Mānoa Connection

MĀNOA VALLEY CHURCH

Connecting our ʻohana

eNewsletter November 4, 2026

Explore the Bible! By Pastor Ruchama Joël



Pastor Ruchama

One of my favorite things is learning about God's faithfulness and goodness through Scripture and helping others discover the joy of spending time in His Word. The more I get to know God through His Word, the more I find myself loving Him. I believe the Bible is a gift God has given to all of us, and there is an invitation for each of us to meet Him in His Word.



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Learning to engage with the Bible takes time. And we all approach it with different questions and challenges. Sometimes, having someone journeying with us and learning about His Word together can make all the difference.

As the Pastor of Discipleship and Community Life, I am grateful to share my passion through my ministry and walk alongside people in their journey of growing in their confidence and joy of spending time in God's Word.

That's one of the reasons we started *Explore the Bible!* On September 2, we kicked off this new Bible study group. Over a course of 6 weeks, we learned five simple steps that helped us in our study of the Book of Jonah. We discussed the lessons and truths Jonah's story teaches us and how it speaks into our lives today. The group was interactive, shared great insights and asked good questions. It was a lot of fun to explore the story together and get to know one another better along the way.

We all have our own journey with the Bible, but something we share is the invitation to know God more deeply through His Word. Whether you already love spending time in Scripture or are just beginning to explore it, I would love for you to join us for our next *Explore the Bible!* session!

If you are interested in the next session, please send me a message at ruchama@manoavalleychurch.org, or keep an eye on the announcements. More details are forthcoming.



Here are comments from a few members who attended the first session of *Explore the Bible!*

"Jonah was commanded to go to Nineveh. What would you do if God told you to walk 550 miles? What if your destination was an evil, brutal city? What is the meaning of being swallowed by a big fish and that God appointed the fish to swallow Jonah?

I can't adequately express how much I learned! What I previously thought was a simple children's story is a complex tale. The session also reviewed the ancient political and spiritual landscape of the area. Pastor Ruchama made the experience so interesting. Beyond this, she equipped us with tools to better study the Bible and understand its context. I am looking forward to future sessions!" – Roger Au

"I used to be unsure of reading the Bible, but after our Bible study of the Book of Jonah, I feel more confident and able to see the intensity of Scripture." – Susan Nishida

"We have often talked about renewing Bible study classes. I signed up for the class on the Book of Jonah conducted by Pastor Ruchama and I was overwhelmingly pleased with the structure and discussion. We learned that Jonah was not a typical Biblical prophet. He was oppositional, unforgiving and refused to repent his actions. In spite of his shortcomings and attitude, God used Jonah to accomplish His purpose. Jonah's lesson is an example of the depth of God's love and forgiveness that He has for each of us. I encourage you to sign up for Pastor Ruchama's next class." – Earl Yonehara

"Pastor Ruchama made the class interesting with the handouts, graphics, and her stories. Even though the Book of Jonah is only 4 chapters long there was so much 'wrapped up' in those 4 chapters. I was eager to see what we were going to 'unwrap' as we explored a chapter per week. We were so eager to investigate and share. We looked forward to diving into Jonah in depth.

I am appreciative that I could join the class via Zoom.

Looking forward to our next *Explore the Bible!* session with you Pastor Ruchama. You make Bible study interesting and fun!" - Deloris Hairston

Pastor Appreciation Day

On October 11, we took a moment during worship to recognize and express our gratitude for the wonderful work our pastors do for us.



Pastors Gwendolyn, Abe, Ruchama and EJ

Give Aloha Final Report



Give Aloha 2026 was a very successful fundraising effort. Members and friends donated $10,582. Foodland matched 34%, donating $3,612.94 and resulting in a total raised of **$14,194.94**. We raised $1,000 more than last year! The proceeds of this fundraiser will benefit the Legacy Fund and other ministries of the church. If you haven't done so already, please remember to turn in your receipt so your donation can be listed on your annual giving statement. Thank you to all those who participated.

