

Konko Mission of Honolulu

2025 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER

September 長月



7	9:00a.m.	Monthly Service – Shintokai Meeting
14	10:00a.m.	Monthly Service & Autumn Memorial Service & Rev. Sugako Yoshino 3-Year Memorial Service
21	9:00a.m.	Sunday Service – Church Goyo
28	7:30a.m.	Church Clean-up for Autumn Grand Service

Autumn Memorial Service

The Autumn Memorial Service will be held on **Sunday, September 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. This special service is a time to honor and give thanks to our ancestors, parents, and friends who have gone before us, recognizing them as the roots of our lives and blessings. Please submit the names of those you wish to include in the Saishi prayer by September 11 via mail, email, or phone. We are honored to welcome Rev. Reiko Yano from Konko Mission of Wahiawa as our guest speaker, and this service will also commemorate the 3-Year Memorial of Rev. Sugako Yoshino. We warmly encourage everyone to join us in this meaningful expression of gratitude and remembrance.

Konko Missions in Hawaii Faith Enrichment Gathering

Join us for the KMH Faith Enrichment Gathering on **Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 1:30–3:00 p.m.** at the Konko Mission of Honolulu (or via Zoom), with guest speaker **Rev. Yoki Sekiguchi** (Head Minister, Konko Mission of Hilo) sharing on the theme “Faith in Time of Change.”

Attend in person at Konko Mission of Honolulu or join us via Zoom:
Meeting ID: [889 0866 7563]
Passcode: [655926]



August Sermon Summary

August 3, 2025

Rev. Koichi Konko shared a sermon that explored the nature of faith, the meaning of divine blessings, and the importance of gratitude in our daily practice. He reminded us that while many people turn to faith to avoid hardships such as disasters, illness, or difficult relationships, the true essence of faith lies not only in seeking blessings but in cultivating the heart that can recognize and appreciate them.

Rev. Koichi began by reflecting on a teaching from Gorikai that emphasizes both faith and blessings have their own “skillful way” of being received. The passage warns that if one forgets to give thanks after receiving blessings, regret will follow, and future blessings will be harder to receive. Conversely, those who express gratitude consistently will continue to receive blessings in abundance. This teaching set the foundation for the rest of his message: faith is not complete without gratitude.

He then shared a recent personal experience. On July 29, he took his son ice skating at Ice Palace. Although his son wanted to continue skating, they left around 1:00 p.m. because Rev. Koichi had a dental appointment in Aiea at 3:00 p.m. Shortly after returning home, multiple emergency alerts announced a tsunami warning

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for Hawaii, with expected wave arrival later that evening. Roads became congested, businesses closed, and chaos spread as people scrambled to safety.

By coincidence—or rather by blessing—his dentist’s office had called earlier that day to reschedule his appointment, eliminating the need to go. Looking back, he realized that if he had stayed longer at Ice Palace, they might have been caught in heavy traffic, adding unnecessary risk during the alert. He reflected: perhaps this avoidance of trouble was a divine blessing. At first, he had not even thought to give thanks, but later he realized the importance of offering gratitude, even for blessings that seem small or indirect. This reinforced the teaching that gratitude completes the cycle of receiving blessings.

To further illustrate this point, Rev. Koichi retold an episode from the life of Konko Daijin. Kami once instructed the Founder to rise early, walk west, and “pick up money.” He followed faithfully, walking miles to Kasaoka, searching along the way, but he never found the money. After a long day of walking, he returned home empty-handed. When Kami asked if he had found the money, the Founder replied, “No, but I received blessings today that cannot be replaced with money. Usually, I sit in the Worship Hall all day, but today I was allowed to walk far and stretch my body. I am grateful.” Kami praised him for always responding positively, showing that faith is not about the outcome but about recognizing blessings in all circumstances.

Rev. Koichi explained that this was not about material success but about the heart. The Founder decided for himself what counted as a blessing and offered thanks for it. This attitude is a model for us: to see every experience as an opportunity to connect with Kami and cultivate gratitude.

Prayer, Rev. Koichi emphasized, is not simply about making requests or expecting specific outcomes. He shared a poem by Rev. Hideko Konko, which beautifully describes prayer as the practice of preparing and shaping our hearts. While Kami already knows our prayers before we voice them, the act of praying helps us cultivate gratitude and awareness. Even when the answer is different from what we ask, the blessing we receive is always greater and deeper than we realize.

He stressed that this understanding transforms faith from “seeking blessings” to “generating blessings.” When we develop the heart that can recognize Kami’s presence in all things, everything becomes a blessing. With such a heart, even difficulties and trials carry meaning and can lead us closer to Kami.

One of the most profound points in the sermon was Rev. Koichi’s explanation that in Konkokyo, faith is not something we merely have or do on our own initiative. Rather, it is something we are allowed to receive from Kami—it is something we become. If we cling only to a self-centered view of faith, we are easily swayed when prayers are not answered as we expect. But when we “become faith,” we begin to see divine meaning in everything that happens, whether joyful or difficult.

This shift marks the transformation from faith that merely seeks blessings to true faith that generates blessings. With such faith, we can offer thanks in all circumstances, stay connected with Kami, and discover even greater blessings.

Blessings without gratitude fade, but gratitude opens the way for future blessings. Avoiding danger or hardship, even unnoticed at the time, can be Kami’s quiet protection. Recognizing this calls for thanksgiving.

Konko Daijin’s positive response to every situation shows us that blessings are not about material gain but about cultivating a heart of appreciation.

Prayer is not just petitioning; it is shaping our hearts to align with Kami’s heart.

We must move from seeking blessings to generating blessings, allowing Kami to guide our lives and finding divine meaning in everything.

Rev. Koichi concluded by reminding everyone that faith is a practice of gratitude and connection. Whether through personal experiences like the tsunami alert, or through the Founder’s enduring example, the lesson is clear: to live in gratitude, to pray sincerely, and to see every circumstance as a blessing. In doing so, we deepen our connection with Kami and open ourselves to greater, unseen blessings.

Faith is not about escaping hardships but about transforming our hearts so that even in hardship, we find meaning and divine presence. As he summarized, “When we connect with Kami, no matter what happens, we can give thanks. And when we give thanks, we receive more blessings.”

<https://youtube.com/live/5h4oYXzifxA>