

First United Protestant Church-UCC

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Return Service Requested



Welcome to First United Protestant Church Hilo, Hawaii

In this season of Easter 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
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.	

This is a place to BELONG... We're all in this together. No matter our history, circumstances, or goals, we're all human and all need love and acceptance. That's why the church exists and why you belong.

April 2018

First News – Newsletter of First United Protestant Church, Hilo, HI

April 2018

Sermon Themes for April

April 1 Jesus asked: Woman, Why Are You Weeping? John 20.15

Tears and death go together. Tears are God's gift to express and release pain, grief, despair and love. Mary's tears spoke volumes and Jesus' question gives them voice. "They've taken my Lord, and I don't know where he is." But he was right there in front of her. Tears are natural... but always, Jesus is present in our most tearful moments.

April 8 Do You Believe Only Because You See? John 20. 19-29

Saint Thomas was also called "doubting Thomas"... a label that could be negative except that an essential part of believing is doubting. The paradox of our faith is that when life seems hopeless and we don't know what to do or where to turn, our doubts become the bedrock upon which Spirit builds an answer that leads us into a place of hope and peace.

April 15 Rev. Richard Alger, Guest Speaker

April 22 Rev. Richard Alger, Guest Speaker

April 29 Rev. Nixon Jack, Guest Speaker

May 6 Interrupted By Grace Acts 10.44-48

The early church began in Jerusalem but quickly spread through Judea and then to Asia Minor. From its beginnings in the Hebrew culture, God quickly let it be known that the old boundaries that separated the "outsiders" from the "insiders" were no longer valid. God interrupted the accepted norms of religion and welcomed all into fellowship in a community based on grace... not on performance, or keeping laws, or observing ritual purity.

Thinking Out Loud

On Saturday, March 17, five people gathered in the Sunday School room for three hours for a Sacred Conversation about our church. It was a conversation long overdue. None of those in attendance could remember when people spent that much time in a focused way reflecting on our past, our present and our future.

One major "Aha Moment" was when we imagined "aging" the congregation by 10 years and asked, "What will our church look like in 10 years if nothing else changes?" Adding ten years to our current age put most of the people present in the room in a stage of life where they will not be able to provide leadership anymore. Who will step forward? Where will our future leaders and members come from? ***These are institutional life and death questions that we need to be thinking about.***

One of the exercises we used was called SWOT... in which we brainstormed our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. In the interest of stimulating a wider circle of interest and conversation (I had hoped that 20 people would show up!)... I share the lists with you here. Each item deserves thoughtful reflection. Here are the lists: (what would you add to them?)

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Our facilities	Low attendance	Community Service	We could close
Financially stable	Late comers	Outreach beyond our Church/mission	Losing the pre-school
Value Families	Wider participation	Interfaith relations and hosting	Not finding a settled pastor
Our Heritage	Youth & Children Ministry	U.C.C. programs	No growth
Michael Springer	No Choir	Better Visibility	Loss of faith
Young People	Fewer Pledges	Inreach-building our Church community	
Potential Mentors	Communication	Variety of guest speakers	
Worship Style			
Our Faith			

Here are some of the really important questions we need to be talking about with each other:

1. What are our STRENGTHS and how can we build on them?
2. What are our WEAKNESSES and how can we strengthen them?
3. What are our OPPORTUNITIES and how can we capitalize on them?
4. What are our THREATS and how can we mitigate / meet them?

These questions are just a small piece of the Sacred Conversations we should be having together. In reality, the future of our church depends on the number of people interested and willing to engage in prayerful, honest, faith-filled conversations about our church and its future. I hope you are willing to take part in those conversations!!

Hopeful and Praying,



*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:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sheldon Asejo | Agnes Perreira |
| Mike Gardner | Margo Aguiar |
| Maria Valido & the Queja Family | |
| Doris Toma | Lei Semana & Family |
| Mary Lee Roberts | Sylvia Hammer |
| Rev. Nixon & Fay Jack | Marlo & Ella Fontanilla |
| Pedro Queja | Aulani Humphers |
| Janet Lang | David Lee |
| Esperanza Tolentino | |

Happy April Birthday to the following Friends and Members



- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Shandelere Queja-Bidad (3rd) | Nena Mackwelung (3rd) |
| Frank Alokoa (3rd) | Pastor Ron (4th) |
| Kathleen Kim (9th) | Kepola Ishikawa (14th) |
| Kayson Solmerin-Asejo (16th) | Royalyn Solmerin (16th) |
| Mildred Queja (16th) | Gail Kagawa (18th) |
| Joab Welly (21st) | Persteve Esau (22nd) |

