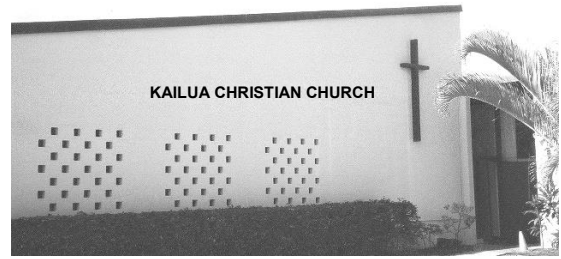


Waves of Faith

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



MAY 2019

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Issue 05



A Church Divided: What's a Possible Solution?

I cried when I saw photos of the Notre Dame Cathedral in flames, having traversed its corridors when I was 21. New York Times columnist Ross Douthat's article, "[A church divided](#)," caught my attention in the April 17, 2019 edition of the Honolulu Star Advertiser. He writes about those who are conservative and those who are liberal including the controversy that the former pope, 92 year old, Benedict XVI lit when he reflected on the sex abuse crisis in a 6,000 word document which was countered by those who are partisan to Pope Francis. Yes, there are two!

The Protestant Church, of which the United Church of Christ is part of, has its divisions and controversies as well. In fact, the UCC motto is taken from Jesus' prayer before he goes to his death at Calvary (John 17:21) is "*that they may all be one.*" Our Lord wished for his followers who were disciples, to have this sense of unity. Christ's prayer is even more relevant to the church 2,000 years later. It is 2019 and we need to find ways of reconciling our differences.

Douthat's central thesis is that "*the church has always depended on synthesis and integration*" as he addresses the problem of the Roman Catholic Church which seems to mirror the polarization of Western culture rather than offering an integrated alternative. He points out the reconciliation of opposites: faith and reason, Athens and Jerusalem, the aesthetic and the ascetic, the mystical and the philosophical and

even the crucifix (cross) itself (with Its) two infinite lines converging and combining.

The fire at the Cathedral brought to mind the history of its construction and how Catholicism had built something so gorgeous as Notre-Dame. Despite competing theologies, the church was somehow able to find reconciliation.

I cut out this article because it offers a possible solution to a church divided. We will witness how the cathedral will be rebuilt, influenced by such theological diversity. In this case, fire damaged and destroyed parts of this sacred monument. In respect to the church, the differences which have polarized individuals can destroy what is "*the body of Christ.*" So how do we begin to address these differences which divide and find ways of bringing everyone together? We have already witnessed the departure of many members from the congregation.

I've sensed some very strong emotions from individuals. These feelings need to be acknowledged. There is anger, hurt, disappointment, pain, and frustration. Forgiveness is needed. But how do we work through all of this? Can we even think of "letting it all go?"

Let us listen to Paul's words from Philippians 2: 2 – 5: "*make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.*" Verse 7 goes on to read, "(Jesus) emptied himself." In next month's article, I will

write about the necessity of “forgiveness” for all of us who follow Jesus’ example.

Pastor Chris



MODERATOR’S MESSAGE

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.” (Romans 12:9-11)

What an exciting Easter service we had this year! Christ the Lord has risen indeed! We witnessed the baptism of Florence Miyashiro, Winchell Lee and Reggie Yamada at this service. Hallelujah! It has been a long time since we have had a baptism at KCC as well as receive new members to KCC. It was truly a blessing to be at this service and witness the commitments these individuals made to Christ. It brought back fond memories for me going back to Easter 2000 where Katelyn, Andrew and I were baptized and Maureen was confirmed, and our family became members of KCC. That moment in time changed our lives forever and we have been a part of this beautiful family at KCC for most of the years since then.

During our April Council meeting, we discussed comments received regarding the vision statement as presented in last month’s Moderator’s Notes. After much discussion, we unanimously voted to present the vision statement for approval at a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, May 19th. If you are a member of KCC, please plan on being at this meeting to cast your vote in support of this beginning step to guide our future pastoral search committee.

We will also be presenting a revised contract for Pastor Chris for congregational approval at this meeting. Council has approved a recommendation from the trustees to increase Pastor Chris’ hours worked from 20 to 25 hours. Pastor Chris

is planning to start Bible study classes, tai-chi classes and assist with the pastoral search process in the coming weeks and months. These additional hours are necessary for Pastor Chris to provide all we are asking him to do. I am so thankful that God called Pastor Chris to serve at KCC. He has been doing a great job with his sermons as well as sharing his knowledge with the leaders at our various meetings.

