

✠ ✠ **THE MESSENGER** ✠ ✠

The Church of the Holy Cross, United Church of Christ
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November 20, 2013

**Always With a Song of
Thanksgiving
Prayers for Thanksgiving Day
November 28, 2013**

*Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100
Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35*

REFLECTION ON THE PASSAGES

The Deuteronomy and Psalm passages issue a strong call to come before God with thanksgiving. They encourage us to remember God's promises and our need to give thanks in a way that is joyful and uplifting.

The Philippians passage tells us that we have access to God through prayer and supplication. God's peace may be found through acts of living that are life-giving. Finally, the gospel of John speaks of our foundation as Christians - Jesus is the source of spiritual nourishment. On this Thanksgiving Day we are to keep before us the fact that Jesus satisfies our hunger and our thirst.

The first images that come to mind in creating a service for Thanksgiving Day may be traditional ones of a table filled with a variety of wonderful foods and the people gathered as families, friends and strangers who might express thanksgiving to God for recognized blessings. We may want to take a step deeper and reflect on the first Thanksgiving with Native Americans: what might the perspective of Native Americans be toward this national day of thanksgiving?

Native Americans' highly developed combination of community systems and understanding of the natural world made the first Thanksgiving possible. In 1620 the Wampanoag and the English encountered each other. Theirs were very different cultures that were helping one another. The Wampanoag placed a high value on social relationships-community life. They had an intimate understanding of the environment that allowed them to produce the harvest they celebrated with the English at the first Thanksgiving. It was common among Native Americans to give daily thanks for nature's gifts.

Among the six nations of the Haudenosaunee (New York State and parts of the southeastern Canada) there is a Thanksgiving Address. It is sometimes referred to as "the words that come before all else." The words express thanks for people, Mother Earth, the moon, stars, sun, water, air winds, animals and more.

The prayer that follows attempts to combine the images and feeling tones offered in the scriptures and those from reading about Native Americans and their perspective on Thanksgiving Day.

Always with a Song of Thanksgiving: Service Prayers for Thanksgiving Day was written by Henrietta Stith Andrews, a retired UCC Pastor who served as Associate Conference Minister in Michigan. Rev. Andrews is a certified Spiritual Director and presently residing in Powderfield, GA.

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440 West Lanikaula St., Hilo, HI 96720**

A PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

On this day, O God, we give thanks
in all kinds of communities, or even in
solitude.

Our desire in this moment is to come before
you with our prayers of thanksgiving.

For some of us the words we offer
will flow easily from our lips.
For others trying to name our blessing may
prove difficult.

Thanksgiving 2013 may be very different
from previous years:

a new table at which to sit,
new persons sitting with us,
or a dear one absent,
worries crowding out our sense of
blessing.

These realities may reshape our prayers from
years past.
To seek joy may lead through heartbreak.

Whatever our reality, O God,
We ask that you help us focus
not so much on material things
(whether their abundance or scarcity)
but rather on how we are living our lives.

Help us recognize all the ways you are
present in our live this year.
Help us gather the strength we need for
today and for all of our tomorrows.

Grant us the satisfaction of intimacy with
Jesus, your great gift to us, through whom
you offer Living Water, Bread of Life,
more than we can ask or imagine.

Help us to extend our prayers of
thanksgiving to you into tomorrow with
joyful spirits.

We are loved and blessed and thankful.
Amen.



Help for our Parsonage

We are looking to refresh some of the
furniture in the parsonage since our interim Pastor
will be living there for up to two years.

**Currently we are looking for a king size bed,
dressers, and a new sofa.**

As we get closer to our interim pastor's move
in date we may find other needs or if you have any
ideas or items that you feel would enhance the
parsonage please let the office know.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9am-4:30pm

OUT OF OFFICE: 11am-12pm
Starting Nov. 5th,
OPEN

Tuesday and Thursday: 9am-12pm

Need TVs

The Church of the Holy Cross is requesting
donations for working old flat screen TVs to replace
our old TVs. If you have a TV that you would like
to donate, please contact the Church office at 808-
935-1283.

Electronic Messenger

If you would prefer to receive the Messenger via
email please contact the Church office at
holycrosshilo@hawaii.rr.com

Dedication Sunday November 24, 2013

Next Sunday we will receive our annual
commitment /pledge cards as part of worship.
Scripture assures us that first God gives to us:
"God reached out in love and surprised you with
gifts of unending help and confidence." We all
have been truly blessed with an extravagant
abundance.

In this final time before that worship here are a
few questions to consider as you make your
commitment to God the giver of extravagant
blessings.

When have you experienced

- A surprise gift from others or God?
- Being offered a surprising gift?
- Giving that led to deeper connections with
God and others in your life?

We ask that you prayerfully consider your
commitment and make a pledge for the next
year.

