

Waves of Faith

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



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Volume 38

Issue 10



Matthew 14:15-21

15 As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." 16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." 17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. 18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

God has no Scarcity Mindset

Rev. Irene Willis Hassan

When I was talking to folks about the search process for a Worship Musician, almost all of you didn't believe me when I said we'd had almost 30 applications for the position in just under two weeks of advertising, and that many of those candidates were excellent musicians with comprehensive resumes and faithful Christian backgrounds. Similarly, when I accepted the call to this church, many of you asked "Why us? We're just little guys." There seems to be an atmosphere here that Kailua Christian Church isn't "good enough" to attract interest from quality candidates.

You may look at our attendance and our budget and only see two fish and five loaves.

But when Jesus looks at your souls and your faith in Him, he sees enough to abundantly feed 5,000 people.

You may think, "But Pastor, people applied for it because we're offering to pay them." And yes, several of the candidates we interviewed were clearly in it for the cash, which is why they weren't selected as finalists. Yet, most of the applicants were actually students that were willing to do it for a modest internship stipend. We put out two separate advertisements – one to professional, paid musicians, and one to student interns at local universities that included a modest stipend. Those students, who obviously weren't in it for meager pocket change, applied to KCC because they saw Jesus creating the abundant feast here. Some of them even showed up at the church for Sunday service with their enthusiasm and ideas for the church's growth in their hearts and minds. They sent me long, inspirational e-mails about why they were interested in this church and what they could offer. The call for applications for this position demonstrated not a response for pocket money, but for a call to grow God's Kingdom here at our church.

You see, we young people who are interested in seeing this church grow are using an Opportunity Mindset, not a Scarcity Mindset. Scarcity Mindset says "we should be scared because we don't have enough to offer." Opportunity mindset says "look at all the beautiful seeds here that we can nurture into a garden." Most of these young people, myself included (I'm still young-ish, right?), saw a rich, fertile soil at KCC in which we would be

given the enormous gift of growing our seeds and watching the harvest grow and thrive. God doesn't have a Scarcity Mindset, and neither should we.

God intends for us to be exactly this: people that are fertilized by His love into being rich soil that can grow His Kingdom. It's clear that this possibility is available at KCC in spades. So don't be afraid, dear Church, God has feasts for us to multiply yet. Be confident in His ability to make that happen for us.

We ended up selecting a candidate, Matthew Wong, that we're paying an actual salary because we still have to work out the logistics of what hosting an intern would entail. Matt also demonstrated a clear understanding that this is a church with fertile soil that can feed thousands from its 2 fishes and 5 loaves. Please help me joyously welcome Matt into our church ohana on October 8, and also joyously welcome the Holy Spirit's guidance in growing our garden into a place of sustenance and abundance.

Blessings on you,

Rev. Irene Willis Hassan

DEACONS CORNER

ENOUGH TO GIVE

Luke 6:38 (NRSVUE); "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back". Upper Room, page 49, Sun Oct. 8, 2023.

The Upper Room is a bi-monthly daily devotional guide, available to all who request one. You can pick one up as you enter the church for Sunday worship, by asking Kammy to reserve one for you to pick up at a later time or asking a deacon to drop a copy off at your home. These short, inspirational writings can start your morning off on a positive note.



Author, Marko Pal'a K.D. Meewan, writes:

"I remember a time when I didn't help others because I was afraid that I would not have enough for myself. But God led me to this scripture, and I decided to give money. A short time later I received more money than I had given. It was truly unexpected. Over time, God has taught me to have an open heart for giving."

"Giving can happen in many ways. It doesn't have to be money. We can spend time with people even when we are busy. We can give help to others even when we need help as well. God gives us much more than we give to others. This quoted scripture encourages us, "Give, and it will be given to you." When you trust, have an open heart, and are ready to give, the gifts we give will be blessed by God."

I, too, believe that God gives us much more than we give to others. We are so blessed to be living in the United States of America, in Hawaii, on the island of Oahu, on the beautiful Windward side in Kailua, living with our families, where we have so much of everything. We are also blessed to be a part of Kailua Christian Church where we are/have been nurtured spiritually through our worship and ministries, with guidance from our current Pastor Irene and past ones (Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson, Pastor Chris Eng, Pastor Jack Belsom, Pastor Tim Weible and Pastor Alan Maeno), and our church leaders/friends who give so much of their time and energy to do God's work and to care for the members and friends, while they manage their own challenges and needs.

Therefore, let us continue to tithe generously, give to special funds (Benevolence, Building Drive, various UCC missions) and volunteer our time and energy to support the various Boards/committees, either as a leader or committee member, to further the work of God.

Let us continue to support Our Statement of Purpose to be a W.A.R.M.M. church as we reach out to people, bringing them to Jesus Christ and into the membership of this church family, developing them through active discipleship and equipping them for their ministry in the church and in

the world, in order to worship and glorify God.

