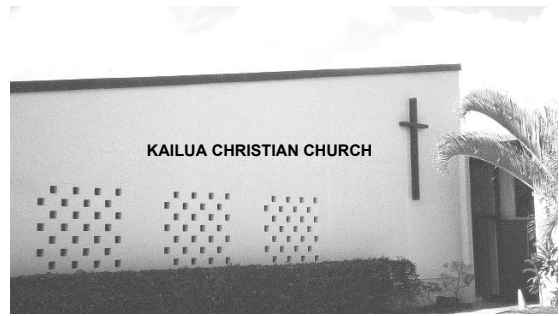


Waves of Faith

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



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Volume 38

Issue 11



Serve the Lord with Gladness

Psalm 100:1-2

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”

At the Vision Retreat on October 22, I provided two directions that churches in decline, like ours, can take to assure their sustainability: Direction 1 is to grow the church, which involves a higher level of commitment from individual members; or Direction 2 is to hand the church over as a legacy to a different organization, such as another church or a non profit. Direction 2 doesn't mean the congregation or its worship services would be dissolved right away, but that would happen naturally over time if that route was taken. Direction 2 is easier and involves less commitment from members, but it doesn't save our church – it simply hands its legacy over to a trusted future in different hands.

The congregational body overwhelmingly decided at that meeting that we want Direction 1. It became abundantly clear that this congregation wants to remain autonomous and grow organically as a church. You all are of united resolve that we have something valuable to offer in service to the Lord and it's not yet time to hand the keys over to someone else. However, that means that you've opted to increase your time and energy commitments to the church. There is no church growth without effort made by the congregation.

The prospect of increasing your engagement with the church may sound daunting. You may be feeling worn out, overstretched, and downright

cranky about having to do more. I hear you. But listen, it doesn't have to be painful; in fact, I believe that if this is truly God's calling for you, it will be the opposite of painful. This change could be the source of inspiration that makes your heart burst with joy.

Psalm 100 asks us to serve the Lord with gladness. Think about the church and ask yourself what parts of our work together in this place brings you joy. Perhaps it's the fellowship after the service over snacks. Perhaps it's being refreshed by the encouraging words or music shared during worship. Perhaps it's the memory of the church being built and what a source of pride and fellowship that brought the community. Perhaps it's the memory of youth groups and projects past that make you beam with delight.

If you want to save the church, you have to remember the joy in serving it. The wellsprings of joy that you experience here can be multiplied by making this decision to retain and grow the church. Though time and energy commitment expectations will increase, so will the opportunities for awe and wonder. Imagine the joy of meeting new people, of watching their lives transform under the guidance that God has instilled in all of you. Imagine the joy of seeing the hallways again filled with young laughter and inspiration. Imagine the glory of God singing with happiness at watching you thrive together.

Brothers and sisters of Kailua Christian Church, you can do this. And not only can you do it, it will be fun. It will be meaningful. It will change the lives of the people we reach, and change you in renewal that God has convicted in your spirit. Do not fear, and have faith that God will make

something beautiful from the joy of service that you cultivate moving forward.

I'm excited for you and cheering you on. And even more so, I have your back and I'll make sure you're safe and supported through this process. God bless your collective decision and may He multiply the joy you find in your service to Him.

Blessings on you,

Rev. Irene Willis Hassan



DEACONS CORNER

Blue Christmas



"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

"I'll have a blue Christmas without you.
I'll be so blue just thinking about you.
Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree
won't be the same, dear, if you're not here with me."

