

KANI KANI PELE

The Monthly Newsletter of Kailua United Methodist Church Volume XXI No. 12

December 2018

1110 Kailua Road, Kailua, HI 96734

"Making Disciples of Christ from All Generations"



Deep inside my bones I know two things. First, is that when I open my newspaper something is not right, that my heart, like the world, longs for God to make right the wrongs, to bring peace to the violence that we see, unity to the division, nourishment to the hungry and the thirsty, to raise up the afflicted and the oppressed. The second is this, that something has turned within me, my heart has been strangely warmed and God has told me that God has drawn near to me. Amidst the chaos, the violence and natural disasters, Christ is with us and as near to us today as he was when he entered into the world on that blessed night two thousand years ago. These two deep feelings leave me with a sense of longing, of anticipation, of expectation for what I know to be true to be realized in the world—God is with us and making all things right.

This is the tension of the season of Advent. While we know that God has drawn near in Christ, we still long to see full redemption to the world. Advent is a season of waiting, of longing and of anticipating Christ's coming again when he will right all that feels wrong deep inside us. As we draw closer to the celebration of Christmas when God came to be with us, we cry out louder and louder, "O come, O come Emmanuel."

Throughout the season of Advent we will affirm that God has drawn near to us by taking on flesh and we will lean into that hope, drawing closer to God who has come and is coming. To help us in our Journey we have partnered with Sanctified Art, who has created an artistic daily devotional. We will also focus on drawing close to God throughout the sermons: Draw Near to Wonder, Draw Near to Justice, Draw Near to One Another.

In Peace, Pastor Brian

GIVING TREE

You will again have an

opportunity to provide support to families on Oahu through the Giving Tree this year. Deborah Tom will have names after worship service. She will have families served by Kapiolani Mobile Therapy Team. These are families with medically fragile children with special needs.

Please come see her outside after worship and help make Christmas for these families MERRY! Gifts need to be wrapped, labeled with family # and brought to church by Sunday, December 10. If you have any questions you may call her at 728-9993. Mahalo.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Our church is decorated for the holidays by volunteers...so we need you!

Preparation for Advent and Christmas, called "Hanging of the Greens" will be on Saturday, December 1st at 8:00 a.m. We will be decorating the sanctuary, hanging greens and lights outside, as well as setting up the large wooden manger scene and other projects.

Coffee and snacks will be provided. Many hands make light work....please consider helping our church get ready for the holidays. Thank you.

**CRAFTY ANGEL CHRISTMAS SALE**

Check out the Crafty Angel table Sunday, December 2nd and 9th after church. Ornaments, decorations, gifts and jewelry. Proceeds will be donated to the youth group mission fund.



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7:00 p.m.. The service will include all of the beautiful music and rich traditions that we cherish in our candlelight service along with our candlelight circle on the lawn (weather permitting).

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The Children's Ministry presents
The First Christmas:
A Children's Christmas Pageant
By Louise Egan



The Children's Ministry invites all the children of KUMC to participate in the Christmas Play on December 9th during the service.

*If you are interested in the
December birthdays, please call
the church office
at 261-6238*



*December
Birthdays*

REMINDER FOR YEAR END GIVING

KUMC is so grateful to all of you for your generosity this year and every year. According to the IRS, December 31, 2018 is the date on which all donors must deliver to KUMC or mail (postmarked) all contributions in order to claim a Charitable Deduction towards income taxes in 2018. The IRS is very strict and even if the check is predated to 2018 or was actually written in 2018, unless it has a postmark of no later than December 31, our counters cannot include it on your 2018 giving statement. Mahalo for your kokua and thank you again for your support.



Blue Christmas: A Service of Reflection for the Longest Night. On Friday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m., in the Central Union Church, Atherton Memorial Chapel. Presented by the joint collaboration of Church of the Crossroads (UCC), First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, Institute for Human Services (IHS), Kailua United Methodist Church, Manoa Valley Church (UCC) and Central Union Church, this service, held on the longest night of the year, recognizes that not everyone is merry at Christmastime. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one; it may be a time that has always been difficult. It may just be that you are feeling frazzled and not feeling the "Christmas spirit." The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the "blah" of life, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. Through music, silent meditation, scripture, and healing prayer, we reach out to acknowledge sadness with comfort and quiet remembrance, to reflect on the losses we have experienced and to remember together, whatever our spiritual path, the real reason for the season: that we are not alone, and that light will come again.

KEY DATES FOR DECEMBER 2018

December 1	Hanging of the Greens
December 2 & 9	Crafty Angel Christmas Sale
December 21	Blue Christmas at Central Union Church
December 23	IHS Prep and Meal
December 24	Christmas Eve Service

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THE LAST WORD

*“Glory to God in the highest, and
on earth peace and goodwill
toward men.”*

~ Luke 2:14