

KONKO MISSION OF HONOLULU

NOVEMBER 2026 • MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Gratitude, a Harmonious Heart, and Respect for Others

A Message for November

Dear Konko Ohana,

As we enter November, let us remember the many blessings we receive from Kami-Sama each day. We are able to breathe, eat, sleep, work, and spend time with people we love. These ordinary things are precious gifts that we should never take for granted.

This year we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Konko Missions in Hawaii. We give thanks for the faith, dedication, and sacrifices of the ministers, believers, and families who helped establish and support our churches. Their prayers and efforts have made it possible for us to practice Konko faith today.

The October sermons remind us to practice gratitude, cultivate Waga Kokoro—a harmonious and joyful heart—and respect each person as a precious child of Kami. We warmly encourage you and your family to attend our November services, especially the Monthly Memorial Service and Rev. Kikue Kodama Annual Memorial Service on November 29.

November 2026 Church Schedule

Date	Time	Service / Activity
Nov. 1	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Service
Nov. 8	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Service; Shintokai Meeting
Nov. 15	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Service; Sunday Gathering
Nov. 22	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Service

Nov. 29	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Service; Monthly Memorial Service; Rev. Kikue Kodama Annual Memorial Service; Church Cleanup

November Church Activities

November 8 — Monthly Service & Shintokai Meeting

Our Monthly Service begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Shintokai Meeting. We encourage members to worship together and participate in the life of our church community.

November 15 — Sunday Gathering

Following the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service, we will have our Sunday Gathering. Through sharing our experiences and listening to one another, we can discover new ways to recognize Kami-Sama's workings and deepen our faith.

November 29 — Memorial Services

At 9:00 a.m. we will observe the Monthly Service, Monthly Memorial Service, and Rev. Kikue Kodama Annual Memorial Service. Our lives are connected to the prayers and efforts of our parents, ancestors, ministers, and many others who came before us. Attending the service is a meaningful way to offer gratitude before Kami-Sama and the Mitama Spirits. We warmly encourage members and families to attend in person. Church Cleanup will also take place that day; your assistance is appreciated.

Autumn Grand Services in Hawaii

Konko Mission of Wailuku — Sunday, November 1, 11:00 a.m.
Konko Mission of Hilo — Sunday, November 22, 11:00 a.m.
We offer our prayers for meaningful services and continued blessings.

October Sermon Summaries

October 4 — Practice Giving Thanks and Treat Everything with Sincerity and Care

At the Autumn Grand Service honoring Ikigami Konko Daijin, Rev. Koichi reflected on the Founder's patience and compassion. When someone set fire to the straw hedge around his house, a follower suggested that the offender be punished. The Founder instead said that the person needed prayer so that their heart might change. Even someone who hurts us remains a child of Kami.

Rev. Koichi shared a story about Rev. Oya, whose mother was preparing for delicate surgery in Tokyo. Anxious to catch a train, Rev. Oya visited the Fourth Konko-Sama before departing. As the Fourth Konko-Sama spoke about gratitude, Rev. Oya initially worried about losing time. Eventually his heart calmed. The Fourth Konko-Sama explained that worry had caused him to forget his trust in Kami, and encouraged him to give thanks for every part of the journey: being able to leave, arriving safely, the train coming, and being able to board it.

The Fourth Konko-Sama also taught, “Treat everything with sincerity and care.” In a 1964 radio broadcast, he acknowledged that he himself still needed to improve. We should treasure time, food, money, belongings, work, and above all, people. Remembering how others cared for us helps us treat every person as precious.

Faith is practiced every day, including when we are hurried, worried, angry, or hurt. Gratitude can help us return to a calm heart. Treating people and things with sincerity can bring greater harmony to our families and community.

October 18 — Waga Kokoro: A Harmonious and Joyful Heart

The Tenchi Kakitsuke teaches, “Divine blessings are within your own harmonious and joyful heart.” Waga Kokoro means a heart filled with harmony, calmness, and joy. It does not mean that life is always easy; it is a heart we practice cultivating through faith.

One story told of a father and son who argued frequently. After a disagreement, the son visited the Hiromae and received the Tenchi Kakitsuke. He returned home with a changed heart and apologized. His father and mother also apologized, and the family cried together. Their relationship improved. Sometimes a change in our own heart opens the way for reconciliation.

Another story described a minister whose windshield was cracked by a stone while he was driving to visit a church. At first he complained, but later considered whether Kami might have changed a greater difficulty into a smaller one or reminded him to drive carefully. The crack remained, yet his heart moved from complaint toward gratitude.

A third story concerned a patient whose cancer had spread to his spine, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. He depended on others and often spoke angrily to his parents and caregivers. Encouraged by a doctor, he began practicing saying “thank you.” Though difficult at first, the practice gradually softened his expression and improved his relationships. The sermon did not say his cancer was cured; rather, gratitude helped make his remaining days more peaceful.

Waga Kokoro does not mean denying sadness, fear, or anger. It means making room for gratitude in the midst of difficulty. When something goes wrong, we can pause, pray, and seek a more harmonious way to respond.

October 25 — Which Person Is More Important? All Are Human Beings

The Founder taught, “Which individual is more important, you or someone else? All are human beings.” We naturally value our own families and lives, but others are equally precious. Our faith calls us to recognize every person’s dignity.

Rev. Koichi described Japanese writer Hirotada Ototake’s visits to Gaza in 2016 and 2017. Ototake learned that residents faced serious restrictions on traveling to Jerusalem, a place of deep religious importance to them, while a Japanese visitor could travel there far more easily. He reflected on how much of our lives depends on circumstances we do not choose, such as birthplace and family.

The sermon also discussed Professor Michael Sandel’s ideas about success, opportunity, and luck. Hard work matters, but achievements also depend on health, education, family support, and the era in which we live. A person with exceptional athletic talent might find success in one era but not another. Remembering these circumstances can help us become grateful rather than proud, and compassionate rather than judgmental.

We often draw boundaries between our family and other families, friends and strangers, or our country and other countries. The Founder’s teaching invites us to see beyond those divisions. We may disagree with someone, but that person remains a precious child of Kami. Doctors, teachers, caregivers, cleaners, delivery workers, and many others support our daily lives. Rather than asking who is more important, let us appreciate one another and pray for one another.

A Message of Gratitude

The October sermons share three connected lessons: practice gratitude in difficult times; cultivate Waga Kokoro; and respect every person as a precious child of Kami-Sama. When gratitude changes our hearts, we can treat others with greater kindness and help create more harmonious families, churches, and communities.

Thank you for your prayers, offerings, participation, and support of the Konko Mission of Honolulu. May Kami-Sama continue to guide and bless you and your families throughout November.