

Kōloa Union Church

Hawaiian Identity • Island Hospitality

JULY 2019

A NOTE FROM KAHU AKANA

Sabbatical, `Aha Pae`aina, ONA

Dear Members and Friends of Kōloa Union Church:

On June 9 I returned to church after a 3-month sabbatical in southern Europe to a warm welcome and a grand celebration of our church becoming an official “Open & Affirming” congregation of the United Church of Christ! It was a wonderful sabbatical in so many ways. I stayed in a beautiful house built in 1649 in a small commune about an hour’s drive east of Bordeaux—one of France’s most popular wine regions. From there I explored the southwestern part of the country known as Aquitaine, as well as trips to Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Italy. My theme was “Beauty, Art & Spirituality.” I prayerfully reflected on this theme everyday, wrote about it in my journal most days, took many pictures, and saw some of the most beautiful art in the world. About two weeks before I returned home, I wrote a book and entitled it after the theme of my sabbatical. The book is dedicated “to the people of Kōloa Union Church, for they appreciate beauty, art and spirituality, and they affirm me in my wild and relentless pursuit of these things....” I am deeply grateful for the affirmation and encouragement I have always felt as your *kahu!* By the way, there is a copy of the book at church for people to read and enjoy the many photographs. It is also available for sale at Alan Akana Gallery, and will be available very soon on the gallery website.

June 6-8 was spent in Honolulu where I attended the `Aha Pae`aina—the statewide gathering of clergy and lay leaders of the United

Church of Christ. The highlight for me was the election of the Rev. Dr. David Kentner Popham as our new Conference Minister, who will begin his service on September 15. *He will spend his first day of work at **Koloa Union Church**, serving as our guest preacher!* In his new role, he will serve all of the United Church of Christ congregations in Hawai`i.

Our Open & Affirming (ONA) celebration on June 9 was a great success. We read together our ONA covenant in church; the two Pennys (Pennies?) decorated the church and Moore Hall with rainbows everywhere; we had new people in church who read about our ONA status in the Garden Island Newspaper; Rose and Shellee both danced; and the music, as always, was beautiful! We also announced an opportunity for Koloa Union Church to be involved in Kauai’s first Pride Parade and Festival. We ended up having a lot of people walk in the parade and volunteer at our booth during the festival. We have had new people in church every week since then who have told us they saw us in the parade, talked to some of us at the festival, or read about us in the newspaper. Since becoming ONA, I am more convinced than ever that people are really hungry for a church with our message: “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here!”

Aloha nui loa!
Kahu Alan Akana





The gang's all here! (Missing: photographer Chris Sweitzer)

PENTECOST SUNDAY 2019

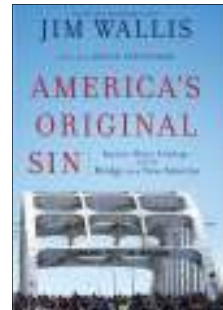
Got an updated, rainbow themed, group photo after church. It was a very special day celebrating Kahu's return, Open & Affirming Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, Strengthen the Church Sunday. Congratulations to all of you who so generously support "special mission offerings" approved by you. We are in a select group of churches who support "5 for 5" meaning we sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the US and around the world. Also, Koloa Union is one of the most generous supporters per capita.



SUMMER BOOK CLUB

This summer's group will meet from July 17 to August 28. Join us as we read *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America*, written by Jim Wallis.

Kahu will once again host the group on Wednesday evenings, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Smith Memorial Parsonage, beginning with dinner. Please sign up at church so that Kahu knows how many to expect or if you help with dinner. Copies of the book will be available at church for \$14 or Kindle versions are available on Amazon for \$7.87.



