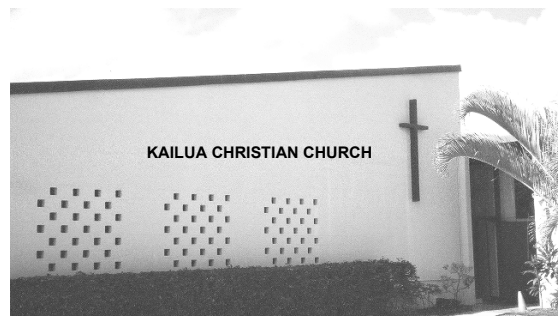


Waves of Faith

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



MAY 2024

Volume 39

Issue 05



A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR

Dear KCC Ohana and Friends,

If you're reading this but haven't been active in KCC for a while (or ever), I invite you to consider visiting a new program that your old friends who send you this news-letter have very thoughtfully pulled together over the last year.

Kailua Christian Church has, over the last decade or so, done some really important soul searching and they've recently made some big decisions to attempt to make the church more relevant, impactful, and leaning fully into the Gospel's call. Their authentic love for each other and for Jesus, as well as their tenacity and willingness to follow the wind of the Spirit, drew me to this little church and I'm honored to be their pastor.

This letter isn't designed to ask you to come back to the church regularly. I'm sure there are important and carefully weighted reasons why you decided to leave it during your journey. Whether you've chosen to step away from organized religion, found yourself questioning the tenets of your faith, or have found a different spiritual space that resonates with you, I want you to know I affirm your story and this letter isn't meant to convince you that you've made a wrong or bad decision.

Instead, this is a request for you to stop by the church sometime this summer and celebrate (or critique!) what your old friends here have been working on. Beginning in June and ending in August, we will have 3 young seminary students from the mainland living in the old King's Company classrooms. We're commissioning their

services to launch Pā'ina Night; weekly on Thursday evenings. This is our newest endeavor aimed at fostering deep conversations, community connection, and spiritual exploration. Pā'ina, which means meal in Hawaiian, embodies the heart of what we aim to achieve – gathering around a table, sharing nourishment for both body and soul, and engaging in thought-provoking guided discussions about God, spirituality, and the complexities of life.

Thursday evenings this summer, we'll be delving into a different theological question, ranging from the age-old query of suffering in the world to the nature of divine love and everything in between. These guided discussions won't shy away from the tough questions or the nuances of belief; instead, they'll provide a safe and inclusive space for individuals like yourself to voice your perspectives, share your doubts, and explore your spirituality in an authentic and supportive environment. In addition to engaging conversations and thought-provoking topics, participants will also have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal on us, complete with professional musicians lifting the spirit of our conversation up in song. We will have a fun game table set up for the keiki, so participants can engage in meaningful discussion while knowing rest assured their kids are welcomed and enjoying the space as well.

Kailua Christian Church, along with many other dedicated members of our community, have been working tirelessly to create meaningful programs that address the spiritual needs of our congregation and beyond. They've poured their hearts and souls into crafting opportunities for growth, connection, and transformation, and we would be honored if you would join us for one of our

Pā'ina Nights this summer to experience first-hand what they've been working on. You are deeply beloved to them, and they would be over the moon if you invested a Thursday evening of your time this summer to witness the fruits of their labor.

So, dear ones, I invite you to set aside some time to join us at Pā'ina Night once this summer. Whether you come with an open heart, a skeptical mind, or simply a curiosity to see what it's all about, know that you are welcome here – just as you are.

The Pā'ina Night schedule is attached for your reference. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to support you on your journey, wherever it may lead.

With love and respect,

Rev. Irene Willis Hassan
Senior Pastor, Kailua Christian Church
(206)693-8009
manonopastor@gmail.com

All menus and topics are subject to change - please see the website at kailuachristiachurch.org for an updated menu and topic for Pā'ina Night Services.

Thursday, May 23, 6pm

Pā'ina Night LAUNCH

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Chili & Rice

Salad

Butter Mochi

Topic: Reflecting on moments of profound connection or transcendence in your life, what do you believe those experiences reveal about the nature of existence?

Thursday May 30, 6pm

BYE WEEK - Preparing for incoming students.

Thursday, June 6, 6pm

Pā'ina Night at KCC

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Burgers

Corn Cobbs

Cake

Topic: Reflect on a time when you experienced doubt or uncertainty in your beliefs. How did you navigate this period, and what did you learn about yourself and your faith?

