

# Na Olelo Maika'i

*"The Good News"*

*Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors*

A Communication of The Outreach & Evangelism Committee

September 2019

## Welcome Pastor Nafe and Mele!

We, at WKUMC, have been blessed in so many ways throughout our years of existence. The most recent blessing is: the arrival of Pastor Nafe and his lovely wife, Mele!

Members of our church took the time and made the effort to get to the airport in Lihue with appropriate greeting signs and leis to reflect the essence of aloha with warmth and sincerity! Adela, Anthony and Danette welcomed them for lunch at the food court at Kukui grove.



WKUMC has had it's share of seasoned reverends with life-time careers to "newbies" fresh out of their studies of

Christian theology over the years. Each pastor has brought his/her brand of individuality.....strength of character....talents and abilities....enthusiasm and energy—to be with each of us on our faith journeys!

At the parsonage, Mele and Pastor Nafe were presented with gifts from UMW: a hat



and a Kauai Coffee mug.

We look forward to our newest clergy appointee, Nafe and his vivacious wife, Mele—to add their vim, vigor, and vitality to us all, here at West Kauai United Methodist Church!

We were blessed with the visit from Pastor Nafe's parents, Reverend Tony and his wife, Jane. They serve the Kona Tongan community on the Big Island. Both Pastors served communion to a welcoming congregation.



## Our Centenarian, Mrs. Marciana Gaboy

Here she is! Our dynamite in a small package! Nana Gaboy reached a milestone on May 23, 2019 by celebrating her 100th birthday! At the Koloa Neighborhood Center, guests from all over the world celebrated this milestone.

She is a special lady full of smiles and spunk. Her children, relatives, friends, caregivers adore her for her loving spirit. Some of her hobbies include sewing, taking care of flowers, visiting and enjoying life and of course talking story. She is a spiritual woman who praises and thanks God everyday for her blessings. All of us who know her wish her the best of health and happiness. May God continue to bless you, Nana and your beautiful, caring family.



## Who's On Next?

Will wonders never cease? From time to time, between clergy appointees—we've had to scramble to arrange and determine who will "fill the pulpit" from Sunday to Sunday, until the next appointee arrives!

There was a time when the "cream of the crop" appeared at the front door, so to speak—as preachers from near and far—throughout the state of Hawaii and/or from anywhere throughout the other 49 states (who could find the time to get to Hawaii)—would be the featured deliverer of the sermon. And, at other times, we have had to rely on who might be ready, willing, and able from our church membership who would do, likewise!

We've been there and done that both ways with great success. This time around, we thank MrB Lyndon Yamane, Elena Englesman, Ester Lopez, Glenda Miyazaki, Crystal Rowe, Randal Valenciano, Florence Langaman, Delia Ishibashi, and Becky Komaki all pitching in with gusto, individuality, dynamic deliveries, and inspirational messages! MAHALO, EVERYONE!



