



Na Olelo Maika'i

"The Good News"

West Kauai United Methodist Church Newsletter



Pastora's Message

As we near the end of a challenging, yet grace-filled 2024, I have been reflecting on many things I am thankful for. One of the things that pops up continually in my mind these days is kindness, Godliness, and faithfulness, that my West Kauai UMC Families have shown to Me and my family for over a year now. To be honest, the thought of it brings me tears of joy. I love West Kauai UMC, I love it!

I believe we are God's primary tool to form and mature followers of Jesus Christ, empowering us to penetrate a dark world with hope and light of the Gospel. West Kauai UMC, when nurtured and cared for, is to be cherished and committed to, through good and bad, thick and thin. Our church is beautiful. It is truly beautiful. And God has used us in magnificent ways for his glory over the course of 2024.

Jesus spoke the truth when he said in John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

I know we have fallen short, we are not perfect. But this is why we as disciples of Christ rejoice in the Gospel of grace. This is why we trust in our savior, Jesus, who is not like us...He is the perfect One. While not one of us knows what 2025 will hold, we do know who holds 2025. And because of this, may we trust our good, gracious, sovereign Lord in all things.

Thank you, West Kauai UMC, thank you!

Sincerely,
Pastora



Two Committees Meet

On September 18, a zoom meeting was held with the Board of Trustees and Worship committees to discuss the possibility of worshipping in the Kekaha sanctuary. Pastora reported on an assessment that was done by Edwin Cadavona, architect and lifelong member of WKUMC. His report prompted several steps to be taken first before consideration of worshipping in the sanctuary. There were some findings that needed to go back to the Board of Trustees for discussion and further follow-up. Thank you to Ed for his generous time and to our congregation for their patience and understanding.

Pastora Reappointed

Word has been received from the annual conference that our minister, Monalisa "Lupi" Halapua has been reappointed to serve as Pastor from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. We are ecstatic that she will serve WKUMC and blessed to have her continue her ministry with us. Thank you, God for watching over us.



A Brush fire and a Miracle

By Pat Pablo



On Monday, July 15, 2024, a brush fire raged through 1100 acres in the fields from Hanapepe and heading west to Kaumakani. The WKUMC sanctuary was in its path. The multi-agency command positioned a fire truck between the fire and the church. The smoke was billowing, and the heat was threatening the highway. The roads were closed between Hanapepe and Kaumakani. No one could see or go near the church. An evacuation notice was issued for the safety of the residents of Kaumakani Village and Avenue. Telephone messages and Facebook posts expressed sympathy for our “burned down church, burned down pastry shop and loss of two homes.” There was no way to confirm the news, and many felt anxious, scared and worried.

Ester Lopez, an evacuee, took a carry-on bag with underwear and used clothing and she and Leon went to the parsonage in Kekaha. After receiving news of burnt structures through social media, she remembers having a panic attack and not being able to breathe, worried about her home. Ester’s granddaughter called her and said she has a firefighter friend who told her no structures were burnt down. Ester and Leon stayed the night with Charlita. At some point, from physical evidence, the fire stopped advancing towards the church but crossed the highway and burnt more fields heading towards the ocean. The fire eventually became contained. The roads reopened at 2:55 am the next morning.

Pastora Lupi went to check the church and found some state workers dousing hot spots and flareups with water. The church was intact and standing! Thank you, God, for saving our church! After hearing the rumors, Glenda and Reynold Miyazaki with their grandsons, went to check on damages to the church. She noticed the church and hall were unscathed, which was a relief as the church has been a steadfast foundation in our lives.

“The cross made by my father, Placido Valenciano, was still intact and stood as a symbol of the faith of our fathers,” she said. They came upon a group of men walking in the field who was a TV crew from Channel KHON. They interviewed Glenda for the news attesting to the miracle of the church saved from the fire.

Mel (Marilyn Valenciano) Billingsley, shared that although she attends Harris United Methodist Church on Oahu, she is still a full member of WKUMC. When the news broke of the fires in the Kaumakani area, many of her Harris friends called to ask how family members, church friends and the status of the church were. They have been praying for WKUMC as far back as Iniki days when there was so much loss. When they learned that the church was still standing, everyone praised the Lord!

Randal Valenciano and long-time friend, Clyde Nakaya, power washed the church and hall to give it a fresh look after the debris and smell from the fire spread onto the buildings. Great job! Ryan and Kathy Baniaga bought and hung a banner by the roadside. It expressed our heartfelt appreciation and thankfulness to all the first responders and partners who worked tirelessly to save the church and the Kaumakani community! We are forever grateful! Thank you, God, for the miracle!



