

## First United Protestant Church

### United Church of Christ

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**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!*

**September 2019**

# First United Protestant Church

## ***Sermon Themes for September 2019***

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

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

**Sunday, September 1st, 10:00 AM** - Scriptures: Luke 14:1-14. Sermon Title: *"The Table Manners of Jesus."*

In this scripture Jesus is challenged during a meal at a leading Pharisee's house. While he is there a man who is sick and ill walks in, and the question is raised as to whether it is lawful to heal on the Sabbath. Jesus responds to the question by healing the man. He uses the table manners that were observed in Jewish practices as a metaphor for how we should glorify God through generous kindness and hospitality to others.

**Sunday, September 8th, 10:00 AM** - Scriptures: Jeremiah 18:1-11. Sermon Title: *"Let Us Be Like Clay."*

In this scripture Jeremiah is directed by God to visit a potter's house and to watch the potter at their work. While at the home of the potter, Jeremiah observes and sees something profound, the way of the potter as a maker and creator of a pottery vessel that is both beautiful and useful. The story tells us that Jeremiah was impressed by the control the potter exercised over the clay they worked, and the text raises questions of how we let God mold and shape us.

**Sunday, September 15th, 10:00 AM** - Scriptures: 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Sermon Title: TBA

In this scripture Paul expresses thankfulness for God's grace, which has saved him from a former life of sin and persecution of others. He is thankful that God has now put him into service for Christ. Paul recognizes that, if he was capable of being saved, then others are also capable of being saved. The thought of God's grace leads Paul to praise Jesus Christ as King, whose honor and glory shall endure forever.

**Sunday, September 22nd, 10:00 AM** - Scriptures: Luke 16:1-13. Sermon Title: TBA

In this parable Jesus illustrates that the dishonest actions of a steward, or manager, are both ungodly and self-seeking. The manager in the story discounts the financial debts of his master's debtors, in order to gain their support, in case he is dismissed and left without any money. His actions increase his master's cash flow, by getting the money in more quickly. His master commends his cleverness, but not his integrity!

**Sunday, September 29th, 10:00 AM** - Scriptures: Psalm 91. Sermon Title: TBA

In this Psalm the psalmist finds refuge in God. The psalmist trusts in God and finds God to be a fortress and shield, an answer to their fears and all the suffering caused from them. Despite these fears and the havoc happening around them, the psalmist learns to trust that God is in charge and will deliver them. The psalmist sings that God promises to answer those who trust and call upon God.

# In The Name of Truth, Life, and Love:

## A Monthly Message from the Pastor

Beloved of First United Protestant Church,

When the United Church of Christ began in 1957, there were many discussions on how this new Church, which was once four different Churches, would organize and operate itself. It was decided that our structure would be a *covenantal* structure. Meaning that we would come together on the basis of a covenantal agreement. That we would promise, or pledge, to remain together for the declared purpose of seeking God's will and being faithful to what we believe to be God's mission in the world...". In other words, so "That we may all be one" (John 17:21).

The beauty of this covenantal structure is that we are resolved to listen to one another and to respect each other's actions while remaining united, even if we disagree. The power of covenant is that each expression of the church remains bound to one another, so that we might seek to walk together in all God's ways. As members of the

Body of Christ, each expression of the church is called to honor and respect the work and ministry of others. It is this covenantal structure that holds all the different settings of the United Church of Christ together, and it is I hope, what continues to hold our church together. The question I want to lift up for us, especially as we move toward our new future together, is "How can we still be the church, even if we should one day disagree with each other?" And I believe the answer is and will always be, "Through our covenantal commitment."

At the beginning of August I had the opportunity to travel to the United Church of Christ headquarters in Cleveland Ohio for the Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI) orientation. While there I met with other pastors who are serving in their first or second calls all across the country. Over the course of 5 days we went through the program's goals and expectations, we heard from other pastor's currently in the program, we reviewed models that analyzed our leadership styles and personality strengths, we had lunch with UCC leadership staff like General Minister and President John Dorhauer, we experienced worship in the beautiful Amistad Chapel, and we shared in fellowship together. For me, the most enriching thing over the course of the week was being able to talk with other pastors who are sharing similar experiences and challenges in congregational ministry. Those conversations let me know that I am not alone, even way out here in Hawaii. And that I can go to them for things like help, guidance, and support. There is so much to say about the NGLI program and the impact I believe it have on my leadership development and our church, but I hope you will take some time to watch this short 8 minute video about the program that was made recently by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksfpJY0WV44>

On July 30th I attended the Interfaith Council In Action (ICIA) meeting and was asked if our church was willing to host the "Community Thanksgiving Celebration & Concert" on Tuesday November 26th. I was grateful they asked us and accepted this opportunity for our church! I look forward to the wider faith community of Hilo coming together at First United Protestant Church to share in a night of music, thanksgiving, and fellowship. Our brand new altar cross will be on display that evening, and our church sanctuary is known throughout the community for its outstanding acoustics. I believe it will be a night that our church will remember. In the coming weeks we will be planning who will be offering a gift of music from our church for that evening.