# Pastor's Message

## Calling Story Pastor Nafetalai Teupa

I was born in the back of a truck and had to be resuscitated in the emergency room of the hospital, so my entry into this world literally began with a miracle. The story of my birth is one I have heard many times over growing up and I have never doubted that my burning desire to serve was a fire that had been ignited on that fateful day. Having been born into a Christian family I am fortunate enough to have always known Christ. Christ has always been the Head of our family and at the age of 11, during the annual Easter camp held at our village Church in Tonga, I accepted Him as my Redeemer and personal Savior. Words cannot express the overwhelming joy I felt when I finally submitted my all to Him. It was on this day that I fully and completely surrendered my heart, mind, body and soul to our Creator and it was also on this day that I confirmed and accepted His call to ministry. When my family immigrated to Hawaii in 2007, I found myself in a foreign country with a different language and an unfamiliar culture. We had left a comfortable life in the islands only to start all over again with nothing. It was disconcerting and felt like a continuous struggle with new challenges and tribulations arising every day. In saying this, the Lord always provided and we were never without what we needed. The load was always bearable and the tears always sweet as we witnessed again and again that our Lord is a living God and he does not forsake us in our times of need. I entered high school when we arrived in Hawaii and soon had dreams of becoming a professional rugby player. Even though I had built a strong relationship with the Lord, I realise now that my familiarity with Him had rendered me lazy and I had started to stray from the path I was destined for. After completing high school I felt a strong obligation to serve the country that had provided me with the great opportunities I could only have dreamed of had I stayed in Tonga. Because of this, I resolved to join the Military and serve for 6 years with the intention to work towards becoming a Pastor upon my return from active duty. Little did I know, God had set a fire alight in my heart to serve not only Him, but also my country. In 2014 I attended the three day Walk to Emmaus retreat in Honolulu, Hawaii. I spent these three days completely immersed in God's grace and it ultimately changed my life. At the end of the retreat I came to the realization that it was not a mistake that I had been taken from a tiny island country to the great United States of America and every trial and tribulation that I had thus encountered was all for a higher purpose. I had to make the decision to let go of my worldly desires and take up my cross and follow Jesus. And so it happened that on the final night of the retreat, amongst my brothers in Christ, I committed myself to finally becoming the servant God had always intended for me to be. I always knew that serving my country was something that I have always wanted to do but I also know that God's will is always going to be my number one priority. The ultimate sacrifice that each soldier is willing to make for his fellow countryman makes me reminiscent of the price our Savior had to pay for our sins. I have prayed and fasted asking the Lord to direct my path according to His will, enlightening me so that the correct decision on how and where I serve was made. It was after many days and nights of meditating and praying that my questions were answered. I discerned that God wanted me to fully prepare myself for His ministry before I committed myself to doing anything else. Because of this, I completed my undergraduate degree and am now working towards attaining a Master of Divinity at Claremont School of Theology. Last year through His grace I became a commissioned US Naval Officer and as I continue to answer His call my soul continues to rejoice in His unfailing ever faithful love.



## Pilgrimage of Compassion

On Sunday August 25, 2019, a group from WKUMC attended this annual event at the Lawai International Center. The lush Lawai valley is the home of 88 shrines and a Japanese Pavilion called the Hall of Compassion. People go to this place to be healed and to experience spiritual harmony. One of the activities of the day was to walk the



path passing the 88 shrines as the Master flutist played his music. Those attending were Elena, Adela, Anthony, Del, Rey, Danette, Pat, Mele and Sandi. For most of us, it was our first visit. Some went on the walk. Others enjoyed the peaceful surroundings listening to the melancholy music. Other activities included, a bake sale, floral arranging, bonsai lessons, a silent auction, food tents and cultural activities. Volunteers helped to make it a pleasant day for visitors. It was a special event that we had the ultimate privilege to attend.

## Editor's Note by Pat Pablo

### "Blessings"



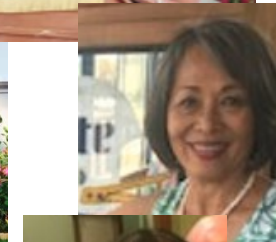
Our friend Elena, concludes her telephone message recording with this statement, "May you be a blessing to someone today." Its very inspirational to me and reminds me in the course of my day to follow the advice.

The Lord works in mysterious ways and we have received Blessings beyond our expectations and comprehension. Recently it was announced in church that an anonymous gift of \$25,000 was given to WKUMC. Everyone's jaws opened wide in amazement at the news. Adela and Anthony thanked everyone for their prayers and support because she was recently declared Cancer free. Pastor Nafe and Mele accepted the calling to minister at WKUMC. Runes Hall is being considered as a site for a preschool. Our world is spinning with goodness and mercy.

The Beatitudes in Matt 5:3-12 offers us blessings that gives hope and comfort. When we wake up in the morning, we offer thanksgiving to God almighty for the blessing of another day of life. Praise God from whom All Blessings flow. And we think how we can be a blessing to someone today.



