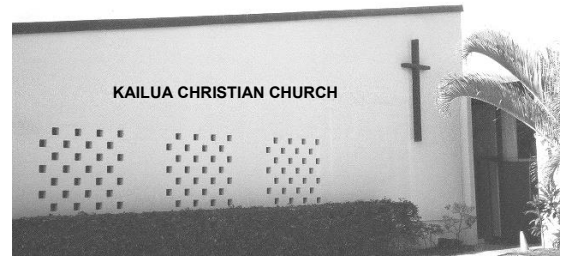


Waves of Faith

Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211
Chartered 1959 –



DECEMBER 2018

Volume 33

Issue 12



Dear Members and Friends of Kailua Christian Church, UCC,

The Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service has been a favorite of mine. 4 weeks prior to December 24, the church would begin its Advent focus, sometimes inviting members and friends to assemble their own Advent wreath which would be taken home with scripture readings and prayers. The sanctuary would have had its 'Hanging of the Greens' which is the religious equivalent of preparing God's house of worship with wreaths, evergreens and even a Christmas tree! As worshippers gathered with the sun in the distant horizon disappearing into the Pacific, the colors of the season in green and red brought laughter and tears. Towards the end of the hour as the house lights were extinguished, the light of candles began to spread from one person to the next. As we sang, "*Joy to the world, the Lord has come!*" candles were raised high into the air to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

What is your special memory or experience of Advent and the Christmas season? It may help to observe how a child senses the specialness of this time where the focus is often on those presents beneath the tree. "**The Night Before Christmas**" takes me back to happy times with family with Dad reading from One Hundred and One Famous Poems (c. 1929). As a youth, the tantalizing foods and desserts were always a highlight. And the holidays always seemed to be a romantic time when I was a young adult. Opening presents on the 25th was the climax to this time with the emotions and feelings of past Christmases mixed in with the present.

In 2005, I learned about The Blue Christmas Worship which identified those who really did not want to celebrate because of some great loss in their lives. The litanies, scriptures and prayers that were part of the order of worship helped those attending to know that it was all right to not want to participate in shopping for presents, going to parties or even dressing up. Our church was one of the 1st to offer this early in December. Candles were also lit in memory of those who were no longer with us. Yes, sometimes we are having a blue Christmas.

"*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*" always was sung on the 1st Sunday of Advent in church. It reminded us that "**God is with us**" in all of our experiences of life. From birth to death, from childhood through adulthood, and in-between, Jesus' birth marked the beginning of God with us in human form. My prayer is that the church will have empathy and understanding for each person as they approach the holidays. Some are lonely and sad, some are in pain and suffering, some cannot seem to get into the spirit of the season, while others are ready to party and to celebrate. And for Kailua Christian Church, UCC, God is with our congregation in this interim or in-between time.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Chris

Have a blessed Christmas!



MODERATOR'S MESSAGE

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled*

December 2018 is upon us. How quickly another year has gone by. The season of Advent is here where we prepare and anticipate the celebration of the birth of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. A time where we sing beautiful hymns and Christmas songs. This Advent season is extra special in that we now have Pastor Chris serving as our intentional interim minister. What a blessing he is to our congregation at KCC. If you have not been to KCC in a while, please come back to hear Pastor Chris' messages, participate in his Advent Bible study after church on Sundays, beginning December 2nd, and fellowship with members and friends. We would all be happy to see you come back especially during this festive time of the year.

I want to encourage all members to come to our congregational meeting on Sunday, December 9th. We will vote on our 2019 budget that your leaders have prayerfully developed. There will also be a vote on leadership positions with new terms. Please also pray and consider serving in a position that may be open on the ballot. We will be accepting nominations from the floor at this meeting. If you are interested in any open position, please see one of your current leaders for more information on the duties of a particular position. Help make this meeting a success by attending and participating on the votes. By actively participating in this process, it will ensure that we start the upcoming 2019 year on a positive note.