I had the privilege of attending Minoru Teruya’s celebration of life service this past April. It was a beautiful service where a film was shared about Mino’s life. What an unbelievable life he lived. I am so thankful to have been a fellow member with him at KCC and honored to have been friends with both Kay and Mino. Mino was such a humble servant and generous person who gave so much of his time and talent to KCC and all who crossed paths with him. They will both be missed and never forgotten.

Mino’s funeral gave me time to reflect on life at KCC. I want to thank all the Charter Members who are out there. Thank you for heeding God’s call and building this church for all of us to enjoy today. KCC has had such a storied history. So many lives have been changed here and it continues today and into the future.

Council is starting to gather names of prospective candidates to serve on the pastoral search committee. Please email the church at kcc-ucc@hawaiiintel.net or let one of your church leaders know that you are interested in serving on this committee. More details will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Thank you to all members and friends who continue to support KCC in many different forms. If you haven’t been around in a while, please come back and join us for Sunday service. We would be glad to see old members and friends return, especially in this important interim time.

Love in Christ!

Your Moderator, Dean



DEACONS MESSAGE**What to Do When God Feels Distant**

At times when God seems silent, you can become quite frustrated. It's difficult to feel truly close to someone that seems more like an idea, an image or a "force". Yet feeling far from God is not a pleasant place to be. You've tasted the "good"—the incredible mountaintop highs—in following Christ, and now you can't understand why those feelings are gone. I hear from so many Christians who feel this way, and honestly, I too have had moments where I've felt far from God and not knowing how to handle it.

If we want to feel God more, it will require some time, effort, and patience. It is so easy for laziness, worldliness, faithlessness, selfishness, greed; you name it, to have much more power over you when you don't feel close to God.

Often, you let your emotions determine the truth of what you believe. For example, you might have always seen God as a judge who is holding every sin against you; waiting for you to mess up. It's important to admit what you really think about God, so that it doesn't secretly affect your interactions with God under the surface. Be honest about your views (God knows them anyway), then hold them under the light to examine if they're true.

We must not let our emotions take over and nullify the everlasting truths of God, such as:

God is close to the brokenhearted and rescues those with crushed spirits (Psalms 34:18).

He keeps us in perfect peace when we keep our eyes on Him and not on our circumstances (Isaiah 26:3).

He will not reject a broken and repentant heart (Psalms 52:17).

He restores the crushed spirit of the humble and revives the courage of those with repentant hearts (Isaiah 57:15)

The Lord is close to all who call on him in truth (Psalms 145:18-19).

He will never leave us or give up on us (Hebrews 13:5).

The truth? Our emotions are a natural reaction to our circumstances, and we can't place our entire belief system on what we may or may not feel.

However, emotions can be an incredibly powerful barometer for allowing us to assess those areas of our life where we may need some additional growth or healing, especially regarding faith and spiritual matters.

Instead of allowing emotion to dictate our joy, let's view our emotions as opportunities for deeper avenues of growth with God who loves us at all times and through all experiences.

He tells us to give Him our cares and to trust Him with every part of our lives (1Peter 5:7, Matthew 11:28-30).

Ask God to reveal anything in your life, including sinful habits, thoughts, or patterns, that may be separating you from Him.

Ask God to show you areas where you need His help to live differently so that nothing can hinder your connection with God. Listen for his conviction and not the condemnation.

If God reveals things to you that need to change, be quick to repent and to change patterns in your life so that you can find healing and restoration.

Keep seeking, keep believing, and watch God promises still come true despite your waxing and waning emotions.

God isn't indifferent toward us. He feels joy as He looks down on us (Zephaniah 3:17). He has compassion when He sees us struggle (Psalm 103:13). God has great understanding for our weaknesses as well as our shame. He feels tremendous empathy when we are hurt and treated unjustly.

We know how the Lord saved Paul from being a hateful Christian persecutor by blinding him and then giving his sight back so that we could know Christ's perfect love and patience. That we may know in our hearts to believe and have faith in living a righteous life.

The Bible tell us, "Wait! Wait!" in dozens of passages. Psalm 37:7 says, "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him. Fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way." You may be thinking of people who are going along in life just fine and leaving you behind. Don't fret over that. Wait. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait for the Lord. Be strong and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord."

It's not imperative for you to always be a chipper and successful person. If you have walked through darkness and despair, then came out at the other end full of peace and wisdom you will become a much better person. For without suffering you cannot know true happiness.

