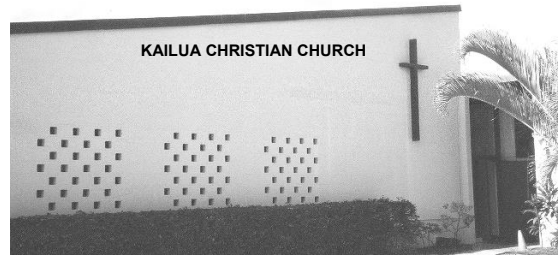


Waves of Faith

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



NOVEMBER 2024

Volume 39

Issue 11



Aloha e KCC Ohana,

Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting... but encouraging one another.”

Dear Beloved Kailua Christian Church Family, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible work our church did in preparing for the Fall Aha Mokupuni. The energy and dedication poured into hosting the gathering of Oahu Association churches on October 19 was an act of true love and service, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Debbie, Myra, Reggie, Dennis, Diane, Paul, Jennie, and Kammy, and all others who contributed, for their abundant welcoming.

As the Oahu Association President, I felt it was fitting to hold the Aha Mokupuni at Kailua Christian Church because our congregation has shown remarkable courage during a challenging season for the Western church. We’ve faced significant obstacles, but through faith and perseverance, we have become an example for others. On October 19, our church provided a space where fellow congregations could gather and be encouraged by what God is doing in our midst. It was a powerful reminder of the strength we find in unity, as we shared stories of resilience and hope.

The purpose of this Aha Mokupuni was to inspire our sister churches to take their own bold steps of faith—much like what we at KCC have

done over the past year in pursuit of revitalizing our congregation. During the meeting, we introduced an exciting new three-part revitalization process that is aligned with the Hawaii Conference’s Strategic Plan.

The gathered churches approved a \$1,000 grant to be awarded to one church, whom will be selected from a pool of applicants, to support a targeted revitalization plan. Churches within our association are invited to submit their applications, and the chosen church will not only receive financial assistance but will also benefit from six months of volunteer support from sister congregations. Additionally, they will receive a written recommendation to the HCUCC Christian Investment Fund for the opportunity to secure an additional grant of up to \$4,000.

At the Spring Mokupuni 2025, we will come together once again to review the applications and select the church we will communally support in the coming year. This process embodies the essence of covenantal care outlined in Hebrews 10:24-25—standing together as one body, each part supporting the other in its journey of faith and growth.

This Thanksgiving season, I offer my deepest gratitude to Kailua Christian Church, not only for being exceptional hosts but for being a source of inspiration and hope to our covenantal partners in this Christian journey. Your faith, your love, and your perseverance continue to spur us all on towards a renewed future for Christ’s body. May we never grow weary in meeting together, and may we always encourage one

another to pursue the incredible things God is doing in our midst.

In Christ's Love and Service,

Pastor Irene



DEACONS CORNER

Gratitude



“Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18

As we enter into the month of November we remove the orange and black Halloween decorations, store away the ghosts and witches and ignore the molded pumpkin jack-o-lantern on the front porch. We settle into a different frame of mind - leaving behind thoughts of scary costumes and horror movies and settling into thoughts of thanksgiving, blessings and gratitude. But wait – Why is November the time for thanks? What about January, February, and all the other months that are not November? Well, we know to be thankful and share blessings and gratitude all year round.

And while we're asking questions, what's the difference between thankfulness and gratitude? The two terms are often used interchangeably but there is a subtle difference. Being thankful is an act of appreciation. It is more immediate and situational whereas gratitude goes deeper.

Gratitude comes from the Latin word *gratus*, which means “pleasing” or “thankful”. It is an emotion evoked by experiences and events, defined as a feeling of thankfulness and appreciation for the good things in our lives. Being thankful will fade over time but being grateful remains.

Research shows that living a life of gratitude has many perks, including better physical, psychological and emotional health, stronger relationships with others, increased happiness and life satisfaction.

Martin Luther referred to gratitude as “the basic Christian attitude”. We are called to praise and give gratitude to our creator. This is an acknowledgement of God's generous gifts. Failure to be cognizant of God's goodness and of our reliance on him may lead us down a path of becoming self-involved individuals, believing that we ourselves are responsible for the goodness we have in our lives. It is necessary that we develop the discipline of gratitude so we are reminded that it is God who provides for us.

But what about the tough times, when everything seems to be falling apart? In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 above - notice that it says to give thanks in all circumstances, not for all circumstances. We are not thankful for our troubles, but we can be thankful to God while we are in our troubles. In these situations we are being challenged to find reasons to be grateful even while in the midst of unpleasant times.

As we struggle during difficult times to express our gratitude for what God has done for us, perhaps these 4 reasons why we can be grateful can help us.

1. We are not alone. We are united not only with Christ but also with our fellow believers.
2. God is sovereign. Trust that God is fully in command.
3. We have hope. For those who love God all work together for good. (Romans 8:28)
4. We have God. We may not be thankful for our circumstance but knowing we have God can make us thankful in our circumstance.

Here are some tips that may help us to become more grateful in our lives.

1. Keep a gratitude journal, written or visual (photos in phone), reflect on your blessings.
2. Share your gratitude with others.

3. Look for the good in every situation, be present and don't overlook the little things.

4. Perform random acts of kindness, give back to . Please

So ... what are you grateful for? Let us count our blessings and share them with others.

Blessings,
Debbie



PRAYERS & PRAISES

Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Julie, Lori's friend who has cancer
- ~ Terumi and Rev. Howard Yoshida
- ~ Nathan Kohashi ~ Jean Kanazawa
- ~ Claire Steele ~ Diane Lee's step-mom
- ~ Harrison Lum ~ Pie Pie's healing
- ~ Gary & Susan Morita ~ Larry Au
- ~ Mai's mom w/cancer & father w/ dementia
- ~ Jennie Lee ~ Joy, (2nd heart attack)
- ~ Noe's daughter, Paige who has Leukemia
- ~ The family of Jordan Kagehiro
- ~ Bill Cunningham ~ Joel & Stacey Vega
- ~ Joe w/ brain tumor, cancer & Sue w/ cancer
- ~ John Sakamoto's grandson and son-in-law
- ~ Myrtle & Lowell Terada continued health
- ~ Heather, Jake, & family for healing
- ~ Dean's friends, Gary & Greg's recoveries
- ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu ~ Dennis Jinnohara
- ~ Lisa battling cancer ~ Duane Miyashiro
- ~ Winchell & Lily Lee ~ Richard Texiera
- ~ Bobby Morris ~ Our neighbor seeking a rental which accepts well behaved dogs.
- ~ Jean Miyaji, Alice Esaki, Stella Wakamatsu, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Brian Nakashima, Harry Imai, Hazel Masuda, Carl Nemoto, Sharon Mon, Dot Suzuki, and all our high risked families
- ~ Prayers for all our Worship Team



Oct. 12 and will have a private service with immediate family at a later time.

Services for Walter Yeda is scheduled for early 2025. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Please keep Keith Shultz's brother's family in your prayers as Ken just recently passed on the mainland.

Please keep Pastor Irene's Uncle Dave's family in your prayers as Dave passed away last week. Keep Dee Willis (Pastor's father) in your prayers also as he mourns the loss of his brother.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Eliana Vance Emily Peters
Carl Nemoto Diane Lee Pilla



Winchell & Lily Lee
Vernon & Jennifer Pang

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Myra Yamada Sandra Siu
Myrtle Terada Carol Soma
Paul Grable Pat Oyama
Michelle Morikawa



Dean & Maureen
Wakuzawa

WORSHIP NOTES

On October 20th we sang "Come Thou Fount". I liked it a lot. It's a song about the grace of God and how it is the only thing that can overcome our self-inflicted sin. I noticed while singing it that most of the archaic words and phrases are no longer used today. So, I Googled it to find out what it means. Jack Gamble wrote an article in WordPress on October 27, 2013, that was intended to help explain the words in the song so that we might be able to understand what we're singing about and be able to relish in the love that God shows in his redemptive purposes and not just enjoy a beautiful melody. This is generally what he said.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO

Saeko Yoshida and her family on the loss of her husband, Howard. Howard passed away on

Verse 1

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's redeeming love.*

'Come Thou Fount' starts by setting before us a gospel-centered model for worship, both in corporately praising God and for giving Him glory in our day-to-day lives. We are to look to what God has done for us and respond accordingly, with 'songs of loudest praise'. The line 'Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above' is reminiscent of the cry of longing in the Lord's Prayer "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven". We want to model the angels' praise as we gather together as Christians! Towards the end of the verse, there is a glorious assurance that we are 'fixed upon' the mountain of God's redeeming love. We are held fast to this vast love that seeks to shower affection on us, despite our performance.

Verse 2

*Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.*

This is a confusing verse. Without examining what an 'Ebenezer' is, we will have no idea what this verse means and so will never experience the joy found in this reference to God's unwavering promises! This is a biblical idea, so let's look at 1 Samuel 7:12

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us.""

Ebenezer, composed of the Hebrew words 'eben' and 'ezer', literally means 'stone of help'. Samuel is instructed to make a monument that will remind the Israelites that it is God who has carried them through all their troubles to where they are now. God wants to continually point His chosen people to His faithfulness. Likewise, we need to continually look to the cross to remind ourselves of the Father's commitment to saving His people, through the forsaking of the Son, who 'interposed his precious blood' – literally putting himself between us and the Father's righteous wrath against sin.

Verse 3

*O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for thy courts above.*

This last verse is something that we can identify with. 'O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be' is saying that every day we find ourselves desperately in need of God's grace. 'Fetter' is an old word for a chain, stressing that it is God who keeps us wandering from the blessings He lavishes upon us in Jesus. It is God who seals us for His courts above, promising that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39). We are His, He will not lose us despite our attempts to run from Him and He will make us more like Jesus. I am relieved and refreshed when I remind myself that God is patient towards His adopted sons and daughters and does not expect them to flourish in their own strength, but by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

I hope you found this interesting and enlightening.

Aloha, Paul Grable, Worship Chair



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**



**Important Informational Meeting
Sunday, November 17, 2024**

Agenda

- Opening – Paul
- Officers and Committees - Susan
- Strategic Plan – Pastor Irene
- Pastoral Development Service Learning Program (SLP) – Pastor Irene
- Recommended Budget for 2025 – Dean
- Closing – Paul

Please join us for this very informative event proposing the future of KCC. MAHALO!

TRUSTEES NOTES

Members and Friends of KCC,

Status of KCC Finances as of September 2024:

Income: \$ 91,544.79

Expenses: \$181,248.75

As the financial status shows, Expenses exceed Income by \$89,703.96. To date in 2024, KCC has been operating at an average monthly deficit of \$9,967.11. As of September 30th, KCC has \$98,124.38 in savings and checking accounts (total resources) which include special funds and grants. The available resources (less the special funds and grants) to cover the operating expenses is \$87,565.53. Therefore, if we continue with the monthly deficit, KCC's resources will be depleted in approximately eight (8) months, June 2025.

For this reason, we have been trying to generate income by various means such as leasing KCC's facilities, e.g., Shared Office Space, Student Driver Education. Currently, we have facility use agreements, which include fees, with East Shore Church and Holy Yoga. Please contact Reggie Yamada at email ryamada49@gmail.com if you or anyone you know might be interested in leasing space at KCC.

In efforts to decrease the deficit, we canceled the janitorial and yard services agreements and asked for your support in volunteering to help with the janitorial and yard work. Please contact Ms. Susan Morita at email, susanmorita56@gmail.com,

to identify the work that you could do and when the services can be done. Your volunteer support will be greatly appreciated.

We have prepared the draft budget for 2025 which included three (3) options: (1) Faith-Based Budget - typical budget that was done in the past, e.g., minor line item reductions and/or deletions in operating expenses, faith-based, however this budget will continue to have a large deficit; (2) Recommended Budget - budget with additional budget line items reductions/deletion, including a reduction in staff salaries and benefits, this budget will have a manageable deficit achieved through a more realistic approach but with the faith that the Lord will provide; and (3) Balanced Budget - budget with "0" deficit, e.g., elimination of staff positions (except pastor will be on a part-time basis) and contract support position, and in its place, have volunteers perform the work. The Council has decided on Option (2), Recommended Budget, which includes a combination of a "reality check" and "faith-based" approach and minimizes the impacts that the budget cuts will have on KCC church operations. This budget includes converting the Administrative Assistant position to part-time and deleting the medical benefits of all employees. The proposed 2025 budget (Recommended Budget) will be presented to the Congregation for approval at the annual Congregation Meeting.

As mentioned in the previous newsletters, the "suggestion box" is always open, so if you have any ideas on how to reduce our deficit, please send your suggestions via email to Dean Wakuzawa, dean.wakuzawa@gmail.com or Reggie Yamada, ryamada49@gmail.com.

Give Aloha:

A big mahalo to those who participated in the Foodland Give Aloha Program. Members and friends of KCC, much mahalo for your donations of \$6,092.18. As part of the program, Foodland matches a portion of the donations received and this year they contributed \$1,827.96. The total donations received by KCC are \$7,920.14. The donations will help to relieve the budget deficit

that KCC is currently experiencing.

Pledge Card and Time and Talent Sheet:

As a reminder, you will be receiving the pledge cards and time and talent sheets for 2025 in the mail. Once again, we ask for your kokua in completing the pledge cards. The tithes are the primary funding source that KCC uses to ensure that church operations may continue. In the October newsletter, we suggested the possibility of increasing the tithes by 10% to alleviate the deficit. If you are able to, we ask for your help by contributing a little more so we can reduce the deficit. We always appreciate your generosity.

Also, we ask if you could complete the Time and Talent sheets, especially now that KCC has eliminated several contract services to reduce the budget deficit. In its place we are relying on volunteers to step up and perform those services. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Your service and dedication to KCC are always appreciated.

God Bless You All!
Trustees



Still seeking a lawnmower.

Please notify the office if you are aware of one available by donation. Mahalo!



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

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Topic: Home Modifications That Are Critical For Aging In Place

Date: Nov 15 (3 rd Friday), 2024

Time: 10 – 11 am

Location: KCC’s Sanctuary

Catia (Cat) Garell is an Occupational Therapist and co-founder of Thrive for Life, a home modification consulting firm that serves the entire of Hawaii. She is going to provide us with small, medium, and large scale examples of home modifications, review some funding resources, as well as **Fall Prevention/Aging in Place** approaches and resources to improve **Safety and**

Independence in the home setting from an occupational therapist’s perspective.

Please invite your family and friends to this presentation, especially, if they are interested in modifying their homes to age in place during their senior years.

Zoom will be available for Catia’s presentation. Join Zoom Meeting (Click on this blue line) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8738460097?pwd=T1F5aElsUdoTDNuVE5SL2lFMmhSQT09>

Meeting ID: 873 846 0097 Password: branches Light refreshments to follow.

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, November 2024 classes can be found at: <https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/s/courses/>. Register directly online. **For questions, please contact the Call Center (808) 547-6500.**

Individual Free Classes:

Nov 08: Fri, 10 – 11:30 am; Hands-on Bathing for the Family Caregivers (in-person class)

Weekly Free Classes:

Nov 05 - 19: Tue, 9 – 10 am; **Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi** (on-line via Zoom)

Nov 01 – 18: Mon, Wed and Fri, 5:15 – 6:15 pm; **Zumba by Frances** (online via Zoom)

Nov 02 - 16: Sat, 8 – 9 am; **Zumba Gold by Francis** (in-person)

CHANGE: Registration for **Glen Higa’s** classes no longer fall under St. Francis Healthcare System of Hawaii. Mondays, 8 – 8:45 am;

Big Moves! Monday (focus on people with Parkinson’s and open to all to improve stiffness, improve circulation, coordination & balance) and Empower You! on Wednesdays 8 –8:45 am.

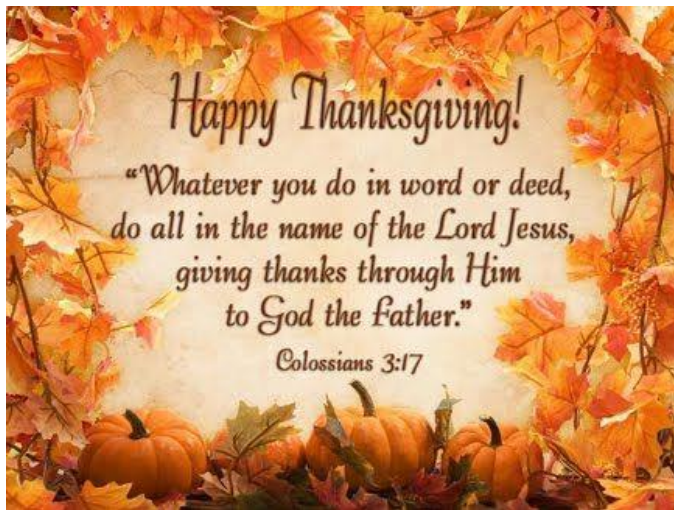
There is a \$10 monthly charge per course.