Thursday, June 13, 4pm

BYE WEEK - HCUCC Aha Pae'āina

Thursday, June 20, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

SPECIAL GUEST MUSICIAN: AOLANI SILVA

Menu:

Shoyu Chicken & Rice

Asian Garlic Green Beans

Cookies

Topic: What would you say to your child self about the existence of God?

Thursday, June 27, 6pm

Pa'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu: Tacos

Topic: Reflect on the lessons you've learned from moments of adversity or challenge. How have these experiences shaped your spiritual beliefs and values?

Thursday, July 4

BYE WEEK - Federal Holiday

Thursday, July 11, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Fried Saimin

Butter Mochi

Topic: Should churches intentionally strive for multiculturalism, or is their effectiveness enhanced when they focus on catering to specific cultural and subgroup demographics?

Thursday, July 18, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Pizza

Ice Cream

Topic: Explore the idea of interconnectedness. How do you perceive your connection to others, nature, and the universe at large?

Thursday, July 25, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Potluck!

Topic: Consider the concept of forgiveness. What does it mean to forgive, and how does it impact your spiritual journey?

Thursday August 1, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Breakfast for dinner (eggs, sausage, rice)

Topic: Reflect on the Platonic concept "Evil is the absence of good." What situations cause good to be absent? If God is good can God be absent? Does evil have its own "nature," or is the Platonic argument accurate?

Thursday, August 8, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Portuguese Bean Soup

Salad

Brownies

Topic: How do you reconcile the existence of suffering and adversity with your understanding of a loving and compassionate higher power?

Thursday August 15, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Chicken Katsu

Salad

Cake

Topic: How do you reconcile Christianity with colonization?

Thursday, August 22, 6pm

Pā'ina Night

Location: Front lawn or Room 3-4 (dependent on weather)

Menu:

Fried Chicken

French fries

Coleslaw

Topic: Reflect on the role of rituals and practices in your spiritual life. What significance do they hold for you, and how do they contribute to your sense of identity and belonging?

Thursday, August 29, 2024, 4pm

BYE Week - Student departure and preparation for program evaluation.

Sunday, September 1, 11:30am

Anniversary Luau

We will be having a potluck party after church on Sunday morning to celebrate the conclusion of the summer program. Anonymous paper evaluations of the experience will be available. The Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ staff will also be present to provide a brief installation ceremony for Rev. Irene Willis Hassan and affirm our ministry experience with us after a year of service together.

ACTING MODERATOR'S NOTES

How You Can Support Kailua Christian Church

There are many ways to support Kailua Christian Church (KCC), both financially and through volunteering your time and talents. Here are a few ideas:

Financially:

- **Tithes and offerings:** This is the traditional way to support KCC financially. KCC encourages members to donate a portion of their income (what you can afford) to the church.
- **Special offerings:** KCC has special offerings throughout the year to support specific ministries or missions.
- **Capital campaigns:** KCC raises money for a building project or other major expense, you can donate to the capital fund.

Volunteering your time and talents:

- **Serve on a ministry team:** There are many different ministry teams at KCC, such as children's ministry, youth ministry, worship ministry, and hospitality ministry. Find a team that interests you and use your gifts to serve others.
- **Volunteer for special events:** KCC has special events throughout the year, such as the Vision Retreat, Chaplaincy Services at IHS, Prayer Groups, Bible Studies, Pa'ina Dinners, Service Learn Community Program, and Christmas programs, etc. You can volunteer to help with these events.
- **Offer your professional skills:** If you have professional skills that could be helpful to KCC, such as accounting, computer, audio/visual, or maintenance, etc., you can offer to volunteer your time.

Other ways to get involved:

- **Attend church services regularly:** This is one of the most important ways to support KCC. By attending services regularly, you are showing your commitment to the church and its mission.

- **Get to know the people in KCC:** Take the time to get to know the people in KCC. This will help you feel more connected to the KCC community.
- **Pray for KCC:** Pray for Pastor Irene, the KCC Council and staff, and other supporting leaders/members of the church.

The best way to find out how you can get involved in KCC is to talk to Pastor Irene or another KCC church leaders such as Susan Morita. They can help you find a way to use your gifts and talents to serve God and others.

DEACONS CORNER

By Vernon Pang



While working as a Contracting Officer for the Hawaii Housing Authority, I often drafted up a Memorandum of Understanding document before procuring a binding contract with a planner, a design consultant, or a construction contractor. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is basically a document that describes the broad outlines of an agreement that two or more parties have reached. While not necessarily legally binding, the MOU signals serious commitment of its performance. MOUs communicate the mutually accepted expectations of the parties involved. I often wondered how I would draft a MOU with God. The following is an example I made for myself. You can make your own MOU with God and use it to measure your performance in your life.

