



MĀNOA VALLEY
CHURCH

Mānoa Connection

Connecting our 'ohana

eNewsletter

July 5, 2023

Message from Pastor Abe

Time to Reflect, Time to Look Forward




A few months ago, during *Spring Break* for our boys' school, our family had the opportunity to travel to Vancouver, British Columbia. It was the first time we had returned to Vancouver since moving to Mānoa in July 2020. Having the opportunity to take this break was a gift for many reasons, including providing an opportunity to pause and reflect.




Being physically away from Mānoa Valley Church (a community that we have quickly grown to love which has become “our family”) and being back in Vancouver (a place that used to feel much more like home than it does now) gave me an opportunity to reflect on the past three years at MVC in a unique way, especially as my term at the church was coming to an end. During my times of reflection in Vancouver, what struck me was how, over a short three years, our church community has experienced incredible growth and transformation. In the face of unprecedented challenges, particularly through the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen and experienced God's faithfulness, goodness, and provision in remarkable ways, haven't we?

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One of the areas where we have seen significant growth is in our church Preschool and After School Care programs. We have witnessed the joy and enthusiasm of our keiki as they learn and grow in a nurturing, Christ-led environment. The relationships we have formed with the families from these programs have enriched our church community, reminding us of the importance of investing in the next generation. I join many of you in being so grateful for Pastor Evelin and her family joining our church community and all her work and dedication, and for Trisha Honda and the rest of the staff who serve in our programs, and for the Child Care Committee members and Christian Education Committee members, for the countless ways that they humbly serve and faithfully love the children and families in our care.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about a paradigm shift in how we connect with one another and the wider community. When we couldn't meet in person, through countless Zoom meetings, we continued to gather for worship, prayer, and fellowship. Despite the physical distance, our connections have deepened, and we have found new and creative ways to support and encourage one another.

In addition to our church gatherings, we were also able to connect with the broader community. Through the dedication and hard work of the Missions Committee, we were able to continue to connect with and support individuals and organizations, both locally and globally. Another example of those connections was through the formation of the Mānoa Stakeholders group and their work in creating the community needs assessment survey, which allowed us to listen to the voices of our

neighbors and understand their concerns and hopes, especially in this challenging season. The results of the survey have provided invaluable insights, guiding us in the years ahead, as we seek to address the needs of our community in practical and impactful ways.

The formation of the Connection Group Ministry has also fostered a sense of community and belonging among our members. Connection Groups such as the Book Club, Prayer Group, Art for Fun, Fit4Life, Talk Story Tuesdays, the Leadership Connection Group, ReEngage, and open gym nights have provided opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth, mutual support, and, most importantly, friendship. We celebrate the relationships that have been built through these groups and the lives that have been transformed through them.

As we reflect on the past three years, we also remember the dear sisters and brothers in Christ who have gone before us. We mourn the loss of those who have left an indelible mark on our hearts and our church. Their legacy of faith and love continues to inspire us as we press on toward the future.



Looking ahead, I am filled with excitement and expectation for what God has in store for Mānoa Valley Church. As we build on the foundation of the past three years (which was built on foundations from decades before), I look forward to seeing how we will continue to deepen our connections with the Triune God, with one another, and with the greater community. Through it all, our mission remains the same—to make impactful, transformative relationships, to care for the marginalized, the elderly, youth, young adults, middle-aged adults, children, and families, and to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ who make more disciples.

In the next three years, I look forward to how we will pursue God’s call on our lives, both as individuals and as Mānoa Valley Church. As we strive to fulfill this call, may we come together with a renewed passion and commitment, and may we seek to understand more deeply what it means to be Jesus’ church in Mānoa Valley and beyond. And may we be inspired to explore innovative ways to engage with our greater community, meeting both its spiritual and practical needs, as we grow together in discipleship, nurturing a culture of love, grace, and accountability.

As we move into this next season, we can be confident that our future is promising because we serve a faithful and loving God. Together, may we walk in unity and purpose, eager to see lives transformed as people encounter Jesus Christ and experience His love through MVC. With open hearts and willing spirits, may we embrace the journey that Jesus has already planned to lead us on.

