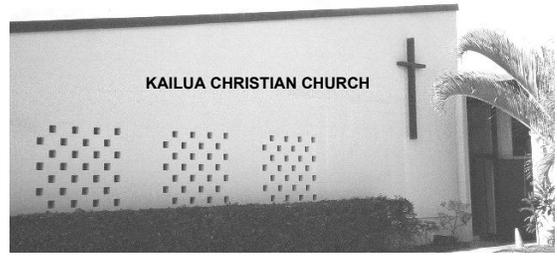


Waves of Faith

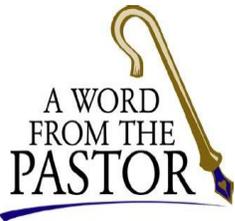
Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211
Chartered 1959 –



August 2025

Volume 40

Issue 08



Note from Pastor Irene: Why Drama Camp?

You may be wondering how Kailua Christian Church (KCC) managed to host a two-week, full-day summer camp for keiki at almost no cost to families. Of course, our ultimate answer for everything Good and Beautiful is the Lord, who always provides The Way. But there's also a practical answer: we leaned into our gifts—and our history.



Left to right: Worship Leader Matt Wong, Church Member (and former intern) Darby McMonagle, Pastor Irene Willis Hassan

KCC has a deep legacy of nurturing and commissioning young people into their vocational callings. In 1976, KCC partnered with Kaimuki Evangelical Church to launch a Young Life internship program, bringing together young adults from California and Hawai'i to run Summer Fun camps for keiki. That program didn't just create a memorable summer—it launched lifetimes of ministry and service. Many of those young people (who aren't so young anymore!) went on to become pastors and helping profes-

sionals who are still shaping Hawai'i's faith and social service landscape today. That summer sparked a legacy of purpose, growth, and spiritual formation that has lasted generations.

In 2024, we revived that vision. We invited a new generation of young adults—future pastors, social workers, and community organizers—to live in our church building, serve the O'ahu community in partnership with IHS (homeless services in Honolulu), and discern God's call in their lives. After a successful pilot year, we expanded the program in 2025, doubling the number of interns and empowering them to lead a full summer drama camp for children. It was our modern version of the 1976 Young Life Summer Fun experience, reborn.

At first, we thought we'd do what many churches do: extend a traditional Vacation Bible School. No need to reinvent the wheel, right? But as we prayed about it, we realized two things. First, there are already many strong VBS programs in our area—and we didn't need to replicate what others are doing well. Second, and more importantly, we wanted to reach a wider group of children: not only those already familiar with church, but also those who may never have heard the Gospel before. We wanted to offer a space where all keiki—no matter their background—could encounter Christ through joy, story, and wonder.

And so, Drama Camp was born. During a Church Council meeting, someone suggested a drama-based camp—one that would teach confidence, discipline, storytelling, and imagination. The idea resonated deeply with me. I grew

up as a “theatre kid,” and I credit much of my ability to serve as a pastor to the skills I learned in drama: stage presence, projection, improvisation, listening. These are the very same tools we’ve been helping the children explore this week.

The content of the camp—*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*—was also profoundly meaningful to me. After a near-death experience in 2005, I came to faith through the writings of C.S. Lewis. His imaginative storytelling helped the Gospel come alive for me. Lewis showed me that God can speak clearly and powerfully to children through stories of sacrifice, hope, and redemption. And this summer, we got to pass that gift on to the keiki of Kailua.

So how did we make all this happen? Through a generous grant from our denomination for “innovative churches” (a title we do our best to live up to), we were able to hire five incredible college students to lead this ministry—not just as a service project, but as a calling. They lived at the church. They led every activity. And in the process, they grew in their understanding of who God is and who God is calling them to be.



Left to right: KCC’s 2025 Internship Program. Lance S. (Seattle Pacific Seminary), Marina M. (Life Pacific Seminary), Safiyah “Mina” M. (Loyola Marymount University), Abigail D. (Yale Divinity School), Jacob F.R. (Boston University School of Theology).

We did this because it’s part of our history. We did this because it’s part of our identity. But more than anything, we did this because **Jesus**

said children come first in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Mark 10:15)

At KCC, we take that seriously. Jesus didn’t say children are the future. He said they are the *present*—and the priority. And if we truly believe that, then we have no higher calling than to make space for children to lead us, teach us, challenge us, and transform us.

