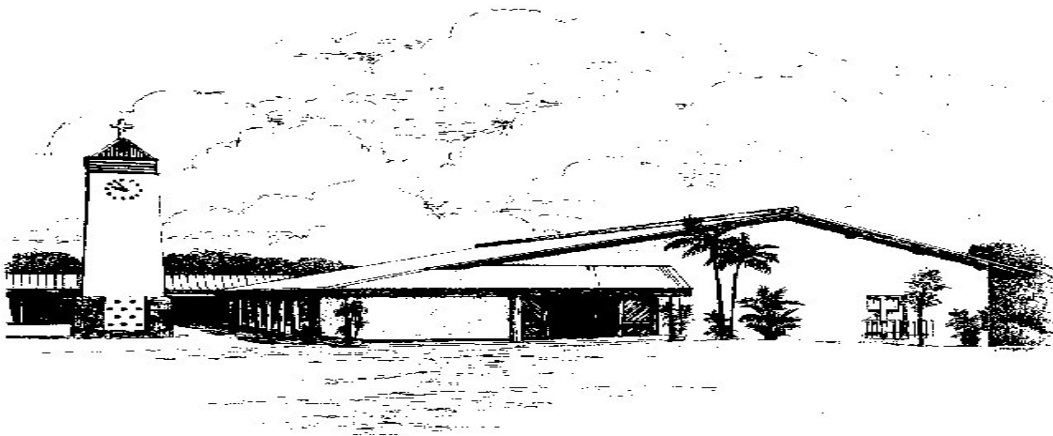


**First United Protestant Church-UCC**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## **Welcome to First United Protestant Church Hilo, Hawaii**

At this Joyous Season of Christmas, we welcome you and your loved ones (including children) to join us as we grow in faith, hope, and love. We are a part of the United Church of Christ and affiliated with the Hawai'i Conference of the UCC. Our roots in Hawai'i are the congregational church of the early missionaries. First United Protestant Church was organized as The First Foreign Church and Society in 1868.

Sunday Worship Service	10:00 am
Communion	First Sunday of the Month
New Song Rehearsal	2:00 pm Wednesdays
Kosraean Language Bible Study	7:30 pm Wednesdays
Kosraean Language 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.

**Our faith is over two thousand years old...Our thinking is not !  
No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here**

## **Sermons for January**

### **Jan. 12 Lets Talk About the Church**

**Acts 2.41-47, I Cor. 12.12-13**

In the church, leadership means servanthood. As we install new officers for 2014, its good to re-visit what we're about. What is it that sets us apart from any other social gathering in the community? The Biblical design for the church is based on four pillars that form the foundation for everything we do: Teaching, Service, Fellowship & Worship. How are we doing? In this important service, we affirm again who we are and why we are here.

### **Jan 19 The One Thing That Matters Most**

**Acts 3.1-16**

What priority is at the center of our life together? Peter and John were confronted by a man who couldn't walk. He was begging for money. They wanted to help but they had no money. Listen to what they said, "Silver and gold we don't have, but what we do have we give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And the man walked! He didn't need money. He needed to be healed and Jesus healed him. What are we giving people who come to us at FUPC? Jesus is the centerpoint and circumference of what we are about. If not, then we are just another non-profit organization doing good and being helpful.

### **Jan 26 Making Beautiful Music Together**

**Ephesians 4.1-7, 11-16**

Our church is made of people who are uniquely gifted to contribute to a healthy congregation. We don't all have the same interests and gifts. We are a diversity of talents, interests, skills, personalities, experience and gifts. But we are also a unity. Despite our differences, we share a lot in common so that we belong to one another, care for one another, love and forgive one another. A church is only as strong and effective as the scaffolding of friendships within that allows us to work and serve together. How can we make sure we are caring for one another in healthy, healing, redemptive, encouraging and strengthening ways?

