

Waves of Faith

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



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Issue 01



Galatians 6:9 states:
“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Dear KCC Ohana,

The end of 2023 brought about some anxiety as I’ve placed significant demands on everyone, making quick, weighty decisions challenging. You might feel inclined to preserve resources as our savings decline, which is a natural reaction. In economic terms, overspending demands restraint.

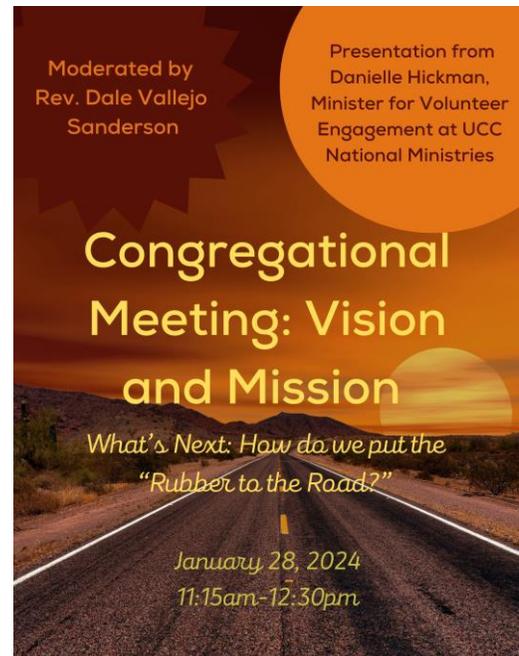
When I accepted the pastoral role at your church, I didn’t perceive a congregation heading irreversibly into financial trouble. Many churches have faced such predicaments due to prolonged stagnation and reluctance to adapt. Initially, I categorized KCC in this group, almost overlooking its potential. Yet, upon engaging with KCC members, I discovered an extraordinary community that’s far from stagnation. I halted interviews elsewhere to focus entirely on this remarkable congregation, abundant in love and a fervent desire to uphold Christ’s light.

While you might see diminishing finances and an aging congregation, I see an exceptional opportunity to revitalize a church. I was genuinely excited to meet you all because I perceived not just substantial resources, but also a devoted congregation eager to navigate toward stability. We possess all the essential elements—a sufficient savings account, a dedicated pastor, a commendable property, and a united, motivated congregation—to fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission and positively impact our community.

Though the opportunity is vast, our window for action is limited. The savings won’t last indefinitely, the building will require ongoing maintenance, and hope may diminish over time. Jesus calls us to confront our commitment courageously. Bravery is advancing despite fear. Let us persist in doing good without weariness, for our efforts will yield results in due time if we remain steadfast.

In His Service With You,

Pastor Irene



We are having a special congregational meeting on January 28, 2024 after worship as a follow up to the 2023 Vision Retreat. Rev. Dale Vallejo Sanderson will moderate this meeting. This workshop will essentially cover "Ok, we've talked about what we want for the church -- now what do we need to

make it happen?" Danielle Hickman from UCC National will be joining us on Zoom to present on Service Learning Communities and address our concerns about budget and logistics. This special congregational meeting *will include a re-vote on the proposed mission and budget after the workshop.*

DEACONS CORNER

Celebrating the New Year



The New Year 2024 is upon us. So, what's the goal for Kailua Christian Church? What are we trying to accomplish and does anyone or everyone know? Foremost, we should lead people into a relationship with Jesus and His church. That's what we're all about. Everyone knows it because we talk about it all the time. A simple and effective New Year's resolution for our church might be to clarify our vision plan. If we don't have a clear vision plan, we need to take the time to establish and clarify one.

Matthew 28:19-20 – "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Our Pastor, Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, has proposed several vision plans, and what would it take to make them happen. At our congregational information meetings many of you had concerns and questions about the Pastor's proposals which is good. Pastor Chris Eng at our last Na Anela support group meeting mentioned that it is good to question everything we do and that it is difficult to stay on track without the love and support of others. **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN HELPING US ATTAIN OUR GOALS FOR THE YEAR.** Commit to getting to know the members in church around you.