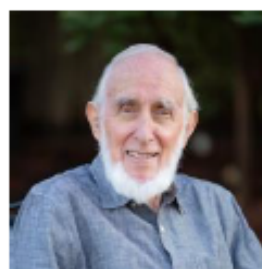
May your gifts of time, energy and money be blessed abundantly by God!

Deacon Myra Yamada

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Nathan Kohashi
- ~ Warren and Lynne Nakano
- ~ John Sakamoto, son-in-law, Tony Sarabia and Coreen and Cheryl (John's daughters)
- ~ Myrtle & Lowell Terada continued health
- ~ Henry Tom, and daughter/Val Aquino
- ~ Kira Chong ~ Neighbor, Bernard
- ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
- ~ Sharon's friend, Erin ~ Larry & Sandra Siu
- ~ Harrison Lum ~ Damien Wong
- ~ Dennis Nakashima ~ Macadangdang Ohana
- ~ Jean Miyaji, Jiggs Tamashiro, Walter Yeda, Stella Wakamatsu, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kanazawa, Sharon Mon, Dot Suzuki, Florence Miyashiro, and all our families with high-risk health factors.
- ~ Prayers for our Worship Team & Musicians
- ~ Maureen Wakuzawa mom's recovery
- ~ Ed & Noelani Jai
- ~ Brett & Kimmie Black



Sincere condolences to the family of Rev. Doctor Paul Brennan who passed away at home on Sept. 26th. Dr. Brennan will be sorely missed for his generous spirit of Aloha and the vast contributions he has made to the Windward Community and beyond. As a dear long time friend of KCC, Dr. Brennan was a blessing, giving of his time, support, wisdom, and being an great example of living like Jesus for us to follow. We send our deepest sympathies to his dear wife, Dottie, and their children. A celebration of life is set for Sat. Oct. 7 at 4 p.m. at Kailua

United Methodist Church. The service will be also be available online: <https://shorturl.at/BFMR6>

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nick Shiroma
Katelyn Akamine
Robert St. John
Sara Fong
Debbie Glenn
Alice Esaki
Pam Morikawa
Akiko Nakamura
Jane Shiroma
Jane Masuno



Joan Sakaba
Chris Nakamatsu
Barb Gomes
Lynette Pimenta
Jennifer Pang
Kingston Kapua

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Debra & Derek Martinson
John & Terri Lipps



Praying that the Lord blessed all these precious pastors who attended the Pastor's Retreat in September, "My Soul Thirsts for the Living God" with healing and being refreshed for their ongoing service in ministry.

FROM OUR MODERATOR

The Christian Church in our country is in bad shape. People are not participating in church services or other church activities, or they are quitting and leaving their local churches. Non-Christians are not being reached out to and their lives are not being transformed by grace. The local churches appear to have little to offer. This is particularly true for our very conservative churches and our very liberal ones. What caused this crisis?

This has all happened during most of our lifetimes. Most of us became Christians when we were young and have had a very positive relationship with our Lord and our extended church families. The church has been an integral part of our lives for many years. The decline is frustrating to those of us who have stayed, and we feel guilt and sadness for letting this happen on our watch. We are often told that we are not doing it right and we need to change to be more attractive to young people.

I don't believe this decline has anything to do with the failings or inadequacy of God or Jesus or Christianity or the Bible. They have not changed for centuries and are clearly not the problem. My theory is that this has occurred because we allowed the incorporation of politics into our churches and those political themes have dominated our churches since the 1980s. The church in the USA has split to the right and to the left along political lines, and that is not a good thing. I don't remember churches being liberal or conservative prior to that time. We all worshipped together, and our political persuasions were varied. We generally accepted that we might disagree with each other along political lines. That has now changed.

Jesus didn't express much criticism towards the ruling authorities during His time on earth even though the ruling authority was not a good one. Rome was an occupying force in Israel imposing its laws onto the Jewish people. When Jesus was asked whether the people should submit to Rome and pay taxes, his response was in the affirmative. He said, render to Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's. It appears to me that the earthly political issues relating to the ruling

authorities weren't and aren't very important to God.

Instead, Jesus talked a lot about the Kingdom of God. The law that Jesus told us to obey was to love God and to love each other. These were the greatest laws that he commanded us to follow. He also commanded us to abide in him and he in us like branches to the vine. If we do so, we will bear much fruit. And the fruit that we bear is the fruit of the spirit which is: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. Against such things there is no law.

My hope and expectation is that the local church will thrive again if we begin to re-emphasize and obey God's laws and deemphasize our personal political stances on what the laws of our country should be.

Amen.

