

The Breadfruit

Lihue Christian Church
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Next Breadfruit Deadline: January 15



January Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sundays | Breakfast Café 8:15-9:15 a.m.
Kids Klub 8:30-9:15 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m. |
| January 4 | Communion Sunday
Donations of non -perishable food items and hygiene products may be left under the table near the sanctuary entry. |
| January 17 | LCC "Dreams" Session
10 a.m.-12 Noon
LCC Sanctuary
All are invited to participate |

A graphic with a yellow background and green borders at the top and bottom, decorated with gold polka dots. The title "A Prayer for the New Year" is written in a cursive font. Below the title is a horizontal line of dots. The prayer text is centered and reads: "HELPER IN OUR PAST AND HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE: HOLD OUR GOOD INTENTIONS, FREE US FROM THAT WHICH KEEPS US FROM THE GOOD, AND ENABLE US TO MOVE INTO THE COMING YEAR WITH YOUR LOVE BEHIND, BESIDE, AND BEFORE US. AMEN." The United Church of Christ logo is in the bottom right corner.

A Prayer for the New Year

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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Pastor's Message

Old Habits Die Hard

Isa 43:18-19 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

A few years ago, we had a flood in our house in North Carolina when the bolt holding the toilet tank to the toilet bowl broke. Unfortunately, we didn't notice this right away so there was enough damage done to the master bath that the toilet and shower were out of commission for three months. We were blessed in that we had another bathroom to use. But what does this have to do with "Old Habits Die Hard"? Well...

My "old" habit was using the master bath all the time. Replacing that "old" habit was not easy to do. It took a couple of weeks for a "new" habit (using the second bath) to replace my "old" habit. When the three months of repairs were completed, the "new" habit was firmly ingrained in my brain. But then I needed to make the "new" habit into an "old" habit, and the original "old" habit into a new "new" habit.

We as human beings tend to dislike change because our habits are comfortable. We know them well and love them. They are like warm, fuzzy blankets on a cool evening. They are a form of security, even when they are not good for us. God knows that we don't like change. In the Isaiah passage above, God is reminding the Israelites that God will break them out of exile in Babylon. God will do a new thing to help them. But, they won't be going back to the land, their "old" thing, as they had formerly known it but to a "new thing" that God was preparing for them. They needed to break "old" habits.

On Saturday, January 17, 2026, you are invited to join a "Dreaming" Session for Lihue Christian Church. This is a time to dream about what you would like to see LCC do or become. There are no restrictions on your dreams for this church. The church council is dreaming of the future of LCC. We need your help in dreaming that dream. God did a new thing for the Israelites and God will do a new thing for us. Can we break "old" habits? Can we use the "old" habits to dream of a new future? Can we trust God to show us what God wants for our future? Can we dream together?

Shalom,
Cheri

Join the LCC Church Council on Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon to share dreams for LCC's future.

The UCC in Japan: “History and Hope in Japan” Shari Prestemon (May 20, 2025)

On our first day, we make our way to the Bazaar Café, a ministry of the Kyoto District United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ). We turn off a busy street to discover a peaceful garden sanctuary at the back of the café. Flowers line the path, and the fragrant blossoms of an orange tree fill the air with sweetness. Inside, small blackboards list the day’s menu. But as good as the food is here, it’s something else that makes this place truly special. It’s the community shaped here that’s extraordinary, a wide welcome for those often turned away elsewhere ...the LGBTQ community, the addicted, the formerly incarcerated, the sick. Here they find acceptance. Practical supports. A hot cup of coffee and a Christ-like love.

This place also brims with history. The house where the Bazaar Café is located had been the property of the UCC since 1938, a residence for mission personnel sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) to serve in Kyoto. (ABCFM is a predecessor mission agency to Global Ministries.) Last September, we transferred ownership of the Bazaar Café property to our local partner there, an intentional act of returning local resources to local people, a signal of our commitment to de-colonize our global ministries. The property is itself a legacy: of our historic presence here, and now of the beautiful ministry it still makes possible.

On another day we arrive at Heian Church to share in a 150th anniversary celebration with the Kyoto District of UCCJ. The anniversary we celebrate is a mutual one. 150 years ago, the ABCFM appointed its first missionary to Kyoto. That missionary, a Japanese man named Nijiima Joe, founded Doshisha University and several churches in Kyoto. It was the start of a relationship between us that has endured over all the years since. So we worship together, we offer mutual blessings and prayers for the days ahead, and we give thanks for all that has been and all that will still be.

We travel to eastern Japan by train to visit still another partner, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) near Nasushiobara. As we near, we drive down narrow roads between rice paddies swollen with the falling rain. Finally we reach ARI, a training a training center for rural leaders on a 6-hectare farm. There are fields and crops and animals and chores to be done on this farm, yes. But it’s more than that. It’s like a mini-United Nations: 30 program participants from 17 countries. They’ve left their countries for nine months to do this intensive training. They have dreams for their home places and hope that what they learn here will give them a better chance of making them come true.



