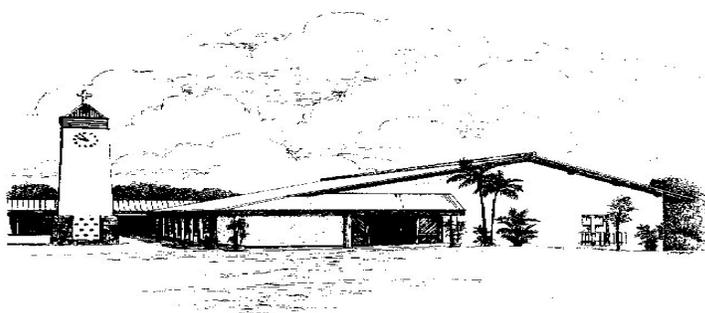


First United Protestant Church-UCC

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 Epiphany 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.

FEBRUARY 2017

FIRST NEWS – NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH, HILO, HI
FEBRUARY 2017

Sermon Themes for February

February 5, 2017

What Nourishes Your Spirit?

Luke 6.20-26

The ancient church had a practice they called “Examen”. It was a daily inventory in which the events, feelings, encounters, accomplishments and memories of the day would be looked at through the lens of a series of questions. It’s a way of discerning and listening for the voice of God through the rhythms and responsibilities of life so as to know ourselves better, and know God better. What nourishes your spirit?

Feb 12

Give Me Wisdom

Kings 2.10-12 3.3-14

If you made a list of qualities that defined a “Wise” person, what would you list look like? If you’ve made poor choices, or can’t seem to get on top of a problem that keeps dogging you, or always doubt if you’re making the right choice, there’s good news! God’s offer to us is found in James 1.5, “If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.” The story of Solomon’s wisdom granted by God is a real-life example of this promise.

Feb 19

Strength to Strength

Psalms 84

Have you ever tried to find God when God is nowhere to be found? Our journey through life sometimes takes us through dark, scary and difficult places. Hebrew pilgrims sang this song from Psalm 84 as they journeyed to Jerusalem, capturing a tiring trek through a dry desert. In the desert they found refreshing pools along the way that sustained them enough to keep going, from “strength to strength”. It’s a great image for people living with fear, doubt, and despair, seeking God’s help and wondering if they’ll survive.

Feb 26

Speak Truth to Power

Mark 6.14-29

Speak truth to power. It’s a phrase from the old Quaker meetings of another century. They felt a deep moral obligation to live their truth and to speak of it to those in power. Thus they were among the first citizens recognized for their opposition to violence and granted conscientious objector status. The violent murder of John the Baptist by King Herod was the result of John’s moral courage in challenging power at the risk of personal loss. It’s an old story but just as relevant as today’s headlines. What does this phrase mean to you?

March 1

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is March 1 and marks the beginning of the season of Lent in the Christian Church. Lent is a period of spiritual reflection and discipline marking the 40 weekdays (Monday thru Saturday) before Easter. We will have our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. on March 1 in the Sanctuary. The service will include scripture readings, hymns, a brief meditation by Pastor Ron and the imposition of ashes.

March 5 LENT 1

The Beginning of the End

Mark 14.1-26

The Pharisees and religious leaders want to find a “final solution” for the ‘Jesus Problem’ they live with. But it’s tricky because he’s popular and they can’t afford to alienate the people. At a dinner party, a woman with a ‘reputation’ enters and anoints him with oil. It is perhaps the incident that may help them finally get rid of him. Judas cooperates by offering to betray Jesus and money is involved. Knowing the end has been set in motion, Jesus instructs his disciples to prepare to celebrate the Passover together, knowing it will be the last time.

THINKING OUT LOUD.....

Last Sunday, after the service, one of our regular worshippers greeted me at the sanctuary entrance holding the bulletin and asked me if I noticed anything wrong with it. I looked and looked but it looked good to me. Then she put her finger on one word on the front of the bulletin where we list our church name, location, phone, etc. It said "First Untied Protestant Church".

Untied?? We laughed at the image of our church as an "Untied" church. Running free. Liberated. Flowing, Unchained. Are we United or are we Untied? I hope we're both!!

We need to be United, But we don't need to be Uniform. There's a Big Difference.

Where God's Spirit dwells... we are **United**. There is unity between people who have different tastes, languages, cultural backgrounds, personal preferences, educational levels, and life experiences. Despite our differences, we find unity in Christ by the grace of God. We may not agree on every decision, we may have differing opinions about many things. But ultimately, we are united in our common experience of God's unconditional acceptance and call to love the one who is hurting and alone.

Where God's Spirit dwells... there is also a sense of being **Untied** - and so many images come to mind when I think of that word. I think of Freedom... from that which binds us and imprisons...the addictions and aversions that control our choices. I think of Liberation from attitudes and habits that result in us living at a diminished level of joy and purpose. I think of a risk-taking openness to possibilities and opportunities that seem beyond our reach but that put us on the path of trying new things, exploring new directions, being open to the outrageous boldness of God's Spirit.

We are United! We are Untied! Both words fit. Each casts an important light on our life together.

Feeling Privileged to Minister in the First Untied Protestant Church,



Pastor Ron Kent

Did You Know...

- that we will begin the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday service on March 1st at 7:00pm in our Sanctuary? The service will include Scripture reading, hymns, time and reflection and prayer, and the imposition of ashes.
- that our newly elected Officers and Council Members were installed and received into their new positions in the worship service on Jan 15th? We are thankful and blessed to have these dedicated and creative individuals as part of our leadership team! Please look for a picture of them on the Council Korner page of this newsletter.
- that our next Congregational Meeting will be held on Feb. 12th after church services? Those attending the Meeting will receive our 2016 Annual Report.
- that our Sunday School room now has a new wall of cabinets for storage and a new whiteboard that will be a wonderful addition to the well-used room? Thank much to Kele Oda for heading up the installation work.
- that our Community Work Day will be held on February 11th from 9am to 12:00pm?
- that our Clock Tower will be repaired and painted and our Sanctuary and shed will be fumigated in the latter part of March?
- that a beautiful backlit stained glass portrayal of Jesus welcoming us to worship has been mounted on the Narthex wall leading into the Sanctuary? The stained glass image was donated to our church by Rev. Dee McNabb as she concluded her interim ministry with us years ago. Kele Oda created a light box for this beautiful piece and mounted it on the wall of our Narthex.
- that we are still collecting USED postage stamps for the Women's Board of Missions? Please drop any stamps you have been saving with Chris at the office.
- that we now have a Pastoral Search Committee progress chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex? Please check it out for current updates on the progress and hard work of this dedicated committee.
- that Kindermusik has returned to campus until May 13th every Wednesday and Saturday morning? For more information please contact Auntie Roni at 938-5406 or email her at musicfunhilo@gmail.com.
- that we were successful in 2016 in meeting our 5 for 5 goal in supporting Our Church's Wider Mission, Strengthen the Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund. Thank you to all of you who gave to these wonderful missions to a total of \$814.27.



*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!

