Most certainly, you are familiar with Helen Keller. Yet, here is a detail that you might not have known. Helen and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, made appearances on the vaudeville circuit in order to receive financial support. Audiences would pay to listen to Helen Keller’s quips.

Here is one of her witty observations:

I would rather walk with a friend in the dark
than walk alone in the light.

As so often happens, the origins of what we say often come from what we have heard before. In Helen’s case, a poem entitled, “He Knows,” published in 1876, sounds very similar:

I would rather walk in the dark with God,
than walk alone in the light;
I would rather walk with Him by faith,
than walk alone by sight.

In a recent sermon series at Pearl City Community Church, we have been exploring the theme of friendship with the Lord. Just as Abraham was called a friend of God, so also, our Christian faith is founded upon the assurance of the Almighty’s comforting presence.

For those of you with access to the internet, spend time listening on YouTube to Israel Houghton’s song: “I am a Friend of God.” Or, if you would prefer, recite the lyrics of: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”
MODERATOR’S CORNER
Dominic Inocelda

Vision: Pearl City Community Church, the loving presence of Jesus Christ shared with others
Mission: Pearl City Community Church, learning about God through His Word, loving through Jesus Christ, and living by the Holy Spirit

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the status of our strategic plan and property development planning. As a brief summary, the PCCC Council created a special Sub-committee in January 2023, to address PCCC’s strategic planning process and to address the use of property resources. The Sub-committee reviewed potential consultants that could help with the planning process. After making contact with three consultants, the sub-committee recommended Hoku’iwa LLC (Rev. Josh Hayashi) to the PCCC Council. A contract to complete a church audit with Hoku’iwa for $10,000 was executed and the work began with the collection of key documents from the church as well as a Saturday session on 4/29/2023 with Josh Hayashi and David Oyadomari. Rev. Hayashi also gave a sermon on 4/30/2023, which provided a sense of urgency for churches to remain sustainable while meeting their vision and mission. The sermon was very hopeful that God would sustain His Gospel message to the community in Pearl City and beyond.

At the PCCC Council meeting on 6/13/2023, Josh Hayashi and David Oyadomari of Mission Management Company (formerly Hoku’iwa) presented their audit findings. Key points taken from the audit report included the following: 1) the church made approximately $13,000 in rental profit (minus expenses) from four of the five properties in total in 2023, 2) the average yearly draw from your endowment is approximately 13% of the total corpus. It is recommended that a non-profit uses between 3-4% of its corpus for long-term viability, and 3) your tithing income is approximately 1/4th of the yearly budget. However, PCCC is spending at a rate that is unsustainable. Given the findings, it was very apparent that PCCC needs to respond and make changes to move the church towards sustainability, while being responsible stewards of our resources, if we are to continue our vision and mission into the future.

Mission Management Company has submitted a Master Plan Proposal that the Strategic plan Sub-committee is currently reviewing and a follow up meeting with Josh and David is planned in mid July 2023. Upon the review and meeting with Mission Management Company, the Sub-committee would be making a recommendation to Council to proceed or not to proceed with Mission Management Company. If a recommendation to proceed with Mission Management Company is also approved by the PCCC Council, the Congregation will have an opportunity to provide approval or non-approval to proceed with the Master Plan Proposal from Mission Management Company.
Pearl City Community Church is at a crossroads, the future of the church is dependent on steps we take now. I am hoping that we together will meet the challenges that is before us and as we seek God’s guidance and will for His church at Pearl City, that we will have eyes to see and ears that hear what God wants us to be and do at this time and place.

Life is returning to the church as more people return and become active in the church. I am fully grateful for the current leadership and ministries that are bringing life back especially after the pandemic isolation. My deepest appreciation for Pastor Gordon for keeping the Word of God before us, even if only by zoom during the lock down, and to the staff for their support in reopening the church and keeping things going. By the time this Agape Newsletter is distributed, the PCCC Prayer Event on 7/1/2023, will have been completed. I just wanted to say that prayer is a powerful resource that God provides for us to get to know Him. I want to thank all that planned this prayer event. I am hoping that we will track our prayer request and look for God’s answers to our prayers to be the church that He wants us to be. We also anticipate the excitement of the Vacation Bible School that is planned for July 17 – 21, 2023, and the Sunday School activities. There is excitement over the children participating in the life of the church. Thanks all for all you do and for the prayers in support of Pearl City Community Church. To God be the Glory and to His Son Jesus Christ.
BOARD OF MISSIONS
Jean Kimoto/Frances Nakamura

This year besides our annual support for HCUCC, the Board of Missions provided eleven awards and one grant to local and mainland organizations. We continued monitoring our Cohort 1 EnhanceFitness Class and added a Cohort 2 class after receiving a grant from the Atherton Family Foundation.

