



NCC News

November 22, 2015



A Weekly Newsletter of Nu'uanu Congregational Church



Happy Thanksgiving

Special Congregational Meeting - Today

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting today at 10:30 a.m., in the sanctuary. Childcare is available. Reminder: only NCC members may vote, and members must be present to vote. Please allow the committee to set up the sanctuary for the meeting immediately after the worship service. Member sign in is required to receive ballots.

The special meeting agenda is:

1. Call to Order
2. Plan for Moving Forward as a United Church
3. Code of Conduct
4. Adjournment

Sanctuary's Golden Anniversary

Our Sanctuary is 50 years old! On November 21, 1965, the new sanctuary and fellowship lanai were dedicated. Architects were **Hideo Kobayashi** and **Thomas Nishida**. Contractor was **S&M Sakamoto Contractors**. Landscape architect was **Lawrence Chun**. We will celebrate this important heritage this morning.

Sukkah

The sukkah symbolizes the huts in which the Israelites lived in during their years of exile in the wilderness. It is now a symbol for giving thanks for the fall harvest. It is our tradition of giving thanks by sharing our food with others in need. Please bring your non-perishable food (canned goods, rice, beans, etc.) and place them in the sukkah during the hymn of praise. The goods will be given to the River of Life Mission.

—Missions Committee

2016 Floral Offerings

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion with a floral offering for the sanctuary. Sign ups for the 2016 flower chart are now being taken on the lanai following the worship service or call the church office.

Nu‘uanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

During this season of thanksgiving, join us with our neighboring faith communities at the 54th Nu‘uanu Valley Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Community Church of Honolulu will be hosting the service on Tuesday, **November 24** at 7:00 p.m. This year’s theme is “The Joy of Service to All,” and the beneficiary of the goodwill offering is Family Promise. Our youth will be doing a special presentation with youth from other faith communities, so come and support them and be inspired by the speakers from Family Promise.



Advent Preparation - November 27

Christmas will soon be upon us, and volunteers are needed to help set up the sanctuary for Advent. Preparations will start on Friday, **November 27**, at 8:30 a.m. Bring floral cutting shears, if you have one, to cut greens for the wreaths. Your help is needed and much appreciated!



Also, join us for the “*Hanging of the Greens*” service next Sunday, **November 29**, at 9:00 a.m. We will put the finishing touches in the sanctuary as we welcome the start of the Advent season.

—Diaconate Board

Advent Inter-Generational Activities - 10:30 a.m. in Kosasa Hall
Refreshments following the morning worship service will be served in Kosasa Hall on Nov. 29, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13.

November 29 - Advent Wreath-Making

December 6 - Card-Making for Homebound and College Students

December 13 - Gingerbread House-Making

December 20 - Caroling (place TBA)

Christmas Cantata - December 13



Come and worship with us at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, **December 13**, as the Chancel Choir presents their gift of music, “Silent Night! Holy Night!” Directed by **Russell Ishida**, rehearsal accompanist **Lori Takeyama-Goshi**, and soloist **Cheryl Chock**.

Annual Reports

Just a reminder for all board/committee chairs, moderator, senior pastor, and treasurer, your annual reports are due on **December 11**. It’s a tedious task formatting and compiling all reports into the final document, so your cooperation is much appreciated. Please send it as a Word document.

—Paula Yamamoto

White Christmas

Each Sunday during Advent, you may bring your donations to church and place them under our tree. On December 20th, the Missions Committee will pack them for collection by the River of Life Mission, Family Promise, and the Transition House. The Missions Committee thanks you for your ongoing support of these organizations.

If you would like some suggestions for your White Christmas shopping, these items have been requested by the organizations.

River of Life Mission: Shampoo, Disposable razors, Bar soap (small hotel size is fine), Spray deodorant, Toothpaste, Feminine hygiene products, men's briefs in all sizes, disposable diapers in all sizes. Food items to be given as part of Christmas packages: Vienna sausage, Spam, Tuna, Sardines, Chicken, Peanuts, small jars of peanut butter, small packages of cookies or crackers, Small cans of fruit or vegetable juice.

Family Promise: Diapers (size 4, 5, & 6), baby wipes, new pillows, Laundry detergent (He type), trash bags (yard & kitchen) toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, razors, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Transition House has not given us a wish list yet, but they do prefer the large ("Costco sized") products that can be shared among the families. Will pass on more information as it becomes available.

Mahalo!

Thank you for all of your contributions last Sunday at the car wash. We were able to raise over half of the funds we needed and the youth had a great time bonding together. (Editor's note) A special thank you to **Kristen Young** and **Sarah Weible** for organizing this event! Awesome teamwork! The money raised is for the youth's IHS (Institute for Human Services) mission project.
—Sarah Weible

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you to all who participated in yesterday's all-church Fall clean up day! Many hands made the task lighter!

