

First United Protestant Church-UCC

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Hilo, HI 96720
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fupchilo@hawaiiantel.net
www.fupchurch.org



Return Service Requested



Welcome to First United Protestant Church Hilo, Hawaii

In this season of Advent 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

Communion

Kosraean Mid-Week Service

Kosraean WCA Service

Kosraean Sunday Worship Service

Children's Ministry offered during worship Service

10:00 am

First Sunday of the Month

7:30 pm Wednesdays

7:00 pm Fridays

1:30 pm Sundays

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.

January 2019

January 2019

Sermon Themes for January

January Newsletter

Sermons

Jan 6	Rev. Christopher Czarnecki	
	A Pathway Toward Our Future	Isaiah 43.1-13, 18-19

In these last seven weeks before our departure from FUPC, I will be updating and sharing some of the meditations that seemed to be especially meaningful and appreciated by the congregation.

“Updating” because we are always changing... I am not the same person I was when these were first offered. And neither are you the same person. Life tends to shape us as we experience the mountain tops and the valleys of daily experience. May God’s Spirit speak in a fresh way through our hearing the Word together.

Jan 13	Holy Epiphany	John 1.1-18
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Jan 20	Its Just a Room	Matt. 1.26-34
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Jan 27	Breathing Lessons	Mk 12.28-34
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Feb 3	Praying In and Praying Out	John 12.20-33
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Feb 10	Don’t Kick the Donkey	Numbers 22-24
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Feb 17	Life in the Middle Lane	Luke 16.19-31
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Feb 24	A Future With Hope	Jer. 29.11
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"A little bit of this n that"

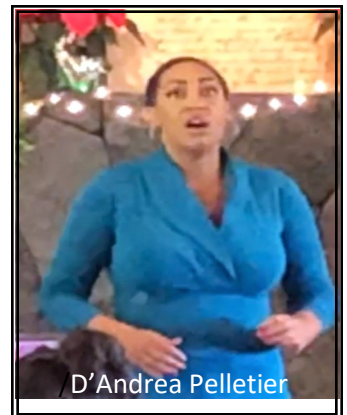
What a year its been!! The church went all out to celebrate its 150th anniversary, thanks to special funding from the annual budget and gifts from a number of people, including a large gift from the estate of Ray Stewart. On Sunday, December 30, I shared some thoughts from the pulpit entitled "What Have We Learned?" There were five important areas of church life in which we learned more about ourselves. If you want to review these again, or read them for the first time, you can find the sermon on our church website under Meditations, 2018 (www.fupchurch.org)

Thank You for all your expressions of good will and gratitude in this holiday season. We are nearing the conclusion of our time with you, and so we're more aware of the special value in each service and our conversations together. We are very happy that the Search Committee has found a good candidate to be pastor here and we look forward to getting to know Rev. Czarnecki, Akeera and their family. Though Priscilla and I will be off-island, I hope this week-end will be a confirmation of God's leading and caring for the church as you all get to "meet and greet" the Czarneckis.

By now, you've probably heard or realized that our time here didn't actually end on Dec. 31. The church council requested that I stay an extra two months until March 1 in order provide pastoral services until Rev. Czarnecki is able to take up residence in Hawaii (assuming the congregation will affirm their proposed choice of pastor). I do hope you will make every effort to come out on Saturday morning for a local style brunch with the Czarnecki's and get to know them. He will be leading worship and preaching on Sunday.

On a completely different topic: The 150th anniversary committee has made a number of proposals to the church council regarding future "Initiatives" for the church to consider in the coming year (or years). One of them was to acquire a set of choir risers since we have a growing number of concerts here involving choral groups. The cost would be around \$5400. But God is overflowing with creative generosity and this Initiative has been taken care of by a proposal from the Hilo Community Chorus. They propose that we store their risers and use them whenever needed for any group that needs them. They've had trouble finding a place to store them so this appears to be a WIN-WIN solution for which we're very grateful

And finally... on yet another "note"... Many of you were present on Sunday, Dec. 23 when D'Andrea Pelletier sang in our morning service. D'Andrea is a classically trained soprano who blessed us beyond words with the aria "Rejoice" from Handel's "Messiah" and "O Holy Night". We welcome D'Andrea to Hilo and look forward to her presence with us again, as she offered to come back any time she's free.



