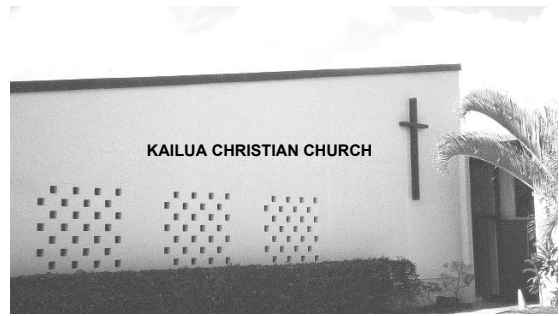


Waves of Faith

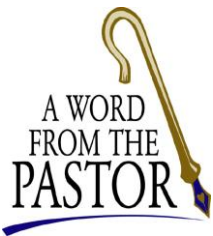
Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211
Chartered 1959 –



FEBRUARY 2024

Volume 39

Issue 02



“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19

I think this verse from Isaiah has been overused in recent years. It seems like every Conference and Synod references this text in an attempt to encourage declining churches that they can turn it around if they just try hard enough.

For many of us, our church is a safe sanctuary space separated from the demands and anxieties of daily life. It's the stability in our week. Church is a refreshing drink of spiritual water to strengthen us through everything else, not a place where we want to add more anxiety to our lives by trying hard to make something new.

As a result, these meetings centered on Isaiah 43:19 bear little fruit in creating newness in our congregations, because they appear to demand action that threatens the sanctity of the local church's power to stabilize and restore. We go to these conferences, listen to exciting speakers asking us to do things, and then go back to doing church exactly as we had before because we're worried that the sacred, stable place of church in our lives is threatening to be upended by the Call to Action overused in reference to Isaiah 43:19.

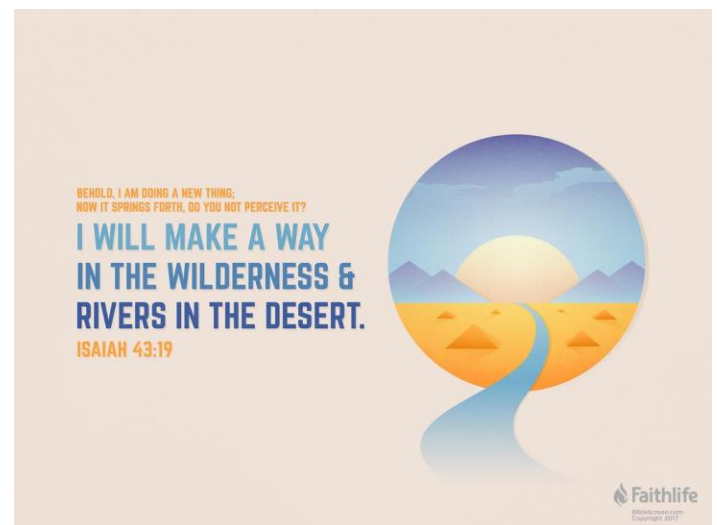
The problem with this logic of using Isaiah 43:19 as a Call to Action is that the burden of responsibility for newness isn't on the people in the congregation. It is actually God who is springing forth the newness, and we are simply asked to perceive it.

God transforms and renews the world, not us. Church is an anchor enabling us to perceive God's power, not replace it. The responsibility is not on us to conjure up this renewal but to actively trust and participate in God's divine plan. As we move into the new season of our church, I encourage each one of you to lean into prayer, seeking God's guidance and strength. Let us embrace His awesome power, knowing that it is more than sufficient to restore and renew every aspect of our lives.

May this season be a time of heightened awareness and anticipation for the new things God is doing among us. Let our faith be strengthened by the unwavering belief that God's promises are true, and His power is more than capable of bringing forth a beautiful and transformative renewal in our midst.