In Loving Memory



Condolences go out to the family of the late **Robert Tagami** who passed away on October 29, 2015. He is survived by wife Frances, sons Ron and Brian, and brother Bernard. A service celebrating his life will be held at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow, November 23, at Hosoi Garden Mortuary. Visitation will begin at 5:00 p.m. Casual attire. Please remember the Tagami family in your prayers.

UCC National Youth Event Fundraiser

The Oahu Association United Church of Christ is assisting our youth in their efforts to raise funds to defray travel expenses for the 2016 National Youth Event (NYE). The HI2NYE committee will be holding a fundraising dinner, "Love is..." on Saturday, **January 30, 2016** at the Community Church of Honolulu. The event will be a spaghetti dinner and silent auction. Tickets are \$20.

If you are able to donate new or valuable auction items such as gift certificates from merchants or restaurants, theme baskets (e.g. a movie basket filled with popcorn, arare, candy, and movie tickets), or services (e.g. free car wash or babysitting or a meal cooked by a church member or pastor), please email **Lee Takagi** (ltakagi@hawaiiintel.net) and/or **Becky Kanenaka** (ken214@hawaii.rr.com) describing the auction item and a suggested value no later than January 15, 2016.

Nichigobu Congregation News

The annual Nichigobu (Japanese-speaking) Congregation Christmas luncheon is 11 a.m. **Thursday, December 3, 2015** in the private room at **Maple Gardens** on Isenberg Street. Room capacity is 25. Sign up to attend by **November 23** (*revised from November 30*) with **June Nishimura**, tel. 888-2411 or **Hankie Kuniyoshi**, tel. 737-4645.

Donations of 4-ply yarn are needed to knit caps, and also new and used jigsaw puzzles for residents in long term care facilities. Several Nichigobu members will present knitted caps by **Katsuko Nomi**, and also new and used jigsaw puzzles to residents of a long term care facility on Kauai next Spring. Bring donations on Sunday or contact any Nichigobu worship attendees.

Sunday Refreshments

The month of **December** is open for anyone who would like to share simple treats with us. If you are interested in providing refreshments on a Sunday in December (which includes setting up and cleaning up), please sign up at the refreshment table or contact the church office.

Mahalo.

-Paul Yamamoto

Norfolk Pine Trees Available

An artificial tree will be used this year to comply with the new City ordinance. To ensure a perpetual supply of trees, norfolk pines were planted on the church property. For safety reasons, two of these trees need to be pruned. The Missions Committee will offer them to "the highest bidder." For information, call **Joyce Uyehara** at 523-3483.

—Missions Committee

Intergenerational Game Night

Join us at 15 Craigside on Saturday, **January 9, 2016** for another game night! Everyone is invited! We will eat and play in the Craigside "solarium" from 4:30-8:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided, but dessert donations to share will be gladly accepted! Parking space at 15 Craigside is limited, so we will be carpooling from NCC starting from 4:15 p.m. We need to get a count of people coming by **November 30th**. Please sign up on the friendship lanai! —Kristen Young

Bonhoeffer

"When Christ calls a man," says Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "he bids him come and die."

Who is this Dietrich Bonhoeffer and what makes him say this? Eric Metaxas has created a small group study DVD program to help us understand the spiritual truths that guided Bonhoeffer during a dark period of history. Come and learn how these spiritual truths can be an inspiration for us even today. Join us on Sundays in April, 2016.

—Chester Naka

Access Statement

(Revised 8/2/14 by the Diaconate Board)

As stated in our Vision Statement, “Nu‘uanu Congregational Church is a diverse, open congregation of faithful Christians who seek to affirm all persons as children of God.” Furthermore, our Policy on Non-discrimination clearly states that “we do not discriminate against any person, group or organization in hiring, promotion, membership, appointment, use of facility, provision of services on the basis of race, ethnicity, skin color, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, faith, nationality, marital status, or disability.”

As a part of living out our vision and commitment to an inclusive and diverse community, following accommodations are in place for worship:

- To provide communication access to worship, large print worship bulletins, assistive listening devices, Japanese Bibles and Japanese hymnals are available from the ushers.
- Members needing transportation to worship are invited to contact Ohana Ministry for access to taxi service.
- Those traveling by Handivan are requested to let the Church Office know at least 2 days in advance so that members of the Diaconate might meet the van on Sunday mornings.

Due to the age and construction of the buildings, not all areas are easily accessible to persons with mobility issues. Nu‘uanu Congregational Church will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities within these limitations.

For requesting other accommodations, please contact the Church Office.