The ICIA has been working on a project to help end homelessness by finding ways to create more affordable housing for seniors on fixed incomes or those who cannot afford to buy, build, or rent a house. The ICIA has teamed up with Hope Services to build a prototype home that could be easily manufactured to create more affordable housing. However, to build the prototype home the ICIA was asked by Hope Services to help raise \$40K by July 1st. The ICIA has gotten really close to raising the full amount but still needs approximately \$20K in order to build the prototype home that would serve as a model structure for 12 additional units. The church council has offered to donate \$250 toward this Interfaith initiative, and during the last 3-weeks of September we will be collecting donations during our Sunday worship offering to add to this donation from our church. I would love to see our church double this initial offering, and come to the next ICIA meeting with a financial gift that puts us closer toward achieving this goal. For more information on this Interfaith initiative by the ICIA please see the handout we have placed in the narthex.

There is a lot happening this month at our church. Our book study and confirmation classes will begin meeting regularly. On Sunday September 1st we will be celebrating Aloha Spirit Day. We are inviting those who are attending that day to put on their best Hawaiian outfit from their wardrobe and join us! We will also be having a Hawaiian style potluck and encourage anyone who would like to bring a Hawaiian style dish to share. On Sunday September 8th we would like to invite those attending that day to bring a pottery jar or vase of any kind to place on our church altar which will be part of the sermon theme, "Let Us Be Like Clay". On Sunday September 22nd we will have a Volunteer Training Day during coffee hour. On that day we will provide a list of all the different volunteer positions available at our church, and a brief description of the position's duties and expectations. It is a also great opportunity to learn about different ways in which people at our church serve, and I also hear that we will be having pizza that day! Wink! Wink!

After worship on Sunday September 8th and 29th the Church Council is going to host an "Open Discussion Forum" in the Sunday School Room for all those who would be interested in sharing possible visions, goals, and ideas for our church's future. We are hosting these two forums this month in anticipation of our Visioning Retreat that will take place on October 12th. The Church Council really wants to hear from everyone to get a sense of where our church's interests and passions lie, especially from those who may not be able to attend the Visioning Retreat in October. Our hope is to come to the Visioning Retreat to discuss and talk through many of the ideas that were shared at these open forum meetings. We have also placed a suggestion box and short questionnaire in the narthex for those may not be able to attend the forums or visioning retreat. Please know that your voice is important to the future of our church, and we want to hear from you. I hope to see you there!

## **The Church is Holding a Visioning Retreat Soon!**

The Church Council is planning a visioning retreat on **Saturday October 12th from 9:00am to 4:00pm** that is open to everyone. During the visioning retreat we will look to discuss short-term and long-term goals we would like to see our church achieve over the next 2-5 years. Before that retreat we want to hear from the voices of everyone, especially if you might be unable to attend. On **Sunday September 8th** and **Sunday September 29th** we will host an open discussion forum after worship in the **Sunday School Room at 11:30pm** to hear from folks and share ideas about our church's future. I want to get you thinking about possibilities, so here are just a few ideas:

- Create a current mission & vision statement that tells people who we are.
- Become a church that is passionate about Environmental Justice.
- Have a robust music program and see a choir again in worship.
- Explore becoming an "Open & Affirming UCC Church".
- Build a church garden that supports those who are underfed in our community.
- Purchase a set of Bibles for all the pews.
- Find a church to partner with more for mission projects and worship events.
- Declare ourselves to be a "Multiracial and Multicultural UCC Church".
- Construct an outside meditation area on our church grounds.
- Have a Vacation Bible School for children during the summer.
- Plan a mission trip to another country.
- Host 2-3 major events that would bring the community together at our church each year.
- Establish a Bible School that teaches Biblical Literacy.
- Expand our campus for Kamehameha Schools or build a reception hall.

