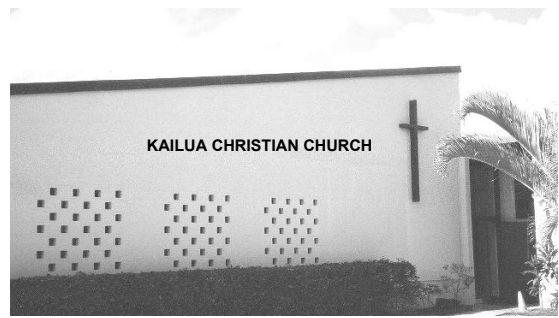


Waves of Faith

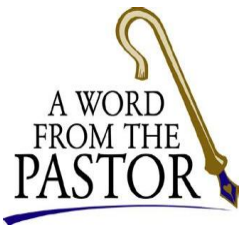
Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211
Chartered 1959 –



JANUARY 2025

Volume 40

Issue 01



Proverbs 19:21
Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Dear Kailua Christian Church Ohana,

Happy New Year! As many of you know, near the end of 2024 our church leadership gathered to discuss what felt like an uncertain future for our finances. The conversation was marked by honesty, care, and a shared concern about how we might sustain the ministry God has called us to in the face of limited resources.

However, in what could only be described as a divine turnaround, God showed us that His plans always surpass our understanding. In the literal final hours of our need to make serious decisions about the financial viability of our church, not one but two generous gifts came to us, filling us with immense gratitude and relief. The first was a grant from the United Church of Christ's Strengthen the Church fund, which was awarded in recognition of the meaningful work happening here at Kailua Christian Church. The second was an unexpected blessing from the Wendy Tamashiro Trust, a beautiful testament to the legacy of love and generosity that continues to nourish our ministry. Wendy Tamashiro, a founding member of our church, was an essential part of the fabric of building our community's character. Her deep commitment to this congregation and her enduring spirit of giving have left an indelible mark, shaping the heart of who we are today.

While we can breathe a little easier knowing these gifts will help sustain us in the months ahead, we remain aware that we are not out of the woods yet. God's provision has been clear, but so too is His expectation that we continue to steward these blessings with integrity and remain focused on the work He has set before us. These gifts are not just resources to sustain our current ministries—they are tools to grow and strengthen our mission as we step boldly into 2025.

Proverbs reminds us that our plans, while necessary, often pale in comparison to the greater purpose God has in store. It is both ironic and deeply biblical that just as we were grappling with uncertainty, carefully strategizing our next steps, God's provision arrived in a way we could never have anticipated. This serves as a humbling reminder that while we plan, it is God who directs our path. As we celebrate this unexpected change in fortune, let us embrace the unexpected nature of our situation as a call to deepen our faith. May we recommit ourselves to being vigilant and faithful stewards, always seeking God's wisdom in every decision we make.

As we look ahead to 2025, I pray for blessings upon our community and its ministries. May we remain hopeful, trusting in God's faithfulness, and ever watchful for the ways His Spirit continues to work in and through our church.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Irene



PRAYERS & PRAISES



Please keep in your prayers

- ~ Julia and her family, Lori’s friend who has cancer
 - ~ Stan & Chris Higa as they deal with Stan’s health concerns. Prayers for healing.
 - ~ Terumi and Rev. Howard Yoshida
 - ~ Nathan Kohashi ~ Jean Kanazawa
 - ~ John Mendenhall ~ Joy, needs a heart & Kidney
 - ~ Claire Steele ~ Harrison Lum ~ Pie Pie’s healing
 - ~ Gary & Susan Morita ~ John Mendenhall
 - ~ Mai’s mom w/cancer & father w/ dementia
 - ~ June’s relative Carson who died in car accident ~ Jennie Lee’s surgery
 - ~ Noe’s daughter, 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 ~ Saeko Yoshida
 - ~ Heather, Jake, & family for healing
 - ~ Dean’s friends, Gary & Greg’s recoveries
 - ~ Kathy Warner ~ Dee Willis (Stroke)
 - ~ Sharon Nishihira ~ Steve Hammann
 - ~ Larry & Sandra Siu ~ Dennis Jinnohara
 - ~ Lisa battling cancer ~ Duane Miyashiro
 - ~ Winchell & Lily Lee ~ Richard Texiera
 - ~ Bobby Morris ~ Yeda Ohana
 - ~ Noah & Mele and Mya ~ Barney Pilla
 - ~ Jean Miyaji, Alice Esaki, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Harry Imai, Carl Nemoto, Dot Suzuki, Sharon Mon, and all our high risked families
- Praises for Sean’s healing from cancer and clearance to go back to work.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- Jean Kanazawa
- Roman Pangilinan
- Lucy & Miley Khem
- Judy Yoshioka
- Susan Stewart
- Hazel Masuda
- Randy Imai
- Terry & Joan Gerber
- Robert & Mona Maeshiro
- Nathan Nemoto
- Jo Ann Komori
- Mary Watanabe
- Nathan Ching



MODERATOR’S NOTES

The Institute for Human Services (IHS) is a partner in ministry with Kailua Christian Church (KCC). Pastor Irene goes there regularly on Fridays to provide chaplain services to the people there. We are invited to join Pastor Irene on these visits. Our summer interns found their work at IHS to be the most meaningful and fulfilling thing they did this past summer. Connie Mitchell, our former pastoral associate at KCC, has been the Executive Director of IHS for several decades now and is doing a great job. This is a wonderful and meaningful ministry that is making a difference in our brothers and sisters lives on Oahu.

We just received the IHS year-end report which included a great quote from the founder of the IHS, (initially called The Peanut Butter Ministry) Fr. Claude DuTeil, 1983:

“Somebody has to step in and surround each [individual] with warmth, so that he or she can become a different kind of person.”

IHS reports that the following has been accomplished through donations and hard work:

- Prevented 743 individuals from becoming homeless
- Served 284,278 meals for guests and unsheltered neighbors
- Equipped 790 individuals for jobs
- Provided 202 individuals with a fresh start with mental health treatment
- Provided shelter for 1,804 individuals
- Reunited 110 individuals with Family

Congratulations to Connie and her team. Let’s continue to support this ministry with our prayers and participation and our money.



Thanksgiving Day walk fundraiser for IHS. Grable family represents KCC and participates in this Manoa event.

TRUSTEES NOTES

Members and Friends of KCC,

Happy New Year! May God bless you and your family with prosperity, good health, and happiness in the New Year. May the love, joy and laughter you experienced during the holiday season extend into the New Year.

Status of KCC Finances as of November 2024:

Income: \$125,529.42

Expenses: \$214,587.86

As the financial status shows, Expenses exceed Income by \$89,058.44. To date in 2024, KCC has been operating at an average monthly deficit of \$8,096.22. As of November 30th, KCC has \$97,952.94 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 \$96,218.02. Therefore, if we continue with the monthly deficit, KCC's resources will be depleted in approximately twelve months, November 2025. In efforts to reduce the deficit and extend KCC's longevity, the Trustees prepared the 2025 Budget which included substantial budget cuts (e.g., reducing the number of hours for the Administrative Assistance position, deleting the medical/dental benefits, terminating the Janitorial and Yard service agreements, reducing the Board/Committee budgets), but efforts were made to minimize the impacts on KCC church operations. The 2025 Budget was presented to and approved by the Congregation at the annual Congregation Meeting which was held on December 15, 2024. The monthly deficit was reduced to \$4,250.

Friendly Reminders:

Pledge cards for 2025 were mailed to you in November. We ask for your support in completing the pledge cards and mailing them back to KCC at your earliest convenience. As you may know, the primary source of income for KCC is from tithes and offerings. We

always appreciate your generosity.

Also, you received the Time and Talent forms in the mail, and we ask for your support by completing the form, identifying the areas where you could provide volunteer services. Your service and dedication to KCC are always appreciated.

Big Mahalos:

Thanks to the generous donations from Lynne Nakano and Susan Morita, KCC was able to purchase a laptop computer for the Zoom Audiovisual System and a desktop computer for the Administrative Assistant.

With donations from John Sakamoto and Myra Yamada, KCC was able to purchase a new lawn mower.

Barney Pilla, Florence Miyashiro and Myra Yamada continue to provide voluntary support in watering the plants, trees, and lawn areas.

Susan Morita, Maureen Wakuzawa, and Katelyn and Reyn Akamine for cleaning the office and sanctuary.

Harvey Lee for cleaning the restrooms and watering and caring for the plants and trees in the back of Classrooms 1&2 and 3&4, and Transitional Housing.

Dennis Fong for providing handyman services by taking care of minor repairs, maintenance and improvements to the facilities.

Kammy Grable and Reggie Yamada for mowing and weed whacking the lawn areas.

We are indeed blessed and grateful to have such a dedicated and caring community as KCC.

God Bless You All!
Trustees



Dear Kailua Christian Church Ohana,

Special People, Special Times

As part of our commitment to being responsible stewards of our financial resources, church leadership has made the decision to eliminate paper bulletins. While the cost of printing bulletins is relatively minor, this change reflects our broader efforts to focus resources on what matters most.

Our in-person services use a digital bulletin displayed on the sanctuary screens via Google Slides, ensuring a seamless worship experience for those able to attend in person or online. Additionally, one of our major financial decisions this year was to reduce our office administrator’s hours. By eliminating paper bulletins, we can streamline her workload and free her to focus on other important responsibilities.

We understand this change may be an inconvenience for some and sincerely apologize. Please know that our homebound members who cannot worship online or in person remain cherished members of our ohana. They will continue to receive a full sermon transcript weekly and the monthly church newsletter, as well as regular visits from our deacons, members, and friends. The sermon transcripts assure that our hearing impaired and homebound members remain attuned to the weekly spiritual direction of the wider congregation, and the monthly church newsletter assures that everyone remains updated on the joys and concerns of our community experiences.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate these adjustments with faith and care for our church community.

Blessings,

Pastor Irene



SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

January

01 - New Year's Day Holiday

05 - Communion Sunday

**No King's Company during worship.
Sanctuary redesign following worship.**

06 - Yoga class resumes 5:30 p.m. Rm 3

19 - Deacon's Meeting following worship

20 - Martin Luther King Day

22 - Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

25 - Na Anela Support Group, guest speaker, Rev. Gwen Kirkland will share her journey w/ cancer and being an advocate for the Proton Beam Therapy here in Hawaii.

Thursday mornings Bible Study at the Plaza in Kaneohe, 9:30 a.m. see Pastor.



Congratulations to delighted Grandparents, Colette and Aaron and proud parents, Marie and Phil on the birth of their son, Daniel who was born on Dec. 16th.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Keelyn Higashi | Dot Suzuki |
| Milla Higashi | Barney Pilla |
| Kyle Nakamoto | Debbie Fong |
| Mildred T. Sakamoto | Kamalu Miller |
| Reggie Yamada | Keith Schultz |
| Jonathan Fong | Florence Myashiro |
| Mark Kanazawa | Marisa Yamada |
| Andrew Wakuzawa | |
| Kupaa Harrison | |



Our Sanctuary redesign has begun. Mahalo to all the helpers that stayed to help after worship!



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

LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

THE INESCAPABLE GOD! Reverend (ret) Gwendolyn V. Kirkland will share her journey on being diagnosed with cancer as soon as she started her new life in Hawaii and how she became an advocate for the Proton Beam Therapy. Reverend Gwen will cover: an overview of the importance of regular dental check-ups, the impact of a cancer diagnosis, faith in the midst of crisis and becoming a researcher and advocate for your health care.

Please invite your family and friends who may benefit from Reverend Gwen’s informative presentation.

Date: Jan. 25, 2025 **Time:** 10-11:30 a.m.

(Na Anela’s 23rd anniversary)

Location: Kailua Christian Church’s sanctuary

Please sign up with Kammy (808-261-0125; kailuacch@gmail.com) or Myra Yamada (808-348-2297; yamadamyra@hawaii.rr.com).

Light refreshments will be available. Food donations are welcomed!

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.

January – March 2025 classes can be found at: <https://www.stfrancishawaii.org/classes>. Register directly online. **For questions, please contact the Call Center (808) 547-6500.**

2025 Free Individual Classes:

1/10/25, 2/14/25, 3/14/25: Fri, 10 – 11:30 am; Hands-on Bathing for the Family Caregivers (in-person)

2025 Free Weekly Classes:

1/7, 1/21, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18: Tue, 9 – 10 am; **Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi** (Zoom)
1/8 – 1/31, 2/3 – 2/28 & 3/2 – 3/31: M/W/F, 5:15 – 6:15 pm; **Zumba with Francis** (Zoom)
1/11 – 1/25, 2/8 – 2/22 & 3/8 – 3/22: Sat, 8 – 9 am; **Zumba Gold by Francis** (Zoom)

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.

Please participate in a variety of “Wellness” 2025 classes to enhance your health journey. God Bless you all, Myra

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NOTE

As of Thursday, January 2, 2025 the church office hours are officially Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our office secretary, Kammy Grable will only be working on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. For non-emergencies, office needs, we can assist you best by contacting us during these hours. Pastor Irene will also be in the office on Tues. and Weds. and will be available to help you during these times if you need assistance. In case of an emergency please call your deacons or the KCC Office – (808) 261-0125.



MAHALO for your understanding and adjustment to these changes.

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

Special thanks to the following KCC family members who donated the beautiful poinsettia plants that decorate our sanctuary and invited our loved ones and friends to be a special part of this holiday season with us. May it remind us of those who are honored and cherished for the persons that they were and are in our lives today.

In Honor & In Memory of

Mrs. Mildred Sakamoto

With love from her husband, John Sakamoto

Mr. Richard Miyashiro & Cheryl Miyashiro

With love from Florence Miyashiro

Mr. Mutt Oda

With love from his wife, Natsuko Oda

**Mr. Jiggs Tamashiro
Pastor Warren Nakano
& Mr. Walter Yeda**

*With warm regards,
Reggie & Myra Yamada*

Mr & Mrs. Munehisa & Aiko Arashiro

With love from daughters, Aileen and Sandra

**Mr. Herbert & Mrs. Nora Chun
Zeilyn Zakahi**

With warm regards, Dennis & Debbie Fong

**Mrs. Evelyn Austin
Grandpa & Grandma Morita
Grandpa & Grandma Nishida**

With love from Gary & Susan Morita

Mr. Jordan Kagehiro

*With warm aloha, your friends
Matt & Pie Pie Wong*

Mahalo to Annie Sagawa for donating the beautiful floral centerpiece for the services in the months of Nov. and Dec. and for Gary & Susan Morita also donating the beautiful flowers to add to the holiday décor. Mahalo to Myra & Reggie Yamada for graciously adopting these beautiful floral centerpieces throughout the week and bringing them back each Sunday morning so beautifully cared for.