Mark Your Calendar for the Fall Congregational Meeting



Our Fall Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday November 22nd following our worship service. The meeting will be held in person in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

We will review and discuss the financial status of the church and vote on the 2027 budget. We will also review the results of the congregation's senior pastor's evaluation and review and vote on the renewal of call for our senior pastor. We will also learn about church priorities for the coming year.

As a congregational church, our practice is that all important church governance and financial issues require decisions to be made in community with one another. Your presence is vital to meet our by-laws requirement for quorum to conduct business essential to the continued well-being of our church.

All are welcome to attend; however, voting will be by members only.

Christmas Gift Cards Bring Joy to Senior Citizens by The Missions Committee



Christmas is the time of year when we joyfully celebrate Jesus's birth. A truly meaningful gift is sharing with Kupuna who struggle.

This year, we will again be collecting gift cards for Kupuna to be distributed by Catholic Charities and Waikiki Community Center. (Catholic Charities' clients are not limited to Catholics.) Gift cards to Longs, Target, and grocery stores are welcome.

The Preschool and After School children decorate Christmas cards in which a gift card is enclosed. The agency staff shared that the cards bring smiles to recipients' faces and brighten their day.

We will be collecting gift cards on Sunday, November 22 and Sunday, November 29, 2026, before service.

Please open your heart to share with others.

"A Spook-tacular Day" at MVC

The MVC Preschool had a spook-tacular morning of fun, laughter, and Halloween excitement designed for the students. Children were invited to wear their favorite child-friendly costumes. They played games, created crafts and won prizes to make wonderful memories with their friends. A special "thank you" goes out to all the parents that made this event possible.





MVC'S 54th HARVEST FAIR

Saturday, November 7, 2026
9 am - 1 pm

Fun for the whole family

Food • Plants • Baked Goods
Handmade Crafts
Activities for Kids
White Elephant and more!

Proceeds support facilities and programs at MVC

Cash only

Behind Mānoa Starbucks

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Manoa Community Christmas Parade

Community Christmas Parade with the Manoa Lion's Club

December 6th at 4pm

MVC Preschool, MVC ASC students, and some church families will be marching together in the community parade! Please meet at the church and park by 3:40pm, and we will walk over to Noelani together.
In past years, the children have loved holding up our banner, marching alongside more than 50 community groups and passing out candy. If your family will be joining us, please email Dawn Hamada @ dhamada@manoavalleychurch.org to let me know!

Parade Route & Street Path

- **Start: Noelani Elementary School (on Woodlawn Drive)**
- **Turn Left: Woodlawn Drive to Kolowalu Street**
- **Turn Right: Kolowalu Street to East Mānoa Road**
- **Turn Left: East Mānoa Road to Lowrey Avenue**
- **Turn Right: Lowrey Avenue to Mānoa Road**
- **End: Mānoa Valley District Park (near Mānoa Park Gym driveway)**
- **Total Distance: Approximately 1.2 miles [1, 2]**





Keauhou Sandwich-making Project

Keauhou means “a new beginning”. Keauhou Shelter accommodates 75 clients in a dormitory-style arrangement with shared bathrooms and showers, as well as shared kitchen and laundry spaces.

Thank you volunteers!!









Date	Event
Nov. 7	Harvest Fair, 9am – 1 pm
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Holiday, office closed.
Nov.15	Sandwich-making for Keauhou Shelter, 9 am, breezeway
Nov. 22	Congregational Meeting after worship
Nov. 26 & 27	Thanksgiving Day Holiday, office closed
Nov. 22 & 29	Christmas Gift Cards will be accepted
Nov. 28	e-Newsletter article deadline
Nov. 29	Snacks by Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Dec. 6	Mānoa Community Christmas Parade, 4 pm. Meet at church at 3:40 pm.