

Nu' u Vineyard News

SEPTEMBER 2025



Rev. Claudia Genung Yamamoto, Rev. Toshimasa Yamamoto, and Rev. Lea Booth on Peace with Justice Sunday, August 17. *Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto. Continued on page 4.*

You Are Invited to September Services and Events

We look forward to seeing you at our September worship services including a the kickoff of our 2026 Stewardship Campaign with a celebration potluck on September 28.



Prayer Vigil for Immigrants on Aug. 14th. *Continued on page 5.*

A Message From the Pastor

Dear Harris 'Ohana,

Since I joined you in ministry in July, I have been learning about you, this community of faith, your history, and your values. I have loved hearing stories about the history of this church and the legacies of faithfulness and impact you and all the Harris saints have had in Honolulu, on O'ahu and the world.

This month, we will have an opportunity to hear from each other about our values as we "Name What Matters", and seek to name our values, and to align our worship, ministries, and outreach with those values. We'll be exploring the themes of Naming Our Values, Naming the Need, Naming Our Purpose, and Naming Our Trust through some of the stories of the early Church found in the book of Acts:

- In Acts 2, they gathered around the things that mattered most: worship, fellowship, and generosity
- In Acts 6, they noticed the widows who were being overlooked and made sure needs were met.
- In Acts 13, the Spirit sent Barnabas and Saul into mission, and the whole church supported them.
- In Acts 20, Paul reminded them it is more blessed to give than to receive, entrusting the future to God's grace.

These stories remind us that pledging is not really about paying the bills, but rather about living our faith by naming what matters, noticing needs, joining God's mission, and trusting God with the future.

As we name what matters to us and to God in the coming year, know that every pledge matters. When each household participates, no matter the size of the gift, our ministry grows stronger. And when folks trust God with an increase in their giving, our mission can go even further.

So let's keep naming what matters. Let's keep stepping forward together. Let's keep trusting that God has good things ahead for Harris UMC.

I'm looking forward to celebrating our future together in worship and at lunch at the conclusion of our stewardship series on September 28th!

In peace,

Pastor Lea



September Worship Services

Sunday, September 7 @ 10:45 am
Stewardship Kickoff/13th Sunday After Pentecost
Acts 2:42–47
Naming Our Values

Evening Worship @ 5:00 pm
Lay Speaker: Davy Lee
Luke 12: 32, 34
Calamitous

Sunday, September 14 @ 10:45 am
14th Sunday After Pentecost
Acts 6:1–7
Naming the Need

Sunday, September 21 @ 10:45 am
15th Sunday After Pentecost
Acts 13:1–3
Naming Our Purpose

Friday, September 28 @ 10:45 am
16th Sunday After Pentecost
Acts 20:32–35
Naming Our Trust

Photo by Vitaliy Gavrushchenko on Unsplash

Updates

Hiroshima Friendship Camp



August 10. View the Camp Video by Kai Matsuura on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/O4YX-UnBcqM> Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto

Peace with Justice Sunday



Rev. Toshisama in Komuro Lounge on Aug. 17.

Worship Services



Communion on August 3.



Song Leaders: Jessica Inouye and Diane Matsuura.

Updates

Interfaith Vigil in Solidarity with Migrants



Harris members and affiliates on August 14 at the Prayer Vigil for Immigrants.



United Methodists from Harris, Parker, Kahaluu, Ewa Beach and Japan (missionaries Rev. Claudia and Rev. Toshi) joined an interfaith group (Hawaiian, Jewish, Muslim, Christians)

- To stand against unjust ICE raids, family separations, and disappearances.
- To uplift the humanity and struggles of migrants.
- To grieve, pray, reflect, and share sacred space across faiths.
- To offer hope, solidarity and draw strength from our spiritual traditions.
- To inspire action and remind people of

faith of our moral duty.

Pastor Claudia Genung Yamamoto shared a prayer and reflection. Most concerning was the number of people who have disappeared. We also received a card to blow the whistle on ICE!

Welcome Selena!

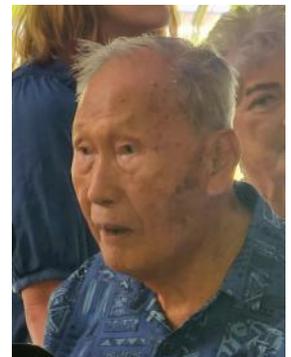


August 24. Selena Shi, Harris UMC's new childcare worker.

Harris UMC is looking to fill one more position for certified childcare worker on Sunday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. Pay is \$17/hr. Please call the church office for more information: 808- 536-9602 or email your resume to info@harrisumc.org if interested.

Volunteer To Be A Liturgist!

If George Moriwaki at age 95 can do it, so can YOU! Accommodations can be made to fit your needs. You can share the duties with another person - one read the welcome and another read the Scripture. You can read from the pulpit or from the front pew. If you feel God is calling you to serve, please contact Wally Wake. Mahalo!