In His Service With You,

Pastor Irene



DEACONS CORNER**Embrace Change**

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19

Every day we wake up and thank God for another day. Another day to try to make things right. Another day to give Him glory. Another day to appreciate and thank Him for his blessings. And we assume that we will live to see another day. With that assumption, we tend to put things off until tomorrow what we could have done today. I've heard it said that people on their deathbeds do not regret the things that they've done, rather they regret the things they didn't get done. Time waits for no man and keeps on moving whether we choose to move along with it or stand still. The choice is up to us.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6

So what challenges are before us if we choose to move along with time and not stand still? What changes might God be leading us to? And why should we change at all? Because change is a sign of growth. If we don't change we won't grow and if we don't grow we start dying. The uncertainty of change draws us closer to Jesus. We all changed when we became Christians, and we continue to change as we grow. Is God asking us to step up, step out, and do something even if it is scary? Abraham and Moses were both challenged to do things way out of their comfort zone. I don't think God is asking us to sacrifice our only child on the altar or free a nation from slavery only to lead them into the desert. But what do you think God is asking of us as a church? Or of you as an individual? I think that we all have before us the opportunity to try something new and exciting,

to change and grow. As a church, as a community, as Christians.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

So let us lean on the Lord as we rise up to whatever challenge we are presented with and not only survive, but thrive as we support each other.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Debbie Fong, Deacon

PRAYERS & PRAISES**Please keep in your prayers**

- ~ Barney Pilla for healing
- ~ Jean Kanazawa who fell and broke her arm. Celebrate with her as she turned 100 last month.
- ~ Nathan Kohashi ~ Warren & 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
- ~ Lisa battling Cancer ~ Ed & Noelani Jai
- ~ Winchell & Lily Lee ~ Richard Texiera
- ~ Dennis Nakashima ~ Karen Shimizu
- ~ Dennis Jinnohara ~ Carson's Mom
- ~ Jean Miyaji, Alice Esaki, Walter Yeda, Stella Wakamatsu, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Sharon Mon, Dot Suzuki, Saeko Yoshida and all our families w/ high-risk health factors.
- ~ Both Maureen & Dean Wakuzawa's moms recovery from the injuries from their falls.
- ~ Mako adjusting to her new care home.
- ~ All who are effected by the wars and its Casualties.
- ~ Prayers for our Worship Team & Musicians

With Deepest Sympathy

Our sincere condolences go out to the families of these loved ones who have recently passed on:

~ **Jitsuichi Tamashiro** who passed away on Jan. 30 at the age of 102+. “Jiggs” was a founding charter member of KCC along with his wife, Wendy and his company was instrumental in helping to build this building and develop the property. A private service for the family will be held in town, in late February.

~ **William Lee**, father of Lenore Lau.

~ **Daylyn Takeno**, granddaughter of Patricia Oyama, daughter of Deanne & Dwight Takeno.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Milla Higashi
Keelyn Higashi,
Kyle Nakamoto
Mildred T. Sakamoto
Reggie Yamada
Jonathan Fong
Mark Kanazawa
Andrew Wakuzawa
Kupaa Harrison
Dot Suzuki

Barney Pilla
Debbie Fong
Eliot St. John
John Tamashiro
Kamalu Miller
Keith Schultz
Florence Miyashiro
Marisa Yamada



Liloe & Molly Hagmann

CONGRATULATIONS TO

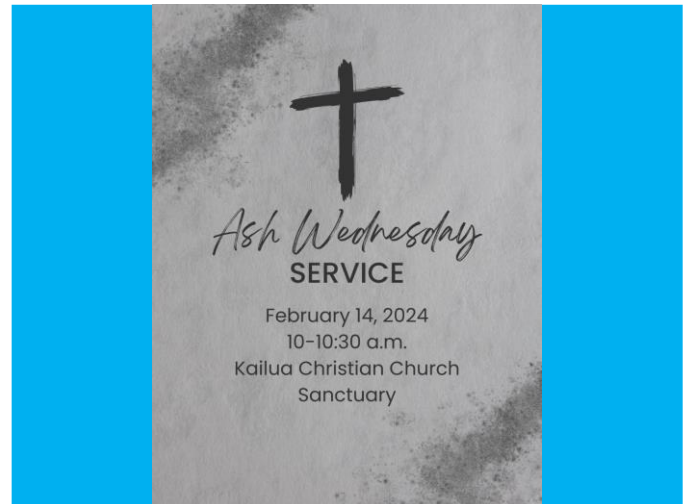
The family of Jenai and Dr. Ryon Nakasone on the birth of their son, Paxton, who was born in mid-Jan. We celebrate with his sisters, Riley & Paige and grandparents, Linda and Alan Umetsu on this joyous occasion.



WORSHIP NEWS



Join us on Wed. Feb. 14 at 10:00 a.m. for a Ash Wed. worship service. All are welcomed.



The season of [Lent](#) begins on Wednesday, Feb. 14 with Ash Wednesday starting the solemn six-week period of fasting and penance.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday. It comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the forehead symbolizing the dust from which God made us. As the ashes are applied the words, “*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*” is spoken. Ash Wednesday is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

What is Lent?