If you ask: How long do I have to wait? I don't know. I just know you mustn't let go. Don't let go. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

We need God's Word to speak to us about reality. That we live in an imperfect world here on earth and why we seek internal life with our maker in heaven. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3-16).

Just because we know God's word and his gospel doesn't mean we can't be honest about how we feel. We can pour out our grief and feelings to him. Even Jesus said, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me". Our Father isn't going anywhere, he knows our hearts even better than we do, and he is listening.

As we remember God's truth, our feelings are transformed. God's holy reign and faithful deliverance far transcend our fleeting emotions and distressing circumstances. So, we choose to rehearse these truths when God seems far away, to praise him even when we cannot feel him.

May we persevere with hope by running to God's Word. In his perfect timing, may we let his truth transform our feelings that we may sing along with David: "God has heard when I cried to him."

Confession is powerful because it takes the burden off you and hands it over to Jesus. He wants us to rest in his strength and not our own (Matthew 11:28-30).

Don't worry about what it should look like or getting it "right." Just blurt it out. And if you're not sure what you're feeling in the first place, then confess that you don't know.

Give Thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 instructs us to pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances.

Even secular psychologists know that expressing gratitude has the power to change the way you think.

Try to practice gratitude as a daily spiritual discipline. Write a list of everything you are thankful for. This may sound silly, but it will remind you that everything you have is a gift from God.

Give it time and persistence. Keep up with the daily discipline of prayer and set aside longer times when you can. Pull in other people to pray with you and for you. And watch as God works in your heart.

Fellowship with other Christians and non-Christian that feel strained; you will be blessed for making the effort. As a result, you will feel the freedom, joy and peace that come from knowing God's grace.

So, when you feel alone and distant from God, don't listen to the dark and doubting thoughts, but remember and meditate on the truth. Remember that all the Persons of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are intimately involved in your life. Meditate on the work that Christ has for you, the presence of your Helper, the Holy Spirit, and that God the Father sees you as righteous. God is always near, and you are always loved.

When we truly seek, we will find. In any relationship we want to grow, in anyone we truly want to invest, we can develop. Our relationship with God is certainly no exception. It is the highest, the deepest, the richest relationship we can experience on this Earth. And it's worth the effort.

Prayer:

Father, teach how to navigate through the turbid waters in in life, let us know that there is always hope even in our deepest grief and despair. Help us to take the time and effort to overcome our worldly emotions, that we have the patience in knowing the truth of your Word to bring joy and happiness to our lives. Thank you for listening to us and letting us know you that you are always there close by our side. We look forward to eternal life in love and peace with you forever.

In your son Jesus’s name, we pray, Amen.

Vernon Pang – KCC Deacon

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Vici
- ~ Sharon Nishihira
- ~ John Sakamoto’s nephew, Mike, and John’s daughter and son-in-law on Kauai.
- ~ Bev & Dale Vallejo-Sanderson and family
- ~ Ruth Uyechi, Dora Kim, Mitsi Higashida, Natsuko Matsushima, Hazel Chow, Ada Kaneoka, Winnie Nakamura, Harry Imai and Hideko Mumaw.
- ~ Cynthia Okazaki
- ~ Reggie & Carnation
- ~ Rick & Betty P. dealing with cancer.
- ~ Alan Ishikane dealing with cancer
- ~ Our Interim Pastor, Pastor Chris Eng



Our sincere condolences to the family of Lillian Ishihara, long time member of KCC who passed away unexpectedly on March 17. Private services were held for immediate family in April.

Our sympathy goes out to the Mon family on the loss of Ben Mon, son of the late Melvyn and Garryl Mon and stepson to Sharon Mon, beloved members of KCC. Ben passed away in mid-April. Services have not been scheduled as of now.

Deepest Sympathies go out to the families of the 3 people who died in the helicopter crash near KCC on Oneawa St. May God comfort them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Linda Umetsu
- Mae Takahashi
- Bert Yoshioka
- Marjorie Morishige
- Cera Soma
- Betty Ota
- Stan Nakamura
- Lia Lau
- Walter Yeda
- Lily Lee
- Reid Umetsu
- Pua Todd
- Allen Shiroma
- Matthew Chang



- Kimberly Terada07
- Dr. Gary Morita
- Glenn Ogasawara
- Lara Higashi
- Sherie Oga
- Ken Nakamatsu
- Logan Gerber



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Gary and Cleo Nham
- Bert and Judy Yoshioka
- Larry & JoAnn Takumi
- Randy & Cindy Imai

REASON TO CELEBRATE!