# Methodist Vine



## Music Ministry



### In His Time!

Original Music and Lyrics by Diane Bell; Additional Lyrics by Jose Bulatao, Jr. This song has been selected for our church members to sing at the Festival of Choir event.

In His time, in His time He makes all things beautiful in His time. Lord please show me every day as you're teaching me your way, That you do just wat you say, in your time.

Oh dear Lord, in your time; You make all things beautiful in your time. Lord, my life to you I bring; may each song I have to sing Be to you a lovely thing, in your time.

In this place, at this time Here we are to sing this song, which is fine! Be with us dear Christ Our Lord, as we journey through our lives with "aloha" in our hearts —so sublime!

In this place, in this time—As we gather to praise God, Lord Divine! God the Father, Christ the Son; Holy Spirit, Three in One! Ever Always in our hearts, All the time! Ending: In this place! In His Time!

## Food for the Body & Soul

### Prune Mui by Priscilla Badua



- 4 (24oz) pkg. pitted prunes
- 2(24 oz) dried apricots
- 2 lbs. dried lemon peel, wet type
- 2 lbs. li hing mui
- 1 lb. raw sugar or brown sugar
- 3 T. Hawaiian salt
- 3 T. Bourbon
- 1 tsp Chinese five spice
- 10 chopped cloves
- 1 1/2 c. lemon juice

Mix all ingredients and let stand for at least 5 days. Stir/mix well every day. After 5 days, divide into small containers and share with family and friends. Yummy!



Priscilla Badua has recently retired from the Department of Human Services after 46+ years of faithful service to the state. Your WKUMC family wishes you the best in your retirement life.

## Columbarium Update

A unique feature at our West Kauai UMC sanctuary in Kekaha is the inclusion of a columbarium. The ashes of several of the members of our church ohana have been placed there. This columbarium provides the option of having a resting place in the serenity where worship and prayer help to maintain an everlasting bond among us all with our dearly departed loved ones.

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, the members of the committee unanimously approved to accept a generous donation to help defray the expenses. More funds to upgrade and include additional spaces to meet the demand for requests will be raised as needed

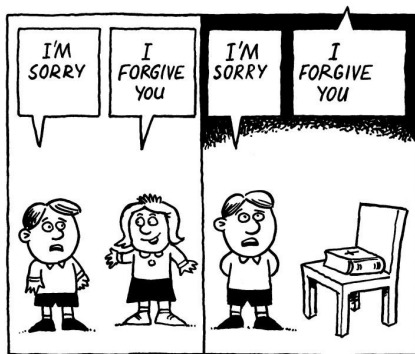
## Dates to Remember

Sept 28—UMW Rummage Sale in Kaumakani Hall.

October Fest—October 2019

Festival of Choirs—October 17 at Holy Cross Church

Christmas Craft Fair—Dec 7th in Kaumakani Hall.



## Contact Us

Na Olelo Maika'i Newsletter

For more information about our Ministry and Services.

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Come visit and/or support our church or donate online at:

[westkauaiumc.org](http://westkauaiumc.org)

[facebook.com/wkumc](https://facebook.com/wkumc)

## Nancy Fuertes-Ueno



Among our membership, Nancy Fuertes-Ueno stands out as a gifted and creative artisan blessed with many skills and talents. Foremost among them are the many ways she has been able to fashion beautiful creations of flowers and shrubbery similar to the one she is wearing in this picture of her in this newsletter. Her skill and artistry as a person blessed with the “gift of creativity”

has been bestowed upon us in countless ways as she weaves these leis with love and aloha for our church members to wear at varied occasions in our faith journeys. Notice the beautiful hakus Nancy created for family and friends when they celebrated her birthday. She always gives credit for her talent to her loving Mom, Rosario Lutao Fuertes and to a loving God. We at WKUMC are grateful for her presence, her talents, and the love and support from her entire ohana for the many gifts and services coming from their hearts to all of us! Mahalo!



Na Olelo Maika'i - The Good News  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE