



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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October 2021, Volume 29

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

**All services will be conducted in-person and via Facebook Live*

October 2021

- 1 Fri -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 3 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 9 Sat -Church clean-up for Autumn Grand Ceremony (8 am)
- 10 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing
-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 13 Wed -Autumn Grand Ceremony for Founder (6:30pm)
生神金光大神様御大祭 *Take-home chirashi-sushi bento
- 14 Thr -KMH Kyoten Study Group via ZOOM (5 pm)
- 15 Fri -Garage sale prep (1 pm)
- 16 Sat -Garage Sale (9 am to 2 pm)
- 17 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing *CEOC mtg (5 pm)
- 23 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 24 Sun -Monthly Mem. Svc. (9 am) 月例霊祭 *Okage sharing
-Hilo Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 29 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 30 Sat -Ehimemaru Mikan tree maintenance (9 am)
-Halloween Pumpkin Carving (2 pm)
- 31 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage. Happy Halloween!!

November 2020

- 1 Mon -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭

Konko Daijin says... There is a saying that if you have a sound mind, you will have a good life. The hearts and minds of people are the most important. If people do not enrich their hearts by practicing faith, their hearts cannot become sound. (Gorikai III Jinkyukyogoroku 47)

Editor's Memo: People may practice faith so they can achieve all that they wanted and pray to get blessed with everything they pray for. The goal in the practice of the faith is not to be blessed so we can meet our expectations or people's expectations. We practice faith so that we can develop a sound mind. And if we have a sound mind, we can always be content. In the end, people will not care. It's your relationship with Kami-Sama that matters the most. I was listening to Jake Shimabukuro, who is a famous local ukulele artist. He explained about the song title "Missing Three," which he presented to the Dalai Lama when he visited the islands. He said he was changing out his ukulele strings one day, but could not find the 3rd string. But in that moment, he wondered what he could play with just the 3 strings he did have. And believe me, that piece is so beautiful. The lesson here is to appreciate what you have and make the best of it. Have a sound mind.

Sunday School Oath



I will advance my faith through understanding the Founder's teachings and will strive to become a more useful person to society.

Sincerity is the essence of my faith, and its basic principles are courtesy, kindness, and devotion in everything I do.

Autumn Grand Ceremony

For our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Mini Sermons by: Officiating ministers

Memo: Join us in-person or Facebook Live, following the COVID-19 precautions of wearing a face mask, washing your hands before entering the worship hall and practicing physical distancing by household. Take-home chirashi-sushi bento.

Autumn Garage Sale!

Sat., 10/16. 9am-2pm

Tons of clothes and household goods!

All proceeds will be offered to our Gohonbu Headquarters Church in Okayama, Japan via KMH. Deadline for donations 10/31/21



Halloween Pumpkin Carving

Join us in-person or via ZOOM

Saturday, 10/30 from 2 pm


BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin)

If you have your own tools, bring them too!



ZOOM ID: 839 0814 7923 Passcode: WN89T4

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2021

- 11/4 Thr -Pilgrimage to attend Iwatani Church Centennial
- 11/7 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 11/14 Sun -International Gathering at Gohonbu cancelled
- 11/20 Sat -KMH Board Meeting (10:30 am) @HNL Church 
- 11/28 Sun -24th Mem. Svc for Late Rev. Kikue Kodama @HNL (9 am)
- 12/11 Sat -KMH Head Minister's Mtg (10:30 am) @HNL Church
- 12/19 Sun -49th Memorial Svc for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am)
- 12/26 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am)
- 12/30 Thr -30th Annual Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church (8 am)



Autumn Memorial Service 9.26.21



Happy Birthday



To all the people born in the month of October!

Please continue to receive Infinite divine blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama



Rev. Heiki Konko

Rev. Sachiko Yasutake

(5th Spiritual Head of Konkokyo)

(Konko Church of Amagi)

Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi

Jane Suwa

Deborah Amado

Hugh Noguchi

Erik Miyasaka

Chason Pangorang

Michelle Noguchi

Jill Michie Yano



Check out our new church website! www.konkowahiawa.org



Welcome to the Konko Mission of Wahiawa!



Editor's Note

Dear Reader, I hope this newsletter finds you in great health and overall wellbeing.

October has always been my favorite month, especially when I was a kid, because Halloween was my favorite holiday. I couldn't wait to carve jack-o-lanterns. I couldn't wait to dress up in costumes and I couldn't wait to trick or treat for a bag full of candy. It is also the month where the weather starts to get cooler, which I love. What will you be dressing up as for Halloween?

Last year, we held our Halloween pumpkin carving via Facebook Live and some friends and family were able to join us from the mainland as well—which was nice! We had the pumpkin carving in the front porch of the church. Halloween 2020 had the fewest trick-or-treaters, so we really dumped our treats on the last trick-or-treaters that visited our church. I hope there will be more people that come by.

This year, we will have a hybrid pumpkin carving! It'll be on Saturday, October 30th at 2pm at our church in Wahiawa. I will also livestream it on ZOOM, so people can participate online as well. We will still follow covid-19 safety precautions for the safety of everyone.