A special and sincere ‘thank you’ to all the church members, volunteers, Committee members, Council members, church leaders, and staff who have helped make the past three years so special. And a special thank you to Soo, Miles, and Rory, who have taken gigantic steps of faith and shown Christ’s immeasurable love and grace throughout this entire journey thus far. May the Lord bless each one of you abundantly as we embark on this next chapter of our journey together in Christ Jesus.

In Christ's love, Abe

Do You Need Prayer Support?

► If you would like to receive prayer for any reasons, our prayer ministry team would be glad to meet with you. Each week, following the Sunday worship service, our prayer partners are available to meet with anyone seeking support. If you would like to receive prayer, please ask one of our ushers to connect you with a prayer partner following the Sunday worship service. Also, please let us know if you are interested in joining the prayer ministry team.

► If you are interested in joining others to pray for the church community and beyond, we invite you to join the Prayer Fellowship Connection Group. The group meets on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7pm – 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Bette Uyeda at auyeda001@hawaii.rr.com for more information.



Upcoming Renovations at MVC by Earl Yonehara for the Trustees

From July 17 through July 31, our kitchen is scheduled to undergo a major renovation. Existing cabinets will be replaced with newly-designed custom cabinets that will feature pull-out drawers for easier access to large pots and utensils. Entry doors will also be replaced.

A committee has been formed to remove all items in the cabinets. Clearing out is scheduled for **Saturday, July 15**. Please contact **Reggie Tamashiro** if you can assist. Take note that all personal items must be removed prior to demolition.

Along with the kitchen renovation, there will be replacement of a rusted galvanized water pipe. Its damage was significant: In the December-January period, 90,000 gallons of water leaked from this broken pipe. A new copper pipe will be re-routed through the breezeway ceiling to avoid the high cost of trenching the ground to lay the new pipe. This project will take place at the same time as the kitchen renovation, when the Child Care Programs will be closed. More information is forthcoming on the scheduled water shut-off date.

The kitchen renovation was planned and budgeted as part of a 30-year Reserve Study that determines major repairs needed to maintain our physical plant. However, our facilities are 56 years old, which makes it difficult to predict all repairs that are needed annually. This year, three repair projects that were NOT part of the Reserve Study have arisen: a leak in the Preschool roof caused mold to grow in the ceiling of the church office that created a health risk to employees; louvered windows in the gym above the offices were removed to prevent the risk of falling glass panes and replaced with galvanized metal screens; and the broken water pipe described above needed to be replaced.



Repair costs are taken from the *Building Fund*, separate from the Operating Budget. These unplanned emergency repairs added another \$50,000 to our building maintenance costs. Your annual contribution to the Building Fund is crucial as your financial support will help ensure our facilities continue to serve as a place where members and friends can gather to worship, create meaningful relationships, study, and engage in service and activities that deepen our personal relationship with our Lord and Savior. The MVC Trustees thank you for your continued support.

All in the 'Ohana



If you've attended worship at MVC since we returned to the in-person format, you will have had the chance to meet the **Hong family**: **Grace** (7) and **Joseph** (5) are avid participants at Children's Moments and Sunday School, **Stephen (or Seho)** plays guitar in our Praise Band, and **Jane** is often involved in a church activity. Here is some biographical information you may find interesting.

Stephen was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Miami and then lived in Orlando, Florida. Jane was born and raised in the Los Angeles area and lived in Boston and New York as an adult. Grace and Joseph were born in Orlando where they spent their early years, before the Hong family moved to Hawaii in early 2020 for Stephen's job transfer as a Director of Human Resources. Jane, a former elementary school teacher, is a stay-at-home mom and works part-time for *PaperPie*, a children's book company. Family hobbies include surfing and exercising (Stephen), swimming and reading (Jane), going to the beach and drawing (Grace), and Legos and soccer (Joseph).

MVC welcomes the Hong family!