Written by Billy Hayes and Jay W. Johnson, Elvis recorded "Blue Christmas" in 1957. The song tells the story of having a sad Christmas because the singer's loved one is absent. Too early for Christmas, you say? The Season of Advent is right around the corner and Christmas will be here before you know it. So, what exactly is a Blue Christmas? Well, the name itself simply refers to a sad Christmas. Also known as the "Longest Night" or "Time of Remembrance", a Blue Christmas is a worship service to acknowledge and commemorate the experiences of those who are grieving or dealing with a loss amid the celebratory ambience of Christmas. When we think of a traditional Christmas there is an excitement in the air. Images of happy

children, families gathered around the table for dinner, candy canes, presents and toys galore spring to mind. But the reality is that there are many people who don't experience the holidays in the traditional sense. There are no happy children, no turkeys on the table, no presents and no toys. Instead, there are people who are not celebrating, who have broken hearts or are hurting for a variety of reasons – mourning a death, loneliness, a break up, depression, illness, you name it.

A Blue Christmas Service is one that addresses the feelings and emotional needs of these suffering individuals. Traditionally held on or around the Winter Solstice (December 21) when the longest night occurs, this year December 21 falls on a Thursday. Kailua Christian Church will hold a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 17. This service will provide the opportunity to acknowledge the darkness and loss that is felt (and often exacerbated) during the holidays and remind everyone that our Lord who cares for all of us loves us deeply. Pastor Irene will also memorialize two urns at this time. These urns contain the ashes of two unclaimed and unidentified individuals from IHS.

Blue Christmas serves as a reminder to us that Christmas isn't a happy time for everyone and we need to be compassionate and supportive to those who are having a difficult time. But as we acknowledge the sadness and loneliness we focus on the hope that is found in Christ. For it is only through Jesus Christ that we are able to experience the true peace that only He can provide.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Deacon Debbie Fong



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 ~ Brett & Kimmie Black
- ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu ~ Harrison Lum
- ~ Christine Matsumoto ~ Ed & Noelani Jai
- ~ Winchell & Lily Lee ~ 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, and all our families with high-risk health factors.
- ~ Prayers for our Worship Team & Musicians
- ~ Maureen Wakuzawa mom's recovery

Deepest Sympathies to Florence Miyashiro and family on the loss of her husband, Richard who passed away in late October from a heart attack. Memorial Service tba at a later date.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Kayla Halloran
Katie Gomes
Terri Lipps
Carl Nemoto
Diane Lee Pilla
Henry Halloran
John Lipps



Debbie Martinson
Emily Peters
Bryan Gomes

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Winchell & Lily Lee
Vernon & Jennifer Pang
James & Pua Todd

**FROM OUR MODERATOR**

Jimmy Carter just turned 99. He has written two books about the Middle East. The first was called "The Blood of Abraham" (1985) and the second was called "Palestine, Peace Not Apartheid" (2006). I reread the second book recently to try to get a better understanding of the history of the region and what is happening right now and why. I found the Historical Chronology of some of the important events to be helpful. I am going to list a few here.

- ~ ca. 1900 B.C.: Abraham journeys from Ur to Canaan.
- ~ ca. 1200 B.C.: Moses leads the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.
- ~ ca. 1000 B.C.: King David unites the twelve tribes of Israel, then his son, Solomon builds the Temple in Jerusalem.
- ~ ca. 930 B.C.: The Israelite nation divides into two weaker kingdoms, Israel and Judah. Israel is conquered by the Assyrians about 720 B.C., and Judah is destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
- ~ ca. 538 B.C.: Persia conquers Babylon and permits exiled Jews to return to Jerusalem.
- ~ 332 B.C.: Greeks conquer the region.
- ~ 167 B.C.: Jews establish an independent Judea.
- ~ 63 B.C.: Romans establish control over Judea.
- ~ ca. 4 B.C.: Jesus is born. He is crucified 33 years later after a ministry of 3 years. Christian churches are established throughout the eastern Roman Empire.
- ~ A.D. 70: A Jewish revolt against Rome is put down and the Temple is destroyed.
- ~ A.D. 135: Romans suppress a Jewish revolt, killing or forcing almost all Jews of Judea into exile. The Romans name the province Syria Palestine.
- ~ c.a. 325: The Roman Emperor Constantine, a Christian, strengthens his own religion throughout the region.
- ~ c.a. 570: The Prophet Mohamed is born in Mecca, establishes the Islamic faith, unites the Arabian Peninsula, and dies in 632. Arabic rule and faith

