



Ka Hā A Ke Akua

The Breath of God

***Malaki - Apelila
2023***

The Search Begins ... Again

Everyone understands life took a very strange twist for the whole world in March 2020. The ramifications of the unexpected pandemic had immediate and longer-term effects that we are still reeling from today. Keawala'i was not spared. As you know, I was hired as your interim pastor with a projected timeline of 18 months for transition and pastoral search. We thought that would be plenty of time to complete the process, a new *kahu* would be in place and I would move on to my next assignment. Then Covid happened.

After we got through the initial shock of the pandemic, we decided to move ahead with the search process. Our hope being once the search was complete life would be close to normal yet again as the new settled *kahu* began his/her ministry. The search process was a good one. The committee did excellent work. But when they posted the position we received almost no applicants. Determining this was not a good time to find the next pastor for Keawala'i the search was suspended, and I was asked to extend my tenure taking a new title of "transitional pastor."

A Transition Team was formed that reviewed all aspects of our church life considering the effects of the pandemic. The transition team also did excellent work and gave their recommendations to the Church Council for review. Some have already been implemented, others are still under consideration.

In January, a new Search Committee was formed: Joe McDermott (chair), Dian Gruber (recording secretary), Nathan Moore (chaplain), Sue Nygren and Linda Somera (corresponding secretaries). The group is in the process of reviewing the work completed by the original search committee and the transition team, in light of current circumstances. The new search committee will meet regularly with the hope of calling a settled *kahu* by early spring of 2024. I, along with our Conference Minister, the Rev. David Popham, will work with the new committee to revise our Church Profile, learn how to receive, read, and process profiles offered by prospective ministerial candidates, as well as how to interview candidates.

The plan is to fully revise the profile by Easter and post the position shortly thereafter. We will receive applications throughout the summer and schedule interviews (by Zoom), with the intent of selecting a finalist before the end of this year. It typically takes a few months for transition to occur once a candidate is selected and voted on by the congregation since the prospective candidate is likely currently employed and would need to give notice before leaving their current position.

I ask that you hold this timeline lightly. We know how quickly plans can change, but I wanted you to know what the intent is at this moment to guide you in your prayer for our search process, the committee, and prospective candidates. Selecting a pastoral leader for the church is a very spiritual process. We must seek God's guidance and proceed with careful discernment as we interact with prospective candidates and listen to God's will for our church.

Keawala'i is a wonderful church. We have much to offer those who come to worship as well as we who go out and serve the broader community. Please make our pastoral search a part of your daily prayer as we seek God's will and blessing at this historic moment in our congregation's life.

Until such time for me to depart, I pledge to pray as well for the best person to serve Keawala'i and will continue to serve to the best of my ability.

*Me ke aloha pumehana,
Kahu Scott*



'Tis the Season

Planning for our Christmas Eve service began at our October Deacons' meeting. The suggestion was made that we ask Anthony Pfluke if he would play at the service. Anthony is a talented guitarist/singer from Maui, and much to our delight, he agreed. A planning committee was formed consisting of Danette Kong, Cameron Keys, Bob Brem and Kahu Scott Landis. A tent and 500 chairs were reserved from Maui Rents, and Village Audio was contacted to provide their sound system.

Decorating the church sanctuary was done on the Saturday morning following Thanksgiving. Bob picked up and delivered two Christmas trees. Thank you to Scott Geib for again donating the funds for their purchase. Volunteers arrived and began trimming the trees, setting up the Advent candles, and filling the church with poinsettia plants. As the Advent season progressed, Kahu Scott finalized the order of worship and Bob created the slides with hymns and carols. Then on Friday, December 23rd, volunteers came down to the church grounds to set up chairs and erect the projector screen. The Christmas trees and advent candles were moved outside from the sanctuary. On Saturday morning other volunteers arrived to decorate the tent area.

Folks started arriving early for the service at around 5pm for the 6:30 service. Deacons sitting at the entrances handed out candles and cupholders. Those who brought flowers or lei placed them on the Christmas trees. By the time the service was ready to start, all 500 chairs were filled and ushers had to bring out more folding chairs.