## **Sunday School Teachers Needed**

We are looking for people who would like to serve as a Sunday School Teacher one Sunday a month. This allows for folks to share in the ministry of caring for our children, and still receive spiritual nourishment from our regular worship services the rest of the month. The church is in the process of reviewing and selecting a class curriculum for the children to be taught on Sundays. If you would be interested in the being a Sunday School Teacher or participating in the spiritual formation of our children and youth please contact Rev. Christopher. Mahalo!

## First United Protestant Church Happenings

**Pictured on the right** is the Communion table that was set on August 11th by Debbie Sasan. **At the bottom** is a photo of the new bulletin board that was created by Fay Jack and the youth group during Sunday School on August 3rd. The bulletin board contains scripture verses and names of those we hold dear to us. Fay Jack serves as a Sunday School teacher once a month to help with the spiritual formation and education of our youth.

(Photos taken by June Dela Cruz and Rev. Christopher Czarnecki)



## First United Protestant Church Happenings



**July 29th through August 2nd** Pastor Chris attended the Next Generation Leadership Initiative at the headquarters of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland Ohio. Pictured is the 10th cohort of NGLI, and below is a photo of the group with General Minister & President John C. Dorhauer. (Photos taken by Rev. Krista Betz)



## First United Protestant Church Happenings

**Pictured below is** Cori Dela Cruz and Shanel Simmons goofing around after Sunday School in the narthex on August 18. (photo taken by June Dela Cruz)



**On Sunday August 25th** a new altar cross was dedicated to First United Protestant Church. The pictured altar cross is made out of koa and mango wood, and sits a few inches over two feet high. The cross was made in a style somewhat similar to that of a Calvary cross. The widest parts of the cross's base, highlights the crucial importance of love. The new altar cross was handmade by Kele Oda, who had made an altar cross for Waiola Church in Lahaina nearly 30 years ago. The new altar cross will stand as a symbol of First United Protestant Church's commitment to building Christian unity and extending welcome to those who have long been excluded from the church. (photo taken by Rev. Czarnecki)



# KOSRAEAN NEWS

In union there is strength. ~Aesop~



You all were such team players. I thank God for you, because you are the beloved children of our Father, you are the ones for whom Christ died, and you are those the Spirit is sending us to love and to welcome. Thanks for stepping up and getting this done.

Mahalo, Nipastu Fay

## **KHCC Car Wash**

As long as vehicles travel the roadways, there will always be a need for car washes. Kulo Na Maluhlap Lay Minister Stevenson Ittu for volunteering your services as chairperson for this event. Please know how grateful we are and express our gratitude for it being a success.

## **Alu Schedule for September 2019**

Malem Sasuc

Tuesday, September 2, 2019

Pastor Danny F. Dizon

Sunday

Wednesday

1 Deacon Dale Bobby Skilling

4 Lay Minister Joab Welly

8 Lay Minister Joab Welly

11 Deacon Tulensa Freddy

15 Deacon Tulensa Freddy

18 Lay Minister Stevenson Ittu

22 Lay Minister Stevenson Ittu

25 Deacon Bell Tosie

29 Deacon Bell Tosie

**Kosraean Acolyte** for September is Sean Asher

**Liberation Day Celebration** on Saturday, September 7, 2019, location & Time TBD.

Pastor Danny F. Dizon and Nipastu Tulpe will join in on the ordination for one of our sister churches in Georgia. May your air be clear, the flight be smooth, the plane be safe and the sky be blue. Have a safe flight.



From Gwynn Sosa, Mission Chair

### Missions so far this year:

**May & June** Our Sunday school students were busy making desk note holders and rock paper weights for Mother's and Father's Day.. **Job Well Done!**

**July** Patriotic table decorations were taken to the Veteran's Home to give thanks for their service.

### On-Going Projects

1. **Pennies from Heaven** has collected \$216.42 to date., simply from donating your change. There is a small wooden house in the Narthex where your coins can be dropped.

2. **Stamps Project** Our church members have been faithful in donating your posted stamps which helps challenged people be employed using the stamps for artwork. Please bring your stamps to our secretary, Chris, in the church office.

**October—New Project** The church council would like to have a church fundraiser. On Oct. 27, 2019 we ask every family to bring one or more items to sell. Your item could be a baked item or a home made item, a recycled gift item! The sky is the limit. Tables will be set up in the Narthex to place your items. We are excited about this project to benefit the church. Please be looking around your home!