USHERS

JULY

Christine Kube
Michael Horning

AUGUST

Doug Duvauchelle
Graceleanor Baird

ALOHA HOUR

- July 07—Giovanni Strong Osuga
- July 14—Odo Osuga Dunas
- July 21—Ito Rebb Shim
- July 28—Smythe Foley McCoubrey
- August 4—Sakimae Kakinami Gunning Mares
- August 11—Ramos Baptiste Stoner
- August 18—Giovanni Osuga Strong
- August 25—Odo Osuga Dunas

LAYREADERS

- July 7—Michael Horning
- July 14—Graceleanor Baird
- July 21—Kei Osuga
- July 28—Michael Horning
- August 4—Shyrl Matias
- August 11—Doug Duvauchelle
- August 18—Suzanne Pearson
- August 25—Jean Odo
- September 1—Rosemary Smythe
- September 8—Karen Johnson

Prayers for comfort and strength for immigrants and refugees, and victims of natural disasters and victims of bullying; prayers of comfort and healing for Glenn Gunning, Betty Mcleod, Steve Sparks, Mamie Powelson, Karl Bartels, Tara Foley, Larry Chaffin, Gary Struwe, Lizzie Macaninch, Mark Schory, Skip Hance, Bobbie Bulatao-Franklin, Rowan, Rochelle and John Lorenzo, David Vitt, Francisca Padua, Jose Bulatao, Ella Batalucco, Steven, Brenda, Jo Duvauchelle, Tamiko Asahi, Tiff & Kimo Marrotte; prayers of comfort and peace for the families of Duane Verschoof, Rick Sparks and Ted Asahi; prayers of comfort for Betty Kataoka, Shyrl's daughter Margo and Miyeko Yamane.



`Aha Pae`aina Reflections and Highlights From Our Delegates June 7-8, 2019

Whenever you get to spend a prayer-filled weekend with a great pastor like Kahu, Rev. Dr. Alan Akana, the experience can only be good. Shellee and I were privileged to represent Koloa Union Church as more than 200 pastors, delegates, and representatives gathered at a large, old, venerable church on Oahu, Kaumakapili Church, on June 6th and 7th for workshops and prayer. The following are some of the highlights:

Next year, the Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Congregational missionaries in Hawai`i at the Waimea UCC on Kaua`i. It is one of the oldest UCC churches in the state and was thus selected for this important anniversary. Members of Koloa Union Church may want to offer a room, if available, to the many from off-island who will be attending next June. It would be a great way to participate in this memorable event.

The gathering was gifted with inspiring speakers from the East Coast who presented results of a long study of churches throughout the nation in an effort to learn why some churches were healthy and growing and other churches were shrinking and closing. What they learned was that congregations which focused on “doing things the way we always do” as they focused on structure, behavior and process were churches that were not doing well. Those that focused on reaching out to their community, sharing information, focusing on their identity and building relationships were the churches that were thriving and growing. As we listened, we felt proud of our church because our Kahu, Council, and Deacons have definitely been following these practices.

While a much debated bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour failed at the legislature this past year, our pastors and delegates unanimously voted to pass a resolution that the UCC Churches of Hawaii promote and implement within their churches a \$15/hour minimum wage. As expressed in the resolution, voting members saw this as an opportunity to not just talk the talk but walk the walk. The hope is that we can set an example the State will want to follow. All agreed that \$15/hour does not even provide a living wage in Hawaii. For Hawaii’s families, however, it may be the difference between needing to have three jobs and having two jobs suffice.

The biggest focus of the conference was the election of the new Conference Minister. Many of us had the pleasure of meeting the candidate unanimously chosen by the Hawai`i Conference search committee, Rev. Dr. David Kentner Popham, when he spoke to a gathering of the Kauai Association in Lihue on June 3. His nomination for the position was complicated by his sexuality. Although openly gay, Rev. Dr. Popham has been faithfully married to his wife Kerrie for 41 years in a “mixed orientation” marriage. He explained that, after joint counseling with his wife, they decided to remain married and publicly revealed his sexuality. Rev. Dr. Popham answered some very tough questions on Kauai and was grilled even more so at the `Aha Pae`aina. He was humble, loving and open. I couldn’t help think of our Lord on the cross as I watched what he was subjected to. After all the questioning and speakers pro and con, 103 votes were cast in favor of his confirmation, with only 32 opposed. We were all very impressed with his demeanor, gentle and loving nature, and feel he will be an excellent spiritual leader for the Hawai`i Conference.

