

Nu'u Vineyard News

AUGUST 2026



Laity Sunday in Miyama Hall on July 12. *Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto. Continued on page 5.*

You Are Invited to August Services and Events

We look forward to seeing you in August for worship. Our Special Sunday Services include Peace with Justice Sunday on August 16 and Christian Education Sunday August 30.



LiveOurLives performs Kwasi I Kena and "I Speak Jesus" on Laity Sunday, July 12.

A Message From the Pastor

Aloha Harris 'Ohana,

When I was a kid, “back-to-school” was one of my favorite times of year. I loved getting brand new supplies, sometimes a new backpack, a few new clothes, and I’d even lay out my uniform the night before the first day. My mom was a teacher, so many summers saw my brother and me on campus, running around with our other teacher’s kid friends, or helping our favorite faculty clean and prep their rooms for the new year (well, that was more a me thing than a my brother or our friends thing, but we all helped at least a little).

Nowadays, the end of summer still feels like the beginning of a new year in a lot of ways. People return from travel refreshed and ready to buckle down at work, school, church, and in their communities. Government entities return from recesses. Families enact the annual rituals of getting ready for the new school year. We begin to settle into familiar rhythms.

This year at Harris, the end of summer and fall “kickoff” feel especially charged as I take a little vacation time as well as prepare my own ‘ohana and the Harris ‘ohana for the birth of my little girl in October. I know there are questions about how the church is supposed to do its work while I’m on parental leave, and I want you to know that processes and policies are already in place to cover my absences. It’s reassuring to me that in our UMC system, we have structures in place that allow our incredible lay leaders across ministry areas to step fully into leadership, and the church will be able to keep moving just fine while I’m away. You’re all in capable hands, at all times!

Back-to-school is also a time when I’m reminded of the basics of our Christian, Wesleyan, and Methodist theologies. This month we’ll hear about John Wesley’s frameworks of grace, holiness, Christian growth, and our connection and call to mission. These are the threads that form the tapestry of our Methodist heritage, that bind us together in community, and that continue to form and shape us today. I hope to see you in church as we go “back to school” with these fundamental themes. We’ll conclude our back-to-school month with Spiritual Formation Sunday on August 30, where we’ll celebrate the ways we are formed by the teaching ministries of the church.

I’ll be away from August 3-21, and Rev. Scott Cervas will be your on-call pastoral care contact. We’ll publish a pastoral care “hotline” number where you’ll be able to reach him, or whoever is on call (including me) in the next week or so.

In peace,



Pastor Lea



August Worship Services

Sunday, August 2 @ 10:45 am
10th Sunday After Pentecost
Ephesians 2:1-10; John 1:1-9
By Grace

Evening Worship @ 5:00 pm
Hebrews 10:24-25
Why Bother Going to Church
Jo Tanimoto will deliver the message

Sunday, August 9 @ 10:45 am
11th Sunday After Pentecost
Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32; Micah 5:6-8
Holiness That Overflows
Guest Preacher: Rev. Stephen Kim

Sunday, August 16 @ 10:45 am
Peace with Justice Sunday
Guest Speaker: TBD

Sunday, August 23 @ 10:45 am
13th Sunday After Pentecost
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Rooted

Sunday, August 30 @ 10:45 am
Christian Education Sunday
Ephesians 4:11-16; John 15:1-11
Growth in Love



Photo by [Kimberly Farmer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Updates

Worship Services



6th Sunday After Pentecost on July 5. Photo Credit: Greg Yamamoto.



Time with Young Disciples: "We are the Church".



Laity Sunday Message on July 12 by Scott & Cheryl Marlow titled "Harris Ohana-One Body in Christ".



The Ukulele Fellowship on Laity/Anniversary Sunday in Miyama Hall.



Chilli cook-off in the kitchen and outdoor games.

Updates



8th Sunday After Pentecost on July 19.



9th Sunday After Pentecost on July 26.

Harris Preschool



Harris Preschool starts a new school year on Wednesday, Aug. 5. For more information, contact Tasha at harrispreschoolhi@gmail.com or visit <https://harrisumc.org/preschool/>

Ending Spiritual and Physical Hunger: Astonish!



The 42nd annual session of the California-Pacific conference was held in La Quinta, CA from June 17-20. Harris representatives were Leisha Bento and Wally Wake. Pastor Lea Booth again served as Parliamentarian for the conference.

Reports were heard, retirements were celebrated, rules, recommendations and resolutions were voted on. Of particular significance were the following:

Delegates were truly inspired by messages from Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank, Rev. Ken Suhr and Bishop Delores J. Williamston from the Louisiana Annual Conference!

Celebration of the 200th anniversary of Christianity in Tonga.

2024 reports indicated that 61% of our conference members were female and 52% were of non-white ancestry.

The 70th anniversary of ordination of women was celebrated with each female pastor in our conference standing as their decade was mentioned. What a chilling moment as we watched Pastor Amy Wake, our daughter/sister, rise with the group.

Sadly, the closure of 4 churches in our conference was voted on and confirmed.

Updates/Upcoming

The method of apportionment payment to the conference was changed to use the church's income rather than expenses for calculating apportionment payment. The largest earners would be asked to pay 11% tithe on their operating income of \$695,000 while the middle earners of \$330,000 up to \$695k would pay 10% tithe. The smallest earners would pay 9% based on their operating income of less than \$330,000.

Recipients of the Bishops awards from the Hawaii district were Kara and Rev Alan Mark from Kilohana UMC and Robert Lopaka Mansfield from Wesley UMC.

Election of pastoral and lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference for 2028. Pastor Lea was voted as first pastoral alternate to the Jurisdictional conference.