These keiki have blessed us beyond measure these past two weeks. They’ve made us laugh, stretched our faith, and reminded us why the Kingdom belongs to those with sticky hands, wide eyes, and hearts open to wonder. We are truly honored to have welcomed them here. We thank the parents, the church, and everyone who had a role in making this happen, for trusting us with this incredible project. We don’t take the meaning making that has happened here lightly. And we hope this is just the beginning.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

You are invited to
Irene and Hamza's Baby Shower
 for
Jumana Hassan
 11:30am-1pm
Sunday, September 14, 2025
 Kailua Christian Church
 317 Manono St

RSVP Debbie Fong: 808-479-1980
 Deadline: September 7, 2025
 Potluck - Please bring a dish to share!

Registry HERE:
<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/irene-hassan-october-2025-kaneohe/38C60MOK2AMJE>

DEACONS CORNER

God Speaks, We Listen



Sometimes when friends share about the times God speaks to them I continue to be amazed at the different ways that God chooses to speak to us and what we hear. Whether it's a loud audible voice, a whisper meant for only one soul, a constant tug at the heart, a dream or a series of incidents that can only be explained by God's presence – God is always reaching out to us. The question is, what do we hear? The following Daily Devotional by Vince Amlin, co-pastor of Bethany UCC in Chicago spoke to me and I'd like to share it with you.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NRSV)

One summer day, my wife and I went to the Milwaukee Art Museum. In one of the galleries, there was a video installation playing on a loop. As we made our way into the next wing, my wife started humming a quick, four-note pattern.

“That’s the music that was playing over that video,” she said, and hummed it again.

“Uh...no it wasn't,” I insisted. “It sounded like this.” And I sang a slow, descending three notes.

We both looked at each other confused.

“Now we have to go back,” she said. And we did.

The moment we opened the doors to the gallery I heard those quick four notes she had hummed.

“You were right,” I admitted.

But even as I said it, underneath them came my slow, descending motif. We were both right. Both lines had been playing over and over, and each of us had heard only one of them.

Another example of the way the Spirit is made manifest, the way beloved community is built.

Not by choosing one line to sing in unison, but by learning each of our parts well enough to find the rich harmonies between them.

Not by convincing others to hear God’s voice the way I hear it. But by encouraging everyone to listen deeply to what the Spirit may be saying only to them.

I pray that however God chooses to speak to you, you will hear Him clearly.

Blessings,
Debbie F.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Abigail D.
- 03 Aisha H.
- 04 Mary Ann N.
- 06 Hamza H.
- 08 Gail Y.
- 14 Cassie G.
- 18 David Y.
- 22 Dr. Michele P.
- 19 Mikey P.
- 27 Pastor Irene H.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- 15 Mary Ann & Eric N.
- 26 Vernon & Jennifer P.
- 28 Aaron & Colette T.

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Stan and Chris H.
- ~ Dennis F. continued healing
- ~ John S. and his ohana ~ Reggie’s healing
- ~ Gary & Susan M. ~ Jennie L.
- ~ Dean W. health
- ~ Lance’s Dad health ~ Patty G. healing
- ~ Julia who has cancer ~ Lia & Curtis L.
- ~ Jerica V.S ‘s health and family
- ~ Maureen’s (b-i-l) Layne’s healing
- ~ Rev. Howard Y. & Ohana
- ~ Nathan K. ~ Jean K.
- ~ Claire S. ~ Harrison L.