- spread rapidly throughout Syria, Palestine, Persia, and Egypt.
- ~ 1099: The first Crusaders capture Jerusalem and establish Christian rule over Palestine.
 - ~ 1187: Saladin, sultan of Egypt, conquers Jerusalem and, except for a 15-year interval, Muslims control Palestine until the end of World War I.
 - ~ 1516: The Ottoman Turks take Syria, Palestine, and then Egypt.
 - ~ 1861: The French establish Lebanon as an autonomous district within Syria, under Christian leadership.
 - ~ 1882: British forces occupy Egypt and remain there until 1955.
 - ~ 1917: Great Britain, during World War I, issues Balfour Declaration, promising a Jewish national home in Palestine, with respect for the rights of non-Jewish Palestinians.
 - ~ 1922: After the Ottoman Empire is defeated, the League of Nations confirms British mandates over Iraq and Palestine, and a French mandate over Syria and Lebanon. Transjordan is separated from the Palestine Mandate and becomes an autonomous kingdom.
 - ~ 1936: Peel Commission recommends partition of Palestine Arabs and Jews.
 - ~ 1947: United Nations (UN) partitions Palestine into Jewish, Arab, and international areas (Jerusalem and Bethlehem). 55% of area is allocated to the Jewish state. Egypt, Syria, Lebanon & Jordan are now independent states.
 - ~ 1948: Israel declares their independence as a nation, Arab armies attack, and Israel prevails.
 - ~ 1949: Armistice agreements with Arabs allow Israel to gain more land (77% of Palestine). Egypt occupies the Gaza Strip. Transjordan, renamed Jordan, controls what is left of the west bank of the Jordan River, including Old Jerusalem, and in 1950 annexes the territory.
 - ~ 1964: The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is established, committed to wage a battle to liberate the homeland of the Palestinian people.
 - ~ 1967: Israel launches preemptive attacks on Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and then Jordan, and within six days occupies the Golan Heights, Gaza, the Sinai, and the West Bank including Jerusalem.
 - ~ 1973: Egypt and Syria attack Israeli forces in the Sinai and Golan Heights (Yom Kippur War). After sixteen days of war UN passes Resolution calling for international peace talks.
 - ~ 1974: PLO becomes sole legitimate representative of Palestinian people. Israel withdraws from Syrian territory except Golan Heights.
 - ~ 1978: Camp David Accords approved by Israel and Egypt but rejected by other Arab states. Israel to withdraw from Gaza and West Bank and full autonomy for Palestinians.
 - ~ 1982: Israeli troops move into Lebanon to destroy PLO forces there and militant Lebanese organization Hezbollah is established.
 - ~ 1987: A Palestinian uprising erupts and Israel responds with harsh reprisals and Hamas is established.
 - ~ 1988: Jordan cedes rights in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to the PLO. Yaser Arafat acknowledges Israel's right to exist and renounces violence. The U.S. and PLO initiate dialogue.
 - ~ 1993: Israel and the PLO conclude a peace agreement in Oslo with mutual recognition. Militant Palestinians and right-wing Israelis begin attempts to undermine the agreement.
 - ~ 1994: Palestinian National Authority is established.
 - ~ 2004: Yasir Arafat dies.
 - ~ 2005: Mahmoud Abbas is elected president of the Palestinian National Authority. Israel unilaterally evacuates its settlements from the Gaza Strip and four from the West Bank.
 - ~ 2023: Hamas initiates surprise attack against Israel from Gaza and Israel declares war and starts bombing Gaza.
- I encourage you to look up the full historical timeline for this region to understand what Jimmy Carter describes as: "The blood of Abraham, God's father of the chosen, still flows in the veins of Arab, Jew and Christian, and too much of it has been spilled in grasping for the inheritance of

the revered patriarch in the Middle East. The spilled blood in the Holy Land still cries out to God – an anguished cry for peace.”