### **Feb. 2 We Can't Feed Everybody!**

**Mark 8.1-10**

The disciples told Jesus to send the crowds home. Jesus said, "You feed them." Its easy to feel overwhelmed by the needs of people in our community, state and world because we can hardly make even a tiny dent in the hurts they live with. Nevertheless, this is our calling. God never orders us to be successful... only to be faithful. When we put our puny resources into the hands of a Great God... amazing things happen. What are our five loaves and two fish and are we willing to place what we have in God's hands to make a difference to hungry and hurting people?

# Thinking Out Loud...

Janus was the Roman god with two faces, one facing forward and the other facing backward. He could look at where he was going in the future and he could look into the past to where he'd just been. Thus Janus gets the privilege of naming the first month of the New Year, January, when we look back and look forward.

What kind of year was it for you? We might answer that it was a mixture of good and bad, joy and sorrow, ups and downs. Most of life is like that! But try thinking about it... can you look back and see some kind of passage or significant growth in your life? Any major decisions? Any difficult changes? Any new and exciting personal accomplishments? Did God become more real and present for you? Did you find yourself backing away from God? Do you understand yourself any better now than you did one year ago? Are you more hopeful/discouraged? Peaceful / agitated? Loving / indifferent? Affirming / critical? Giving / grasping? Its good sometimes to get into a quiet space and reflect a little on what's been going on inside ourselves.

How about the coming year? New Year's Resolutions make failures of us all. What we CAN do and what we WILL do are sometimes miles apart. But if having the intention to change our attitude or behavior helps us to achieve even a small measure of greater usefulness and fulfillment in life, it's worth doing. I enjoy making New Year's Resolutions...for other people. So here are a few "Opportunities for Growth" for you to consider in 2014:

- Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile – and it might just make their day.
- Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of his or her own name.
- Be cordial. No one forces our attitudes on us, we choose them ourselves. Choose positive attitudes.
- Be genuinely interested in people. Listen! If you try, you can find something to like in everybody you meet.
- Be generous with praise to bring out the best in others. Criticism only wilts the spirit and extinguishes motivation to do better.
- Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- Look for ways to serve others ... it's what counts most in life.

God is always calling us out to where the water is slightly over our head, beyond our "comfort zones" into places that demand more of us than we feel competent or comfortable giving. A New Year should come with a warning label, ***"Be careful. Opening this package will be dangerous, exhilarating, enlivening, thrilling, frightening, demanding, exciting."*** The one sure consolation and certainty is that no matter what the year DOES bring, God will be there to share it with us. May the New Year be full of delightful surprises for you, always with the assurance of God's unwavering care and love for you personally, no matter what happens!

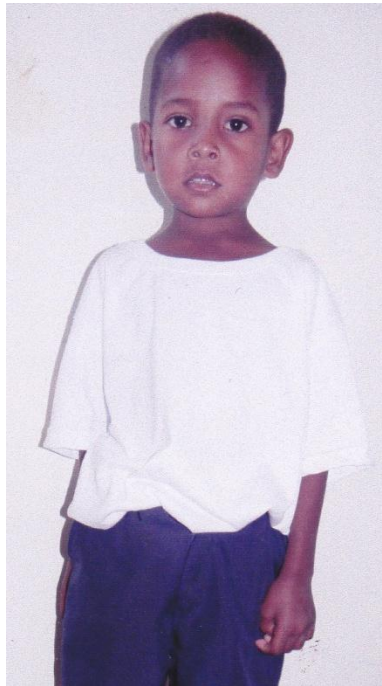
Aloha,

Pastor Ron

## A Letter from our Pen Pal Raymark...

Dear Sponsor,

How are you? I would like to express my warm greetings and thanking you all for all the good things you have done to me. I am so bless that you choose me to be your sponsored child.



My name is Raymark Dela Cruz. I am 7 years old. My birthday is on March 6. I have 3 brother & 1 sister. My father is Rany Dela Cruz. My father is vendor at the Clark Air Base. My mother is Lily. She is plain housewife. My ambition is to become a doctor. My hobbies are basketball and writing. Sometimes I love drawing. I know how to help my mother to clean our house. I always obey my parents.

