

Nu' u Vineyard News

FEBRUARY 2025



Harris Preschool students enjoy the [Sing Yung](#) lion dance on January 21st.

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

Happy New Year! Mahalo for your continued support during the holiday season. You are invited to our services in February, with Guest Preachers, Rev. Scott V. Cervas on February 9th and 16th, and Rev. Loretta Reid on February 23rd.



Worship Service on January 12th-Baptism of the Lord with Guest Preacher: Rev. Jonathan McCurley (left). Song Leaders: Annie and Maya Yoshida (right).

A Message From the Pastor

Aloha Friends,

“Where is God in all this?”

“All this . . . “ being whatever I don’t understand. Whatever is frustrating, or unclear. Whatever seems unjust and unfair. Whatever is not helpful, and seems overwhelming. Whatever I wish was different. When I question the purpose of how life is unfolding, either or both in the church and in our secular, political, life, it helps to ask the question, “Where is God in all this?” It helps to bring life back into focus; to the center of what I value and where I get my own purpose and strength. It gives me a larger perspective and context for how to evaluate events and situations, and how to find hope and renewed energy when things seem hopeless and it would be so easy to give up.

For I believe that God is here, always. Jesus truly is Emmanuel, God with us, to remind us of God’s steadfast love, there for us, always, to guide us, mold and shape us, into the body of Christ.

My first appointment was at a small church in south central Los Angeles: Martin Luther King, Jr. United Methodist Church. February was important — Black History Month: their history, and now my history. I learned so much. I learned the history of Black people from their perspective and experience; about Dr. King, and how his work of non-violent resistance brought people together, and gave them hope. I learned how my church people — yes, my people — had supported one another from the earliest slave days to the present, and how strong their sense of community was. As they embraced their history and their resistance to injustice, it brought them together in a way I had never experienced, because I hadn’t needed to. It was their gift to me to include me in their life experience. It was so important to embrace who they were, who I was with them, and to support one another. Yes, God was there, for all of us, together.

I recently learned that February is also Hawaiian Language Month. I am grateful to all those who are working hard to restore the Hawai’ian culture and language.

It is good that God has created human beings with the capacity to hold more than one thing in our conscious awareness. We can celebrate Black History Month and Hawaiian Language Month at the same time, in a Japanese-American heritage church with an English name. For together, by God’s grace, we are the body of Christ.

“Where is God in all this?” The only correct answer is, “In our midst.” So let us pray for our country — the United States of America — that we will, by God’s grace, embrace all of our heritage and live up to our name.

May God bless us all, together.

Rev. Dr. Fran Wiebenga



February Worship Services

Sunday, February 2

4th Sunday After Epiphany

Service @ 10:45 am | Jeremiah 1:6-10 and I Corinthians
13:1-13 | *Excuses, Excuses!*

Evening Worship

Service @ 5:00 pm | Psalm 71:1-6 |
In God We Trust

Sunday, February 9

5th Sunday After Epiphany

Service @ 10:45 am | Luke 5:1-11
Guest Preacher: Rev. Scott V. Cervas
Thinking Outside the Net

Sunday, February 16

6th Sunday After Epiphany

Service @ 10:45 am | Luke 6:17-26
Guest Preacher: Rev. Scott V. Cervas
Comfor tthe Afflicted, Afflict the Comfortable

Sunday, February 23

7th Sunday After Epiphany

Service @ 10:45 am | Galatians 3:25-29
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Loretta Reid
Visit from Hiroshima Jogakuin High School

Photo by [Kelly Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Updates

Walk to Emmaus Christmas Party– Dec. 7th



Harris Preschool– Dec. 18th



Students enjoy a special visit from Santa on Dec. 18th.



Christmas Caroling–Dec. 18th



Christmas Eve Service–Dec. 24th



Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto.

Updates

Anita Malama



On a recent trip home to Kauai, Mel Billingsley and her sister, Crystal Rowe of Wailua, went to visit Anita Malama at a care home in West Kauai.

Anita was surprised to receive a Christmas card signed by several members of the Harris Ohana. (Thank you Patrick Zukemura for initiating this activity). She also loved eating multiple servings of a Filipino dish that Mel gave her.

Anita sends her love and gratitude for our prayers. She wants to start another Bible Study at the care home when she is able.

Submitted by Mel Billingsley

'Onipa' a March-Jan. 17th



The Ukulele Fellowship performs at the Cathedral of St. Andrew on January 17th at the Queen Lili'uokalani Ho'oku'ikahi.

