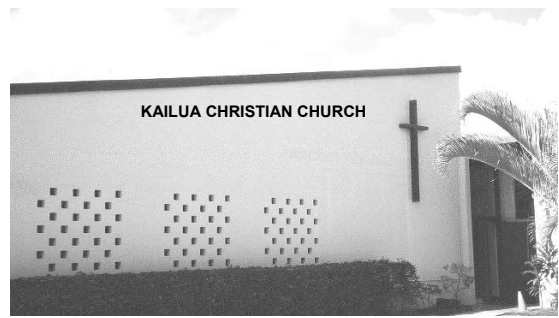


Waves of Faith

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



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“The Joy of the Lord”

by Pastor Chris Eng

*“All the people gathered together ...accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. **This was the first day of the seventh month (emphasis mine).** After reading it, Nehemiah (governor) and Ezra (priest) and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared and do not be grieved, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**” —Nehemiah 8: 1 - 10, (selected verses)*

Reading the May 18, 2020 issue of *THE NEW YORKER*, I read with much interest, a poem, *Men Waiting for a Train*” by David Biespiel. For our son’s his first Christmas, I bought, *“Mickey’s World Tour Train”* by Lionel. The year before, I spent 5 months in New York at Union Theological Seminary on sabbatical and experienced what this author wrote about. *“In the time it takes the train’s doors to open and close and for the train to swirl us all off, half in, half out, of our own wills, underground, something Like joy pours out of the cloudburst heart, and whatever feelings each one of us has had Goes off into the daylight without us.”*

This phrase reminded me of *“the joy of the Lord is your strength.”* I can sing this song from my youth when we gathered for a bible study, worship service or around the campfire. These words tell us

that when we are feeling weak, depressed, lonely or fatigued, experiencing the Lord’s joy will magically inject us with energy and strength like a Red Bull or Rock Star energy drink or perhaps a Doppio Espresso Macchiato (a double shot of espresso topped off with some whipped cream at Starbucks). Yes, I’m exaggerating but you get the point.

For God’s people, hearing Ezra reading the Law on the first day of the 7th month, made them want to mourn and weep. The Law referred to the Festival of Booths (see Leviticus 23: 33 - 36). The people were told to live in booths (tents) for 7 days, remembering how the people of Israel lived in booths as they traveled in the wilderness. But surprise! They were to celebrate instead by eating the fat, drinking sweet wine and sharing with those who had nothing.

Kailua Christian Church UCC will remain closed for this month of July. And so we continue to offer Sunday worship on Zoom and through an email sermon and prayers. As some of our members and friends have shared joys and concerns, there is an overwhelming sense that many are dealing with all kinds of challenges: medical, financial, relational, emotional, psychological and spiritual. Perhaps you have struggled, too. This includes me!

My suggestion is that we look for joy where we may have already found and experienced it. From Nehemiah, it is **the joy of the Lord**. Our knowing Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior happens when we read the Scriptures and when we pray. But we also experience the joy of the Lord in our relationships with other family, friends, church members and other Christians. The result is this *“strengthening”* of our spirit. We need to reach out

to others!

As human beings, we experience joy in many different ways. The joy of boarding a train and as it begins to move, poured out of David's heart like a cloudburst. That could be some of us who have been waiting for something to arrive and when it does, we may have this joy. I felt joy seeing Skye play with model trains. And when we can eat and drink like in the Old Testament, joy can also be ours. Let us take time to experience "*the joy of the Lord*" as well as those moments when joy comes our way and we smile, laugh or cry!

Wishing You Joy! — Pastor Chris



MODERATOR'S NOTES

Another month has quickly gone by and we've reached the middle of 2020. It's hard to believe that we have not met for church service in the sanctuary at KCC since March 15th. That's 15 weeks ago. Although it is sad not to see everyone in person, it is comforting knowing that we are doing this to protect our members and friends and to prevent the spread of covid-19. Thank you for doing your part.