Activity Page

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 271

Matt.17:1-16

N	L	A	E	H	J	H	D	R	E	T	E	P	B	D
H	D	I	E	C	A	U	D	O	T	L	B	R	E	A
O	T	I	S	N	I	N	S	A	O	R	I	R	S	D
J	H	V	D	T	U	O	L	T	O	G	A	K	W	D
M	G	S	E	O	E	K	V	T	H	E	E	O	R	E
O	I	U	R	N	I	N	H	T	P	D	R	O	L	H
U	L	G	O	N	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	C
N	S	H	G	D	R	E	A	M	E	R	C	Y	S	U
T	S	H	E	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	T	A	O
A	J	W	E	R	N	H	L	A	D	A	S	S	C	T
I	A	F	A	L	O	T	S	O	F	I	E	I	O	C
N	M	O	R	T	T	T	L	I	V	S	S	T	M	L
J	E	S	U	S	E	E	S	E	W	E	O	P	I	O
G	S	U	F	F	E	R	R	E	N	D	M	A	N	U
H	A	J	I	L	E	I	V	S	R	K	E	B	G	D

Transfiguration

ASKED	APPEARED
ELIJAH	BAPTIST
FACE	BROTHER
GOOD	BRIGHT
HANDS	CLOUD
HEAL	COMING
JAMES	CROWD
JESUS	DISCIPLES
JOHN	GROUND
JUST	MOUNTAIN
KNELT	MOSES
LIGHT	RAISED
LISTEN	RESTORE
LORD	SHELTERS
LOVE	SUFFER
MERCY	TALKING
PETER	TEACHERS
SHONE	TOUCHED
VOICE	WISHED
WATER	

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

SHORTBREAD COOKIES

From the kitchen of Myrna Nonaka



1lb. Butter, softened
1C. Sugar

4C. Flour
1 pkg. shredded coconut or 1C. Chopped Macadamia nuts

Cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla and beat well. Add flour to creamed mixture. Add shredded coconut or macadamia nuts and mix well. Refrigerate cookie dough in plastic wrap overnight. The next day, slice and bake the cookie dough. Bake at 325 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes.

****All Recipe's are from "Heirlooms from our Church Family" published in 1998



Did You Know ????

- that we will be having an Easter Sunday Pot luck on April 1st after our church service? Please come & bring your favorite dish and enjoy the children having their Easter Egg Hunt.
- that Pastor Ron and Priscilla will be away from April 15-29 on a trip to Taiwan with Priscilla's Qi Gong friends guided by Li Ching Kuo, teacher of the group, who is from Taiwan? Rev. Richard Alger will be our Guest Minister on April 15th and April 22nd and Pastor Nixon Jack will be our Guest Minister on April 29th
- that we will be having a Piano Recital /Master Class in the Sanctuary on April 21st at 2:00 pm?
- that the Kosraeans will have an Ordination Service in the Sanctuary on April 14th?
- that our FUPC Appreciaion Day has been cancelled for April due to the Kosraean Ordination Service being held on that day, April 14, 2018?
- that the Council will meet on Sunday, April 15th after church services?
- that Kepola Ishikawa recently traveled to Maryland (encountering a blizzard along the way) to check out a college that has offered her a four-year full scholarship? Pray for her decisions regarding her future educational opportunities.
- that Ben Wyatt was recently certified as a Youth Scuba Diver?... Congrats Ben!! Enjoy the beautiful world underneath the waves!
- that Phoebe Wyatt recently returned from a trip to London, Paris and Copenhagen with friends? She has great memories to share! Ask her about the trip!
- That we looking for a "team" of folks from our church who will be willing and interested in representing our church at the Interfaith Communities gathering each month? Each member of the team would serve in a "rotation" and only attend every 3 or 4 months, depending on how many are on the team. Please speak to Pastor Ron if you're interested in this opportunity.

COUNCIL KORNER

“Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence...
Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit. **Jeremiah 17:7-8**

The FUPC Council meets every third Sunday of the month. We will share with you current events that are happening through the newsletter and by posting the monthly meeting minutes on the Narthex bulletin board.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNCIL KORNER

Please join us for our annual Easter Sunday potluck following morning worship. There will also be an Easter egg hunt for the children, Easter egg decorating contest and a visit from the Easter Bunny. A big Mahalo to everyone who contributed to our Easter wish list.



Thank you to the Kosraean group “The Boys” for providing us with their gift of music on Sunday, February 18, 2018. They are a group of talented individuals with beautiful voices.

More Council Corner on next page.....

He has Risen

SERVANT LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION

APRIL 2017

USHERS/GREETERS

Bobby Dale-Skilling & Betty Nekoba

COMMUNION PREP

Joanne Pocsidio

LITURGISTS/LAY READERS

April 1 Jeremy Agag
April 8 Royalyn Solmerin
April 15 Joanne Pocsidio
April 22 Danny Dizon
April 29 Zandrinx Queja

COMMUNION SERVERS

Team #1 Bob, Debbie, Gail & Jeremy

COFFEE HOUR

April 1 Easter Sunday Pot Luck
April 8 Royalyn Solmerin
April 15 Debbie Sasan
April 22 Kosraean Fellowship
April 29 Jane McLean

ACOLYTE

Phoebe Wyatt

Happy Easter