Memorandum of Understanding: Living Life in Accordance with Jesus' Teachings

1. Purpose and Intent

This memorandum outlines the principles and guidelines for living a life aligned with the teachings of Jesus Christ, with the aim of fostering love, compassion, and spiritual growth among individuals and communities.

2. Core Values

Love: Embrace love for God, oneself, and others as the foundational principle of life.

Compassion: Show empathy and kindness towards all beings, regardless of differences.
 Forgiveness: Practice forgiveness towards oneself and others, recognizing that everyone is fallible.
 Humility: Cultivate humility in all actions, acknowledging the inherent worth and dignity of every individual.

3. Ethical Conduct

Honesty and Integrity: Commit to truthfulness and ethical behavior in all interactions.
 Justice and Fairness: Advocate for fairness and equality, standing against oppression and injustice.
 Stewardship: Care for the Earth and its resources responsibly, recognizing them as gifts from God.

4. Relationships

Family and Community: Prioritize nurturing healthy relationships within families and communities.
 Unity and Reconciliation: Seek unity and reconciliation in times of conflict or division, following Jesus'; example of peace-making.
 Respect for Diversity: Embrace diversity and celebrate the uniqueness of each individual, fostering a spirit of inclusion and acceptance.

5. Spiritual Growth

Prayer and Meditation: Foster a personal relationship with God through prayer, meditation, and spiritual reflection.
 Study and Reflection: Engage in regular study of scripture and spiritual literature, seeking wisdom and guidance for life's challenges.
 Service and Generosity: Demonstrate love for God by serving others and sharing resources with those in need.

6. Commitment

By signing this memorandum, I pledge to uphold these principles and strive to embody the teachings of Jesus Christ in my daily life, seeking to create a world characterized by love, compassion, and justice.

By:

Name: [Print Name]

PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Terumi and Rev. Howard Yoshida
- ~ Barney Pilla's continued healing
- ~ Jean Kanazawa ~ Tim Ishihara
- ~ Gary & Susan Morita ~ Nathan Kohashi
- ~ Jennie Lee ~ Damien Wong
- ~ Warren & Lynne Nakano
- ~ Harvey's co-worker's husband, Ray
- ~ Matt's Grandma's surgery and healing
- ~ Carrie Grable ~ Henry Tom's Ohana
- ~ John Sakamoto and his ohana
- ~ Myrtle & Lowell Terada continued health
- ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu ~ Harrison Lum
- ~ Lisa battling cancer ~ Ed & Noelani Jai
- ~ Winchell & Lily Lee ~ Richard Texiera
- ~ Karen Shimizu ~ Dennis Jinnohara
- ~ 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 high risked families
- ~ Dean's Plumber's family on the death of his father Tony who died from stroke.
- ~ Family of George Keoki Fisher who passed
- ~ Prayers for our Worship Team & Musicians



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- Linda Umetsu
- Mae Takahashi
- Bert Yoshioka
- Cera Soma
- Betty Ota
- Lia Lau
- Walter Yeda
- Lily Lee
- Kimberly Terada
- Lara Higashi
- Mason Maeshiro
- Sherie Oga
- Ken Nakamatsu

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- Gary & Cleo Nham
- Bert & Judy Yoshioka
- Larry Takumi & Jo-Ann Komori
- Randy and Cindy Imai

NEWS from your



Praise the Lord! Since the Continuous Building Maintenance Fund (CBMF) drive was implemented last month, we have received \$1,800. Thank you for your generosity and for answering the call to raise funds to take care of the backlog of high-cost maintenance and repair (HCM&R) projects. As the name implies, the CBMF drive is year-round, so if you would like to support this endeavor, please annotate "Continuous Building Maintenance Fund" on your check.

HCM&R project of interest:

The control system that operates the Sanctuary lights and stage spotlights needs to be replaced and upgraded. The control system is antiquated (uses a "floppy disc") and is currently not working. So, the control system is being bypassed and the lights and spotlights are operated manually using the circuit breaker panel switches.

We are working on this project and looking into options on the best economical way to fix the Sanctuary lighting problem.

Thank you for your generosity.
God Bless You!
Trustees



Mahalo to all our Moms and those who care(d) for us with God's love, like a mom, throughout our lives. We love you so very much!



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

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

May 25 (4th Sat) – CPR/AED Refresher – Jenna Tanigawa, AED Institute of America, Operations Manager (in-person only). Please join us from **10-11:30 am** for this informative training in **Rooms 3/4**. We are very thankful that KCC, through **John Sakamoto's** generosity, is equipped with the **ZOLL AED PLUS** equipment and annual training. **Please invite a friend/relative to this session!** Register with Kammy (kailuacch@gmail.com) or Myra (yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com).