We continue to have our Zoom worship services at 10am thanks to Aaron Tanaka. Aaron has been the conductor running these meetings to ensure that they go smoothly. Thank you, Aaron, for blessing us with your gifts with technology as well as your spiritual gifts. Thank you to all who have been able to attend these online services. It's been great seeing your smiling faces and/or hearing your voices. I say this as some attend the meeting, but do not have a camera on their computer, so we do not see them, but we do hear them when they unmute their microphones.

Several changes have taken place at KCC during the month of June. Our long-time worship leader, June Tom, has resigned from her role as the Worship Committee Chair. She has also resigned from her role as pastoral search committee member. We

want to thank June for all the great work she has done over the years at KCC. We wish her the best and hope she can enjoy well deserved rest from her past duties. Worship service on June 21st saw Scott Baehren's last performance as our music leader. Scott has decided to pursue other business opportunities and we wish him well. His contributions to worship service will certainly be missed.

Paul Grable has volunteered to serve as Worship Chair and Council approved his additional role. Please thank Paul for stepping up to take on this added responsibility that is vital to KCC. Please let us know if you are interested in serving on this committee.

We continue to search for a covid-19 coordinator to develop a covid plan which is necessary for us to hold in-person worship services at KCC. Please know that your leaders will assist the person who volunteers for this role. Resources are available from the Hawaii Conference UCC as well as from the various government agencies. Each church must tailor their covid-19 plan to the particular needs of their church. The safety and well-being of all attendees is of the utmost importance. Please contact the office or one of your church leaders if you feel called to serve in this capacity.

Thank you again to all of who have continued to send in pledges and offerings to KCC. Please know that the trustees are depositing these checks and recording the offerings. You may send offerings by mail or utilize the Paypal link on our website.

Please be sure to read the pastoral search committee article in this month's newsletter as they have some exciting news.

I look forward to the day we get back to in-person worship services at KCC. For now, I will see you at our Zoom worship services on Sundays at 10am. Please continue to pray for KCC, your fellow members and friends and your KCC leaders. Until next month, please continue to be safe, hopeful and know that God is in control always.

Love in Christ!
Dean

DEACONS MESSAGE**A New Normal**

There are many difficult and painful things happening as we go through this time of self-quarantine. We have never been through anything that even remotely compares to this. And we may not know how to handle it.

The experts say that we are all suffering from anxiety right now and I believe them. It may manifest itself in different ways for different people, but we all feel it.

We are basically creatures of habit.

We attend the same meetings, check in on the same friends, have the same interactions with family members, watch the same shows and sporting events on television, stick to the same exercise routines, eat at the same restaurants, drive the same routes, enjoy the same activities at church, check the same social media accounts, make small talk with the same neighbors, and read the same kinds of books. In other words, we all have a routine that we are comfortable with.

Quite frankly we don't really like the current situation in our world. We do not want to wear a mask every time we go out in public and not be able to personally see our loved ones, friends, and colleagues.

Philippians 4:6-8

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Technology has served our church well, during these days of social distancing. Churches ought to steward technology wisely for the good of the members and the glory of God. But technology

ought never replace or usurp the authenticity of personal interactions within the family of God. Until we can gather again, the greatest tool church members and church leaders can and should become familiar with is not Zoom; it's the Bible.

Sooner or later, we will all likely return to the routines we knew before we were issued "stay at home" orders. When that happens, it would behoove us to do so gratefully and with an appreciation for the simple pleasures that we likely previously overlooked. For us, nowhere will such things be more apparent than in the buildings at KCC that now stand empty on Sunday mornings, that but once again be filled with the joyful sights and sounds of people of our congregation.

A new normal, if we're not careful, can be a mass of chaos and uncertainty. That is not the kind of new normal that you and I should reach for! Today, we need to be centered in those things we can deal with and ultimately the One Who is in charge of all things anyway, recalling to mind and heart His love and power, as well as the assurance that He can handle all of this craziness!

