



NA OLELO MAIKA'I

"The Good News"
Open Hearts, Open Minds, &
Open Doors

WEST KAUAI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

PASTORA'S MESSAGE

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR HEAVENLY FATHER FOR THE BLESSING IN MY LIFE AND MY FAMILIES. IT'S AN HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS YOUR PASTORA! FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT YET MET ME, MY NAME IS MONALISA LUPI HALAPUA, MARRIED TO TONY HALAPUA. WE BOTH HAVE 18 KIDS, AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF GRAND KIDS AND GREAT-GRANDKIDS.

I AM APPOINTED AS THE NEW PASTOR HERE IN WEST KAUAI UMC SINCE JULY 1, 2023. (PSALM 139:11-12) THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT WILL SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S, ABUNDANT, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. (ROM. 8:38-39) THIS GIFT IS FREELY GIVEN THROUGH DIVINE GRACE. ONCE WE RECOGNIZE WHAT PREVENTS US FROM ACCEPTING THIS GIFT, WE CAN BEGIN THE JOURNEY TOWARD SPIRITUAL RENEWAL...BEING BORN AGAIN BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT...TOGETHER.

IT IS MY HOPE TO WALK BESIDE YOU ON THIS JOURNEY AS BOTH A TRUSTED GUIDE AND FELLOW JOURNEYER, AS I HELP YOU REALIZE YOUR GOD-GIVEN NAME OF "BELOVED" AND EMBRACE YOU AS A CHILD IN THE FAMILY OF GOD. COME HOME, BROTHER AND SISTER. COME HOME.

GRACE & PEACE,
PASTOR. MONALISA "LUPI" HALAPUA



Charge Conference Leadership 2024

By Glenda Miyazaki

West Kauai United Methodist Church held its Charge Conference on January 21, 2024 with District Superintendent Tom Choi presiding. The charge conference is an important event in our church because it allows us to present a general overview of what the church has done in the past year to achieve its mission and ministry. A Ministry Celebration Video depicting how we are providing nourishment to the clergy, laity, and community was shared with District Superintendent Choi and with those present. It was a 'chicken skin' moment to see how our church is making an impact in the lives of our community.

The mission and ministry will continue with the newly elected members and ongoing members of the Church Council.



Kaumakani Leased Signed!

DS Tom Choi

The Kaumakani lease has been renewed for another 30 years! Thanks be to God for his continued provision of a place to worship God for over 100 years! Randal Valenciano participated in the negotiations and Ryan Baniaga signed the lease representing West Kauai United Methodist Church. Thank you to these two gentlemen for their commitment to the church. District Superintendent, Pastor Tom Choi offered the first \$1 towards the payment of the lease during the charge conference. We appreciated his generosity.

Church Events



Church Growth Corner By Marisa Valenciano



It is hard to believe that our food distribution program, in partnership with the Kauai Independent Food Bank and Gay and Robinson, has been in operation for over one year. Every month, we continue to come together as partners to deliver 80 food bags to home bound residents and kupuna within the Kaumakani village and Pakala camp. It takes many hands for this program to succeed and it would not be possible without our partners and the church volunteers who continue to show up. Some months we struggle to secure enough help, but God always provides the help we need to stay afloat each month. Over the years, we have also been saddened by the passing of some of the residents that we have served and have gotten to know. Despite some of these challenges, I continue to see the fruits of our labor and know that we are making a difference in our community beyond just the physical food, but in the spiritual nourishment and the connections we build. I am so proud of our small church and the core group of individuals who faithfully serve each month. Though we are few in number, we manage to help many kupuna and their families.

Baptism in Kekaha

On a beautiful, sunny day in Kekaha, Rudi Postiglione was baptized and presented to God and the congregation. She is the daughter of Nick and Shantal Postiglione, sister to Catalina and Luca, granddaughter of Rey and Loreta Guirao and niece of Gilmore Guirao. The 13-month-old received the water blessing from Pastora Lupi and breezed through the ceremony nicely. The Postiglione family resides in Snoqualmie, Washington. It's always a pleasure to have them visit and watch the children grow. The family is a blessing to us.