Lent is a Christian season of prayer that lasts 40 days, not including Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, and ending at sundown on Holy Thursday, March 28.

The name “Lent” is from the Middle English “Lencten,” meaning spring, and the time is dedicated to personal reflection and preparation for Easter.

One of the main components of Lent is fasting, to recognize Jesus's sacrifice observers give up something important to their everyday life — whether it be eating desserts, scrolling Facebook, or your morning coffee. Abstaining from eating meat on all Fridays during Lent is the most widely spread sacrifice. For the estimated 25% of Americans who observe the Lenten season, you may want to celebrate the day of love on [Fat Tuesday](#). This day of indulgence on Tuesday, Feb. 13, is to enjoy all the delicacies that will be given up during Lent.

We look forward to the upcoming events being planned for this Lenten season. Holy week and Easter will be exciting with Maundy Thurs. Service, Easter Sunrise, Easter Breakfast, Easter Worship Service and decorating of floral cross and a Keiki Egg Hunt. Let Pastor Irene, Paul or the office know how you would like to be involved with these fun events.



NEWS FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

A BIG MAHALO to all who have given so generously to the ministry of KCC this past year. We have mailed out or distributed all of the giving statements for 2023. Please notify the church office if you have not received your statement or if your figures might need review. Thank you again for all your faithful support!

Got some free time on your hands? We welcome your help with some mini-dump runs, oiling some window cranks, reinstalling some jalousie windows, and other little gardening projects needing some TLC. Please call the church office for more details. Mahalo.

MISSION NEWS

The UCC Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

“From His fullness we have all received Grace upon Grace.” John 1:16

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. KCC has taken this offering up each Feb. around Valentine’s Day as a love offering for these special people.

The Christmas Fund for Veterans of the Cross is managed by the Pension Boards. UCC congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

At last report, here are ways your generous giving was used. Monthly pension supplementation for 218 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,042,726) Health benefits supplementation for 86 retired clergy and lay employees (\$181,389) Emergency grants for 55 individuals and families (\$138,022) Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 479 retired clergy and lay employees (\$278,500).

Last year, because of your gifts, the Christmas Fund provided over \$1.3 million in pension and health benefits supplementation, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired servants of the church and their families. Every cent of that money came from the pockets of people like you. Thank you for your generous giving to bless those who represent those who blessed us in our times of need in the past as clergy and workers in ministry.

When sending a donation, please make note on your check, by writing UCC Christmas Fund on the memo line. Mahalo Nui Loa.


BLESSED BLESSED BLESSED
by the amazing grace of God by the amazing grace of God by the amazing grace of God



NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

**(Angels in the Works for God)
Wellness Support Group**

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

On Jan 27, 2024, members and friends of KCC's wellness support group, celebrated its 22nd year of Na Anela's existence that began as a support group for those who survived or were living with serious and life-threatening illnesses. We prayed a lot for each other then. We still pray for one another, however, Na Anela has evolved into a support group, focusing on our health journey – learning anything and everything to prevent or minimize diseases and sickness to **live WELL in mind, body and spirit!**

Trauma-Informed Care: Best Practices of Working with Vulnerable Populations.

Twenty-two members and friends gained valuable information and awareness from Pastor Irene's excellent presentation. Given her background as a **"clinical certified Chaplain in social service settings with homeless and displaced and traumatized populations since 2009"**, what stood out as most important is

Love, engaging with long term trauma (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) individuals by being **present** and **courageously humble**. By doing so, we **"allow others love, dignity and empowerment"**.

Her simple but effective exercise (learned in seminary) helped us to feel how a person suffering from PTSD feels. That short experience has been embedded in my mind. Ask her about this exercise if you are curious! **Mahalo** to all who donated towards the event and spent time and energy to set up/Zoom/open and close with prayer/fellowship and learn from **Pastor Irene!**



Other Dates to Reserve on Your Calendar

Mar 23 (4th Sat) – Safe Falling for Kupuna – **Dennis Jinnohara**, 5th Degree Black Belt with 36 years of Aikikai Aikido experience; Rooms 3 and 4 (in-person only)

May 25 (4th Sat) – CPR/AED Refresher – **Jenna Tanigawa**, AED Institute of America, Operations Manager. Rooms 3 and 4 (in-person only)

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.

<https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/s/courses>.

Register directly online. For questions, please contact **Kaui Asing** (808) 547-8092 or kaasing@stfrancishawaii.org.



(continued on page 6)

Individual Classes:

Feb 21: Wed, 10:30 – 12 pm; NEW! Recognize and Transform Your Unenforceable Rules

Feb 27: Tue, 11 am – 12 pm; NEW! The Journey

Weekly Session Classes:

Feb 02 – 27: Tue and Fri, 12 – 12:30 pm; Boxing Fundamentals

Feb 02 – 28: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:15 pm; Zumba by Frances; no classes on 2/7 and 2/19

Feb 03 – 24: Sat, 8 – 9 am; Zumba Gold by Francis

Feb 05 – 26: Mon, 8 – 9 am; Big Moves! Monday (focus on people w/ Parkinson's); no class on 2/19

Feb 06 – 27: Tue, 9 – 10 am; Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi

Feb 07 – 28: Wed, 8 – 8:45 am; Empower You! (focus is on people with Parkinson's)

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 on track in 2024!

God Bless you all, Myra

IMPORTANT NOTICE

~ **Revival Classes 2024:** Sunday afternoons in February, for all prospective members considering joining the church and current members who want to learn more.

These classes will be an intimate space of community and reflection to celebrate our dedication to growing in Christ in this church. The class will be available over Zoom for any participants who wish to join remotely, at this link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8738460097?pwd=T1F5aElsUWdoTDNuVE5SL2lFMmhSQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 846 0097

Passcode: branches

**TO ALL OUR
UNSUNG HEROS**

We are truly thankful for the positive response we have had from volunteers for our different ministries. We hope more of these areas of need are showered with helpers during this season of Lent.