UM Student Day-Jan 5th



Martin Luther King Jr. Parade-Jan. 20th



Updates/Upcoming

Royukai Senior Fellowship



Handcrafted heart cards made by the Royukai Senior Fellowship on January 16th.



Royukai meets on Thursday, **February 20, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm**. Please join us to make washi eggs & baskets for Easter. Lunch from the Hiroshima Jogakuin University follows. Please let Jo Tanimoto-Carmichael at the church office 808-536-9602 or Marlene Felsenfeld (marfels@sbcglobal.net or (808) 255-2343) know if you are attending so we can have enough supplies/lunch available.

Evening Worship

All are welcome to attend the Contemporary Worship, **Feb. 2nd at 5:00pm**. We are in the process of evaluating this service. If interested, please join us for Worship, Music and a message followed by a potluck dinner. Jo Tanimoto will deliver the message "In God We Trust" based on Psalm 71:1-6.

Britt Lectures

 **2025 Britt Lectures**
Presented by the Hawai'i District of the UMC

WHO IS GOD FOR US TODAY?

with the Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim

February 15, 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM*
February 16, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
February 17, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

First United Methodist Church of Honolulu
1020 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813
Basement Parking Entrance on Victoria St.



The Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, from her multicultural perspective, examines the history of theological and culturally influenced views on the image of God and its impact on our faith and life. With new and challenging insights, she revisits biblical realities and envisions a faith that is just, loving, and embracing of all.

Dates & Times:

Saturday, February 15:

10:00 AM: Registration
10:30 AM: Worship & Lecture 1: "Today's Church: What Are Some of the Problems?"
12:00 PM: Lunch Time*
(registration required for a free bento lunch)
1:00 PM: Lecture 2: "Mission Work: How Can We Love Each Other?"

Sunday, February 16:

10:00 AM: Sermon:
"Give to God What Is God's"
7:00 PM: Lecture 3:
"Who is God for Us Today?"

Monday, February 17:

9:00 AM: Three-Hour Workshop

The Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Ph.D., was born in Korea, educated in Canada and is the Professor of Theology at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana. She is the author or editor of 24 books, including *When God Became White*, *Reimagining Spirit: Wind, Breath, and Vibration*, and *Healing Our Broken Humanity: Practices for Revitalizing the Church and Renewing the World*. Dr. Kim has been included in the Englewood Review of Book's list of "Ten Important Women Theologians That You Should Be Reading" and in Sojourners as one of "8 Christian Women Shaping the Church in 2023."

*Lectures are free and open to the public. If you would like to take part of our free lunch, if you need child-care, or if you would like translation services in Korean or Tongan, please make sure to register using the QR at the right or going to www.firstumchonolulu.org/2025britt. The deadline to register is **FEBRUARY 7, 2025**.



For more information about the lectures, please contact Britt Committee Chairperson Rev. Won-Seok Yuh at revyuh@firstumchonolulu.org or Sonya Lee at hawaiidistrict@calpacumc.org.

Christian Education Scholarship Program

Applications for the Christian Education Scholarship Program of Harris United Methodist Church through the Harris Foundation will be available on **March 1** on the Harris UMC website. Eligibility requirements include being a member/constituent of Harris UMC or Hawaii District UMC and being a student currently enrolled or accepted into an accredited institution. Deadline for submission will be **April 30th, 2025**. More information on the scholarship, application, eligibility and submission requirements will be posted to the Harris UMC website.

Upcoming



The Refugee and Immigration Law Clinic Presents:

SPRING FUNDRAISER

February 15, 2025

5:00PM- 7:00PM

Harris United Methodist Church
20 S Vineyard Blvd, Honolulu, HI 96813

Join Us for a Cultural Celebration!

Experience a unique blend of art, culture, and community at our upcoming event:

- Live Poetry Reading by Wing Tek Lum.
- International Global Bazaar priced at \$25 and under.
- Delicious Food – Burmese and Mexican cuisine.

Suggested Entry donation of \$25

[RILC Donation Link](#)

RSVP for this event by January 30, 2025 [here!](#)



WING TEK LUM



GLOBAL BAZAAR



FOOD



Ongoing Ministries

Evening Worship

Evening worship meets the **first Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary with a potluck following service. Contact Davy Lee.

Royukai

The Royukai Senior Fellowship meets on the **3rd Thursday of every month from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm** in Komuro Lounge. Contact Jo Tanimoto at the church for more info.

