

2026 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER



February

1	Sunday Service – Corporation Board of Directors' Meeting
8	Monthly Service
15 10:00a.m.	Sunday Service General Membership Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party
22	Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service Church Clean-up

General Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party

Join us at **Konko Mission of Honolulu** for our **General Meeting and New Year's Potluck Party** on **Sunday, February 15, 2026**. We will begin with our **Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.**, followed by the General Meeting and Potluck Party at approximately **11:00 a.m.**

Your presence at the **General Meeting is especially important**, as a **quorum is required** for the meeting to be valid. During the meeting, we will hold the **election of the Board of Directors** and vote on a proposed **bylaw amendment to change the quorum requirement**. We sincerely encourage all members to attend and take part in these important decisions for our church.

The meeting will also include reports from the **Shinto-Kai (Members Association)**, along with a review of last year's financial report and discussion of the upcoming budget.

Please note that **Shinto-Kai voluntary dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families**, which support Shinto-Kai activities throughout the year.

After the meeting, please stay and enjoy the **New Year's Potluck Party!** Bring your favorite dish to share, and join us for food, games, and bingo. It's a joyful time to celebrate the New Year, connect with one another, and strengthen our community.

Everyone is welcome. Please save the date—we look forward to starting the New Year together with gratitude, fellowship, and fun.



January Sermon Summary:

“Awakening to Kami's Blessings at the Beginning of the Year”

At the New Year's Day Service, Rev. Koichi invited everyone to begin the year by joyfully greeting one another and recognizing the blessing of being able to gather in worship. While New Year's Day in Japan begins before sunrise with early morning services, we are reminded that regardless of time or place, the heart of worship is the same—turning our hearts toward Kami with gratitude.

Rev. Koichi reflected on his childhood in Konko Town, where attending the New Year's Day Service was a natural and important practice. He shared memories of welcoming the first sunrise of the year and how these experiences shaped his awareness of Kami's presence in daily life. Just as children joyfully receive New Year's gifts, adults are invited to recognize deeper blessings that may be easily overlooked.

At the center of the sanctuary stands the altar enshrining Tenchi Kane No Kami, the Divine Parent of the Universe. Rev. Koichi reminded us that although Kami is enshrined here, Kami is not confined to

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this space alone. Quoting the Founder's teaching, he emphasized: *"If you want to meet Kami, step outside—above is Kami, below is Kami."* This teaching invites us to recognize that Heaven and Earth themselves are the body of Kami.

The church is a sacred place filled with prayers. If we can sense Kami here, we can also sense Kami outside. Likewise, if we learn to feel Kami in nature and daily life, we can feel Kami more deeply when we come to worship. Rev. Koichi encouraged us to refine our awareness and sensitivity so that we may recognize Kami's presence everywhere.

He guided the congregation to reflect on the many unnoticed blessings that support our lives. The sunlight, air, gentle winds, rain, ocean tides, and moonlight are all expressions of Kami's working. Breathing itself is a divine blessing—air is provided by Kami, and even the strength to inhale and exhale is not something we generate on our own. Feeling our heartbeat reminds us that life itself is sustained by Kami's grace.

Rev. Koichi also spoke about the blessings of the body. Our hands, muscles, nerves, and circulation all function without conscious effort. Eating a meal requires not only food but the work of farmers, merchants, and countless others. Sleeping, waking up, using the restroom, and even having access to facilities that make daily life dignified are all blessings we may take for granted. Recognizing these everyday gifts helps us awaken to the truth that we live entirely within Kami's blessings.

In the second part of the sermon, Rev. Koichi addressed a heartfelt question many people share: *"How can we hear Kami's voice?"* He acknowledged the desire to receive clear guidance from Kami in moments of uncertainty. While some people may hear messages clearly, for many of us, Kami's voice comes quietly—through thoughts, feelings, circumstances, or the words of others.

Rev. Koichi shared honestly that sometimes Kami's guidance challenges our desires. We may sense a warning or gentle restraint—yet choose to ignore it for convenience or pleasure. He reminded us that praying to understand Kami's message while simultaneously ignoring it creates contradiction in our faith. True faith requires humility and sincerity.

Rather than praying only, "Please help me," Rev. Koichi encouraged us to pray, "This is my situation. Kami, what should I do?" When we ask with humility, Kami responds—not always immediately, but through people, events, and insights. Practicing Konkokyo faith helps us become attentive so we do not miss those messages.

He emphasized that everyone can receive Kami's guidance. A sudden thought, a moment of clarity, or a change in perspective may be Kami speaking to us. When we cultivate the habit of listening, we naturally become more sensitive to Kami's workings.

As the New Year begins, Rev. Koichi encouraged everyone to renew their commitment to prayer and gratitude. By acknowledging Kami's blessings in ordinary moments, listening humbly for guidance, and responding sincerely, we align ourselves with the Divine Parent's care.

The sermon concluded with a hopeful message: starting the year by recognizing Kami's presence in every breath, step, and encounter allows us to live with peace, gratitude, and confidence. As we continue praying, listening, and practicing faith daily, we will find that Kami's blessings are already surrounding us—and guiding us forward into the new year.

<https://youtube.com/live/a-QFIZztL7c>