October is also the month of the Autumn Grand Ceremonies, also known as Godaisai throughout the Konkokyo organization. Our church will observe the Grand Ceremony on **Wednesday, October 13 at 6:30 pm**. Attendance in-person or via Facebook live will be possible. The Autumn Grand Ceremony is held to honor and appreciate our **Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin** for paving the way for people to receive divine blessings. It's kinda like Christmas for Christians or Bon Season for Buddhists.

The Spring and Autumn Godaisai are the largest celebrations in Konkokyo. These Godaisai are so important to me, that I request vacation from work, so I can guarantee that I do not work on Godaisai days. I do this not because I want more okage (divine blessings). I do this because of how much I have already been blessed with till this day.

My dad has been sharing the message "*Konnichi Made No Onrei*" which is to be grateful for all that was possible till this day. As a kid listening to my dad's sermons on this topic, it really didn't click in my noggin. I used to think, "What is gratitude? Why do I have to say thank you every day to Kami-Sama even if nothing in particular happens every day? It's not like tremendous miracles happen on a daily basis." That used to be my mindset when I was younger. But I have been gradually able to appreciate this message in its deeper context. I now realize that I don't need drama in my life. I wouldn't want crazy things happening. Instead, I can really appreciate these regular days that come and end on a peaceful, uneventful note.

Since working in the hospital and encountering so many kinds of patients, it did wake me up and make me realize that every day is a miracle, and there is no guarantee of our lives in the next minute. The most bizarre thing I encountered was a sudden death of one of my patients. This happened several years ago. He was a man in his 50s who came in for a simple surgery and he was all set to be discharged the next day. He was happily eating his dinner which was a cheeseburger. And he pressed the call button to call the staff. As I walked into his room, I see him choking and turning blue. I called the Code Blue and many doctors and staff rushed to the room. They performed the Heimlich maneuver on him, but he could not be saved. It was later confirmed that he choked on a thin piece of lettuce that blocked his windpipe. Even as we eat, we can do so because of our ability to eat safely. Eating with mindfulness and gratitude for the blessed food is important. It's good practice.

I had a patient one day who told me, "To me, my sight, hearing and ability to walk are the most important things to me. If I cannot see, hear or walk anymore; I rather be dead." Can you think of a few things that are so important to you that without them, you would rather be dead? Try identifying those important things right now. Ok now, take this time to give thanks to the things or person or body parts that you believe mean the world to you. If those things are so important to you, how much thanks have you been giving it? If your world would turn upside down with the loss of those important things, then shouldn't we be giving thanks to them daily?

I just had you think about the most important things or people in your life just now. But now I'll list some things that may not seem very important, but without them, it'd be a great inconvenience. How about the use of your hands, or your normal bodily functions to eliminate your wastes? What about toilet paper? Or the toilet you use? If you use glasses to see, do you give thanks for them at the end of the day when you put your glasses on the night stand and go to sleep? We have countless things that support our wellbeing and existence. There wouldn't be enough time in the day to give thanks to every single thing that help us live comfortably. Konko Daijin made us aware to give daily thanks and taught us that there are more blessings that go unacknowledged than we realize.

The Founder, Konko Daijin showed people that they can receive blessings not by chanting prayers, but by listening to the teachings and practicing them in our daily lives. Our whole life is a training period for our faith development. People need to receive blessings not just during a single desperate situation. We encounter challenges in our daily lives, but through incorporating the teachings and having trust in Kami-Sama, we can live a life with a sound mind and overcome each obstacle that may come.

In a Konko teaching, the Founder says, "There is a saying that if you have a sound mind, you will have a good life. The hearts and minds of people are the most important. If people do not enrich their hearts by practicing faith, their hearts cannot become sound" (Gorikai III Jinkyukyogoroku 47). Konko Daijin taught us how to have a sound mind. It's hard to receive blessings if we are stressed, distressed, angry, sad and depressed because those emotions are so dark and powerful, there would be no space left to have a grateful heart. In fact, we can't be angry and grateful at the same time. One emotion will always trump the other. Only we have control over our emotions. Kami-Sama or our Life Force is the energy that responds to the energy we project into the Universe. Kami-Sama cannot control the emotions and thoughts we hold in our hearts. So we must practice having a good heart. The feelings of gratitude, happiness, laughter and love are also very strong emotions that have the ability to trump the negative thoughts. But in all, it's the feelings we practice the most that will end up dominating our hearts. The energy we project is the energy that will return. Pay close attention to our thoughts. With this great truth that Konko Daijin taught to us, the Godaisai Grand Ceremony is a day dedicated to our Founder, to say Thank You for teaching us this wisdom. The Founder was an ordinary farmer who reached a high level of awareness—it didn't come easy for him. He went through many trials and tribulations, and even had to make seven graves for his beloved until he finally realized what he was doing wrong. So he learned his lesson and began teaching the ways of the Universe to hundreds of thousands of people who were also suffering. That's how this faith was established and continues. People who were suffering came to seek mediation from him and were saved. You can read the new biography of Konko Daijin that just came out, "From Farmer to Founder."

Wishing you a fantastic month in October!

Aloha, Edna

