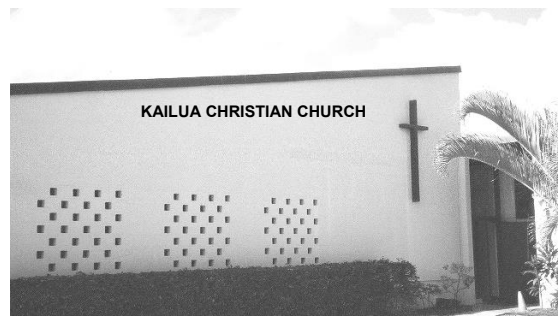


Waves of Faith

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



OCTOBER 2020

Volume 35

Issue 10



“Emptying Ourselves”

*“Let the same mind be in you that was in **Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.**”* Philippians 2: 5 - 8 N.R.S.V.

The world stood still on August 1, 2015. After serving five churches over the span of 39 years, I retired from pastoral ministry. Free from the responsibility of being the pastor of a parish, I also felt the loss of identity and an emptiness that comes from having to “let go.” I remember taking those framed certificates from yesteryear and placing them in brown boxes. (unpublished manuscript)

As I prepare the sermon for Sunday, September 27, 2020, the words from the Apostle Paul’s Philippians Chapter 2 text came to mind. Having the mind of Christ zeroes in on emptying one’s self which is the ultimate definition of humility. In 2015, I entered a time of emptiness that came from a decision to retire. Because of this, I was called to first be a chaplain with Hospice Hawaii for 2 years and then to serve as our church’s part-time interim minister. There are many instances when experiencing “emptiness” is not a choice.

On March 15, 2020, the doors to the sanctuary of Kailua Christian Church UCC were closed because of COVID-19. Not only has the church remained empty, but we, as members and friends of the church have experienced an emptiness

because of this closure. We’ve had to “let go” of seeing each other at worship and sharing in fellowship as we gathered for refreshments, bible study, prayer, grief support group, and T’ai-Chi. “Meet Your Deacon Lunch” was cancelled and council, board and committee meetings tabled. So, too were Family Promise and River of Life Mission outreach ministries.

There are some families that have had to “socially distance” themselves. I’ve heard of grandparents not being able to see their grandchildren because of the fear of getting the virus. Most of us no longer can have large family gathering for special occasions like Mother’s or Father’s Day, birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. Even the birth of a child is challenging as visitation has been severely restricted at hospitals. We feel empty and sometimes lost when we can no longer be in the personal presence of family and those we love and care about. Of course, some use Face Time as well as make phone calls, send texts and email messages.

During these months, our church ohana has lost **Ruth Masuno, Lillian Sakaguchi, Winnie Nakamura, George Kaneoka and Sue Nakashima.** Families struggle with the passing of their loved one. Some ask, “*How do you say good-bye and let go of someone you’ve loved for some or all of your life?*” When someone close to us dies, we experience this emotional emptiness that is part of a loneliness and separation that can be overwhelming. Through our Sunday Zoom service coordinated by Aaron Tanaka and the Worship Team, we’ve been able to share our concerns and lift up prayers.

There are times when couples argue. Disagreements sometimes occur among members of a church, especially concerning the leadership and the congregation. There may be one group that confronts another. During these times the Apostle’s words (chapter 2 verses 1 - 4) are powerful:

“If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 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 us look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.”

As we enter 6 months of this pandemic, we will continue to experience times of emptiness. Although we may feel anger and sadness as we try to resist, this is a golden opportunity to become more like Christ. For as we **“let go”** and **“become empty,”** God will fill us with peace. People, opportunities and experiences of great meaning and purpose will find us!

Much Aloha,
Pastor Chris



DEACONS MESSAGE

2020 is definitely a year to remember. It has been a stressful, worrisome and cautious year that we are experiencing. But, there is peace by being aware of our blessings and we are grateful for the things that are truly meaningful.



We won’t understand what God has planned in this pandemic, but the hope for us is to always pray and trust Him each day because He is in control and will carry us through this crisis.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 (LASB)

I am thankful to have received the monthly newsletters and Pastor Chris’ weekly sermon. Thank you, Pastor Chris, for your positive thoughts, meaningful prayers, heartwarming messages and thank you to those who have contributed to the newsletter.

In my new norm of staying at home, much time has been spent organizing and sorting things as many are doing. I found in my journal of September 2000, a message from the Deacons which was posted in my book. It was written by Margie Grable on Communion. Her thoughts gave me a deeper understanding and meaning of partaking in Communion. I will always remember her love, humility and smile as she served the Lord so faithfully.

KCC Newsletter
September 2000

Message from Our Deacons...

