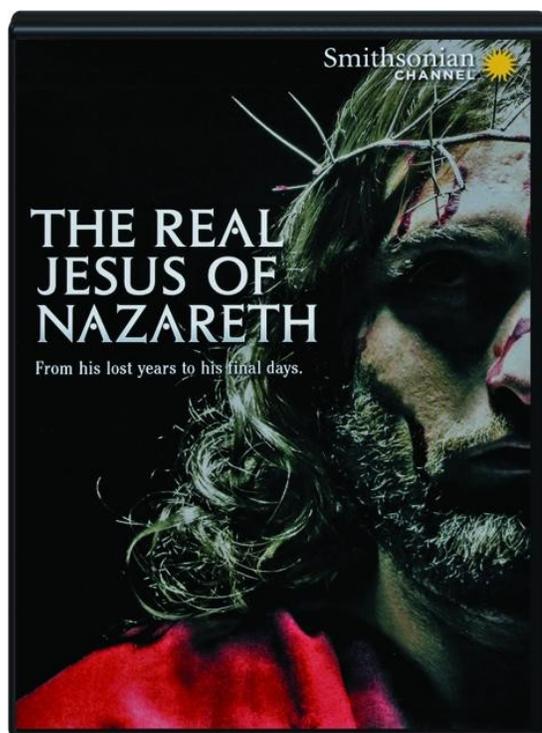
What is Unity? - March 8th

After worship on Sunday March 8th Pastor Chris will be giving a presentation in the Sunday School Room on "What is Unity?" During the presentation Rev. Chris will share about his experience in the Unity Church, some of church's history, and the principles and teachings that make up its theology. He will also have items, such as books, pictures, and mementos, from his time in Unity to show and tell.

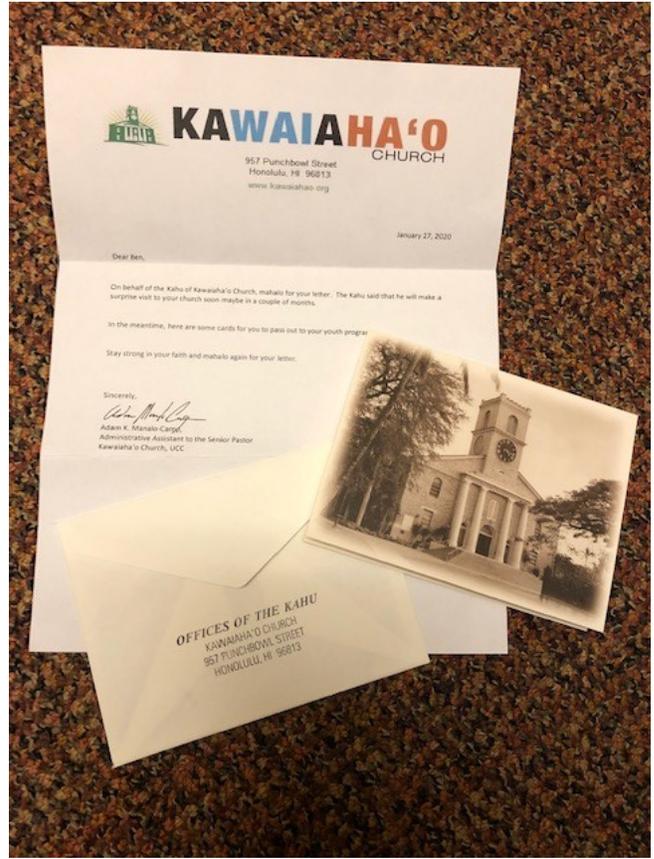


The Real Jesus of Nazareth - TV Series

We have to arrange the proper technology first, but we are hoping to show a 4-part TV series on "The Real Jesus of Nazareth" by the Smithsonian Channel during the Lenten Season. The series follows actor Robert Powell, who played Jesus in the 1977 movie "Jesus of Nazareth," as he journeys back to the Holy Land and speaks with scholars, archaeologists, and historical researchers to uncover the historical Jesus. We hope to have dates and times soon.