Welcome new members Florence Miyashiro, Winchell Lee and Reggie Yamada! Along with the joyous occasion of Easter, these dear friends were baptized and received into membership at KCC. We delight in this special time in the life of the church and the lives of these brothers and sister who have committed their lives to Jesus. We encourage you to get to know and support our new members as they serve faithfully and grow deeper in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



TRUSTEES REPORT

April showers of gracious and generous gifts of time, talent and resources continue to bless our church and glorify God's kingdom. More than 20 members and non-members came on Saturday, 6 April 2019 to clean, organize and maintain our facilities and grounds. We are all benefiting from their dedication and hard work!! The sign to our church was graciously repainted by Keith Schultz and updated with current information. A generous and greatly appreciated donation to our building fund was received. The interim pastor contract expires at the end of April. The interim pastor reported requests for additional services from the congregation. The interim pastor agreed to provide additional services. But congregational approval for an increase in the budget and a new contract would be needed. Agreement was reached to extend the current contract until a new contract and budget can be approved by our congregation.

**NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA SUPPORT GROUP**

(Angels in the Works for God)

Na Anela I ka hana a ke Akua will not meet on May 25. Instead, we will gather in Rooms 3 & 4 on June 22, 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. for a two-hour CPR/AED training, that will focus on Hands-on training with the Honolulu Fire Dept. Please save the date!

If you would like to sign up, please see Kammy or me.

Mahalo and God Bless!

Myra Yamada

MAHALO KCC FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE OGHs SPECIAL OFFERING!

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the UCC that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. This offering received \$895 that will be sent on your behalf.

PLEASE KOKUA!

The UCC Transition House will hold its annual fundraiser in November. We are requesting high value silent auction donations such as restaurant meals, hotel stays, airline tickets, golfing, jewelry, etc. Quality Country Store items are also needed, such as: quilts, homemade preserves, jellies, and various baked goods. This Transition House provides a home for women with children who have decided to leave their abusive spouses and are in the process of building a new life for themselves. They all receive support through counseling, assistance with employment and assistance with finding permanent housing. Financial support is needed for staff salary and benefits, utilities, misc. supplies and with a large amount going for ongoing home repairs such as roofing needs, electrical needs, fencing, window repairs, insurance, etc. For more information, please see June Tom.

MISSIONS UPDATE

At a meeting held on Sunday, April 28, discussion was shared about our KCC Transitional Housing Ministry and current efforts made on behalf of the mission's ministries of KCC. The conclusion reached included KCC reconnecting with IHS to hear their proposal of establishing services and partnering with KCC. As previously done, we would provide shelter for a single mom with 2 or less children for the period of six months in our Unit. Mom must be actively trying to find employment, learn parenting and budgeting skills and fulfilling requirements to apply for more permanent housing. KCC has always welcomed participation for the family to join us in worship, although, it is not a requirement for their being a guest here. Our goal is to provide a temporary shelter where our guests can focus on rebuilding their lives back into the mainstream of society while offering some sanctuary and a quiet safe place off the streets. Guests must be currently in the IHS program and interviewed by our KCC T/H Committee and committed to complying with all our guidelines to be considered eligible for this opportunity. All other mission ministry commitments for 2019 continues as planned.

TIMES TO CELEBRATE!



Family and friends enjoy the fellowship.



MAHALO expressed for us
Administrative Assistant

KCC graciously honored their church secretary, Kammy Grable, last month during Administrative Professionals' Day. Kind words and generous hearts were shared during worship and also at the Wed. Morning Ladies Bible Study Group. Both events were received with sincere appreciation. Mahalo to you KCC ohana, your Spirit of Love shines brightly!



HAWAIIAN ISLAND MINISTRIES
(HIM) CONFERENCE

Highlight Speakers on Video
 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
 In the Library

You are invited to join us for some wonderful speakers/teachers sharing from the Honolulu 2019 – *Kingdom Come* Conference held at the Convention Center. It was attended by over 2500 people from many churches from Hawaii and beyond.

Topics will address:

- What's Happening to the Red Letter Revolution?
- Why Millennials and Gen Z are the Hope of the Church
- Preaching and Worship for Millennials and Gen Z
- Eternity Is Now in Session
- The Way of Wisdom (A Life Well Lived in Christ)
- Building A Culture of Honor
- The Power of Blessing

Join us each Sunday morning starting May 5th. Scheduling may be adjusted to accommodate other commitments that are happening. Contact the office for more details. Mahalo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019 MAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			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	

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.
 Last Wed. of each month – Movie Fellowship hosted by Women’s Bible Study group.

- 01– Wed. Wed. Morning Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
- 05 – Sun. 8:45 a.m. HIM highlights Videos
 Communion Sunday,
 First Tai Chi Class 11:45 a.m. in Nursery
- 08 – Wed. Wed. Morning Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
- 09 – Thurs. Tai Chi Class, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 – Sun. Mother’s Day Luncheon by Men
 NO Tai Chi Class
- 15 – Wed. Wed. Morning Bible Study, 9:00 a.m.
- 16 – Thurs. Tai Chi Class, 10:00 a.m. in Nursery
- 18 – Sat. Aha Mokupuni from 8 to 1 p.m.
- 19 – Sun. HIM Highlights Videos, 8:45 a.m.
 Congregational Meeting
 Tai Chi Class 11:45 a.m. in Nursery
 Deacons Meeting to follow
- 21 – Tues. Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 – Wed. Last Wed. Morning Bible Study
 Class, 9:00 a.m.
- 23 – Thurs. Tai Chi Class, 10:00 a.m.
- 26 – Sun. HIM Highlights Video, 8:45 a.m.
 Tai Chi Class, 11:45 a.m. in Nursery
- 27 – Mon. Memorial Day. Office closed.
- 29 – Wed. Wed. Movie Fellowship,
 9:00 a.m. in Library.
- 30 – Thurs. Tai Chi Class, 10:00 a.m.

MAHALO TO Lara Higashi and June Cunningham who shares the children’s message periodically during worship. It’s great to have them assist Pastor Chris in this ministry that bless the children during worship. If you would like to participate in this sharing, please let June Tom know.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

WORSHIP LEADER

June Tom

AUDIO

Barney Pilla
 Jonathan Martinez

GREETER/ USHERS

Jennie Lee / Walter Yeda
 Pat Chinn / Bruce Kugiya
 Lani Bartholomew / Paul Grable/Shane Soma

VISUAL

Debbie Fong
 Jonathan Martinez

LIGHTS & SCREEN

June Tom
 Barney Pilla

PIANO/ORGAN

Scott Baehrens

KING’S COMPANY

Leaders sought



Altar Flowers

- 05 – Reggie & Myra Yamada
- 12 – Joan Sakaba
- 19 – Paul & Kammy Grable
- 26 – Dot Suzuki

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Room 3. All are welcome!
 1 – Gospel from Lectionary for the coming week.

2 – “Taming Your Tongue” Why people speak the way they do. (Check weekly bulletins for upcoming chapters). Friendly Reminder: Last Wed. of the month we feature a Movie Fellowship at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. May’s feature movie will be introduced in the Sunday Bulletin. Watch for details.



KCC SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Date:	Adults	Children (under 12)	Visitors
04/07	48	06	01
04/14	53	05	02
04/19 GF	40	01	00
04/21 E	78	09	01
04/28	50	06	00

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

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Return service requested

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:00 a.m., Wed. Mornings
Gospel from Lectionary and Taming Your Tongue
Series in Room 3.
WMBS will be focusing on projects for the summer starting in June. The movie fellowship will still happen on the last Wed. of the month. All is welcome to attend.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

Oahu Association UCC holding the Spring
Mokupuni at Makiki Christian Church
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Please pray for this event as the UCC churches on
Oahu gathers for this Association Meeting.

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019

- ~ HIM Highlights Video
8:45 a.m. in Library.
~ Communion Sunday
~ Tai Chi Class 11:45 a.m. in Nursery



SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019

- ~ HIM Highlights Video – 8:45 a.m.
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
following worship.
Deacons Meeting following CM
Tai Chi Class, following CM

THURSDAY MORNINGS

May 9, 16, 23, and 30
Tai Chi Classes
In Nursery
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

(Bring a bottle of water to stay hydrated.)

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019

- ~ HIM Highlights Video
8:45 a.m. in Library.
~ Tai Chi Class, 11:45 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019

Happy Mother's Day
Men will provide a special luncheon
following worship.
No Tai Chi class today.

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019

Memorial Day Holiday. Office will be closed.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States
for remembering and honoring persons who have died
while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Please
take a moment to give thanks for all of these dear people.