In 2024, try to devote time to improving the health of our church.

It can sometimes be easy to lose sight of the big picture of the health of our church when we are involved in all of the daily processes of living. Let's set goals that contribute to helping us keep sight of the vision of our church. Stop comparing our church with other churches. Celebrate the wins, big or small. Experience the joy and happiness of fellowship and volunteering.

1 John 4:18 – "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."

It's amazing how easy it is to be busy doing stuff without really knowing if the stuff is effective or worthwhile.

Maybe this is the year to evaluate our practices and determine if we're still on track or if it's time to make some changes.

Are we in the habit of evaluating every event or program and questioning its sustainability?

For example, in regards to the proposed student ministry summer retreat and dinner services, it's good for us to ask important questions. Is it right? Is it wrong? Is it confusing? What's missing?

Do we need a large white board to brainstorm proposed vision plans with questions and answers from church members and friends?

Acts 2:17. - "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams"

Vernon Pang – KCC



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
- ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu ~ Harrison Lum
- ~ Christine Matsumoto ~ Ed & Noelani Jai
- ~ Winchell & Lily Lee ~ Richard Texiera
- ~ Dennis Nakashima ~ Karen Shimizu
- ~ Dennis Jinnohara ~ Carson’s Mom
- ~ Jean Miyaji, Alice Esaki, Jiggs Tamashiro, Walter Yeda, Stella Wakamatsu, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Jean Kanazawa, Sharon Mon, Dot Suzuki, Saeko Yoshida and all our families with high-risk health factors.
- ~ Maureen Wakuzawa mom’s recovery
- ~ Lisa battling Thyroid Cancer
- ~ Mako and her caregiving needs
- ~ Prayers for our Worship Team & Musicians



WORSHIP NEWS

Every Sunday we sing “You Are the Vine” to close our worship service. When we skipped “You Are the Vine” at our morning Christmas Eve service and sang “Joy to the World” instead, my granddaughters asked me why we didn’t sing it. On the way home from church that day we sang “You Are the Vine” in the car. I also assured them that the next time they came to church we will be singing “You Are the Vine” again.

I love that song for many reasons. It is special to us at KCC because it is so familiar and is the last song we sing each week as we close our worship and leave each other and start our new week. It binds us together as a family and reminds us of how important it is to be in a close relationship with our Lord. It is a comfortable song which makes us feel connected with each other and provides us assurances that God has us in his care.

The Bible verse that is the source of the words for that song is John 15: 5 which reads: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

When Jesus talks about bearing much fruit, I think he is talking about the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit are: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. You might think that these are things that we can do or at least strive to do, on our own. The Bible verse at John 15: 5, however, reminds us that we can’t. It says: “apart from me you can do nothing.”

And the command that he gives us at John 5 verse 12 is to love each other as He has loved us. He reminds us at verses 16 & 17 that: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.” He has chosen us and empowered us

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Jean Kanazawa | Nathan Nemoto |
| Lucy Khem | Jo Ann Komori |
| Miley Khem | Mary Watanabe |
| Judy Yoshioka | Thomas Gomes |
| Susan Stewart | Nathan Ching |
| Hazel Masuda | Brian Nakashima |
| Randy Imai | Liloa Hagmann |



- Terry & Joan Gerber
- Robert & Romona Maeshiro

to love each other, and as a result we will bear fruit.

Our instructions are clear. Remain in Him and He will remain in us, and we will be able to love each other and bear fruit that will last. The fruit that lasts is the fruit of the Spirit.

Together in His service and love, Paul Grable

Mahalo for all who came to help decorate the Sanctuary for our Hanging of the Greens event.



A big mahalo to Steff Moderow and Keith Schultz for their generous offer of providing a wreath making event following worship.



Some highlights from worship in December



Pastor Chris Eng presents his new book, **Finding Aloha in Grief: Memoir of a T'ai Chi Sifu, Pastor, and Hospice Chaplain** to Susan Morita and Dean Wakuzawa and sharing his thanks of the KCC ohana who helped inspire him to finish this endeavor.





