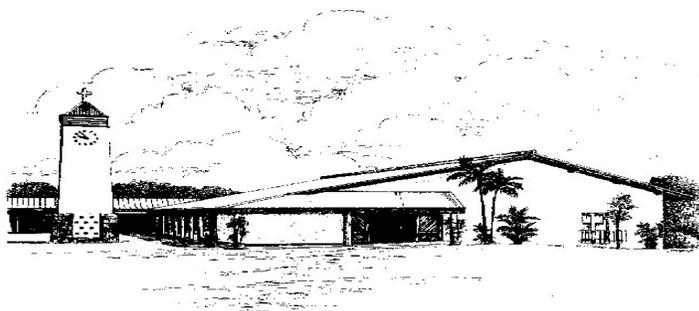


## First United Protestant Church-UCC

1350 Waianuenue Avenue  
Hilo, HI 96720  
808/935-5914  
fupchilo@hawaiiantel.net  
www.fupchurch.org

**Return Service Requested**



# Welcome to First United Protestant Church Hilo, Hawaii

In this season of Ordinary Time between Epiphany and 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 2015

## **Sermon Themes for April**

**April 5**                      **Why Are You Weeping?**                      **John 20.1-16**  
From the cross, Jesus cried out with his last breath, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” On Easter morning, that’s how Mary felt when her Lord was nowhere to be found. But one word changed it all, the word was her name, spoken in love, in the fullest compassion and with complete knowledge of her deepest longings and fear. The good news of Easter is that the grave is empty, the Lord lives and God has not abandoned us.

**April 12**                      **Can God Handle Your Doubts?**                      **John 20.19-31**  
Jesus was a subversive teacher because he rejected the rules of religion in favor of life. He challenged the establishment and debated with the “experts in the law”. He stepped outside the officially sanctioned “church policies” and challenged the need to keep God in a box. This unmanageable God is our God and while that may sound a bit frightening, the truth is that it means all things are possible and mystery rules.

**April 19**                      **Do You Have Any Dreams?**                      **Acts 1.6-14**  
What vision do you have for First United Protestant Church? When you think about the history of our church, where we’re located, what our resources are, what God has done for us and what God might expect of us, does it lead you to do any dreaming? A church that stops dreaming loses something critical to its survival. When we operate simply by the rules of corporate America which are safe, reasonable and protective of the status quo, we put our very existence at risk.

**April 26**                      **Finding Courage: Life at the Border**                      **Matthew 15.21-28**  
Jesus encounters a non-Jewish woman living at the border between Galilee and Tyre/Sidon with the result that old beliefs, assumptions, prejudices and practices get turned upside down. What happens when a church takes a trip to the “border” where old assumptions, practices and prejudices are challenged? It takes courage to live at the border and to the possibility that we don’t have a corner on all truth.

**May 3**                      **Finding your Voice**                      **James 3.1-12, Matthew 15.10, 11, 17-20**  
We are born with a voice – the first sound we make is a cry. Then we coo, we laugh, we sing, we yell and shout and then we form words. Somewhere along our growing up path, some of us lose our voice. We hide our truth, we swallow our opinions, we keep silent when inside we’re shouting “No! No fair.” The tongue, as James puts it, is a small instrument that can have a major impact on our world... both for good and for evil. Have you lost your voice? Today’s scriptures will help us to find it again.

## THINKING OUT LOUD

Dandelions! Little yellow flowers that morph into feathery white seeds. As a kid, I would always blow these soft seed pods to see them scatter in the wind. My Grandfather Kent hated dandelions!! They were the scourge of anyone who took pride in growing lush, green grass in their yard. The seeds rooted everywhere, sprung up quickly with bright yellow flowers (we called them “weeds”) and went to seed even more quickly. Every morning there was a new crop.

Grandpa Kent had a three foot pole with a v-shaped sharp metal tip that he used to dig out any dandelion that dared to appear in his yard. It was the first order of business every morning when he woke up. Grab the stick and go outside for dandelion patrol. His yard looked so green and perfect... the envy of the neighborhood. Up and down the street, neighbors’ yards were full of dandelions. There was not one in his yard. If he skipped a day because he was too sick to go outside, or was away traveling... the little pests would return. But it was his first order of business when he was able, go get rid of those dandelions.

I thought of this when we had to replace the church water heater this week. We are placing the new one outside the kitchen along the back wall of the education building. The area is surrounded by a high fence and locked on both ends. There is evidence that at one time, this had been a lovely nursery in which to grow plants. There is a large pipe frame for holding the weather netting, benches for holding flowers, a variety of pots... many sick or dead palms and plants... and in the midst of it all, a beautiful lavender orchid blooming its heart out.



