



# The Pearl

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Pastor Sterling Lee

## Words from the Pastor

# A Time for Preparation

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

This verse emphasizes the fact that there will always be seasons of change in the world that provide us with new experiences. As summer approaches, some families will be going through seasons of change with kids going off to college, becoming empty nesters, and some even welcoming back college graduates. There will be those hot on the job hunt for that first post-high school or post-college job, but they'll also be those who are making the transition from the work world to the new season of retirement. There will be tons of new

things to experience through trips taken, or again, new jobs, through relationship changes, or just life changes in general. Even here at church, there will be changes, and I'd like to spend the remainder of this article exploring some ways that we can prepare for that change.

Just in case this change is still unfamiliar, our new Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Youth and his wife will be coming in mid-July. There is no doubt that we'll have a lot of time to get to know them (**Daniel & Belle Grewatz**), so I thought that we (**as a church**) could spend the next month preparing for this new addition to our church family.

In anticipation of our new associate pastor and his wife, I

## The Pearl

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Lori Otsuka, Joanne Arakaki  
Editors

Carlie Procell, Lori Otsuka  
Designers

Sterling Lee  
FBCPC Senior Pastor

Ollie Anez, Joanne Arakaki, Luke Brown, Daniel Grewatz, Pauline Higa, Keiko Ishiwata, Associate Pastor John Lee, Senior Pastor Sterling Lee, Esther McDaniel, Aaron Nagasawa, Ray Sugai

Contributors



**FBC PEARL CITY**

1445 Hoolaulea Street  
Pearl City, HI 96782

Church Office: (808) 455-2011

Email: [office@fbcpearlcity.org](mailto:office@fbcpearlcity.org)

Website: [www.fbcpearlcity.com](http://www.fbcpearlcity.com)



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## thank you

FOR VISITING WITH US!

Thank you so much for taking the time to come and worship with us. We'd love to see you again, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us!



First Baptist Church of  
Pearl City  
[office@fbcpearlcity.org](mailto:office@fbcpearlcity.org)

(808) 455-2011  
[www.fbcpearlcity.org](http://www.fbcpearlcity.org)

want us to engage in a period of prayer and preparation. What I mean by this is that I'd like for us to pray for our new associate pastor and his wife Belle, as well as for our church's readiness to welcome them.

Here are some things that we can pray for:

- Pray for Daniel & Belle's transition into their new role and community.
- Pray for our church's readiness to receive both Daniel & Belle, and for the discipleship and youth ministries to thrive under his leadership.

- Pray for safe travels as they relocate from Mississippi to Hawaii.

Another thing we could do to welcome them is to email them ([daniel@fbcpearlcity.org](mailto:daniel@fbcpearlcity.org)) a short welcome note of encouragement, allow them to get to know you, and let them know that you/we're praying for them. We will also be hosting a fellowship in between our Sunday morning services on July 20th, and we hope that you all come out to encourage them.

**“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens,”** so let's get ready as we usher in an exciting new season in the life of our church with pastor Daniel and Belle.

***“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”***

***—Ecclesiastes 3:1***





After Pearl City Easter Sunday Service

# Easter Celebration

## Rejoicing in the Resurrection of Our Lord

By Keiko Ishiwata  
(Associate Minister of the Japanese-speaking Congregation)

**O**n April 20, we gathered in two locations—Pearl City and Waikiki Japanese services—to celebrate Easter, the glorious day marking the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was a day filled with songs of praise, heartfelt testimonies, and powerful reflections on the empty tomb.

One of the most beautiful aspects of our Easter services was the offering of worship through hula. In Pearl City,

our Christian hula team, *The Heavenly Pearls*, and the *Joint Hula Team* at Waikiki Church shared their beautiful dance, expressing their faith and joy through graceful movements. Both teams danced to the beloved worship song, “*Shout to the Lord*,” lifting their hands and hearts in praise to our risen Savior.

During these two services, Keiko delivered a message that centered on the mystery and significance of the empty tomb. She spoke about the renovation of



Waikiki Easter Sunday Service  
(Kyoko-san's Testimony)



the Edicule, the sacred structure within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed to house the burial site of Jesus. Due to the aging state of the structure and concerns over collapse, a large-scale restoration was undertaken eight years ago. The Edicule is built upon the rock where Jesus' body was said to have been placed, and over time, layers of marble have been added for protection.

National Geographic documented the painstaking process of carefully removing the marble layers, as archaeologists sought to reach the original rock beneath. The anticipation was palpable—what would be found beneath these protective layers? Could there be remnants of Jesus' presence, perhaps a fragment of His bones or a piece of His burial cloth? What they found was only dust! From an archaeological perspective, uncovering a structure dating back to the 4th century was remarkable, but the absence of any physical remains only confirmed what we know to be true—Jesus was never meant to stay in the grave. He rose on the third day and now reigns in glory!

So, where is Jesus now? He is alive and with us, even in moments when we may not fully recognize His presence. This truth was powerfully reflected in Kyoko Johnson's testimony shared during the two services this Sunday. Last fall, Kyoko battled pneumonia, and during her illness, a blood test revealed an increase in white blood cells—a sign that her body was fighting. It was a sign that the resurrected Lord was walking with her through the trial.

