

Konko Mission of Honolulu

2026 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



August 葉月

AUGUST	Rotary Hanashikai (Waipahu) 8/2		
2		Sunday Service – Rotary Hanashikai (Waipahu)	
9		Monthly Service – Corporation Board of Directors Meeting	
15	Sat. 11:00a.m.	KMH Centennial Anniversary Service (at Ko’olau Ballroom)	
16	10:00a.m.	KMH Centennial Beach Picnic at Magic Island #40	
23		Sunday Service - Sunday Gathering	
30		Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service, & Rev. Masayuki Kodama Annual Memorial Service	
			Church Clean-up

Join Us for Rotary Hanashikai on August 2, 2026!

Please join us for the Konko Missions in Hawaii Rotary Hanashikai on **Sunday, August 2, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 11:30 a.m.**, immediately following our 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service. This month's Hanashikai will be hosted by the Konko Church of Waipahu via Zoom. You are welcome to participate in person at the Konko Mission of Honolulu Social Hall, where Zoom will be set up, or join from home.

As we gather just two weeks before the **Konko Missions in Hawaii 100th Anniversary Celebration**, this Hanashikai will provide a meaningful opportunity to reflect on our past, appreciate the present, and share our hopes for the future. The theme is:

"Three Steps to Our Centennial: Sharing Sweet Memories, Present Joy, and Future Hope."

Participants will have the opportunity to discuss topics such as memorable experiences with Toritsugi mediation, pilgrimages to Japan, inspiring ministers and believers, why they are thankful to Kami-Sama, and why Konkokyo continues to be an important part of their lives. We will also look ahead by sharing our dreams and hopes for the future of our churches, ideas for community service and outreach, and the significance of the upcoming Centennial for our members, future generations, and the people of Hawaii.



There are no right or wrong answers—everyone's experiences and feelings are welcome. Whether you have been a believer for many years or are new to Konkokyo, your story and perspective are valuable. Through listening to one another, we strengthen our faith, deepen our appreciation for Kami's blessings, and encourage one another as Konko Ohana.

We hope you will join us for this inspiring time of fellowship and faith as we prepare our hearts for this historic Centennial celebration.

Zoom Meeting Information

Meeting ID: **847 4142 7204**

Passcode: **063254**

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Sermon Summary – Enriching the Soil of Our Faith

This sermon encouraged us to use the Summer Faith Training Period (Shingyokikan) as an opportunity to enrich the “soil” of our faith. Just as rich soil naturally produces healthy crops, a well-nurtured faith naturally bears divine blessings. Konko Daijin taught, “Above all, enrich your faith. Practicing faith in everyday life is important. Rich soil will be productive without fertilization, and so it is with faith.”

Rev. Koichi reminded us that July is often hot and uncomfortable, making it tempting to stay home. Yet choosing to come to church despite the heat is itself an act of faith training. Faith grows when we willingly do what is not always easy. Likewise, difficulties, disappointments, and painful experiences are not meaningless. They can become opportunities for spiritual growth if we face them with Kami instead of trying to avoid them.

The sermon presented three practical ways to enrich our faith.

The first is to accept unpleasant experiences as fertilizer for our hearts. Fertilizer may not look or smell pleasant, but it nourishes plants and helps them grow. In the same way, difficult people, disappointments, failures, and hardships can strengthen our faith if we receive them positively. Rev. Koichi shared the story of Mr. Shinichiro Tsuga, who pursued a career as an actor. Although he loved acting, he struggled financially and faced difficult relationships. During those years, he often remembered the Konkokyo teaching of the “muddy heart” (doro no kokoro)—accepting unpleasant things without resentment and transforming them into spiritual nourishment. Looking back, he realized that those painful experiences helped him mature both as an actor and as a person.

The second way is to return our blessings to Kami through prayer. Every day we receive countless blessings from the Divine Parent. Our response is not repayment, but gratitude. We return our blessings by praying sincerely—offering thanks, apologies, requests, and even our honest feelings. Mr. Tsuga shared another deeply personal experience. After he and his wife struggled with infertility for several years, they prayed earnestly for a child. Although their prayer was not immediately answered, he continued coming to church and honestly poured out his sadness, frustration, and hopes before Kami. Each time he prayed, his discouraged heart was renewed and strengthened. Through prayer, he learned to entrust his life to Kami rather than lose hope.

The third way is to honor our parents and ancestors. After leaving his acting career, Mr. Tsuga returned home and saw his parents faithfully worshiping at church every day. Their example deeply moved him. He naturally wanted to continue their faith and bring joy to his parents and ancestors by worshiping sincerely himself. Respecting our ancestors strengthens the roots of our family and enriches our own faith.

Rev. Koichi concluded by encouraging everyone to make this Summer Faith Training Period meaningful. Come to church even when it is inconvenient. Pray honestly. Accept challenges as opportunities to grow. Remember your parents and ancestors with gratitude. Finally, invite family members and friends to church. Although introducing someone to Konkokyo may seem



difficult, every sincere effort pleases Kami, Konko-Sama, our ancestors, and those who came before us. By enriching the soil of our faith through daily practice, we prepare ourselves to receive even greater blessings in the future.