--from The Blood of Abraham, by Jimmy Carter

Aloha, Paul Grable, Moderator



Worship Report

In November we are reminded to be thankful. My favorite song about being thankful is a children's song known as The Butterfly Song. I sing it with my granddaughters regularly. Their ages now are 6 and 7. The Butterfly Song expresses our thankfulness to God for the way that he made us, (no matter how he decided to make us) and for our special relationship with Him as His children. The lyrics are reprinted below. We hope to be able to sing it together during the Children's Moment in our worship service sometime during November and share together what it means.

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings
If I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank you Lord that I could sing
If I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

CHORUS

*For you gave me a heart and you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child
And I just thank you Father for making me, me.*

If I were an elephant,
I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk
If I were a kangaroo,
You know I'd hop right up to you
If I were an octopus,
I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

CHORUS

If I were a wiggly worm,

I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm
If I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you Lord for my big smile
If I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear,
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy, wuzzy hair
But I just thank you Father for making me, me.

CHORUS

Aloha, Worship coordinator, Paul Grable

ALTAR FLOWERS MINISTRY



We welcome those who are interested in providing Altar flowers for our worship service on Sunday mornings to sign up for this ministry. We so appreciate those who have already signed up. Annie

Sagawa, Myra Yamada, Susan Morita, John Sakamoto, Jennie Lee, and Dot Suzuki. A special thank you goes out to Gail and Alan Yoneshige for sharing this floral arrangement and numerous others earlier in the year while we establish a schedule of volunteers.

Floral arrangements or potted plants are more than 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!



~ A big Mahalo to all who participated in the 2023 Give Aloha Program sponsored by Foodland and Western Union. Total funds raised this year for the program was customer donations of \$1,207,698.44, Foodland matching Gift \$284,169.05, West Union matching gift being \$50,000.00 totaling \$1,541,867.49 altogether.

KCC raised Friends and family donations of \$6,614.00 and the matching gift totaled \$1,729.81 from Foodland and Western Union. The grand total we received was \$8,343.81 this year.

NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

(Angels in the Works for God)

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Please join us to greet and meet one of our favorites - Pastor Chris Eng as he shares his book, **Finding Aloha in Grief: Memoir of a T'ai Chi Sifu, Pastor and Hospice Chaplain**. "Thirty three (33) chapters begin in Jan 1978 when I was a guest preacher at Kailua Christian Church and conclude as I served as interim pastor of Kailua Christian Church in Jan 2021. Book includes experiences in ministering to those going through the loss of a loved one or friend."

Come, join us on Nov 18 (3rd Saturday) in fellowship, from 10-11:30 am at KCC's sanctuary (or Zoom) as we learn about finding "Aloha" in grief through Pastor Chris!

Light and healthy refreshments will be available. Please contact Kammy or Myra if you can attend, either in-person or via Zoom.

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.

November classes can be found at:

<https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/s/courses>. Register directly online. **For questions, please contact Kai Asing (808) 547-8092 or kasing@stfrancishawaii.org.**

Individual Classes:

Nov 02: Thu, 11 am – 12 pm; Living Well with Parkinsons

Nov 03: Fri, 9:30 – 10:30 am; Rooted in Wellness: Waiwai

Nov 21: Tue, 5 – 6 pm; Recently Approved Alzheimer's Treatments: What Do I need to Know?

