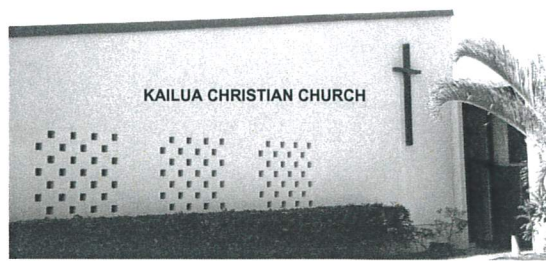


Waves of Faith

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



MAY 2023

Volume 38

Issue 05

FROM OUR MODERATOR

It has been exactly one year since Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson stepped down as our pastor and said his aloha to Kailua Christian Church. Our current Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) was formed shortly thereafter and got to work quickly revising the KCC local church profile and started the process of reaching out and interviewing candidates.

Now the PSC has some very good news to announce. The PSC has unanimously recommended to our Council a candidate for our Settled Pastor position. Our Council accepted that recommendation and made an offer to the candidate, pending membership approval, and our candidate has accepted our offer.

We will be sending all of you, both members and friends, ministerial profile information about our candidate for you to read and links to online sermons for you to see and hear.

We are moving forward rapidly with the following schedule.

On May 7th we will formally announce the date of the KCC congregational meeting to vote on our candidate becoming our settled pastor. That meeting will take place on Sunday, May 21, 2023, following the worship service in the sanctuary.

On May 14th at 8:30 a.m. we will have a coffee hour to meet & greet our candidate followed by worship where she will deliver our sermon for that Sunday. We contemplate that the meet and

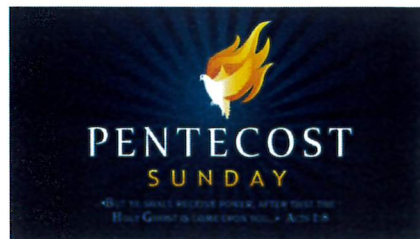
greet coffee hour will include some Zoom time online prior to the service for those of you online to be able to meet and greet our candidate. There will be no time to meet and greet after the service because she needs to catch a plane immediately following worship.

Between May 14th and May 17th KCC will be open to receiving any questions you may have which will be summarized and forwarded for responses by our candidate. Please submit your questions in writing, preferably by email to: kailuacch@gmail.com. We have requested that the questions be responded to on or before May 19th.

On May 21st, we contemplate conducting a formal congregational meeting at which time we will present the Qs & As, and we will have a discussion and conduct a vote on our proposed settled pastor. We also plan to receive the KCC Annual Report at this congregational meeting.

Please thank the PSC for their hard work and dedication to this long and sometimes tedious process. Your PSC includes: Reggie Yamada, Katelyn Akamine, Dean Wakuzawa, Susan Morita, Dennis Fong, Vernon Pang, Alan Yoneshige and Gail Yoneshige. The KCC moderator also participates in the PSC as an ex-officio member.

Love, Aloha & Agape, Paul Grable, Moderator



Join us!
Sunday,
May 28, 2023

DEACONS CORNER**When Your Church is Without a Pastor**

By Dale A. Robbins

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It happens in every church sooner or later. Eventually, the beloved pastor that many looked to for spiritual guidance will depart for one reason or another. Occasionally, a minister may have the opportunity to devote his entire life to one particular congregation until he retires (or is promoted to Heaven), but pastoral transition occurs with far greater frequency in most churches.

First, when it comes time for your pastor to leave, remember to keep your eyes on the Lord, not the man. It is understandable how people can become attached to their pastor. He is rightly viewed as God's representative to preach and teach His Word, a trusted counselor and friend, a father figure of influence in our faith, a servant who sacrificed time and energy to love and care for us and our family. However, as remarkably important as God's servants are, we must always remember that they are merely mortals...and that our faith must be rooted in Christ alone, not in a man or any of His servants.

To be sure, no one will ever truly be able to replace your departed pastor. He was a unique person and will always be one of a kind... BUT his position as pastor can indeed be filled again. God will have another genuinely unique servant that He will send to lead the flock of God.

Pastoral change is not the end of the world. Change is a part of life, and although there will definitely be a need for some extra patience and flexibility by everyone in the congregation, you and your church will get through this... especially if you follow these tips:

1. Be Faithful to Attend Services – The lack of a permanent pastor can make some feel less enthused or connected with the church, and may

promote more frequent absences or visitations to other churches. However, if there was ever a time your church needed you, this is it. Instead of finding more excuses to stay away, this should be a time to increase your faithfulness in every area. Don't be a fair-weather friend of the church... but remain faithful even during such cloudy or uncertain times.