Youth Group Organizes

Under the leadership of Jobyna and Ikaika Ephan, the youth of WKUMC formed in November 2023. The group consists of Makoa, Draven and Ana. Pastora Lupi met with them at their initial meeting and gave her blessings. Some of their activities included seeing a movie and enjoying a Christmas outing. Jobyna and Ikaika reported that part of their plans includes a monthly activity and selecting Bible readings and talk about how it pertains to their lives. The group is interested in doing a community service project in the future. Best wishes to the youth and to their committed leaders.



Jobyna & Ikaika

Mangan Tayon 2024



On a rainy Wednesday morning, our friends from Nebraska, Jan and Ed Connolly helped with getting the lunches for the Mangan Tayon program loaded up for delivery. Pastora Lupi, Pat and Jan braved the inclement weather to bring a meal to our elderly, homebound and houseless friends. “Garage or living room” prayers were shared and words of aloha offered before moving on to the next residence. Every recipient appreciated the Pastoral visit, a bit of “talk story” time to catch up and a meal. Each one knew that they were remembered by a loving and generous congregation. The delivery is made once a month. If you would like to volunteer to help deliver, let us know. Funding for this program is dependent on donations to sustain this outreach program.



Carpe Diem!

“Seize the Day”



“This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24.

My mom, Maria Valenciano gave this bible verse to me during my daughter’s college graduation. Indeed, we were grateful for that day and celebrated it; giving thanks to God for his abundant blessings.

We are in a new year, 2024. Have you made New Year’s resolutions? Plans? Goals? Our church calendar is slowly filling up with activities! Today we celebrate our very first online newsletter. What a new adventure and unexpected blessing of creativity! We hope you like it.

We plan to print hard copies for those without computer access. What’s on your calendar? Every day is a precious gift from God. Make the most of it!

Editor Pat Pablo

FIRST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

By Del Ishibashi

Our church will be participating in the Waimea Town Celebration which will be held on February 23 and 24, Friday and Saturday. The hours for both days will be from 4 pm – pau. Pau meaning until we run out of food. Once again we will be selling our delicious malasadas, poi balls, pronto pups, and Filipino desserts, suman and bibingka. There will be a schedule coming up for prepping the ingredients, work shifts, and clean up. We hope that you can help out in some way. Shifts will be for 3 ½ hours.

Help is needed for prepping: premeasure dry ingredients, cracking eggs, putting hotdogs on chopsticks, cutting the cooled suman and bibingka and wrapping them, and mixing the malasadas batter (day of event). Prep will be at the church hall in Kaumakani. We will also need help with setting up the booth and transporting supplies and goods to and from Waimea. We are looking for volunteers to help cook, people to bag food items, and counter help. Washing the bins, woks, utensils and putting away all the burners, propane tanks and woks will complete the fundraising job.



Methodist Vine



Church Bulletin

Dates to Remember

- February 14 - Ash Wednesday 6 pm at Kaumakani
- February 17 - UWF luncheon 11 am at Port Allen
- February 28 - Food distribution 10 am at Kaumakani
- March 24 - Palm Sunday
- March 27 - Food distribution 10am in Kaumakani
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday (foot washing) 6 pm at Kaumakani
- March 29 - Good Friday service 11 am at Kaumakani
- March 31 - Easter Sunrise service; TBD
Easter service at 9:30 am in Kaumakani

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What did the paper clip say to the magnet?
"I find you very attractive."

What did the chef give to his wife on Valentine's Day?
A hug and a quiche.

2024 Year of the Dragon

Chinese New Year

Word Search

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

- ANCESTORS
- BOAR
- COMPASS
- DOG
- DRAGON
- DUMPLINGS
- ENVELOPE
- FANS
- FESTIVAL
- FIREWORKS



- HORSE
- JADE
- LANTERN
- LUCK
- LUNAR
- MONEY
- MONKEY
- OX
- PARADE
- RABBIT
- RAT
- RED
- ROOSTERS
- SHEEP
- SNAKE
- SPRING
- TIGER
- ZODIAC

Happy Valentines!

1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends: let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him



What kind of flowers should you not give on Valentine's Day?
Cauliflowers!

Why did the astronaut couple break up? They needed space