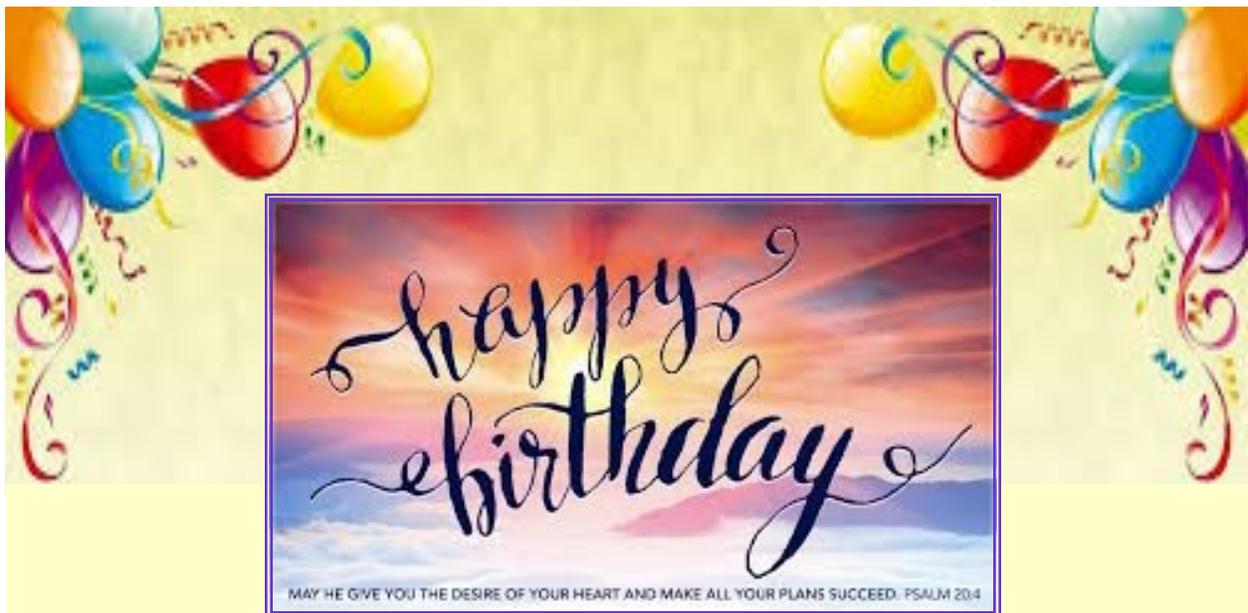


Please include the following people and situations in your prayers:

Sheldon Asejo
Song Soon Lee
Mike Gardner
Doris Toma
Michael Russell
Fay Jack
Lei Semana & Family
Aiden Benjamin

Agnes Perreira
Ray Stewart
Maria Valido & the Queja Family
Sofia Bumanglag Family
Mary Lee Roberts
Chris Semana
Royal Solmerin
Elsie Shrew Family

Happy February Birthday to the following Friends and Members



Kalehua Lee (3rd)

Edwin "JR" Pacris (8th)

Bob Ahia (9th)

Bill Stormont (11th)

Brian Padilla (13th)

Izaac Queha-Bidad (13th)

Admiral Tumaneng (17th)

Randal Payao (24th)

In Remembrance....

Sofia Bumanglag September 29, 1930 — January 13, 2017



On January 13, 2017 we lost one of our long standing and dedicated members, Sofia Bumanglag. She was a faithful Sunday School teacher, deacon and beloved sister in Christ from the day she arrived in Hilo with her husband and began attending First United Protestant Church in 1981. She taught the Ilocano Bible Class on Saturday nights and loved singing the familiar hymns of the faith. Her wisdom and devotion to God touched many people, young and old, through the years of her service at the church. She will be deeply missed. Our church Ohana sends their sympathies and prayers to the Lorenzo, Queja, Bumanglag, and Dela Cruz families.

Services will be held at Dodo Mortuary in Hilo on February 12, 2017. Visitation will be at 4:00pm with services to follow at 5:00pm. Pastor Ron will preside over the 5:00pm service.

Kosraean News

Kosrae Hilo Congregational Church Mourns the Loss of Elsie Shrew



When the pages of my life end, you BOTH will be one of its most beautiful chapters



Elsie Shrew, born on December 16, 1971 in Kosrae, Micronesia to Elmina Shrew and the late, Sephine Shrew. We find it so very hard to believe. We ask everyday is it a dream or real? She had so much life left to live. Nina Elmina, please know Elsie has been a source of inspiration, strength, and a reinforcement of faith. Elsie knew that, and was able to let Deaconess Tulpe go and take on a different role in her life. She was not her protector in a motherly way anymore, or just a sister, she became her best friend. She was an amazing, kind hearted person. She was genuine. She will always be remembered for her positive attitude, compassion, generosity and love for life. She was a perfect example to everyone she met of how to LIVE LIFE ♥ Elsie took her last breath surrounded by loved ones, her heartbeat stopped, her eyes slowly closed, GOD took another ANGEL HOME January 13, 2017. We will surely miss her presence and words of encouragement. We CLAIM ALWAYS a gentle wish for peace, comfort, courage and strength for Elsie's family to face this journey. God Bless You ALL. A Hui Hou and Malama Pono Elsie...

Pastu Nixon & Nipastu Fay

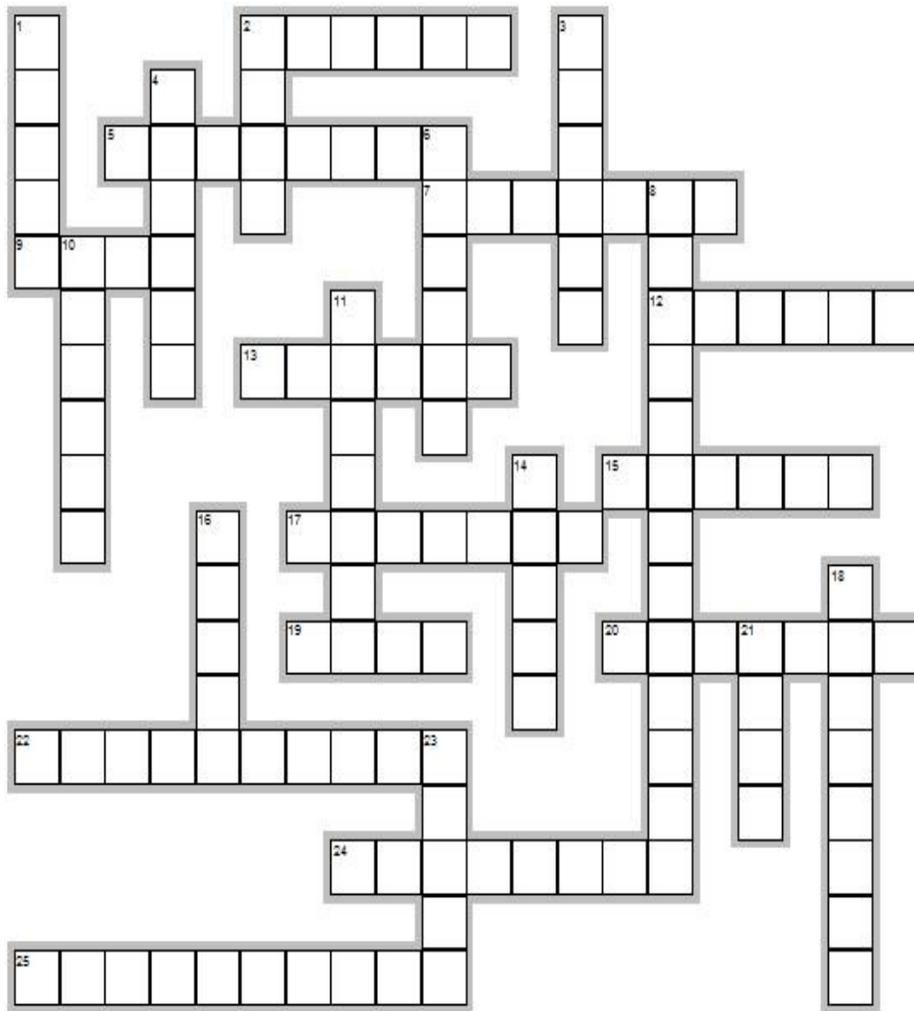
Out of the Mouth's of Babes...

On Sunday, Jan. 15th during our church service, we asked the children present to stay in the service and see what they might learn from Pastor Ron's sermon on the Temptation of Jesus. They usually leave for Sunday School, but on that day, they listened well and wrote on a 3x5 card something they learned, which they then gave to Pastor who was very interested to know what they would come up with. Here's some of their comments:

- "I learned there is a gospel writer who writes his version of sermons." (referring to Mark's version of the temptation of Jesus that was different from Matthew and Luke's version)
- "I learned that your temptations are like wild beasts that can hurt others."
- "Today I learned that if you're going camping, make sure you don't have food in your tent or the bears could eat you for dinner"
- "I learned that you have the capacity of hurting people with your language and actions"
- "God can help us with our temptations"
- "We all have a beast within us"
- "Jesus took the hard way out"



Activity Page



ACROSS

2. City Paul visited that had an idol to the 'unknown god'
5. Where Paul was headed when struck by the bright light
7. The congregation in this city was made sorrowful by one of Paul's letters
9. Paul's first name before he converted to Christianity
12. Sorcerer struck by blindness at Paul's command
13. Paul stopped the Philippian ____ from killing himself.
15. Paul's hometown
17. Paul, before conversion, attended the stoning of this man
19. Paul was here when he was warned not to go to Jerusalem
20. Man who place his hands on Paul's eyes
22. Paul found 12 disciples in Ephesus who had not heard of the ____.
24. He presented Paul to the disciples the first time
25. Event that loosened Paul and Silas's prison chains

DOWN

1. Paul left him in Crete to straighten out what was unfinished
2. What man did Paul say was the pattern of one to come?
3. Centurion who took Paul as a prisoner to Rome
4. Roman ruler who refused to hear the complaint of Jewish leaders against Paul
6. What fell from Paul's eyes when his vision was restored
8. Paul called this group his "glory and joy."
10. Paul was accompanied by Priscilla and this person from Corinth to Syria
11. Believer who was circumcised by Paul
14. This Roman ruler sent for Paul so that he could hear about Paul's faith in Christ
16. The voice Paul heard in his vision came from ____.
18. After Paul's sight was restored, he was ____.
21. Paul's conversion is told in this chapter of Acts
23. Number of days Paul was blind after seeing the vision