Sue Smith, Moderator;
Millie Daikawa, Trustees

Caregivers Meeting

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday, December 10, 2013.
10 a.m. to 12 noon
Building of Faith

*We meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

Church of the Holy Cross,
440 West Lanikaula Street, Hilo

UCC appeal for Typhoon Haiyan relief

The United Church of Christ today issued an appeal to church members and friends for \$250,000 to support Typhoon Haiyan response efforts. The UCC will support early response and recovery efforts of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines as well as partners in the ACT Alliance that have significant operations in the Philippines, including the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Lutheran World Relief and Christian Aid. Initial response activities will likely include material resource provision, emergency shelter items, drinking water and cash for work programs

To make a donation to the UCC for the disaster in the Philippines you can donate Online at <http://www.ucc.org/disaster/philippines> or by check to Church of the Holy Cross with Philippines Disaster in the memo section.

The Christmas Fund

The generous gifts of UCC congregations and individuals to the Christmas Fund enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide some form of assistance to impact the lives of some 900 persons during the past year.

Assistance took the form of Christmas thank you checks to 500 retired UCC clergy/lay church employees and monthly pension supplementation for 395 lower-income retired UCC clergy or lay employees. Health premium supplementation as well as emergency grants were also included in this assistance. In 2012, over \$2,181 of these special gifts reminded these Veterans of the Cross that they had not been forgotten and that the Church is grateful for their service.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund helps sustain and express our gratitude to clergy and lay employees whose caring keeps God's presence with us and inspires each of us to find way to use our gifts to bless our congregation and our world.

NEW NAME TAGS FOR ALL

New name tags are being made for everyone to wear on home-sewn lanyards each Sunday. If you are willing to help sew lanyards or if you have some cotton or cotton blend Hawaiian print fabric pieces to donate, please call Margaret at 935-4071. Thank you.

Senior Ministry

Everyone's invited to our November pre Thanksgiving session. It's FREE and it's sponsored by the Women's Fellowship and the Senior Ministry. It will be held on November 21st at 10am in the Building of Faith. Please sign up on the Senior Ministry bulletin board or call the church office if you're able to attend.

WORSHIP AND SUPPLY PASTOR SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PREACHER</u>	<u>LAY READER</u>
Nov. 24	Pastor Larry Walter Children' Word: Joyce Nakamoto Pledge card dedication Inter-Faith	Barbara Iwami
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving worship 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church Hanging of the Greens	
Nov. 30	9 a.m.	
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION		
Dec. 1	Pastor Ruth Farrell	Reilly Narruhn
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Dec. 8	Pastor Ron Fujiyoshi Children's Word: Woody Kita Dedicate "Christmas Fund" donations 2 p.m. Christmas Caroling	Mary Ann Katayama
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Dec. 15	Pastor Ruth Farrell	Jayson Rekis
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Dec. 22	Pastor Larry Walter Children's Word: Gloria Kobayashi and Swin family 3 p.m. Messiah Sing-Along CHRISTMAS EVE – 7:30 P.M. Candlelight Service	Latai "Nuu" Loa
Dec. 29	Pastor Larry Walter Pastor Larry Walter Children's Word: Woody Kita Installation of Officers and Board	Sue Smith
Jan. 5	COMMUNION SERVICE Rev. Charles Buck Children's Word: Joyce Nakamoto	Sue Smith
Jan. 12	Pastor Ruth Farrell Pastor Ruth Farrell or Pastor Mary	Jean Pierre Thoma
Jan. 19	Olney-Loyd	Barbara Iwami

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Dec. 1	Eric Tanouye family
Dec. 8	Choir family – JP coordinator
Dec. 15	Sandy Mitipok family
Dec. 22	Nuu Loa, Malia Mattos,
Dec. 25	Henry Nakamoto family

Need Assistance

Asking for donations of cooked rice and desserts for Christmas Sunday Carolers. Need enough for 30 people. Please bring donations to Building of Faith kitchen on Dec. 8, 2013 by 3:30pm. Please contact Lei Jack at 217-6225 if you are able to help.

Thank you and God Bless.

NOVEMBER PRAYER LIST: Birthday

Please pray for and send a greeting to these Birthday people

20	Kobayashi, Raymond Ota, Laura
23	Miyashiro, Mildred
24	Gota, Margaret Inouye, Gordon Yamane, Joy
28	Selifis, Rosendo
29	Tanouye, Lois Jean
30	Ushijima, Kendal

Weekly activities at your Church of the Holy Cross

- **Choir Practice** is at 8:30am in the Sanctuary on Sundays.
- **Sunday School** at 8:45am.
- **The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga** meets in the sanctuary on Sunday at 3 p.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- **The United Church of Christ, Pohnpei – Hilo** worships in the BF meeting room this morning.
- **Samoan Church** worships at 1pm on Sundays.
- **Chuukese Church** worships in BF meeting room at 1pm today.
- **Bible Study** Monday 6:30-8:00 PM
- **Gentle Yoga** Monday 9:30-10:30am (BF Meeting Room)
- **Rhythm & Life exercise class** meets Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. (BF)
- **Bible Study** Wednesday on break
- **Prostate Cancer Support Group-2nd** Thursday of Every month at 12pm in Lounge
- **IYAA Bible Study** is held each Wednesday evening from 7:30 p.m.
- **Qi Goong exercise class** meets Friday morning 9-10:30 a.m. (BF)
- **Toastmasters** meet in the Lounge Tuesdays at 12pm and the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month in the Lounge, 5:30-7pm.