Love, Aloha, & Agape,

Paul Grable, KCC Moderator

MISSIONS MOMENT

There are so many challenges that missionaries face today: Language. Culture. Customs. Finances. Housing. Visas. Homesickness.

But at the top of every missionary's list when asked how to help is the need for prayer.

"Please pray for us!" is the plea of missionaries all over the world.

That's because they recognize it is only through God's power that they can overcome the obstacles they face and break through darkness with the light of the gospel.

Praying for missionaries is one of the best things we can do—not just for their sakes, but for ours. When we pray for missionaries, our thoughts are focused on the spiritual needs of people groups all over the world, and our hearts are aligned with God's desire to give them abundant life.



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

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Mrs. Jenna Tanigawa, Office Manager for Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Institute of America, conducted an excellent scenario-based AED/CPR session on Sep 23, from 10-11 am. Sixteen members and friends gained valuable knowledge and skills. Not all churches have an AED so we, at KCC, can count our blessings to have one. Again, we thank John Sakamoto who provided the donation (in memory of Mildred) to purchase the kit and fund the annual maintenance fees (which include annual refresher training). We also thank Keith Schultz for securing the kit to the wall near the front exit, closest to the kitchen.



Save the Date: Nov 18 (3rd Sat), 10-11:30 am with Pastor Chris Eng: Finding Aloha in Grief: Memoir of an American Pastor, Chaplain and Sifu Tai'Chi. Pastor Chris will give his presentation in-person in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Encourage all to attend!

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. September classes can be found at: <https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/s/courses>. Register directly online.

Individual Classes:

Oct 03: Tue, 11 am – 12 pm; Kidney 101
Oct 07: Sat, 9:30 – 11:30 am; Maka'ika'i Ma Ho'okua'aina (visit Ho'okua'aina at Kapalai)
Oct 09: Mon, 11 am – 12:30 pm; New! Cooking with Gini: Vegetarian Pizza
Oct 19: Thu, 10:30 am – 12 pm; Lymphedema and Benefits of Tripudio
Oct 26: Thu, 9 – 10:30 am; Resolving Conflict Without Blame
Oct 28: Sat, 9 – 11 am; In-Person Mobility Training (Senior Community Center in Liliha)

Weekly Session Classes:

Oct 02 – 30: Mon, 8 - 9 am; Big Moves! Monday (focus is on people with Parkinson's)
Oct 03 – 31: Tue, 9 – 10 am; Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi
Oct 03 – 31: Tue and Fri, 12 - 12:30 pm; Boxing Fundamentals
Oct 04 – 25: Wed, 8 – 9 am; Empower You! (focus is on people with Parkinson's)
Oct 05 – 26: Thu, 9 – 10 am; Tripudio Movement System with Ellie
Oct 09 – 30: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:30 pm; Zumba by Frances via Zoom; no classes 10/02-10/06
Oct 14 – 28: Sat, 8 - 9 am; Zumba Gold by Francis via Zoom; no class on 10/07

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.

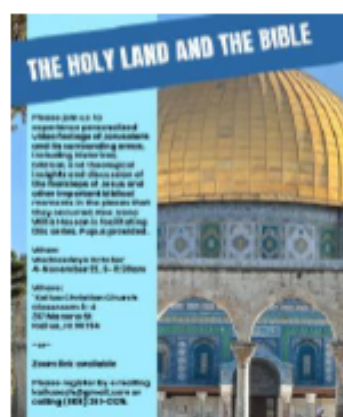
Please invest your time and energy in any one of these free and informative classes.

Mahalo, Continue on your Health Journey and Stay Healthy!

God Bless you all, Myra.



WEDNESDAY MORNING STUDY



Pastor Irene is hosting "The Holy Land and The Bible" class from 9am to 11:30am in Room 3. The class is available on Zoom as well. The classes will cover the Bible in context of a video tour of Jerusalem and its surrounding areas that Pastor Irene took

for KCC this past summer. Scripture readings covered in this 8-week series includes:

October 4: 1 Kings 6: Solomon Builds the Temple. This class included personalized video footage of the Temple Mount and the vast biblical history of the structure.

October 11: Deuteronomy 34: Moses Dies at Moab. This class will include video footage of Mt. Nebo, where Moses died overlooking the Promised Land.

October 18: Luke 2:1-20: The Birth of Jesus. This class will include a video tour of The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

October 25: John 1:29-34. The Baptism of Jesus. This class will include a video tour of the site on the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John.

November 1: Matthew 5:1-11. The Sermon on the Mount. This class will include a video tour of the Mount of Olives, where Jesus delivered the Beatitudes.

November 8: Mark 5:1-20. Healing the Demoniac at Gadara. This class will include a video tour of the mountain towns overlooking the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus drove the demon Legion into a drove of pigs. Discussion about Jesus' ministry at the Sea of Galilee will also be included.

