

2025 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



February

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

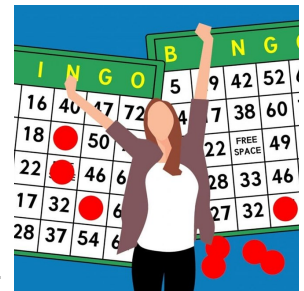
2	Sunday Service – Corporation Board of Directors' Meeting
9	Monthly Service
16 10:00a.m.	Sunday Service General Membership Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party
23	Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service Church Clean-up

General Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party

Date: Sunday, February 16, 2025

Time: After Sunday Service (Approximately 11:00 a.m.)

Join us at Konko Mission of Honolulu for our General Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party **on Sunday, February 16, 2025!** We'll start the day with our Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m., followed by the meeting and party around 11:00 a.m.



This gathering is a wonderful opportunity for all members to come together to review and discuss the annual report presented by the Shinto-Kai (members association). We will also discuss the financials, including last year's expenses and the upcoming budget for our mission.

Bring your favorite dishes to share and enjoy fun games and bingo! It's a great way to celebrate the New Year, engage with our community, and strengthen our bonds. Everyone is welcome, and we truly appreciate your participation and support.

Please save the date and join us for this special occasion. We look forward to seeing you there and starting the New Year together with great food, fellowship, and fun!

January Sermon Summaries:

January 12, 2025

Rev. Koichi discussed the profound interplay between our earthly experiences and spiritual beliefs, focusing on how our perception of life's challenges can be transformed through faith. Drawing from the teachings in "Voice of the Universe," he emphasized that every person is endowed with a body and soul by Tenchi Kane No Kami, and our experiences, including our departure from this world, are deeply influenced by the state of our hearts.

Rev. Koichi explored the concept that living according to Konko Daijin's teachings can lead to a peaceful departure from life, stressing the importance of nurturing our spiritual health from a young age. He shared his reflections on what it means to be 'young', humorously noting that at 50, he considers himself younger now than he will ever be again. This perspective shifts the focus from age to the immediacy of living one's faith in the present moment.

The sermon also delved into personal stories of death within Rev. Koichi's family and community, questioning the nature of a peaceful death. He recounted the deaths of his father, grandfather, and a previous head minister of the Kawara Church in Japan, noting the varied circumstances and expressions of their passing. These narratives questioned the peacefulness of their deaths and whether they were in line with the serene end promised by their faith.

Significantly, Rev. Koichi recounted a lesson from the current head minister of the Kawara Church, who believed that his father's difficult death carried the suffering of others, embodying a profound

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spiritual gift that was ultimately seen as a blessing. This story highlighted the notion that our understanding of suffering and death can evolve to recognize the deeper, often unseen workings of divine grace.

Furthermore, the sermon touched on practical spirituality through a family anecdote related to Rev. Koji Konko's interaction with his daughter. It centered on a lost wallet incident that could have disrupted a Mother's Day celebration, but was resolved through prayer and divine intervention. This incident served as a powerful example of how faith practiced in daily life can lead to immediate and tangible blessings.

Rev. Koichi concluded by reminding the congregation that the faith developed during youth serves as the foundation for joy in old age, referencing teachings from the "Voice of the Universe." He encouraged everyone to embrace their current age as their 'youngest' and to actively practice their faith, thereby ensuring that they experience divine blessings throughout their lives.

This sermon not only provided theological insights but also offered practical guidance on how to integrate faith into everyday challenges, ensuring that every member left with a renewed perspective on how to face life's trials with a spiritually enriched approach.

<https://youtube.com/live/NBI0aq3Ey-w>

January 19, 2025

In a deeply introspective sermon, Rev. Koichi shared insights from the "Voice of the Universe," focusing on maintaining a calm and relaxed mind during times of helplessness, as exemplified by Konko Daijin. Drawing on both ancient wisdom and contemporary experiences, he explored the profound relevance of this teaching in managing crises and everyday stresses.

Introduction: Embracing Calmness The sermon began with Rev. Koichi reminding the congregation of Konko Daijin's approach during insurmountable challenges—remaining calm and entrusting the outcome to the divine. This principle was highlighted through a personal reflection on a crisis event—the ballistic missile threat in Hawaii on January 13, 2018, where Rev. Koichi experienced first-hand the importance of maintaining composure amidst widespread panic.

Historical Context and Personal Application During the missile threat, Rev. Koichi recounted the immediate fear and uncertainty that gripped everyone, illustrating how a calm mindset helped him navigate the false alarm without succumbing to fear. This experience underscored the sermon's message: the power of a relaxed mind not only in crises but also in everyday challenges, such as personal and professional adversities.

Teachings from "Voice of the Universe" Rev. Koichi delved into the teachings from the "Voice of the Universe," particularly focusing on how Konko Daijin handled criticism and negativity from others. He shared stories that illustrated maintaining a good heart, even when others bear ill will, which not only preserves one's peace of mind but also transforms potentially negative interactions into opportunities for personal growth and affirmation of faith.

Practical Examples and Moral Lessons The sermon included a narrative from Konkokyo animations, where a character, Hide, demonstrates the importance of keeping a good heart despite being wronged. This story served to reinforce the message that reacting with kindness and forgiveness in the face of adversity is a practical application of Konko Daijin's teachings. It highlighted how adopting a calm demeanor can lead to unexpected resolutions and deeper understanding among community members.

Conclusion: Living the Teachings Rev. Koichi concluded by reiterating the significance of a calm and relaxed mind in all aspects of life. He emphasized that this approach is not just about avoiding negative reactions but actively cultivating a peaceful heart that aligns with divine will, enhancing one's ability to handle life's challenges with grace and faith.

The sermon called on the congregation to practice these teachings diligently, encouraging them to view every moment of calmness as a step towards spiritual maturity and a deeper connection with Kami-sama. By fostering a tranquil mind, believers can not only face personal crises with serenity but also contribute to a more harmonious community.

<https://youtube.com/live/0z1suxKPjco>