

Wally's Window

By Pastor Wally Ryan Kuroiwa, Transitional Pastor

It's true confessions time. Throughout my fifty plus years of ministry, I have always looked at the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas with mixed feelings. Although I experience the same giddy excitement and anticipation most people do, I must confess that my innards churn as I consider all the work and busy-ness that this season creates for us ministers. I suspect I am not alone. Special services to plan and coordinate, end of the year reports to finish, and the hundred and one details to which I have to attend, add to the regular schedule of activities and meetings that fill my calendar. I don't say this to elicit sympathy, but just to confess I sometimes feel it's a time to endure and get through, not to enjoy. I feel cheated that I can't exult in the wonder of the holy nativity, God-in-flesh coming to us. Rather, I feel a great sense of relief when I get off the plane in Phoenix, satisfied that I got through another Christmas.

As I said, I suspect I am not alone among my clergy colleagues in this regard. But this sense of ambivalence does not reside solely among clergy. Many people have suffered significant loss recently. A loved one's passing, broken relationships suffered, financial setbacks, and the many other kind of significant losses that make a "holly, jolly Christmas" impossible. In previous years, I have held Blue Christmas services to help persons in these very situations celebrate the season in quiet, pensive ways.

Perhaps you know someone who is going through difficult times such as this. Why not be an angel of God, bringing the "good news of great joy, which shall be to all people." Reach out with a card. Meet them for coffee. Treat them for lunch. Even a phone call would mean a lot. In doing so, you become an instrument of God's grace and love.





Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

1st Sunday of the month:

9:00 a.m. Communion Service

2019 Contributions



Just a reminder....in order for contributions to be credited for the 2019 tax year, they must be either mailed to the church with a USPS postmark not later than December 31,

2019 or received by the church office before 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

Contributions received after that will be credited to 2020.

Annual Meeting Agenda Items

By Laurie Hamano, Moderator

The Council has tentatively set January 26, 2020, as the date for the NCC Annual Congregational meeting. Prior to this date, the Council intends to mail a Notice of Meeting to the membership. Hawaii law provides that this Notice of Meeting must “include a description of the matter or matters for which the meeting is called.”

Therefore, if any member desires to bring up a matter at this annual meeting, the member should submit a written description of the matter to Laurie Hamano, Moderator, via the church office, on or before December 13, 2019, for timely inclusion in the Notice of Meeting.

You’re Invited

By Pastor Wally

Advent is the time of the year wherein we prepare for the incarnation, when God appeared in human flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The church is blessed by some wonderful, beloved hymns that help us prepare. During Advent, we will be studying on Wednesday evenings four of these remarkable hymns. We will be guided by the study book O Come, O Come, Immanuel written by Mary Louise Bringle and Beverly Howard. Mel Bringle, by the way, is a friend from grad school at Emory.

The study started on Wednesday, Nov. 27, but will continue for the first three Wednesdays in December. We begin with supper at 5:30 and the study concludes at 7:30-ish. It’s fun, good fellowship, and great learning. Let us know if you’re interested in attending by contacting Paula at nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net or 595-3935.

NCC’s Vision Statement

Nu‘uanu Congregational Church is a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians who seek to:

- *affirm all persons as children of God;*
- *respond to the needs of the community and congregation;*
- *respect all views and ideas;*
- *make and nurture disciples; and*
- *spread God’s word using our talents and resources.*

(Approved September 16, 2007 at the Special Congregational Meeting.)

Advent & Christmas Activities

By Becky Kanenaka, Board of Christian Nurture

The Christmas holiday is my favorite time of year. The holiday is a fun time for family and friends to come together to enjoy a meal or exchange gifts. Advent is the time of year in the church calendar where Christians should be exhorting the faithful to prepare for Christ's coming with spiritual disciplines such as prayer, penance, and fasting. However, advent from the Latin *adventus*, means "coming" which was a solemn season of penitential preparation for the baptismal Feast of the Epiphany. It was not until the practice spread to Rome that it became associated with Christmas¹.

Today, churches observe Advent for the four Sundays preceding Christmas. The Board of Christian Nurture will host several Advent activities on the friendship lanai after worship. The first activity will be advent wreath making on **December 1**. The second activity on **December 8**, will be writing a Christmas card to members and friends who are unable to attend worship. The third activity will be creating gingerbread houses on **December 15**. The Sunday before Christmas, **December 22** will be our annual Potluck Christmas Party. All are invited to attend these activities.

¹The Thoughtful Christian, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Session 1, PC USA Store, 2018.



