

NU‘UANU CALLER

A monthly newsletter of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817



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NOVEMBER 2022



Stewardship, Gratitude, and Prayerful Willingness

By Pastor Jeannie Thompson

Overnight rain showers have returned to Wilhelmina Rise. I listen for them every year because they signal the coming of cooler days. *This has not happened, yet.* Still, I have faith, and as always: I am heartened by their return.

It is almost autumn.

Among the other things the changing of the season ushers in are the holidays and the prospect of visiting with family and friends. Now that most of the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted throughout the country, we will do this, once again, in large, often boisterous gatherings, and over large, multi-course feasts. From this time until the end of the year, many of us will be busy entertaining family and friends or making plans to travel to visit them. We will arrange schedules, make shopping lists, and allow ourselves to eagerly anticipate a holiday season that will be very much like the ones we used to know.

In the church, November is also the time of year for remembering and for prayerfully meditating on how we will renew our financial commitment to the church.

I do not believe it is a coincidence that Stewardship Season also comes when we pause to remember and give thanks for the saints who built this church. It is through the faith and effort of all of the saints who have gone before us that we are blessed with what we have today. They were moved by God to gather and to build and we are the beneficiaries of their faithfulness to God.

This year will be even more special because we will remember the saints who have gone before us, and we will celebrate a new saint among us when we baptize Kanna Kahaiali`ikapuohamamalu Matsumoto, Vania Ito and Ian Matsumoto's youngest daughter. As we celebrate her entrance into the life of Christ, we will also be celebrating how she will be taught and nurtured by this church.

What this means is that we will encourage and cultivate in her a deep sense of wonder and gratitude about what she, and all of us, have been given by God as a gift. This is our most basic truth: that everything we have—the earth that surrounds us and everything that comes from it to sustain our life—all of this comes from the hand of God and is freely presented to us. It is a gift of God's love for us.

So, let us nurture in her, and in our own hearts and lives, a commitment to being as generous with God as God has been with us. Just as the saints of this church turned their gratitude into all that we see and enjoy here at 2561 Pali Highway—the buildings and grounds, but also the warmth and compassion in each NCC member and friend—let us remember and nurture the same strength of faith in God's love, the same gratitude they shared and showed.

(cont'd on page 4 - Stewardship)

Nu‘uanu Caller is a monthly publication of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church, founded in 1885 and organized in 1892 (United Church of Christ, a 1957 union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Churches). Rev. Jeannie Thompson, *Pastor*; Mairi Manley, *Administrative Coordinator*; Nelson Fujinaga, *Custodian*; Le Huynh, *Groundskeeper & Security*.

Web site: nuuanu.org • Email: nuuanucongregational@gmail.com • Phone: (808) 595-3935

Church Clean Up Day November 19, 2022

By Paul Yamamoto

With COVID infections trending downwards, The Board of Trustees have decided to resume the All Church Clean Up Days.

The Clean Up Day is scheduled, Saturday, November 19, 2022 from 8:30 to 11:30. All those who are willing and able are welcome to come out and help clean our facilities to and make it ready for the Advent Season. A clean up list is being put together and the list will be posted. Lunch will be provided.

Sukkah on November 16, 2022

by Becky Kanenaka

The Mission Committee will be setting up the Sukkah on November 16, 2022, at 9:00am and is looking for volunteers to help set-up the Sukkah.

It's been a while since we had one, so here's a refresher: A sukkah is a booth or hut (the plural in Hebrew is "sukkot") in which Jews are supposed to dwell during the week-long celebration of Sukkot. According to rabbinic tradition, these tent-like structures represent the huts in which the Israelites dwelt during their 40 years of wandering in the desert after escaping from slavery in Egypt. The festival of Sukkot is one of the three pilgrimage festivals of the Jewish year. The rabbis of the Talmud stipulated that a sukkah should have at least three walls and a covering. The walls can be of any material but should be sturdy enough to withstand an ordinary wind. The roof should be made from thatch or branches, which provides some shade and protection from the sun, but also allows the stars to be seen at night. (Reference: My Jewish Learning)

The Sukkah serves as Nu‘uanu Congregational Church's dwelling where members, family and friends bring their non-perishable foods for the Hawai'i Food Bank. Please bring your non-perishable foods on Sunday, November 20, 2022.

