

# Konko Mission of Honolulu

## 2025 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



### April

		Spring Grand Service –Wahiawa 4/13(Sun.) 5:00 p.m., Waipahu 4/20(Sun.) 10:30 a.m.
5	Sat.	10:00a.m. Mochi-Making & Preparation for the Spring Grand Service
6		11:00a.m. <b>Spring Grand Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami</b>
13		Sunday Service
20		Sunday Service – Family Sunday (Attending Waipahu Church Grand Service)
27		<b>Monthly Service &amp; Monthly Memorial Service</b> Church Clean-up

### Spring Grand Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami, Our Divine Parent

We warmly invite you to attend our annual **Spring Grand Service** on **Sunday, April 6, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, to express heartfelt gratitude to **Tenchi Kane No Kami**, the Divine Parent of the Universe. This special occasion highlights our appreciation for Kami's nurturing presence, guidance, and countless blessings we receive each day.

Please join us in preparation for this meaningful service:

- Church Cleanup: **Sunday**, March 30, 2025, following the 7:30 a.m. prayer session, or at your convenience beforehand. Participating in cleanup is a joyful act of gratitude and devotion.
- Mochi Making & Refreshment Preparation: **Saturday**, April 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Naorai refreshments will be served after the service. Let us celebrate together in faith, gratitude, and community. We look forward to sharing this special time with you!

### March Sermon Summaries:

3/9/2025

**Sermon Report:** [“Practicing Faith in Our Daily Routine”](#) (Click the title to view the video)

In a recent sermon, we explored an inspiring article by **Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki** of the Seishin Church in Mie Prefecture, titled "Practicing Faith Daily with a Renewed Heart, Aspiring to Konko Daijin's Heart." Mr. Suzuki emphasizes the significance of integrating daily routines with our Konko faith, a practice taught and exemplified by our Founder, Konko Daijin. The sermon highlighted the teaching from the Voice of the Universe, reminding us that practicing faith need not be complicated—it involves simple daily habits of gratitude and mindfulness.

Mr. Suzuki shared several insightful ways he incorporates faith into his daily life:

**First**, he cultivates the habit of recognizing himself as a beloved child of Kami-Sama, continually reminding himself to cherish life, as he is supported by divine blessings.

**Second**, every morning at 6:00 a.m., Mr. Suzuki visits the church, followed by a mindful 20-minute walk. He walks with good posture, focusing on his core, swinging his arms energetically, and appreciating the natural world around him. This mindful routine reflects his awareness that life itself is a precious gift from Kami-Sama, deserving attentive care.

**Third**, during his walk, he stops by a local Shinto shrine to express gratitude for the divine protection of his community and prays sincerely for world peace and the well-being of humanity. His action demonstrates respect for different religious traditions, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and shared prayer among diverse faiths.

**Fourth**, he warmly greets neighbors, workers, and children he encounters, often exchanging cheerful words or high-fives. His daily interactions are infused with prayerful wishes, recognizing every person as a beloved child of Kami-Sama. These interactions not only brighten others' days but deepen his own joy and connection with the community.

**Fifth**, Mr. Suzuki emphasizes reciting prayers from deep within, using a strong voice originating from his ab-

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domen. He believes that prayer delivered with heartfelt conviction can purify the heart and positively impact those around him. This powerful form of prayer helps diminish anxiety and worries, providing comfort and stability.

**Sixth**, he continuously engages in silent prayers even during everyday activities such as commuting. This persistent dialogue with Kami-Sama keeps him spiritually connected and energized, reinforcing his trust and reliance on Kami's guidance.

**Lastly**, Mr. Suzuki acknowledges that cultivating a heart like Kami's is challenging, yet it becomes enjoyable and fulfilling when approached with a fresh perspective each day. He reminds us that practicing faith joyfully transforms our lives and brings us closer to Konko Daijin's heart.

The sermon concluded with another valuable teaching from the Voice of the Universe, highlighting the importance of consistently relying on Kami-Sama, similar to maintaining a close friendship. Kami listens compassionately, even to our difficult requests, and helps transform great difficulties into manageable situations.

Mr. Suzuki's example inspires us to appreciate our daily lives joyfully, continuously reinforcing our bond with Kami-Sama. His joyful approach to practicing faith shows that gratitude, mindfulness, and consistent spiritual practice not only enrich our own lives but allow us to experience greater divine blessings.

Let us follow his example, integrating joyful faith practices into our daily routine and enjoying our life fully, always conscious of our Divine Parent's presence and endless support.

3/16/2025

**Sermon Report:** [“Honoring and Using the Life Given to Us”](#) (Click the title to view the video)

**At** our recent Spring Memorial Service, we honored and expressed our gratitude to our ancestors, recognizing their essential role in our lives. The service emphasized our conscious act of coming to church as a heartfelt demonstration that we remember and appreciate our ancestors. It was a meaningful moment to reflect upon how we live the lives passed down from generations before us, actively showing our ancestors, "This is how I am using the precious life you have passed on to me."

**In** the sermon, a powerful story from Rev. Mitsuaki Matsuzawa of the Konko Church of Seki in Mie Prefecture was shared, highlighting gratitude even in challenging situations. Rev. Matsuzawa described attending a routine health screening where, through an unexpected and initially unwanted prostate examination, he discovered he had advanced cancer. Although diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and given only a 50% chance of survival over five years, he responded not with despair but profound gratitude, recalling the words of a senior minister: "Thank you, Kami, for discovering my illness; please allow the treatment to succeed." Rev. Matsuzawa maintained this grateful heart throughout his treatment, continuously praying, "Thank you for finding and treating this cancer. May the treatment be effective." Remarkably, this summer will mark nine years since his diagnosis—far surpassing his initial prognosis. This powerful experience taught him the importance of daily gratitude for life, realizing that Kami's blessings often come in unexpected ways. He also shared a profound moment at the altar when, amid prayer, he spontaneously begged, "Kami-sama, please help me." Immediately, he sensed Kami asking, "How will you use the life you have begged for?" This transformative insight showed him clearly that how we use our lives is more significant than the length of our lives. He urged us to reflect deeply: Do we use our precious lives to complain, be angry, or resent others? Or do we use our lives to bring happiness and peace to ourselves, others, and Kami-sama?

**The** second story focused on our Founder's profound spiritual experience recorded one year before establishing the Konko faith. During a memorial prayer service for his ancestors, Konko Daijin experienced a remarkable event: Kami and his ancestral spirits spoke through him. They expressed deep gratitude, acknowledging, "Bunji, because you have come to this house, it has become prosperous. We are grateful and express our thanks." This remarkable event demonstrates that our ancestors closely observe how we live, and when we live with integrity, compassion, and faith, we bring joy and prosperity to their spirits.

**The** Founder exemplified a life of humility, compassion, and empathy—qualities that allowed him to truly understand and alleviate people's suffering. His ability to empathize deeply brought spiritual prosperity and practical success, enriching not only his family but also his community.

**In** conclusion, the sermon reminded us that practicing Konko faith is to live gratefully, mindfully, and compassionately. When we practice this faith sincerely, we honor our ancestors and Kami, ensuring our lives positively impact others. Let us continuously reflect on how we use the lives entrusted to us, striving to become helpful, trustworthy, and compassionate individuals. Through our faith and actions, we bring happiness not only to ourselves but also to our ancestors, descendants, and the broader community.