One of the responsibilities designated to the Deacons is Holy Communion. It is offered to the congregation on the first Sunday of every month. Bread and grape juice are served in a worshipful manner to remind us of Jesus’ great sacrifice for us. In 1 Corinthians 11:23 we read,

The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My Body, Which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” The same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This Cup is the new covenant in My Blood; do this, whenever you drink It, in remembrance of Me, for whenever you eat this Bread and drink this Cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”

To me, this act of worship is a time of deep sorrow and also great joy. I come confessing my sins to the One who never sinned, and yet suffered more than I will ever know. As I drink from His Cup, I feel my sins washed away, and I am able to fill with His Spirit of Love as I partake of the Bread.

It is a rare privilege that He gives us to become part of Him and of each other as we unite together in this act. Thank You, Lord, for this gift You have given us. May we always hold Communion as a sacred trust.

----Margaret Grable

It was six months ago when the service of communion was served in church. My thanks to Dot and Nani who graciously assisted in the preparation of the Lord's Supper each month. Thankfully, communion continues in our Zoom worship service as "hearts are united in this act."

Praying that you are staying healthy and positive with love and hope.

In Christ's love,
Nancy



PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Dean's friend, Wes
- ~ Wayne O.
- ~ Jonathan Martinez
- ~ Howard Jackson
- ~ Coreen & Tony Sarabia
- ~ Sharon Nishihira & Steve Hammann
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu
- ~ Ally T.
- ~ Pastor J. Salle and Rev. R. Kamanu
- ~ Diane & John Mendenhall
- ~ Beverly & Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson



- ~ Howard Pang, Hazel Chow, Ellen Chew, Lowell & Myrtle Terada, Walter Yeda, Alice Esaki, Brian Nakashima, Mitsi Higashida, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kanazawa, Ada Kaneoka, Natsuko Matsushima, Hideko Mumaw, Akito & Annie Sagawa, and Ruth Lum and 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.
- ~ All children and teachers dealing with in person and online education.

Sincere Condolences to the family of Sue Nakashima who passed away on September 11, 2020. Fortunately even though she was staying at a private care home, family was able to visit via video calls. Sue was 92 years old and just celebrated her 70th anniversary with her dear husband, Brian. Sue was loving, witty, engaging, and caring until the end. Sue was a faithful member at KCC serving as a Deacon: 1977, '78, '79, '87, '88, '93, '94, 2001. Served as a Sunday School teacher and in the Christian Ed. ministry from '61 through '70. Served as Church treasurer: 1981-85 and again in 1996 Served as Missions Co-Chairperson 1989 and through the early 90's - helped develop a Foster Care Ministry and helped develop a women's ministry called helping Hands/Wed. Morning Bible Study. Great wom home. Although not holding a official position in the church recently, Sue and Brian continued to donate support. They were a big support to the Youth Group Fundraising efforts and donated homegrown veggies to the KCC ohana. They have truly been a blessing to us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

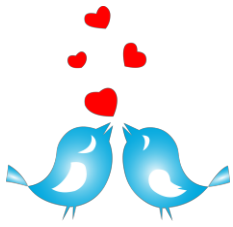
- Nick Shiroma
- Debbie Glenn
- Alice Esaki
- Pam Morikawa
- Howard Pang



- Joan Sakaba
- Christine Nakamatsu

Akiko Nakamura
Jane Shiroma
Jane Masuno

Barbara Gomes
Lynette Pimenta
Jennifer Pang
Kingston Kapua



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Derek & Debra Martinson
Nick & Susan Shiroma
John and Terri Lipps



Thankful

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

As I enter the gate to KCC, I am reminded of how thankful we are that we have a place to worship. Thankful that we have been able to maintain the building and grounds by your generosity of tithing.

Thankful for Pastor Eng who has been with us for almost 2 years, though his commitment was only for a year. He has done 20 Sundays of ZOOM with inspiring messages and working with our worship team under the capable leadership of Aaron Tanaka. Thankful that he could meet grieving families, families in need of God’s genuine compassion and care.

Thankful to Kammy, who willingly tended to the needs at hand.. She was there for members and friends who needed help or someone to hear their problems. Thankful that our church was maintained -- plants and grass watered, mail tended to and always being there for the bookkeeper and trustees. However most importantly, she was able to maintain our Waves of Faith Newsletter, which is our lifeline to members and friends so that we stayed connected. We are also thankful that Johnny was always willing to help her.

Thankful to all of you who participated and responded to our Give Aloha project. We are so thankful to Foodland for their generosity in this program. Through this program, we have raised over \$8,000, and we are grateful for the provisions that God has provided us. Please turn in your receipt to Kammy, as it is important for Myra who is doing all the entries to be able to credit your giving statement. Thus far we have 10 unaccounted donations we are trying to credit to some generous givers.