**November** Thanksgiving Basket for the needy. A box will be set up in the Narthex.

**December** The Shoebox Ministry. Donations requested to fill shoeboxes for children who otherwise would not have Christmas. A box will be set up in the Narthex for donations.

**Donation Project** Betty Nekoba has generously donated a variety of yarn. If anyone would like yarn to make an item or items for any of the projects, please contact Gwynn Sosa.

Thank you to everyone for your giving spirit,

Mission Chair, Gwynn Sosa

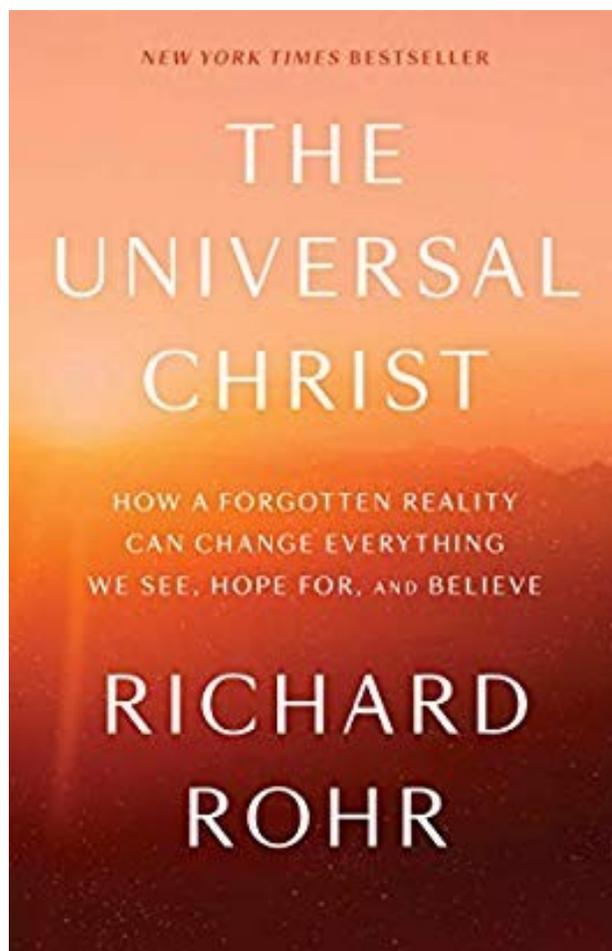


## What Is Pastor Chris Reading Right Now?

I have already begun to dig into what will be our 8-week book study on “The Universal Christ” by Richard Rohr. Richard Rohr, comes out of the contemplative tradition of Christianity, and is one of the world’s most influential spiritual thinkers. He calls his new book the capstone of all that he has believed and tried to teach throughout a lifetime of ministry. In the introduction of the book Richard Rohr already begins to challenge long held assumptions about who Christ is, and presents the idea that Christ is something much more expansive than the historical church has handed down to us.

We will begin meeting on **Tuesday September 3rd from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.**

If you were unable to sign-up, you may still purchase the book on your own and join us for any of the scheduled group sessions on Tuesday evenings.



## Who Will Be Offering The Gift of Music This Upcoming Month?

**Sep. 1st** - June, Cori & Tyler Dela Cruz and Bonnie & Richard Alger

**Sep. 8th** - Michael Russell & Michael Springer

**Sep. 15th** - Joanne Pocsidio

**Sep. 22nd** - Kosraean Church

**Sep. 29th** - Joanne Pocsidio

*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  |
| Maria Valido     | Margo Aguiar     |
| Sheldon Asejo    | Janet Lang       |
| Royal Solmerin   | Fillmore Lorenzo |
| Traveyion Taylor | Gabrielle Marlo  |

*Happy September Birthday to the following Friends and Members*



Striesand Galdones (1st)	Isaac Padilla (6th)
Nixon Jack (9th)	Manuel Dayoan (13th)
Rick Galdones (13th)	Keola Benjamin (18th)
Julian Davenport (27th)	Aida Queddeng (28th)