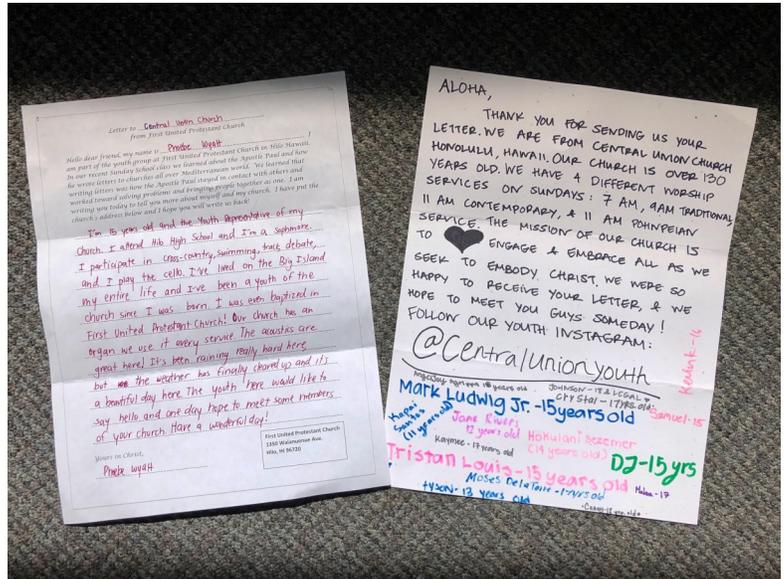


First United Protestant Church Happenings



On Sunday February 16th Joanne Pocsidio, June Dela Cruz, and Tyler Dela Cruz sang the gift of music during worship. (photo by Fay Jack)

During the month of February the Youth began receiving letters back from church's across the Hawaii Islands. In mid January they had mailed 12 churches to tell them about who they are, where they are from, and their church. To date the Youth have received 4 letters back. (photos by Pastor Chris and Kristin Young)



First United Protestant Church Happenings

On our new Repair & Maintenance Chairs were working hard during the month of February. Froilan Queja and Marlo Fontanilla mended and repaired some of the church pews that had chipped wood. Pastor Nixon Jack also continued his love of caring for the church campus with his regular lawn care devotion! (photos by Fay Jack)



First United Protestant Church Happenings



In Mid February Jim Gruber and Michael Springer received our new three manual console from Honolulu. Rumor has it that such an organ is every organist dream. Jim Gruber and Michael Russell are continuing to work on the organ restoration project, and we will continue to update the church on its progress. (photos



Kosraean Church at FUPC

During late February members of the Kosraean Church led by Lay Minister Joab gathered to restripe the parking lot and fill potholes. The church has received many compliments about how nice it looks. (photos by Fay Jack)



*Welcome
to this Sacred
Prayer Corner*

Light a candle
to make your prayers
visible and real.
Behold the Light and Believe!
Written prayer requests will be lifted
in prayer by this Church Ohana.
May all who hold a prayer in their
heart find Comfort and Peace!



Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Doris Toma | Mike Gardner |
| Fay Jack | Cullen Chee |
| Pedro Queja | Lei Semana |
| Michael Russell | Ella Fontanilla |
| Sali Queja & Family | Margo Aguiar |
| Sheldon Asejo | Janet Lang |
| Royal Solmerin | Fillmore Lorenzo |
| Traveyion Taylor | Gabrielle Marlo |
| Fabian Toribio Sr. | Rosalina Jose Domingo |

**Happy March Birthday
to the following Friends and Members!!!**



Mc Charles Tumaneng—1st

Pedro Queja—13th

Rowena Tumaneng—21st

Gabriel Benjamin—21st

***Please mark your calendar for these upcoming events
Happening at First United Protestant Church...***

March 2020

Sunday March 1st - Communion Sunday.

Friday March 6th - World Day of Prayer.

Sunday March 8th - Rev. Chris will give presentation on "What is Unity?" in Sunday School Room following worship at 11:30am.

Sunday March 8th - Confirmation Class from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Sunday March 15th - Church Council Meeting following worship at 11:30am.

Sunday March 15th - Orders for Lilies for Easter Due.

Tuesday March 17th - St. Patrick's Day. Don't forget to wear green!

Sunday March 22nd - Joint Worship Service with Kosraean Church and "One Great Hour of Sharing Offering," one of the four UCC Offerings taken each year.

Sunday March 22nd - Confirmation Class from 6:00pm-7:30pm.

April 2020

Sunday April 5th - Confirmation Sunday/Palm Sunday/Communion Sunday.

Thursday April 9th - Maundy Thursday Service 6:00pm.

Friday April 10th - The church will be closed in observance of Good Friday.

Sunday April 12th - Easter Sunday.

Saturday April 18th - Car Wash Fundraiser at First United Protestant Church.

Sunday April 19th - Church Council Meeting following worship at 11:30am.

Wednesday April 22nd - Earth Day.

Sunday April 26th - Joint worship service with Kosraean Church.