Pastor Noelani Jai, called “Unto Us Tonight” by Na Leo Pilimehana. Mahalo to all who shared their creative talents to bless us at the Christmas Eve services.

Sharing the Joy!

We’re getting the joy back to the King’s Company ministry (Jr. Church) with the help of our awesome volunteers - Pie Pie Wong just happened to offer this specific event with some of our keiki –Rhone, Paisley Bay, and Cora. We are grateful to Katlynn Akamine, June Cunningham, Noelani Jai, and Debbie Fong who also have offered to help since its recent start up. This week the children learned the greatest commandment of loving God and loving others!



MISSION NEWS

“Spreading” the Love of Jesus

Mahalo to our dear friend, **June Clark** who sewed these beautiful blankets (out of lovely recycled material from muumuus), with the hope that we can offer them to keep our homeless friends warm. What a thoughtful blessing to share the love of God in this useful way. May her deep aloha inspire us to do likewise.



Mahalo to Pie Pie and her sister, Fishy who shared a beautiful sign dance, “Light of the World”, at the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve with Matt accompanying them on guitar and unfortunately we don’t have a picture of the beautiful Hula Dance, by



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

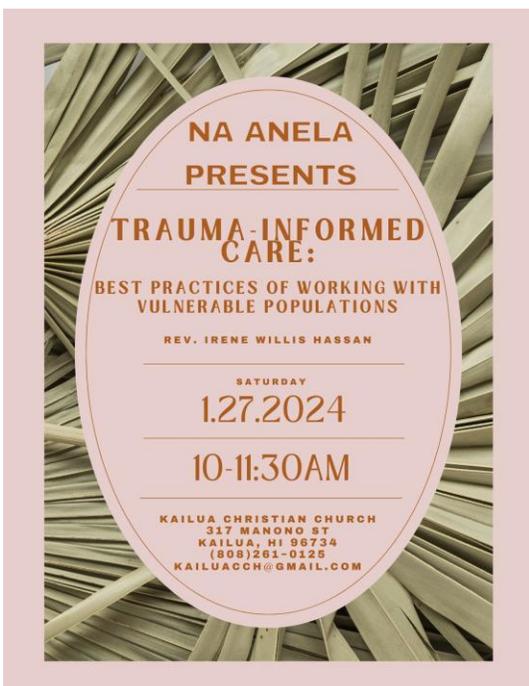
(Angels in the Works for God)

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Jan 27, 2024, First Event of this new year— Come join us to hear our awesome Pastor Irene, present “Trauma-Informed Care: Best Practices of Working with Vulnerable Populations.

Pastor Irene: “Have you ever wanted to reach out to that person sitting on the sidewalk, but are afraid that they’re so different from you that you either don’t know what to say, or you’re afraid you’ll “do it wrong”? Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, who has been working as a clinically certified Chaplain in social service settings with homeless, displaced, and traumatized populations since 2009, will provide a comprehensive presentation on best practices of engaging people living on the margins with severe mental illness or trauma, and how a layperson without clinical training can safely and effectively engage these populations.”

10 – 11:30 am; KCC Sanctuary or Zoom. Invite a friend or relative to gain information from Pastor Irene’s dynamic presentation! Sign up (in-person or Zoom) with Kammy or me (Myra).



Other Dates to Reserve on Your Calendar

Mar 26 – Safe Falling for Kupuna – Dennis Jinnohara, 5th Degree Black Belt with 36 years of Aikikai Aikido experience

May 25 – CPR/AED Refresher – Jenna Tani-gawa, AED Institute of America, Operations Manager

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.