Manoa Heritage Center Needs Your Help

Do you have memories of Mānoa Valley when there was Mānoa Chop Suey instead of Starbucks and before that, the Mānoa Market? Did you ever eat at Mānoa Grill? Or swim and play in one of the many ponds between East Manoa Road and Woodlawn? If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Manoa Heritage Center would love to interview you and capture your memories of Mānoa! Please email contact@manoaheritagecenter.org for follow up.

Congratulations to our Preschool Graduates

Superstar Class



Ms. Kelley



Manoa Valley Preschool Class of 2023



Ms. Yuko



Skylar



Ava



Bea



David



Ethan



Phoebe



Autumn



Maili



Aurora



Emma



Mila



Avery



Noah



Mack



Tara



Taryn

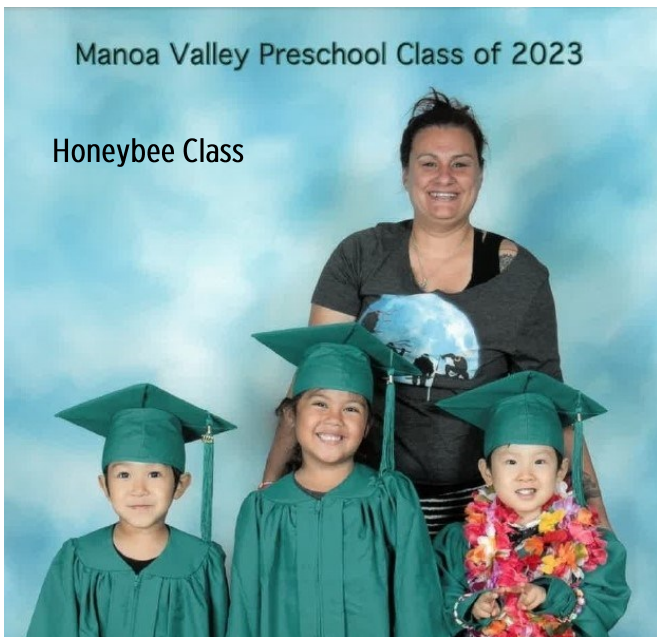


Gavin

Not pictured: Ella, Leilani and Jayden

Manoa Valley Preschool Class of 2023

Honeybee Class



Dylan, Dallahs, Warren, Ms. Lindsay

Dads enjoyed time with keiki at our Donuts for Dads event held at the Church on June 16.



MVC Lunch Donation to Next Step Shelter Greatly Appreciated



A huge *mahalo* to everyone, young and old, who came to help make the sandwiches and pack the lunches for the residents at the Keauhou Shelter on June 11th! This facility helps people who are transitioning out of houselessness and is a division of the Waikiki Health Center. We had a fun time serving Jesus while making delicious and nutritious meals for 75 people! They especially appreciated the blessings and cute decorations that were on the brown paper bags as you can see in their social media post below. Click on the post for a larger image.

Watch for the next opportunity to serve this outreach mission on September 10th!



Connection Groups Help Us to Connect with Each Other

If you are interested in connecting with people in the community, we invite you to join a Connection Group at Mānoa Valley Church. The following is a list of Connection Groups you can join that focus on a variety of areas, including spirituality, art, music, education, athletics, staying fit, and other areas of interest.

- Prayer Fellowship*
- Fun With Art*
- Marriage Enrichment
- Praise Band and Singers
- Tuesday Talk Story*
- Book Club*
- Fit4Life Exercise Group
- Saturday Evening Open gym (Basketball & Volleyball—7pm-9pm)

*group meets virtually, via Zoom.

If you would like more information about joining a group, call the Church Office at (808) 988-3271 or email at office@manoavalleychurch.org.



Date	Event
July 4	Independence Day—Preschool and church office closed
July 14	Last day of Preschool (Aloha Program)
July 15	Cleaning Out Kitchen, 9 am—noon
July 16	Cleaning Out Kitchen—after worship
July 16	Book Club Meeting , noon, <i>Saving Fish from Drowning</i> by Amy Tan