~ Matt, Pie Pie, & Nora W.
 ~ Mai's mom w/cancer & father w/ dementia
 ~ Saeko Y. ~ Sandra S.
 ~ Traveling mercies for all traveling this summer: June C. family, Katelyn, the Grables, Reggie, Mya R., Marisa Y., and the interns as they travel back home.
 ~ Bill Cunningham ~ Diane & John M.
 ~ Joe w/ brain tumor, cancer & Sue w/ cancer
 ~ Myrtle & Lowell T. ~ Kathe W.
 ~ Heather, Jake, & family for healing
 ~ Dean's friends, Gary & Greg's recoveries
 ~ Sharon N. ~ Steve H.
 ~ Lisa battling cancer ~ Duane M.
 ~ Winchell & Lily L. ~ Richard T.
 ~ Jerry C., healing from a bad car accident
 ~ Jean M., Alice E., Nani O. Nancy A. Harry I., Carl N., Sharon M. Dot S., Hazel M., and all our high risked families.
 ~ Praise God for His grace during the Tsunami Scare and for those who provided shelter to those in need at that time. Kudos to Dusty and his team for keeping their Manoa restaurant, Lady Elaine open throughout the night. Tourists from the airport who were not allowed to enter Waikiki were dropped off and stranded in Manoa in an attempt of getting to safety on higher ground. The staff shared their Aloha with these families with access to food, blankets, restrooms, and a safe place to lay their heads over-night.

During the Tsunami scare, it was also noted that Christ Church Uniting at 1300 Kailua Rd, Kailua, HI 96734 was a certified disaster response site and welcomed people and their animals to shelter there. Good to know for emergencies if there is a need in the future. Our sincere mahalo for their kokua and aloha for the community.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

Sincere Condolences to the DeCosta family and the extended ohana of Saron DeCosta, a dear member and long time fan of KCC. A delightful celebration of life service was held on Thursday, August 14 in honor of this beloved lady. Her graciousness and warm aloha will long be remembered.

Deepest Sympathies to the family of Larry S. who passed away on Sat. June 21st. Please keep Sandra and her family in your prayers as they move forward with this loss. Larry has been a long time member at KCC along with Sandra. A wonderful celebration of life service was held on Monday. Aug. 18 in his honor. He will be sorely missed by many that he served with.

TRUSTEES NOTES

Members and Friends of KCC,

KCC Financial Information:

(Balances through 6/30/25)

Income: \$ 112,028.63 (Total Budget Income)

Expenses: \$ 95,766.83 (Total Operating Expenses)

Total Cash: \$ 235,701.00 (Total Resources in the savings and checking accounts)

General Fund: \$ 206,615.85 (Available Resources, excluding special funds and grants)

Voluntary Janitorial Services: In the July newsletter article, it was mentioned that the voluntary janitorial service has not been working out due to the lack of sufficient volunteers. This initiative was started to reduce the budget deficit and prevent the depletion of our Resources (savings). Tithes and offerings have decreased substantially in recent years and based on the 2025 budget, expenses will be greater than income, therefore the difference will be taken from our savings. Reluctantly, we will be issuing a new contract (service agreement) to acquire the services of a vendor to perform the janitorial services, the cost of which will further increase the budget deficit. 2 Corinthians 8:14 - "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality." NIV

God Bless You All!

Trustees



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

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Nineteen members and friends of Kailua Christian Church (including Grace Christian Community Church and First Presbyterian Church) picked up baking/cooking skills that only Master Culinary Chef Dan Swift can teach/facilitate. We spent four hours learning/refining our baking/cooking skills on July 26, 2025, from 9 am – 1300 at Windward Community College’s Hale Ākoakoa, Uala Leaf Café.

It was a real treat, learning from Master Baker/Culinary Chef Dan, as we combined raw ingredients and stirred/kneaded the dough that turned into delicious Ciabatta bread and baked shortbread cookies and muffins. This was a first for many of us! We worked in teams to create our healthy and ono multi-grain porridge and pre-prepare/season/steam the fish and vegetables, what we cooked became our healthy (whole foods) and delicious lunch!



Future Na Anela dates and times (10:00 -11:30 am) to mark on your calendar!

Sep 27: Katelyn A., OTP/Lynne Nohara-Kido, DPT - Kauhale Smooth Transitions, LLC

Nov 15: Rita Madden, MPH, RDN – Food, Faith and Fasting

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

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

August 2025 classes can be found at: Register directly online. For questions, please contact the Call Center @ (808) 547-6500 (select 0).

2025 Free Individual Classes:

8/08, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14: Fri, 10 – 11:30 am;
Hands-on Bathing for Family Caregivers (in-person at Lumi Ahona I)

2025 Free Weekly Classes:

8/5, 8/19, 9/2, 9/16, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4 and 11/18:
1st and 3rd Tue, 9 – 10 am; **Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi (Zoom)**

(continued on page 6)



As of July 1, 2025 Zumba classes are no longer provided.

