

Mele Kalikimaka!

Na Olelo Maika'i

"The Good News"

West Kauai United Methodist Church Newsletter



Pastora's Message

By Lupi Halapua

Ending one year and preparing for the next year with purpose takes thought and prayer. "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12). Another year will soon be over. Changing the 2024 calendar reminds us of how fast time moves. For some, there's a sign of relief that the long year is finally over. Others might feel sadness for the end of a great year. Reviewing the past year provides personal growth and perspective. 2024 was a year of major change for us, seeking God for the next season of our lives. My word for 2024 was "TRUST."

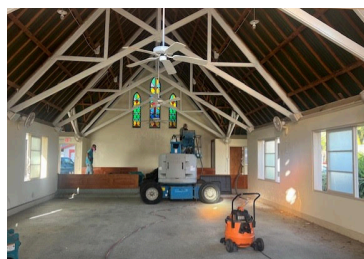
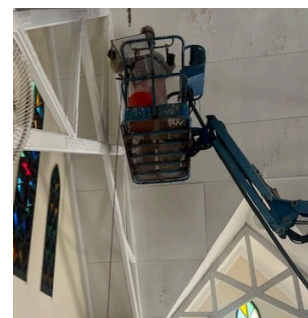
Going through my ministry for this year, I see how God presented new situations for me to deepen my trust in him. "But one thing I do, forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me, heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14) Apostle Paul gives us some wisdom for the transition from one year to another, from one season of life to another.

I would like to share my gratitude, my love and my prayer with my West Kauai UMC families. God has done, is doing and will continue to do great things in this congregation. Here in West Kauai UMC, we have awesome amazing leaders. From my Lay leader, to the administration and all the wonderful committee members. Also, those who work behind the scenes to make our worship go smoothly. To our many volunteers, from fundraising to community outreach.

Whatever you do in this church, it does not go unnoticed, and even though you may not get much recognition, "God sees everything you do!" Though I may not tell you enough, I am grateful and appreciate, and love you! A New decade is on the horizon. God is faithful and sovereign, no matter what occurs in the future, "let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23) Finally, I want to encourage you to embrace a fresh start in Jesus Christ. Focus on the future, knowing God will guide you as He has in the past. I pray that you will walk with God, for the rest of this year and into the next year, believing He will do great things for us all the West Kauai UMC. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Beloved Kekaha Sanctuary

The work has begun...



Hope and Joy to follow!





REFLECTIONS

by Romeng Tumbaga Peake

Happiness is having different views of New York City from across the Hudson River in Long Island City New York from our terrace...turbulent clouds, glorious sunsets and sometimes even "snowflake" clouds and on a clear day, you can see Manhattan! I'm so far away from my island home in Kekaha, Kauai. I think of how far I've traveled...from my birthplace in Sinait, Ilocos Sur, Philippines; growing up in Mana, "God's little acre on Kauai, whereas a young tomboy, I used to climb up our mango tree to dream my dreams. "Someday, I will go beyond these sugar cane fields and never come back," I thought. Then we moved to Kekaha in the summer of 1957, where I was a senior at Waimea High School. I often walked to Kekaha Beach and looked out at the Pacific Ocean and thought, "Someday, I'm going to cross this ocean and never come back!" I wanted so much to travel to see the world beyond the islands. I graduated with the Waimea High School Class of 1958, and finally my dreams were coming to fruition. I was off to Evanston, Illinois to attend Kendall Junior College where I worked my way for two years. After graduation, I met a family, and I became their live-in Nanny for two toddler boys, Eric and Andrew. When the family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, they took me with them.

Fast forward a bit...I broke my mother's rule not to talk to strangers and that's how I met my husband, Robert. We eventually got married. We later had two sons, Derek and Carlyle. We lived in Roseville, Minnesota, then to Chicago, Illinois, Washington, D.C., Bethesda, Maryland, then to White Plains, New York. My sons graduated from Harvard and Princeton Universities. My husband finished his "dash" (journey) through life in January 1999 and a year later, my father, Daniel passed away too. Early 2022, I decided to "retire" from my position as Director of Finance for Family & Community Services, a multi-faceted social service agency in Eastchester, New York, after twenty plus years of service and found my way back home to Kekaha to be with my widowed Mother. I became her day-to-day caregiver for over 13 years. It wasn't always easy, but I was privileged to watch Mama grow old gracefully. My siblings were also around to help and gave me time to travel to see my sons on the mainland and other places as well. Mama passed away peacefully at home at over 101 years old in August 2013. My life has once again altered. I travel more as much as my budget allows...and now summer of 2024, here I am being a resident grandma for part of the year for two wonderful grandchildren, Sydney (7) and Tristan (5). I've been doing this for over seven years and to say that I'm blessed is an understatement and I am truly grateful. TALMAD (Touch a life, make a difference) and remember to be KIND.