Weekly Session Classes:

Nov 01 – 29: Wed, 8 – 9 am; Empower You! (focus is on people with Parkinson's); no class on 11/15

Nov 02 – 27: Mon, 8 - 9 am; Big Moves! Monday (focus is on people with Parkinson's); no class on 11/13

Nov 02 – 30: Thu, 9 – 10 am; Tripudio Movement System with Ellie; no class on 11/23

Nov 03 – 27: Tue and Fri, 12 – 12:30 pm; Boxing Fundamentals; no classes on 11/10, 11/14, 11/17

Nov 04 – 18: Sat, 8 - 9 am; Zumba Gold by Francis; no class on 11/11

Nov 06 – 30: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:15 pm; Zumba by Frances; no class on 11/10

Nov 07 – 28: Tue, 9 – 10 am; Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi, no class on 11/14

Note: In-person sessions will be held at Senior Community Center at the Kupuna Village in Liliha.

Contact me at [yamadamya@hawaii.rr.com](mailto: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 Wellness Journey and Stay Healthy!

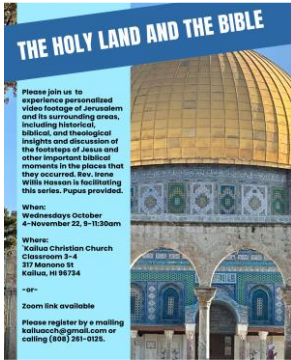
God Bless you all, Myra

**SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

~ **Readers** for scripture and advent wreath candle lighters sought for the advent season. One family team per Sunday morning during advent. See Kammy or Pastor Irene to sign up.

~ **Kings Company/Jr. Church Ministry** for the children is seeking a team of leaders to take turns on Sunday mornings during worship to respond to the call that Jesus said, "let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

~ **Offering Testimony volunteers** who are willing to share why they are part of and give to the ministry of KCC.



WEDNESDAY MORNING STUDY

Pastor Irene will conclude "The Holy Land and The Bible" series from 9am to 11:30am in Room 3 on Wed. Nov. 8. The class is available on Zoom and a link can be obtained from the office. The classes covered

the Bible in context of a video tour of Jerusalem and its surrounding areas that Pastor Irene took for KCC this past summer.

Psalm 43: The Modern Context of the Holy Land. will include 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 the holidays until January. 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).

MISSIONS MOMENTS



The Monday night BIH class, The Order of Salvation has been great with Rev. Rick Bartosik and the students who attend church from three different Christian denomina-

tions. Felt like a glimpse of heaven and a blessing of what God intended us to be like all along! Together to His glory!

In a spirit of thanksgiving for the good work that they do, we will be directing our Thanksgiving Offering to support Bible Institute of Hawaii, UCC Transition House, IHS, and River of Life Ministries. Mahalo for your generous support.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Stewardship Schedule

Please note these important dates:

Sun., Nov. 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Sunday, Turn in your Time and Talent Commitment Form for 2024 along with your pledge for 2024.

Sun., Nov. 26, 2023

Informational Meeting in person and via Zoom after church to discuss estimates of spending and officers for 2024. Please return your pledges and Time and Talent sheets before the date.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023

Congregational Meeting in person to approve Ministry Vision, Our Annual Budget for 2024 and new Officers for 2024.

Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023

Installation of Officers for 2024 and the Release of Officers who have completed their terms of service.

With prayer and open heartedness to God's leading, let us venture into the new year with hope in our hearts and joy for the possibilities together.

**"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:19**

Please note as a member, if you havent received a stewardship packet by Nov. 12 – contact the church office. Mahalo for your support!

**MAHALO NUI LOA KCC
for your support of the Neighbors in
Need UCC Special Offering.
We received \$240 for this offering
that will be sent for this ministry.**

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Pastor's email: manonopastor@gmail.com



For Special People and special times...



From Our 30th Anniversary Celebration



**Halloween 2023 – Teddy & Ephraim Wu
Adam, Pastor Irene, and Aisha.**

LOOKING AHEAD:

This year, we will be providing a Blue Christmas Service with a lunch reception and wreathmaking activity. Blue Christmas services traditionally provide space for those who don't feel so "merry and bright" during the holiday season. This service at Kailua Christian Church will provide reflective liturgy, music, and preaching.