All Saints Sunday

The Festival of All Saints is the church's memorial day, and again this year we will have a special service on Sunday, November 6, at 9 a.m. to remember the saints. We will recall those who have made contributions to our world and also members of Nu‘uanu Congregational Church whom we have named as our "Nu‘uanu Saints." A special part of the service will recall members and friends who have died since All Saints Sunday last year. Family members will be invited to come forward and light a candle as each name is called. They may also bring a photograph to commemorate their loved one. All of us are invited to bring a photo or photos, which will be placed on tables at the front of the sanctuary. With all of these saints surrounding us, we will then celebrate communion.

New Email Addresses

by Mairi Manley

On Friday, November 4 - the office will be changing phone and internet service. Our phone number will remain the same! We will be using different email addresses to the following:

Pastor email:

pastor.nuuanucongregational@gmail.com

Office email: nuuanucongregational@gmail.com

Bookkeeper email:

bookkeeper@NuuanuCC.onmicrosoft.com

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.)

 October 26, 2022

Moderator’s Desk

I can’t believe that we are almost done with October and the holidays are looming before us. We have worked hard to move forward on our Strategic Plan initiatives and have accomplished many of our intermediate goals. We identified some serious concerns for this community that we have taken on as our mission such as homeless, the need for preschools for the thousands of children, as well as our congregation’s desire to provide a safe community resource and “gathering place” for our families and kupuna.

As we move forward, I would like to share with the congregation what the Council and various boards/committees have accomplished so far.

Strategic Planning Goals

1. Community Partnerships reinvented and created:

- A. Family Promise Reinvention: With the help of the Board of Trustees creating a safe environment for the new families in need of emergency shelter, three rooms were prepared for use as of _____. Currently, 3 families are utilizing the rooms. These families are off the streets and will be living here until Family Promise can find more permanent housing.
- B. Hawaii Conference Foundation Update: Unfortunately, HCF has decided that the cost to relocate their offices to NCC was more than they could afford and has informed NCC that they will not be able to partner with us to build a new Administration Office. NCC will move forward with the repairs and renovations needed for the Old Admin office. The door remains open to more conversation in the future.
- C. YMCA Updates: The Children Center has asked to extend their lease on a month-to-month basis as the license for the YMCA has not yet been secured. The YMCA is waiting for the last inspection with the Department of Human Services to be completed. Once this is done, and the license secured, the YMCA can open their doors to their new school, **Kids Prep Preschool, Pali Site**.

The YMCA and The Children Center held Aloha and Mahalo events for Ms. Jo Ann Bristow, the Director of TCCI. She was the director for 50 years and looks forward to retiring and visiting her great-grandchildren on the mainland. NCC is grateful to Ms. Jo Ann for her vision of working with young children and their parents for all those years. Her impact will continue through her staff as they train the YMCA staff and work with children that enter Kids Prep Preschool. We are forever grateful to Ms. Jo Ann and The Children Center.

Intersessions: The Spring and Summer YMCA Intersessions for the elementary school children went well, and this summer’s session ran from June to July 31, 2022. We are awaiting confirmation for the Holiday Intersession.

(cont’d on pg. 4)

Moderator's Desk

cont'd from page 3

2. Capital Campaign

- A. Ms. Jill White of the Church Building and Loan Fund (UCC) has been contracted to work with NCC leadership to guide us through the Capital Campaign process. The Feasibility Study has been completed with thanks to all the participants who were interviewed or participated in the survey. Ms. White is currently putting together the data and will be presenting the report to Pastor Jeannie and myself on November 2nd. The report then be forwarded to the Council and the congregation.

All of these events, decisions, discussions and outpouring of hard work would not be possible without the amazing work of the Committees (Diaconate, Personnel, Missions, Board of Nurture, Board of Trustees, Scholarship) as well as the newly created teams such as the Strategic Planning Committee and now the Facilities Team and the faithful Council Members. They all wear multiple hats and they are: Wayne Kodama, Lori Yamashiro, Garrett Iha, Susan Iha, Rebecca Kanenaka, Carol Hamada, Judy Keith, Lori Takeyama-Goshi. Our many thanks to Pastor Jeannie and Office Manager, Mairi Manley for their incredible work making Nu‘uanu Congregational Church a pillar in this community.