Thank you so much for giving me a chance to study properly. I can dream big for my future. I want to finish my study and help my parents someday. I will end my letter here. God Bless.

Truly Yours,

Raymark Dela Cruz

(In 2013, 159.45 was received from recycled newspapers and HI-5 items toward Raymark's sponsorship which is \$25. Per month)

# Kalaupapa Sunday – January 26, 2014

At last year's Aha Pai'aina, delegates passed a resolution to establish a Kalaupapa Sunday on the fourth Sunday of January. During worship, we will commemorate the landing of the first exiles on the remote Molokai peninsula in January, 1866. We will remember the many patients who lived and died there, and the ongoing legacy of love, forgiveness, and heroism that took place through the years.

## Christmas Re-cap

December is always full to overflowing with activities, services and occasions that help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus in meaningful and memorable ways. A beautifully re-furbished Christmas wreath was hung on the front wall of the sanctuary thanks to the hard work of JoAnn Park. The Christmas tree came from our own property and fit perfectly into the front corner by the lanai. The poinsettias arrayed along the front wall added vibrant color each week, culminating in the striking arrangement of poinsettias with candles along the windows and attached to all the pews on Christmas Eve. The Kamehameha Pre-School presented their Christmas celebration for parents on December 19.

Our children presented a sweet, simple and memorable re-telling of the Christmas story in full costume, while the service attracted around 160 people for familiar carols and wonderful special music. At the service we were glad to present a monetary Christmas gift to two Kosraean students who are far from home and missing family. Following the service, we enjoyed delicious desserts of every kind.

On the Sunday following Christmas, with 135 in attendance, we were treated to the amazing sounds of our Kosraean brothers and sisters as they paraded around the sanctuary, singing in full voice and spreading love through the giving of gifts to everyone present.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way to the celebrations and gatherings, from decorating to baking, from cleaning to performing. Your gift was wonderful and very much appreciated!!



Kamehameha Pre-School Program



Kosraean Christmas Celebration



## Murray McLean Memorial Service

On Thursday, Dec. 19, Murray McLean passed from this life after an extended illness that kept him tethered to an oxygen tank. Murray gave himself generously and graciously to the ministry of FUPC through his support, encouragement, skill at fixing things, and wonderful friendship. A memorial in his honor was held on Saturday, Dec. 28 with his family, many friends and church members in attendance. We pray for Murray's family during these difficult days and ask for comfort and strength for Jane and family as they grieve his absence from their lives.

## This n That in the Ohana!

**Doris Toma** returned from heart surgery in Honolulu after being there for several weeks. She is back with her bright smile, happy spirit, and enthusiastic greeting and we're so glad that she's doing better than ever. She expresses love and gratitude to all.

We rejoice with **Libby Frendo** as she returned home from Hale Anuenue Care Center on Monday, Dec. 23. A team of helpers has been lined up to help care for her at her home. She's grateful for everyone's prayers and love during her stay at Hale Anuenue.

On Sunday, January 12, we will ask God's blessing and guidance on the newly elected officers through a service of Installation. We are thankful for those who are willing to accept this role in our church family. In the New Testament, the idea of "leadership" was best expressed through the word "servanthood". The early church chose for their leaders people who excelled at serving others. Let us gather to support, encourage, pray for and give gratitude for all those who have taken on these "servanthood" duties in our church Ohana.

## Gifts of Blankets

On Sunday, January 12, in addition to the service of Installation, we will present baby blankets to those families who welcomed a new child into their midst during the past year. This is a



tradition at our church that is a loving reminder of how precious each new life is in our church Ohana, and what a blessing our children are to all of us.

### **We are still recycling newspapers and HI-5 items.**

If you have newspapers or aluminum cans and bottles that will generate income through the HI-5 program, please consider donating them to the church. We use the proceeds to fund our monthly support for Raymark Dela Cruz in the Philippines.

We need \$25. monthly to cover his sponsorship. This helps to pay for his education and provides healthcare for him in case of illness.

