

Associate Pastor of Japanese Fellowship and Ohana Groups Annual Report 2025

Pastor John Barrow

Kalihi Union Church

Aloha, beloved church family,

As we come to the close of another year at Kalihi Union Church, I want to begin by offering thanks to God for His steady faithfulness among us. Ministry is never the work of one person, but the shared calling of a community seeking to love God and neighbor. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve alongside you as we continue to discern what it means to follow Christ together in this season.

One of the great encouragements of the year has been the continued life and growth of the **Japanese Fellowship**. The presence of new families, including children, has added energy and joy, reminding us that God is at work across generations. Seeing worship, fellowship, and shared life take shape in this community continues to affirm the importance of culturally rooted and relationally rich ministry within our church. Events like the Mochi Pounding festival in the New Year and Family Potlucks were precious times of outreach and fellowship.

I am especially thankful for the faithful leadership of the Japanese Fellowship Leadership Team. Their quiet perseverance, generosity of time, and spiritual maturity have shaped the fellowship in meaningful ways. Over the course of the year, the fellowship has grown in depth of faith, prayer, and mutual care. This is a clear testimony to the Spirit's work through willing servants.

Another significant area of encouragement has been the ongoing ministry of our **Ohana Groups**. These groups remain a vital expression of who we are as a church—spaces where faith is practiced in everyday life, where burdens are shared, and where discipleship becomes tangible.

While the year included moments of transition, those changes also opened the door for new leaders to emerge and new groups to take shape. I celebrate the planting of two new groups in 2025, “Men of God Ohana Group” and Japanese Family Ohana Group.” I am deeply thankful for each Ohana Group leader who has faithfully shepherded others with patience, humility, and love. For a more in-depth report regarding Ohana Groups, please refer to “Ohana Groups 2026 Annual Report.”

As we look toward 2026, I believe God is inviting us to deepen our understanding of what it means to live faithfully in ordinary time. Discipleship is not only expressed through major initiatives or visible growth, but through daily faithfulness—how we pray, how we serve, how we endure, and how we give thanks.

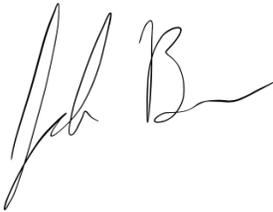
The words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 offer a timely vision for the life of our church:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

My prayer is that these practices would increasingly mark our life together. May we be a people shaped by joy that is rooted in hope, prayer that reflects dependence on God, and gratitude that remains steady even in uncertainty. As we move into the coming year, may our church continue to grow—not only in activity, but in faithfulness, love, and trust in the Lord who holds us.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor. I remain grateful for you and hopeful for what God will continue to do among us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Barrow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pastor John Barrow