



Kapaa United Church of Christ



1315 Ulu Street • P.O. Box 218 • Kapa'a, Hawai'i 96746 www.kapaaucc.org

January 2024



A blessed New Year to you all!

I pray this message finds you healthy and that your Christmas celebrations were filled with joy – joy in the gift given to us in God's Son and joy at the many other blessings God grants daily.

As we begin 2024, I thank God for the opportunity for my family and me to be part of this incredible KUCC family as we walk together with Christ. In the past year, we have taken great strides as we continue to grow as a welcoming church for all of God's people. We have also accomplished amazing ministries in the name of Jesus.

As I look back on the past year, it struck me that all the things we do as the body of Christ are goals to be done both, as a congregation (our lives together in Christ) and as individuals.

As disciples of Jesus, I want this family of God to be growing, vibrant, praying, caring, welcoming, and reaching out to others with the call God has placed in our hearts. I pray we all mature in our walk with Christ, and as your pastor, I pray I am helping this congregation move in that direction with God's guidance.

St. Paul said it well in Ephesians 4:11-13

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

In the coming year, we will be exploring opportunities for us all to grow as disciples of Jesus. Through bible exploration and small groups. Expanding our worship experience. New and exciting ministry opportunities, including our part to care for God's creation and reaching out with an extravagant welcome to all as we grow together and individually in discipleship.

It looks like it is going to be another eventful year here at KUCC!

May God bless us and guide us by His grace that, more and more, we will be a vibrant, growing, praying, caring, and welcoming congregation – boldly reaching out through Jesus Christ through word and deed.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Rob

JANUARY LECTIONARY

January 7, 2024

The Baptism of Christ

First Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 21, 2024

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Every Sunday – Kokua Kapa’a, 1-4pm
Second Sunday of the month with Pastor Rob, RE 4; 11:30-12 Noon
Third Sunday of the month – “Noisy Offering”

Mon., Jan. 1 – HOLIDAY! Happy New Year!

Sat., Jan. 6 – Epiphany

Sun., Jan. 7 – Worship Service, 10am
Guest Speaker: Walt Weiss

Wed., Jan. 10 – Pastor Rob returns

Sun., Jan. 14 – Worship Service, 10am

Mon., Jan. 15 – Martin Luther King Day, Holiday – office closed

Sun., Jan. 21 – Worship Service with Communion, 10am

Sun., Jan 28 – Worship Service, 10am
Annual Congregational Meeting, 11am

 **Annual
Congregational
Meeting
Sunday, January 28**



Come and meet our new pianist, Ivo Miller, on Sunday, January 14 at 10:00am.



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

From the purview of the Moderator.....

On January 28th, we meet for our annual Congregational meeting. We have lots on the agenda so we will start promptly after worship because our Food Pantry outreach begins at 1pm with set up the hour before. Additionally, we normally gather after worship every Sunday for light lunch and social time, and we don't want to skip that right?!! Yikes how do we incorporate it all?!!

Last week, Donna Moon's friend Opi who has an Indian Food service business prepared a delicious Indian food meal on Christmas Eve for our Food Pantry Outreach. Opi made plenty food so even the volunteers could enjoy a wonderful meal too. She also came with her own team of helpers who did the plating and serving of the food! Remember my newsletter from the other month about how we were worrying about "burn out" by volunteers? Well, now Opi has offered to cook a meal for the Food Pantry once a month and will start by taking January 28th, the day of our Annual Meeting. More amazing, right?!! There is another wonderful surprise happening in the Food Pantry that will alleviate some time constraints I'm worried about on January 28th but I can't divulge that information just yet. Stay tuned till the February Newsletter.... :) Yes, God is reminding us that if we are faithful and prayerful, God provides resources and inspiration to help us overcome trials and tribulations!

