

CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



December

As we prepare to bid farewell to the current year and welcome the promise of a new one, we are excited to share our December schedule with you. The final month of the year is traditionally a time for reflection, gratitude, and coming together in the spirit of love and community.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

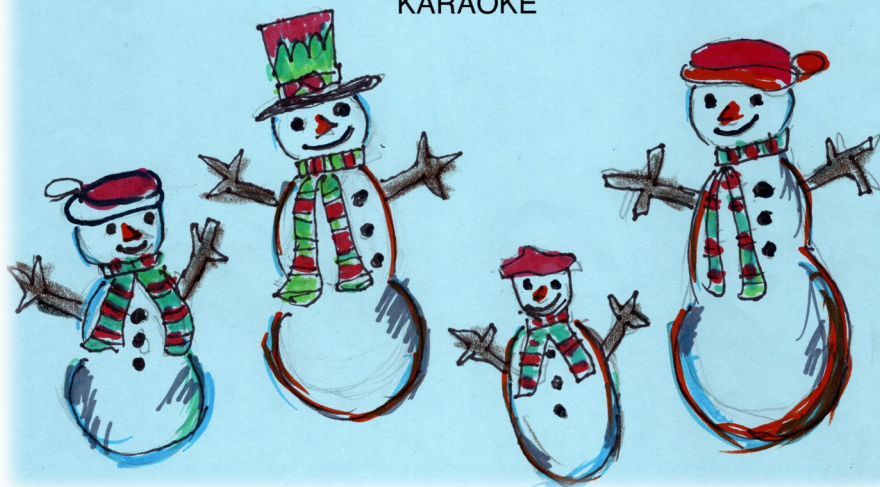
- 3 Sunday Service – Corporation Board of Directors Meeting
- 10 **Monthly Service**
- 17 10:00a.m. Sunday Service – **Family Sunday (End-of-the-Year Celebration Potluck Party)**
- 24 **End-of-the-Year Appreciation Service, Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service**
– Church Goyo: Clean-up
- 31 10:00a.m. Mochi-Making for 2024 New Year's Day Service

End-of-the-Year Celebration Potluck Party

DATE: 12/17/2023 (SUNDAY)

TIME: 11:00AM TO 1:00 PM

PROGRAM: GAME
BINGO (PRIZES)
LUNCH
KARAOKE



Join us for our much-anticipated End-of-the-Year Celebration Potluck party on **December 17, starting at 11 am and running until around 1 pm**. This festive gathering promises a delightful array of activities, including fun and engaging games, with exciting prizes up for grabs. After the games, we'll enjoy a hearty and delicious potluck lunch together. As the celebration continues, we'll unleash our inner stars during a lively karaoke session. Don't miss this opportunity to come together, share in the joy of the season, and create lasting memories with your Konko Ohana!

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Summary of Sermon for Konko Mission of Wailuku Autumn Grand Service

The Teachings of Konko Daijin: Gratitude, Faith, and Divine Connection

Introduction:

In the year 1814, more than two centuries ago, the founder of Konkokyo, Konko Daijin, was born into a humble family of eight siblings. His life began without any remarkable events, growing up in a simple and unprivileged environment. However, as he matured, he encountered a series of life-changing experiences that would shape the foundations of Konkokyo.

The Humble Beginnings:

At the age of 12, Konko Daijin was adopted into another modest family, which set the stage for his journey towards faith. His early life was marked by hard work and perseverance, and he managed to double the family's wealth. Yet, his life took a turn as he faced multiple losses, including the passing of his sibling, adopted father, children, and even his beloved cattle in 15 years. By the time he was 42, his own life hung in the balance.

A Profound Encounter:

It was during these challenging times that Konko Daijin had a life-changing encounter with Kami-Sama. He turned his heart towards the divine and began the practice of faith and Toritsugi mediation, helping others navigate their own difficulties. He earned Kami-Sama's trust and was tasked with assisting others through Toritsugi mediation, leading to the spread of his teachings.

The Essence of Konkokyo:

At its core, Konkokyo teaches us to direct our hearts towards Kami-Sama. This connection enables us to receive messages from Kami-Sama and recognize blessings, even amid life's hardships. The faith emphasizes gratitude, a fundamental aspect of practicing faith. In Konkokyo, there are no food restrictions. The key is to eat with gratitude, understanding that overindulgence can harm the body and sadden Kami-Sama.

The Power of Gratitude:

A powerful story illustrates the impact of gratitude in our lives. A woman in her sixties developed eczema in a sensitive area, causing swelling and pain. Unable to find immediate medical assistance, she decided to join a church trip to Konkokyo's headquarters. Despite initial concerns about the long bus journey, she prayed for guidance and randomly opened the scriptures, finding a teaching about gratitude. She decided to practice gratitude before every meal and even applied goshinmai (Konkokyo holy paper) to the affected area during the trip. To her amazement, her condition improved significantly. By the time she had her medical examination, the doctor confirmed her healing.

Conclusion:

Konkokyo, founded by Konko Daijin, teaches us the importance of gratitude, faith, and our connection with Kami-Sama. Through gratitude, we can appreciate the blessings Kami-Sama provides through our meals and daily lives. By directing our hearts towards Kami-Sama, we become aware of Kami-Sama's love and guidance in our lives. Just as Konko Daijin transformed his life through faith, we can also find trust in Kami-Sama, with blessings as a natural consequence.

Ultimately, the aim of practicing faith in Konkokyo is not to make requests but to be trusted by Kami-Sama. As we continue to turn our hearts and recognize Kami's messages, we build a profound connection with Kami-Sama. This connection allows us to share our faith stories, bridging the gap between those who may not know about Kami and Konko faith, and bringing them closer to Kami-Sama, our Divine Parent of the Universe. In essence, Konkokyo teaches us to find greatness in the simple act of turning our hearts towards the divine.