For Big Moves, click on the following link: Big Moves! Monday Registration (glenhiga.com)

For Empower You, click on the following link:
Empower You! Registration (glenhiga.com)

Note: In-person sessions will be held at Senior Community Center at the Kūpuna Village in Liliha. Contact me at yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com if you have questions. Please invest your time and energy in any one of these free and informative classes.

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



GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THE AWESOME SUPPORT AND GRACIOUS WORKERS WHO CAME TO KCC WORKDAY!



“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love

endures forever, his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:4-5



MAHALO for the support of Pastor Glenn and the awesome ohana of East Shore Church and also our gracious friends from Grace Christian Community Church with Lynne Nakano and their hard working ohana! Even with all the hard work and aches and pains we felt at the end of the day it felt like we saw a little bit of what heaven will be like with our sisters and brothers in Christ. God is so good! Let us give him thanks and praise, everyday!



OAHU ASSOCIATION FALL MOKUPUNI



It was an honor for KCC to serve those who serves God through our conference on Oahu.



MAHALO to Bible Institute of Hawaii and Rev. Rick Bartosik for providing an excellent study on Ephesians here at KCC. The eight week study was enjoyed by 9 participants.





Mahalo to all who has supported the KCC Fall Food Drive this year. Donations will be made to St. Anthony's Outreach - our "Windward Food Bank" for those in need. Last collection day is Sunday, Nov.24th.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1, 2024

*First Sunday in Advent.
Communion Sunday
Congregational Meeting following the
worship service.*

Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024

*Blue Christmas Worship Service at
Kaunakapili Church 6 p.m.*

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024


*Children's Christmas Pageant during
worship and bring your favorite dish for
the potluck lunch. Free Wreath making
event for all to enjoy. Steff Moderow and
Keith Shultz once again has graciously of-
fered to provide this fun activity with help
from their Bonsai club.*

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024

*Installation Service of Officers for 2025
during the morning worship service at
10:00 a.m.*



MAHALO FOR YOUR



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

GENEROUS DONATIONS OF
\$440.00

Kailua Christian Church (UCC)
 317 Manono St.
 Kailua, HI 96734-2211
 PH: (808) 261-0125
 E-Mail: kailuacch@gmail.com
 Website: www.kailuachristianchurch.org
 Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, Senior Pastor

**KING’S COMPANY –
 JR. CHURCH
 MINISTRY**



We continue to seek leaders to provide worship for the children on Sunday mornings. A team will coordinate this ministry on the second through last Sundays of each month during our 10:00 a.m. service. Communion Sunday (first Sun. of each month) will not have a children’s service so we can encourage families to receive Communion and worship together. A sign up sheet is available in the back of the sanctuary to sign up. Curriculum for this ministry is available for you. Call Pastor, Pie Pie, or the office for more information and to sign up. Mahalo?



Volunteer Worship Leaders and Readers, are also being sought to participate in the service. Please consider

helping with a one month commitment – readings and prayers can be provided if you prefer. Please contact Paul or Pastor for more information or sign up in back on the volunteer sheet. MAHALO for your faithful support.

In Honor / in Memory of a loved one - Decorate our place of worship w/ Poinsettias for Christmas. (6.5” pot - \$16 per plant.)

Deadline w/ payment for orders is Dec. 1st.

Person ordering

Contact #: _____



**In Honor / In
 Memory of
 (Please print)**



Names will be posted in Dec. Newsletter.

Total Number of plants ordered _____

Participants can choose to pick up plants that they purchased on Christmas Eve after the service or leave them for the Deacons to discern how they will distribute it to be a blessing to the possible recipient. Mahalo for helping to Decorate the sanctuary for the Holidays.