The risen Christ is not a distant figure from history—He is here, now, in our lives. He moves within us, strengthens us in our suffering, and leads us in His unfailing love. As we continue to rejoice in the victory of Easter, may we carry this truth in our hearts: He is risen. He is with us. Hallelujah!



*Waikiki Easter Sunday Service (Joint Hula Team)*



*After Pearl City  
Easter Sunday  
Service (Message)*



*Waikiki Easter Sunday Service  
(Da Joyful Pearls)*

# Aloha from



**D**id you know that over 5,000 keiki in Hawaii receive some form of services from Child Welfare Services? There is also a crisis shortage of licensed foster homes to help care for these youth and many end up living in shelters or group home settings—modern day orphanages—without their parents or relatives.

Our mission at Harvest Family Life Hawaii is to serve keiki o ka aina and their families before, during and beyond foster care with the Love of Jesus. We accomplish this by partnering with local Christian churches through equipping and empowering the Church to take the lead in the foster care crisis.

We are grateful to First Baptist Church Pearl City for your support in giving us office space downstairs from the College Ministry. Mahalo NUI for your partnership and helping us serve more children and families. We can tell story after story about what God is doing in the lives of hurting children and families and the way Jesus is redeeming their lives.

If you would like to go on mission with HFLHI consider joining us in collecting school supplies for our 2nd annual Back to School Bash on July 25. It is held in Nanakuli in partnership with Malama Christian Fellowship Church. Pastor Eddie and Faleiva Hunt are the shepherds there and it is part of the HPBC.

Please see the flier and contact us (808-694-0000) via text or call for more information.

Pray that the Body of Christ will rise up for the sake of our keiki!

—*Esther McDaniel, Executive Director, Harvest Family Life Hawaii*






# BACK TO SCHOOL




Harvest Family Life Hawaii invites you to partner with us to provide school supplies for foster, adoptive, hanai, and biological keiki.

## General Supplies Needed

**\*Full list of supplies available upon request\***

- 
- Backpacks (especially Middle & High school)
  - 3 ring binders "1- 1.5"
  - Composition notebooks wide and college rule
  - Ball point pens black, red and blue
  - Highlighter pens
  - Sharpie pens fine point
  - Crayola: 24 pack of crayons, colored pencils, thick and thin markers



Scan the QR code if you would like to volunteer to fill backpacks



If you have any question please contact  
Mele McDaniel:  
(808)347-0463 | [mele@hflhi.org](mailto:mele@hflhi.org)

**Harvest**  
Family Life Hawaii





# Q & A

## Pastor Daniel Grewatz

**FBCPC:** Where were you born?

**Daniel:** I was born in Mexico City, Mexico

**FBCPC:** Describe your family life growing up and currently.

**Daniel:** I am the youngest in a family of four and grew up most of my life between Mexico City and Minnesota. My parents are missionaries in Puebla, Mexico, and have been serving in Mexico as church planters and missions mobilizers for the past 27 years. I only have one older sibling. My sister is three years older than I am, and she has been working as an ER travel nurse, living out of an RV full-time with her husband and traveling all over the United States. However, they just recently decided to lay down some roots in Tennessee as they are expecting their first baby boy due in August. I am looking forward to hopefully meeting my first nephew in January.

My family is very close-knit and loved growing up in Mexico. My whole family is fluent in English and Spanish, and we love getting to joke around in both languages. We grew up moving a good bit since my dad's primary role was to plant churches, so I learned to be very adaptable at a young age and step into new cultures and embrace the good that comes from the new environment.

I also grew up going to an international school in Puebla, Mexico, which allowed me to go to school with students from Colombia, Israel, the Philippines, South Korea, and the US. This made it a very fun and unique experience where I got

to learn to immerse myself in any new situation I may find myself in.

As of March 2025, however, my new family is my lovely bride and myself. Belle and I met at a coffee shop; she was the barista, and I was the struggling graduate student who needed a quiet place to study. After getting to know each other and becoming best friends over the course of seven months, we finally decided to give it a shot and see if the Lord was leading us to more. A year and a half later, we got married, and we have been loving married life thus far. My wife, Belle, is from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and loves anything that has to do with being outside, especially if it's near the beach. She is passionate about ministry and relationships, especially when it comes to missions. It does not take much convincing to get on a plane to go anywhere and tell others about Jesus and serve others. She is so excited to meet everyone at FBCPC and cannot wait to explore the island and build community in our soon-to-be home.

**FBCPC:** How did you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

**Daniel:** Growing up as a missionary kid in Mexico, I was very familiar with the church scene. My parents gave me a very good picture of what it meant to be a Christian. However, at age 4, I was going through some difficult situations at school in which I was not obeying my teachers and misbehaving in class. My parents began to discipline me through this experience, and I remember at a young age struggling with the fact that I never felt like I was going to get over my issues at school. My dad, in great

**T**his July, we will be welcoming Pastor Daniel Grewatz and his wife, Belle, to our church as the new Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Youth. Pastor Daniel will be in charge of spearheading our discipleship program for all ages, from our little ones to our Senior Kupuna. He will be working closely with our Sunday School directors and teachers to help foster the multiplication of disciples at FBCPC. Along with discipleship, Pastor Daniel will be our new Youth Pastor who will be in charge of leading, training, and developing relationships with our youth and youth leaders.

