

# HEART-TO-HEART

*We are reminded that Christ is in our hearts and we are in His and that love connects us all in unity.*



## *Looking Forward to 2023*

As WOCC has their Re-Visioning Meeting #3 on January 7, 2023, we look forward to what God has planned for our church. The "church" is not a building, it is the body of Christ; all believers of Christ coming together.

Acts 2:42 gives us a glimpse of what "church" is - "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to

fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

This was the early church - they encouraged and supported one another, they learned about Jesus together, they served others, they worshipped God together, they prayed together, and they spread the gospel. Sounds simple and ideal.

Let us continue to pray that God will guide us as a united body of believers in Christ.

*"All the believers were one in heart and mind." Acts 4:32*

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## *Reflections*

2022 has been a year of starting anew as the COVID pandemic and required safety and health protocols started easing.

Here's some of the highlights from the past year that reflect the resiliency of our church:

- The WOCC Connection email helped to keep people informed about what's happening at WOCC.
- There was a worship service that was solely dedicated to praying in small groups throughout the sanctuary.
- A card making activity brought creative people together to make cards for those who have been in our prayers.

- Small groups continued each trimester.
- Christmas Fellowship Luncheon at Waikele Country Club.
- Informal fellowship luncheons hosted by Norio & Linda Kunimitsu at their home.
- Continued support for our missionaries.
- Guest speakers who presented on a variety of topics.

Even though the numbers of church attendees have been reduced, the highlights show that there is a desire to continue to worship and obey our Lord. May we be ever grateful for what He has provided us this past year, and let us continue to glorify Him.

*"May the God who gives endurance encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Chris Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

ROMANS 15:5-6

## *CHURCH SCHEDULE*

English Worship Service  
Sundays  
10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Japanese Worship Service  
Sundays  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.



# *Nori, I Think It's Time....*

by Linda Kunimitsu

In March of my third year as a Christian, I was frustrated. For over two years I had been trying to get Nori to become a Christian. I wanted so much to be equally yoked. I wanted him to feel the joy I was feeling. I wanted him to be with me in church. I wanted him to sing all the new songs I was learning. I wanted the assurance that he would go to heaven. I wanted him to experience the heart-warming love of Christ Jesus.

Nothing worked. In fact, he seemed to be drawing away from me. I finally said, "Lord, I don't care. You handle it. I'm tired already. He's yours."

I'm a rather stubborn person, but once I make up my mind to let go, I'm able to do so. Not in anger, but to truly let God do his work.

In November of that same year, 8 months later in 1989, a friend from church dropped me and our house guest, Nedrah Abadir, off from a bible study. Nedrah, an Egyptian missionary with YWAM (Youth With A Mission), had been coming to our church, and we had formed a friendship. I asked my friends to come on in as it was still early.

Our home is split-level. We entered. It was dark. Nori must be upstairs. The three of us sat down to discuss the Bible study. I was surprised when Nori came down and sat in his recliner. My friends and I continued our discussion. Surprisingly, Nori asked a question, which, some 34 years later, I don't remember what it was.

Now, coincidentally, Nedrah had had polio as a child and walked with a noticeable limp, even with special elevated shoes made especially for her. Nori has also had a limp since childhood because of a hip condition. Nedrah had the most engaging smile that instantly warmed your heart.

Before I knew it, she had slid over to Nori on the carpeted floor and sat at his feet. "Nori," she said, looking at him with her sweet, engaging smile. "I think it's time you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior."

Before I realized what was happening, Nori replied nonchalantly, "Okay," and Nedrah led Nori through the sinner's prayer to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Two days later, it was the most beautiful Sunday ever, to have Nori at my side in church. As we both teared at the beautiful worship songs, my heart filled with thankfulness.

*"And the gospel must first be preached to all nations."*

MARK 13:10



*Do you have a story to share? If you do, **shout it from the rooftops!** Please contact me to add it to our newsletter. I believe God gives each one of us a very special, personal story so powerful, others will come to the Lord Jesus through your testimony.*

*Linda Kunimitsu*



*"If you believe,  
you will receive  
whatever you ask  
for in prayer."*

MATTHEW 21:22

## *Prayer List*

**Loving Others** - Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to love ourselves and others as God loves us.

**WOCC Re-Visioning Meeting** - Pray for God's direction to be revealed to the participants as we move forward at WOCC.

**Our Missionaries** - Continue to pray for our missionaries as they spread the Word of God to others.

**Our Congregants** - Pray for those in our congregation who need God's healing power to restore their health and spirit.

## *Sunday Fellowship*

Norio & Linda Kunimitsu have generously opened their home for fellowship once a month on Sundays after church. The next fellowship sessions are scheduled for **January 8, 2023 from 1-4 p.m.** and **February 12, 2023 from 1-4 p.m.** at their home. Beverages and paper goods will be provided.

Bring your own lunch or you can place an order with Linda for a bento from Mamaya.



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