As we move forward through the holidays, please take a moment to thank our God for these people who serve as our leadership at NCC and perhaps thank them personally for the work they do on our behalf.

In Faith, Laurie Hamano, A Grateful Moderator

Stewardship

Cont'd from pg. 1

How will our gratitude to God continue to take physical form?

Although there is already a good list of missions and ministries we have and we continue to pursue, the truth is that every day is a new opportunity to find out what we are called to do and be next. We will, of course, discover what that is through prayer and discernment.

We will turn to God for guidance, but more than this, we will literally ask God: *What do you want us to do with our lives and with everything you have given us?*—and then...*we will allow our hearts and minds to be completely re-oriented toward God's desire and plan.* That is: we will go to God with a “prayerful willingness” that is open to God’s Spirit as she reorients all our thoughts and feelings about ourselves and others.

Finally, when we are inspired by gratitude and informed by prayer, the next thing is to step-out in faith. As one writer has put it: “Faith, when understood as what is next or “now what?” calls on us to step out of our comfort zone and embrace the call of God revealed in prayerful willingness.”

How will your prayerful willingness move you, personally? Will you be moved to new levels of generosity with your time, talent or treasure? Will your prayerful willingness inspire you to a greater desire to know God and God’s holy Word? With God there is always a new chapter in your life waiting to unfold before your wondering eyes.

How ever it is that God is calling you, I pray you will experience the peace and joy that such prayerful willingness can bring.

Grace and Peace,
Jeannie

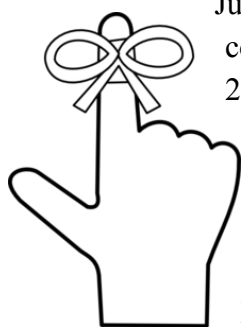
Give Aloha



Mahalo to all who participated in Foodland's Give Aloha Program! We received \$9,490.00 in customer donations and

\$2,322.44 from Foodland and Western Union Foundation for a total of \$11,812.44. Your support is greatly appreciated! If you haven't already done so, please turn in your Foodland receipt so we may properly credit your giving statement. Mahalo!

2022 Contributions



Just a reminder....in order for contributions to be credited for the 2022 tax year, they must be either mailed to the church with a USPS postmark not later than December 31, 2022, or received by the church office before 12:00 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2022. Contributions received after that

will be credited to 2023.

Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn

Covenant Ballet Theatre of Brooklyn pays tribute to Japanese American veterans of World War II with free online viewing of *The Nisei Project*

BROOKLYN, NY – Covenant Ballet Theatre (CBT) will pay tribute to World War II Japanese-American veterans by hosting a two-week free online viewing of *The Nisei Project* in honor of Veterans' Day. The screening begins on Friday, November 11, at 9am ET and continues through Friday, November 25, at 9pm ET at www.niseiproject.com and on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com).

The Nisei Project (Nisei) is a narrative ballet conceived and choreographed by CBT Artistic Director and Founder, Marla Hirokawa, in honor of her late father and his comrades in the World War II Japanese American segregated units of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd

Regimental Combat Team. Together they were the most highly decorated and suffered the greatest number of casualties of any unit in American military history. *Nisei* utilizes a variety of dance forms to tell a powerful story of discrimination, separation, battle, and honor. In the final scene, veterans are brought onstage to be thanked and honored as a way of extending Nisei's message of gratitude to all veterans of U.S. wars.

The ballet was first performed in Brooklyn, NY, in 2001. In 2003, *Nisei* was presented in Ms. Hirokawa's home state of Hawai'i in a two-week tour spanning four islands. In 2014, the ballet was restaged for the New York International Fringe Festival. The score featured a six-piece band including traditional Japanese koto and shakuhachi instruments. A recording of that performance was first streamed online in 2021 to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

"Bringing this story to the stage was extremely personal and emotional for me," says Ms. Hirokawa. "I hope that all who view it experience and embrace the impact of this legacy. Being able to share this ballet is a way that I feel CBT can give back to the community."

