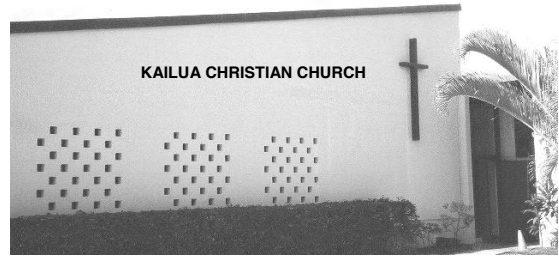


Waves of Faith

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



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Volume 35

Issue 04



“Releasing our Worries and Experiencing the Peace of God”

Aaron Tanaka lit a match and held it to a dried palm branch and started a fire in a metal receptacle in the sanctuary on February 23. More than this, he lit another fire because he's on fire for the Lord! A small group of prayer warriors (this is what I call them), gathered in the church library for the first time on Sunday, March 8, 2020 responding to his invitation. It comes at a time when each of us needs to pray!

When someone is in crisis, facing a challenge of great proportions, it is the Apostle Paul that provides the necessary prescription from his letter to all the saints in Christ Jesus in Philippi: **“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”** - Philippians 4: 6 - 7, N.R.S.V.

As Moderator Dean Wakuzawa underwent arthroscopic surgery to remove his gallbladder, there were complications that could have resulted in his physician resorting to the more invasive surgery. Susan Morita and Myra Yamada, two prayer warriors were already offering prayers of intercession during this time. You know what the result was. He didn't need to be cut open! We can say, *“Praise the Lord”* that Dean was in church just 6 days later to give thanks to God.

Yes, this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis is a time of great anxiety, fear and worry. There are many things we are doing to flatten the curve of

the outbreak in our community as we follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Hawaii Department of Health. For UCC Churches, there is plan of action (re: Coronavirus Preparedness) from Conference Minister, David K. Popham. Kammy Grable posted signs and gave us the COVID-19 Virus Update that includes helpful ground rules to follow.

There's a wonderful book called, *Body Life* by Ray Stedman who recaptured the vigor and authenticity of the early church. My appreciation for prayer does not end when our prayers are answered or when we must continue to pray because our prayers are not answered in the way we wished. Part of our faith causes us to want to share with others, how we have been blessed and sometimes this is a gift God has given us. Here are a few.....

Jennie Lee has multiple medical challenges but often shares the concerns of others in need during worship. She has donated dozens of her melt-in-your-mouth Almond Cookies for HPD officers in huge gallon size jars. Recently, she has purchased the frozen Japanese fermented beans called Natto to give to various individuals and will often purchase additional bottles of water (for example) on sale to share with others.

Despite a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, Myrtle Terada shared homemade slices of Cinnamon Toast with the Tai-Chi class upon hearing of Reggie Yamada's elementary school time. She gave me a dozen huge envelopes (4" x 11") of dazzling colorful butterflies as she remembered my wife Cheri's love of them last Easter when I brought caterpillars to church.

Pamela Morikawa always brings tasty snacks to the monthly Council meetings. She always finds something new at Costco or some other place. I'd continue to share about those of you who bring food for the weekly lunch that follows worship each Sunday except I usually don't eat because of the classes I lead from 11:45 a.m. Now all of this has ended for a time.

Always in Prayer for KCC,
Chris Eng, Interim Pastor



MODERATOR'S NOTES

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 15:13

I hope you are all doing well. I miss being in the sanctuary at KCC on Sundays, participating in our weekly service, hearing the Word through Pastor Chris' sermons, and fellowshiping with you after service. I realize that staying at home is something we have to do in this time of COVID-19. Social distancing is a critical method of flattening the curve of the spread of this virus. In this time where we are isolated from physically being with each other, please remember that God is always present in our lives no matter where we are. Turn to Him in prayer and lift your worries and concerns. We will be back to worshipping together at some time in the future.

If you attended service on March 15th, you are aware that an announcement was made to close KCC for at least the two following Sundays (i.e., March 22 & 29). Since that time, Governor Ige and Mayor Kirk Caldwell have announced a stay-at-home order except for essential services through April 30th. Due to this order, KCC will be close through the month of April 2020. Your church leaders will be communicating with you should anything change.

Here are a couple of important matters that took place in March:

1. An announcement was made on March 8th that KCC terminated the stewardship agreement with the Chuukese Congregational Church of Christ (4Cs) effective March 31, 2020. Your Council voted unanimously in January 2020 to terminate the original 2012 agreement as we currently do not have the manpower nor time to properly steward this agreement. Pastor Chris, June Tom and I met with Pastor Salle and his son on Sunday March 1st where I presented a letter stating that KCC was terminating the agreement. Pastor Salle and his son thanked KCC for the use of our facilities over the past 10 years. We encourage them to reach out to the Hawaii Conference to find another place worship.

2. We held a congregational meeting on March 8th after service. The purpose of the meeting was to accept the 2019 Annual Report as required by our bylaws. It was a blessing to see members come out to this important annual meeting. This allowed us to meet the quorum requirements for a congregational vote. The report was accepted as presented. We also approved the December 2019 congregational meeting minutes.

Thank you to Pastor Chris and Kammy for sending out Pastor Chris' sermon via email and USPS. Kammy has also been continuing to field phone calls at the office and work on our monthly newsletter. Thank you to her and the volunteers who help collate and prepare these valued communications to our members and friends. Please know that you may reach out to any of your KCC leaders to share any concerns you may have.

Please continue to pray for KCC, its members and friends and the entire world as we go through this time of social distancing due to COVID-19. May God continue to bless you in this time!

Love in Christ!

Dean

DEACONS MESSAGE**A Black Swan Event**

A black swan event is an incident that occurs randomly and unexpectedly and has wide-spread ramifications. The event is usually followed with reflection and a flawed rationalization that it was inevitable. The Covid 19 (Corona Virus Disease) will bring much anticipated stress and special needs for many of us.

In compliance and concern for all our state's well-being, our church (KCC) will not be gathering until further notice as events so dictate. If you need any prayers and/or visits, special needs like a grocery run, medication pick up, etc., your Undershepherd Deacons and our Interim Pastor are ready to help. Please feel free to contact us.

Vernon Pang – Ph: 589-6347, email:
vwfang01@gmail.com

Paul Grable – Ph: 255-5853, email:
pgrable@lbchlaw.com

Lily Lee – Ph: 247-1476, email:
wnilile36@gmail.com

Nancy Arakaki – Ph: 261-6579

Interim Pastor Christopher Eng – Ph: 722-1435,
email: taichichris@hotmail.com

Also, we know that some of you will experience financial hardship. Though limited, the Deacons may be able to assist with some financial help through our Deacons Benevolence Fund. In emergencies, we have helped pay for portions of people's rent, utility bill, doctor bill, etc.

Most of all as faithful Christians we individually need to help one another. Because we will not be gathering for a period of time keeping connected through phone calls, emails, texts and even cards in the mail will play an important role for our sense of connectedness... and also provide information of people needing help. If you don't have the resources or ability to help someone yourself (I know many of you are angels) always feel free to contact your Undershepherd Deacon for assistance. That's what we are here for.

1 John 3:17 ESV: “But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”

Vernon Pang - Deacon

**PRAYERS & PRAISES**

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Lillian Sakaguchi
- ~ Corrine & Tony Sarabia
- ~ Pauline Vilorio (Miki Teruya)
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu
- ~ Lia Lau
- ~ Alan Ishikane
- ~ Debbie Nakaji
- ~ Diane & John Mendenhall
- ~ Beverly & Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson
- ~ Family of Mike Sasaki on his passing
- ~ Pastor Guy Kapeliela
- ~ Four C Ohana and Pastor Salle
- ~ Howard Pang, Hazel Chow, Lowell & Myrtle Terada, Walter Yeda, Alice Esaki, Sue & Brian Nakashima, Mitsi Higashida, Harry Imai, Ada & George Kaneoka, Natsuko Matsushima, Hideko Mumaw, Winnie Nakamura, Akito & Annie Sogawa, and Ruth Lum's family.
- ~ Pastor Chris Eng and our Pastoral Search Team
- ~ All Medical, Healthcare, Emergency Need and Caregiving providers.
- ~ All necessary providers that keep us safe and orderly in these challenging times.
- ~ Family, neighbors and friends who care for each other as the needs arise.



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Alan and Linda Umetsu on the marriage of their daughter, Jenai Umetsu to Dr. Ryon Nakasone in February. We celebrate this joyous time and pray God's blessing on the new couple's life together.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Jonathan Martinez
John Halloran
Miki Vilorio
Winnie Nakamura
Vernon Pang
Larry Takumi
James Todd
Michael Sakaba
Cleo Nham

Carl Takahashi
Kammy Grable
Hazel Chow
Derrick Teruya
Jared Higashi
Madison Maeshiro
Jennie Lee
Emily Pang
April Jessee
Dan Jessee
Wilma Chung



Lowell & Myrtle Terada
Alan & Lind Umetsu
Dr. Cary & Karen Miyahara
Richard & Jane Tengan

KCC SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Date:	Adults	Children (under 12)	Visitors
03/01	44	05	
03/08	50	05	--
03/15	47	05	--
03/22	No service due to DOH guidelines		
03/29	until further notice.		



We invite you to pray along with Rev. Max Lucado who is a pastor and best-selling author. Visit his website at www.MaxLucado.com.

Lord,

Thank you that "before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely" (Psalm 139:4). Thank you that there are no surprises with you. Help me find deep comfort in the fact that you are unshockable and nothing is too great, too terrible, too large, or too heavy for you. Help me see the problems that I face today in light of how big you are. Amen.

Dear Lord,

We're still hoping we'll wake up. We're still hoping we'll open a sleepy eye and think, "What a horrible dream. How could this have happened?" Just a moment ago moms were packing school lunches. Just a moment ago chefs were planning the day's menu. Just a moment ago arenas were noisy, brides were walking down the aisle and neighbors were discussing the weather.

In just a moment, everything changed. A phantom disease invaded our peace, our plans, and our security. In a heartbeat, our language and behaviors were upended. Even young children understand the term "social distancing," "quarantine," and "Covid-19."

Grandma isn't allowed visitors in her nursing home. Workers are telecommuting, Zooming, and Skyping in their baseball caps and slippers. Handshakes and hugs have been put on indefinite hold.

This strange season has introduced a level of fear we haven't seen since 9/11. Fear of what might come. Fear of touching. Fear of exposure. Fear of what we can't see.

We are anxious, Father. And so we come to you. We don't ask you for help; we beg you for it. We don't request; we implore. We know what you can do. We've read the accounts. We've pondered the stories and now we plead, "Do it again, Lord. Please, Do it again."

Remember Joseph? You rescued him from the pit. You can do the same for us. Do it again, Lord.

Remember the Hebrews in Egypt? You protected their children from the angel of death. We have children, too, Lord. Do it again.

And Sarah? Remember her prayers? You heard them. Joshua? Remember his fears? You inspired him. The women at the tomb? You resurrected their hope. The doubts of Thomas? You took them away. Do it again, Lord. Do it again.

You changed Daniel from a captive into a king's counselor. You took Peter the fisherman and made him Peter an apostle. Because of you, David went from leading sheep to leading armies.

Do it again, Lord, for we need counselors today, Lord. We need apostles. We need leaders. Do it again, dear Lord.

What we're seeing on the news, you saw on that Friday so long ago. Innocence interrupted. Goodness suffering. Mothers weeping. Just as the darkness fell on your Son, we fear the darkness falling on our friends, our family, our world. Just as our world has been shaken by a disease, our world was shaken the day the very child of Eternity was pierced.

You saw it. But you did not waver, O Lord. You did not waver. After your Son's three days in a dark hole, you rolled the rock and rumbled the earth and turned the darkest Friday into the brightest Sunday. Do it again, Lord. Grant us another Easter.

We thank you, dear Father, for these hours of unity. Selfless acts of service and kindness warm our hearts. Strangers see opportunities to share with others. Our medical warriors are working together, at personal risk, to care for the rest of us. We thank you for their remarkable commitment.

And we see the world turning to you, Father. People encouraging people with scriptures and reminders of your sovereignty. We read posts urging us to respect each other, care for each other, and look up. We confess we have been anxious, but because of you, we have hope.

We ask, Father: let your mercy be upon all who suffer. Grant to those who lead us wisdom beyond their years and experience. Have mercy upon the souls who have been hurt by this disease. Give us grace to help each other and faith that we might believe.

And look kindly upon your church. For two thousand years, you've used her to heal a hurting world.

Do it again, Lord. Do it again.

Through Christ, *Amen.*



A Special Time with Special People: Thanks go out to Debbie Martinson for sharing this great picture of some of our favorite people – KCC's Pastors (1970's and 80's) and their lovely wives (from left to right) – Rev. Howard & Terumi Yoshida and Beverly and Rev. Dale Vallejo-Sanderson. The occasion was Pastor Dale's last sermon shared as Senior Pastor of Wellspring Covenant Church as he prepared for retirement.



A retirement party was planned by Wellspring Church that had to be postponed but, will be rescheduled for a later date.



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

Friends,

Please pray for one another, that we can be positive and have faith in this scary, challenging time, that forces us to live by distancing ourselves from each other, to prevent the spread of this dreaded COVID-19 disease. Please also pray for the ones who have contracted this disease and their families that they will recover successfully.

We cancelled our CPR/AED meeting for March 28, but plan to reschedule in the future months.

Since we are on a bi-monthly schedule, there is no meeting in April. However, please save the date, May 23, for a special session with one of our church member's family member. This will be a very interesting and worthwhile session – more details to come in the May newsletter.

Also, your suggestions for future speakers are much welcomed - July, 25, Sep 26, Nov 14 or 21.

Stay healthy! God Bless, Myra

TRUSTEE'S NOTES

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

How are you? Were you okay on Sunday, March 22nd? It was so strange waking up and knowing there was no church. I turned to channel 26 where you can listen to different pastors who can truly inspire and give praises to God. Their message – Read the Bible and keep the faith, for without faith there is no hope. We will also continue to receive Pastor Chris’s message through text, email or regular mail.

As Trustees we are responsible for caring for our property and finances. We realize this is a time of uncertainty but praying that we are not afraid as God will never forsake us. Thank you for your generous donations. Without weekly service we know we will have a decline in income but we ask you to honor God by tithing with what you can afford.

Take care of yourselves and keep well. Please call the church if you are in need of help.

“Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” Prov. 3:5

Truly we don’t know what the future holds but we know who holds the future.

Your Trustees



Christ is risen.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

MISSIONS UPDATE

There are many opportunities today that may help others to come to know the love and hope of Jesus that they so desperately need in this fearful time. Keep aware of these special times that God provides and share why you have his assurance that you can trust in him. Share your story... You may be the only Jesus some may ever see.

Please consider how you can continue your support of our mission together as the people of God at KCC. Although we are not physically gathering, we humbly ask you to continue your financial support to the church and our ministry efforts. There are many places in our community that you can still be the church by providing acts of service or donations – The Blood Bank, The Food Bank, Do some Spring cleaning and give those items to support the Salvation Army or Goodwill causes, or CP, or Big Brothers, or the Kidney Foundation to name a few....

Incorporate an act of service and find ways of sharing the hope and peace of Jesus.



**A Prayer “O God, I’m Spinning Out”
by Rev. Dr. Hannah Ingram shared at a
HCUCC meeting by Rev. David Popham**

There is so much I do not know
There is so much I cannot see
There is so much I cannot control

In the moments I feel powerless, I will take a deep breath trusting that I am tasked only with doing my part, not the whole.

In the moments I feel unsure, I will take a deep breath trusting that I am not alone and that together, our wisdom will be richer.