Note: In-person sessions will be held at Senior Community Center at the Kūpuna Village in Liliha. Participate in a variety of “wellness” classes to enhance your health journey!

God Bless you all, Mahalo, Myra



GIVE ALOHA PROGRAM sponsored by Foodland KCC code:78524

September is the month that Foodland rolls out this charitable program designated to support non-profit organizations in or communities. When you designate your gift of up to \$249 during the month – 100% of your gift will be given to KCC along with additional funds provided by Foodland to encourage and support those programs that exist to serve our wider community. Your generous contributions will be greatly appreciated and will help continue the ongoing ministry of Jesus being shared. MAHALO for your kind consideration. Don't forget to get a duplicate receipt that you will put your name on it and turn into KCC so we can be sure to credit your giving statement of giving for 2025.

The Altar Flower Sign up Calendar is now posted on the back bulletin board . Please consider signing up to provide flowers for the service. Mahalo! Details on sign up sheet. If you would like to dedicate this floral donation in Memory or in honor of someone, please inform the office with the details. We can post this on our announcements. Mahalo.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Pastor Irene and Interns, Jacob and Abby shares a fun moment with Governor Green during the Founder’s Day gathering with IHS.

Friends of Hawaiian Island Ministries (HIM) Great reason to celebrate!



The HIM Board of Directors has appointed Fernando Castillo as HIM’s new Executive Director.

HIM has served the Body of Christ in Hawaii and beyond for more than four decades. Congratulations also to Kiha Pimental’s new role as HIM Board Chair, replacing interim chair Brandon Ahu. Heartfelt thanks goes to Brandon and for each member of the HIM Board which has tirelessly, diligently and with whilehearted faith in God’s provision for HIM. We look forward to the ongoing ministry of HIM and what God has in store for us all. Best wishes and sincere thanks to Dan and Pam Chun for leading this awesome ministry for more than 40+ years.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME What gifts given to you by God have you used to His glory?

Looking for helpers with a servant’s heart to be Greeters, Readers, Teachers, Office helpers, Facility Cleaners, Yard/plant caregivers, etc. Please contact the church office for more information. MAHALO!

GOOD NEWS at BIBLE INSTITUTE OF HAWAII.

BIH Executive Rev. Rodney Wong shared some awesome news that is encouraging for all of us.

“People are dusting off their Bibles ... and rediscovering Scripture in ways we haven’t seen in years. And not the usual suspects –young adults and men are leading the charge.

Nationwide trends in Bible Engagement:

- **41% of U.S. adults** now read the Bible outside of church at least three times a year, up from **38% last year** (American Bible Society, 2025).
 - **Gen Z**, often called the “disengaged generation,” **jumped from 11% to 15%**, and **Millennials from 12% to 17%** (American Bible Society, 2025).
 - **Men saw a 19% increase in Bible reading**, finally closing that old “guys don’t read the Bible” gap (American Bible Society, 2025).
 - That’s **10–11 million more people** picking up their Bibles this year—many of them young adults and men (American Bible Society, 2025; Baptist Press, 2025).
 - **Lifeway Research** reports a growing trend of Americans viewing the Bible as something to return to repeatedly, not just a relic, calling this a “rediscovery generation” (Lifeway Research, 2025).
 - **Baptize America** and related events have seen over **26,000 baptisms** nationwide in 2025, making headlines in outlets like USA Today and Religion News Service (USA Today, 2025; Religion News Service, 2025).
- Snapshot of Spiritual Movement in Hawaii:**
- In our **BIH Prison classes**, we’re witnessing a remarkable move of the Spirit: inmates are initiating their own Bible study and prayer groups—meeting up to twice a day in one module. Every week, I see or hear of someone **making a first-time decision to follow Christ**. One inmate even asked me about being baptized.
 - **On Maui**, churches have reported growth fueled by deep community involvement and outreach, especially since the wildfires. One congregation shared they’ve celebrated **2,000**

baptisms over the last seven years—a testament to ongoing ministry and compassion.