Upcoming Na Anela Dates to Reserve on Your Calendar:

- Jul 27 (4th Sat) – Anatomy of a Cyber Attack and Cyber Security Best Practices – Aaron Tanaka, Honolulu Community College (HCC) Computer, Security & Networking Technologies Professor (retired); sanctuary**
- Sep 28 (4th Sat) – Finding Joy Amidst Chronic Pain, Aianna (Pie Pie) Wong, Registered Behavioral Therapist for Autistic Children, All About Behavior LLC; sanctuary**
- Nov 16 (3rd Sat) – Thrive for Life LCC Customized, Accessible Modification Specialists; sanctuary**

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

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

May 2024 classes can be found at: <https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/s/courses>. Register directly online. For questions, please contact **Kaui Asing (808) 547-6500** or kas-ing@stfrancishawaii.org.

Individual Classes:

No individual classes for May.

Weekly Zoom Classes:

May 01 – 31: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:15 pm; **Zumba by Frances**; no classes – 5/13, 5/15 & 5/17

May 01 – 29: Wed, 8 – 8:45 am; **Empower You!**

May 02 – 30: Thu, 2:30 – 3:30 pm; **Zumba Gold at Kūpuna Village Courtyard (in-person)**

May 04 – 25: Sat, 8 – 9 am; **Zumba Gold by Francis**

May 06 – 20: Mon, 8 – 8:45 am; **Big Moves! Monday (Focus on Parkinsons)**; no class – 05/27

May 07 – 28: Tue, 9 – 10 am; **Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi**

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

Reporting details will be provided at the time of on-line registration with St. Francis.

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

Commit to your Wellness Journey and Stay Healthy in 2024! God Bless you all, Myra



PRAYER
Group
THURSDAYS 9:30-10:30AM
IN THE FAMILY ROOM
WITH PASTOR
Irene
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Join Pastor Irene on Thursday mornings at The Plaza in Kaneohe – 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for a great time of fellowship. The group will be meeting on Thurs. mornings. All are welcome to attend. Bring your Bible.



You shall receive power when the
HOLY SPIRIT
has come upon you
Acts 1:8
Pentecost Sunday



Pray for our interns!
Arrival May 31
First Sunday: June 2

Eliana, Wheaton College

Darby, Boston University

Avery, Anderson University



THURSDAY NIGHTS
6PM

PĀ'INA NIGHT
at KCC

About Us:
We are Jesus followers offering a casual, free dinner service with music and rich theological discussion on a range of topics. Keiki welcome!

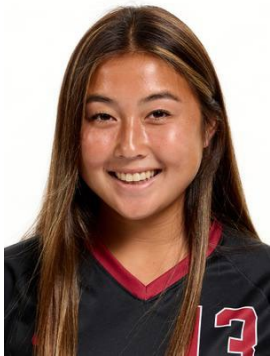
Starting May 23!
Menu, Schedule, and Topics Here:



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

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



Mia Ann Watanabe is graduating with a degree in management science and engineering. She has dual degree. She's also graduating with her masters in the same degree management science and engineering. She is employed by C3 AI.



Mai'a Payne graduates Valedictorian from Kalaheo High School, and is deciding on USC or Scripps College in Clairemont where she has been awarded scholarships. We celebrate with her proud parents, June Cunningham & Greg Payne and Grandpa Bill.



Tyler Morita will be graduating as the third generation in our family from the University of Washington. His major is informatics. He is working at eWorld and hoping to work there full time after graduation.



Stephan Ogasawara graduated from Chaminade University of Honolulu with a Doctor of Psychology Degree with a major in Clinical Psychology. He is presently doing therapy and Counseling

We celebrate with the Morita and Watanabe Ohanas especially Susan & Gary who are so proud of their grandchildren.

at the Olomana Boys School. Congratulations to proud parents, Glenn & Debby Ogasawara.



Matthew Wong is graduating from Honolulu Community College Music and Entertainment Learning Experience (MELE) with an Associate of Science in Business Production Degree. After serving 7 years in the Army in the 100th Battalion 442 D infantry regiment, he honors his old unit



Adam Hassan graduates from Kindergarten at Kainalu Elementary and will continue his education there. We join joyful parents, Pastor Irene and Hamza on this special milestone for Adam.

by creating his own music publishing/record label company "Go For Broke Music LLC". We join Matt in his future endeavors praising God in song.