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Your 2020 Deacons

**PRAYERS & PRAISES**

Please keep in your prayer

~ Joan Sakaba

~ Coreen & Tony Sarabia

~ Sharon N., Jenn, Kira, friends dealing with health issues.

~ Pauline Vilorio (Miki Teruya)

~ Larry & Sandra Siu

~ Lia Lau

~ Yvonne Gossage

~ Diane & John Mendenhall

~ Beverly & Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson



~ Howard Pang, Hazel Chow, Ellen Chew, Lowell & Myrtle Terada, Walter Yeda, Alice Esaki, Sue & Brian Nakashima, Mitsi Higashida, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kanazawa, Ada & George Kaneoka, Natsuko Matsushima, Hideko Mumaw, Akito & Annie Sagawa, and Ruth Lum's family.

~ Pastor Chris Eng and our Pastoral Search Team
 ~ All Medical, Healthcare, Emergency Need and Caregiving providers.

~ Family, neighbors and friends who care for each other as the needs arise.

~ All businesses and restaurants trying to reopen and keep people safe during this challenging time.

Congratulations to Grandma Jolene Chang on the arrival of her new granddaughter, Mira, born in June to son, Nathan and daughter-in-law Lisa Chang.

Sincere Condolences to the family of Scott Schaefer who passed away last month from kidney failure. Scott was a dear friend of KCC, Rev. Dale, and the Grables. Our sympathies to his wife, Rev. Lynette Schaefer and their children on the loss of this faithful servant of God.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Sarah Weible
 Aaron Tanaka
 Jiggs Tamashiro
 Justin Lau
 June Tom
 Dennis Fong
 Patti Myers
 Larry Siu
 Kale Peters
 Jenai Nakasone
 Alianna Ramos
 Karen Miyahara
 Jane Tengan

Madeline St. John
 Sue Nakashima
 Harry Imai
 Daniel Fong
 Susan White
 Rebecca Weible



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dan & April Jessee

NOAH'S ARK



Whatever I needed to know can be learned from the Noah's Ark Story

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay Fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job and needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember that the Ark was built by an amateur; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm (big or small), there's always a rainbow waiting.

Has kindly
 Submitted by Nancy Arakaki

"NAME THAT AUTHOR"



Aloha Family and Friends of KCC,

Remember the contest "Name That Tune"? Well, under the newly formed column: Name That Author", you can search your memory for its creator if you recognize the saying. For example: "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them". The answer: Jesus, in Matthew 18:20 (NIV) will be posted in the following month's newsletter. Or, if you want the answer sooner, contact Steff Moderow at bonsaicats1@gmail.com. (Steff has kindly offered to assist with this column). All members are invited to submit/email any inspirational saying from any source to Steff who will forward the final details to Kammy by the 20th of each month. Please include the answer/author's name. For this month's challenge, name the author who penned this precious saying:

“Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.”

Hint: this author uses a pen name.

Have fun guessing the authors each month as well as reflecting on the sayings.



July- another month of social distancing and church closure.

We faced another challenge as Scott, our music director, resigned his position. We are grateful for his years of service

with us and the beautiful music he gifted us with. We thank Gail Yoneshige for graciously consenting to volunteer her time and talent for us. We are most grateful for Scott and Gail, thank you!

We are blessed for your donations of cleaning supplies and monetary gifts of \$1100.00. We are still waiting for a COVID-19 coordinator. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know. We also want to thank Keith Schultz who will be fixing our sanctuary side door with a door guard. We pray that this pandemic will soon become a memory. Though we don't know when this will be over, we give thanks for God's abundance of love and grace. This pandemic has truly changed our lives, but it hasn't changed our hearts and love for God! ~For the Lord is our salvation and he will never forsake us.