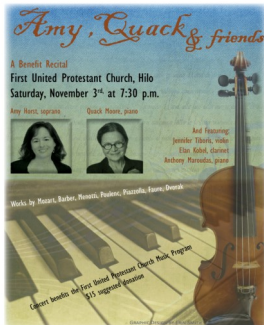
But the blessings just keep coming! Bonnie and Richard Alger brought another new friend to our church, Vicky Lee from Taiwan. Vicky is also a classically trained soprano and she sang at the final November worship service and also at our Christmas by Candlelight service on Christmas Eve. We were all deeply moved by her offering of Ave Maria by Caccini and Panis Angelicus. Vicky also offered to return to share her gift with us when she's free.

Priscilla and I wish you all the best during our last Christmas together! And on behalf of the rest of the church staff, Nixon and Fay Jack, Michael Springer, Michael Russell, Joanne Pocsidio and Chris and Kele Oda, we wish you all Happy Holidays and a New Year filled with the promise of God's Love!

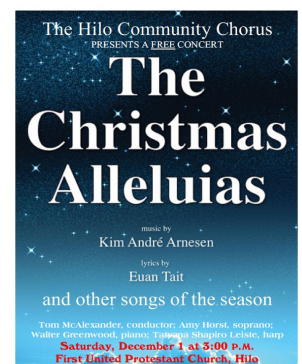


Fall Concerts and Recitals

- The FUPC sanctuary has been a busy place this Fall. It began with the September 23 Homegrown Concert in celebration of our 150th anniversary including full orchestra and choir and a packed sanctuary.
- On October 3, we hosted a recital by Japanese pianist Miki Takaki in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first immigrants to Hawaii from Japan ("Gannenmono").
- On Oct. 6, there was another recital of piano students from the studio of teacher , Kanako Okita.

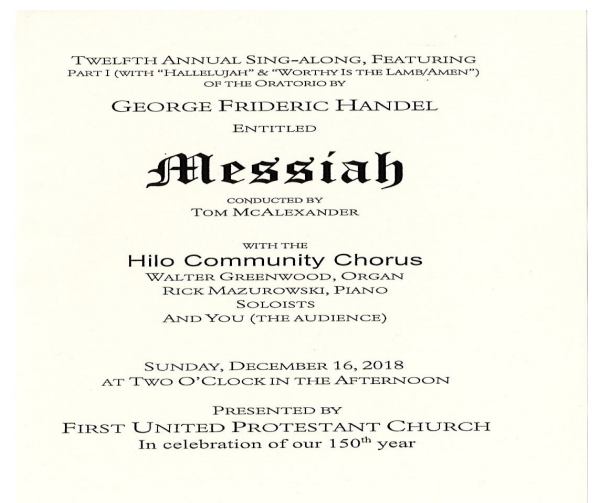


- In November, Amy Horst, Quack Moore and Friends produced and performed in a concert that included vocal, choral, and instrumental selections that wowed the audience. The donations from that concert were given to our church in gratitude and celebration for our 150th anniversary.



- On December 1, the Hilo Community Chorus with approximately 50 members performed their annual Christmas Concert for an enthusiastic crowd that filled the sanctuary.

- On December 16, we hosted the annual community sing-along of Handel's "Messiah"... with organ and piano accompaniment and four soloists. What an amazing sound that created as singers singing the four parts of harmony filled the sanctuary pews under the direction of Tom McAlexander.



- Already, musical groups in Hilo are reserving dates in 2019 for their performances. Each performance requires that a "Caretaker" from the church be present to manage access, lights, etc. If you would be willing to help out in this capacity it would be so appreciated. There is compensation for the time spent of \$10 per hour per event. Please speak to Pastor Ron or contact Chris in the church office with any questions or your interest in helping out.

Christmas Eve by Candlelight

Our Christmas Eve service this year was entitled: Christmas Eve by Candlelight: A Time for Meditation and Healing. It was a beautiful time of worship featuring inspiring music, quiet moments for personal reflection and prayers offered by the lighting of candles. Nearly ninety people were in attendance. Many expressed sincere appreciation for the meaningful meditative mood that characterized the service. Special music was provided by Vicky Lee, soprano, who is new to Hilo from Taiwan, Michael Russell, our own talented violinist accompanied by Michael Springer on piano, and our own children directed by Joanne Pocsidio, who always bless us with their sweet enthusiasm in song.