2. Be a Person of Prayer – People in the church must always be persons sincerely devoted to prayer...but even more so during a time that their church is without a pastor. If he can, our enemy, Satan, will attempt to use the pastoral vacancy to incite mischief, conflict and discouragement in the flock, so prayer and spiritual vigilance is especially important during this time.

3. Be Extra Patient and Understanding – An interim period for any church may become tense and stressful, creating the possible atmosphere for any number of misunderstandings, so it is very helpful for everyone to add an extra seasoning of patience and sweetness to their attitudes. Usually, once the pastor is gone, the congregation will discover many of the things he did. Suddenly, the organization may not be run as smoothly as it once was... tasks may fall through the cracks or be forgotten about. It is not a time to criticize or find fault, but be understanding and pitch in and help make up the shortfalls.

4. Continue to Contribute Financially – During a time of leadership transition, church finances can often become one of the first casualties to suffer... so it is vitally important for you to remain steadfast with your tithes and offerings. Remember, the tithe belongs to the Lord, and continue to be faithful to Him, regardless of the changing nature of his church.

5. Volunteer More than Usual – Sometimes people look at changes in church leadership, as an opportunity to make changes of their own... perhaps to leave the church or to give up a position or responsibility. Not only is this a poor time to abandon the church, but is a critical time to step up and volunteer more than normal.

The church is not merely an agency to provide a service or benefit to you... the church is a relationship-based community, a family, where people serve and bless "each other" mutually... and it takes everyone's participation to make it work the way it should. Another way to look at it, the church isn't as much like a restaurant, where patrons are "served" and "pampered" ...but is more like a pot-luck dinner where everyone brings a dish to share with each other.

6. Help Contribute to Unity – During times uncertainty within an organization, voices of discouragement and discontent can often be heard in the ranks... but this is a moment your influence of support and encouragement is so needed to help promote peace and unity in the body. "Talk up" the church among your friends, speak encouragement and help promote harmony.

There can be a variety of other outstanding leaders, elders, deacons in a church who will undoubtedly help bring unity and stability... but unless these persons have established recognized credibility, have spoken frequently before the body, or have expertise dealing with the varieties of personalities and sensitivities within a body, they will have their hands full. It can take considerable experience and tact to be a peacemaker and unify people... and helps if everyone will be a part of the solution, and not a part of the problem.

7. Avoid Church Politics – Politics is essentially a competition or struggle for control, influence or leadership, associated with promoting one's self, opinions, or striving for position... something that is quite contrary to the theocratic philosophy of leadership that God ordained for His church. Unfortunately, power struggles are frequent in many churches and do far more harm than good. Do your best to contribute to the harmony of the body of believers and cooperate with those who are duly authorized to lead. Do not contend with those in authority, but support and pray for them... and let God make whatever changes that are needed. If everyone will seek to humble themselves, love and serve, God has an amazing way to bring people together with an obvious awareness of those whom He has chosen to lead.

8. Don't Waste the Opportunity – What about the interim time between the pastor's departure and the new pastor's arrival? There is often a prevailing attitude that the spiritual focus and ministry of the church is suspended or stagnant during this period... but this shouldn't be. God still has a vital purpose for every service, guest speaker or the ministry of an interim pastor... and it is important for the congregation to remain faithful and engaged, so that God's intended work can be accomplished.

9. Finally, Don't Panic and Be at Peace! Do your part to pray, contribute and help as we have suggested... but the church will do better if everyone remains calm and steadfast in faith. Ultimately our Lord Jesus cares more about His church more than any of us do. Trust and rest in the fact that He stated that "He" will build His church... and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it! (Matt 16:18)

Submitted by Deacon, Vernon Pang

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

~ Lois Shinsato
 ~ The family of Lynne Ikehara, Florence's friend who recently passed away.
 ~ Maureen Wakuzawa & family on the loss of relative Alvin Matsumoto and Maureen's mom having a stroke.
 ~ Stella Wakamatsu, Son-in-law, Jerry and daughter, Gwen
 ~ Pastor Warren and Lynne Nakano
 ~ Dot Suzuki ~ Kira Chong
 ~ Nani Oda ~ Vici in Hospice
 ~ John Sakamoto, son-in-law, Tony Sarabia and Coreen and Cheryl (John's daughters)
 ~ Myrtle & Lowell Terada continued health
 ~ Warren Imada ~ Sharon Mon
 ~ Henry Tom, and son-in-laws, **James**/Claire Steele and **Rick**/Val Aquino health issues
 ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
 ~ Sharon's friend, Erin ~ Larry & Sandra Siu
 ~ Harrison Lum and family
 ~ Jennie Lee on follow up medical tests
 ~ Damien Wong ~ Karen Shimizu



~ Jiggs Tamashiro, Walter Yeda, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kanazawa, and all our families dealing with high risk factors along with the rest of our church family.