We will also be having a Christmas Eve service this year! Pastor Chris has graciously committed to leading this worship service. We hope to see you there.

In closing, I want to thank you for your support these past two years where I served my first term as your moderator. I appreciate your patience, kind words of encouragement and your

participation in our various church activities over this term. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Love in Christ!
Dean

DEACONS MESSAGE**Being Evangelical Is Not
A Bad Thing, Even for Progressives**

The word "evangelical" derives from the Greek *euangelion* meaning "gospel" or "good news." Evangelical refers to a person, church or organization that is committed to the Christian gospel message that Jesus Christ is the savior of humanity. KCC, like all Christian churches, is an evangelical church.

In the current political climate, however, the public perspective on evangelicals does not correspond well with what we read in the gospel. In politics, being evangelical in the 21st century refers to people and churches who are at the conservative right-wing of politics and who typically oppose gay rights, oppose abortion rights, question climate science, question evolutionary science, oppose immigration, resist diversity, oppose globalism, promote gun rights and are generally anti-progressive and anti-liberal. These are all political issues, which are not directly addressed in the gospel and which many Christians do not embrace. If we, as Christians, disagree with these political views, do we have to give up on evangelism or calling ourselves evangelical?

The Red-Letter Christians have an alternate vocabulary for promoting the good news in the gospel. Proponents of the Red-Letter Christian movement believe that Christianity, and especially evangelicalism, has been exploited by both right-wing and left-wing political movements and has become too partisan and politicized.

The goal of Red-Letter Christians is simple: to take Jesus seriously by endeavoring to live out His radical, counter-cultural teachings, as set forth in Scripture, and especially embracing the lifestyle prescribed in the Sermon on the Mount.

By calling themselves Red-Letter Christians, they refer to the fact that, in many Bibles, the words of Jesus in the gospels are printed in red. What they are asserting, therefore, is that they have committed themselves, first and foremost, to doing what Jesus said. Jesus calls us away from the consumerist values that dominate contemporary America. Instead, he calls us to meet the needs of the poor. He also calls us to be merciful.

The words of Jesus are authoritative and compel us to believe:

1. All people are made in the likeness and image of God.
2. Jesus is the lens through which we understand the Bible. . . and through which we understand the world in which we live.
3. Doing Jesus' work leads to personal growth and greater understanding.
4. Freedom comes through serving others — not power, politics or materialism.
5. Diversity and collaboration make us stronger, not weaker.
6. Wherever your power and influence might lie, it is magnified when shared and held by those who are poor, oppressed and looked over by society.
7. Questioning cultural norms is healthy and can lead to wholeness.
8. We respect and fight for the well-being of all people as children of God — especially those with whom we differ.
9. We embrace and work alongside people of different faiths, erasing the lines of 'us-versus-them.'

If we are uncomfortable calling ourselves evangelicals in the current political climate, let's consider Red-Letter Christianity, which embraces the teachings of Jesus in the gospels and compels us to serve sacrificially and believe in Him as our Lord and Savior.

Respectfully
Submitted, Paul
Grable, Deacon

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Minoru Teruya in Hospice
- ~ Sharon Nishihira
- ~ Nani Oda, healing after a fall
- ~ John Sakamoto's son in law, Tony S.
- ~ Bev & Dale Vallejo-Sanderson and family
- ~ Ruth Uyechi, Dora Kim, Mitsi Higashida, Kiyooko Sproat, Natsuko Matsushima, Hazel Chow, Lillian Ishihara, Ada Kaneoka, Mary Watanabe, Winnie Nakamura, Hideko Mumaw, and Harry Imai.
- ~ All who grieve the loss of loved ones especially during this special season.
- ~ Our New Interim Pastor, Pastor Chris Eng



Deepest Sympathies go out to Hazel Masuda and family on the loss of her husband, Fred. Our dear brother in Christ, went home to the Lord in Nov. and a celebration of life service will be held at Hosoi Mortuary in mid-Jan. Call the church office for more details.