Thank you for allowing Shellee and me to represent the congregation in Honolulu!
Bridget Hammerquist
Shellee Riggio



A Note from Our Stewardship Chair

As the newly elected Chair of the Stewardship Team, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your commitment & support of Koloa Union Church! Most of us have really stepped up to the plate to complete our capital campaign pledges this past year, and what a difference we have made in making our church building and grounds so welcoming and inviting! Many of us have been fulfilling our pledges to the monthly budget on time as well. However, upon Kahu's return from his sabbatical, the Church Council was looking at an estimated \$12,000 shortfall in our budget (actual income vs. expenses) by the end of July. The Council discussed this via email during June and at its meeting on June 30 to consider both reasons and options for the shortfall. It seems that the deficit is attributed to three things: Kahu being absent for three months, the usual "summer slump" in giving that we (like most churches) face every year in June, and some unusual expenses. These three things happening at the same time have caused us to face a deficit larger than normal this time of the year. In order to pay salaries on June 30 and our bills on time, the Council voted to borrow \$12,000 from our "permanent funds," to be paid back as soon as possible and definitely by the end of the year. On behalf of the Council, I am making two requests. First of all, for those who are behind in giving to your pledge, we ask that you catch up as soon as you are able. Secondly, please consider making an additional gift or pay ahead on your pledge if you are able. Kahu, as usual, is setting an example and has made a "lead gift" of \$1,200 (10% of the need), as an expression of gratitude to the church, in order to address the deficit & restore the borrowed amount to the permanent funds. Let's make it our goal to replace the full \$12,000 by the end of July. If you have any question, please don't hesitate in contacting Kahu, Penny or me.

Sincerely,
Bill Dressel



Open & Affirming Report

Aloha! What a wonderful month June has been! Kahu returned to church on June 9th to celebrate our "Open and Affirming" (ONA) status and launch our efforts to assure that everyone knows: No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! What an amazing celebration that was! Thank you to Penny and Penny for decorating the church and Moore Hall; to Rose and Shellee for amazing dances; to Kathleen and Doug for great music; and to the ONA team for planning and implementing the details of the worship service and Aloha Hour! It has been an honor working with such a dedicated team: Kahu, Lee Anderson, Tiffany Marrotte, Penny Osuga, and Becky Sakimae.

The Open and Affirming Team invited the church to participate in Kaua'i's first Pride Parade and Festival: we had a great turnout of support from our members and friends! I want to especially thank Lee for decorating the table at the festival and for hanging out there for the entire day, and Maureen Nuccio-Hiraga for driving Kahu in her decorated red convertible Mini-Cooper! Along with three times being in the Garden Island Newspaper, our presence at Pride has brought new attendees to our church every week since June 9.

I am so proud to be a member of this congregation. When I walked through the doors just under two years ago I had no idea what a beautiful ohana I would find! Thank you all for accepting me and everyone else into the family!

Michael Lee Horning
Open and Affirming Chair



COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, July 21, at noon after Aloha Hour in Kahu's office.

**KOLOA PLANTATION DAYS OPEN HOUSE AT THE PARSONAGE**

Koloa Union Church To Host Reception "Plantation-Style Living: An Afternoon of Art, Stories & Refreshment" Monday, July 22, 4-6 p.m. (Lecture at 4:30 by Kahu Akana).

Please sign up to help with this special outreach to the community. We want people to volunteer to greet, give tours of the parsonage, oversee the refreshment table, and more. Most volunteers are requested to arrive between 3 and 3:30 p.m. Guests will tour the beautiful house and learn about the history of the early missionary doctors in Koloa who once lived on the property and how the arrival of Dr. James and Melicent Smith in 1842 shaped the history of Koloa. At 4:30 p.m. Kahu Akana will share stories about the Smith-Waterhouse Family, the building and land, and his watercolors of the flowers of Hawai'i. You will also enjoy live entertainment, plantation iced tea and homemade cookies. Participants and volunteers who are able are requested to park at the church.