The next few months will be critical for council and trustees as we plan the budget for next year. We need leaders to help us focus and be creative as we realize the challenges ahead. But we know that God always has a plan for us. I truly am waiting for him to *reveal* his *plan* for us and I am excited for new life and new happenings. Let us work together in this new season of fall.

Let us not fail Him. Let us continue to have the burning desire to be on fire for the Lord, as Pastor Eng preached. Won't you want to be a part of this team? I would!

Your Trustees



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

Aloha Friends!

Due to the ongoing spread of Covid-19 Virus and its high risk to many of our members and friends, our Na Anela Support and Wellness group will not meet for the remainder of 2020. We’ve had to cancel Mrs. Miki Morita’s presentation twice, May 23 and Sept. 26. Hopefully, the Covid-19 situation improves to where our church can safely open (given masks and social distancing) and present Miki’s informative drug/medicine session on Jan 27, 2021.

Meanwhile, please take the opportunity to learn “online”. Adventist Health Castle cancelled their health and wellness “in-person” sessions for the

remainder of 2020. For St. Francis Healthcare System's October 2020 Caregiver Education and Wellness Classes, email Maylynn Wong mwong@stfrancishawaii.org or call (808) 547-8138 for information (get on the mailing list or if you need help navigating Zoom).

Windward Community College (WCC)/AARP's "FAST, HEALTHY AND "ONO" series feature Chef Daniel Swift, the new Workforce Development Coordinator at WCC, focusing on areas of Hospitality and Food and Beverage Education. Many of you have attended Chef Dan's healthy cooking sessions for Na Anela gatherings.

The WCC/AARP cooking sessions are free. Schedule can be found by going to www.aarp.org/hi, clicking on **UPCOMING EVENTS**, then, selecting the cooking session, registering by clicking on the sign-up button and filling in your information. Once your sign-up is successful, you will receive an email from Jackie Boland, providing a link to the Zoom cooking session and your confirmation number to type/enter in. Each session's recipe will be sent to you in advance so you can pick up the ingredients and cook along with Chef Dan (est 30 min), followed by Questions and Answers.

All sessions run from 5-5:45 pm.

Oct 02 (Fri): From Frozen to Fabulous; (Scallop Primavera with Pesto)

Oct 09 (Fri): Signature Shortbread

Oct 15 (Thu): Cooking Methods That Matter

Nov 12 (Thu): Japanese Style Miso Salmon with Soba Noodles

Nov 19 (Thu): Filipino Chicken Adobo

Dec 03 (Thu): Chinese Dumplings

Note: Each taped session will be available on AARP's Facebook.

If you have any questions, please contact me at yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 348-2297.

Stay safe, be well and hope you can participate in one or two Zoom classes!

Mahalo and God Bless!

Myra

MISSIONS MINISTRIES UPDATE



Neighbors in Need Offering received through October. Please consider giving to this special UCC Offering.

Sunday, October 4, is when most UCC congregations across the country will collect the special mission offering, Neighbors in Need (NIN), as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. **Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities. Please consider supporting this offering by sending in a donation – identifying it for the NIN Special Offering. Mahalo.



"NAME THAT AUTHOR"

Below are the answers to September's quotations In *Name That Author*, plus two new quotations for October. For those who can't wait a month for the author's name, contact Steff at 218-3324 or at bonsaicats1@gmail.com. If members wish to submit a quotation, submit to Steff who will relay it to Kammy by the 20th of each month.

*Answers for Sept. quotation:
#1 John 3:16 and #2 Helen Keller*



For October, here are two quotes

#1- *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

#2- *"Mountains inspire leaders, but valleys mature them."*



HOW SALTY ARE YOU?

You Are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?

Matthew 5:13

The clouds break and a shaft of light beams down, lighting the package on your table. McDonald's French Fries, the ultimate in fried potato excellence, beckons to your waiting taste buds. You pop a few in your mouth, but your eyebrows wrinkle. You are concerned. Taking a few more bites, you realize no one salted your batch. What was supposed to be wonderful are just grease sticks on bland potato, lacking the pleasure they had promised to bring.

Even if you don't really like salty things, God says His people can learn a lot from the mineral. Salt has a unique ability to bring out flavor wherever it is applied. It is also used to preserve. And He wants you to be just like that salt.

Unlike people who don't know, you have been seasoned with His precious Holy Spirit. The flavor of God filters through all that you do whether you're waiting in the carpool lane or wandering through the grocery store. Wherever you go, God's goodness goes with you. So, when you encounter other people, there's nothing bland about the exchange if you give others a taste of the goodness. Conversations carried through God's Spirit create a thirst for God and preserve what is true, the inevitable effect of a good salting.

So how salty are you? It will depend on how well connected you are to the Source. Let His Spirit refresh your soul. Reflect on His power to love and preserve you. Then sprinkle the love of God wherever you go.