### **At Your Request....**

*[On Sunday, January 5, Pastor Ron spoke about the Jewish people who were captives in Babylon. They lost their joy. They hung up their harps and stopped singing. They felt like giving up and they lost all hope that life would ever be better. God, through the prophet Jeremiah, told them to stop complaining, and start living. He called them to choose life over death. Build homes. Marry and have families. Pray for their enemies and for the welfare of the city and society where they were captives. After the service, many people asked for a copy of a portion of the sermon that seemed to hit home for them. Because there were numerous requests, I include the requested excerpt from the message.]*

**“When faced with a situation that takes away your joy, make the best of it.** It’s your choice. You can complain, gripe, groan, moan and fuss all you want, but it won’t make the situation better. The only thing that will make it better is when we choose to act differently and make the best of a difficult situation. It’s always up to us. We can spend all our time thinking about what we don’t have, or what we wish we had, or what we had but lost... or we can just stop complaining, get out of bed, and decide to make this the best day of our lives. Never let what you **don’t** have diminish your enjoyment and gratitude for what you **do** have.

Friends who were going through an especially difficult time in their lives because of illness and serious financial challenges sent me the following a few years ago, and I share it with you.

I am thankful...

- For the partner who hogs the covers every night because they are not out with someone else.
- For the child who is not cleaning his room, but is watching TV, because that means he is home and not out on the streets.
- For the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.
- For the mess to clean after a party, because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.
- For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means that I have enough to eat.
- For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing because it means that I have a home.
- For all the complaints I hear about the government because it means that we still have freedom of speech.
- For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.
- For the person behind me that sings off key because it means that I can hear.
- For the pile of laundry and ironing because it means that I have clothes to wear.

-For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means that I have been capable of working hard.

-For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I am alive.”

## Children’s Ministry

The new schedule for Children’s Church leaders for January-February is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Our children in the church are a wonderful gift to us all and bless us with their energy and joy. It’s a great privilege for us to have as many children as we do. Please consider signing up for at least one Sunday during January or February. We have resources for you to use so you won’t have to come up with material from scratch. And guaranteed, you will be blessed as you work with them.

## Servant Leadership Participation for the Month of January

**Greeters/Ushers:** Letti Agag and Bob Ahia (February – Karisa & Royalyn Solmerin)

**Acolyte:** Tyler & Corey Dela Cruz (February – Ben Wyatt)

**Communion Preparation:** Margo Aguiar (February – Joanne Pocsidio)

**Communion Servers:** Bob Ahia, Debbie Sasan, John & Carlene Wolf

<u>January</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>Feb. 2</u>
Lay Reader	Margo Aguiar	Carlene Wolf	Alissa Wasserman	Danny Dizon	Fay Jack
Coffee Hour	Bob Ahia	Kathleen Kim	Carlene Wolf	Kosraean Fellowship	Fay Jack
Children’s Church	Karena Asejo	Gail Kagawa	Laurel & Barbara Luth	OPEN	OPEN

*If you are unable to be at church on the Sunday you are scheduled to participate,  
please find a substitute and let the office know as soon as possible  
so we may print their name in the worship bulletin.*

## Happy Birthday to these members and friends of our church Ohana!

Letti Agag (1), Jane McLean (6), Elizabeth Frendo (10 – she will be 95!), Sheycia Asejo (16)  
Carlene Wolf (18), Anuheka Kaupu (21), Aliisa Wasserman (25), Lisa Taylor (25), Krisha Tumaneng (26)

## Continue to Pray for our Church Family

Debbie Sasan  
Dorothy Kataoka, Mike Gardner  
Agnes Perreira, Elizabeth Frendo  
Doris Toma, Fay Jack,



Dr. Ezra Valido

**On behalf of the Kosraean Fellowship, Thank You to all who helped us to celebrate Christmas on December 29 with our traditional Kosraean parade of music and gifts in the church sanctuary. We appreciate very much being able to worship and gather for fellowship meals in the church facilities, and taking part in church worship services sharing our music and talents with everyone!  
Blessings to all of you!**