



Mānoa Connection

MĀNOA VALLEY
CHURCH

Connecting our 'ohana

eNewsletter

December 3, 2025

MVC Needs Committee and Council Members for 2026

by Sam Browning



Do you want to use your gifts of time and talent to serve on a committee or on the Church Council? We could definitely use your loving help and input, as we work together in being a part of the body here at Mānoa Valley Church. Open positions include the following:

Christian Education Committee oversees Sunday school, youth, family ministries, marriage programs, adult education, senior ministry

Vice Moderator assists the Moderator in order to move into the Moderator position after a year.

Treasurer supervises the receipt, custody & disbursement of Church funds, as well as trust funds & endowments.

Executive Secretary records Council meetings and maintains minutes.

Financial Secretary is responsible for the collection of and custody of all offerings and monies received.

Deacon assists the Pastor in communion, baptisms, visitations, maintaining the membership list, coordination of weddings & funerals, and maintaining networks of caring for the Church 'ohana.

As I look back over the last three decades of my life at MVC, I am so glad I had the opportunity to serve on three committees and on an associate pastor search committee. I have built and strengthened friendships, as well as served our Church along with my brothers and sisters.

For more information, please contact Sam Browning at mrsammyjb@gmail.com or Sarie Uechi at twosmu@hawaiiantel.net.

The Christmas Fund



The Christmas Fund is one of the United Church of Christ's special mission offerings. It focuses on caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the church. For over 100 years, this fund has provided emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to lower-income retirees. Join us in supporting those who served in the church with your donation which will be collected on **December 21**. You may use the special offering envelope that will be in the worship bulletin. Write your check to Mānoa Valley Church and indicate "Christmas Fund" on the memo line.



Links

[Online Donations](#)

[Thought For The Day](#)



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Celebrating A Joyful Gathering: Our Harvest Fair Triumph

Mānoa Valley Church's Harvest Fair, held on November 1st this year, was an amazing success, bringing together our community in a spirit of joy, generosity, and fellowship. Months of planning and dedicated teamwork culminated in a successful event. Revenues from the Fair are \$16,000.

Delicious food such as homemade cookies, chili, barazushi, sandwiches, popcorn, and freshly grilled hotdogs delighted the taste buds of attendees. Games, crafts, a special lei-making session, and shopping for toys and books were fun for families. MVC's Preschool also sponsored a booth that sold merchandise which students had helped make and plants they had nurtured.

The church leadership extends heartfelt congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in and attended the fair. The enthusiasm, generosity, and spirit made the event truly special. Together, we have shown the strength of a small but faithful church community!

What follows is a list of the people who helped in some capacity whether it was sorting donated items, cooking chili, collecting cash, counting cash, cleaning up and boxing leftovers for the Institute of Human Services, or providing security and monitoring the parking lot. What this list does not include are the numerous people who donated food, materials, prizes, money, or White Elephant items. We regret if we inadvertently left out any names. As you can see so many people were involved!

Ai Pappalardo

Alisa Au

Alison Kawamoto

Allen Uyeda

Alva Yamaguchi

Alvin Fujioka

Angel Kyllonen

Anita Motte

Ann Haioka

Bertha Fujioka



Cat Iwami

Catherine Miyahira

Celine's family

Channey Tang Ho

Charlotte Nakanishi

Cindy Nonaka

Claire Azama

Cullen's family

David Hamada

David Shimabukuro

Dora

Earl Yonehara

Emily Fujioka

Emma E.'s family

Emma S.'s family

Erin Tokoro

Evelin Tai

Evelyn Chong

Francine Matsuura

Gerald Saito

Jane Kubota

Janel Palimo 'o

Jean Yamamoto

Jennifer Kanda

Jerry Hamada

Jill Geronimo

Joanne Funasaki

Joy Browning

Joy Nagaue

Judy Iwai



Bette Uyeda

Betty Mark

Beverley Yuen

Bonnie Uyeda

Brennan's family

Brenton Lee

Bryn's family

Carol Yamashiro

Carole Chong

Carolyn Okinaga

Dawn Hamada

Dawn Sur

Dawna Emoto

Debbie Bajcar

Debbie Fong

Diana Schnetzler

Diane Lam

Diane Matsuko

Dianne Ishida

Donna Choy

Geraldo Villa

Giovanni Browning

Grace Nishimura

Guru Guru

Gwen Chong

Gwendolyn Kirkland

Hector Venegas

Inga Park Okuna

James Xu

Jan Khil

Justin Lui

Karen Hamada

Karen Kainuma

Karen Peterman

Kazue Ishihara

Keith Kawamoto

Kelli Miyamoto Xu

Kent Yamaguchi

Kim Springer

Kimberly Akiona

Kimberly Sybounmy
Kyler Nishimoto
Laura Noda
Laurel Pinnick
Leah's family
Lillian Zane
Linda Guerra
Lisa and Gavin's family
Lisa Miyamoto
Lisa Tam



