

Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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October 2024, Volume 32

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

October 2024

- 1 Tue -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 4 Fri -Japanese Program at St. Francis (10:30 am)
- 5 Sat -Church clean-up for Grand Ceremony (8 am)
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
-HCRP Meeting on ZOOM (6:30 pm)
- 9 Wed -KMH Kyoten Study on ZOOM (5 pm)
- 13 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (5 pm)
生神金光大神様 御大祭 (5 pm) *Naorai dinner will follow
- 16 Wed-KMH CEOC Meeting on ZOOM (9 am)
- 18 Fri -HCRP Peace Prayer Preparation at Honolulu (10 am)
- 19 Sat -HCRP Peace Prayer at Honolulu Church (4 pm)
- 20 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am) 月例靈祭
-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 26 Sat -Hawaii Gunpla Workshop at HNL Church (12 pm-6 pm)
- 27 Sun -120th Anniversary of Amagi Church (11 am)
-No Sunday Service
- 30 Wed-Halloween Pumpkin Carving (4 pm) *Light refreshments
- 31 Thr -Happy Halloween!

November 2024

- 1 Fri -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 3 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (10 am)
Yano Sensei and Reiko Sensei will go. *No Sunday Service



The Autumn Memorial Service was conducted smoothly on Sunday, September 22, 2024

Konko Sama Says...Give teachings while weaving or while sewing a kimono. You will save people by giving teachings. (GII Kashwabara Toku 10-2)

Editor's thoughts: This teaching suggests that spiritual guidance can be shared in everyday activities, like weaving or sewing a kimono. It shows that wisdom can be passed on naturally in daily life, turning ordinary moments into opportunities to help others.

Sunday School Oath

I will advance my faith through understanding the Founder's teachings and will strive to become a more useful person to society.

Sincerity is the essence of my faith, and its basic principles are courtesy, kindness, and devotion in everything I do.



Autumn Grand Ceremony

Date: Sunday, October 13, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Sermon: Rev. Koichi Konko (Honolulu Church)

Memo: We warmly invite all church members to attend the Autumn Grand Ceremony in honor and appreciation of our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin, on **Sunday, October 13th at 5:00 pm** at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. This is a very important event, and your presence will be greatly valued. Following the ceremony, we will have a Naorai fellowship dinner. We look forward to sharing this special time together!



Halloween Pumpkin Carving

Wednesday, 10/30 from 4 pm

BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin)

If you have your own tools,

Bring them too!

Refreshments will be served.



Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2024

11/3 Sun-Autumn Grand Svc at Hilo Church 10 am (Yano attends)
11/10 Sun-Autumn Grand Svc at Wailuku 11 am
11/16 Sat-KMH 4th International Yatsunami (Zoom 3 pm HST)
11/23 Sat -KMH Board Meeting 10:30 am @Honolulu Church
11/24 Sun-27th Mem. Svc for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama 10 am
11/30 Sat-KMH Rummage Sale @Waipahu Church (9 am to 1 pm)
12/15 Sun-52nd Mem Svc for the late Rev. Haruko Takahashi 10 am
12/22 Sun-End of Year Service 9 am
12/30 Mon-33rd Mochi Pounding (8 am till pau)
1/1/25 Wed -New Year's Day Service Ganjitsusai (9 am)
1/18/25 Fri -Mochitsuki Sheraton Waikiki 10a & Moana Surfdrider 2p



HAWAII GUNPLA WORKSHOP

SAT. 10.26.24

12 PM-6 PM

Konko Mission of Honolulu
1728 Liliha Street

Hosted by Clayton Matsuoka & Michi's Toy Box

#hawaiigunplaworkshop



Happy Birthday

To all the people born in October
Please continue to receive
Infinite divine blessings from

Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama and
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

Rev. Sachiko Yasutake (Amagi Church)

Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi (San Diego Church)

Jane Suwa Hugh Noguchi

Erik Miyasaka Chason Pangorang



Autumn Grand Ceremony Schedule

Honoring the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin Sama

10/6 Sun-Autumn Grand Svc at Honolulu at 11 am

10/13 Sun-Autumn Grand Svc at Wahiawa at 5 pm

10/20 Sun-Autumn Grand Svc at Waipahu at 11 am

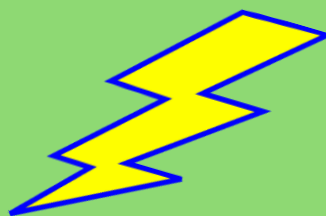
11/3 Sun-Autumn Grand Svc at Hilo Church 10 am

11/10 Sun-Autumn Grand Svc at Wailuku 11 am

Church Electric Wiring

We will be installing 6 outlets in the church and residence for approximately \$8,000 as a temporary fix to a full rewiring which will cost \$50K-100K. We deeply appreciate any financial help you can offer. Scan QR Code on the right to donate via PayPal. Or send a check to our church: Konko Mission of Wahiawa. Thank you very much for your generous help.