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6

(From Shine on Beautiful Soul! By Ellie Claire)

A devotion shared by Lily Lee.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT – From RC Sproul

The most important investment we can ever make is in the kingdom of God, because it has eternal returns. These returns are not just for us but also for our family, our children, our grandchildren. This generation of Christians must invest in the things of God for the sake of the next generation. This follows Jesus' admonition: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" ([Matt. 6:33](#)).

I honestly believe that if you invest in the kingdom of God, you won't lose anything in the final analysis. Tithe from the top, and learn to do that as early as you can in life. If your child gets a dollar allowance, make sure that the first ten cents goes into the collection plate on Sunday, so the child learns the principle early. We know we cannot spend the tax the government takes out of our paycheck. We must live on our "take home" pay. Our obligation to God takes precedence over our obligation to government. God should get paid first, "from the top." If you want to know how serious you are about investing in God's kingdom, look at your checkbook. It is an objective, concrete record of where your treasure is and where your heart is.

The Four T's of Stewardship: Time, Temple, Talent, and Treasure

Taken from Access Jesus.com

1. Time – Redeeming the Time That God Has Given You.

God has given us our life and our time to manage as part of us being his steward. As good stewards, he expects us to manage our time, our life, according to his will. We are to redeem the time that God has provided us. Ephesians 5:16 advises us to redeem our time for God's glory.

Ephesians 5:16, *“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”*

2. Temple – Care For Your Body, the Temple of the Holy Ghost.

The definition of stewardship includes caring for all things that God has given us. This includes our bodies. As Christians, our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost. If our bodies are to be temples of the Holy Ghost, then it goes without saying that we should not defile our bodies with sin. 1st Corinthians 6:19 advises us that our bodies are the not ours, but the temple of the Holy Ghost.

1st Corinthians 6:19, *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”*

3. Talents – Use Our Given Talents For Good Works.

The definition of stewardship also includes the making use of the talents and abilities that God had given us. God has given each us unique talents and he desires us to put our talents to good use. As Christians, we can even say that God has ordained us with our unique talents to do his good works. Ephesians 2:10 advises us that we are ordained with unique talents and that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10, *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

4. Treasure – Being Accountable For God's Treasure.

A key definition of stewardship is being accountable for God's treasures. The Bible tells us that all things are created by God and all things are God's. As God's chosen representatives, his stewards, God has given us material things to faithfully administer for his glory. Haggai 2:8 tells us that all material things are God's and not ours.

Haggai 2:8, *“The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.”*

As we look ahead to the new year, the future of Kailua Christian Church, and its place in God's kingdom, there are many things we must pray for.

Our mission of being good stewards for building the kingdom of God must be foremost on our minds and hearts. Caring for all things he cares for.

There are so many distractions during these uncertain times but as we are living proof that God is faithful, loving, caring, and in control.... we move forward trusting that His will, will be done.

Whether we serve him through service out in the community and the world with our Time, Talent and Treasures, may we do it with a healthy mind and body – all to His glory.



Mahalo Pastor Chris for your faithfulness and service to all of us. You are a true blessing and We thank God for you!

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Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org

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Return service requested

Rev. Christopher Eng, Interim Pastor

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH:

World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020 we will celebrate Communion together on Zoom. We welcome all participants to prepare themselves with grape juice and bread to partake during the service. (You can use other elements that would be representative for this special time.



**NEIGHBORS IN NEED
SPECIAL UCC OFFERING**

WILL BE RECEIVED IN OCTOBER.

Please give and identify this special offering when you send it in.
Mahalo.

HCUCC has not designated a special Disaster Fund Offering for victims of the fires or hurricanes yet but if you would like to send money for the UCC Emergency Fund in general -- they will direct the funds to where it is most needed. You can send it directly to the conference office located at 1848 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817.

**The 198th AHA PAE’AINA - E Ho’oku ‘ikahi
Kakou – Let Us Covenant Together**

The annual meeting of the Hawaii Conference UCC will be held October 4-10, 2020

The Aha will start at 3 p.m. on Sun. Oct. 4 with a Conference-wide worship service. The various Aha Iki meetings will be held Mon.- Thurs. The Formation Missional Team will be holding workshops, free for anyone to attend, interspersed throughout the week. The Aha will end with the Makua Business session on Saturday and a closing worship. All of this will take place online.

Please keep everyone involved in your prayers and pray that God will be glorified through this time.



Mahalo KCC Family and Friends for your generous donations this year. We are grateful that you made the effort to go to Foodland and give as you were able. With grateful hearts we appreciate your kind support!

We would like to remind everyone who gave to send in your receipt to KCC so we can be sure to credit your giving statement for 2020. Without it we can't designate the proper giving credits.

MAHALO NUI LOA!