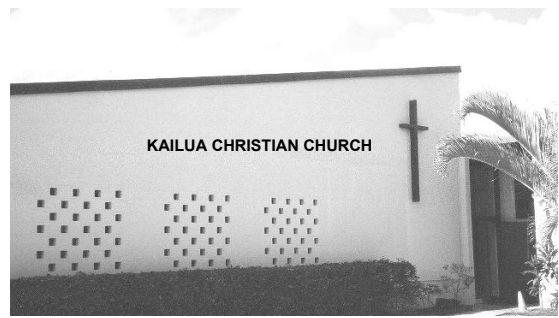


# Waves of Faith

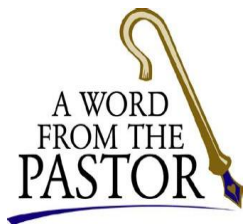
Kailua Christian Church (United Church of Christ)  
317 Manono Street, Kailua, HI 96734-2211  
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MARCH 2025

Volume 40

Issue 03



**“Be Still and know that I am God.” -Psalm 46:10**

In the city of New Orleans, the days leading up to Lent (representing the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert, fasting and resisting temptation from the Devil) are filled with the excitement of Mardi Gras—music, parades, dancing, and a city-wide celebration that seems to have no end. But then, as Ash Wednesday arrives, everything stops. The streets empty. The music fades. The city, once overflowing with life, becomes eerily quiet. Tourists to New Orleans will find a rude awakening if they wake up Wednesday morning expecting the same revelry as Tuesday night.

This sudden stillness isn't accidental—it's intentional. It is a reminder that no matter how much joy we experience, how much success we achieve, or how full our lives may seem, all of it is temporary. One day, we will all return to dust, and none of our ambition or busyness will come with us. This is why Lent calls us to pause.

Our lives today are packed with appointments, responsibilities, and worries. We run from one thing to the next, often measuring our worth by what we accomplish. But if we never stop to reflect, to pray, to sit in God's presence, then we risk losing sight of what truly matters. Jesus reminds us that we cannot live on ambition and activity alone. We need something deeper—something lasting.

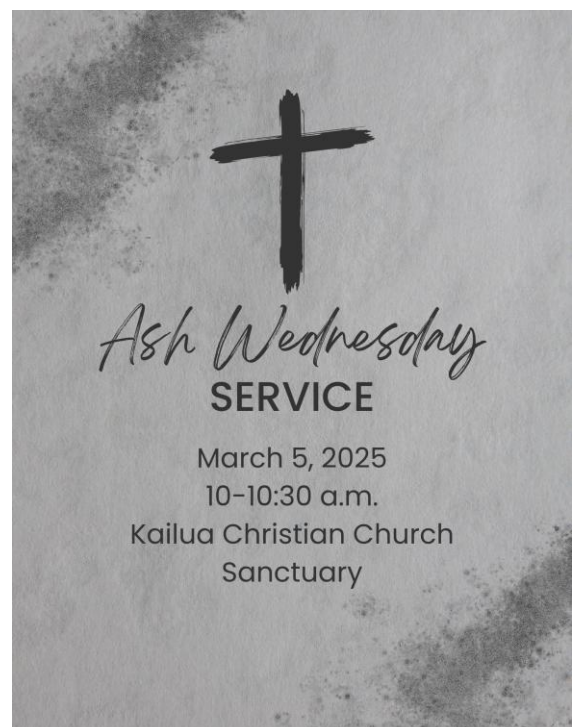
Lent is our invitation to that deeper life. It is a season to quiet the noise, to step away from distractions, and to remember that our worth isn't found in what we do, but in who we are in God's love. So, as we journey through this season, may we

embrace the stillness, knowing that in the quiet, we find God.

In the spirit of Jesus' call to stillness and prayer, we invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service, Wed. March 5th at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Come as you are—bringing your burdens, your worries, and the weight of all you carry. For just a moment, step away from the noise of life and rest in God's presence. In this time of reflection, we remember that we are dust, yet we are also deeply loved. And in the end, it is God's love—not our achievements, not our busyness—that will remain after everything else fades away.

In His Service,

Rev. Irene Willis Hassan





## 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

**MODERATOR'S NEWS**

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the Moderator of KCC for the past four-plus years. As of the end of February 2025, I have stepped down from this position.