Staff Parish Relation Committee

On November 17, the SPRC provided lunch for the membership to support Unity Sunday. The congregation is now worshipping only at the Kaumakani sanctuary as repairs are in progress on the Kekaha sanctuary. Rey Guirao sang "In his Time" during the worship service which was inspirational.

Chief cook, Anthony Vea and his assistant Roland Pablo of the SPRC cooked a delicious hekka lunch that was enjoyed by all. There was enough food to share with recipients of the Mangan Tayon program so deliveries were made. The day ended with a fun Bingo game.



Our Quiet Disciple

Pris Badua is the choice for our "Quiet Disciple" for this newsletter. She has been providing beautiful music for WKUMC for over 50 years sitting behind the piano or organ. Pris collaborates with the pastors on the liturgical calendar to choose the hymns appropriate for the service making the worship experience a spiritual one. Some of the other musicians she has played or exchanged duties with were Mrs. Afalla, Pastor Brookings, Mr. B (Jose Bulatao, Jr.), Bill Ellacott, Laura and Dennis Haack, Cal Ellisor and Mrs. Valentin. Thank you, Pris for sharing your talents and being an inspiration to us all. You are very much appreciated.



United Women in Faith & First Responders

On October 28, 2024, National First Responder's Day, the WKUMC unit of United Women in Faith (UWF) provided lunch to celebrate and honor first responders on the westside. Becky Komaki was the chef for this event and the women helped to get the food ready for delivery. Teams of 2 delivered a lunch of roast duck, prime rib, loaded mashed potatoes, lup cheong fried rice, and bread pudding to the Kalaheo, Hanapepe and Waimea Fire stations. The same menu bento lunches were provided for the AMR (ambulance) staff and the Waimea Police Station staff. A pan of delicious bread pudding was delivered to the Kauai Fire Department headquarters in Lihue. In a letter by President Marisa Valenciano to the individual stations, "As a first responder we recognize the reach you have towards helping women and children in our community." The responders were surprised and appreciative of this random act of kindness. The women and two helpful men (Rey and Tim) enjoyed participating in this annual project. WELL DONE, UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH!



Projects with Kaunalewa

The Kekaha Preservation Committee was awarded a \$25,000 grant. Our obligation is to assist with a monthly community project for 25 months. Coordinator, Adela and her committee work with Anna Baudouin of Kaunalewa under the leadership of MayRose Munar to plan what activities the congregation will do. The first was a beach and McArthur Park clean-up. That was a productive and successful event followed by breakfast and lunch "under the tent." November's activity was to clean up a nursery at the Cortiva Seed Company. Everyone's participation has been awesome!



Kekaha BOT

2024 has surely been a very crazy and busy year for the Kekaha Board of Trustees. From the everyday management of the property and buildings to all the much-needed work that still needs to happen in Kekaha. Repairs to the sanctuary ceiling and roof have finally started. We ask God for his continued guidance as we move forward into 2025. We are very grateful for everyone's support and for the opportunity to continue God's work here in West Kauai. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God created beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10



Blessings to all,
John Langaman

Methodist Vine





Joy to the World



Editor's note: Labor of Love

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



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| ADVENT | INFANT | MYRRH |
| ANGEL | JESUS | NATIVITY |
| BETHLEHEM | JOSEPH | REJOICE |
| BIRTH | MAGI | STABLE |
| BLESSINGS | MANGER | STAR |
| CAMELS | MARY | THREE KINGS |
| FRANKINCENSE | MIRACLE | WISE MEN |



“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.” Col 3:2
 The newsletter as an Outreach venue is celebrating its 11th BD this year. This equates to 44 issues! Thanks to Pastors, contributors, Charlene Dorsey, Mr. B (Jose Bulatao, Jr.), Lyndon, Mele, Tracy and Don, we’ve been able to share the life of WKUMC with everyone. Grateful always,
 Pat Pablo

Many Thanks!

Mahalo to Phil and ServiceMaster company. WKUMC got together for a coffee time to thank Phil and his crew for working so diligently on the ceiling and roof of the Kekaha Sanctuary. He shared information on his findings and offered suggestions for repair. We are grateful for his excellent work and lasting friendship!



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