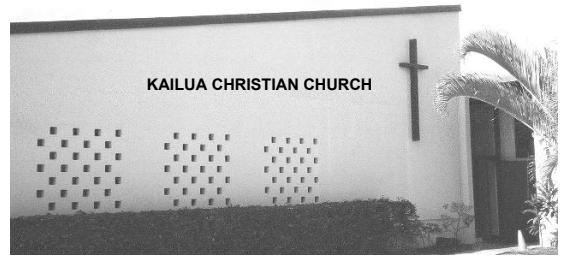


# Waves of Faith

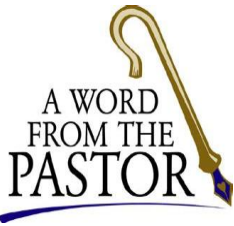
Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)  
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211  
Chartered 1959 –



FEBRUARY 2025

Volume 40

Issue 02



## Abide in the Vine: Church Retreat March 14-16

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” – John 15:5

Each of us has been given unique spiritual gifts—talents and callings shaped by God to serve His Church and bring His Kingdom closer to this world. But like branches on a vine, our gifts are most powerful when they are connected, growing together, and centered on Christ. That’s why we’re inviting everyone to our upcoming Church Retreat, happening March 14-16, both in person and over Zoom!

This retreat is for everyone—whether you already know your spiritual gifts or are just beginning to explore how God is calling you. Together, we’ll learn more about where God has been leading us individually and how we can weave our gifts together to strengthen our church’s ministry and service.

### What’s happening at the retreat?

**Friday Night: All About You (1 Corinthians 12:7)** – Through engaging activities, we’ll reflect on how God has been shaping our spiritual gifts throughout our lives. What has God already been doing in you? How has He been preparing you for this moment? Who has God made you to be?

**Saturday Morning: All About Church (Acts 2:42)** – Rev. David Baumgart Turner will lead us in "*Camp Games for the Common Good*," a playful yet profound way to experience how our gifts can work in harmony for God’s purposes.

**Saturday Afternoon: All About Jesus (John 15:5):** – We will discover together the ultimate purpose of understanding our spiritual gifts and bringing them together, which is to bring glory to Jesus, the Son of God. So – who is Jesus and why is He our center? Attend to find out more!

**Sunday Morning: All About The UCC** – Curious about how our denomination works and what its history entails in Hawaii? You’d be surprised about the dynamic story the UCC has in our islands! Join us before church to learn more.

**Sunday Afternoon: Spiritual Engagement with Young Adult Programs** – We are honored to welcome Danielle Hickman, Minister of Volunteer Engagement from the UCC’s National Office, who will equip us spiritually for our upcoming Service Learning Program. Her guidance will help us step into service with confidence, faith, and a deep sense of purpose.

This retreat is about more than just personal reflection—it’s about growing as a church family and recognizing that the work we do together is some of the most important work in the world. Through our shared gifts, we bear the fruits of the Spirit, and through our faithfulness, we help bring God’s Kingdom closer.

### Can’t attend in person? Join us on Zoom!


We want everyone to be part of this experience, whether near or far, at whatever physical ability level. All sessions will be available via Zoom, and we will provide digital materials to ensure our remote participants feel included. You can even cheer on your church 'ohana as they take part in the fun (and sometimes silly) activities!

This is a weekend to grow, connect, and be inspired. We hope you’ll prioritize this time together. Let’s abide in the Vine, discover the fruit

God is growing in us, and step forward in faith as one Church.

 **Mark your calendars: March 14-16.**

 **Join us in person or via Zoom!**

 **Come ready to be equipped, encouraged, and united in Christ.**

We can't wait to see you there!

In His Service,

Pastor Irene

Suggested Donation:  
\$50/person

# Church Retreat

Friday, March 14-Sunday, March 16

RSVP:  
kailuacch@gmail.com  
808-261-0125

Games, Food,  
Community,  
Jesus and  
Spiritual Growth

**Schedule:**

**Friday: All About You**  
6pm - 9pm

**Saturday: All About The Church**  
9am-12pm

**Saturday: All About Jesus**  
3pm-6pm

**Sunday: Worship**  
10am

**Sunday: Spiritual Formation with  
Young Adult Programs**  
11:30am-2:30pm

## Special Guest Speakers



**Rev. David Baumgart Turner**  
Church of the Crossroads

Saturday, March 15  
9:30am

Camp Games for the  
Common Good

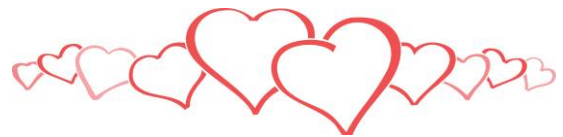


**Danielle Hickman**  
UCC Minister for Volunteer Engagement

Sunday, March 16

Spiritual Engagement with  
Young Adult Ministries  
11:30am

Best Practices of Service  
Learning Community Support  
1:00pm



### ANOTHER IMPORTANT EVENT

# Congregational Meeting

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
following worship as we update the 2025  
Budget and accept the 2024 Annual Report.

**DEACONS CORNER**

## John Wesley's 22 Questions

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?” - Luke 6:41

How easy it is to see the flaws of other people, while at the same time be blind to our own faults. A friend of mine recently introduced me to John Wesley's 22 questions as a method of self-reflection. Nearly 300 years ago John Wesley (considered to be the founder of the Methodist movement) and his brother Charles started a small group that met regularly for prayer, bible study, and discipleship. They developed a systemic approach to foster discipleship that had members asking themselves 22 questions daily to examine their own lives. The idea was to help them be spiritually accountable and encourage growth in their commitment to Christ.

After 300 years, these 22 questions are still relevant. Take a look at them and perhaps select a few to focus on that you think would be helpful to strengthen your spiritual condition. Ask yourself those selected questions regularly. How might this kind of honest examination of your spiritual life cause you to reflect on your behavior, attitude, and sincerity of your faith? Sharpen your commitment to Christ? You might be surprised at what you discover about yourself. As you go through these questions just remember that this is a tool not to condemn but for introspection and inspiration.

1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?
2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
4. Can I be trusted?
5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?

6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
7. Did the Bible live in me today?
8. Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
9. Am I enjoying prayer?
10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
11. Do I pray about the money I spend?
12. Do I get to be on time and get up on time?
13. Do I disobey God in anything?
14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?
16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
17. How do I spend my spare time?
18. Am I proud?
19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?
22. Is Christ real to me?

Blessings,  
Debbie



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY  
**BEGOTTEN SON**  
THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.  
•• For God ••  
DID NOT SEND THE SON  
INTO THE WORLD TO JUDGE THE WORLD  
BUT THAT THE WORLD SHOULD BE  
**S★A★V★E★D**  
THROUGH HIM  
John 3:16-17



**PRAYERS & PRAISES**



**Please keep in your prayers**

- ~ Lia and Curtis Lau
- ~ Stan Higa and Chris Higa
- ~ Julia who has cancer. ~ Akiko Nakamura
- ~ Sandy whose husband and her sister who died within a day of each other.
- ~ The Yamauchi family on the loss of daughter Ann. Prayers covered for Roy, Sharlene, Julia, Lillian and Ann’s husband.
- ~ Terumi and Rev. Howard Yoshida
- ~ Nathan Kohashi ~ Jean Kanazawa
- ~ Claire Steele ~ Harrison Lum
- ~ Pie Pie Wong ~ Nakashima Ohana
- ~ Gary & Susan Morita ~ Jennie Lee
- ~ Mai’s mom w/cancer & father w/ dementia
- ~ Saeko Yoshida ~ Joy, (2<sup>nd</sup> heart attack)
- ~ Noe’s daughter, Paige going back to school
- ~ Bill Cunningham ~ Joel & Stacey Vega
- ~ Joe w/ brain tumor, cancer & Sue w/ cancer
- ~ John Sakamoto’s son in law, Tony.
- ~ Myrtle & Lowell Terada ~ Kathe Warner
- ~ 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 ~ Yeda Ohana
- ~ Jean Miyaji, Alice Esaki, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Harry Imai, Carl Nemoto, Dot Suzuki, Sharon Mon, and all our high risked families

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**



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

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**



- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Mikayla Maeshiro |                 |
| Jolene Chang     |                 |
| Alan Yoneshige   |                 |
| Sam Kojiro       | Lowell Terada   |
| Maureen Wakuzawa | Winchell Lee    |
| Dean Wakuzawa    | Lynda Yoshimura |



**TRUSTEES NOTES**

Members and Friends of KCC,

Status of KCC Finances as of December 2024:

Income: \$273,744.83 (Total Budget Income)  
 Expenses: \$239,611.21 (Total Operating Expenses)

After a prolonged period of time, Income has finally exceeded Expenses. This \$34,133.62 surplus is attributed to the generous donation that KCC received from the Wendy Tamashiro estate in December. Accordingly, the Total Assets have increased to \$221,438.18. Based on the 2025 “faith-based” budget, there will be an annual deficit of \$52,000. Therefore, if we continue to have an annual deficit of about \$52,000, KCC’s resources (assets) will be depleted in approximately four (4) years. However, if the operating expenses increase (e.g., emergency repairs) or income decreases (e.g., drop in tithes and offerings), then this period will be shorted accordingly.