A prayer vigil was held in the evening on the lawn for those who are suffering in our world, organized by Justice and Compassion Ministries, Monalisa Tui'tahi, an immigration attorney.

The commissioning and ordination service was the highlight of the final evening.

As always, it was such a pleasure to gather as one body for breakfast as the Hawaii District. We take care of our ohana!

~Submitted by Leisha Bento and Wally Wake

Evening Worship



Please join us for Contemporary Worship Sunday, **Aug. 2 at 5 pm**, followed by a potluck dinner. Jo Tanimoto will deliver the message "Why Bother Going to Church" based on Hebrews 10:24-25.

HIROSHIMA PEACE BELL RINGING



Hiroshima Peace Bell

Thursday, **Aug. 6 @ 9:00 am** in the Harris Courtyard. You are invited to a time of reflection and remembrance of the victims of the Hiroshima nuclear bombing in 1945.

RING in the New Year By Playing HANDBELLS!



Weekly rehearsals begin in **September on Saturday mornings** lasting an hour & a half long... specific time and start date

TBD. New/novice to ringing? No problem! We can set aside a separate time that we can gather to learn to read music and/or learn to ring. We will play in Worship for Advent and "whenever we are ready to play in between. All for enjoyment and to Praise God! Contact Cheryl Yamamoto at cherylyamamoto@gmail.com. Happy Ringing!

Spiritual Formation Ministry Meeting Changes

Please note the following schedule updates for our Spiritual Formation Ministry, which meets on the third Thursday of each month via Zoom:

August 20 has been moved to **August 13** at 6:30 PM

October 15 has been moved to **October 22** at 6:30 PM

Upcoming

Spiritual Formation Ministry: Volunteers Wanted

"Jesus Loves Me This I Know, For the Bible Tells Me So"- When one hears this precious song, one might remember the first time he/she sang it in Sunday School or saw it performed in church.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY invites all who would like to share their Christian faith and experiences by volunteering to be classroom teachers, assistants and resource persons (e.g. art, music, dance/movement, etc.). The primary age group will be elementary students. A curriculum will be used that provide lessons plans. A flexible teaching/classroom schedule will be worked on for volunteers to follow (pending the amount of help is available). If you have any questions, please contact Mel Billingsley at billingsleymel@gmail.com or Diane Matsuura at dianematsuuraoutlook.com. We look forward to receiving volunteers so they can be introduced at our Christian Education worship service on August 30th, 10:45 a.m.

Royukai Senior Fellowship

Royukai Meeting on **Thursday, August 20, 9:30am - 12:30pm**. All are welcome. Lunch will be served. For any questions, contact Jo at the church office for more information.

Requirements For Cooking in the Kitchen



The State Department of Health requires a person with a current food handler's certificate to be present when food is prepared in our kitchen. Classes for the food handlers certificate are free. See the Hawaii Department of Health website or use the QR code for more info. Please get certified and the office will keep a copy of your certification on file.



UNA-USA
Hawaii - Honolulu Chapter

A Free
Public
Event

Create a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons for future generations!

Join 33rd Annual Nagasaki Peace Ceremony!

81st Commemoration of the Atomic Bombing of Nagasaki

Saturday, August 8, 2026

9:30 am - 12:15 pm (doors open at 8:45 am)

Kawaiahao Church (957 Punchbowl St, Honolulu, HI 96813)

For in-person attendance, register at nagasaki.eventbrite.com

Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@KawaiahaoChurchTV/streams>



Audrey Kitagawa, Keynote Speaker
"The Present Moment: Learning from the Past, Building the Future"
President/Founder, International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation



Program Highlights

Traditional Hawaiian Opening
Visionary Voices
Keynote, Audrey Kitagawa
Intergenerational peacemakers
Interfaith leaders
Youth artists participants
Music & Dance to uplift our spirits
SPECIAL NOTE: 11:02 Moment of Silence
Closing - Ringing the Kawaiahao Bell for Peace
11:30 am 12:15 pm Mini concert on the lawn by the Royal Hawaiian Band
Laying of leis at the Nagasaki Peace Bell site

Sponsors: Baha'i Hawaii Community; Interfaith Alliance of Hawaii; Knights of Service
Peace Partners: Hawai'i Nagasaki Peace Committee; United Nations Association (UNA) Hawaii-HNL Chapter; Kawaiahao Church; Nagasaki Kenjin-kai; Ohana Arts; Peacebuilding LLC; The Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Hawaii Chapter.

Information: Joanne Tachibana: unahawaii@gmail.com

Message: 808.387.7271

For in-person attendance, register at nagasaki.eventbrite.com

Livestream available at <https://www.youtube.com/@KawaiahaoChurchTV/streams>

Out Of Office

Rev. Lea will be out of office **Aug. 3-21**. Please contact Rev. Scott Cervas at (808) 859-1883 or email scottpcusa74@gmail.com for emergency pastoral matters.

Newsletter



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

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 9:00 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

8/2 @ 5:00 pm Evening Worship, Sanctuary

8/5 First day of New School Year, Harris Preschool

8/6 @ 9:00 am Hiroshima Bell Ringing, Courtyard

8/9 @ 10:45 am Guest Speaker Rev. Stephen Kim, Sanctuary

8/13 @ 6:30 pm SFM, ZOOM

8/16 @ 10:45 am Peace with Justice Sunday, Sanctuary

8/20 @ 9:30am Royukai Senior Fellowship, Komuro Lounge

8/25 @ 6:00 pm Finance Committee, ZOOM

8/30 @ 10:45 am Chistian Education Sunday, Sanctuary

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 August 2026 newsletter, please submit any info by **Monday, August 24** 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 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 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/



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