

Konko Mission of Honolulu

2025 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



October 神無月

OCTOBER Autumn Grand Service – Waipahu 10/12 11:00 a.m., Wahiawa 10/13 5:00 p.m.,
Wailuku 10/25 11 a.m.

4	Sat.	10:00 a.m.	Mochi-Making & Preparation for the Autumn Grand Service
5	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	Autumn Grand Service for our Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin
12	Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Service – Family Sunday (Waipahu Grand Service)
19	Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service Sunday Gathering
26	Sun.	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Service Church Clean-up

Ikigami Konko Daijin Autumn Grand Service

We warmly invite you to join us for the **Ikigami Konko Daijin Autumn Grand Service** at Konko Mission of Honolulu on **Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 11 a.m.** Refreshments will follow the service.

We are honored to welcome **Rev. Akinobu Yasutake, Konko Mission of Waipahu** as our guest speaker, who will share valuable insights into the teachings and spiritual legacy of our Founder.

This annual Grand Service is a special opportunity to express gratitude for the divine virtues of **Ikigami Konko Daijin**, reflect on the blessings of Toritsugi mediation, and renew our dedication to living in harmony with Kami's guidance.

Service Preparation

- Church Cleanup: **Sunday**, September 28, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.
- Mochi Making & Refreshment Prep: **Saturday**, October 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

We encourage you to bring your family and friends to share in this meaningful occasion. Together, let us celebrate our spiritual heritage and strengthen our bonds of faith and community. We look forward to seeing you!

September Sermon Summary “Choosing Humility, Building Virtue”

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In this sermon we reflected on two concise but challenging teachings from *Voice of the Universe*. The first said, “Those who practice faith should crawl between the legs of ten people rather than go over the shoulders of one.” The second added, “Lose, and endure it... Kami will compensate for your loss, people will speak well of you, and you will gain virtue.” Together, they invite us to adopt a posture of humility and patient endurance—especially when our ego wants to win, be right, or save face.

What does “crawling between the legs” mean?

To unpack the first teaching, Rev. Koichi recalled the ancient story of Han Xin, a brilliant general in China's Han dynasty. In his youth, Han Xin was publicly taunted: “If you're brave, cut me down—if not, crawl between my legs.” Rather than react, he chose the humiliating option and crawled away. Years later, when he had become a renowned commander, he explained that killing the bully would have been meaningless; enduring the insult preserved his future. The lesson: when we carry a larger purpose or “great ambition,” we sometimes accept small shames without rashness. Enduring a moment's humiliation can safeguard tomorrow's calling. Faith, likewise, asks us to keep sight of our greater aim—becoming a person who delights Kami and comforts Mitama—rather than grabbing a quick, ego-pleasing victory.

Why not “go over the shoulders of one”?

“Going over the shoulders” points to the opposite impulse: using force, superiority, or cleverness to dominate someone else, embarrass them, or win completely. The sermon urged us to recognize

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how easily this spirit hides in ordinary conversations: interrupting in a debate, dismissing another's background as "less educated," or needing to be the final word. We may think, "I'd never be arrogant," but stressful seasons—like the pandemic—exposed how quickly contempt, ridicule, and moral grandstanding can surface. True faith resists the thrill of crushing an opponent. Better to "crawl" ten times—accepting lesser slights—than to "climb over" one person once and harden our heart. Kami's path is not about defeating people; it is about honoring the divine child in each person.

Sportsmanship as a living picture

Rev. Koichi used sportsmanship to make the point practical. In soccer or rugby, players sometimes deliberately put the ball out of play when someone is injured, giving the other team time to receive care—and then returning possession. Even within serious competition, respect for the opponent takes precedence. That spirit belongs in our homes, workplaces, and church: don't make people carry grudges; don't provoke anger; meet differences without contempt. Enduring a small "loss" right now can prevent a larger wound later—and, according to the teaching, Kami "makes up" what we surrender, adding honor and virtue to our lives.

Faith practice: receive even hardship "with faith"

The sermon emphasized that "accepting with faith" does not mean passivity. It means letting our trust in Kami shape our first response. When tensions rise, we can ask: "Am I trying to climb over someone's shoulders here? Or is there a way to 'crawl'—to absorb a slight, listen longer, or speak more gently—in service of a larger good?" This posture opens us to Kami's arrangements and protects our relationships. It also builds inner strength: people who practice humility learn to see troubles as training rather than personal threats. Over time, these small, quiet choices add up to *toku* (virtue).

Loving difference without disrespect

Another theme was learning to enjoy human difference. Just as every pet has its own temperament, every person carries a unique rhythm, fear, and gift. If "everyone were the same," life would be robotic and dull. Faith helps us see that the person before us is not an enemy but another beloved child of Kami who happens to disagree with us—perhaps on only one point. That awareness softens our tone, loosens our grip on being right, and makes space for mutual learning. Where contempt once lived, curiosity and compassion can grow.

Choosing the long road

In practical terms, "crawling" looks like this:

- Letting a harsh word pass without returning it.
- Asking an honest question instead of scoring a clever point.
- Admitting our own part first in a misunderstanding.

Making room for another's dignity—even when we could "win."

We may worry that such choices are naïve. But the second teaching promises that losses borne with a calm heart are not wasted: Kami re-balances the ledger, community respect grows, and virtue accumulates. The quick victory that feeds ego often poisons relationships; the quiet "defeat" borne for love strengthens both character and community.

A newsletter takeaway

As a community, we can practice this teaching in three ways:

1. **In conversation:** Aim to understand before you persuade. If you notice yourself pushing to "win," pause and choose respect.
2. **In conflict:** Let one thing go—on purpose. Tell Kami, "For Your sake, I will 'crawl' here," and watch how peace expands.

In prayer: Ask Kami to reveal where pride is hiding. Then thank Kami for even small opportunities to practice humility.

"Crawling" does not make us small; it keeps our hearts close to Kami's way. May we become the kind of people who, by enduring a little, gain much—honoring the divine in others, safeguarding our unity, and storing up virtue that blesses our families and church.