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST

Tuesday, July 23, 7:30 a.m. Join the church members and friends for a fun, relaxing breakfast at the Holoholo Grill located in the Koloa Landing complex.

**KOLOA PLANTATION DAYS PARADE—"Year of the Paniolo"**

Saturday, July 27. We will be a "walking unit" with the mini-cooper on which Kahu will ride. There is one open seat for someone wanting to ride from Koloa School to Anne Knudsen Ballpark. The parade starts at 10 a.m., participants will need to park at the church by 8:30 a.m., walk to Koloa School. We are planning to wear theme-related attire or KUC t-shirts with "Palaka" print hatbands/kerchiefs. The roads will be closed from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring sun screen and water.

SERVING SALVATION ARMY LUNCH

Wednesday, July 31. We serve lunch whenever there is a 5th Wednesday in a month at their Hanapepe facility. Let Suzanne know if you are able to help.



Coming up.....

GALLERY RECEPTION AT THE SMITH MEMORIAL PARSONAGE

August 18, 2-5 p.m. You are invited to the Smith Memorial Parsonage (3281 Waikomo Road, Koloa). Drop by any time during the afternoon and enjoy plantation iced tea, delicious snacks, good conversation, and a fantastic sale of Kahu's art. Kahu's newest book, "Beauty, Art & Spirituality" will be on sale as well as his postcards, cards, watercolors of native Hawai'i flowers. The funds raised help pay for parsonage maintenance and repairs. Bring a friend....or two.

CHURCH YOUTH TO WAINEKE CABINS

August 30-September 2. The church youth, with adult chaperones, plan to spend time in the Kokee KAUCC Waineke cabins. They will enjoy hikes, share in important discussions affecting our youth today, Bible time and much more. They all take time cleaning the cabins before departing. Contact Tiffany if you are interested, 651-1397.

AUNTY NIELE'S NEWSY NOTES

By Penny Osuga

NOTE: Penny Osuga is Aunty Niele, our reporter for this column. Niele is the Hawaiian word for "nosy." If you have any news to share in this column, please contact Aunty Ni'e le at the church office @ 742-6622 or through her church email address: kucpenny@gmail.com.

Members **Dan & Joy King** enjoyed three weeks in Greece!!! Awesome having our **Kahu** back from his sabbatical! Congratulations to **Peter and Linda Baldwin** as they celebrated their 45th anniversary! **Rosemary** is at a 5-6 generation family reunion on Oahu!!! *Mahalo* to **Rev. Sarah Jones** for serving Koloa Union as "short-term interim" while our **Kahu** was on his 3-month sabbatical. We appreciate her dedication and wonderful messages. We enjoyed getting to know



her family: **Don, Jack, Irene, Maggie**. Thanks to "**Penny J**" for taking nearly 4 hours out of her Saturday to help decorate the church for our *ONA Lunch* celebration & welcome

home **Kahu**! Thanks to a "special someone" from our weekly AA groups for fixing our kitchen drawers. **Rev.**

Susumu Yamane (Naomi's dad) was recognized/remembered at the `Aha Pae`aina on Oahu. **Bridget**



and Shellee gave an outstanding report of the `Pae`aina to the congregation. Thanks to **Dan (& Naomi)** for working endlessly in the yard or high up on the ladder. If you have any building and grounds questions/requests, there is a clipboard hanging in **Penny's** office. Add your remarks there, they will be addressed. Had our very first experience with "pay it forward." **Kei and I** made a run to the Hanapepe green waste, drove through



McDonalds for a frappe and other munchies. When we drove up to the "pay window" we were told the car in front of us had paid for us!!!! So we paid for the car behind us—thank goodness their bill was affordable!!! **Kiawe Roots** served a fabulous one-year anniversary dinner! SIX courses with matching house specialty drinks! Thanks, **Fay**, for putting together the church ensemble singing "It Is No Secret." Always fun having **Clyde/Pam Klaumann** visiting from Carmel. **Tom (& Lynda) Armbruster** was in a 5-day National Open chess Tournament! About 750 participants!