Memo: Outlet Installation



Rev. Yoki Sekiguchi has made a visit to our church on Wednesday, September 25th. He will be the next Head Minister of the Konko Mission of Hilo from Dec 1 this year.

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and high spirits. On September 18th, my parents and I attended the cremation and Celebration of Life Service for the Late **Reverend Yoshie Nagai**, the head minister of the Konko Mission of Hilo. She passed away just one day after her birthday, on August 27th, at the blessed age of 94, after serving the mission for an impressive 60 years. I will always remember **Yoshie Sensei** as a cheerful and grateful person, always with a smile. I recall how she used to pick us up from the airport, saying, "I saw your plane fly in, so that's when I head to the airport," and her timing was always perfect. This time, when I traveled to Hilo for her services, I had to pick up **Hisayo Sensei** of Wailuku Church at the airport with our rental van. As I saw her plane fly in, **Yoshie Sensei's** words came to mind, and I headed to the airport. Sure enough, as soon as I reached the pick-up curb, **Hisayo Sensei** arrived with perfect timing.

I will always cherish the kindness that **Rev. Yoshie Nagai** extended to me every time we meet. Her joy was always infectious, and it was a true delight to see her as much as she was to see me. I am deeply grateful for her many years of dedicated service to Kami-Sama through her ministry and for the countless lives she touched with her warmth and compassion.

Yoshie Sensei's sincere dedication and wish for the mission to thrive are evident in the seamless transition of leadership. Starting December 1, 2024, **Rev. Yōki Sekiguchi** will step in as the new head minister of the Hilo Church. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our new, young minister, and warmly welcome him to the Konko Missions in the Hawaii Diocese!



October is the Autumn Grand Ceremony season for Oahu Churches. We will celebrate our Grand Ceremony on **Sunday, October 13th at 5:00 pm**. Please mark your calendars so you can attend this very important service. The speaker for the evening will be the **Rev. Koichi Konko** (*Head Minister of the Konko Mission of Honolulu*). Naorai fellowship dinner will also follow. We hope to see you!

In celebrating this special occasion, I would like to share an inspiring sermon of a sensei named, **Rev. Motoki Kumagai** of the Konko Church of Yanai in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Recently, I had the opportunity to watch the Kyo-1 Grand Prix, which is a Konkokyo Young Ministers' Association Sermon Competition. They featured six young ministers to deliver a 7-minute sermon on a topic of their choice. One sermon in particular really stood out for me because it's very relatable. It was called "*Momotaro*," By **Rev. Kumagai**. Momotaro (aka: Peach Boy) is a popular Japanese

children's story that even Hawaii locals are familiar with. **Rev. Kumagai** was selected as the grand champion for this year's Kyo-1 Grand Prix. It was very well deserved. To deliver an inspirational sermon fitted for all ages in just 7 minutes is genius. I had the opportunity to speak with **Rev. Kumagai** at our latest Edokkyu Talk on ZOOM with my Konkokyo Gakuin Seminary classmate, **Rev. Kazuhisa Shimatani** of the Konko Church of Sone. I begged **Rev. Motoki** for his sermon script so I can share it with all of you in English. He was more than happy to send it to me. I hope you enjoy his sermon just as much as I did. The original script is in Japanese, and was translated into English using ChatGPT.

KYO-1 Grand Prix "Momotaro"

Konko Church of Yanai
Rev. Motoki Kumagai

Lately, I've been thinking a lot about a certain story. It's called 'Momotaro' (Peach Boy)... How many of you know it? You all know it, right? But you might be wondering, why bring up Momotaro here? Well, I've realized something. The story of Momotaro is packed with hints on how we can live happily. So today, I'd like to introduce that story.



The biggest turning point in Momotaro's story is when the old woman picks up the large peach that floated down the river and brings it home. We've all heard this scene so many times that it feels ordinary, but I think a different outcome was entirely possible.

For example, imagine this version: "The old woman went to the river to do laundry. While washing, she recalled something the old man said that morning. "Dear, didn't you burn the *tamagoyaki* (omelet) a little?" She suddenly felt angry, and while squeezing the laundry with all her might... splish, splash, splish, splash, the large peach floated away down to the sea. And they lived happily ever after." With that ending, we wouldn't know what's supposed to be 'happily ever after,' right? Or how about this?

"The old woman was doing laundry at the river, but her hands stopped. With the uncertainty of old age and rising costs, she felt weighed down. And as if adding to her worries, there were ogres now! Thinking of the future, she hung her head. And in front of the hunched-over old woman, splish, splash, splish, splash... (the large peach passes her by)."

