

KANI KANI PELE

The Monthly Newsletter of Kailua United Methodist Church Volume XXII No. 1

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1110 Kailua Road, Kailua, HI 96734

"Making Disciples of Christ from All Generations"

grateful

The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks

Ever since I was a child I was taught the importance of giving thanks. Even before I found myself along my Christian journey I knew that gifts deserved the response, "thank you," not to mention thank you cards, or gestures and gifts in return. While responding with gratitude is valuable, at times it can feel more like an obligation than an act of joy, or well, thankfulness.

Over the past few weeks we have explored how Christian gratitude is not primarily a response, but rooted in the reception of God's love that is given freely to us. We respond not because we have to, not because God is keeping track of who does and does not send the thank you note via prayer or service, or whatever. Gratitude is the natural response, in the same way we savor particular moments of our lives, special dinners with our loved ones, or a beautiful sunset.

While we have the natural response to God's love, we also have the harsh reality as individuals and communities of slowing down and developing intentional practices that allow us to both experience the gifts of God's love and respond to that gift. We find ourselves in the love drama told by King Solomon in the beginning of Proverbs, running throughout the busy city while Lady Wisdom, or God, calls out to us from the roof tops. God's voice is always present, God's love goes before us, and we experience the gifts of God every moment of every day, but we get so busy and focused on day to day tasks before us that we neglect to foster and nurture the times when we cannot help but thank God for all the good God has done in our lives and in the world.

Imagine how different our lives would be if we as individuals and communities created intentional practices that inspired us to give thanks. What if we shared more positive stories of hope and courage than stories of violence and turmoil? What if we first looked and publicly praised people as opposed to first finding the flaws and points we disagree on? What if we committed ourselves to sit in silence, reflect on the day, and pray? These small practices and ways of living and perceiving the world have the power to open ourselves to acknowledge and respond to God's love in powerful ways. What habits can you, as an individual, implement and what are the habits we as a community can set ourselves to, that allow us to say over and over, thank you? Not because we must, but because it is our way of life, it is our response to God who sent us Christ to be with us, suffer with us, and save us.

office^{angel}

Jim Orrick, our long time office volunteer has retired. The church is looking for someone to fill his shoes. Answering phone calls, proof reading, opening up the office in the morning and other office duties are desirable. Contact the church office at 261-6238 or Pastor Brian at pastorbrian@kailuauumc.org if interested in this volunteer position.

WEDDING/FUNERAL COORDINATOR POSITION

Jim and Margaret Orrick are retiring from the Wedding/Funeral Coordinator position at the end of January. This position entails all aspects of handling memorial services and weddings here at KUMC. For more information, contact the church office at 261-6238.

DISCOVERING KUMC CLASS

Interested in learning more about KUMC? Please attend our next "Discovering KUMC" class happening Sunday, February 10th after worship. Childcare and lunch provided. Led by Pastor Brian, this class lasts for about an hour and provides information about ways to connect to our church and membership details. Please RSVP to Nicia Platt, nicia_walsh@yahoo.com



UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. It was founded in 1940 in response to displaced people after WWII. Bishop Welch said that UMCOR is the "voice of conscience among Methodists to act in the relief of human suffering with no distinction of race, color or creed". Their work can be categorized in these area:

- ◆ Humanitarian relief/disaster response
- ◆ Sustainable development
- ◆ Global Health, together with Global Ministries

UMCOR responds with relief and long term grants when a disaster overwhelms community resources. They also offer technical support and training to assist with disaster relief, recovery, and long term health and development. KUMC Outreach committee is looking into seeing what we as a church can do to help.

DID YOU KNOW? YOUR KUMC FOUNDATION



Trusts are started in a variety of fashions. They can be initiated for friends or loved ones passing; as was done so by the Sitch family when John Sitch passed away. Trusts may also be formed in the honor of special people as was done by KUMC's Living Treasure, Shirley

Minn. Likewise funds such as for Scholarships can be added anonymously or specifically directed in the trust wording as was done in several trusts; recently the Barbara Burger trust.

It's easy to fund an existing trust or start a new trust. To make a tax deductible donation please speak to or email Tim Fern at timfern@hawaii.rr.com or Don Raymond donraymond@hawaii.rr.com Thank you.

ALOHA FROM SHELLEY

I bid a fond farewell to you all here at KUMC. After nearly 12 years, I am retiring to spend more time with my granddaughter on the mainland and to enjoy life. Thank you for all the friendships I have made along the way. I will see you around Kailua and on Sundays here at church.

Please welcome our new Office Administrator, Stephanie Reis. Stop in and introduce yourself. She is a welcome addition to KUMC. Her hours are **Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am to 1:00 p.m.**

Aloha

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



*February
Birthdays*

2019 Britt Lectures

Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks

Dates: February 15-17, 2019; Friday to Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

February 18, 2019; Monday at 9:00 a.m., Christ UMC

Lecture Series Schedule:

Fri. evening (2/15) - 7:00 p.m. "The Gratitude Gap: Why is Thanks so Hard?"

Sat. Evening (2/16) - 7:00 p.m. "From Private Feeling to a New Path for Community"

Sun. Evening (2/17) - 7:00 p.m. "Radical Gratitude: Way of Resilience and Resistance"

Mon. Morning (2/18) - 9:00 a.m. "Going Deeper with Lecturer, Dr. Diana Butler Bass"

Lectures will explore the surprising complexity of thanksgiving, how we understand gratitude, how we practice it, and why it is so importing in these difficult days.

KUMC FOUNDATION

Scholarship

The KUMC Foundation is proud to announce that the application period for the 2019 Scholarship Awards is now open! Who is eligible? Any KUMC Pastor or KUMC Staff member, or KUMC Member or their children participating in an accredited educational institution at the post high school level or higher, is eligible to apply. Applications can be downloaded from the KUMC website at <http://www.kailuaumc.org>. Click on the "About Us" tab, then scroll down and click on "Our Foundation" and then click the link to the "Application Form" and "Recommendation Form" to download. **A standard (2 ½" x 3") headshot photo is required with the Application Form.** Scholarships will be awarded based on a scoring system which considers involvement in the life of KUMC, community service, letters of recommendations and the applicant's personal statement. Scholarships are granted individually and previous awardees may reapply if they continue to meet the eligibility requirements. It is important to note the application and recommendation letter deadline date of April 30, 2019 (postmarked or receipt date), and it is the applicant's responsibility to make sure his or her application and letters of recommendation are completed timely, as process and follow-through is one of the important life lessons that the Scholarship program promotes. For further information about the program or process, or if you would like to serve on the evaluation committee, please contact John Kojima, Chairperson of the KUMC Foundation Scholarship Committee at johnkojima@gmail.com. **Also, please consider a donation to the KUMCF Scholarship Fund in honor of someone who is graduating this year to assist future students.**

KEY DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2019

February 2	Habitat Car Wash
February 10	Discovering KUMC Class
February 15-18	Britt Lectures
February 23	IHS Prep and Meal Ramsar World Wetlands Day

THE LAST WORD

“Begin each day with a grateful heart”

~ Unknown

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED