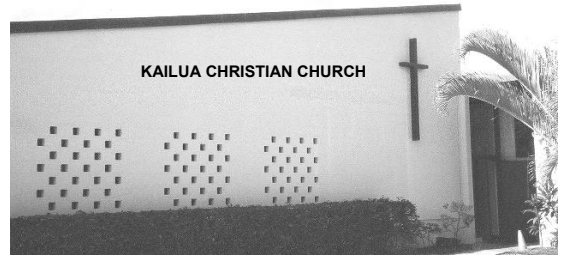


Waves of Faith

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



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“Celebrating the Spirit of Charter Members Now with the Lord”

Jim Croce’s classic 1972 song, **Time in a Bottle** includes the words, “*But there never seems to be enough time, To do the things you want to do, Once you find them.*” Whenever I listened to the lyrics of this song as it played over the airwaves, I thought of all the things I wished I could do but simply did not have the time to do. As May 2020 arrives, are you finding time to do things you really want to do? At the same time, there remain those things we wished we could do but can’t. We have to find new ways of celebrating Mother’s Day, the Class of 2020 and Memorial Day as this new month arrives.

The author of Ecclesiastes wrote, “*God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds.*” 3:11a, N.R.S.V. This speaks to our sense of time right now. We learn to let go of the past and we look forward with anticipation to what hopefully will occur in our future. But what is most important is the here and now. God wants us to understand the gift of the present in which we unwrap and embrace all of its possibilities.

Would you jump at an opportunity to be part of a new endeavor like starting a new church? Reading the early beginnings of Kailua Christian Church UCC was such a time. Those who wanted to be part of it were the original charter members. On February 1, 1959, the Oahu Association of the United Church of Christ recognized 59 Charter Members of Kailua Christian Church UCC. They included Minoru Teruya, Satsuki Nemoto and Mildred Sakamoto who passed away

from 2018 through the present. We also include Ruth Uyechi *(10/59), Lillian Sakaguchi *(4/60), and Ruth Masuno *(5/61) who became members after the Charter was established but were included at the 30th anniversary in the spirit of being a charter member. *(membership date)

I have felt your loss when these special individuals went home to be with the Lord. Officiating at 3 of these Charter Member Memorial Services, what their families remembered about them is inspiring. Sats Nemoto was a very strong Christian, very devoted and “**Committed to the Faith.**” Ruth Uyechi was a “**Woman of Faith**” and Ruth Masuno left us a “**Legacy of Faith.**” Isn’t it amazing that “*faith*” is the common thread which touched family, friends and members of the church for each of these persons?

Hebrews 11:1 reminds us of what it means to believe: “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*” Right now there are many challenges that we face because of COVID-19. From time to time, we may experience fear, anxiety, stress, anger, sadness, depression, frustration, pain, and suffering. What might help us is the memory of Charter Members whose lives may have touched us. But there is also a way that we could receive their support right now.

Moving to the next chapter, Hebrews 12: 1- 2 states, “*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.*” This ‘cloud of witnesses’ is comprised of those who have left us and are in the presence of the Lord. They are on the sidelines (as we run) and they

cheer us on and inspire us as we recall how they lived their lives!

As we see the time passing by, may God give us insight as to what we should be doing and inspiration to accomplish it! As we are inspired by those now with God, may we inspire others!

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Chris



MODERATOR'S NOTES

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

April has come and gone. Can you believe that it's been 6 weeks since we've worshiped together at KCC? I hope you and your families are doing well. I do miss all of you. This time of social distancing and staying at home seems to be working as intended (i.e., flattening the curve of COVID-19 cases in Hawaii). Thank you all for doing your part to help with this situation. We will need to continue to keep the church closed and be vigilant with the stay-at-home orders as Governor Ige extended the stay-at-home rules until the end of May.

Although we do not have live in-person sermons performed by Pastor Chris, we are blessed to hear his weekly message via his written sermons. They are available via email or regular US mail. If you would like to start receiving a copy via email, please let Kammy know and we will add you to the list. Please also reach out to Pastor Chris, your KCC leaders or Deacons if you have any prayer requests.

May I ask you to please pray for families affected by this pandemic whether it be the loss of loved ones, loved ones fighting the disease now and also those who have either been furloughed or permanently laid-off from work. There are also those loved ones who cannot have visitors due to rules in place at retirement communities or care homes.

It is comforting to know that we can lift up our concerns, anxiety, and stresses to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Reading scripture from the Bible is also very comforting and it makes all the difference during this time. Please continue to pray for KCC, its members and friends and the entire world as we go through this time of stay-at-home orders and social distancing due to COVID-19. May God continue to bless you always!

Love in Christ!

Dean



DEACONS MESSAGE



All of you should have been contacted and invited to the Meet Your Deacon Lunch which we planned and scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2020 after our service. As you all know, that luncheon was cancelled, and that Sunday just happened to be the last Sunday when we all saw each other and worshipped together. It looks like it will be awhile longer before we are able to gather again in our sanctuary.

If we had proceeded with the luncheon, you would have been able to meet all of the people in your new Undershepherd Groups and you would have learned some little-known facts about each other. You would also have been told about the duties and responsibilities of your Deacons and what you might be able to do to help or contribute to fulfilling some of the goals and tasks of the Deacons. So, the following will be an attempt to communicate some of the things that we intended to communicate at the Meet Your Deacon Luncheon.

The Deacons are generally responsible for looking out for the physical and mental and spiritual health of our congregation. We try to keep you informed and notified of church events and prayer requests. We take care of preparing and serving communion. We are responsible for administering, collecting and distributing the Benevolence

Fund. We keep track of membership and are primarily responsible for prayer and visitation of our membership, especially those that have health issues. We also assist the ushers in greeting the visitors and congregants as they come to worship. We each have an Undershepherd Group that we communicate with regularly, and sometimes we get together with each other. When we are in need of pulpit supply, the Deacons are charged with finding and engaging an appropriate pastor or speaker to fill in.

The chair of the Deacons sits on the KCC Council and this year our Chairperson is Vernon Pang. We are going through some trying times now, so let's keep communicating with each other as much as possible and expressing our love to each other and keeping each other in our prayers. Stay safe. We hope to see you all again very soon.

Aloha, Your 2020 KCC Deacons

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayer
 ~ James Schultz, Keith's Father
 ~ Coreen & Tony Sarabia
 ~ Pauline Vilorio (Miki Teruya)
 ~ Larry & Sandra Siu
 ~ Jim Long
 ~ Lia Lau
 ~ Alan Ishikane
 ~ Debbie Nakaji
 ~ Diane & John Mendenhall
 ~ Beverly & Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson
 ~ 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.

Deepest Sympathies to the Family of Lillian Sakaguchi

Our precious sister in Christ, Lillian Sakaguchi went to be with the Lord on Thurs. April 2, 2020. We send our sincere condolences to her family as they grieve with her loss. Lillian has been a faithful servant of the Lord who served in numerous ministry efforts here at KCC for many years. She is sorely missed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- Linda Umetsu
- Mae Takahashi
- Bert Yoshioka
- Marjorie Morishige
- Cera Soma
- Betty Ota
- Lia Lau
- Walter Yeda
- Lily Lee
- Pua Todd
- Allen Shiroma
- Matthew Chang
- Kimberly Terada
- Dr. Gary Morita

- Lara Higashi
- Mason Maeshiro
- Sherie Oga
- Ken Nakamatsu



- Gary & Cleo Nham
- Bert & Judy Yoshioka
- Richard & Florence Miyashiro
- Randy & Cindy Imai

I thank God every time I remember you.
 Philippians 1 vs. 3



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

Aloha Friends,

Hope all of you are keeping healthy and practicing social distancing! It has been a challenge for many - staying at home, homeschooling, and minimizing trips to the market and other essential places.

It has been a greater challenge, not being able to worship at our family church with Pastor Chris and our members and friends.

Latest update: Gov Ige has extended the shut-down and stay-at-home policy to continue until May 31. With that said, our May 23 Na Anela's meeting/presentation will be rescheduled and we will look forward to having our special guest speaker Mrs. Miki Morita at future time. Miki is the manager of The Queen's Medical Center Pharmacy. She is married to Dr. Wendell Morita, son of Dr. Gary and Susan Morita. She is also a mother of two wonderful children, Tyler and Kiryn.

Pharmacy topics to be covered by Miki at the rescheduled date are:

Medical adherence: When to take your medications, how to take medications and medication access.

Concerns/Issues: Use of over-the-counter medications, herbal products and dietary supplements.

Immunizations: Which ones are recommended and when should they be administered?

We will notify you, through future newsletters and emails when both, the AED/CPR Training event and the Medication Info, Issues and Concerns event are to be rescheduled.

Please keep each other in prayer, for safety and continued good health!!

Mahalo and May God Bless You and Family!
Myra Yamada



IMPORTANT NOTES



As we enter another month of shut down so many thoughts must be going through your minds. Covid19 has brought much anxiety but faith and God are at the realm of our hope.

We at KCC have much to be grateful for at this very challenging time.

1) Pastor Chris has sent us his messages and we are able to receive it through text, email, and mail. Thank you for uplifting us for your continued love, grace and praise for all of us. Thanks Pastor!

2) Kammy has been working remotely as well as being at the church. Tasks like receiving mail, watering the plants and helping the trustees needs to be done. She's also calling on members to check if they are okay or need help. We missed honoring her on Admin Day but we are very thankful for all that she does. Thank you Kammy!

3) Stacey, our bookkeeper is also working from home but keeping us informed on our finances. We are grateful for her diligent work and concern for the church.

4) We are grateful for Dean who helped us complete necessary forms that may give the church a free loan that would help defray costs for payroll and medical reimbursement. Receiving the money is questionable but at least we were able to register. Thanks Dean!

5) Some of us have been fortunate to have been given the luxury of time during this pandemic. If time afforded you to do some spring cleaning you may have some stuff that you purchased but never needed. If it is causing you clutter, would you like to donate it to the church? If it is of quality that would make someone else happy please keep it and when we are able to exit our homes again, we would like to share it with others for either a nominal cost or free. Please think about how you can make someone else happy in this time of anxiety.

6) Lastly thank you for keeping faithful with your pledges. In addition we have received your mission (OGHS) and Easter offerings. Truly we are grateful for we know this is a difficult time. Checks are entered and deposited weekly by the Trustees.

We are blessed in our own ways. Knowing Jesus is our greatest blessing! We await to see what his plans are for us for we know he is in control! Until next month, Happy Mother's Day! Stay safe and take care. We miss you all.

Your Trustees!



Four Biblical Mothers To Remember On Mother's Day - by Andy Rau, former senior manager for Bible Gateway.

We hope you'll take some time this weekend to pay respects to your mother—or if that isn't possible, to somebody in your life who embodies the grace and wisdom we associate with godly mothers. Here is a list of four famous moms from the Bible.

The Bible speaks highly of mothers who raise children and guide their families in a righteous manner; in the oft-quoted [Proverbs 31](#), the “wife of noble character” is honored by her husband and children for her virtues.

Motherhood wasn't a requirement for godly women in Bible times—and just as today, not every woman who wanted children was granted her wish. But the mothers and matriarchs of the Bible exhibit qualities that all of us, male or female, parent or not, should strive to emulate. Here are a few of the famous mothers of the Bible, with links to their stories:

1. Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Perhaps no more famous mother exists than Mary, who at a young age learned from an angel that she would give birth to the long-awaited Messiah. Her [song of praise](#) in response, and the well-known events of Christ's birth, are what usually spring to mind when we think of Mary. But her role as mother brought her grief as well as

joy; we can only imagine what it must have been like for her to witness Jesus' crucifixion. Read her story in John 19.

2. Elizabeth

Mary's was not the only miraculous birth recorded in the New Testament. **Elizabeth** was a godly woman who was “righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly”—and yet she and her husband were unable to conceive a child. God answered her prayers late in her life and she gave birth to John the Baptist, but is perhaps best known for her prophetic encouragement of the young (and perhaps frightened) Mary: *“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”* Read her story in Luke 1.

3. Hannah

Hannah is one of the most inspiring mothers in the Bible, although her story is less well-known. Despite years of patience and prayer, she remained unable to have a child. One day “in her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly”—and God answered her prayer at last. But Hannah's character truly shone when, in gratitude to God, she dedicated her newborn son to His service. Her son would one day become one of Israel's greatest prophets. Read her story in 1 Samuel 1.

4. Sarah, the Wife of Abraham

Sarah is one of the great matriarchs of the Bible—yet she didn't become a mother until very late in life. In fact, her reaction to God's promise that she would have a son was to laugh, as memorably recorded in [Genesis 18](#). Nevertheless she did give birth to a son, and her lineage would include Jesus Christ himself. Read her story in Genesis 18.

There are many more famous mothers described in the Bible; many of them righteous, some not so much, but all used by God to bring about His design. This weekend, as we give thanks for the

mothers in our lives, consider how you can embody the traits that define a godly mother—patience, kindheartedness, faithfulness—and consider how you can encourage the mothers in your community, young and old, as they work to meet that same standard.



FINDING SOME HUMOR IN ALL OF THIS!

- 1) Half of us are going to come out of this quarantine as amazing cooks. The other half will come out with a drinking problem.
- 2) I used to spin that toilet paper like I was on Wheel of Fortune. Now I turn it like I'm cracking a safe.
- 3) I need to practice social-distancing from the refrigerator.
- 4) Still haven't decided where to go for Easter ----
- The Living Room or The Bedroom
- 5) PSA: every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- 6) Homeschooling is going well. 2 students suspended for fighting and 1 teacher fired for drinking on the job.
- 7) I don't think anyone expected that when we changed the clocks we'd go from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone
- 8) This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog..... we laughed a lot.
- 9) So, after this quarantine.....will the producers of My 600 Pound Life just find me or do I find them?
- 10) Quarantine Day 5: Went to this restaurant called THE KITCHEN. You have to gather all the ingredients and make your own meal. I have no clue how this place is still in business.

- 11) My body has absorbed so much soap and disinfectant lately that when I pee it cleans the toilet.
- 12) Day 5 of Homeschooling: One of these little monsters called in a bomb threat.
- 13) I'm so excited --- it's time to take out the garbage. What should I wear?
- 14) I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.
- 15) Classified Ad: Single man with toilet paper seeks woman with hand sanitizer for good clean fun.
- 16) Day 6 of Homeschooling: My child just said "I hope I don't have the same teacher next year" I'm offended.



Why is it important for us to attend church services regularly, usually weekly? Allow me to share nine reasons - by Thomas Rainer

1. **The local church was God's plan in the New Testament.** From the founding of the first local church in Jerusalem to the growth of new congregations throughout the Roman Empire, the New Testament is clear. God wanted His people gathering regularly and faithfully. And lest we forget, all of these congregations had problems. All of these churches had problem people. Hypocrisy was real and pervasive, but it was not a valid excuse to give up the local church.
2. **The Bible speaks clearly about the priority of local congregations.** If you read the New Testament from Acts to Revelation, you will see that a gathered church was not just one important factor for the Christian, it was one of the highest priorities. After the ascension of Jesus, the local church was truly "the body of Christ."
3. **We are commanded and designed to enjoy worshipping the one true God as a gathered community.** What if church members really did one thing in worship services? What if they asked God to let them see Him and know Him fully as the church gathered together? What if that was the priority over evaluating the style of mu-

sic? What if that was more important than the preacher preaching five minutes more than you deemed appropriate?

4. **A unified church can stand strong in a culture turning away from God.** We can't be a unified church with sporadic attendance. We can't stand together if we aren't persistently gathered together. Do you remember how the early church in Jerusalem reached a culture opposed to God? The outside world saw the unity and joy of the church and wanted to know more about this Jesus they worshipped. Remember, they were "praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those were being saved" (Acts 2:47). A faithfully attended church is a unified church. A unified church is an evangelistic church.