And **Tom** participated in the *Star Wars Day* at the Orange County Zoo!! The Honolulu economy got a major boost when **Becky, Debbie and Bonnie** flew over to do some shopping!! Fun having **Logan, Ian and Spencer** home for visits!!! They've all grown into such nice, productive, handsome young men!!!! Congratulations and high fives to members and friends of **Koloa Union**: had a wonderful "welcome back" **Kahu, ONA lunch launch, Strengthen the Church**

Sunday (June 9). Thanks, **church ladies**, for a fabulous *Father's Day lunch*! Wonderful salad, pork belly



sliders, potato salad, BBQ ribs, cake, pumpkin crunch! Congratulations to **Fay and Belinda** as they



settle into their new digs! Thanks to **Dr. Nancy Murphy** and son.in.law, **Eric Yoder**, for sharing



their musical talents with us. Our "girls" enjoying the **Koloa Bon Dance**! **Becky** is so happy



Officially an ONA church in the United Church of Christ



Welcome home, Kahu



Becky's Dad enjoying lunch



Kahu enjoying lunch—"rain-bowl" from Kauai Poke!!



Lee, Kahu, Michael. Our table at Pride parade. Shyrl & Graceleanor also worked the table.



Some of our furniture movers! Photo-bombed by Kahu!!!

Sharon's impromptu hula at Fay & Belinda's



Don Mahaffey ripping out the carpet



Birthday "twins"



KUC walkers in the 1st Kauai Pride Parade



Lunch with Larry

having her entire ohana home!! Looking forward to having **Palani** on island for almost two weeks—am certain a few hikes with dad, **Kahu**, are on his "to-do" list. **Graceleanor** enjoyed two weeks on the mainland visiting family and friends. **Angela** is on the mainland visiting friends and family—**Bill** has been behaving here at home. **Naomi** went on a girls trip to the San Jose area: *J-Lo* concert, *Rent*, and *Beach Blanket Babylon*!! Now **Dan & Naomi** are with the family in Napa (celebrating **Dan's** bday?). **Mo & Lynn Mori** had their daughter and 3 grandkids on island for a visit. Then flew back to Montana where **JoAnne Machin** met up with them. **Don & Sharon Mahaffey** just left for a 5-week vacay to Northern California, Colorado. Phew, great having **Sharon McCoubrey** home after being away for 2 months! **Edie Moe** spent time in SoCal with sister **Linda**. Was great having **Sharon Price** on island with **Dredan**! He is certainly growing up so quickly! We are so so proud of our church members unanimously voting to become an official *Open & Affirming* church. A proud moment for all of us. "We" have always felt we were "all-welcoming" even before we earned that official title. And so I applaud all of you. **Koloa**

Union was #16 out of 22 walking units in the **VERY FIRST PRIDE** parade on Kauai! Four worked the table and 16 of us walked, including **Becky's** 92 year old dad!!! He's amazing!!! A HUGE thank you to all who stayed after church on June 23 to clear out the sanctuary 100% — got the floors resurfaced! And then came in on Saturday, June 29, to move everything back INTO the sanctuary. Thanks to volunteers from the AA groups (who use Moore Hall in the evenings) who showed up to help. Had a wonderful "all church breakfast" at a new location, **Holoholo Grill**! Food and service were fantastic!!! **Cathy Evans** is now with a medical team in India! She's been there a month. **Michael & Graceleanor** celebrated bdays!! Thank you, **Rose**, for the beautiful "Amazing Grace" hula, **Doug** for the music & **Kathleen**, for the innovative, creative, funny version of "O Danny Boy" in honor of **Dan Giovanni** for ALL his hard work on the church landscaping/renovations/upgrades/weekly cleaning/maintenance!!



**KOLOA UNION CHURCH
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3289 POIPU ROAD
KOLOA, HAWAII 96756**

JULY 2019 NEWSLETTER



**AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

SUNDAY EVENTS
10:30 a.m. Sunday School and
Worship Service

STAFF

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KOLOA UNION CHURCH NEWSLETTER

July 2019

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