Heartfelt Sympathy goes out to our brother in Christ and KCC charter member, Carl Nemoto and his family on the loss of his precious wife, Satsuki also a charter member at KCC. Satsuki passed away on Thurs. Nov. 29 in her sleep.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Myra Yamada
- Royce Kojiro
- Jean Miyaji
- Myrtle Terada
- Shawn Eberlein
- Paul Grable
- Brandon Gerber
- Molly Hagmann
- Sandra Siu
- Carol Soma

- Grant Jessee
- Jackie Ostiles
- Jen Yoshimura
- Pat Oyama
- Lauren Shiroma
- Michelle Martinez-Ramos
- Kiyooko Sproat
- Alaka'i Todd



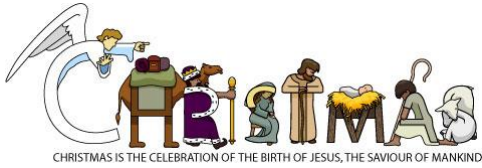
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Dean & Maureen Wakuzawa
- Howard & Saeko Yoshida



KCC SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Date:	Adults	Children (under 12)	Visitors
11/04	54	03	02
11/11	41	01	00
11/18	41	07	00
11/25	51	05	00



Mahalo for Beautiful Lei & Ono Potluck on Sunday, November 25, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of Kailua Christian Church UCC,

Sunday, November 25th, 2018 was very special for me. Before worship, Susan Morita presented me with a freshly cut mock orange kukui nut lei. Then Dean Wakuzawa showed me the beautiful and fragrant tuberose lei interspersed with baby's breath for my wife Cheri. She had planned to attend but ended up babysitting our granddaughter. (The lei will be worn later in the week at a luncheon.) I was delightfully surprised to learn that I would be installed as the church's intentional interim pastor after giving the children's story ("You Are My Sunshine" and "Jesus Is the Light of the World") and the sermon, "Who is like the Light of the Morning, the Sun Rising or Rain?" In reflection, it was at the Oahu Association UCC's Spring Mokupuni on Saturday, May 5, 2018 held at Manoa Valley Church where I met Dean and Susan (delegates for KCC) that began the process of my deciding to leave Hospice Hawaii as a chaplain and to consider being Kailua Christian Church's interim minister. It was most fitting to culminate this significant day by partaking in the potluck comprised of so many ono dishes! I thank God for each of you and for this opportunity to serve Christ.

Mahalo,
Pastor Chris



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2018 THANKSGIVING OFFERING

A BIG MAHALO to all of you for your very generous donations to the KCC Thanksgiving Offering this year. We were blessed with a total of almost \$1700 to this special offering. The recipients of this offering will be 1/3 to the Hale Ola – Spouse Abuse Shelter in Kailua and the balance will go to HCUCC Disaster Relief Fund for the recent Lava and Flood disaster victims. Again, thank you so much for kind response to this plea. Final count will be posted in the Jan. Newsletter.



NA ANELA SUPPORT GROUP

We have been very blessed to have HMSA's Health and Well-Being Educator, Mr. Stephen McCall, provide us with his "Meditation" workshop. All sixteen of us "temporarily" lowered our blood pressure, calmed our nerves and moved into deep relaxation, through his "Take2X20" meditation music that he developed. Steve says to "download and share with anyone you think might like it."

This is his link to his folder which includes all of his meditation pieces:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9wjLF022YnzdjhtLTZwUFRURGc>

After this relaxing presentation, we enjoyed fellowship with each other and Steve, eating the many vegetarian healthy dishes that Steve loves!

Steve, truly a Living Treasure, has been blessing KCC since 2010, with his God-given gifts of music, knowledge and ability to communicate technical information to help us learn to live healthier lives. His HMSA presentation and workshops at KCC include: Eating Healthy Local Style, Meatless Alternatives, Take a Look at Stress, Successful Aging Begins with You, Hypertension Explained, What the Heck is Cholesterol, Heart Disease or Heart-at-Ease, Understanding Diabetes, Music and Health, and Laugh-Sing-Move.