The Board of Missions continues to facilitate meetings of the Kupuna Empowerment Committee, a subcommittee formed at the beginning of 2022 to address kupuna health through chronic disease self-management, falls prevention through exercise and strength training, healthy eating, and socialization. If you are interested in contributing your ideas and moving the KEC agenda forward in addressing community needs, you are welcome to join us.

Board members are Co-Chairs Jean Kimoto and Sandi Bartsch, Frances Nakamura, and Shirley Kidani.

2023 FINANCIAL AWARDS
Vision: Pearl City Community Church, the living presence of Jesus Christ shared with others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION/CONTACT OR APPLICANT</th>
<th>AMOUNT AWARDED</th>
<th>PURPOSE OF REQUEST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluewater Mission (Justice Ministry) 1114 Mona St., Honolulu, HI 96821</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>Creating safe havens for victims in community based safe homes through churches throughout Hawaii.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825,</td>
<td>$7000</td>
<td>For OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honolulu, HI 96813</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HCUCC (Hawaii Conference United Church of Christ) - UCC Special Mission</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>To be sent to HCUCC with PCCC’s Congregational Donations for OGHS, STC, NIN, TCF. Congregation will not be participating in The Christmas Fund.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offerings One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Strengthen the Church (STC),</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighbors in Need (NIN), The Christmas Fund (TCF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>House for All Wahi No Na Mea A Pau P. O. Box 22132, Honolulu, HI 96823</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>International community providing an after-school program for young people to be builders of an</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Kaumakapili Church</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>Funding for free social supermarket distributing soy milk for the elderly and their families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>766 North King St, Honolulu, HI 96817</td>
<td></td>
<td>equitable and sustainable global community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumana’i Scholarship (Oahu Association UCC)</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>Scholarships for students of Samoan ancestry who value community service and desire to achieve to uplift their culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 Bishop Street, Suite 825, Honolulu, HI 96813</td>
<td></td>
<td>Support for Client Assistance Fund subsidizing mental health counseling for people who are uninsured, underinsured, elderly and low-income.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaritan Counseling Center Hawaii</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>Funding for outreach programs encouraging wellness of the body, mind, spirit, ‘aina and community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1020 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96814</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunrise Foundation</td>
<td>$500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. O Box 235708, Honolulu, HI 96823</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Wesley Community Center - Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (TVAP)</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>To foster safety and healing in individuals who are victims of human trafficking by the provision of comprehensive case management services and outpatient therapeutic treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1117 Kaili St., Honolulu, HI 96819</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ Transition House</td>
<td>$2600</td>
<td>To provide a safe and resourceful haven for women and their children who are survivors of domestic violence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. O. Box 11885, Honolulu, HI 96828</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waikoloa Marshallese Ministry</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>Assistance for Building Fund and more activities for young children and church needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kailua, Kona, Hawaii</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
EnhanceFitness, An Evidence-Based Fall Prevention and Exercise Program, is made available to the Pearl City Community Church through a partnership between the Young Men’s Christian Association of Honolulu (YMCA), the University of Hawaii-Center on the Family (UH-COF Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership) and PCCC. This community program is supported by a grant from the Atherton Family Foundation.

Participants from two classes and special guests including Representative Greg Takayama, Janice Salcedo from Senator Brandon Elefante’s Office, Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Rev. Dr. David Popham, HCUCC, Caroline Cadirao from the State Executive Office on Aging, Michiyo Tomioka, UH-COF, Greg Waibel, Deborah Thierbach and Jenny Ostlind from the YMCA, Leslie Tanoue from Alu Like, Inc, and Stan Michaels from the Department of Health’s Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Program joined in the celebration and participated in the EnhanceFitness exercise.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoe Ministries of Delaware</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>Provide safety, healing and advocacy to those impacted or potentially impacted by sex trafficking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. O. Box 26, Greenwood, DE 19950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lehua Elementary School</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>Discretionary funds in recognition of PCCC’s partnership with Lehua Elementary School.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>791 Lehua Ave., Pearl City, HI 96781</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ENHANCEFITNESS SHOWCASE**

**JUNE 7, 2023**

Participants from two classes and special guests including Representative Greg Takayama, Janice Salcedo from Senator Brandon Elefante’s Office, Senator Sharon Moriwaki, Rev. Dr. David Popham, HCUCC, Caroline Cadirao from the State Executive Office on Aging, Michiyo Tomioka, UH-COF, Greg Waibel, Deborah Thierbach and Jenny Ostlind from the YMCA, Leslie Tanoue from Alu Like, Inc, and Stan Michaels from the Department of Health’s Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Program joined in the celebration and participated in the EnhanceFitness exercise.
THE REDEDICATION & REOPENING OF THE LIVING WORD LIBRARY

Jackie Arakawa

On April 26, 2023, Pearl City Community Church celebrated the reopening of the Living Word Library with a rededication ceremony. After being closed for months due to termite-damaged shelves, the library reopened with beautiful new metal shelves, a gift of Sanford and Ginny Tom in memory of their aunt, Alice Kono (June 9, 1928 – May 10, 2020. Alice was a charter member of PCCC, an avid reader of books, and patron of the Living Word Library.