5. **The world looks at our priorities and evaluates what we deem as important.** Expanding on the previous point, we can't expect the community we serve to get excited about our church if the members of the community see it to be a low priority among the members. The twice-a-month attendees make the church an after-thought. The once-a-month attendee hardly thinks about the church at all.

6. **When we gather together worshipping with others, we are holding each other up and accountable.** When we belong to a small group in the church, our absence is conspicuous. We need people holding us accountable in love. We need others looking after us. Accountability is indeed a good thing.

7. **Families that attend church faithfully and regularly are happier and healthier families.** The research from the secular world is overwhelming. Study after study shows that families who are in church almost every week are among those with the best-adjusted children. Marriages are healthier. Small children grow to become mature and joyous adults. Though these studies are affirming, we can see throughout the New Testament how God has a clear and compelling plan for His children and their families to gather together regularly and faithfully.

8. **Discipleship takes place in the local church.** There seems to be this big mystery about discipleship. How do we do discipleship? Exactly what is discipleship? How does that work in the local church? Remember, discipleship is simply becoming more like Christ. We become more like Christ as we gather and worship together. We become more like Christ when we belong to a small group and do community together. We become more like Christ as we listen to the preached Word every week. We become more like Christ as we do ministry and evangelism through our local church. For sure, discipleship can take place outside the local church. But the New Testament clearly demonstrates the local congregation is God's "Plan A" for growing as a disciple.

9. **God gives us great joy when we serve others through the local church.** For sure, there are some grumpy and miserable church members. They seem to have a common trait. There are things in the church that aren't going *their* way. They are not getting *their* worship style. They are not getting *themselves* fed. They don't like the way the pastor does things because it's not *their* way. They focus on three people: me, myself, and I. But we can experience incredible joy as we serve others, as we put others before ourselves, as we don't focus on our own preferences and desires. We experience incredible joy as we serve other church members and those who reside in our community.

All of these nine reasons, of course, presume we are faithful attenders. We are neither obedient nor are we able to experience the full joy of our church if we attend once or twice a month or even less.

Faithful weekly church attendance is important. It brings us joy. It helps us to grow spiritually. It is one of the primary characteristics of a healthy family.

Above all, it is an act of obedience to God.

And that's what really matters.

Kailua Christian Church (UCC)
317 Manono St. Kailua, HI 96734-2211
Ph: (808) 261-0125
Email: kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net
Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org

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Weekly Message can be requested at kcc-ucc@hawaiiantel.net which will be emailed to you.

Rev. Christopher Eng, Interim Pastor

MISC. NEWS

Family Promise Ministry Update

May Family Promise events being hosted at churches are canceled. We will keep you posted as to when we will resume this ministry as soon as it is safe to do so.

River of Life Outreach is scheduled for June so this ministry outreach is still on hold as we evaluate when it will be safe to start up again.

Please note as we may not be able to fulfill any hands on efforts, your prayers and financial donations are always helpful to these ministries.

Please also consider the **Institute for Human Services (IHS)** as a meaningful place to support those who are high risked and needy neighbors all who cannot go to a safe home to ride out this challenging time. Please go to <https://ihshawaii.org/events> for more details of how you can help.

Mahalo to the generous ladies, Debbie Fong, June Tom, and Jennie Lee and Keith Schultz who provided safety masks to those in our congregation that had a need. Please see Kammy if you are in need of one.

Mahalo to **St. Anthony's Outreach Center** who has been a resource for food needs during this pandemic – it was wonderful to have somewhere to send those in need that was on the Windward side of the island.

We are being made aware of more and more scam emails circulating regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated, making the emails appear that they are coming from your church or pastor. Look carefully at the sender's email address; it may be very similar to one's actual email address, but slightly changed. If you have any question as to an email's authenticity, call the sender directly and do not simply reply to the email.

The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii is seeking help for assisting the Hawaii State Hospital with Masks and Mask Materials. If you can support this effort to provide masks for hospital staff please contact Douglas.pyle@doh.hawaii.gov or call 236-8292. Mahalo for your support.

Please continue to follow social distancing requirements and wear protective gear. Share your aloha to all. Mahalo!