# Food & Fun

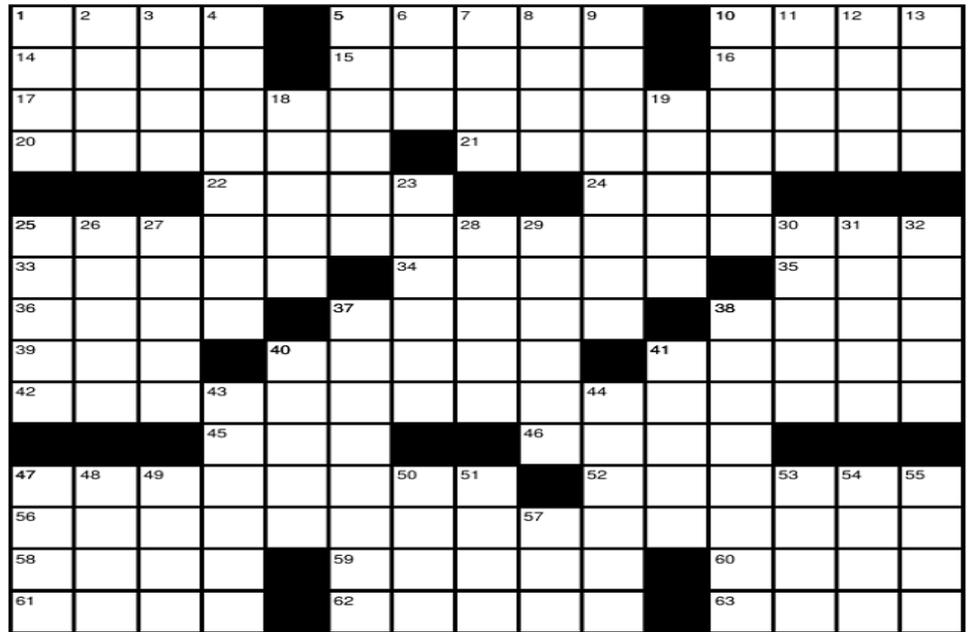
## Down the Drain

### ACROSS

1. Patron saint of lost causes
5. Political leader?
10. Recipe direction
14. "Movin' \_\_\_\_" ("The Jeffersons" theme song)
15. The Donald
16. Earned
17. FLUSH
20. Pooh-pooh
21. Reuben requirement
22. Laker forward Lamar
24. Time to buy a new calendar: abbr.
25. FLUSH
33. Put at stake
34. Vehicle for a rowed warrior?
35. Luke, to 18 down
36. Stopovers for the QE2
37. Shocking end to a police chase
38. "More info. on next page"
39. Cpl., for one
40. Is teary
41. Having wings
42. FLUSH
45. "\_\_\_\_ Spock" -- 1995 Nimoy autobiography
46. Ages
47. Teary
52. Spay
56. FLUSH
58. Allot
59. Poi parties
60. Leprechaun's land
61. Turning point
62. Biological bristles
63. Lilliputian's lack

### DOWN

1. Patron saint of soldiers (canonized in 1920)
2. Donald, to Huey, Dewey and Louie



© 2009

3. Airport shops may be free from it
4. "Star Trek" had 79
5. Remain employed
6. Scrap
7. One who waves from the wings
8. "One choice is to...."
9. Chose
10. Sully
11. One involves Two Cities
12. Inspiration
13. AARP part
18. Anakin, eventually
19. In need of a loss
23. Winner of the 2008 Republican primary
25. Famous name in Dallas
26. Da Gama on the ocean
27. Alaskan white house
28. Loosened
29. Diaper shirt
30. In brine, e.g.
31. Game involving only three cards
32. Record
37. Shackles
38. Snaps and zippers
40. Kind of letter or mail
41. It'll take your breath away
43. Songs to wake you in the mourning
44. Reason for rust, perhaps
47. Tibetan teacher
48. What is Mr. Trebek's first name?
49. 2008 bailout recipient, in brief
50. In unison, musically (literally "by two")
51. One bar to reaching the bar: abbr.
53. She played Lois on TV
54. Shakespeare's era: abbr.
55. Baseball's Sandberg
57. Sine \_\_\_\_ non

## Tofu Lasagna

from the kitchen of Utako Tao

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1/4 C butter                       | 1/2 t. salt                                |
| 3 cloves of garlic, finely chopped | 1 bottle (3C.) spaghetti sauce             |
| 1/8 t. pepper                      | 1C. Mashed tofu                            |
| 182 C. wheat germ                  | 2C. Grated mozzarella cheese               |
| 1/4 C. Parmesean cheese            | 1 pkg. lasagna noodles, cooked and drained |
| 1/4 C. chopped parsley             | 1/2 lb. fresh mushrooms                    |



Melt butter. Add mushrooms, garlic, salt and pepper and cook until mushrooms are tender. Stir in sauce and wheat germ. Heat thoroughly. Combine tofu and Parmesan cheese in a bowl. Combine mozzarella and parsley in another bowl. Place 1/3rd of the noodles on the bottom of a greased pan (7 1/2 x 11 3/4 inch pan) Spread half of tofu mixtue on top, then 1/3 of sauce and 1/3 of cheese. Repeat layering. Final layer will be lasagna, sauce and cheese. Bake at 350 degrees oven for 45 minutes.

