



**MĀNOA VALLEY**  
CHURCH

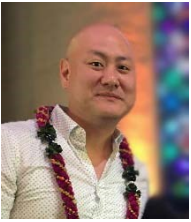
# Mānoa Connection

*Connecting our 'ohana*

**e-Newsletter**

**Date: October 7, 2020**

## ● We Appreciate You, Pastor Abe!



This year, Pastor Appreciation Day carries special significance for us at MVC. After all, it was only in June that we were introduced to our current pastor, **Abraham Han**, through sermons that he videotaped at his home in Vancouver. After a challenging transition to Hawaii due to the pandemic, he has yet to preach before a live congregation.

Nevertheless, we'd like to share our feelings, prompted by the October 11<sup>th</sup> date set aside to honor clergy. We also encourage people to communicate with Pastor Abe anytime at [ahan@manoavalleychurch.org](mailto:ahan@manoavalleychurch.org).



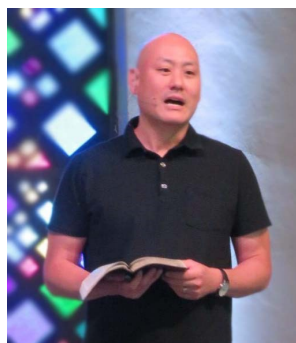
- Thank you for your sermons and efforts to help us through these difficult times. Miss seeing all my friends at Mānoa Valley. My prayers are with you. **Margaret Murakami**
- At such a time as this in 2020, we are so blessed, thankful and appreciative to have you, Pastor Abe, lead MVC to a deeper relationship with God in three persons, while connecting the body of Christ to each other with Jesus at the center of it all. Here's to many ministry opportunities of service, fellowship and growth. **Mr. Sam**
- Thank you, Pastor Abe, for all the Love and Support that you provide for the Preschool and the Staff! We enjoy chapel time with you and look forward to seeing you every Wednesday. Thank you for teaching us about Jesus, how to pray, and how to treat one another! **Marilyn and MVC Preschool**
- The goal of the Christian Education Committee is to bring together into one loving 'ohana MVC members with the Youth, Adults, and the Child Care Programs. We have always intentionally prayed for God's leadership in this endeavor. Pastor Han, your Sunday sermons have highlighted Scripture on who this God is and especially on the Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, who is leading us in our activities at MVC.



During these times when we, the flock, are socially distanced, you have prayed for and encouraged us to stay connected, have led us to green pastures in the Bible, encouraged us to rest on Sundays, to be righteous by praying and caring for each other, and to look for the Shepherd among us and in us. We are glad you answered the Shepherd's call to come to us in Hawaii! **Maizie Okimoto and the Christian Education Committee**

- Thank you for responding to the call of God to be with us at MVC. I am grateful that you and your family were willing to make a major move during a difficult time in our world. I know it has not been easy! Thank you for teaching us through your sermons, which are thoughtful and clear. I have already learned a lot from you. Finally, thank you for the thoughtful ways you are leading the staff and guiding our congregation. To God be the glory! Blessings, **Kent Keith**

- Pastor Han is great at helping me focus on the Triune God by delving deep into scripture and relating it to our actions/feelings today! Love his spearheading the Connection Groups to draw us closer socially/spiritually. **Ron Lee**
- Thank you, Pastor Abe, for coming to Hawaii and MVC despite the challenges you faced to get here. You came to join us, lead us, love us, and teach us His Word. We feel the Spirit moving in all of us and we're so grateful for you, Soo, Miles and Rory! **Gwyen Nosse**
- It has been wonderful to welcome you, Pastor Abe and your family to MVC. I appreciate your willingness to jump right in and provide strong leadership and spiritual guidance. **Catherine Miyahira**
- Mahalo, Pastor Abe (and family), for your continued commitment to serving our church! Our church has been through so much in recent years and we are so blessed to have a wonderful leader like you to help us see God's love in new ways. **Shayna Doi**



- Happy Pastor Appreciation Day! Who knew our call for a Senior Pastor would be heard across the border and become a reality during a worldwide pandemic? God works in such mysterious and amazing ways. The Uechi Family wants to extend our warmest aloha and appreciation for answering MVC's call and for joining our 'ohana. We appreciate all that your family prayerfully considered and the numerous details you worked through to make the move here. We are excited for the time when we are free to gather in person with the MVC 'Ohana to live life together. Thank you again, **Sarie Uechi**
- Aloha Pastor Abe! Thank you for your inspiring weekly sermons and your dedication in caring for MVC's congregation! **Ann Haioka**
- Kudos to the Senior Pastor Search committee; their selection has been such a blessing! Pastor Abe has shown a quiet energy and thoughtful approach in supporting our ministries and congregation. In my experience on the Child Care Committee, he has been instrumental in guiding the child care programs in making adjustments to insure their continued success. His thoughtful, organized sermons have taught me so much and encouraged me to stretch and deepen my faith. He demonstrates a welcoming and friendly approach and the desire to get to know all of us. I am so glad that Pastor Abe and his family have joined our 'ohana! **Evie Gallagher**
- What a blessing you are, Pastor Abe! We are so grateful that God chose you for MVC! We love your carefully prepared sermons and we are learning so much. We especially loved your sermon on Jesus the shepherd where we got a chance to see the actual rod and staff that are used! We love having Soo and the boys join our MVC family, too! Mahalo, **Milton and Maddie Oshiro**
- Aloha, Pastor Abe! As we celebrate Pastor Appreciation Day, we are so grateful that during this very trying time, you were able to come to MVC to help us lift our faith up to the Lord. From the onset of your sermons, you made us realize that we are the sheep of Our Shepherd who will guide and protect us while journeying through this pandemic and all things which come with it. Your commitment to guide us to become effective leaders and servants to not only MVC, but also to the wider community, infuses us with excitement. We also extend our aloha to Soo, Miles and Rory. **Gerald and Mae Saito**
- Mahalo nui loa, Pastor Abe for...  
leaving the comfort and stability of your home in Canada;  
venturing to Hawaii and joining our 'ohana;  
centering us on Jesus and giving us a fresh start;  
energizing our worship and faith development; and  
giving us reason to pause and reflect on the direction of MVC.  
**Roger Au**

