



NCC News

August 27, 2017



A Weekly Newsletter of Nuʻuanu Congregational Church

Summer Worship Time - 9:30 a.m. through September

Just a reminder that our summer worship time is at 9:30 a.m.

The 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship hour will stay in place through the month of September. This will give the Church Council time to act on a proposal by the Diaconate to keep the 9:30 a.m. worship hour on a permanent basis.

The reasons behind the proposal are two:

- 1) 9:30 a.m. may be more convenient for families with young children. Often, Sunday is the only day of the week when families with small children can enjoy a more relaxed beginning of the day, and it perhaps might be easier for them to consider participation in worship if we were to begin the service a little later.
- 2) If the beginning time of worship is 9:30 a.m., the choir practice can take place prior to worship, beginning at 8:15 a.m. instead of the usual warm-up at 8:30 a.m.
If choir practice can take place before worship, adult education classes can be held after morning worship and free up choir members who might want to take advantage of educational opportunities. The Diaconate believes that adult education for adults is a top priority for the church in these days of religious change.

The Church Council will act on this proposal at its September 19th meeting. Before the 19th, anyone who has strong feelings about this proposal to make the 9:30 a.m. worship time permanent are invited to express their feelings in writing or by phone to **Laurie Hamano**, our Moderator, or **Mabel Suzuki**, the chair of the Diaconate. Your prayerful consideration of this proposal is encouraged.

Give Aloha - Month of September

Heads up! We will once, again, be participating in Foodland's Give Aloha program during the month of September. Foodland and their partner, Western Union, will match a portion of any contribution made to NCC through the store. At any Foodland or Sack n' Save store, you may make a contribution to NCC (pledge, special offering) up to \$249 per Maika'i card. All contributions and matching grants will be returned to NCC in October. Be good stewards and help us raise money for our ministries. The more you give through this program, the more Foodland and Western Union will give back to the community....and to our church! Mahalo!



Pastor's Vacation

From September 4 until September 26, **Neal** will be on vacation. He will be traveling to Nova Scotia, to the place where he spent the first years of his life, and where, as he says, he will be enjoying “visiting his family, especially his brother Ian: walking along the 500 year-old-dykes built by the French Acadians; viewing the Bay of Fundy tides, the highest in the world; eating lobster and Digby scallops; enjoying the farm produce of the late summer; and, perhaps, seeing the beginning of the fall colors.”

In his absence, **Wally Ryan Kuroiwa** will be preaching, leading the Wednesday evening Lectionary Study, and offering pastoral assistance if needed.

Lectionary Bible Study

The Wednesday evening Lectionary Bible Study has resumed. After a simple supper at 5:30 p.m. on the Fellowship lanai, participants gather with Neal to study the scripture readings for each forthcoming Sunday. All are welcome.

Pastor Neal's Sermons

Pastor Neal's sermons may be downloaded from our website at www.nuuanu.org. Click on the “Worship” tab. Printed copies are still available for those who prefer a hard copy.

Prayers for New Beginnings

The New Beginnings small group led by **Laurie Hamano** and **Gail Wenos** offer these prayers for each day of this coming week. You are invited to use them as a guide for your daily prayers.

Verse of the week:

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord...”
- Jeremiah 29:11-14

MONDAY:

Let us give thanks that God does listen to our prayers, that God does want us to come to Him boldly and ask Him to give us a new beginning . . . plans to give us hope and a future!

TUESDAY:

Ask God to open our eyes to the needs of the community around NCC. Ask Him to show us how to pray for those needs BEFORE we act.

WEDNESDAY:

Father, give us insight as to how NCC can be relevant to the community. Show us how You want us to be Your “hands and feet.”

THURSDAY:

Thank you, Father, for the many talents and gifts of each member of NCC. Show us how to use those gifts, both corporately and individually, to accomplish your mission. Remind us that “we are Your handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

FRIDAY:

As the leaders present their findings and thoughts to the NCC family, pray that there will be a positive unity in making the decisions on how to move forward.

SATURDAY:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)