Shine THE Light ON Christmas

Joan Fujimura

“Shine the Light on Christmas” was the theme for the last Sunday service before Christmas and there was much aglow. Clifton Kukino, chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, formally announced and congratulated Pastor Cheri on the unanimous vote from our membership to welcome her as Lihue Christian Church’s settled pastor. Her response to whether she would accept the invitation was an enthusiastic “Of course!”

What followed was a unique and carefully carved out program that included the children of Kids Klub. They led worship and offered a gift of song and dance to “Shine the Light of Christmas” which was a wonderful segway into Pastor Cheri’s sermon message, “What Good is Light?” If you missed out on this awesome service, it may be found on the LCC website.



Maya and Olivia light the Advent candle.



Akemi, Maya, Bryson and Olivia sing as Avery performs a lyrical dance.



Left: Reece, Akemi, Avery, Aileia and the congregation sing “This Little Light of Mine.”
Below: Akemi and Bryson take the Light into the world.



Ae Kamali`i Preschool

Pam and Penni, Co-Directors

Stone Soup Family Luncheon

We are thankful for our wonderful preschool ohana, and so to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday we held our annual Stone Soup luncheon. We had such a huge turnout that we needed to bring out three more tables! As always, the children helped with the cutting of the vegetables that they all shared in bringing, and Ms. Crystal made the delicious chicken soup broth and the fruit salad (with some parent kitchen helpers).



The children chopped the vegetables, and we enjoyed the special lunch together.

Ornament Workshop

This year's ornament workshop was so much fun! The children made and took home eight ornaments to hang on their tree. With the help of our wonderful parent volunteers at each station, each child decorated their beautiful and festive creations.



The children made Christmas trees, icicles, sparkly stars, and more.

Dear Lord,

Hear Our Prayers For.....

Margaret Chow, Rev. Richard Chun, Gale Domingsel, Jean Hamura, David Iha, Pacita Jimenez, Florence Lardizabal, JoAnn Rapozo, Alice Shigeta, Russell Shimazu, Rachel Tamura, and all in need...

Continued from The UCC in Japan...

Tokyo is our last stop. On our final morning, we visit the General Secretaries of the UCCJ and the National Christian Council of Japan (NCCJ). We participate in a forum we've co-sponsored. The topic is heavy: we talk about increasing militarization in Japan and around the world, and circumstances that march us closer to the unimaginable prospect of a third world war. What can the Church do, we wonder, to usher us back to the ways of peace? How can we work together as partners across the globe to counter growing fear and the devastation of war?

As I listen to the conversation, I reflect on all I've experienced in just these few days in Japan: ministries of bold and generous love, historic relationships that have shaped and taught us, investments in the future of places and people around the world, a shared passion for a just and sustainable world.

This is what we do to find our way to peace. We build relationships that endure the tests of time. We create spaces of welcome in our communities and break down barriers between us. We talk about things that matter, find common purpose. We show up for one another. We learn from the mistakes of history and move forward better and wiser. We join hands for the journey and remember that God walks with us through all of it.

Multiple Choice

Vicki Kemper,
Pastor of First Congregational UCC,
Amherst, Massachusetts
January 11, 2025

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" - Genesis 3:8-9 (NRSV)

We are made in the image of God to be in right and harmonious relationship with Love and all creation. *And* we've also received from God the gift of free will. Which is to say, we have choices. So many choices:

Right or wrong, left or right, caf or decaf. Take care of that unpleasant task now or put it off until later. Be kind or not, care about others or focus only on ourselves and those closest to us. Learn the ugly truth of racism or refuse to engage it. Respect people for who they are or reject everyone who doesn't fit a certain mold. Go deep or stay on the uncomplicated, safe surface of things

You get the idea.

Some choices are easily reversed, while others start us down a long highway with few exits. Some choices we must make and remake again and again.

What will you choose today? To live *with* God or try to *be* God? To serve the one true God or to make gods of the things of this world? Every day, the choice is ours.

Chancel Decorators:

January 4 Placido Valenciano
January 11 Tassie Agena
January 18 Marlene Morimoto
January 25 Doug and Susan Fujii
February 1 Noreen Tavares

Announcer/Lay Readers:

January 4 Keith Dennis
January 11 Susan Miura
January 18 Mary Starr
January 25 Alicia Corbett
February 1 Samantha Tominaga

Financial Secretaries:

January 4 Kimberly Inouye, Erin Wada
January 11 Susan Fujii, Crystal Fujikawa
January 18 Tina Cox, Faith Matsumura,
Verna Yamase
January 25 Eleanor Chow, Marlene Morimoto
February 1 Russell and Becky Wada

Greeters/Ushers:

January 4 Keith Dennis, Sam Shirai
January 11 Russell and Becky Wada
January 18 Calvin and Gail Murashige
January 25 Joshua and Alice Pajela
February 1 Harold and Noreen Tavares

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