Kahu Scott's message was titled "Seeing Light ... Being Light". During the service we were treated to a lovely solo of "O Holy Night" sung by choir member Sheron Leihuanani Bissen, with hula by Cindee Burkitt, Edie Kapiko, and Karen Rollins. Anthony Pfluke played an extended introduction to "Silent Night" as the flame from the Christ candle was distributed to everyone's candle. Anthony then led the singing as candles were raised high.

Bob Brem, Chair, Board of Deacons



Outreach Golf Tournament Fundraiser December 11, 2022



Mākena Golf & Beach Club hosted Keawala'i Church and two other non-profit organizations for a fundraising golf outing on December 11th, 2022. Twenty-four golfers helped raise almost \$9,000 for the Church's Outreach Program that assists needy people throughout Maui County. It was a spectacular day, the course was magnificent and a good time was had by all. Mākena Golf & Beach Club is extremely gracious in their hosting and being a good neighbor. The Outreach Committee extends their aloha and appreciation to all the participants and to Bruce Burkitt for chairing the event.



A Cup of Cold Water (ACCW) Campaign December 2022

In January, Keawala'i received a thank you letter from ACCW for the donations made from our members, friends and visitors for our ACCW campaign. The letter stated "your kindness included: 1 case of water, 23 non-perishable foods, 11 first aid pads, 6 first aid tapes, 480 band aids, 2 antibiotic creams, 3 cold/hot compresses, 1 package of masks, 2 covid tests, 300 alcohol pads, 1 emergency kit, 2 insect repellants, 4 mirrors, 11 glasses, 11 eye glass cleaners, 17 hand sanitizers, 6 laundry soaps, 50 tooth flosses, 2 breath mints, 2 lip balms, 243 toothpastes, 183 toothbrushes, 13 mouthwashes, 10 brushes/combs, 17 deodorants, 60 soaps, 55 shampoos, 30 conditioners, 55 lotions, 4 wipes, 5 nail clippers, 136 razors, 13 tissues, 5 vanity kits, 4 caps, 5 socks, 5 footwear, 1 blanket, and 11 large bags!!!" Mahalo to all who participated in this campaign and those served by ACCW gives thanks profusely. The letter stated that "though the ones struggling with mental health and addiction challenges are often the most visible ones in the community, there are many quiet, gentle souls unable to find shelter or housing who tear up knowing there are people like you who take their time and hard-earned money to get things for them and share God's love."



Ebb & Flow Music Concert January 7, 2023



After over three years Ebb & Flow Arts returned to Keawala'i Congregational Church on January 7th, 2023, with a free concert presentation plus pre-concert discussion that featured Colorado-based, the Walker Duo - Gregory Walker, violin, and Lori Walker, piano. Their concert featured music by a diverse group of 20th and 21st century composers. The full house in attendance enjoyed works by George Gershwin (arr. by Jascha Heifetz), Gregory Walker, his father George Walker (the first African-American to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Music), African-American women composers Dorothy Rudd Moore and Irene Britton Smith, and for an encore, Miles

Davis. After an enthusiastic standing ovation, the audience enjoyed a food & beverage reception to meet the artists that was provided by the church congregation.

Mahalo,

Robert Pollock, Ebb & Flow



Baptisms



On January 8, 2023, we celebrated multiple baptisms at our Sunday morning service.





MCMF 2023

Maui welcomes elite musicians

A violinist whose music offers listeners an “indulgent pleasure,” a cellist whose every note has “something lovely to say,” and a charismatic flutist. These three will be joined by seven other elite musicians for the 41st Maui Classical Music Festival, scheduled May 12-21 at three churches and the historic Iao Theater in Wailuku.

Andres Cardenes won second prize in the 1982 Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition and has appeared as a soloist with more than 100 hundred orchestras around the world. Hearing him perform “proves all the indulgent pleasure of consuming the biggest dessert on the tray,” said Kenneth Herman of the Los Angeles Times.

Also in the Festival lineup are violinist Susie Park, violinist-violist Daniel Phillips, cellists Robert deMaine and Amir Eldan, pianists Rohan De Silva and Cory Smythe and flutist Tara Helen O’Connor, along with violist Yizhak Schotten and pianist Katherine Collier, the festival’s music directors since it began in 1982.