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

**September 2019**

**Sunday Sep. 1st** - Give Aloha fundraiser begins! Shop at Foodland & Sack 'N Save.

**Sunday Sep. 1st** - Aloha Spirit Sunday! Put on the best outfit from your Hawaiian wardrobe and bring a friend this Sunday! Hawaiian Pot Luck following worship.

**Tuesday Sep. 3rd** - "The Universal Christ" book study begins at 6:00pm-7:30pm.

**Sunday Sep. 8th** - "Open Discussion Meeting" after worship to discuss visions and goals for the church's future.

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

**Sunday Sep. 15th** - Confirmation Classes begin 6:30pm-7:30pm.

**Sunday Sep. 22nd** - Volunteer Training after worship during coffee hour.

**Tuesday, Sept. 24th** - ICIA meeting at FUPC at 7:00pm

**Sunday Sep. 29th** - "Open Discussion Meeting" after worship to discuss visions and goals for the church's future.

**October 2019**

**Saturday Oct. 12th** - Church Visioning Retreat from 9:00am-4:00pm.

**Sunday Oct. 20th** - Church Council Meeting following worship at 11:30am.

**Sunday Oct. 27th** - Gifts for Christmas Fundraiser (shop for gifts in the narthex!)

**November 2019**

**Saturday Nov. 2nd** - Rev. Christopher's Installation at FUPC at 12:00pm.

**Sunday, Nov. 17th** - Church Council Meeting following worship at 11:30am.

**Sunday Nov. 24th** - Annual Congregation Meeting after worship. Our Annual Thanksgiving luncheon will follow the annual meeting.

**Tuesday Nov. 26th** - ICIA Community Thanksgiving Celebration & Concert at FUPC at 7:00pm

**December 2019**

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

**Sunday Dec. 22nd** - Christmas Party & Potluck After Worship.

**Tuesday Dec. 24th** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00pm.

# Worship Participation for 2019

## Greeters/Ushers

Sep. 1 Betty Nekoba & Gail Kagawa
Sep. 8 Shanel Simmons & Cori Dela Cruz
Sep. 15 Daveyion Simmons & Phoebe Wyatt
Sep. 22 Bobby Dale Skilling & Betty Nekoba
Sep. 29 Tyler Dela Cruz & Shanel Simmons

## Lay Readers

Sep. 1 Phoebe Wyatt
Sep. 8 Shannylen Dayoan
Sep. 15 Gail Kagawa
Sep. 22 Danny Dizon
Sep. 29 Betty Nekoba

## Acolyte

Sep. 1 Ben Wyatt
Sep. 8 Admiral Tumaneng
Sep. 15 Aiden Benjamin
Sep. 22 Sean Asher
Sep. 29 Cori Dela Cruz

## Coffee Hour

Sep. 1 Hawaiian Pot Luck
Sep. 8 Letti Agag & Royalyn Solmerin
Sep. 15 Volunteer needed
Sep. 22 Kosraean Fellowship/ & Pizza
Sep. 29 Jane McLean

## Communion Prep

Sep. 1 Jane McLean
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## Communion Servers

Royalyn Solmerin	Davyion Simmons
Joanne Pocsidio	Ben Wyatt

## Sunday School Teachers

Sep. 1 Fay Jack
Sep. 8 Akeera Czarnecki
Sep. 15 volunteer needed
Sep. 22 volunteer needed
Sep. 29 volunteer needed

## Gift of Music

Sep. 1 June, Cori & Tyler Dela Cruz and Bonnie & Richard Alger
Sep. 8 Michael Russell & Michael Springer
Sep. 15 Joanne Pocsidio
Sep. 22 Kosraean Church
Sep. 29 Joanne Pocsidio

## Special Events & Worship Services

Wear Your Hawaiian Best on September 1st for Aloha Spirit Day!

## Altar Decorations

Sep. 1 Decorate the altar in an Hawaiian Theme. Please bring Hawaiian fruits to decorate the altar.

Sep. 8 We invite people to bring clay jars or vases to place on the church altar for this worship service.

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. Thank you!