On the meeting agenda is the amendments to the constitution and bylaws. This is one of the things we asked Pastor Rob to help us with when he was hired because our bylaws were written for churches with very large memberships and also, written at a time when members did all the work of operating a church which today, does not happen and social views of the world have evolved. Naomi Hamamura, Richard Stillman and I made up the committee with Pastor Rob. We have presented the changes to the council that raised some really healthy discussion on several items and pushed the committee to meet again in response to it. Please take the time to read thoroughly through it prior to the meeting. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Rob or the committee.

I will be presenting the 2024 budget. We continue to work towards reducing the operating deficit but unfortunately with rising costs, and we are not able to balance the budget. At the moment, we do not need to draw from investments to cover the shortfall. I've mentioned numerous times at council meetings, the church remains healthy in spite of the shortfall because income AND participation is growing. There is life happening in this church that is not measured in the financial reports. There are new faces amongst the existing faces, lots of laughter and celebrations happening, new energies and resources rising to meet our challenges, and always, lots of love and caring for each other and others that often goes unseen and unpublished. Our goal for 2024 is to obtain our own 501(3)c status instead of sitting under the umbrella of the UCC non-profit status so we can go after grants to help us.

And lastly on the agenda, is our vote to call Pastor Rob as our settled pastor. The past three years of calling a new pastor and working with Pastor Rob has been an amazing and very blessed journey. We have so much to be grateful for thanks to his leadership and the ongoing commitment of all the members and friends who make up this community of faith.

As I look towards 2024, I ask for your continued prayers and support of the ongoing life of Kapaa UCC, to be a light of Gods abiding love to every person and thing on this great earth.

Happy New Year!

Gail Lee

gailulee18@gmail.com or 808-645-6067

Happenings around the church

New Member Sunday, December 10



Pua



Cliti & Lono



Benjamin & Arin



Angela & Ephraim

Christmas Pot Luck & White Elephant Gift Exchange (12/17/2023)



Christmas Caroling with Church of the Pacific at Mahelona Long Term Hospital

12.23.2023

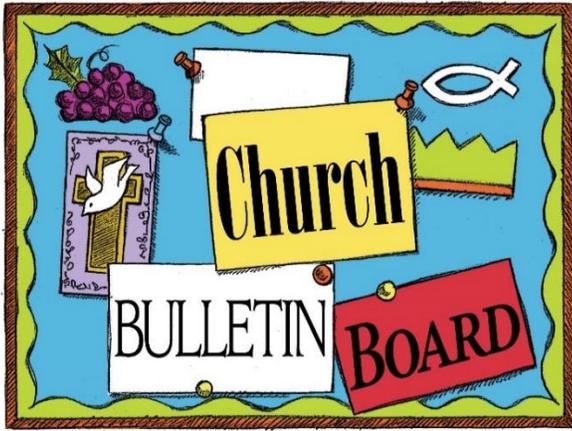


Ruth Yamane

New Year's Eve Service

What a nice surprise to have Rosalie back in our midst again along with her two sons and granddaughter and husband from Sweden.





Financials	November	YTD
INCOME	\$ 7,832.00	\$ 173,052.00
EXPENSES	\$ 12,883.00	\$ 187,151.00
NET OPERATING INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ (5,051.00)	\$ (14,099.00)



Reiko Matsuyama
Kay Mones
Rachel Hamamura
Tatsumi Hiramoto
Akiko Oshima
Troy Wooton
Arthur Isoshima
Larry Lee
Angela Pupek
Loea Keana'aina



ThisDays
Thought
.org

Christmas is not a date on the calendar but a state of mind. We can live through the twenty-fifth day of December, give and receive gifts, burn candles and even attend services at the church and still miss Christmas. Unless the spirit of that first Christmas morning, when God came down to earth to take a hand in the affairs of men, gets into our hearts, we will have no Christmas—only another twenty-four hours. If, on the contrary, we approach Christmas with the wonder that the shepherds had, the adoring thankfulness of the Wise Men, the joy of the heavenly hosts, not only this day but every day will be Christmas for us.
 ~ Henry Van Dyke