From the kitchen of Robert Ahia

CHILI FOR 200

36 lbs. Ground Beef	16 lbs. Kidney Beans
15 lbs. Crushed Tomato	6 lbs. Tomato Paste
4 lbs. Round Onion (diced)	1/2 C. Garlic (minced)
Salt, Pepper & Chili Powder to "your taste"	



Brown beef, garlic and onions together. Add other ingredients. Bring to bubbling and simmer until you're finished singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" or whatever hymn of your choice. Add chili powder, salt and black pepper to your taste; add water to desired consistency to feed the number of marching soldiers. Bob says chili tastes better without water, but whatever....continue to simmer on low, stir occasionally until ready to serve over hot rice, or spaghetti as they do in Green Bay Wisconsin and nearby areas.

* All recipes from FUPC 1998 Cookbook
"Heirlooms From Our Church Family"



COUNCIL KORNER

"BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS BECAUSE IT IS IN THEM THAT YOUR STRENGTH LIES"

Mother Teresa

The FUPC Council meets every fourth Sunday of the month. We 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

First United Protestant Church Council Members for 2017



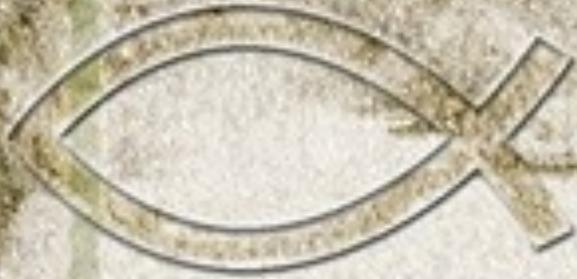
Pictured from top left: Gywnn Sosa Missions, Rev. Ron Kent, Fay Jack Vice Moderator, Ray Stewart Treasurer and Portfolio Manager, Kirizha Tumaneng Assistant Treasurer, Gail Kagawa Member at Large, Betty Nekoba Clerk. Bottom left: Leticia Agag Member at Large, Roy Solmerin Member at Large, Debbie Sasan Moderator, Sylvia Volkmar Hammar Member at Large and Pastoral Relations. Not pictured: Karena Asejo Christian Education, Bob Ahia Christian Service (Hospitality) and Jane McLean Worship.

- We are starting something fresh this year.....**A WISH LIST**.....If you happen to have these items lying around your house the church could really use:
 1. Dish Towels
 2. Disposable Table Cloths
 3. A Dish Tray
- Come join us every **second Saturday** of the month for Congregation workday. Bring the family, a friend and if possible a refreshment to share. Next workday will be **Feb. 11, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Thank you to those who were able to attend church workday on Sat. Jan. 14th.
- Thank you to everyone who continue to bless us with their gift of music and dance, serving as ushers/greeters, Liturgist, communion prep and servers, bringing beautiful flowers to our sanctuary and hosting our delicious coffee hours. **You are greatly appreciated.** If you feel God's spirit moving you to be a part of worship on Sundays, we continue to look for individuals to serve. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board nearest the office. **Feel free to partner up with others for coffee hour or find someone to serve alongside you as an usher/greeter.**
- The FUPC Pastoral Search Committee are narrowing down their choices for a new Pastor. Look for updates on the Narthex bulletin board.

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: debbiefupc@gmail.com

God Bless You,

Debbie Sasan
Moderator



SERVANT LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION

FEBRUARY 2017

USHERS/GREETERS

Betty Nekoba & Bobby Dale Skilling

COMMUNION PREP

Jeremy Agag

LITURGISTS/LAY READERS

February 5 *Kristel Tumaneng*
February 12 *Betty Nekoba*
February 19 *Royalyn Solmerin*
February 26 *Danny Dizon*

COMMUNION SERVERS

Kristel, Krizha, Shannylen & Drenzen

COFFEE HOUR

February 5 *Tumaneng Family*
February 12 *June Dela Cruz*
February 19 *Jane McLean*
February 26 *Kosraean Fellowship*

ACOLYTE

Ben Wyatt