De Silva and Eldan both have performed previously at the festival. DeMaine brings “a beautiful singing tone, lapidary technical precision...in which every note (has) something lovely to say,” wrote Greg Stepanich of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. O’Connor is the winner of an Avery Fisher Career grant and a two-time Grammy Nominee. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette wrote that her sound has “the perfect balance of warmth and elegance,...a delight to listen to.”

Smythe is a Grammy winner, described as “up for any technical challenge.” Among De Silva’s awards is a special prize for best accompanist at the 9th International Tchaikovsky Competition. He performed at the White House in 2007 for President George W. Bush and Queen Elizabeth, and in 2012 with Itzhak Perlman for President Barack Obama.

Eldan is a winner of the Juilliard Competition. He has served as principal cello of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and guest principal with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. At age 22, he became the youngest member of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, where he was associate principal cello. Park, the first associate concertmaster of the Minnesota Orchestra, was 16 when she took first place in the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition. She also has won top honors at the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis and the Wieniawski Competition in Poland.

Phillips won the Young Concert Artists auditions and bronze medal in the Leipzig Bach Competition in 1976, and has performed as a soloist with many leading American symphonies. Schotten is only the 14th recipient of the American Viola Society’s Career Achievement Award, in recognition of his “strong legacy of teaching, your important recordings (particularly your '1919' CD), and your orchestral training materials among ... significant contributions.” Collier, his wife, is a collaborative pianist to renowned musicians and a Rockefeller Award Winner.

The festival was founded as the Kapalua Music Festival by Colin and Margaret Cameron in 1982. More recently, it has reorganized as the Maui Classical Music Festival and is performed in Maui churches chosen for their historical and scenic appeal as well as excellent acoustics.

This year’s concerts are scheduled May 12 at Makawao Union Church, May 15 and 21 at the Iao Theater in Wailuku, May 17 at Wananalua Congregational Church in Hana and **May 19 at Keawala’i Congregational Church in Mākena.**

Maui Classical Music Festival
P.O. Box 532573
Kihei, HI 96753

www.mauiclassicalmusicfestival.org



Information provided by
Phil Brown, 808-874-6985, ebibrown@msn.com

A View from the Pew

by Fred and Judi Pasco

Many years ago, we took parenting classes from Dr. Bill Richter (aka uncle Bill). We all became dear friends, and he told us about Keawala'i, his "little church in Mākena." He told us, "you belong there." Little did we know how right he was! We started attending Keawala'i in 1992. We were drawn to the tranquility and beauty of the church grounds and, of course, to *Kahu* Kealahou Alika. While we've always had God in our lives, *Kahu's* weekly message of God's *aloha* - and to be truthful, his sense of humor - blessed us with a deeper and brighter faith than we had ever experienced.



When *Kahu* Alika announced his intention to retire, our congregation had a hard time believing that we would ever find anyone to "replace" him. Amazingly enough, we found *Kahu* Scott Landis! It was not as though *Kahu* Landis replaced *Kahu* Alika... It was as though God sent him to Keawala'i to provide us with a continuation of the same loving spirit for our church through his words and *aloha*. The members and friends of Keawala'i had been blessed once again!

We know that we have been further blessed by being a part of the warm and loving 'ohana of Keawala'i. Our lives have been enriched by worshipping alongside many of God's kindest people. It is their commitment to God and to Keawala'i that has made members and friends of the congregation return week after week, year after year, and from generation to generation.

When we started attending Keawala'i with our two daughters, we had no idea what an important part of our lives Keawala'i would become. The years flew by and time gave us grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Babies that were born when we first came to Keawala'i grew up and have families of their own. We have joyfully made, and sadly lost, new and longtime church friends throughout the years.

We have been inspired by the wisdom of those who came before us to build the strong foundation of Keawala'i. We all know the words in our Mission Statement that we share during our Sunday services: "We welcome all, love all, and accept all." Uncle Bill was right. Not only do we belong here... the beauty and strength of our "little church in Mākena" is that anyone who steps upon the church grounds or through the doors of Keawala'i belongs here. *Mahalo ke Akua!*

Event Calendar at a Glance

March 2023

Sun. Mar. 5
Board of Trustees - 11:15 a.m.

Wed. Mar. 8
Outreach Committee - 3:30 p.m.