Choir Cantata - Dec. 22



Join the Nu‘uanu Congregational Church Chancel Choir on Sunday, **December 22** at 9:00 a.m. for a lovely rendition of "That Night At Bethlehem,"

the story of the Savior's birth by Gary Lanier. The Choir is directed by Russell Ishida and accompanied by Thomas Kamisato. Narrators are Judy Keith and Gail Wenos. Soloists are Paula Yamamoto and Russell Ishida. Rehearsal accompanist is Lori Takeyama-Goshi.

Candlelight Service - Dec. 24

Christmas just isn't Christmas without the annual Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. The Christmas tree



all brightly lit and the glorious sounds from *A Touch of Brass* bring out a festive air; the joyous singing of familiar Christmas carols awake fond memories from childhood; and hearing the inspirational words from scripture make this service so heartwarming! But best of all, is the lighting of individual candles from the Christ candle, representing the light of Christ spreading from person to person and illuminating the world as we sing "Silent Night" in various languages. (Safety candles available for young children). Come and celebrate Christmas with us at **7:00 p.m. on December 24**.

Advent Apparel

By Lori Yamashiro, Diaconate Board Chair

As we prepare for Advent, which is some serious work, the Diaconate thought we should also have a little fun:

December 1 is traditionally the service where we do the hanging of the greens, so we would like to invite you on that day to wear...what else?

Green!

On **December 15**, as we travel with Joseph and Mary back to Bethlehem for a homecoming of sorts, you are invited to wear your school colors, whether it be high school or college!

December 22 is our Christmas potluck lunch, so dress festively!

Looking forward to our journey through Advent with you.

Demolition of Hale Ohana

By Paul Yamamoto, Board of Trustees

The demolition of Hale Ohana will start on **December 16, 2019**.

Hale Ohana was built in 1955 and has served NCC well since its acquisition in 1980. Through the years, Hale Ohana was the office of the Associate Pastor of Christian Education and meeting/activity room for the youth and college group.

Sunday School, youth gatherings, summer camp planning, and Bible studies were held in Hale Ohana. The Women of Nu‘uanu stored their Plant and Potpourri Sale equipment in the classroom closets, along with Family Promise and Missions Committee supplies. And more recently, The Children’s Center used Hale Ohana as a classroom.

Let us gather to bid farewell to this very special structure that provided us with a place to nurture our children and youth. There will be a decommissioning service for Hale Ohana on December 15, 2019 right after our 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

Youth on a Mission

By Donna Chung

Our youth were asked to join youth at Community Church for Service Sunday on Sunday, November 10, from 10-1 pm. Steph and I participated. It was at RYSE(Residential Youth Services and Empowerment), a shelter for homeless youth ages 18-24, housing 30 youth with support services for daytime. At a minimum, the on-site living and dining quarters will offer homeless youth a safe place to sleep and receive a hot meal.

On-site services will include two levels of engagement and a day program. The first level of service provides a low barrier entry point for youth who are very “street-entrenched.” “Street-entrenched” youth are not ready to engage in services to get them off the street, but are seeking a safe place to sleep for the night. A youth may stay at this level for up to fifteen nights per month, giving them space and time to acclimate to a life off the streets. They are provided with a hot dinner each night and light breakfast the following morning. Service is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with a capacity to house up to eight (8) youth per night.



Ohana Ministry

By Marge Honjiyo

If there are needs that Ohana Ministry can help you with, call one of the coordinators:

Ohana Ministry Coordinators

Mae Au, 988-4802

Marge Honjiyo, 550-3075

Mary Ann Saito, 839-0895

Sets Takahashi, 550-3062

Joyce Uyehara, 523-3483

Lori Yamashiro, 292-5249

When you pray, remember the following and their caregivers: **Ann Akama, Kimiko Bristow-Canfield, Marcia Grimsley** (Sheila Knutson's sister), **Carol Hamada, Charlene Hasegawa, Preston Iha, Howard Ishihara, Michael Kurokawa, Leslie Lum, Ethel Nitta, Amy Nogami, Mary Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, and Marie Yoneshige.**

Reminder: Names are added or deleted in the Prayer Corner by individuals, family members or friend. Please inform the Ohana Ministry coordinators if you want your name included or deleted in the Prayer Corner.

Prayer Corner

By Mary Ann Saito

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Dear God, in this season of giving and receiving gifts, we thank you for your everlasting love, your guidance and your healing grace. Most of all, we thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus, our Savior. As we share material gifts with others, we pray that you will help us to remember gifts of humility, inclusiveness, patience and open-mindedness as we interact with family, friends and strangers. We pray that the warmth and cheerfulness of this season will continue to be with us in our families and in our church. Amen.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial Offering

Gainor Tomokiyo - IMO Bertha S. Tomokiyo

Wendy Tsurumaki - IMO Janet Kurokawa

Anonymous - IMO Wayne & Muriel Arakaki

Sybil Seto - IMO Muriel Arakaki

Helen Pierce - IMO Pierce Family

Dorothy Kusumoto - IMO Bill Kusumoto

Birthday Offering

Annette Yonamine

Thanks Offering

Susan Yokomoto

Deadline for Articles

Nu‘uanu Caller (monthly)

20th of each month.

NCC News (weekly)

Wednesday noon.

Articles will be edited on a space available basis.

Food Drive

In keeping with Missions Sunday, the Hawai‘i Food Bank collection is held on the last Sunday of every month. For the

months of October, we collected 63 lbs. of assorted food items. Our next collection will be **December 29, 2019**.

Monetary donations accepted, too. Checks may be made to Nu‘uanu Congregational Church with Hawai‘i Food Bank on the memo line. Mahalo.



Annual Reports Due

To all board and committee chairs, Moderator, and Pastor, please submit your annual reports to Paula Yamamoto by **December 14** via email. Reports should be in Word or Pages format, Century Schoolbook font, size 12. Any photos should be sent separately (not in the report). Your assistance with this deadline date is greatly appreciated!



Merry Christmas!

From the NCC Staff

Wally Paula Nelson Le

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on Sunday, Dec. 29

Please help our volunteers by removing caps from bottles, rinsing and separating all containers. Only HI-5¢ items are accepted.

Proceeds go toward Hui Malama.



2019 Refreshments (Bring, Serve & Clean Up)

January - Church Council

February - Missions

March - Sew Fun

April - Board of Trustees

May - Nichigobu Support Group

June - Board of Christian Nurture

July - Board of Christian Nurture

August - Chancel Choir

September - Diaconate

October - Finance

November - Open

December - Open

Please dispose all trash into the dumpster. Mahalo!

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens Service 10:30 AM Advent Wreath-Making 10:30 AM Chancel Choir	2 8:00 AM Tai Chi	3 7:00 AM Tai Chi	4 NCC News Deadline 5:30 PM Advent Study	5 7:30 AM Tai Chi	6 6:30 PM Scouts Troop 201	7 8:30 AM Board of Trustees 8:30 AM Diaconate Board 9:00 AM Sew Fun
8 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Christmas Card-Writing 10:30 AM Chancel Choir	9 8:00 AM Tai Chi	10 7:00 AM Tai Chi	11 NCC News Deadline 5:30 PM Advent Study	12 7:30 AM Tai Chi	13 6:30 PM Scouts Troop 201	14 9:00 AM Board of Christian Nurture
15 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Gingerbread House-Making 10:30 AM Chancel Choir	16 7:30 AM Abatement 8:00 AM Tai Chi	17 ... Abatement 6:00 PM Church Council	18 NCC News Deadline ... Abatement 5:30 PM Advent Study	19 7:30 AM Demolition 7:30 AM Tai Chi 5:00 PM Kadomatsu Preparation	20 Kadomatsu Preparation Caller Deadline ... Demolition	21 Kadomatsu Preparation Caller Deadline ... Demolition
22 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Cantata/Worship Service 10:30 AM Christmas Potluck Luncheon 11:00 AM Kadomatsu Sale	23 Demo Clean Up 8:00 AM Tai Chi	24 Demo Clean Up 7:00 AM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 NCC News Deadline Office Closed	26 7:30 AM Tai Chi	27 6:30 PM Scouts Troop 201	28 6:30 PM Scouts Troop 201
29 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Nichigobu Support Group	30 8:00 AM Tai Chi	31 7:00 AM Tai Chi	1 NCC News Deadline 12:00 PM Office Closed	2 7:30 AM Tai Chi Planning Ahead..... Jan. 1 Office Closed Jan. 19 - Dollars & Sense Jan. 19-26 - Family Promise Jan. 20 - Office Closed Jan. 26 - Annual Cong. Mtg	3 6:30 PM Scouts Troop 201	4 8:30 AM Board of Trustees 8:30 AM Diaconate Board 9:00 AM Sew Fun



Nu'uano Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

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Address Service Requested

December 2019

To discontinue receiving the
Nu'uano Caller, please call the
church office at 595-3935 or email:
nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Lectionary Readings for December

December 1 (Called to Gift): Isa 2:1-5 • Ps 122 • Rom 13:11-14 • **Matt 24:36-44**

December 8 (Vision of Peace): Isa 11:1-10 • Ps 72:1-7, 18-19 • Rom 15:4-13 • Matt 3:1-12

December 15 (Heartbeat of Justice): Isa 35:1-10 • Ps 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55 • James 5:7-10
• Matt 11:2-11

December 22 (God with Us): Isa 7:10-16 • Ps 80:1-7, 17-19 • Rom 1:1-7 • **Matt 1:18-25**

December 29 (Cosmic Praise): Isa 63:7-9 • **Ps 148** • Heb 2:10-18 • Matt 2:13-23