Liturgist George Moriwaki on Aug. 24.

Updates

Lamp Unto My Feet Lyrics

"In shadows deep, when darkness falls, And doubts arise, within these walls,
I search for truth, a guiding ray, To light my steps along the way.
My soul it longs, for wisdom's call, To stand upright and never fall.
Your word, a fire in the night, My guiding star, my steady light
It guards my steps from every snare, Dispelling shadows, chasing fear.
A beacon shining, strong and true, I find my way, O Lord, through You, through you!
When paths are hidden, rough and steep, And secrets that the darkness keep,



The Youth Praise band performed "Lamp Unto My Feet" by Skylar Yamamoto on August 3 during worship service.

I turn to You, my faithful guide, With open heart, and nowhere to hide.
Your statutes pure, they show me grace, Reflecting glory in this place.
Your word, a fire in the night, my guiding star, my steady light.
It guards my steps from every snare, Dispelling shadows, chasing fear.
A beacon shining, strong and true, I find my

way, O Lord, through You! Through you!
Through every trial, every test, Your promises, they bring me rest.
A comfort true, a constant friend, Until my journey's very end.
I will not fear, I will not stray, While guided by Your light each day.
Your word, a fire in the night, My guiding star, my steady light.
It guards my steps from every snare, Dispelling shadows, chasing fear.
A beacon shining, strong and true, I find my way, O Lord, through You!
Oh precious Word, forever true, My heart belongs, completely to You.
A lamp, a light, forevermore, Leading me onward. to your shore. AMEN"

Did you know there's a prayer called the "I don't know" prayer?

You just go off Somewhere quiet and hidden and you walk right up to the heart of God and you say, "I don't know."
I don't know where to go from here.
I don't know how to process this.
I don't know what to do with these emotions.
I don't know how to handle this situation.
It covers a lot of I don't knows.
And then with Whateverdusty little sand grain of faith you have, you say. But You know."
And you leave it there.
God most certainly hears that prayer
I find myself praying this prayer often.
Amen if you're thankful.
Let us disappoint the enemy by declaring, "God is great."

3.3K

Updates

Introducing New Members...

Jeff & Jean Yamamoto



But they're really NOT new! Perhaps you've seen them as ushers and greeters on Sunday mornings for the past couple of years. They finally decided to become members of Harris UMC this summer and we are delighted to officially welcome them to our ohana!

Let's learn more about this couple.....

Jeff was born in Tokyo, Japan and he was raised by his adoptive parents Alvin and Sheryl Yamamoto in Kailua. After graduating from Kailua High School, Jeff attended University of Hawaii Manoa where he obtained a degree in Marketing. He immediately put his education to work as an employee of UH for 20 years, primarily at the John A. Burns School of Medicine in the Central Business and Fiscal Office.

Jean is a local girl, born and raised on the Big Island. She too graduated from UH Manoa, College of Business and she also has been working at UH Manoa for over 20 years as an accountant. With both of them working at UH,

what a blessing that God brought them together!

When they are at home (which is just down the street from Harris), their attention focuses on their fur baby Cosmo, a 7 year old Maltese/Lhasa mix. This couple loves to visit Japan, especially during cherry blossom time! They also have an affection for any place where pandas can be seen!

Their experience at Manoa Valley Theater, watching Miki Yamamoto in Kim's Convenience, has piqued their interest in local theater. In his free time Jeff enjoys playing basketball and working on his golf game.

When asked how they happened to come to Harris, it was quite a change from their younger days being raised as Buddhists. Rev. Richard Matsushita is Jeff's uncle and extended the invitation that has brought them to our ohana. God is at work again!

The hearty and friendly welcome they received at Harris kept the couple returning again and again. They felt the pastoral support for their faith journey. Even before becoming members, both of them participated in our annual Harris Mission Bazaar and

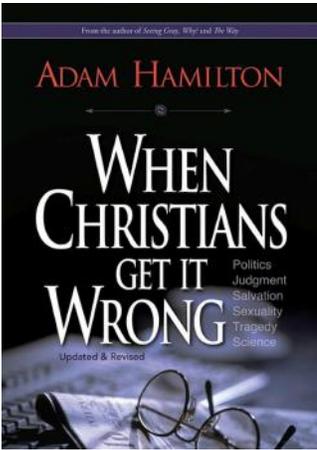
Rummage Sales! This year Jeff serves on the Stewardship ministry team while Jean is our super efficient secretary of the Finance team. In addition the couple has answered the call to serve as coordinators for ushers and greeters on the worship ministry team.

Scriptures that guide them are James 4:10 "Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will lift you up" (Jeff) and (Jean) Jeremiah 29:11 "I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope."

