

# Nu' u Vineyard News

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JANUARY 2026

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Christmas Eve Worship Service on Dec. 24. *Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto. Continued on page 4.*

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## You Are Invited to January Services and Events

Thank you for celebrating the advent season with us. We look forward to seeing you for special events in January including the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade on January 19.



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# A Message From the Pastor

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Aloha Harris 'Ohana,

One of the books on my daughter's shelf is the story of two different kids who pushed themselves to try something new, and how they (and their parents) dealt with the discomfort of feeling scared and inadequate to the task. The line for parents and kids to learn in order to work through that discomfort is, "One step outside of your comfort zone is the best place for growth."

In our cultural moment, I have observed that people are less and less willing to be any steps at all outside their comfort zones. We order our coffee on mobile apps so we don't have to interact with a barista. We hold our conversations via text message (I'm not knocking texting; it's a valuable tool!) and argue behind a screen on social media. Many are estranged from family, and lines of tribalism are deepening.

How can we reverse the trends of loneliness and isolation? How can we become the kinds of friends, neighbors, and community that save lives and change the world?

I believe the Church has a vital mission in the midst of this challenging moment. We are called to radical love and radical hospitality even when it isn't comfortable. One step we can take that's beyond our comfort zones is to practice building connection by asking better questions. That's why, for the next few weeks before the season of Lent, we are going to spend some time talking about the need for human and spiritual connection, and learning to ask better questions.

Questions can be tough to get right, but getting better at asking them just takes a shift in focus and some practice. I once heard that the art of hosting was just that of thinking about your guest's preferences before your own, and I think that shift is all we need to begin. When you're talking with someone, try to make the conversation, and the questions, about them rather than about your own needs. You'll learn more by being open, and they'll like you more for your authentic curiosity.

We can practice this in every situation: in the grocery store or the drive-thru, when spending time with loved ones, when meeting new people or hanging out with our oldest friends. Think of the other person first. I think we can change the world this way.

Let's practice together here at Harris Church. I hope to see you there, and I hope you'll invite someone.

In peace,



Pastor Lea



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# January/February Worship Services

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Sunday, January 18 @ 10:45 am  
2nd Sunday After the Epiphany  
Genesis 3:8-13  
*Who Told You That?*

Sunday, January 25 @ 10:45 am  
2nd Sunday After the Epiphany  
Genesis 12:1-20  
*Why Are You Afraid?*

Sunday, February 1 @ 10:45 am  
Human Relations Sunday with Potluck in Miyama Hall  
Genesis 4:1-16  
*Am I my Brother's Keeper?*  
Guest Preacher: Bishop Stonehead

Sunday, February 8 @ 10:45 am  
2nd Sunday After the Epiphany  
Genesis 18:1-15  
*Why Did You Laugh?*

Photo by [Brandon Russell](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# Updates

## Christmas Eve Worship Service



# Updates

## Worship Services



Worship service on Dec. 28.



The Harris Handbell Ensemble on Dec. 28.



Lighting the advent candle on Dec. 21.



Donated leis given out at service on Nov. 30.



Lighting the advent candle Nov. 30.

## Harris Preschool



Preschool students receive a visit from Santa on Dec. 10.

# Updates

Susannah Wesley



**Mahalo nui loa Harris United Methodist Church!**

Our mission would remain only a dream without the generosity of partners like your church. Your gift is far more than a toy—it is relief for a parent striving to provide the essentials, a hot meal child growing up amid challenges, and a candle shining in the darkness, reminding our community that aloha still lives in the hearts of their neighbors.



The Harris youth collected canned goods and diapers to be delivered to Susannah Wesley on Dec. 10.



# Updates/Upcoming

## Anita Malama Update



Crystal (left) and Pat (next to her) and their friends serenaded the residents with Christmas Carols.

Mel Billingsley's sisters who are members of West Kauai United Methodist Church, Patricia Pablo and Crystal Rowe, visited our dear Anita Malama at the care home where Anita resides.



Anita holding a Christmas wreath given to her by our Rev. Lupi and other members of WKUMC.

Blessings that Anita is well and able to celebrate the season of Hope with us!

*Submitted by Mel Billingsley*

## Royukai Senior Fellowship

The next Royukai fellowship will be **Jan. 15 @ 9:30 am**. Contact Jo at the church office for more information.

