



Congregational Letter #2: March 18, 2020
(Response to Coronavirus: COVID-19)

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." – Isaiah 41:10

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Lord:

As the situation around Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve and we find ourselves in daily changing circumstances, I want to commend you, our congregation, for remaining faithful amid the pandemic. We have been watching and monitoring the news conferences held by the White House Coronavirus Task Force Team this week. The latest recommendations are: to avoid social gatherings of ten (10) people or more; to avoid eating and drinking in restaurants, bars, and food courts; those over the age of 65, or those who have underlying health conditions, stay home and not attend church worship services or meetings in-person; if meetings, Bible studies, etc., under ten (10) people take place, allow a safe distance of six (6) feet between individuals. The resident Bishop of California-Pacific Conference, Bishop Grant Hagiya, and The Appointive Cabinet of the conference, have strongly encouraged us to comply with these recommendations.

Based on these guidelines, the Leadership Team of Kona United Methodist Church (KUMC) and I have decided to adjust the ways we do "church" together, at least for the next two weeks, as noted below:

- **Worship-** The next two Sundays (3/22 & 3/29) we will be worshipping God a little differently:
 - **Worship via ZOOM-LIVE:**
 - <https://www.zoom.us/j/529810528>
 - Meeting ID: 529 810 528
 - **Worship via FACEBOOK-LIVE:**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/konaumc>
 - **Worship In-Person at Kona UMC**
 - A small group composed of the Live-Stream Worship Team will be worshipping at Kona UMC. This worship service will be broadcast via Zoom and Facebook in realtime.
 - Please visit our church website (konaumc.com). Worship Bulletins, Worship Video, Written Sermons will be available during the week.
 - Please email Les Miller (leslie_miller@hotmail.com) your Joys and Prayer Concerns during the week.
- **Offering-** We encourage you to mail your offering to the church office or drop it off at church during the church office hours. This might be a good time to think about setting up electronic giving. Please contact Bill Jaeger (bjaegerhawaii@gmail.com) for details.
- **Activities during the week-** All programs with more than ten (10) people (in-person) are suspended. This includes, the following activities:

- NO Church Potluck Picnic this Saturday (3/21) at the Old Airport Beach.
 - NO Men's Breakfast Fellowship on Thursdays, 8am-9am.
 - NO Pastor Sunny's Office at Papa Kona's on Thursdays, 9am-11am.
 - NO English & Tongan Choir Rehearsals.
 - NO Tongan Wednesday Evening Service.
 - NO Samoan Thursday Evening Service.
 - NO Samoan Monday Evening Bible Study.
- **Church Office-** Pastors and Administrative Assistant will be at church during their office hours (Monday-Friday, 10am-1pm). Feel free to stop by.
 - **Caring for Our Elders-** A special caring team has been formed to check on our "elder" members. Please contact Gloria Juan (gloriajuan808@gmail.com) if you or someone you know has a special need.
 - **Caring for Our Children/Youth-** Pastor Sunny will email "At Home Faith Activities" to the parents of school aged children to help parents find and create activities that can be done with basic supplies around the house.

Regardless of what's going on in the world, we continue to be a "church" together—maybe a little "d·i·f·f·e·r·e·n·t·l·y"—which is ok. The mission/vision of KUMC still lives within us—to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by growing disciples through worship, outreach, and living the gospel*. This is who we are—the people of KUMC. We will continue to worship our God boldly, but a little differently. We will continue to reach out to people, especially to the vulnerable population, in an extra special way with our loving kindness, because "Kindness Matters." We will continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ both in words and actions.

- We will continue the 6am Saturday morning prayer service at church.
- We will continue the Wednesday morning study at 9am at church.
- We will continue to have our Men's Group clean the church on Thursdays at 9am.
- We will continue to visit our church members via phone, and in person, if needed.

Our Church Ohana is experiencing growth throughout this ordeal. We are discovering new ways to communicate and be in relationship with God and one another. As Christians, we focus on trusting God, keeping the faith, choosing to worship, praise and give thanks to God. We will continue God's ministry, missionally, while being mindful about the situation with hygienic practices. Therefore, the people of KUMC! "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them [Coronavirus], for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Look forward to be a "church" in a little "d·i·f·f·e·r·e·n·t" way for the upcoming weeks. God is good! All the time! AMEN!



Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn, Senior Pastor