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

Dear Members and Friends,

The CPR/AED Class and the Pharmacist Talk are on hold until our church finds a COVID-19 Coordinator to set up protocol (rules on social distancing, wearing masks, sanitizing before and after a small gathering) on meeting as a small group, in either the sanctuary or Rooms 3 & 4.

There is a Cancer Prevention Study by Associate

Professor, Erin O'Carroll Bantum, Ph.D., called Mobile Mindfulness, for Cancer Survivors who have completed primary treatment for cancer (including hormone therapy), are over 21 years of age, are experiencing at least a mild level of anxiety, have use of a smartphone, are comfortable reading and writing in English, and who is not practicing meditation (no more than one hour per week).

If you are interested let Kammy or me know - I will arrange for her to meet with us, in a small group setting (social distancing and masks), once the church opens up, as I am interested in being part of this research and welcome others who might benefit from it.

Stay safe yet connected, and be Healthy! Pray for each other!

God Bless,
Myra

University of Hawaii CANCER CENTER
Mobile Mindfulness Meditation Intervention to Improve the Well-Being of Cancer Survivors
The goal of this 8-week program is to determine whether the use of a mobile app for Mindfulness can decrease anxiety and improve the well-being of cancer survivors. • Open to all cancer survivors, aside from those diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer • Must have completed primary treatment for cancer (hormone therapy accepted) • meditation (no more than one hour per week) You will be randomly assigned to receive either 8 weeks of online mindfulness meditation immediately or after eight weeks. Participants will be asked to complete the questionnaires describing well-being at the beginning of the study, 8 weeks later, and again 16 weeks from the beginning of the study.



MISSIONS MINISTRIES UPDATE

Family Promise - Adapting to Meet Needs

To preserve the safety and health of our guests, volunteers, staff, and community **we will continue to suspend the operation of our emergency shelter rotational model through the end of 2020.**

While many of our congregation partners begin to create plans for how to reopen their facilities and practice social distancing, we are aware that the Family Promise model would be difficult to implement at this time. We know our rotational shelter model will continue in the future, but we don't want to reopen it until it is safe to do so.

During the suspension of our rotational shelter model, we will be partnering with Camp Moku-leia to shelter families at their facility for the remainder of 2020.

This will allow us to continue to serve vulnerable families while safely practicing social distancing. Funding for this project will come from the Emergency Solutions Grant program which was awarded supplemental funding from the CARES Act. We will also continue to shelter families in a hotel in Waikiki through June thanks to funding from Hawaii Community Foundation's Hawaii

GOOD NEWS AT BIBLE INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

– As one of our outreach support ministries, we are glad to hear that BIH will be stepping out in a new direction that will offer the Christian community safe and immediate access to a BIH classroom where they can study and learn the Bible with others from gifted Bible teachers. Starting in mid-July, three Zoom online Bible Classes will be offered. The BIH Board has decided to provide a scholarship to cover 50% of each student's registration fee for this pilot online classes in July.

First Timothy by Mr. James Kwong – NT015 (Online)

This online class will feature an exposition of Paul's first letter to Timothy. We will explore the themes of leadership, discipleship, and managing relationships within the church. Paul encourages

Timothy to be an excellent minister to the church at Ephesus. God encourages us through this letter to examine our character and teaching as we minister in the world today. Expect weekly discussion and application.

Administrative Fee: \$20

July 20 – August 24, 2020 (6 weeks)

Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

The Dynamics of Spiritual Life by Pastor Todd Capen – CLV111 (Online)

What is progress in the Christian Life? Where is God taking me on a daily basis and how does faith connect with God's plan for me? What resources in God's grace do I have as a foundation for all of life? This course will explore the biblical foundations for our Salvation and identity. Participants will explore these vital subjects: gospel identity, gospel growth, and gospel love. We will explore as well how to battle the flesh and persistent idols that impede our growth.

