



MĀNOA VALLEY
CHURCH

Mānoa Connection

Connecting our 'ohana

eNewsletter

Back to School by Richelle Fujioka



On Friday, August 28th, MVC hosted a "Back to School" dinner which welcomed the families of the Preschool and After School Care. Quite a large group of MVC members attended to help setup, serve and cleanup, while getting a chance to socialize with the families. **Pastor Ruchama** who, along with **Dawn Hamada** organized and promoted the event, sent an email to MVC members saying, "What a beautiful evening! I want to ... sincerely thank everyone who helped make tonight's Back to School event possible. The atmosphere was great, and it truly blessed my heart to see the families. I am confident they felt welcomed and loved! This was a team effort, and I think we can be proud of putting together such a successful event. Your service reflects Christ's love, and I am very grateful for each of you." A special mahalo to Chef Kevin Thyr and his assistant Sherwood Wong who provided their skills and talent pro bono, to feed over 160 guests. Photos taken by **Ron Hashiro**.

September 2, 2026



Links

[Online Donations](#)

[Thought For The Day](#)



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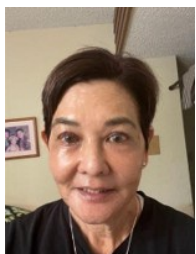
Faith in Our Daily Lives: Invitation to MVC Friends and Members

Last year, Pastor Abe did a sermon series entitled *Everyday Sacred: Following Jesus All Week Long* in which he compelled us to consider our faith beyond Sundays, the sanctuary, and his sermons. In thoughtful messages, he challenged us to discern the way that our faith intersects with everything else in our daily lives, however mundane, tiresome or even difficult. These sermons are posted on the MVC website in the archives [LINK](#).



The piece by Dr. **Susan Nishida** below is the first in what the newsletter team hopes will be an ongoing feature. Members and friends are invited to submit a short piece describing a moment in their daily life influenced by their belief in God. If you have questions, contact richelle.fujioka@gmail.com.

Faith and Medicine by Susan Nishida, MD



Dr. Nishida

As I sat across a 20-year-old patient with a rash, I pondered, “What could this be?” I let the patient know that I was not completely sure what was going on, but I would treat her as best I could. At that moment, I began to silently pray, “Dear God, please give me the wisdom and skills to make this patient better.” I typed the prescription while silently praying that this would heal the rash.

There is a gap between science and the unknown. This is filled with FAITH. After eleven years of higher education, I believe that faith is the most important piece of healing patients. When their illnesses do not resolve as anticipated, I always remember that everything is according to God’s timing.

There have been a few times when the patient allowed me to pray with them. This is always a blessed day. I walk away feeling filled with the Holy Spirit, and the patient does too. They are usually beaming with a huge smile and give me a hug.

Many times during a stressful day or in the evening, I pray for Jesus to carry my burdens and thank him for the privilege of taking care of patients. I repeat my favorite scripture,

“Do not be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God....”(Philippians 4:6)

Faith in the Lord is part of my everyday practice of medicine. The rash got better.

Neighbors In Need



On October 4, World Communion Sunday, we will receive the Neighbors in Need special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. This offering supports the ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of the funds supports the Council of American Indian Ministry and two thirds go towards Justice and Witness Ministries. Grants ranging from \$1,000-\$10,000 are awarded to UCC churches and organizations for projects that focus on the rights and freedoms of all persons, environmental justice and economic justice.

Please write your check to Mānoa Valley Church and write “NIN” on the memo line.

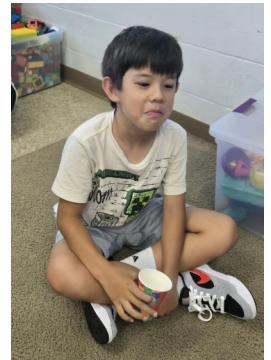
Contact Catherine Miyahira if you have any questions at: cymiyahira@gmail.com

Invitation to Join MVC's Sunday School *Journey to the Son* by Dawn Hamada

Calling all preschoolers through 5th graders! Join us for an exciting, faith-filled adventure as we explore God's love together. Through stories, games, worship, and hands-on learning, children will discover how God is present in every part of their lives. We are excited to walk alongside their families as the children grow in faith, confidence, and joy.