Both of these scenarios are possible, right? If you're angry at someone or sad about something, you might not even notice the peach floating right in front of you. And even if you do notice the peach, that's not the end. Take me, for example—I'm the kind of person who'd think, "That's suspicious! There's no such thing as a peach that big. Is someone playing a prank?" Or, "A peach from the river? Hmm... if I think about it from a hygiene perspective, I better not eat it. I'll pass." I might just let it pass by without even thinking about it. After all, there's no way to know that

there's a boy inside the peach who will one day defeat the ogres. But if we always doubt everything or judge things by our 'common sense,' we'll miss opportunities.

Thinking about it this way, it seems more natural that Momotaro could have had a different ending. There are so many other turning points. For example, if the old man and old woman had never gotten together, or if Momotaro had eaten all the *kibi dango* (millet dumpling) by himself. If even one of the many crossroads had led in a different direction, the ending we know wouldn't exist. And that makes me think—couldn't the same be said about us?

You might not think about it often, but we are 'fated partners' for each other. Don't worry, I'm not trying to flirt with you all! (laughs) But being here together is by no means something to take for granted. The fact that I am participating in the KYO-1 Grand Prix and that you all made it here today is thanks to many different connections, and most importantly, because our 'lives' have continued unbroken until this very day. I had a motorcycle accident in college. If I had been hit just a little harder, I might not have survived. Also, my father is the youngest of his siblings, but the brother right above him passed away when he was very young, before my father was born. If that brother had grown up, maybe neither my father nor I would exist. And surely, there are many more branches of fate that we're unaware of. If we have come together at the end of infinite branches, doesn't that seem like 'fate'? At the very least, it makes me want to be 'a little kinder.'

Returning to Momotaro's story, out of all those branches of fate, why did the old woman reach a happy ending? She must have had things that made her angry or sad too. But even amidst that, she lived her life carefully, which is why she was able to notice the big peach. And she had a sincere heart, thinking, 'Wow, this looks delicious! I bet the old man will be happy when I bring it home.' Because of her sincerity, she was able to seize happiness.

In my teens and twenties, I thought I wasn't very lucky. I used to think, 'If only I were a little richer,' or, 'If only I had a better physique or appearance.' But now I realize that this mindset of 'I'm not lucky' caused me to lose out on a lot. There were many big opportunities, but I was too busy complaining to even look at them. Even now, I might still be overlooking things, but through my encounters with wonderful people, I've managed to get closer to a happy life. What about you? Are you overlooking the peaches floating by?

By the way, do you think the peach just floated down on its own? What if someone upstream sent it down with the hope that you would receive it? We live our lives picking up peaches or letting them float by without knowing who sent them or what wishes they carried. Normally, when we receive a gift, we at least say thank you.

But for the sender, what's most important is that the gift is received. And this is the main point I want to convey—In

order to receive the gifts sent to us, we need to remind ourselves that 'Even at this moment, someone is sending me the seeds of happiness.' Instead of saying, 'I'm out of luck' when times are tough, let's ask, 'Where's my peach?' There's no time to hang our heads. Let's listen carefully to our surroundings. On your way home today, I'm sure you'll hear 'splish, splash' (the sounds of a giant peach drifting by) somewhere. And when we meet again, I'd love to hear the story of the peach you picked up. Thank you very much. (End)



I had the pleasure of speaking with **Rev. Motoki Kumagai** over Zoom, where we asked how he came to participate in the Kyo-1 Grand Prix competition. He shared that he was invited to take part but initially felt uncertain, so he didn't respond right away. Instead, he brought the offer to his father, the head minister of their church, in a process known as "otodoke" (Toritsugi mediation). It was through this mediation that his father suggested he accept the challenge.

I believe the blessings began for him the moment he embraced this opportunity and presented it to Kami-Sama through otodoke. In a way, this invitation to the competition became a "giant peach" for **Motoki Sensei**. By entrusting this matter to Kami-Sama, he received not just guidance but divine inspiration that allowed him to deliver a sermon that was both thought-provoking and incredibly engaging. It was a reminder that sermons can be captivating and enjoyable—so much so that even a child could understand the message shared by **Motoki Sensei**.

In life, I believe we will encounter many "peaches." They won't always be perfect or grand; some might be green, small, or even rotten. Yet, whatever peach comes our way, I encourage you to bring it to Kami-Sama and offer it sincerely. No matter its condition, the blessings that come from it will always be meaningful. Kami-Sama has the power to transform even a seemingly rotten peach into a priceless blessing. I want to thank **Kumagai Sensei** for allowing me to feature his sermon with all of you in this October Children's Newsletter.

October 27th marks the 120th Anniversary Celebration of the Konko Church of Amagi in Fukuoka, Japan. This church holds a special place in my heart, as it is where my entire family engaged in spiritual training and invaluable observational learning experiences. I spent two years there, while my brothers dedicated three years after graduating from high school.

What makes the senseis and church members of Amagi truly unique is the heartwarming energy they radiate. The spiritual guidance we received from our time in Amagi will remain with us for a lifetime.

I am excited to attend this celebration with my parents and will share all about my trip in the November edition of the Children's Newsletter. Wishing everyone a wonderful October!
Sincerely, Edna