I was asked in the fall of 2020 to step into this role starting in January of 2021. This was during the middle of the pandemic, and just after the KCC Pastoral Search Committee had finally called Dale Vallejo-Sanderson to be our Settled Pastor. We were full of hope that the pandemic would recede quickly and that we could get back to worshipping and serving and doing ministry together again. That Moderator term was supposed to be for two years.

At that time, we had been without a Settled Pastor for 5 1/2 years and we were still doing church exclusively via Zoom because of our health concerns. I thought that it was remarkable that we were able to call Pastor Dale during a time when all churches were struggling, and some were shuttered, and many people were dying from Covid.

Following Dale's departure for personal reasons in 2022, we formed another Pastoral Search Committee and called Pastor Irene Willis Hassan in July of 2023. Under Pastor Irene's leadership we have been able to worship together via Zoom and in person and we are adding a much younger group of people to our congregation. Pastor Irene's example and message and mission emphasis on Jesus calling to us to be transformed by faith into his family and into his image is very hopeful and encouraging.

Before Pastor Irene came, I signed up for another two-year term as moderator from 2023-2024. Last fall I was asked again to serve a third two-year term as Moderator and initially agreed to do so. I have recently decided, however, to step down and out of the leadership of KCC for a while. The primary reason for this is that I am somewhat frustrated with our over emphasis on fund raising and cost savings to protect our assets and the lack of emphasis on missions and ministry. The often-stated assumption that KCC is a "dying church"

**Special Guest Speakers**

 <p><b>Rev. David Baumgart Turner</b> Church of the Crossroads</p> <p>Saturday, March 15 9:30am</p> <p>Camp Games for the Common Good</p>	 <p><b>Danielle Hickman</b> UCC Minister for Volunteer Engagement</p> <p>Sunday, March 16</p> <p>Spiritual Engagement with Young Adult Ministries 11:30am</p> <p>Best Practices of Service Learning Community Support 1:00pm</p>
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There are no fees to attend the event but registration is required to help with food preparations and set up. Please email or call the office with your detailed information especially if you are only able to attend selected events or need childcare. Mahalo.



does not help. I had not thought that KCC was a “dying church” and don’t think that description is accurate or helpful today. KCC has had a lot of setbacks, but we appear to be a faithful church that genuinely loves each other and wants to worship and honor God and serve our community and to spread the good news to others.

During my membership at KCC over the past 39 years we have always been concerned about budgeting too many expenses and not enough income. Up until recently we have done so with what we have called a “faith-based budget” where our anticipated income is significantly less than our anticipated expenses. Over the years we have found that almost no matter what we put into the budget, it almost always balances, and we usually have a surplus. The chart below tracks the gross income and total expenses over the last 15 years which were extracted from our Annual Reports. I believe the figures are accurate. The impression that I get from these figures is that KCC is not a dying church but is and has been consistently quite healthy financially.

KCC Gross Annual Income & Total Expenses (2010 - 2024)

Year	Gross Income	Total Expenses	Difference
2010	\$244,679.65	\$272,488.81	(\$27,809.16)
2011	\$244,966.68	\$255,561.74	(\$10,595.06)
2012	\$263,954.04	\$248,104.22	\$15,849.82
2013	\$281,270.24	\$278,248.84	\$ 3,021.40
2014	\$254,977.72	\$236,552.89	\$18,424.83
2015	\$231,354.87	\$211,335.25	\$20,019.62
2016	\$193,785.57	\$212,804.52	(\$19,018.95)
2017	\$202,210.89	\$154,045.67	\$48,165.22
2018	\$171,837.03	\$142,733.46	\$29,103.57
2019	\$156,763.46	\$161,866.21	(\$ 5,102.75)
2020	\$153,921.03	\$154,236.64	(\$ 315.61)
2021	\$223,474.77	\$231,689.42	(\$ 8,214.65)
2022	\$165,134.97	\$166,199.68	(\$ 1,064.71)
2023	\$160,055.95	\$210,384.82	(\$50,328.87)
2024	\$307,817.94	\$259,187.67	<u>\$48,630.27</u>
<b>Balance</b>			<b>\$ 60,764.97</b>

The KCC average annual income over the past 15 years has been \$217,080 and the average annual expenses over the same time was \$213,029. This financial picture looks pretty good to me. KCC has become a smaller church recently, but it has a lot

of growth potential.

Whether we have had fulltime settled pastors, or interim pastors, or no pastor, and whether we have had difficulties or good times, KCC has continued to be a faithful community of believers who strive to serve our Lord and each other and minister to our community. As a former moderator and leader of KCC, I plan to continue to diligently support KCC and this congregation and the current leadership of this loving church.