Since 1987, CBT has invested in the children and families of South Brooklyn, where cultural activities and resources are limited. Artistic Director Marla Hirokawa founded CBT on the conviction that a serious ballet education combined with maximum inclusion is needed to advance the art form, train youth, and improve the lives of those within its embrace. In an accepting yet rigorous environment, CBT fosters the love of dance through pre-professional training in its studios and educational programs in NYC schools, and through dozens of original ballet productions.

For further information, please visit www.covenantballet.org.



Ohana Ministry

By Mae Au

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

Joyce Uyehara, 523-3483

Sybil Seto, 550-3068

Lori Yamashiro, 292-5249

When you pray, remember the following and their caregivers: Kimiko Bristow-Canfield, Marcia Grimsley, Carol Hamada, Preston Iha, Howard Ishihara, Leslie Lum, Craig Oshiro, Matthew Stucke, Lurline Matsumoto (sister of Masa Tabe), Rick Au, Stephen Crosier, Fay Matsuura (Friend of Clifford Lum), Barbara Pierce, Ray Miyamoto, Cindy Taketa.

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

Prayer Corner

By Mary Ann Saito

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Psalms 107:8-9

Dear God, thank you for all that you have blessed us with our steadfast and caring love, our church, support of family and friends and all the joys of our lives. As we honor all veterans this month, we pray that you will be with them and bless them with peace and wholeness. Watch over our present armed forces as they continue to protect our country's freedom. During this election period help us to elect national, state and municipal leaders who possess wisdom and integrity and who will make decisions for the common good. Enable us to do our share as citizens. At the beginning of the Advent Season we ask for your guidance as we prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Special Gifts

Give thanks to God whose steadfast love endures forever!

Memorial

Dorothy Kusumoto IMO Ellen Nagao,
Jack Nagao

Fran Miyamoto IMO June Ikeda, Alice Ishihara,
Yuriko Kono, Julia Nakamura, May Yap

Paula Yamamoto IMO Sutemi & Dora
Yamamoto

Birthday Offering

Ruth Gushiken

Thanks Offering

Ruth Gushiken

Charlotte Nakamura

Clifford Lum

Virginia Takara

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.



Hawaii Foodbank

The collection date is the for
November is on the 27th.

Recycling

By Wayne Kobayashi

Bring your items on
Sunday, November 27

Please help our volunteers
by removing caps from
bottles, rinsing and
separating all containers.

Keep labels on. Only
HI-5¢ items are accepted.

Proceeds go toward
Hui Malama.



Board of Christian Nurture Activities

The following are activities that Christian Nurture are planning for
November and December:

- November 20 - Make advent calendars
- November 27 - Make advent wreaths
- December 4 - Write Christmas cards for the home bound
- December 11 Make Christmons
- December 18 - Make gingerbread houses

61st Nu‘uanu Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

You are cordially invited to Ho‘olauna Hou.

We come together to celebrate our unity and similarity in common
space. Our diversity and richness call us to work together, again.

Tuesday, November 22, 2022
7:00 PM Hawaiian Time
Harris United Methodist Church
20 South Vinyard Blvd.
(808) 536-9602

Zoom options is available:

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84142021017#success>

Toll Free: (888) 788-0099

Meeting ID: 841 4202 1017

Wear a mask!

Cover your nose and mouth



Wait 6 feet apart!

Avoid close contact



Wash your hands!

Or use hand sanitizer



Happy Thanksgiving



Nu‘uanu Congregational Church
2651 Pali Highway * Honolulu, HI 96817

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November 2022

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church office at 595-3935 or email:
nccadmin@hawaiiantel.net.

Lectionary Readings for November

November 6 (Hold on to Faith): Hag 1:15b-2:9 and Ps 145:1-5, 17-21 **or** Ps 98 • Job 19:23-27a and Ps 17:1-9 • **2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17** • Luke 20:27-38

November 13 (Infinite Possibilities): Isa **65:17-25** and Isa 12 • Mal 4:1-2a and Ps 98 • 2 Thess 3:6-13 • Luke 21:5-19

November 20 (Together in Christ): Jer 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 • Jer 23:1-6 and Ps 46 • **Col 1:11-20** • Luke 23:33-43

November 27 (Called to Gift): Isa 2:1-5 • Ps 122 • Rom 13:11-14 • **Matt 24:36-44**