In addition to the many moments for meditation in the service, members of the congregation were invited to come forward and light the 25 candles on the alter table as a symbolic way of offering prayers to God. Mahalo to all of the participants and those who attended for making this program a special memory rich in spiritual meaning as we celebrated the meaning of the Incarnation this Christmas. Special Mahalo to Mama Kahu (Priscilla) for inspiring the design for this service, and for facilitating the details that made it work including donating 25 white candles. In the program were listed the following 25 prayer requests and people were encouraged to take time throughout the year to pray for these important concerns and add their own.

1. Our Church's Future – Christ-Like in Caring and Loving
2. Charter Members and Our Church Ohana Spanning 150 Years
3. Spiritual Growth and Healing
4. Expanding our Church's Mission and Outreach
5. Strength to Deal with Difficult Times with God's Presence
6. People with Financial Stress
7. Displaced People Due to Lava, Flooding and Violence
8. People Who Grieve the Loss of Someone They Love
9. People Looking for Employment
10. People Facing Health Challenges
11. Victims of Domestic Violence and War
12. Immigrants and Political Refugees Seeking Freedom and Safety
13. Children Everywhere Feel Love and Protection from Harm
14. Moral Courage and Wisdom for All our Government Leaders
15. People Who Have Lost Hope and Want Meaning in Their Lives
16. Caregivers Who Give Time, Energy and Love
17. AA & NA groups that Meet at our Church Weekly
18. Pi'ihonua Preschool that Meets in Our Facilities
19. Kosraean Fellowship and all Pacific Islanders
20. People Who are Homeless and Hungry
21. People Who Give You a Hard Time
22. Victims of Discrimination Who Feel Lonely and Invisible
23. Boldness To Be the Light for Someone in Darkness
24. Peace, Quiet, Godliness and Holiness
25. Christmas Miracles



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!



Prayer Request

Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

Sheldon Asejo
Mike Gardner
Maria Valido & the Queja Family
Doris Toma
Sylvia Hammer
Rev. Nixon & Fay Jack
Aulani Humphers
Janet Lang
Cori Dela Cruz
Kalei Arnold

Family of Agnes Perreira
Margo Aguiar & Family
Michael Russell
Lei Semana & Family
David Lee
Marlo & Ella Fontanilla
Royal Solmerin
Esperanza Tolentino
Family of Keslyn Tulensru
Family of Estrelita Solmerin

Happy January Birthday to the following Friends and Members



Letti Agag (1st)

Sheycie Asejo (16th)

Alissa Wasserman (25th)

Krizha Tumaneng (26th)

Jane McLean (6th)

Anuheia Kaupu (21st)

Lisa Taylor (25th)



Veteran's Home Christmas visitation.

A big mahalo to Betty Nekoba for the Christmas cards and to Leti Agag for providing the personal greetings in the cards. Another big mahalo to Joanne Pocsidio and Dusty Cardines for giving out the cards, talking story, holding hands, and enjoying the stories the Veterans shared. We also sang! This year we were able to provide sugar-free candy, eye glass cases, eye glass straps and more for their prizes for Bingo Night. I apologize for the late announcement for the event but the social director was on maternity leave and no one was assigned to take her place. This is a most rewarding project . Thank You all for so generously giving to others.

Gwynn Sosa, Chair of FUPC Mission Committee

Pennies From Heaven Update

Our Pennies From Heaven Project was established for both Sunday School and the Kosrean Fellowship, approximately 3 years ago. We currently have \$195.64 in this mission account from our generous FUPC members putting their lose change in our little wooden house on the table in the Narthex when attending church services. Thank you so much for contributing to this mission for the Kosraean's and our children.