January 2024 classes can be found at: <https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/s/courses>. Register directly online. **For questions, please contact Kauai Asing (808) 547-8092 or kasing@stfrancishawaii.org.**

Individual Classes:

Jan 10: Wed, 10 - 11:30 am; Safe Falling for Kupuna (in-person class) – see Note for location.
Jan 25: Thu, 10:30 – 12 noon; Understanding Hawaii’s Long Term Care Options

Weekly Session Classes:

Jan 03 – 31: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:15 pm; Zumba by Frances; no class on 1/01
Jan 03 – 31: Wed, 8 – 9 am; Empower You! (focus is on people with Parkinson’s); no class on 1/10
Jan 04 – 26: Thu, 9 – 9:30 am; New! Low Impact Moves with Coach Brynne
Jan 05 – 30: Tue and Fri, 12 – 12:30 pm; Boxing Fundamentals
Jan 06 – 27: Sat, 8 - 9 am; Zumba Gold by Francis
Jan 09 – 30: Tue, 9 – 10 am; Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi, no class on 1/02
Jan 15 – 29: Mon, 8 - 9 am; Big Moves! Monday (focus on people with Parkinson’s); no classes 1/01, 1/08

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!

Commit to your Wellness Journey and Stay Healthy!
God Bless you all, Myra



~ Membership Classes 2024: Thursdays evenings in February, for all prospective members considering joining the church and current members who want to learn more.

A big mahalo from Harvey and Corvey Lee, our Facility cleaning service company.

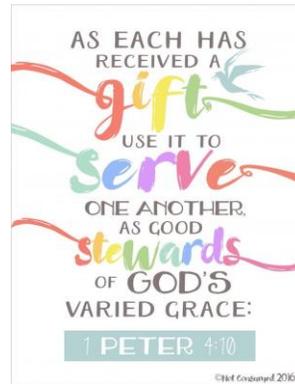


KCC Congregation: Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to prepare the church. HR Resources



Naming Contest!:

We're having a contest through January 21 to choose a name for the new "Dinner Church" program that we will start building in the spring. It needs a name, and Myra brilliantly suggested we could have a naming contest. We already have a few in the running! There is a box in the Sanctuary where people can throw in their suggestions and then we'll also vote on the best name at the January 21 meeting. Winner gets a gift card?



We are encouraging your participation to offer your time and talents in the different areas of worship. Readings, Invocations, Offering, Scriptures, Worship leading, King's Co., (Children's Church), Altar Flowers providers, Helping the sound and tech crew.

Use the gifts that God has given you to bless others. We could also use your talents if you have a green thumb to share some gardening skills or if you love to sew some simple items, or decorate bulletin boards with inspirational scriptures, we'd love to talk with you. See Kammy if you would like to know more and if you want to share your gifts. Mahalo!



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FRIENDLY REMINDERS

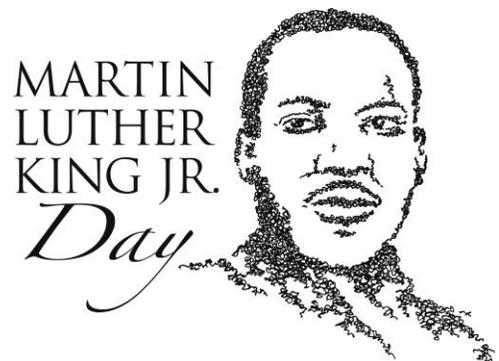
We encourage our Ministry committees to please begin working on your 2023 Annual reports. These reports are due in the office by Jan. 28. Please format your report in a Word document, using a 12.5 Times Roman font. Mahalo for your kind support. Please call the church office at 808-261-0125 for more information.

For Your information:

The Hawaii Conference Office of the UCC has relocated to the Topa Financial Center in downtown Honolulu. The address is 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825, Honolulu, HI 96813 This is also the mailing address for the Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Churches (AHEC) and Oahu Association UCC.

There are five Associations in the Hawaii Conference: These currently make up 117 churches.

- ~ Association of Hawaiian Evangelical Church
 - ~ Hawai'i Island Association
 - ~ Kauai Association
 - ~ `Aha O Na Mokupuni `O Maui, Moloka`i, A Me Lana`I and the
 - ~ **Oahu Association** to which we belong.
- Join us in sharing a warm aloha to all our friends!



Monday - Jan. 15, 2024