Thank you to all of you who have coordinated speakers, set up rooms, audio-visual/computer equipment for our monthly meetings, prepared many delicious foods, provided beverages, leis and gifts for the speakers, recorded our events through pictures, helped to clean up after refreshments and most of all, being present - caring and praying for one another! We have been a great support for each other's wellness journey.

Note: Please save Jan 26, 2019 on your calendar. A special chef friend, Mr. Dan Swift of Kapi'olani Community College, is so looking forward to demonstrating and preparing healthy foods for our group.

Mahalo Plenty and Blessings for this wonderful Christ-focused season!



Myra



KCC ALL-CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Mahalo to the dozen volunteers who came out to support workday even though it was a rainy day. Having you here to get the job done was an encouragement for the others who showed up. As always we do the best we can with who and what we have to work with and with gracious hearts we offer it all up to the Lord.!

Special thanks to our dear unsung heroes who showed up to help when the need arose. Johnny Sakamoto assembled the Stewardship packets and Thanksgiving letter and Keith Shultz came and weed wacked the front and back yard during the in-between-time for our scheduled yard service. The yard was in great shape when we had two memorial services during that time. Sincere thanks to them.



mission Update



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Once again KCC, you made the hearts of many people smile with your generous donations of food for the Food Drive. The staff at St. Anthony's Outreach program was so delighted to see us unload all the wonderful donations that they would distribute. A special thank you to Jennie Lee for coordinating this event.



IN THE WORD, HAWAII BIBLE CONFERENCE **ENCOUNTER, EMPOWER, & ENRICH** Saturday, January 26, 2019 – 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army Kroc Center In Ewa Beach. Cost is \$35 registration which includes lunch. The speakers for this Conference will be adjunct facilitators of BIH who teach the courses offered throughout the year. This Inspirational conference is being sponsored by Bible Institute of Hawaii and the Salvation Army

KROC Center Hawaii. See hallway bulletin board for details.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Room 3. All are welcome! Classes for Dec. will be held on Dec. 5 and 12 and will not resume until Jan. 9, 2019. Because Christmas is near the last Wed. of the year, we will not have a movie fellowship in Dec. Wishing you all a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!



RIVER OF LIFE OUTREACH LAST ROUND FOR 2018 is set for Thursday, Dec. 6th, 2018



We welcome your participation in the outreach at the mission for our friends on the streets of Chinatown. Prep of the meal begins at 11 a.m. and serving at the mission is at 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. See Shane Soma for details.



FAMILY PROMISE WEEK

Nov. 25 – Dec. 1

Mahalo to the great team of helpers that supported the needs of Family Promise Week here at KCC. It is wonderful to have our neighboring churches come together to provide support of meals and overnight support even though their own churches are not able to provide the facilities for this ministry. This round provided a safe sanctuary for two families who were appreciative for this time at KCC.

Updated information: In an effort to consolidate resources and make good financial sense, the under utilized Kailua site of Family Promise has been closed and now will function from the town location. The Windward support churches will still function as usual and the van will return to driving families to the sites once a driver is hired. (Anyone looking for a part time job?)





**2018 CHRISTMAS
PLAY**

Cast:

Mary-Monicalynn Martinez
 Joseph-Dean Wakuzawa
 Donkey-Jonathan Martinez
 Prophets-Bill Cunningham, Katie Gomes, &
 Logan Myers
 Gabriel-Paul Grable
 Caesar-Rev Chris Eng
 Soldier-Bryan Gomes
 Townspeople-Joan Sakaba
 Innkeepers-Lara Higashi, Barney Pilla, &
 Stephanie Moderow
 Shepherds-June Cunningham and girls
 Narrator-Diane Lee Pilla
 Stagehand - Keith Shultz
 Sheep-Teyvyn Higashi
 Angels – Alianna Ramos, Milla & Keelyn,
 Higashi

Please Join us on Sun., Dec. 16 as we present our 2018 Christmas Program. Invite a friend!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

01 – Sat. Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 a.m.
 02 – Sun. Communion Sun.
 First Sunday of Advent: We light the Candle of Hope.
 Advent Study, 11:30 a.m. in Library
 05 – Wed. Wed. Morning Bible Study, 9 a.m.
 06 – Thurs. River of Life Outreach
 09 – Sun. Second Sunday of Advent: Jerusalem Candle lit.
 Congregational Meeting for budget and Slate of New Officers.
 Advent Study in Library following Meeting.