Lori Isaki
Lot Lau
Louise Yamamoto
Lynette Wageman
Maddie Oshiro
Maizie Okimoto
Marcia Baptist
Marcie Hamadon
Mariko Wakaki
Marilyn Payapaya



Martha Hamada
Mary Moccia
Melanie Ching
Michael Thomas
Mila Mattivi
Milton Oshiro
Mimi Funasaki
Moodie Malek
Nina Browning
Pamela Chun

Pamela Young
Pastor Abe
Patricia Murata
Peggy Cha
Raynette Takizawa
Reggie Tamashiro
Reid Shimabukuro
Richelle Fujioka
Roger Au
Ron Iwami

Valerie Kunimoto
Vicky Mizumoto
Wade Tokoro
Warren Kunimoto
Ying Zhang
Youxin Zhang





Christmas is Fast Approaching and so is This Year's Mānoa Christmas Parade!

Join in the fun on **Sunday, December 7th** and march with our Mānoa Valley Church contingent this year! Please feel free to invite others to join us in representing the church. Children and/or grandchildren, accompanied by an adult(s) are welcomed, and we hope some MVC childcare families will also join us.

We will **meet at the church at 3:00 pm**, then walk to Noelani School together. The parade itself starts at 4:00 pm. We will have candy for marchers to hand out to folks along the way.

The route comes along Woodlawn Drive to Kolowalu Street, turns right onto East Mānoa Road, left up Lowrey Avenue, right to Mānoa Road, and ends at Mānoa Gym. There are usually light refreshments for parade participants at the gym. From there, everyone can make their way via Mānoa Recreation Center back to Mānoa Valley Church to their parked cars.

Hope you will be able to help us represent Mānoa Valley Church to everyone in the community! If you have questions, please contact **Lisa Miyamoto** at miyamoto.lisa@gmail.com.



Christmas Gift Cards for the Elderly



To our caring and generous congregation, it's the time of the year the Missions Committee humbly requests gift cards for Catholic Charities Kupuna and Waikiki Health Center. Gift cards from grocery stores, Target, and Longs are gratefully welcome. Your gift cards often allow recipients to get necessities.

We will be collecting gift cards before and after service on **December 7, 2025**. If you have any questions, please contact **Alisa Au** at raau.1939@gmail.com.

Family Promise Hawai'i 'Ohana Meals

MVC will be providing dinners to Family Promise parents and children on Thursday **December 11, 2025**. The food is served family-style and they request no pasta meals. If you are able to provide a dish, rice, some fruit or vegetables, please sign up using this link: [DECEMBER 11 LINK](#). Please bring your food donations to the church parking lot between 4:45-5 p.m. on the day of the dinner. If you have questions, please contact **Inga Park Okuna** (ingaparkokuna@gmail.com).



Thanksgiving Celebration at MVC



UPCOMING
EVENTS

Date	Event
Dec. 5	"Soon & Very Soon: 2025 Advent Devotional" 12 pm-12:45 pm. Six zoom sessions led by Pastor Gwendolyn. Contact the church office at 808-988-3272 for more information.
Dec. 7	Christmas Gift Card collection, breezeway
Dec. 7	Mānoa Christmas Parade, 3 pm., meet at the breezeway, parade starts at 4 pm.
Dec. 8	Christmas High Tea, 9-11:30 am, Multipurpose Room. Bring your favorite tea cup.
Dec. 11	Family Promise dinner donation, drop off by 5:00 pm at the breezeway
Dec. 13	Christmas Lights Trolley Ride, details TBA
Dec. 14	Book Club Meeting in the Upper Room after church service
Dec. 21	Christmas Fund offering will be received during service
Dec. 21	Keauhou Shelter sandwich making, 9 am, breezeway
Dec. 24	Candle Light Service, 7 pm, sanctuary
Dec. 28	Deacons to provide snacks.