~ Zoom Worship Team and in-person worship.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Linda Umetsu
Mae Takahashi
Bert Yoshioka
Cera Soma
Betty Ota
Stan Nakamura
Lia Lau
Walter Yeda
Lily Lee
Pua Todd
Matt Chang

Dr. Gary Morita
Lara Higashi
Mason Maeshiro
Ken Nakamatsu
Winchell Lee
Daniel Tamashiro
Logan Gerber



ANNIVERSARY

Gary & Cleo Nham
Bert & Judy Yoshioka
Jo Ann & Larry Takumi
Richard & Florence Miyashiro



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA
(Angels in the Works for God)

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Saturday, May 27, 2023, 10-11:30 am: “Eating for Your Genes”.

Thirty plus years veteran Dietician Caroline Hamatake (Joyful Nutrition); 10 – 11:30 in-person and Zoom. Caroline says, “We each have a unique genetic code that determines our health potential. It’s what we eat and other daily lifestyle choices that determine how well we achieve that potential. Food talks to our genes. We can maximize our health span by choosing foods that turn on the genes in our body’s natural defense and repair systems.”

Register with Kammy or Myra by May 20.

Windward Community College: Chef Dan Swift is announcing two non-credit Summer Baking Camps I and II (Yeast Breads and Cookies). Cost is \$210 per person, per session (2 days); Open to youth ages 13 and over with parental consent; limited seating. Location: WCC, Hale Akoakoa Cafeteria

Dates: Camp I: June 13-14 and June 26-27 and Camp II: dates to be determined.

Register by going to website: <https://windwardcce.org/cooking>

St. Francis Healthcare System’s Caregiver Education and Wellness Series continue to provide excellent caregiving and health/wellness classes for the community.

St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii’s Caregiver Education and Wellness Series.

If this is your first time signing up for classes, please contact me (Myra). I will send you the May email from Melissa Caballes which has the actual registration bar to register. Contact Melissa Caballes if you have questions or are having difficulty enrolling; 808-547-8138;

mcaballes@stfrancishawaii.org.

Individual Classes:

May 11: Thu, 11–12 pm; New! F3E Presents: taxes, Retirement and The Secure Act 2.0.

May 15: Mon, 10-11 am; Resolving Conflict Without Blame

May 16: Tue, 5-6 pm; Neurodegenerative Disease Series: Parkinson’s Disease

May 17: Wed, 4-6:30 pm; Parkinson’s Upclose and Personal

May 19: Fri, 10-11:30 am; New! Hands on Bathing for Family Caregivers (in-person)

May 23: Tue, 9:30-11 am; New! Don’t Just Age, Engage!

May 27: Sat, 9-11 am; Mobility Training (in-person class)

Weekly Session Classes:

May 01-22: Mon, 8-9 am; Big Moves! Monday

May 01-31: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:30 pm;

Zumba by Frances (in-person/no classes

5/10/12/15/17)

May 02–30: Tue, 9 – 10 am; Body and Brain
Yoga Tai Chi

May 02–30: Tue and Fri, 12-12:30 pm; Boxing
Fundamentals

May 03–31: Wed, 8 – 9 am; Empower You! (people with Parkinson's)

May 04–25: Thu, 9 – 10 am; Tripudio Movement System with Ellie (pre-recorded)

May 6–27: Sat, 8-9 am; Zumba Gold by Francis (in-person)

Note: *In-person sessions will be held at Senior Community Center at the Kupuna Village in Liliha. Contact me at yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com or call (808) 348-2297 if you have questions.*

Please invest your time and energy in any one of these free and informative classes.

Mahalo, Stay Healthy and God Bless! Myra

Message from Institute for Human Services

Overwhelmed with Gratitude

Whether it's walking through the hallways of their women's and family shelter, serving meals at their men's shelter, or seeing families laugh and play together at Kahauiki Village, Connie shared that she is humbled by the hearts of those who choose to partner alongside them as volunteers.

With the addition of 'Imi Ola Piha Homeless Triage Center, IHS now manages 14 service centers, which include nine shelters and eight core service lines. That's over a thousand connections with households in crisis - those who are about to lose housing, are currently homeless, or are now living in supportive housing. Because of you, and other faithful volunteers, these programs run smoothly and are a lifeline for those in need.