- **Collegiate and youth ministries on O‘ahu** are also reporting active campus outreach and growing engagement among students.
- With the growing houseless population, **River of Life Mission** reported serving over **202,000 meals** and hosting **80 hub events weekly** across O‘ahu in 2024—partnering with local churches and ministries to meet both physical and spiritual needs.
- Even at BIH, last spring we only offered just five classes and seminars, yet saw **167 registrations**—the Spirit increasing hunger for God’s Word.”

Praise God for he is faithful to those who trust in Him.

2025 UCC GENERAL SYNOD

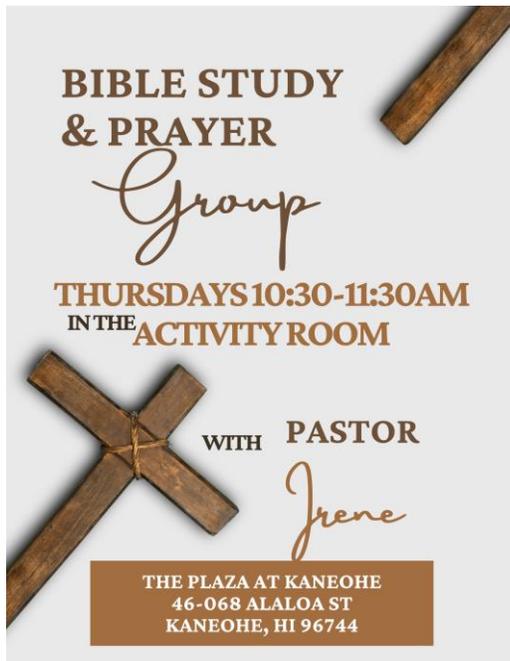
The 35th General Synod of the UCC was held in Kansas City, Missouri from July 11-15, 2025. There was worship, workshops, elections, adoption of resolutions, speeches and more! The UCC news team has provide great coverage f the General Synod. Learn what’s going on in our wider-church-check out the news at generalsynod.org/news-listings.

Twelve resolutions including the following Resolutions of Witness which call us all to act, came out of committees and most were adopted.

A Declaration of Support for Philippine Human Rights. 2) Faithful Stewardship of our Whole Lives and Advocacy for Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Faith Communities Through Interfaith Collaboration, 3) Recognition of the Continually-Evolving Language of Mental Health, 4) A Response to Christian Persecution in India, 5) Responding to the Federal Government’s Attack on Immigrants, Migrants, and Refugees, 6) Calling the UCC to Oppose the 2025 Immigration Rollbacks and Support immigrants, Refugees, and Pacific Island Communities, while Amplifying Antiracist Work On Behalf of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in Response to the Current socio-Political Backlash, 7) in Support of Restoration of Full Funding and Autonomy for the Voice of America, 9) Declaration for an End to Genocide in Palestine.

Learn more: generalsynod.org/resolutions

Kailua Christian Church (UCC)
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 PH: (808) 261-0125
 E-Mail: kailuacch@gmail.com
 Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org
 Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, Senior Pastor



Join us for a new study on GENSIS.



REMINDERS

*After Worship in Room 3-4
 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

**VISION MEETING with Pastor Noelani Jai
 - Sunday, August 24th**

**BABY SHOWER for
 Matt & Pie Pie's daughter,
 Nora Wong - Sunday,
 Aug. 31 following worship.
 RSVP to Debbie F. by the
 24th or call the church office.**



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Worship Service - Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
 Communion on the First Sun. of each month.

King's Company – Jr. Church
 2nd Sun. through last Sun. of each month.
 Children stay in service on Communion Sun.

Official E-Mail for KCC & Office is
kailuacch@gmail.com

If you would like to receive a monthly newsletter via email – please contact the office and give us your current email address. Otherwise you can view it on the website at www.kailuachristian-church.org. Request for a hard copy in the mail can also be arranged by contacting the office.

Council Meeting normally is held on the 3rd Wed. night via Zoom. Please keep participants in your prayers during this time.

Deacons Meeting normally held on the 2nd Sun. after Service.

SPECIAL NOTE;

Church secretary is available on
 Monday, Thursday, and Fridays
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Ph: 808-261-0125

Please call the office before visiting so you will be able to get on property and/or meet with the pastor as needed. MAHALO.