Love, Aloha and Agape, Paul



DEACONS CORNER



When Preaching on the Ten Commandments, preachers like to remind listeners that “God didn’t give us ten suggestions; He gave us Ten Commandments”. It’s easy to read the English text of the Bible without realizing the imperative, or command, mode of some verses.

Take I Thessalonians 5:16-18 where three exhortations are given: “Rejoice...pray...give thanks.” We could read these as suggestions, even exhortations, and miss the fact that in the Greek language they are imperative commands. Paul even drives that point home by saying, “this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Rejoicing always, praying continually, and giving thanks in everything are God’s will for His people. “Why?” we might ask. Because we trust that God is watching over our lives continually; that whatever happens comes through the filter of His will-His goodness and love. Even if things are difficult, we can trust Him.

Make 2025 a year of rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks, all the time, in everything! This is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Together in Christ,  
 Florence Miyashiro, Deacon

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Mikayla Maeshiro  
 Jolene Chang  
 Alan Yoneshige  
 Sam Kojiro  
 Maureen Wakuzawa  
 Dean Wakuzawa

Lowell Terada  
 Winchell Lee  
 Lynda Yoshimura



~ Jean Miyaji, Alice Esaki, Nani Oda, Nancy Arakaki, Harry Imai, Carl Nemoto, Dot Suzuki, Sharon Mon, and all our high risked families  
 ~ Congratulations to Mia Watanabe for receiving rookie of the year award at work. Great Job!

Condolences to Pastor Chris Eng's family on the passing of his mother in law, Michiko Shimose.

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Jonathan Martinez  
 Miki Vilorio  
 Vernon Pang  
 Larry Takumi  
 Michael Sakaba  
 Kammy Grable

Madison Maeshiro  
 Jennie Lee  
 Emily Pang



**TRUSTEES NOTES**

Members and Friends of KCC,

Status of KCC Finances as of January 2025:

Income: \$ 12,295.00 (Total Budget Income)

Expenses: \$ 13,207.61 (Total Operating Expenses)

As you may have noticed, the income and expenses are low in comparison to the previous monthly financial status. It is because we are starting a new fiscal year. So, we look forward to this year with faith, hope and prayer that we will be able to balance our budget and/or minimize the deficit.

As the financial status shows, Expenses exceed Income by \$912.67. At the start of this fiscal year, KCC has \$221,438.18 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 are \$190,354.05.

**2025 Budget:**

The 2025 Budget was approved by the Congregation at the annual Congregation meeting which was held on December 15, 2024. However, due to comments received, the 2025 Budget was revised and presented to and approved by the Congregation at a special meeting held on February 23, 2025.

Based on this "faith-based" budget, there will be an annual deficit of \$85,354.

**Maintenance/Repair Projects:**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Lowell & Myrtle Terada  
 Dr. Cary & Karen Miyahira



**PRAYERS & PRAISES**

**Please keep in your prayers**

- ~ John Sakamoto's son in law, Tony & daughter Coreen
- ~ Stan Higa and Chris Higa
- ~ Julia who has cancer
- ~ Dot's friend's husband Bozo w/ health issues
- ~ The Yamauchi's loss of daughter, Ann
- ~ Maureen's (b-i-l) Lane having heart surgery
- ~ Deanne Ogasawara's shoulder surgery.
- ~ Terumi and Rev. Howard Yoshida
- ~ Nathan Kohashi
- ~ Claire Steele
- ~ Pie Pie Wong
- ~ Gary & Susan Morita
- ~ Mai's mom w/cancer & father w/ dementia
- ~ Saeko Yoshida
- ~ KCC Neighbor Alissa with dogs, moving.
- ~ Bill Cunningham
- ~ Joe w/ brain tumor, cancer & Sue w/ cancer
- ~ Myrtle & Lowell Terada
- ~ Heather, Jake, & family for healing
- ~ Dean's friends, Gary & Greg's recoveries
- ~ Sharon Nishihira
- ~ Larry & Sandra Siu
- ~ Lisa battling cancer
- ~ Winchell & Lily Lee
- ~ Dave Knight
- ~ Lia & Curtis Lau
- ~ Jennifer Lee
- ~ Jean Kanazawa
- ~ Harrison Lum
- ~ Jennifer Lee
- ~ Joy, (2<sup>nd</sup> heart attack
- ~ Joel & Stacey Vega
- ~ Kathe Warner
- ~ Steve Hammann
- ~ Dennis Jinnohara
- ~ Duane Miyashiro
- ~ Richard Texiera



We are currently working on improvements to the Sanctuary by replacing the lighting system controls, upgrading the audio/sound system and repairing the altar curtain including the removal of the wall-mounted, motorized projector screen.

Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets:

Although the outcome was less than anticipated, we remain grateful to those that submitted pledge cards and time and talent sheets. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

God Bless You All!  
Trustees

**MISSIONS NEWS**

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is a vital special offering of the United Church of Christ. This



Lenten initiative provides support for disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

Now more than ever your help is needed to respond to the immediate needs around the world. Please consider supporting this offering that we will receive in March during the season of Lent. For more information, go to

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>.

When writing a check please note: OGHS on memo line. Mahalo for your generous support.



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

**LEARNING IS LIFELONG!**

**March 22 (4th Sat) , 2025**

**CPR/AED Refresher**

**May 25 (4th Sat) – CPR/AED Refresher – Joel Acevedo, 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 thankful that KCC, through John Sakamoto's generosity, is equipped with a Zilo CPR/AED equipment and annual training.

Please invite a friend/relative who wants to learn how to save a life!

**Future Na Anela Dates to mark on your calendar!**

May 24: Caroline Hamatake, MPH, RDN, LD – Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) Diet

July 26: Chef Dan Swift – Healthy Cooking, Windward CC Uala Leaf Cafe

Sep 27: To be Determined (TBD)

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

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**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.**

**March – June 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:**

3/14/25, 4/11/25, 5/9/25, 6/13/25: **Fri, 10 – 11:30 am**; Hands-on Bathing for Family Caregivers (in-person at Lumi Ahona I)

**2025 Free Weekly Classes:**

3/4, 3/18: 4/1/25, 4/15/25: **Tue, 9 – 10 am**; **Body and Brain Yoga Tai Chi** (Zoom)  
3/3 – 3/31, 4/2 – 4/30: **M/W/F, 5:15 – 6:15 pm**; **Zumba with Francis** (Zoom)  
3/8 – 3/22, 4/5 – 4/26: **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 [yamadamya@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, Mahalo, Myra**



**LENT & EASTER**

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.

**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** is when Christians commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and also 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 Resurrection from the dead! New life in Christ!



**New study on Isaiah will begin on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.**

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



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

**NEWS REGARDING OLD FRIENDS**

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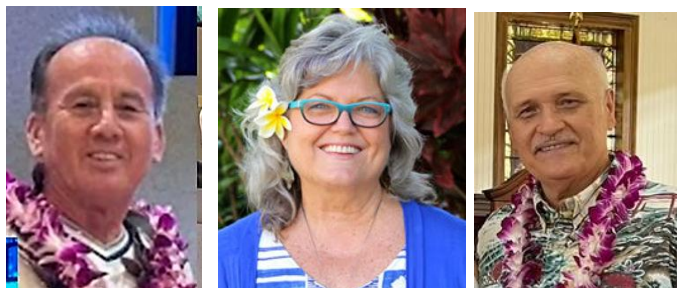
Pastoral Transitions –

**Pastor Darren Galindo** retired from his ministry as pastor and teacher of UCC Judd Street. He conducted his last worship service on Christmas Day 2024. KCC was honored to work closely with Pastor Darren when he was pastor at Windward UCC which is now better known as Central Union Windward.

**Rev. Lauren Buck Medeiros** was called by Iao United Church of Christ on Maui to be their settled pastor and teacher. She began her ministry on Jan. 1, 2025. We will miss her dearly.

**Rev. N.Stan Hankins** ended his ministry as settled pastor of Waioli Hui’ia Church as of Feb. 2. Pastor Stan has been a fulltime evangelist of Ambassadors For Christ International USA.

We wish the best for our special friends who have blessed us with their ministries here at KCC throughout their many years of service. We also pray God’s blessing on them however He will use them going forward.



**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

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

King’s Company – Jr. Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. through last Sun. of each month.  
Children stay in service on Communion Sun.

Official E-Mail for KCC & Office is  
[kailuacch@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. night via Zoom. Please keep participants in your prayers during this time.

Deacons Meeting normally held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. after Service.

**Church Office hours are  
Monday through Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Ph: 808-261-0125**

**Church secretary is available in the office on Monday, Thursday, and Fridays. Please call the office before visiting. Mahalo.**