Before Pastor Daniel and Belle arrive, we wanted to give you an opportunity to learn a little more about our new pastor.



wisdom, was able to use this experience to show the power of the gospel to free me from my sin, and I very clearly understood that I wanted to give my life to Him and receive the great gift of grace and eternal life with my Savior. And while I may have made a profession of faith at a young age, it wasn't till I was in 7th grade that I truly claimed my faith as my own. At age 12, my family was hit with a series of extremely difficult situations regarding health issues with my mom and sister, and some really difficult problems at the church that we were planting at the time. It was a very difficult season in my life, and I noticed that I began to resent God for placing me in a very dark situation after the way my family had been seeking to serve God in full-time ministry my entire childhood. However, through that time, I truly was able to experience Jesus in a way I never had before. I learned that God has a purpose for me in every season, and I tangibly understood God's love for me regardless of my situation. And I have been running after the Lord ever since.

**FBCPC:** What are you passionate about?

**Daniel:** I have always said that what gets me out of bed in the morning is helping people find their next right step toward their fullest potential. I believe that is what I was called to do on this earth, and there is nothing more exciting for me than to be connected with people who want to grow, seek after the Lord, and become more like Jesus. I love getting to create strong bonds with people and learn to lock arms together to accomplish great things.

**FBCPC:** What's your favorite Bible verse?

**Daniel:** Jeremiah 29:11—"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**FBCPC:** What's on your bucket list?

**Daniel:** -Visit all 50 states before the age of 30 (I am at 45, and once I get to Hawaii, I will be at 46).  
-I would love to own a coffee shop one day.

**FBCPC:** What are you looking forward to in moving to Hawaii?

**Daniel:** I am so excited for me and my wife to jump into a new culture, learn all the fun traditions on the island, maybe pick up some surfing, and enjoy the beautiful landscape of the Island. We are also excited for 5 am workouts with Pastor Sterling, ha-ha!







# EASTER 2025

Sunday, April 20











*The Flower Committee beautifully decorates the sanctuary.*



*The dedicated women of the Flower Committee.*



*The Building and Grounds crew with other volunteers hard at work prepping the church grounds for Easter.*



# Summer Interns



Hello everybody! My name is Alejandro [Ollie], and I am so excited to be serving here with you guys for the summer. Some things I enjoy are playing pickleball with my friends, going to the gym, and being outside in nature. I was born in Venezuela and moved to Florida when I was ten. We moved again to Tennessee when I was 14 and have been living in Tennessee since. I am 19 now, and Tennessee is definitely the favorite place I have lived in so far (we'll see about Hawaii). I have gone on one other long-term mission trip to New York, where I was living for two months. I served at a local church in the heart of New York in Hell's Kitchen. Mission trips and discipleship are where my heart lies with ministry. I hope to be a light and an encourager with a smile on my face during my time with you guys as we spend time together in fellowship.

*We are grateful to Ollie who served with us for a month. We miss you!*



Aloha! My name is Luke Brown, and I'm from Nashville, TN! I love playing pickleball, studying theology, socializing, and evangelism! This is my first time in Hawaii, and I'm very excited to explore the culture and the landscapes! Most importantly, I want to continue to grow in my relationship with the Lord and, through Him, introduce many to Christ! I hope to connect with the youth and show them that Jesus is life, and where true life begins! All glory to God! Romans 11:36.

*Luke will be serving with us for another month. Mahalo Luke!*





Once again, this mission opportunity and outreach activity with Highlands Intermediate School was very successful. On Thursday, May 29, our FBCPC volunteers provided donations of foliage/ plants, and manpower starting at 6:30am!

Fifteen volunteers served by decorating the HIS Cafeteria with many types of beautiful foliage for the school's Farewell Assembly.

Thank you to:

**Decoration:** Sherri Achiu, Luke Brown, Ollie Anez, Keiko Ishiwata, Mike Maruyama, Sandi Maruyama, Martin Nagaji, Gary Ohashi, Joel Pai, Janis Saiki, Carole Sugai, Ray Sugai, John Todt, Charlene Vaughn, and Mona Yamada.

**Foliage:** Jean Goda, Kay Ikei, Ryan Hagihara, Pauline Higa, Renee Kurosawa, Sterling Lee, Mike Maruyama, Sharleen Nakamura, Roy Oda, Janis Saiki, Stacy Sugai John Vaughn and Hisao Yamada.

This outreach activity proved to be another successful step in establishing a positive relationship and partnership between FBCPC and Highlands Intermediate School.

Mahalo,

Ray Sugai, Missions Committee











FBC PEARL CITY

**The Pearl** is a quarterly magazine published by First Baptist Church of Pearl City.  
*If you want to contribute an article, testimony, news blurb, and/or photo,  
please email [office@fbcpearlcity.org](mailto:office@fbcpearlcity.org)*

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