After the worship service, church attendees followed Pastor Gordon to the Living Word Library, where he opened the ceremony with an introductory greeting, followed by Geri Ihara’s presentation address, Ginny Tom’s tribute to the Christian faith of Alice Kono, librarian Jackie Arakawa’s acceptance of the gift, and Pastor Gordon’s Act of Dedication with God’s blessing. The ceremony ended with our special guests, Sanford and Ginny Tom, cutting the ribbon to the rededicated Living Word Library.

Refreshments and fellowship followed in Higuchi Hall.
PEARL HARBOR BIKE PATH CLEAN UP
Frida Burleson and Carol Iboshi

On a bright and sunny morning on Saturday, April 22, 2023, a group of twenty-two Pearl City Community Church members eagerly walked down from our church to the Pearl Harbor Bike Path on Lehua Avenue at 8 o’clock to embark on a mission to clean up both sides of the path till the west end of the Waiau.

Hawaiian Electric Plant. For the next hour and a half, they gathered together about ten bags of trash along a distance of almost two miles. They were helped by a dozen volunteers that included both a state senator’s staff, as well as a state representative, a city councilwoman and her staff as well as a few members of our Pearl City Lions Club.

They were treated to a nutritious meal of goulash and fresh fruit salad upon returning to our church.

God’s presence ensured that everyone had an enjoyable time getting to know each other better as well as forming new friendships with volunteers outside of our church. His presence also kept all of us safe from injuries except for two incidents of red ant bites.

This event also showed God’s love for our community by helping to keep the path clean and safe for all to use. We also did our part in keeping pollutants out of our watershed. E malama ike wai meke aina. Take care of our water and land.

We’re looking forward to our next clean up to be held in October.
2023 LUMANA’I SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS  
(Taken from Coconut Wireless May 10, 2023)

The Lumana’i Scholarship Awards recognizes, honors, and rewards the accomplishments and talents of Samoan youth in their pursuit of higher education. This is a partnership project of the O‘ahu Samoan Community and the O‘ahu Association of the Hawai‘i Conference UCC. The 21st Annual Awards Ceremony was held this year on April 20 at Farrington High School. Since the start of the scholarship program, over 300 Samoan youth have received scholarships totaling over $60,000.

Recognition from Andria Tupola of the Honolulu City Council was presented to the founder of the Lumana‘i Scholarship, Clayton Kimoto, who was a member of Pearl City Community Church. Clayton passed away in November 2022, so his widow Jean accepted the recognition on his behalf. “He wasn’t Samoan, but he saw a need and an opportunity to help Samoan students, so he rallied his church and successful Samoans to help form the organization.”

Photo by Delsa Atoa Moe
COMMUNITY CONCERNS PARK MINISTRY
Frida Burleson

June 28, 2023, at Blaisdell Park. Our ministry provides more than just a warm meal, we also provide toiletries, and canned goods that have been donated by our generous people.

We not only feed them, but offer them a kind word, and prayer, and show them loving compassion.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16
Random pictures from Church Events

Henry and Darlene Mataritta from World Mission Outreach

CPR & AED Training

VBS Safe Church Training
La’akea Support Group Meeting

Better Choices, Better Health Forum

Michiko Iguchi 103rd Birthday Celebration
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, July 16, 2023
After 10:00 AM Worship Service

Agenda:
- To vote on Retaining Pastor Gordon Marchant
- Approval of the terms of call

Please plan to attend as a quorum of fifty (50) members is needed to conduct business. Mahalo!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 17-21, 2023 * 8:30AM – 12:30PM
Ages 3 to 12

Registration Fee: $10 Deadline: July 7, 2023
Includes: Lunch, Snacks, Crafts Supplies & T-shirt
For more information call the church office at (808) 455-4148 or email at pearlcitycommunitychurch@pccc-hi.org

All Welcome!
Kupuna Hugs invites you!
Thursday, July 6 at 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Higuchi Hall.
Lunch included.
It’s all FUN and GAMES until someone….
YELLS…. Hallelujah.

For more information contact Ben Gabriel, Jr. at (808) 455-4148.

933 Lehua Avenue Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 455-4148
www.pearlcitycommunitychurch.org