King's Company Ministry for the children

Feb. 4 – Katelyn Akamine

Feb. 11 – Pie Pie Wong

Feb. 18 – Debbie Fong

Feb. 25 – Katelyn Akamine

Scripture Readers

Feb. 04 – Vernon Pang

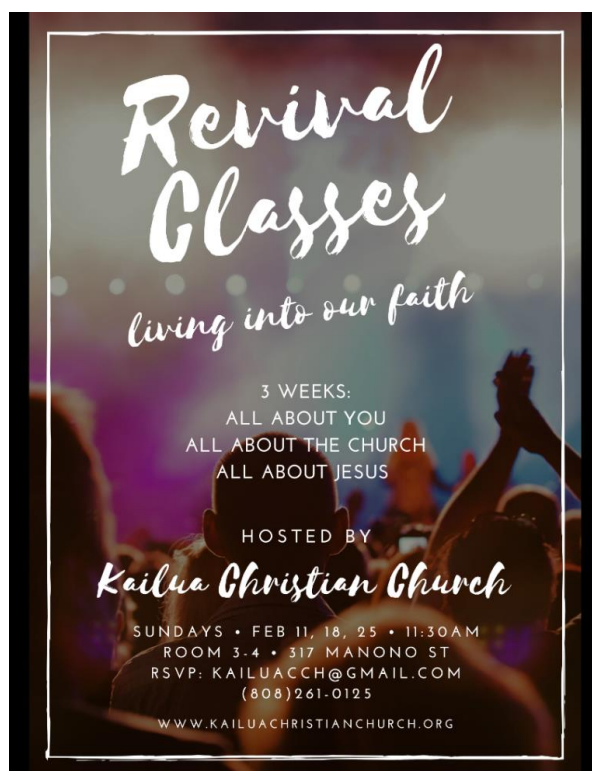
Feb. 11 – Debbie Fong

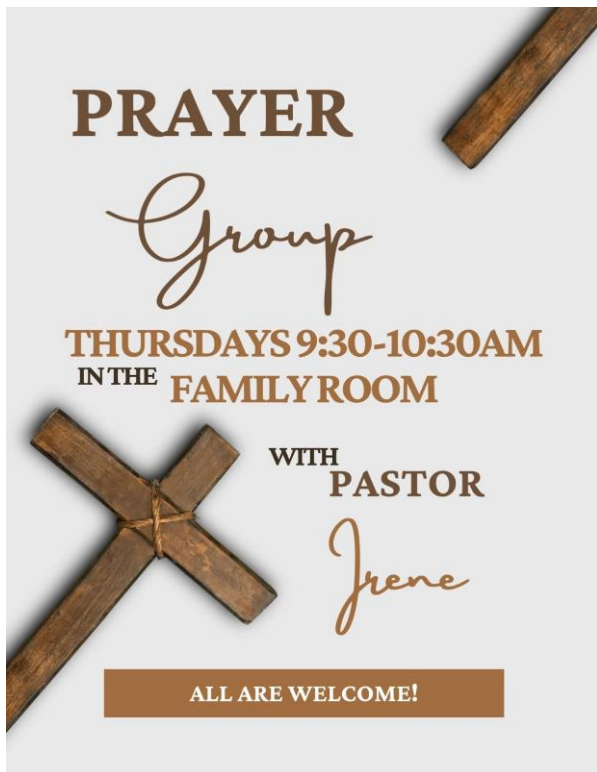
Feb. 18 – Myra Yamada

Feb. 25 – Vernon Pang

Offering Leader for February

Florence Miyashiro





You are invited to join Pastor Irene and our KCC ladies, Nancy Arakaki, Alice Esaki, Jean Miyaji, and Hazel Masuda (who now reside at the Plaza Kaneohe) for a Prayer Group on Thursday mornings on the third floor. All are welcome to attend as the group has grown to include some other residents at the Plaza. Please let the KCC office know if you will be attending so we can keep you posted on the status of any changes or locations and meeting times. Use our email, kailuacch@gmail.com or call 808-261-0125.

SPECIAL THANKS to Mr. Grant Otomo, Piano Technician for the great job he did servicing our baby grand piano.

After numerous failed attempts of contacting other technicians, Grant was kind enough to make the time to help us even though he had a busy full schedule. His rate was reasonable and he was very professional and courteous.

Interestingly enough we found out Grant was taught by our previous awesome technician Mr. Steve Premo who retired and moved to the east coast. So grateful God left us in good hands without us even knowing it.

Tomo's Piano Service – (808) 224-2686

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



As we strive to be better stewards of our time and talents, and finances, we respectfully ask your help for updates of your personal information, and email contact information. This information will help us to communicate with you in a timely manner that is quicker and more economical as stamps have gone up to 68 cents per stamp. We will respect your wishes to not share your emails beyond the office use or in contact with our Deacons ministry, if you request that. Normally most correspondence goes out Bcc. For those who do not use computers or have email access, we are more than happy to send you information via postal service. We love being able to include anyone who is interested in the ministry and mission of Kailua Christian Church and its ohana.

We would also appreciate your feedback as to updating our celebration of your birthdays and anniversaries column in our newsletter. State your event with correct information and if you are okay with this being added to our newsletter calendar.

We hope to get a new Directory out with updated information once we are clear if your updated emails are acceptable to be printed in the directory. Friendly reminder: Please note when sending in your current email address – if you don't want it published.



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E-Mail: kailuacch@gmail.com
Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org
Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, Senior Pastor

Kudos goes out to our dear brother and sister in Northern Ireland – Ken & Eva Needham. They send their heartfelt aloha to all of you here at KCC and appreciate all the prayers you have shared for their international ministry TRANS MISSION. We thank God that Ken and Eva has continued to share the word of God to many around the world and it's always a pleasure to know their long preaching tour in England and the USA continues which includes Kauai and Honolulu. Please pray for traveling mercies as they already began their tour in England in mid-Jan. and will be here in Hawaii most of February. They will continue on to numerous states on the mainland before going to Dublin on their way back home. May God use them in mighty ways!!

You can enjoy some of Pastor Ken's messages on You Tube by typing in KEN NEEDHAM.



We invite you to read their newsletter that is posted on the back bulletin board in the sanctuary.

ENJOY the free Lenten devotionals now available for pick up in the back of the sanctuary.

Henry J.M. Nouwen – **Lifted Up in Love**

Henry Nouwen, one of the most beloved spiritual thinkers of the 20th century, wrote from the heart about the great love of Christ lifted up for us on the cross. Excerpts from his inspiring insights are paired with original reflections and prayers in this booklet for each day of Lent, as we come to experience more fully the everlasting compassion of God shown to us in our Savior.

Lenten Devotion for Children – **Cross My Heart**

This coordinated collection of insights teaches and delights. God's love is all around us in the season of Lent. It will help children remember and share the compassion of Christ as they prepare for his death and resurrection.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today is a Holy Week stories and activities booklet the children will enjoy. Inviting the younger children to take a trip through Holy Week with Jesus this booklet is filled with rhyming stories, pictures to color, and games to play.