November 15: Matthew 27:27-44. The Crucifixion of Jesus. This class will include a video tour of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Via Dolorosa, which was the path Jesus' took to his crucifixion and the Church built over the Calvary where Jesus died.

November 22: Psalm 43: The Modern Context of the Holy Land. This week includes a video interview of a conversation with Hamza's dad, who survived the violent overthrow of Palestine in 1948 and tells stories of growing up in a prison camp and his hopes for the future of the Holy Land and its native peoples. Video translated subtitles from Arabic to English with in person discussion.

We will observe a break for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas from November 23-January 3. Traditional Bible Study classes covering the Book of Acts from start to finish will begin January 10 until Easter (final class in the series, March 27, 2024).



A lot of changes to our worship services are beginning to take place at KCC. The biggest change is that Pastor Irene is settling in and

leading us through a series of sermons that are tied together in a coordinated fashion as we get ready to make some decisions about the vision and direction of KCC.

We have also called a new worship music leader who will be starting on October 1, 2023. His name is Matthew Wong. He is a US Army veteran and describes himself as a Holy Spirit guided Christian with experience working with a diverse group of individuals. His instrument of choice is the guitar. He has most recently been a worship leader at First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu and is currently attending Honolulu Community College studying music business. We are looking forward to having him join our Worship Team and leading our worship music ministry.

We have also started having a Children's Moment during our services where the children are invited to come up for a message from Pastor Irene designed to speak to them. Following the Children's Moment, the children are encouraged to go out of the sanctuary and into Room 3 for what we previously called King's Company. This ministry is currently being shaped and conducted by Aaron Tanaka with hope that other volunteers will step up to serve during this time. It is a separate gathering for the children to learn and engage in activities that are directed towards them. Please talk to Pastor or the worship

Another addition to our service is the sharing of short testimonials just before the offering. Pastor Irene will be asking people to share a little about themselves with the congregation and the way that our offering time helps reflect their dedication to our Lord through our church.

Finally, we will be having our KCC Vision Retreat on October 22, 2023, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at which time we will be discussing more potential changes to the way we worship and do church. Please come and help us reshape this worship ministry together.

If you want to join the Worship Team, or help lead it, contact Pastor Irene or Matthew Wong or Paul Grable (acting Worship Chair) or Kammy Grable. It will be fun to serve with each other as we honor and give praise to our Lord.

ALTAR FLOWERS MINISTRY



We welcome those who are interested in providing Altar flowers to enhance our worship service on Sunday mornings to sign up for this ministry.

Floral arrangements or potted plants are welcome. The flowers can be then taken home or left for distribution to someone in the church dealing with health issues or celebrating a special event. Please contact the church office for more information. MAHALO!

Moments to Remember

(Shared photos of special memories/events at KCC events through the years)



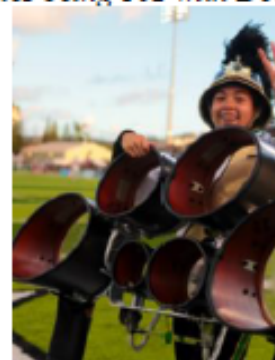
Enjoying the fun service fellowships together!



Special times to celebrate – The Jai's are back in Hawaii and Stella celebrates being 102 with Dot!



Children's Moments



Monicalynn w/ UH Band

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Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org
Pastor's email: manonopastor@gmail.com

More Shared Memories



Memories: This is a collage of KCC youth group activities with Ms. Tom and Uncle Bob lay ministry advisors prior to a youth minister and full-time pastor. The youth group camps had over 40 youth with KCC members chaperones, Christmas celebration designed by the youth group that was put up in the garden behind the kitchen, and a Big Island trip thanks to Pam Shack, Harvey Lee, and Valerie Tom youth leaders.

As for Me
& MY house,
we will
Serve
the Lord
Joshua 24:15

As we prepare together for our Commitment of Time and Talents for 2024, and our Pledge of Support for the ongoing of God's work at KCC, we hope that you will prayerfully seek how God wants to use you in this place and time.

MAUI DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

With gratitude overflowing our hearts, the Conference Office announced that the contributions to the 2023 Hawai'i Wildfires Fund have surpassed \$400,000. This represents gifts both great and small from folks across the U.S. and Japan who are standing in solidarity with our Maui 'ohana and those directly and secondarily affected by the fires and their aftermath. These generous gifts enable the Conference to be a partner in the long-term recovery of Maui.

Funds are already at work on Maui in various ways: delivery of poi, temporary housing, portions of down payments as individuals replace vehicles lost to the fire, and gift cards distributed through crisis centers for families to purchase items of immediate need. These donations also allow us to meet emerging needs such as back-to-school items for displaced children. Mahalo to all for your generous support.