Administrative Fee: \$20

July 21 – August 25, 2020 (6 weeks)

Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Online

Minor Prophets: Nahum-Malachi by Dr. Randy Furushima – OT028 (Online)

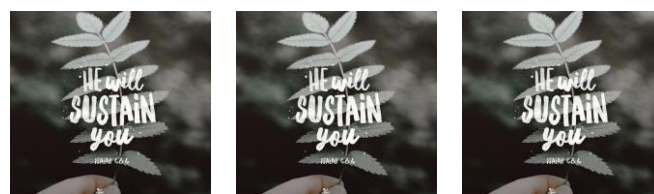
The prophetic books that comprise the "Book of Twelve" reveal the heart of God and the commitment of God's people toward faithfulness. "Minor" refers not to their importance but to their length. The vivid and startling messages in these books will stir both our curiosity and imagination of who God is and what He requires of us. We will examine the final six prophets: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

Administrative Fee: \$20

July 22 – August 26, 2020 (6 weeks)

Wednesday, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Zoom Online



RIVER OF LIFE OUTREACH

Due to the Pandemic, we were not able to assist our friends in Chinatown in providing a message and a meal in June. Because of the high risks to our support team and social distancing, we will not be serving a meal for the September event also. We are sending ROL some budgeted funds that were allotted for these mission efforts for 2020.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) is happy to report that the HCUCC has finally approved our KCC Church Profile and will be submitting it to Rev. Richard Kamanu to put it on the UCC Opportunities page soon. Thereafter, we should be receiving applications for the position of a new full-time pastor for KCC.

June Tom has very recently resigned from the PSC and as a result we now have six current members as follows: Dennis Fong, Reggie Yamada, John Sakamoto, Nancy Arakaki, Pam Morikawa and Paul Grable. Pastor Chris and Dean Wakuzawa have also been involved as non-voting leaders of KCC and have been providing their assistance, input and support.

The PSC has not met together for several months due to the pandemic, but we are continuing to communicate with each other via email and snail mail and by phone. We hope to be able to continue to move forward.

If you have any questions about the status of the progress to date don't hesitate to contact us. The procedures going forward, however, will be subject to some confidentiality that we will not be able to share openly.



Great News

LOGOS Bookstore has reopened and just celebrated their 37th year serving our churches and the community here in Hawaii. As businesses begin to reopen, we encourage you to shop local again.

For your health and safety, they continue to require all customers to wear face masks and gloves (they provide free plastic gloves). Gloves are required because the customer experience at Logos is very touch oriented and it is impossible to sanitize books, Bibles, and gifts. We know you need to open books/Bibles and look at them before buying them. Also gift items need to be touched and looked at from different angles. The buying experience at Logos is physical, tactile, and tangible; much better than viewing pictures online.

Logos is having a special on masks and shields and welcome churches to purchase these at a great price. If you are interested in providing some safety resources for our worship preparations, please see Kammy to get details. Mahalo.

**THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!**



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Rev. Christopher Eng, Interim Pastor



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CHECK OUT THE NEW COLUMN
"Name That Author" on page 4.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!
May God continue to shed His grace on us all!
Friday, July 3, 2020 – Holiday will be recognized.
Church office will be closed.

KCC Office is open on a limited basis during the Pandemic. Please call the office before you come to be sure that we are open and can assist you with whatever your needs are. Call 261-0125. Mahalo!

Please call the office if you would like to come by to pick up a copy of the Upper Room or Daily Bread devotional for this month.

We continue to seek for a Covid-19 Coordinator who will assist in developing/implementing a plan for KCC that is essential before we can reopen for services again. If you feel you can assist with this, please contact the church office or speak to one of your Council or Trustee Leaders.

We are truly grateful for all the support provided for safety and sanitizing supplies. We welcome your ongoing support in providing more Clorox wipes, sanitizing sprays, gloves and masks so we will be prepared when the time comes that we feel we are able to reopen.

TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER!