Food & Fun

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

CHICKEN HONEY NUT STIR-FRY from the kitchen of Letti Agag



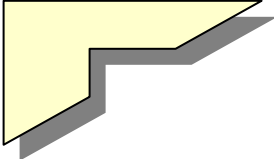
1lb boneless chicken breast
1/3 C. honey
1T. Cornstarch
2 lg. carrots diagonally cut
1/2 C. cashews or peanuts

3T soy sauce
1/2 t. grated fresh ginger or 1/4 t. ground ginger
2T. Vegetable oil, divided
2 stalks celery, diagonally cut
3/4 C. orange juice

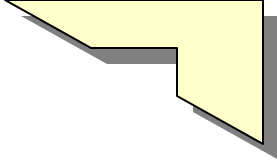
Cut chicken into thin strips and set aside. In a small owl, combine orange juice, honey, soy sauce, cornstarch and ginger. Mix well. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add carrots and celery; Stir fry for about 3 minutes. Remove vegetables and set aside. Pour remaining oil into skillet. Add chicken; stir fry about 3 minutes. Return vegetables to skillet; add sauce mixture and nuts. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until sauce is thickened. Serve over hot rice. Makes 4 to 6 servings.



All recipes from Heirlooms from our Church Family, 1998.



Council Korner



**Happy
New Year!**

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

Council members for the year 2019

Moderator: Debbie Sasan

Vice Moderator: Fay Jack

Clerk: Betty Nekoba

Treasurer: Letti Agag

Youth Representative: Phoebe Wyatt

Christian Service/Hospitality: Robert Ahia

Worship: Royalyn Solmerin

Mission: Gwynn Sosa

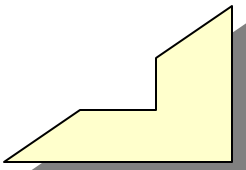
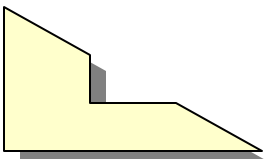
Pastoral Relations: Sylvia Hammer

Members at Large: Gail Kagawa and Jane McLean

Thank you to these individuals who volunteer their time to support the life and ministry of First United Protestant Church.

- The Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet regularly. They will have a current update for you on page 12 of this newsletter.

Council Korner Con't.....next 3 pages....



COUNCIL KORNER

A beautiful Christmas Eve service was held on December 24, 2018 at First United Protestant Church. Thank you to the many hands that made the birth of our Christ a joyous celebration.



COUNCIL KORNER

On Sunday, December 30, 2018 we were blessed by our Kosrae congregations annual Christmas march. We are very great full to our Kosrae brothers and sisters for all they do for FUPC. We all gathered on lanai after for a delicious spread of food. What a way to end 2018.



COUNCIL KORNER

The Pastoral Search Committee through prayer and mutual consent have selected Reverend Christopher Czarnecki, M. Div. as our candidate for the ministry of our church. The Pastoral Search Committee would like to invite you to join them on Saturday, January 5, 2019 for a potluck/brunch on the church lanai at 11:00 a.m. where you will meet Reverend Christopher and his wife Akeera in a more informal setting, as well as on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at the 10:00 a.m. service where he will lead worship. Following worship a congregational meeting to vote on the recommendation to call Reverend Christopher as our new settled Pastor, will be taken.



Congregation Appreciation day is canceled for the month of January. The next appreciation day will be on **Saturday, February 9, 2019**. Bring the family, a friend and if possible a refreshment to share.

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. You can also contact me at: [debbie-](mailto:debbie-fupc@gmail.com)

[fupc@gmail.com](mailto:debbie-fupc@gmail.com)

God Bless You,
Debbie Sasan
Moderator

He Walks with me and he Talks with me.....

SERVANT LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION

January 2019

USHERS/GREETERS

Gwynn Sosa & Dusty Cardines

COMMUNION PREP

Jeremy Agag

LITURGISTS/LAY READERS

*January 6 Royalyn Solmerin
January 13 Bob Ahia
January 20 Gail Kagawa
January 27 Danny Dizon*

COMMUNION SERVERS

*Kristel Tumaneng
Krizsha Tumaneng
Shannylen Dayoan
Drenzen Queddeng*

COFFEE HOUR

*January 6 Kathleen Kim
January 13 Betty Nekoba
January 20 June Dela Cruz
January 27 Kosraean Fellowship*

ACOLYTE

Ben Wyatt

January 27 Kosraean Acolyte