Methodist Vine



A Generous Gift

A riding lawnmower was given by Doug and Carolyn Helenbrook of Forth Worth Texas from a “veteran helping another veteran” when he saw our members mow the field with a hand mower. Thank you, kind friends. The Hellenbrooks are Kathy Baniaga’s parents. The lawn mower was dedicated to the glory of God surrounded by the congregation.



Team Rubicon Workday

The Kaumakani property was cleaned by Team Rubicon made up of active and retired military personnel who make up a Disaster Response Team. The group spent part of their volunteer hours removing debris and cutting down the overgrowth around the church grounds. Ryan Baniaga coordinated the group and worked alongside the team. Thank you, Team Rubicon for providing the man and woman power to make our church grounds look better.

Praying Pelican Group

A group of young students out of high school spent time at WKUMC and the Episcopal church to assist with maintenance projects. Tim Delavega coordinated the activities for our church. The youth cleaned the brush under the church building, painted designated areas, sanded some pews among other projects. The church women provided lunch and snacks for a deserving group who spent part of their vacation time volunteering at the churches in the neighborhood. We appreciated their dedication!



Fall Rummage Sale

The goals were met! Outreach to the fieldworkers and immigrant teachers from the Philippines was accomplished. The community responded to the church and the church helped the community in return. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the event.

Family Fun Day

WKUMC participated in the July 4th celebration at Kekaha Neighborhood Center. We sold our scrumptious malasadas and everyone's favorite, hot dogs. They loved our food. The organizers purchased our leftover hot dogs and took them to the kupuna in the senior housing. It was a win-win! This fundraiser went well and all who participated had a chance to experience a patriotic community event!



Food Distribution Count Increases

In July 2024, the number of bags prepared for distribution increased from 80 to 100. The increase allows the volunteers to receive a complimentary bag and for some Kekaha residents who are part of our WKUMC membership to also receive one. Thank you to Kauai Independent Food Bank for providing the items. The recipients are grateful and blessed.



Church Donations

- Ester Lopez and Leon Hammond donated a brass candle lighter and candlesticks in memory of Nancy Fuertes Ueno. It enhances our worship service.
- A donation of \$500 was designated in her will by Auntie Fely Salonsen for the parsonage roof repair.
- A donation of \$1000 was given by Ester Lopez in memory of Mrs. Fely Salonsen for the parsonage and Kekaha church roof repairs.
- WKUMC appreciates the generous gifts and asks for blessings upon the donors.



Condolences

Deepest Sympathy
 To the families of:
 Nancy Fuertes Ueno
 John Moore, Sr.
 Susana Runes Bulatao
 Cory Ellisor and to
 Pastora's many relatives



Dates to Remember

- October 2024: Pastor Appreciation Month
- October 12, 2024: Octoberfest Fundraiser in Kekaha
- October 13, 2024: Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- November 24, 2024: Thanksgiving Sunday with Table of Plenty
- December 24, 2024: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25, 2024: Christmas Day
- January 1, 2025: New Year's Day
- January 2025: Charge Conference



(See Matthew 14:14-21) 11-24-19
 HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES AND 2 TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK FOR THE 5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE INVITED???

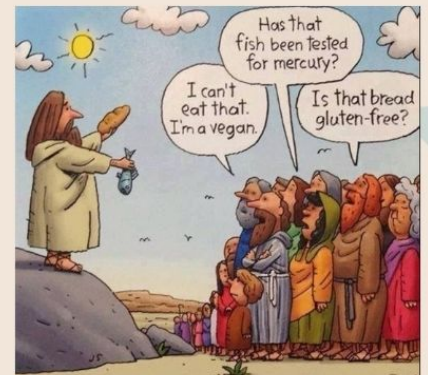
Thanksgiving Day

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
 Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



- COLONY
- CORNUCOPIA
- CRANBERRIES
- FALL
- FAMILY
- FEAST
- GOBBLE
- GRATITUDE
- GRAVY
- HARVEST
- HOLIDAY
- MAIZE
- MAYFLOWER
- MILES STANDISH
- NEW WORLD
- NOVEMBER
- PILGRIMS
- PLYMOUTH
- PUMPKIN PIE
- PURITANS
- SQUASH
- STUFFING
- THANKSGIVING
- THURSDAY
- TURKEY
- WAMPANOAG
- YAMS



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