Submitted by Wally Wake

Upcoming

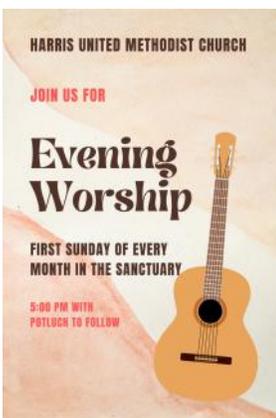
Book Study: When Christians Get It Wrong



Sundays in August, 9am-10am with Brian Maeshiro in Komuro Lounge. No Homework – No Required Reading. Join us for a thoughtful and engaging book review. Topics for discussion include: When Christians Are Unchristian Christians,

Science, and Politics. When Speaking of Other Religions. When Bad Things Happen, In Dealing with Homosexuality, When Christians Get It Right. This is a flexible, come-as-you-can Sunday gathering—feel free to join us whenever you are available! We'll watch segments from the course DVD together and engage in meaningful discussions. The class will conclude the end of September.

Evening Worship



Please join us for Contemporary Worship next Sunday, **Sept. 7 at 5 pm**, followed by a potluck dinner. Davy Lee will deliver the message “Calamitous” based on Luke 12: 32, 34.

Royukai Senior Fellowship

The next Royukai fellowship will be **Sept. 18 @ 9:30 am**. Contact Jo at the church office for more information.

Wahine Basketball Clinic



The annual Wahine Basketball Clinic for middle school students in our neighborhood schools will be held on Friday, **Sept. 26 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Nu'uaniu Y**

gym. A group of our enthusiastic Harris Wahine fans will again be making bentos for all participants, about 100! We welcome your contributions of cans of Spam, small bags of chips, (leave in the box marked Basketball clinic in the kitchen) brownies (on 9-26), monetary contributions (checks can be made out to Harris UMC and in the memo: basketball clinic. Place in offering on Sunday or send to church office) See Diane Matsuura for any questions. Mahalo! Mahalo! for your generosity!

Stewardship



Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign will begin the first Sunday in September. Come and support your Harris Church as we plan for the next year of faith, witness, and service to our community and the world! You are invited to the celebration potluck on **September 28th** after worship service.

Upcoming

Aloha Aina Mural



Come to Miyama Hall to see the Aloha Aina mural. It is a touring, story-telling mural about the past and a hoped-for pathway to healing, from a Hawaiian viewpoint. Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers who worked with Meleanna Meyer in August to install the mural. Stay tuned for more activities.

HARRIS MISSION BAZAAR



9:00 am
to
1:00 pm

The 2025 Mission Bazaar

The Bazaar date is set for **November 1, 2025** from **9a-1p**. If you can help, contact Dennis at 808-388-8282. Please join this FUN EVENT!

Gifts of Music Needed



Looking for Gifts of Music or Song Leaders during our Sunday 10:45 am Worship. These could be a solo, group, vocal, instrumental, as God Speaks to Your Heart. If interested, please contact Davy Lee at dlee78@hawaii.rr.com.

SPAM Donations Needed



The Soup Ministry was started in 1980 by George and Adeline Fish. We are in need of SPAM donations to continue the ministry today! Please drop off your donations in the Harris

kitchen or at the greeters table in the Sanctuary. Mahalo!

Sing, Ring, Strum with Us!

Feel free to explore our available music ensembles!

- Fellowship Choir: 9:30-10am Sundays in Miyama Hall with Jordan Goto, wjygoto@gmail.com
- 'Ukulele Fellowship: 9-9:30am Sundays in Komuro Lounge with Davy Lee, dlee78@hawaii.rr.com
- Beginner Handbells for children and adults: 9-10am 2nd & 3rd Sundays in Room 5 with Skylar Yamamoto and friends, playball808@gmail.com

Sanctuary Ministry



We are ready to receive personal care items, shoes/sandals, clothing and other apparel in good condition for men, women and children. In addition, donations of gas cards, gift cards from drug

stores and grocery stores would be most helpful. There is secured storage available in room 4 to accept your donations each Sunday. If you would like to help in this outreach or have questions about the variety of donations needed, please contact Wally Wake, 808-383-7397.

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 9:00am** in room 3. Contact Aunty Rene 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: Beginning Handbells, Rm. 5 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

- 9/1 Labor Day-Church Office Closed
- 9/7 @ 10:45am Stewardship Kickoff, Sanctuary
- 9/7 @ 5:00 pm Evening Worship, Sanctuary
- 9/18 @ 9:30 am Royukai, Komuro Lounge
- 9/18 @ 6:30 pm Spiritual Formation Ministry, ZOOM
- 9/28 @ 11:45 am Stewardship Potluck, Miyama Hall
- 9/29 @ 6:00 pm Finance Committee, ZOOM

View the calendar online: <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 October 2025 newsletter, please submit any info by **Monday, September 22** 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 Jeff & Jean Yamamoto at 808-536-9602 or 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-12:30pm

<https://harrisumc.org>

info@harrisumc.org

We Are Social!



@harrisumc



@aloha2harrisumc