Sun. Mar. 12
Annual Meeting - 11:30 a.m.

Sun. Mar. 19
One Great Hour of Sharing offering - 10:00 a.m.

Sun. Mar. 19
Board of Deacons - 11:15 a.m.

Tues. Mar. 21
Book Club - 10 a.m.

Mon. Mar. 27
Prince Kuhio Day observed - office closed

April 2023

Sun. Apr. 2
Board of Trustees - 11:15 a.m.

Tues. Apr. 4
Book Club - 10 a.m.

Sun. April 9
Easter Sunrise Service - 7:30 a.m.

Wed. Apr. 12
Outreach Committee - 3:30 p.m.

Sun. Apr. 16
Board of Deacons - 11:15 a.m.

Sun. Apr. 23
Choir Committee - 11:15 a.m.

Lenten Reflections



But the path of righteousness is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. - Proverbs 4:18

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.
- Isaiah 6:3b

We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him. - Romans 8:28

O Lord, Master of my life take from me the spirit of sloth, faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to your servant. Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed from all ages to all ages. Amen.
- St. Ephraim

Our times are in Your hands, O Lord, help us to put into Your care our minds, our hearts and our hands, to be used for Your purposes only, always doing Your will with humility, with faith and most of all, with love.
Amen.

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.*



O Christ, Our God, we have been Buried with You through Baptism, and by Your Resurrection made worthy of Life immortal. Praising You, we cry out, "Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Please remember to let the office know of your current email if we do not have it. We are planning to send out future newsletters by email as a cost saving measure.

Please email keawalaichurch@gmail.com or call (808) 879-5557 if you are not sure we have your current contact information. Mahalo!

KEAWALA'I CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (USA)
5300 MĀKENA ROAD
MĀKENA, HI 96753
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10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

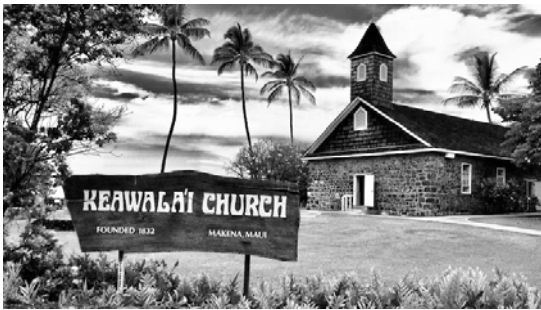
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(808) 268-1612 (Edie Kapiko)

Hui Mālama Chair: (808) 866-6815
(Cindy Mead)

Website: <https://www.keawalai.org>



Ka Hā A Ke Akua: The Breath of God is a newsletter of Keawala'i Congregational Church. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writer(s). Unless otherwise noted, such opinions are not to be construed as the position taken by any of the boards, committees, or council of the church.

Regular Online Meetings

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service on Vimeo
<https://www.keawalai.org>

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

KCC Zoom Room

SUNDAY LENTEN MEDITATIONS

**Each of the Sundays in Lent:
February 19 & 26, March 5, 12, 19 & 26, April 2**

The meditations will begin at approximately 6 p.m. in person and live on the Keawala'i Group Facebook Page. For Sunday Meditations you do not have to be a Facebook subscriber to click and join us. You can also join us in person. We begin each evening with a brief spiritual practice, an explanation of the weekly theme, periods of silence, and conclude with the joy of watching the setting sun over the Pacific Ocean. You might want to make this part of your spiritual practice during your Lenten journey.



Ms. Edie Kapiko, Moderator
Mr. Bruce Burkitt, Vice-Moderator
Ms. Linda Somera, Secretary
Mr. Thom. Probst, Treasurer
Ms. Andrea Yepez, Administrative Coordinator
Ms. Edie Kapiko, *Hui Mālama* Intake
Ms. Andrea Yepez, Outreach Committee Intake
Mr. Cameron Keys, Choir Director
Ms. Danette Kong, Pianist
The Rev. Dr. Scott Landis, Transitional Pastor



Sermon: 10:00 a.m. Sunday sermon text is posted at www.keawalai.org under *Kahu's Mana'o*

Worship: Sunday services are in person and available on Vimeo at www.keawalai.org.