## Extending Our Hospitality...



The opening date for Kokua Closet (formerly known as Room 4) is **Thursday, January 15, 2026** when agencies will be welcomed to call (808) 536-9602 and schedule a visit for their clients to

Harris United Methodist Church, 20 S. Vineyard Blvd. Clients can choose among a variety of free clothing, shoes and personal care items for men, women and children. We are encouraged by the generosity of our Harris ohana who have donated items in good condition to fill this room! Hours of availability will be Monday through Friday, 9-12 pm. Notices will be sent to agencies supporting our immigrant population of this additional faith-based service. For more information please contact Wally Wake, wakew052563@gmail.com.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade will be held on **Monday, January 19**. We will be joining the Interfaith Alliance on their trolley. There are 20 seats available on the trolley. Meet in the Harris Parking Lot at **7:00 a.m.** To reserve your seat, contact Karen Ginoza @ 808.227.7804.

# Upcoming

## Acts of Repentance Committee

On January 16, 1893, U.S. military troops landed in Honolulu. The next day, Queen Lili'uokalani was illegally overthrown. She yielded under protest "to avoid any collision of armed forces, and perhaps the loss of life.

Join the original 'Onipa'a Peace March presented by The Queen's Court and Ka Lahui Hawai'i on **January 16**. The parade will begin at Mauna'ala and end at Iolani Palace by 10:30am. There will be a program at Iolani Palace. Join us to commemorate 133 years since the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. Contact Karen Ginoza @ 808.227.7804.

## Human Relations Sunday

Human Relations Sunday will be on **February 1st**. Potluck lunch will be held after the service.

## Coffee With the Pastor



You are invited to join Pastor Lea after worship service on the second Sunday of each month. This is a great opportunity to meet Pastor Lea, ask questions, share your story, and discuss ideas over a cup of coffee!

## Childcare Workers Needed

Harris UMC is looking for certified childcare workers on Sunday mornings from 9:00 am to noon. Please call the church office for more information: 808- 536-9602.

## Newsletter



To receive the newsletter electronically. Visit <https://harrisumc.org/newsletter/> and add name and email to the mailing list.

## 2026 Britt Lectures with Pastor Samantha Beach Kiley



First UMC of Honolulu Guest Speaker: Pastor Samantha Beach Kiley accompanied by Nancy Beach

Lectures I & II on Saturday, **Feb 14** at 10:30 pm - 2:30 pm (lunch included)

Lecture III on Sunday, **Feb 15** at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Workshop on Monday, **Feb 16** at 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Register: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZ5fhNmIqs-L3opONd9lwhyxhxgrPQU58BnLNSEDIztKEJZw/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZ5fhNmIqs-L3opONd9lwhyxhxgrPQU58BnLNSEDIztKEJZw/viewform?usp=send_form)

### ~ Note to Self ~

"What is my purpose in life?" I asked the void.

"What if I told you that you fulfilled it when you took an extra hour to talk to that kid about his life?" said the voice.

"Or when you paid for that young couple in the restaurant? Or when you saved that dog in traffic? Or when you tied your father's shoes for him?"

"Your problem is that you equate your purpose with goal-based achievement. The Universe isn't interested in your achievements... just your heart. When you choose to act out of kindness, compassion and love, you are already aligned with your true purpose.

No need to look any further!"

| TheMindsJournal

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# Ongoing Ministries

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## 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

1/15 @ 9:30 am Royukai, Komuro Lounge  
1/15 @ 6:30 pm SFM, ZOOM  
1/16 Onipaa Peace March  
1/19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY-CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
1/19 7:00 am Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Trolley Pickup, Parking Lot  
1/22 @ 6:30 pm SFM, ZOOM  
1/25 @ 9:30 am Handbell Rehearsal, Room 5  
1/27 @ 6:00 pm Finance Committee, ZOOM  
1/30 @ 6:00pm Hawaii J20+, Miyama Hall  
2/1 @ 10:45am Human Relations Sunday & Potluck, Sanctuary, Miyama Hall

View the calendar online: <https://harrisumc.org/facility-calendar/> for more events.

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# General Information

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## 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 February 2026 newsletter, please submit any info by **Monday, January 26** to Erin at [admin@harrisumc.org](mailto:admin@harrisumc.org)

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## 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](https://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](mailto:info@harrisumc.org).

## Covenant Missionaries

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](mailto:admin@harrisumc.org) or 808-536-9602). We suggest a donation of **\$63** 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/](https://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