In moments I feel anxious, I will take a deep breath trusting that there is no depth I can fall out of reach of the Spirit that holds me close.

What I do know is that my life and love and worth extend far beyond my work

What I can see is that spring follows every winter
and new life pokes out from the cold ground

What I cannot control is my breath and the love I
inject into a world so clearly lacking it.

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and
love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Notes from this meeting can be requested in whole by contacting the church office. The article, Imperial College Report on COVID-19, was highlighted as a way of providing updated information. The report considers three scenarios and uses simulations to predict the outcome in each scenario. For all three scenarios, the peak of the pandemic is projected to be in June-July 2020 for the USA. The article also notes that the pandemic will not go away until a vaccine is developed. It will take at least 18 months until distribution of any vaccine and the virus will recur in the population until then. You can find the report on the Conference website’s Health and Safety Page labeled, “The Imperial College Report...” www.hcucc.org/health-and-safety. It was noted that based even on the best scenario the HCUC recommendation to forgo in-person worship services may need to be extended beyond May, depending on the situation.

Congregations were encouraged to think through the financial impact of COVID-19 on church members and friends and upon the church directly.

The question and answer time covered four main categories:

- How to stay connected through online worship
- How to stay financially solvent
- How to check-in on those who are not plugged in to the internet.
- Community ministry needs

Special Note: The decision is not yet made on the status of the Aha Pae Aina (our statewide UCC meeting) normally held in June.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2020						
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		

Due to the presumption that social distancing will continue through April, the church calendar will not be posted in detail.

We encourage you to keep in touch with each other for the most current updates. We also invite you to always feel free to contact your deacon or call the church office where we will be able to answer your questions as best as we can.

Please note that the facilities will not be reopened until the health and govt. officials gives us the clearance. We are committed to complying with these professionals for the safety and wellbeing of all. Thank you for understanding and supporting these decisions that the leaders of KCC has agreed upon.

Altar Flowers



Mahalo to all who signed up for the floral calendar. We will not need flowers through the month of April.

You will be contacted in advance when we will resume this ministry. Mahalo!

SPECIAL NOTE:

Our sincere apologies to the family of Betty Oi for the error of misprinting Betty’s name when acknowledging her generous monetary gift to KCC. Betty and Kenneth Oi were long time supporters of KCC in many ways. We truly are appreciative of this gracious donation to the ongoing ministry of this church in honor of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

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 KAILUA HI 96734
 PERMIT NO. 568

Return service requested

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
 Rev. Christopher Eng, Interim Pastor

We are working on possible ways that will keep us all connected. Let us try to network through our Deacon's Undershepherd Groups via phone calls, texts, and through emails during our time apart. We will also be mailing out the message from Pastor Chris each week in a mini newsletter. Help us to make this a resource that celebrates good news and updates on our KCC ohana. Let us know any prayers that we can also share with each other.

Please contact the church email at kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net or call 261-0125 with a message of how you would prefer receiving these resources. Be sure to provide a current email address and/or preferred phone number.

We welcome suggestions and possible assistance to help make these avenues operational. Please contact the church office for more conversation on this topic.

MAHALO!

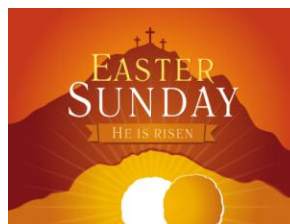
God is faithful. We can count on him. We read in Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same today, tomorrow, and forever.*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



This year Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 5th and carries on through Maundy Thursday, April 9th, Good Friday, April 10th and Holy Saturday, April 11th. It is a time for Christians to reflect on Jesus' journey to the Cross, beginning with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and concluding with his lonely trek from the Upper Room through Gethsemane and ultimately to Calvary and the empty tomb.

Although we may not be able to come together to worship at KCC, let us join together in Spirit to honor our Lord during this special time. Take a few minutes each day to share in a devotion and then celebrate Easter Sunday, April 12 because of what our Lord has done for us.



“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” John 3:16