**Friendly Reminders:**

Pledge cards for 2025 were mailed to you in November. We ask for your continued support by 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. Pledge cards allow KCC to develop a “faith-based” budget and plan for upcoming programs and expenses throughout the year. We always appreciate your generosity.

(continued on page 5)

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.

Trustees are continuing to pursue the possibility of leasing space to tenants who are looking for a low cost, shared office space. So, if you are looking for office space to conduct your business or if you know of someone who is looking for office space in Kailua, please contact Dean Wakuzawa at email

[dean.wakuzawa@gmail.com](mailto:dean.wakuzawa@gmail.com). Your support and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

God Bless You All!

Trustees

### MISSIONS NEWS

The Christmas Fund (previously known as the Veteran's of the Cross Offering) is one of five special offerings we support as a member of the United Church of Christ family. Because KCC has its own special offering in Dec, known as the **Christmas Offering**, we have for many years acknowledged that we would like to designate supporting the (UCC) **Christmas Fund** by collecting it in Feb. and consider it as our love offering for those who have cared for us in the past when we needed their help.

*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. The mission of the Fund is to provide assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid.*

*We invite you to consider giving to this special fund that will be received on Sunday, Feb. 16 in*

*honor of Valentine's Day and sharing God's love to our friends.*

If you would like to give to this special offering, please note on your check memo for: UCC CHRISTMAS FUND or place in Blue Offering envelope with note UCC CF. MAHALO for your kind consideration.



### NA ANELA I KA HANA A KE AKUA

(Angels in the Works for God)  
Wellness Support Group

### LEARNING IS LIFELONG!

Jan. 25, 2025 (23rd anniversary for Na Anela)

“THE INESCAPABLE GOD!” Reverend (ret) Gwendolyn V. Kirkland, member of Mānoa Valley Church, shared her extraordinary faith-based journey (referencing Psalm 39), on being diagnosed with cancer after her first dental check-up in Hawaii. Conferring with medical specialists, undergoing many tests, researching on her own, and all the while praying and trusting God, led to a miraculous outcome/purpose in becoming an advocate for the Proton Beam Therapy. Reverend Gwen invited Mr. Joe Apolito, who shared his lengthy challenges in securing the Proton Beam Therapy (not available in HI) with his insurance company and successful treatment for Prostate Cancer without surgery. Both speakers synergistically provided their amazing journey for all 17 of us! Praise the Lord for their awesome team effort!! Praise the Lord for our noteworthy teamwork (attendance, AV/Zoom, set-up/clean-up, prayer/fellowship, healthy refreshments, and Mahalo baskets)!!!



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

**February – 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:**

2/14/25, 3/14/25, 4/11/25, 5/9/25: **Fri, 10 – 11:30 am**; Hands-on Bathing for Family Caregivers (in-person at Lumi Ahona I)

**2025 Free Weekly Classes:**

2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18: **Tue, 9 – 10 am**; **Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi** (Zoom)  
 2/3 – 2/28 & 3/2 – 3/31: **M/W/F, 5:15 – 6:15 pm**; **Zumba with Francis** (Zoom)  
 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](mailto: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

**MAHALO from the HCUCC**

**Contribution Report from 1/11/24-1/10/25**

- Our Church’s Wider Mission - \$2000.04**
- One Great Hour of Sharing - \$475.00**
- The Christmas Fund - \$140**
- Neighbors in Need - \$440.00**
- Strengthen the Church - \$235**

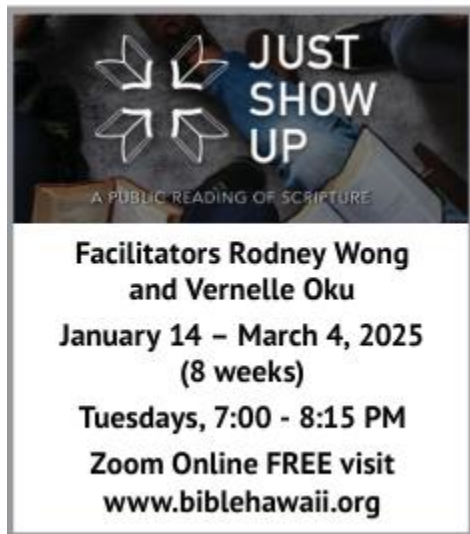
*Your congregation’s support of OCWM helps the Conference connect through the Coconut Wireless and other communication avenue, resource ministry, and missional opportunities through the five Missional Teams of the Conference, and support and embrace pastors through an annual retreat and in-time counseling.*

.....  
**St. Francis Healthcare System’s Caregiver Education and Wellness Classes**

continue to provide excellent caregiving and health/wellness classes for the community.



**BIBLE INSITUTE OF HAWAII**  
**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**



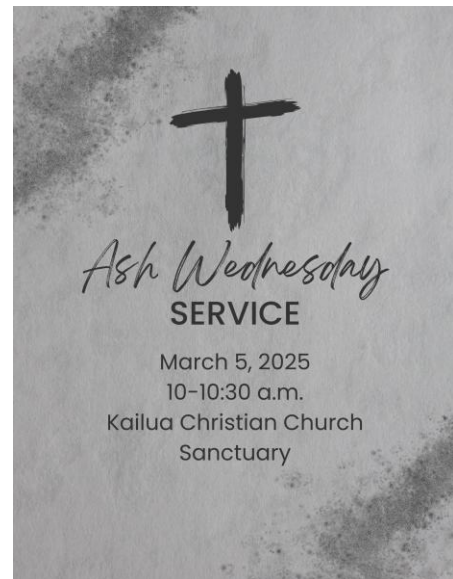
Join our friends at BIH for a weekly Public Reading of Scripture, Free – no registration required. **JUST SHOW UP!**  
**JSU ZOOM Link ID:867 0653 3981**  
**Passcode:bihjsu21**



**BIH MARRIAGE CONFERENCE 2025**  
**With Drs. Paul and Virginia Friesen**  
**At Kalihi Union Church**  
**2214 N King St. Honolulu.**  
**March 7-8 (2 days)**  
**Friday, 7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.**  
**Sat., 9:00 – 1:45 P.M. \$20 per person.**  
**(lunch Included)**

As founders of Home Improvement Ministries, the Friesens bring over 40 years of experience in family ministry to this special event. Known for their humorous, engaging, and insightful presentations, they weave personal stories with scriptural wisdom to explore God's design for marriage. This two-day event promises an enriching experience for married couples, engaged pairs, and singles alike. Mark your calendars and register now to prepare for a weekend of growth, laughter, and spiritual enrichment. Register at <https://www.biblehawaii.org>.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



Lent is a 40-day period of time leading up to Easter that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. This year Lent begins on Wed. March 5th .

The word lent comes from the old English word lencten that means lengthen - referring to the season of spring and longer daytime. The length of Lent represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his ministry. Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation of observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus and celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus.

Other important dates:

**Palm Sunday, April 13:** beginning of Holy Week. It's the Holy Day we commemorate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people celebrated with palm waving and cries of Hosanna.

**Maundy Thursday, April 17** when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with his disciples, (the Last Supper) and a new commandment was given for them to love one another as he loved them.

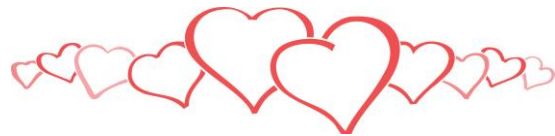
**Good Fri., April 18,** is the day Jesus died and was crucified, before rising again on Easter Sunday.

**Easter Sun., April 20th** celebrates Jesus's Ressurrection from the dead!

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 E-Mail: [kailuacch@gmail.com](mailto:kailuacch@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.kailuachristianchurch.org](http://www.kailuachristianchurch.org)  
 Rev. Irene Willis Hassan, Senior Pastor

*“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.” 1 John 4:18*

**LOVE LIKE JESUS**



**Stop Worrying and Put Your Trust in God**  
**Excerpts shared from Crosswalk article by Cindi**  
**McMenamin**

God gave us a formula in His Word to help us stop worrying

*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:6-7**, NLT).*

The very next verse tells us how to stop the worrying, so we can experience that kind of peace that comes through praying about everything:

*...Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise (**verse 8**).*

As you focus on God's goodness, God's love, and God's ability to control all that you cannot, there is no room in your mind for fear or worry.

Trust Him. He can control all you think you must and all you are convinced you can't. And He knows exactly what He's doing in your child's life – and yours.

**BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER**  
*Group*  
**THURSDAYS 9:30-10:30AM**  
 IN THE **ACTIVITY ROOM**  
 WITH **PASTOR**  
*Irene*  
 THE PLAZA AT KANEOHE  
 46-068 ALALOA ST  
 KANEOHE, HI 96744

If you plan to attend, please call the church office for any changes that may occur for that week.  
 Mahalo.