12 – Wed. Wed. Morning Bible Study, 9 a.m.
 15 – Sat. Christmas Program Practice, 10 a.m.
 16 – Sun. Third Sunday of Advent. We light the Candle of Joy.
 The Christmas Program presented.
 Advent Study, 11:30 a.m. in Library.
 18 – Tues. Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
 23 – Sun. Christmas Sunday. Fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the Candle of Love. We receive the Christmas Offering for KCC. Heavy Pupu Christmas Potluck.
 Advent Study, 11:30 a.m. in Library
 24 – Mon. Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
 25 – Tues. Christmas Day, Office closed.
 Four C Church using facilities.
 30 – Sun. Installation of Officers Service.
 31 – Mon. New Year’s Eve, Office is closed.
 01 – Tues. New Year’s Day, Office is closed.
 Four C Church using facilities.



WORSHIP LEADER

Paul Grable

AUDIO

Barney Pilla

GREETER/ USHERS

Shane Soma / Jennie Lee
 Pat Chinn / Walter Yeda
 Bruce Kugiya

VISUAL

Debbie Fong

LIGHTS & SCREEN

Barney Pilla

PIANO/ORGAN

Scott Baehrens

KING’S COMPANY

Leaders sought



Altar Flowers

02 – Arcadio & Michelle Martinez-Ramos
 09 – Mel & June Tom
 16 – Ruth Masuno
 23 & 30 – Dr. Gary & Susan Morita

A big Mahalo to all our Altar flower providers and special thanks to Pam Morikawa for taking on the Altar Flowers Ministry for 2019. We want to also thank Alice Esaki for her fine service for the past few years as she passes this ministry on to Pam. God has blessed us with such gracious helpers to keep this ministry going. Hallelujah!

Kailua Christian Church (UCC)
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Ph: (808) 261-0125
Email: kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net
Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org

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PERMIT NO. 568

Return service requested

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, Dec, 2, 2018



~ Communion & First Sunday of Advent. We light the Candle of Hope.

~ Advent Bible Study: Focused on Prophecy (Isaiah 9:2-7) Meet in the Library beginning at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, DEC. 16, 2018

~ Third Sunday of Advent. We light the Candle of Joy

~ Christmas Program

~ Advent Bible Study: Focus on the Shepherds 11:30 a.m. in the Library. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:00 a.m. Wed. mornings - Dec. 5 and 12 only
Classes will resume on Jan. 9, 2019

TUESDAY, DEC. 18, 2018

~ Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 6, 2018

River of Life Outreach
11:00 a.m. Shred Chicken
5:30 p.m. Leave for downtown mission

SUNDAY, DEC. 23, 2018

~ Christmas Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Advent: We light the Candle of Love

~ KCC Special Christmas Offering received

~ Heavy Pupu Potluck following worship.

~ Advent Bible Study: Focus on the Angels. (Luke 1:26-38) final class in Library.

SUNDAY, DEC. 9, 2018

~ Second Sunday of Advent. We light the Bethlehem Candle.

~ Congregational Meeting - 2019 Budget and Slate of Officers will be voted upon by members.

~Advent Bible Study: Focused on Preparation (Luke 2:1-14) Will be held after Congregational Meeting in the Library.

MONDAY, DEC. 24, 2018

~ Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 25, 2018

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Church office will be closed.

Four C Church using facilities for worship.

SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 2018

~ Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 30, 2018

~ Installation of Officers for 2019.