It is time to reclaim this space. Pastor Nixon Jack is taking on this project, with the help of some of the participants in our Community Service Ministry. We want to clean this area, make it usable again for growing plants, maintaining palms and nurturing orchids. And we want to honor those who created this space and worked there so faithfully and joyfully through the years.

It’s a parable for life, isn’t it? The wise author of Proverbs writes in 24.30-34,

***“I walked past a field that belonged to a lazy man. It was a vineyard that belonged to someone who understood nothing. Weeds were growing everywhere! Wild vines covered the ground, and the wall around the vineyard was broken and falling down. I looked at this and thought about it. This is what I learned: a little sleep, a little rest, folding your arms, and taking a nap— these things will make you poor very quickly. Soon you will have nothing, as if a thief broke in and took everything away. “***

Erosion is always incremental. Weeds grow, small at first but eventually taking over the yard. Overlook something once... no problem. Twice... maybe still no problem. Make it a habit and you have weeds, a broken fence, dandelions, a deterioration that will end in ugliness, failure and loss.

In life as in nature, the message is... pay attention, be mindful, take care of business, stay alert. Excellence is defined by our daily choices to do our work right, do it on time, do it as well as we can do it, and do it that way every time. Whether on the job, at home with family, raising children, nurturing our relationships or dealing with personal habits, it’s how we grow our Integrity and become worthy of trust. ***The good news is that beauty can be reclaimed, what is broken can be repaired, uselessness can be transformed into usefulness, bad habits can be changed. It just begins with a decision... and that’s always up to us.***

Digging Dandelions,

PASTOR RON

*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!

## A Special Prayer Request

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

- Dorothy Kataoka
- Doris Toma
- Fay Jack
- Agnes Perreira
- Song Soon Lee
- Ariana
- Raymark Dela Cruz
- Our church leaders
- Pastoral search committee



## KOSRAEAN NEWS

### KUN, JULIE SIGRAH AND FAMILY RETURN TO KOSRAE STATE AND NOW MAKE IT THEIR HOME



Kosrae Hilo Church and Community bids this family FAREWELL filled with lots of ALOHA and well wishes. I've learned things change, people change, and it doesn't mean you forget the past. It simply means that you move on and treasure the MEMORIES. I feel for most of us, it is FAMILY who are the ones who stick with us through thick and thin times. Kun, Julie, Chance, Kiejuan and Ciara we wishing you the best of luck as you make Kosrae, the Island of THE SLEEPING LADY, your new HOME :)

Blessings, Pastor Nixon K. Jack

Kosrae Hilo Church Lord Supper (KUFWA LUN LEUM) to be held on Sunday, April 12, 2015 at The First United Protestant Church.



## Did You Know...

- That work on the church organ repair will begin after Easter Sunday and continue for about two months? This is the first phase of repair that will continue through the coming year.
- That Brian Padilla works with our kids each Sunday for Children's Church and that they really enjoy singing for us.



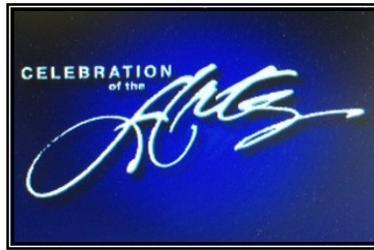
- That Kamehameha Schools Academic Decathlon team will be representing the State of Hawaii at the National Academic Decathlon in Garden Grove, California on April 12-20. At the state competition, Kepola Ishikawa received a gold medal in interview and speech for her division. She received a bronze in music. Congrats Kepola! We're proud of you! Kepola will be sharing her speech with us during church service, April 12th.
- That Pastor Nixon Jack and Bob Ahia brought us a beautiful Palm Tree and placed it behind the pulpit to help us celebrate Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday? We are holding Maundy Thursday Service on April 2nd at 7:00pm.
- That we have 15 Easter Lilies coming in to decorate the church for our Easter Services? A special Mahalo to all of our members and friends who purchased 15 Easter Lilies to decorate the Sanctuary in memory or honor of their loved ones.
- That Daniel Serville, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Kamehameha campus in Keaau, was our substitute musician while Michael Springer was on vacation on March 22? Daniel did a great job at the piano and led us through the whole service very nicely. Thanks Daniel!!



- That Harmony on Tap, otherwise known as H.O.T., donated a beautiful vase and silk flower arrangement to us?



## CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS



During the month of April, we will be celebrating the Creative Spirit and talents of our members and friends at FUPC. All media are welcome!! Paintings, drawing, photography, wood work, sewing, quilting, handwork, plants, Bonsai, Ikebana, Origami, pottery, Pacific Island creations... and more. There will be a special children's display area so all ages are invited to participate. Shared items will be displayed each Sunday through the month of April.

We call God our "Creator"... and as we look around us, we see evidence of God's creative vision everywhere... in color, form, shape, variety, sound, smell and taste. It's inherent in our human nature breathed into us by Divine design that we too become creators. We find fulfillment, satisfaction, pleasure, joy and a sense of well-being when we make room for our creative urges and vision to find expression. That's what we celebrate this month... God's Creative Spirit in each other.

Please speak to Pastor Ron or Chris Oda if you would like to participate.

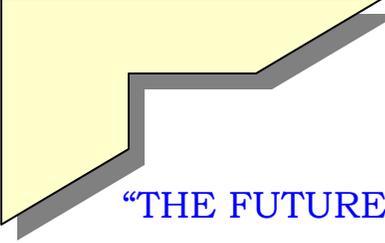
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## Happy April Birthday to the following Friends and Members



Shandelere Queja-Bidad (3rd), Frank Alokoa (3rd),  
Rev. Ron Kent (4th), Kathleen Kim (9th),  
Kepola Ishikawa (14th), Royalyn Solmerin (16th),  
Mildred Queja (16th ), Gail Kagawa (18th),  
Dorothy Kataoka (18th), Tony Persson (24th)





## COUNCIL KORNER

“THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO IN THE PRESENT”

Mahatma Gandhi

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

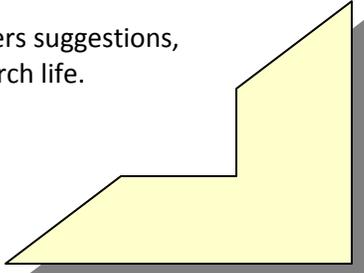
### HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNCIL KORNER

- We are in the process of purchasing a laptop for FUPC use. This will help with the hiring process of the new Pastor.
- In order to assure proper movement of our very valuable piano we are in the process of purchasing a transporter dolly.
- A zero-radius lawn mower was purchased and Rev. Kent did a blessing after worship service on 3/22/15. We continue to discuss what solutions are out there to address the huge rocks in the campus yard. Thanks to the crew of guys who keep this place looking so nice: Froilan Queja, Pastor Nixon Jack, Marlo Fontanilla and Bob Ahia. Mahalo guys!!!
- Urinal in the boy's bathroom, toilet cover in the girl's bathroom and the toilet chain in the Pastor's office have been repaired.
- The water heater in the kitchen needed to be replaced due to a leak that damaged the electrical heating element that produces hot water. The Sunday School room carpet was cleaned due to the leak and the new heater was installed outside in the plant nursery area.
- The Manse septic system was replaced and a major water leak repaired. We continue to address other on-going maintenance repairs at the Manse.
- We are looking for caretakers for concert rehearsals and concert events. This responsibility pays \$10.00 per hour.
- We continue to search for individuals to fill vacant Council positions.
- Christian Education is organizing an Easter Egg Hunt following Easter Sunday worship service.
- Church Directory – Awesome news, Royalyn is volunteering her time to take pictures of families/individuals to update our 2015 Church Directory. Chris and Rev. Kent have put together a draft of our 2015 Directory. Debbie and Kepola will be approaching individuals to assure we have the most current information.
- Pastor Nixon and his volunteers have donated their time to re-store the plant nursery area in the back of the kitchen.



Please feel free to approach/share with me or any of your Council Members suggestions, questions or concerns that you would like to address in your church life.

God Bless You,  
Debbie Sasan  
Moderator



## SERVANT LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION

APRIL 2015

### USHERS/GREETERS

Betty Nekoba & Bobby-Dale Skilling

### COMMUNION PREP

April 2, Maundy Thursday- Jane McLean

April 5, Easter-Debbie Sasan

### LITURGISTS/LAY READERS

April 5 Royalyn Solmerin

April 12 Kristel Tumaneng

April 19 Fay Mae Queja

April 26 Danny Dizon

### COMMUNION SERVER

April 2, Team #4 Betty, Katrina, FayMae, Gail

April 5, Team #1 Bob, Debbie, Carlene, John

### COFFEE HOUR

April 5 Debbie Sasan

April 12 Kathleen Kim

April 19 Jane McLean

April 26 Kosraean Fellowship

### FLOWERS

### ACOLYTE

Jonah Kaupu

Note

*Scheduled volunteers may change periodically due to unexpected circumstances*

*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. Mahalo.*