**Be sure to check
 out our web page at:
Kapaaucc.org**



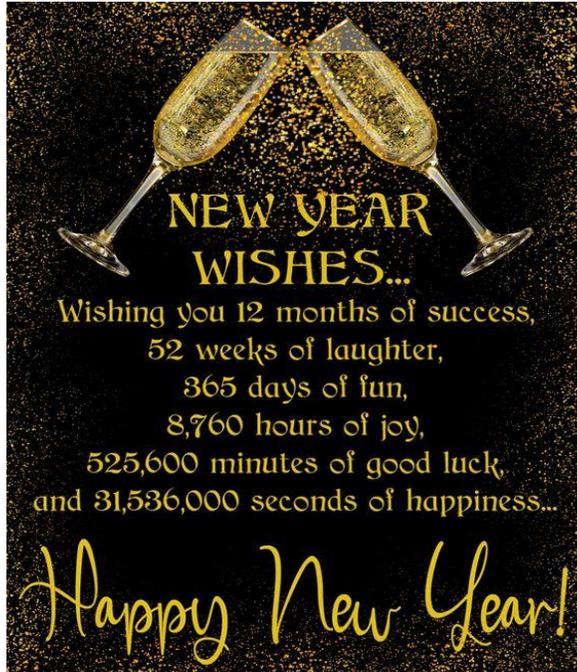
We believe in a God that is still speaking, a God that is all-loving and inclusive.

We are a church that welcomes and accepts everyone as they are, where your mind is nourished as much as your soul.

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address correction requested.



JANUARY RESPONSIBILITIES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LAY READER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>	<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u>	<u>CLEANING</u>
1/7	Naomi Hamamura	Donna Green	Bill Lore	G. Mones
1/14	Deborah Cecil	Sheri Kunioka-Volz	Art/Shar Isoshima	G. Mones
1/21	Bill Lore	Deborah Cecil	Deborah Cecil	G. Mones
1/28	Gina Martinez	Naomi Hamamura	Dorothy Kunioka	G. Mones

JANUARY CHURCH YARD CLEANING:

*Calvin & Richard

JANUARY

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed 6:30pm Monday AA (SH)	2	3 2pm Enhanced Fitness 5:30pm Zumba w/Kawehi (SH)	4 6:30pm Sober ES Women (RE 7) 7pm Men's AA (SH)	5 2pm Enhanced Fitness	6
7 10:00am Worship service 1pm Kokua Kapa'a	8 2pm Enhanced Fitness 6:30pm Monday AA (SH)	9	10 2pm Enhanced Fitness 5:30pm Zumba w/Kawehi (SH)	11 6:30pm Sober ES Women (RE 7) 7pm Men's AA (SH)	12 2pm Enhanced Fitness	13
14 10:00am Worship service 1pm Kokua Kapa'a	15 MLK Day HOLIDAY 2pm Enhanced Fitness 6:30pm Monday AA (SH)	16	17 2pm Enhanced Fitness 5:30pm Zumba w/Kawehi (SH)	18 6:30pm Sober ES Women (RE 7) 7pm Men's AA (SH)	19 2pm Enhanced Fitness	20
21 10:00am Worship service & Communion 1pm Kokua Kapa'a	22 2pm Enhanced Fitness 6:30pm Monday AA (SH)	23	24 2pm Enhanced Fitness 5:30pm Zumba w/Kawehi (SH)	25 6:30pm Sober ES Women (RE 7) 7pm Men's AA (SH)	26 2pm Enhanced Fitness	27
28 10:00am Worship service 11:00am Congregational Meeting 1pm Kokua Kapa'a	29 2pm Enhanced Fitness 6:30pm Monday AA (SH)	30	31 2pm Enhanced Fitness 5:30pm Zumba w/Kawehi (SH)			