- Aloha, Pastor Abe! Welcome to Hawaii and to the MVC Ohana! Will continue to pray for your total well being and continued good health. Thank you for answering the call to serve at MVC. It has been a long journey that we members traveled searching for someone who was willing to meet our needs. Therefore we are very grateful that you decided to be that person. I enjoy watching Sunday services online; your sermons are very informative and follow an organized structure which makes it easy to follow week after week. Your listing of ideas and verses makes taking notes helpful to refer to later. Thank you again. May your tenure with us be fruitful and rewarding. Mahalo, **Alene T. Nakasone**
- As church moderator, it has been my pleasure to work with you as the new Senior Pastor of MVC! You are a good listener and offer constructive and creative ideas. You are solidly centered in Jesus and this guides your relationships with others and your approach to handling the issues that arise in our church family. There will be problems and challenges along the way, but we will deal with them together as you help us to grow in our faith and fulfill the mission of serving Jesus Christ. Thank you for serving with us! **Dianne Ishida**

### ● Calling All Members of Mānoa Valley Church!



Our virtual **Fall Congregational Meeting** will be held on Zoom on Sunday, October 25 immediately following our worship service. The agenda for the meeting includes Pastor Abe's report to the members regarding his ministry and goals for the new year; review/approval of our Church Operating Budget for 2021; election of officers and committee members for 2021-2022; and an update regarding our Building Fund drive and fundraising programs for the year.

To conduct business for the Church we need to have a required number of members in attendance so we can achieve quorum. Although the Church facility is still closed and many of our programs and activities are put on hold, our ministry continues and we need to make important decisions regarding our future direction. *Please make every effort to attend this important meeting!* **Note:** If you need help to use Zoom, please contact David Park at [office@manoavalleychurch.org](mailto:office@manoavalleychurch.org) or call him at 988-3271 a few days before the meeting.

### ● The Church Needs You!

It's time for us to elect our church officers and committee members to lead MVC in the new year. If you feel God gently pulling/pushing/leading you to serve, then be open to the call. Here are the positions that are still available:

- Vice-Moderator needed
- Child Care Committee : one more member needed
- Christian Education Committee: young adult under age 30 needed
- Nominations Committee: one more member needed
- Peace & Justice Committee: one more member needed

If you are interested in serving or you have questions, please contact Nominations Chair **Sam Browning** at [mrsammyjb@gmail.com](mailto:mrsammyjb@gmail.com). *Will you answer the call?*



### ● Mahalo for Your Support!



A big mahalo to all who participated in the Foodland Give Aloha program. 59 donors contributed **\$13,233** towards our Building Fund. If you would like your donation recorded in your giving account, please turn in your receipt with your name on it. There are still 30 outstanding receipts. We will receive the Foodland/Western Union matching gift later this month.

In September, we also received **\$88.19** from the Amazon Foundation as a result of your purchases on Amazon Smile. This is the highest amount we have received during a quarter since we began participating in 2014. As we approach the holiday season if you shop on Amazon, please remember to use [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and select Mānoa Valley Church as your designated organization to support.





## MĀNOA VALLEY CHURCH CONNECTION GROUPS

Stay connected with community during the COVID pandemic



### COVID-19 INFO SESSION & MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Leader(s): Kent Keith & Pastor Abraham Han



### NUTRITION HEALTH

Leader: David Park



### FUN WITH ART

Leader: Cat Iwami



### READING THE BIBLE IN COMMUNITY

Leader: TBD



### DISCIPLESHIP & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Pastor Abraham Han



### PRAYER

Leader: Bette Uyeda



### BOOK CLUB

Leader: Dianne Ishida



### WOMEN'S & MEN'S GROUP

Leader: TBD



### GENERAL CONNECTION GROUP

Leader: TBD

### READY TO JOIN A GROUP?

Contact us at [connectiongroups@manoavalleychurch.org](mailto:connectiongroups@manoavalleychurch.org) to tell us which group you are interested in joining. We will do our best to assist you in finding a group.



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