Our volunteers rally by participating in donation drives, job coaching, administrative support, landscape and maintenance projects, and much more! IHS is grateful to you for sharing your time, energy, and aloha with those they

serve, many who need reminding that they are valued and seen.

With gratitude,



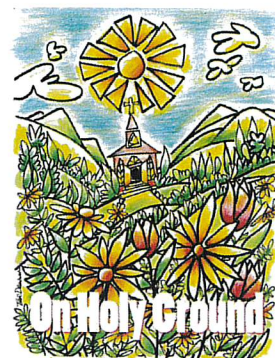
Connie Mitchell

Connie Mitchell
Executive Director, The Institute for Human Services

To learn more about the center and support this important work, visit ihshawaii.org/triage

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL UCC OFFERING to be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.

STC offering re-imagines and builds the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing church's new initiatives. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Thank you for your consideration to support this special offering.



BIBLE INSTITUTE OF HAWAII –

“JUST SHOW UP” ON ZOOM

You are invited to join BIH weekly for the Public Reading of Scripture! Weekly readings, aligned with their quarterly classes.

Let us grow together in our dependence for the Lord's rich nourishment, with insatiable appetites for more time with Him. Free – no registration required. Just Show Up!

For more information please go to:
<https://www.biblehawaii.org>.

WORSHIP submitted by Gail Yoneshige

We honored our Living Treasures on Sunday, April 23 with the singing of old favorite songs of worship, an uplifting sermon by Pastor Christopher Eng and the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation.



Top Row - Pastor Christopher Eng, John Sakamoto, Lowell Terada, Carl Nemoto, Walter Yeda, Winchell Lee, Lily Lee, Rev. Bill Cunningham. Front Row - Emily Peters, Pat Oyama, Myrtle Terada, Stella Wakamatsu, Nani Oda, Jean Miyaji, Annie

A reception followed with a delicious bento lunch catered through Natsunoya and a dessert buffet of homemade treats, cake and other goodies. It was wonderful to see the Kupuna looking so well and enjoying visiting with old friends. They are truly inspirational and their rich legacy of personal testimony show us examples of God's infinite goodness and faithfulness. Each of them received a beautiful potted succulent garden to take home.

Mahalo to Barney Pilla, Aaron Tanaka, Jennie Lee, Debbie Fong, Reggie & Myra Yamada, Florence Miyashiro, Vernon Pang, Kammy Grable, Alan Yoneshige, Pat Chinn, Susan Morita, Kale Peters & Dennis Fong, photographer.

Coming up on **Mother's Day, May 14**, we will have the opportunity to meet, greet and listen to our **Pastoral candidate preach**. You won't want to miss **this chance to become acquainted with her and ask questions before casting your vote at the Congregational meeting the following Sunday, May 21**.

Honoring
Our
Kupuna
April 23, 2023



Kailua Christian Church (UCC)
317 Manono St.
Kailua, HI 96734-2211
PH: (808) 261-0125
E-Mail: kailuacch@gmail.com
Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
OUR GUEST PASTORS FOR MAY**



May 07 – Rev. Alpha Goto w/Communion

May 14 – Rev. Irene Willis Hassan

May 21 & 28 - TBA

“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.” Jeremiah 3:15 (ESV)

We praise God for his ongoing blessing and care in supplying these awesome pastors. It is an honor having them with us!



Help us celebrate with our graduates:

Please inform the church office of any graduates from High school or college that we can share in and lift up during this joyous time in their lives. We would like to share with our KCC ohana their plans for after graduating and details on when they will be graduating and from where. Please inform church office by the 15th of May at kailuacch@gmail.com. Mahalo.



**The O’ahu Association UCC invites you to
the 2023 Spring ‘Aha Mokupuni.**

IF GOD IS DOING A NEW THING, WHAT DO WE SEE? Isaiah 43:19 What are you and your church seeing?

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Place: Via Zoom

The theme is inspired by the proposed theme of the upcoming General Synod; We look forward to: Worship and “virtual” Fellowship. Your stories in our open-ended time of sharing, (Bring your observations and your questions), Announcements and Looking Ahead!

Come to share and receive!

- News from the Association and the Conference
- Giving Circle Church update (from fall Mokupuni presentation)
- ‘Aha Pae’aina plans (save date: June 17 via Zoom)
- A new kind of Leaders Event (responding to your ideas!)
- New Pastors in the Association (e komo mai – welcome!)

For registration information contact: the church office at 808-261-0125 or email kailuacch@gmail.com. Registration cost is \$10 per person, KCC members are sponsored at time of registration. Registrations must be confirmed in KCC office by May 12th. Call Kammy at 808-261-0125 for more information.