Here is what we learned recently after reading **Romans 8:28-29 – In all things God works for good.** Life gives us sweet days and sour days. Some moments feel happy – like finding a dollar or having a friend to share a snack. Other moments feel yucky – forgetting your homework, getting caught in the rain, or facing disappointment. Romans 8:28-29 reminds us that God works in all things for the good of those who love Him. This doesn't mean God causes the hard things. It means He never wastes them. Every part of our story – even the sour parts – is held in His hands.

For the hands-on exercise, the children tasted plain lemon juice to see how sour it is. Just like lemon juice needs sweetness to become lemonade, **God can take the sour parts of our lives and mix them with His goodness to create something wonderful.**



Sour!!

We welcome school age children up to 5th grade, whether or not they attend Mānoa Valley Church. Graduates of our Preschool are also invited.

Prayer Request for MVC Preschool by Dawn Hamada



We joyfully welcomed our families at our Preschool Open House in August. As we begin the school year of learning and growing together, we give thanks for the opportunity to partner with the families in nurturing each child's God-given gifts. Our program is rooted in the belief that every child is created in the image of God, worthy of love, dignity, and intentional care.

We look forward to welcoming MVC members and friends into this warm, aloha-filled community as we gather in fellowship and faith. We invite everyone to join us in prayer, lifting each child and family and Preschool staff to seek God's guidance as we continue to grow together in Christ. May the season be filled with connection, gratitude, and the spirit of aloha for all who come to Mānoa Valley Church Preschool.

Prayer Group Starting in September

ALOHA! Calling all Prayer Warriors! We want to lift up the needs of our congregation, community, and the world. We are restarting our Prayer Connection Group in September. It will be held on Zoom on the **2nd & 4th Mondays from 6:30-7:30 pm (HST)**. Anyone interested in joining us, please contact **Melanie Ching** at Ching412@aol.com



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thess. 5:16-18

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.
Matt. 18:20 (ESV)

Your Donations Are Very Helpful to Struggling Families



Thank you to all who contributed to the Welcome Home Kits and to our monthly dinners for Family Promise. You have really made a positive impact in the lives of struggling families. First, an **urgent request for food donations on Thursday, September 3rd, tomorrow!** This signup [LINK](#) will show you what is needed.

We will also be bringing dinner to the Family Promise Program on Thursday, October 8, 2026. If you are able to contribute a dish, fruits, rice, veggies and/or dessert for 5 or more people, sign up using [THIS LINK](#). If you have questions, email Inga Park Okuna at ingaparkokuna@gmail.com.

Give Aloha

Each year Mānoa Valley Church looks forward to participating in *Give Aloha*, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts program. You can support our Legacy Fund by making a donation at any Foodland, Sack N Save, or Foodland Farms store during the month of September. 100% of your gift will go directly to our church and Foodland will match a portion of your contribution.



Here's how to support Mānoa Valley Church at checkout:

- 1) Enter your Maika'i phone number or present your Maika'i card.
- 2) Tell the cashier: "I'd like to make a donation to **Mānoa Valley Church, #78558.**" You may donate any dollar amount up to \$249.
- 3) Review your receipt to confirm the organization name and donation amount are correct.
- 4) Ask for a duplicate receipt and place it in the offering bowl so your donation can be recorded on your annual giving statement.

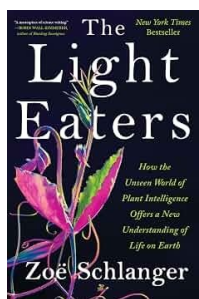
You can also donate online at Foodland.com.

Your participation in this fundraiser is vital this year because our Legacy Fund was used to remove lead paint and repaint the gym ceiling, renovate and expand the cottage for use as a parsonage and do extensive renovation of the Preschool and After School Care playgrounds.

Contact Catherine Miyahira at cymiyahira@gmail.com if you have any questions.

MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MVC Book Club Invitation



The Book Club invites interested readers to attend our meetings when a book catches your fancy and you have time to read it. The discussions are open-ended and help illuminate aspects that you may or may not have noticed. This month's book is a strenuous read that poses radical suggestions about the abilities of plants. It's called *The Light Eaters* by Zoë Schlanger. But if you're interested in lighter fare, humor, mystery or historical fiction, then stay tuned for our next selection. We are meeting on Sunday September 20th at 1:00 pm on Zoom. Contact richelle.fujioka@gmail.com if you'd like to attend.