July 12, 2026

Sermon Summary – Depending on Our Eternal Parent

This sermon reminded us that Tenchi Kane No Kami is our eternal Divine Parent who never leaves us. Rev. Koichi began by reflecting on the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the Konko Missions in Hawaii and the faith of the ministers and believers who established and continued Konkokyo in Hawaii. Their perseverance was rooted in one teaching from *Voice of the Universe*: “Believe that you are being cared for by immortal parents. Depend on Tenchi Kane No Kami for all things and think that nothing is impossible.” Because they trusted Kami through many hardships, Konkokyo has continued to flourish in Hawaii for one hundred years.

Rev. Koichi explained that when we are young, we naturally depend on our parents because they feed us, protect us, and teach us. As we grow older, however, we realize that our parents are also human and have limitations. Kami is different. Kami is invisible, has no limits, and continues to care for us throughout our lives. Although we cannot see Kami with our eyes, we can experience Kami through the countless blessings we receive every day. Even ministers experience worries about finances, church maintenance, and the future, but this teaching encourages us to continue entrusting ourselves to Kami despite our uncertainties.

To illustrate this, Rev. Koichi shared the story of a believer from Amagi Church who owned a small bar. She prayed sincerely for the opportunity to participate in a volunteer project recovering the remains of war victims in Okinawa. Although she normally struggled financially, just enough extra income came in to cover the travel expenses. This experience reminded everyone that Kami provides what we truly need at the right time. Instead of focusing only on money, we should recognize the priceless blessings Kami already gives us freely—air, water, the earth beneath our feet, our heartbeat, our health, and the ability to live each day. These invisible blessings sustain our lives far more than money ever could.

The sermon also encouraged us to recognize blessings through hardship. Rev. Koichi described meeting a believer from the mainland who attended church with a broken leg. Watching her walk carefully with a cast reminded everyone how precious the simple ability to walk really is. He also recalled his own experience years ago when painful growths on the bottom of his foot made walking difficult. At the time, he focused only on the pain. Looking back, he realized that the experience taught him to appreciate the blessing of walking normally—something he had previously taken for granted. Difficulties often awaken us to blessings that have always been there.



Finally, Rev. Koichi reflected on another teaching from Konko Daijin: “Any undertaking, even a small one, will be considered successful if it continues over a long period of time.” Success in faith is not measured by numbers but by faithful continuation. The Konko Mission of Honolulu continues to hold daily prayers, worship services, Toritsugi mediation, livestreams, podcasts, newsletters, and outreach. These steady efforts, supported by many believers over generations, have allowed the church to remain active and continue serving others.

The sermon concluded by encouraging everyone to continue depending on Kami every day. The more we recognize our daily blessings, the easier it becomes to trust Kami through life's uncertainties. As we prepare for the 100th Anniversary, let us continue practicing faith, expressing

gratitude, and inviting others to experience the blessings of Konkokyo so that this precious faith will continue for generations to come.

July 26, 2026

Sermon Summary – Kami-Sama Is Always With Us

As a new school year begins, this Back-to-School Service reminded us of a simple but life-changing truth: **Kami-Sama is always with us.** Whether we are children starting a new grade, parents supporting our families, or adults facing the challenges of everyday life, we can move forward with confidence because Tenchi Kane No Kami, the Divine Parent of the Universe, never stops caring for us.

Rev. Koichi explained that Kami-Sama is the source and root of all life. Long before any human being existed, Kami-Sama was already working continuously to create and sustain the universe. Unlike people, Kami-Sama never takes a vacation, never becomes tired, and never stops caring for creation. Every heartbeat, every breath, every sunrise, every drop of water, and every living thing continues to exist because Kami-Sama's work never ceases. Even those who do not know about Kami-Sama receive this same unconditional love and care, just as a loving parent naturally cares for every one of their children.

One of the greatest challenges in faith is that Kami-Sama cannot be seen with our eyes. However, Rev. Koichi reminded us that many of the most important things in life are invisible. We cannot see the air, yet we breathe it every moment. We cannot see the wind, yet we know it is there because we feel it on our faces. In the same way, we may not see Kami-Sama directly, but we can recognize Kami's presence through the countless blessings we receive each day. Every morning that we wake up, every heartbeat, every breath we take, every meal we enjoy, every drink of water, and every healthy function of our bodies is evidence of Kami-Sama's constant care. These blessings are so natural that we often forget to notice them, but learning to recognize them is one of the most important practices of faith.

The sermon also offered an interesting perspective on why Kami-Sama is invisible. Imagine if Kami-Sama stood beside us like another person every moment of every day. We might feel uncomfortable or unable to live freely. Instead, Kami-Sama lovingly watches over us without taking away our freedom. Like a caring parent quietly protecting a child, Kami-Sama remains close while allowing us to grow through our own experiences. This invisible yet constant presence gives us both security and independence.

Finally, Rev. Koichi reminded everyone that Kami-Sama is the Divine Parent of all people. We are all Kami-Sama's beloved children—not only ourselves, but also our parents, teachers, classmates, friends, and even those with whom we sometimes disagree. When we remember this, it becomes easier to treat others with kindness, patience, forgiveness, and compassion. Every act of kindness brings joy not only to another person but also to Kami-Sama.

As we begin this new school year, the sermon encouraged us to practice three simple habits every day. First, notice Kami-Sama's blessings. Second, sincerely say, "Thank you, Kami-Sama." Third, show kindness and helpfulness to others because every person is a beloved child of the Divine Parent. If we continue these simple practices each day, our faith will grow, our gratitude will deepen, and we will discover that Kami-Sama has been walking beside us all along, guiding and supporting us through every step of life.