Choir Rehearsals

Join the choir and rehearse on Sunday mornings at **9:30 am** in Miyama Hall with Jordan Goto.

Soup Ministry

Meets in the kitchen on **Mondays at 6:00 am and Sundays at 7:30 am** to prepare soup for IHS. Contact Linda Matsushita at the church office 808-536-9602 for more information.

Tai Chi

Meets every **Friday at 7:30 am** in Miyama Hall. 7:30am-8:10am exercise class. 8:10am -9:00am Taichi. Contact Sachi Taketa at the church office 808-536-9602.

Ukulele Fellowship

Meets every **Sunday at 9:00 am** in the Music Room 5. Contact Davy Lee.

Kids Sunday School K-5th Grade

Meets every Sunday at **9:00 am** in room 3. Contact Aunty Rene at rene@ohta.us for more details.

Youth Sunday School 6th -12th

Sundays at **9:00 am** in Room 16. 1st Sunday: Bible Study with Aunty Diane, 2nd & 3rd Sundays: Youth Praise Band with Skylar Y., 4th Sunday: UMYF with Uncle Keven.



Sunday Worship

Join us every Sunday at 10:45 am in-person or on ZOOM! Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

For more info about Sunday Worship visit: <https://harrisumc.org/what-to-expect-at-worship/>

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/91546086665?pwd=VTltYm1jbjFYM29vQ1h3ZzgyYWZJUT09>



Meetings & Events

2/11 @ 5:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting, Room 10

2/12 @ 6:00 pm Foundation Meeting, ZOOM

2/13 @ 6:30 pm Worship Team, ZOOM

2/15 @ 5:00 pm UH Refugee & Immigration Law Clinic Fundraiser, Miyama Hall

2/17 President's Day-CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

2/20 @ 9:30 am, Royukai, Komuro Lounge

2/20 @ 6:30 pm SFM, ZOOM

2/22 @ 10:00 am Visitation, 11:00 am Celebration of Life: Helen Maeshiro, Sanctuary

2/25 @ 6:00 pm Finance Committee, ZOOM

Visit the HUMC Facility calendar: <https://harrisumc.org/facility-calendar/> for more events.

General Information

About Harris

Harris United Methodist Church is an Open and Reconciling Congregation where we believe that Jesus embraces all and celebrates in the diversity of humanity. We pray that we demonstrate His love and compassion for everyone through our actions and words.

Together, we share and pray for each other's joys & sorrows. We honor each individual's reflections, thoughts, and prayers. Our Worship Services are intergenerational where children, youth, young adults and young families blend with our adults and kupuna to serve caring and kindness.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Newsletter Deadline

For the March 2024 newsletter, please submit any info by Monday, **Feb. 24th** to Erin at admin@harrisumc.org

Ways To Give

IN PERSON: Place your donation in the offering box at worship service on Sundays.

BY MAIL: Write a check to Harris United Methodist Church and send to 20 S. Vineyard Blvd., Honolulu, HI 96813.

ONLINE: Go to harrisumc.org/donate or scan the QR code below with your cellphone's camera app.



Sustainability Covenant

"God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore for its own sake and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family"

If you are receiving a hard copy version in the mail, please reconsider the sustainable alternative by reading it online from the church website. This will save our blessed & fragile environment and decrease postage & paper costs in the long term.

Ushers and Greeters Needed

The Ushers and Greeters team needs volunteers for the 10:45 am Sunday worship services. Ushers are the first people that the church attendees and visitors meet when they come to Harris UMC. If you enjoy making people feel welcome, you'll be a great usher! Contact Mel B. at 808-536-9602 or email info@harrisumc.org.

Covenant Ministries

Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto (Japan)
Jonathan McCurley (Japan)
Miguel Mairena (Mexico)

Altar Flowers

You are invited to dedicate altar flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. Please indicate your chosen Sunday of dedication and the name of the honoree on the sign up sheet located at the rear of the Sanctuary, or email or call the church office (at admin@harrisumc.org or 808-536-9602). We suggest a donation of \$60 to our Altar Flowers Fund, but it is not required. You may send a check with the memo "Altar Flowers" or donate online at harrisumc.org/



Contact Us!

Harris United Methodist Church
20 S. Vineyard Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 536-9602 Main Office
Office Hours: Mon thru Fri 9:00am-1:00pm
<https://harrisumc.org>
info@harrisumc.org

We Are Social!



@harrisumc



@aloha2harrisumc