HARVEST FAIR



Saturday, November 7, 2026
9:00 am-1:00 pm
Breezeway and Gym

Chair : Richelle Fujioka (richelle.fujioka@gmail.com)

Volunteers needed! Please look over this list and contact the booth leader now! Also, if you can help set up on Friday, November 6 from 5-8 pm, contact the booth chairs.

Booth	Contact Person	Help Needed
Art	Sue Yamamoto susan-yamamoto@outlook.com Cat Iwami catz@hawaii.rr.com	
Baked Goods	Louise Yamamoto (808) 807-5577 yamamolouise007@gmail.com Catherine Miyahira (808) 256-1174	Calling all bakers and goody makers! We need all types of baked goods i.e. cookies, cakes, pies, breads, snacks such as prune mui, pretzels, granola, energy bars, etc. Cakes, pies, breads, and more perishable items will be accepted <u>only on the day of the Fair</u> . All other items that can last for a week like cookies, prune mui, etc. can be dropped off the Sunday before. <u>Please let Louise know if your items will need packing</u> and indicate if items have nuts in them.
Beverage & popcorn	Pastor Abe & Ron Lee pastor@manoavalleychurch.org	Helpers needed at Harvest Fair to serve drinks and popcorn.
Craft/Gift Shop	Bette Uyeda (808) 988-4990 auyeda001@hawaii.rr.com	Calling all crafters and those who enjoy sewing! We need new craft or sewing items that you can donate to our Gift Shop. Call Bette Uyeda at (808) 988-4990 or email at auyeda001@hawaii.rr.com for more information on how to donate or help in other ways.
Food	Reggie Tamashiro (808) 208-6971 r2tamashiro@hawaiiantel.net	Helpers needed on Friday, Nov. 6 from 11:00 am to help cook. Helpers also needed to prepare and sell food items at the Harvest Fair.
Hot Dogs	Ron Iwami Iwamih001@hawaii.rr.com	Two volunteers needed on the day of the Harvest Fair to help cook and package hot dogs.
Kiddie Games	Trisha Honda asc@manoavalleychurch.org	Monetary donations are welcome to cover the cost of prizes and lunch for the student workers.
Plants	Dianne Ishida (808) 425-1729 Maizie Okimoto (808) 988-6216	We welcome potted plant donations! Also, helpers wanted on Friday morning from 9-noon to help set up and on Saturday during the Fair. If you have plants to donate or can work, please contact Dianne Ishida.
White Elephant	Sam Browning mrsammyjb@gmail.com	Helpers needed to sort donated items during October. Helpers also needed to sell items at Harvest Fair.

Harvest Fair Appeal: White Elephant Needs Your Help

It's no secret that White Elephant sales at MVC's Harvest Fair is its biggest source of revenue. Clothes, toys, books, appliances, jewelry and household goods at discounted prices attract many fair attendees. Under the spirited leadership of **Sam Browning**, this juggernaut is hoping for your participation. Thus, we encourage everyone to consider helping in any of the following ways.

Donations

Between Sunday, September 27 and Sunday, November 1, donations of new or gently-used items may be dropped off on or under the two tables in front of the kitchen.

Sorting and Pricing

Between September 28 and November 5, help would be very much appreciated in sorting donation items and pricing them.

Setup

On Friday, November 6, from 5:00-9:00 pm, help is needed in displaying the items on designated tables and in certain areas.

Selling and Cleanup

On the day of the Harvest Fair, November 7, between approximately 8:30am-2:30pm, people are needed to oversee the sales of the items in one of six booths and when the Fair ends, to help pack up leftover items for donation to non-profit organizations.

Thank you for your efforts to support MVC and please contact Sam for more information at mrsammyjb@gmail.com.



Date	Event
Sept. 3	Family Promise dinner donations, 5-5:30 pm, church parking lot.
Sept. 7	Labor Day Holiday, office closed
Sept. 13	Sandwich making for Keauhou Shelter, 9 am
Sept. 14 and 28	Prayer Connection Group meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm on Zoom
Sept. 20	Book Club Meeting, 1 pm on Zoom
Sept. 27	Finance Committee to provide snacks.
Oct. 8	Family Promise dinner donations, 5-5:30 pm, church parking lot.