



May 2026

THIS MONTH

MAY is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May 3 is PAAM Sunday, to recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans in the life of the UCC.

May 11: 'Aha Pae'aina registration due hcucc.org/aha-paeaina

May 26: Conference Office CLOSED for Memorial Day



A Benediction

written by Rev. Michaelraj Yesudhason

Beloved PAAM family, as you go forth, do not let your hearts be troubled. The God who guided our ancestors across oceans guides us still. Go and do the works of Christ: Lift up the marginalized. Encourage the weary. Mentor the young. Honor the elders. Celebrate the beauty of our diverse cultures as gifts from God. May the Holy Spirit empower your ministries, Strengthen your families and deepen your unity as one body in Christ. And may the blessing of God be upon the PAAM Community, now and always. Amen.

From liturgy created for **PAAM Sunday** in the UCC.

View more: hcucc.org/paam-sunday.

All are invited to the **2026 PAAM Convocation**, June 24-27 @ Irvine UCC. Learn more: paamucc.org

PASTORAL TRANSITIONS

In Memory: **Phil Mark**, 78, retired ordained minister with standing in the O'ahu Association, passed away on April 13. He retired in 2010 from United Church of Christ - Judd Street, where he had served as the senior pastor (2006 - 2010). Phil had served several other local churches in Hawai'i, including Makiki Christian Church and Hawai'i Kai United Church of Christ. He also served on the Hawai'i Conference staff as an Associate Conference Minister for placement and church development.

Laura Robinson has been called to serve as the bridge pastor and of **Church of the Crossroads** in Honolulu. Her first Sunday was April 12.

Daniel Kidder-McQuown will be installed by the O'ahu Association as Settled Pastor of **Waipahu United Church of Christ** on Sunday, May 17.

Malcolm Carr will conclude his ministry with Hawai'i Kai United Church of Christ on May 24.

Ben Sheets will conclude his ministry with Lāna'i Union Church on May 31.

THIS MONTH'S EMERGING THOUGHT

Why should the church wrestle with the growing disparity in digital access?

Because "we build systems that work for the well-connected but further isolate the already marginalized...Access leads to belonging and lack of access leads to disenfranchisement...If the gospel is about inclusion, belonging, and enfranchisement, then how the church integrates technology must reflect that."
—Stacy Dandridge, "Digital Equity and the Church," Sojourners, April 2026, page 13.



Prayers of Aloha

Praying for & with each church of the Hawai'i Conference UCC

We encourage you to pray for any or all of these churches listed for the month of **May**, in whatever way you are moved.

Honolulu Cosmopolitan UCC, First United Protestant Church, Kokokahi UCC, 'Opihikao Cong'l Church, Tuvalu Fou Church of Hawai'i, Hilo Marshallese Ministry, Lihue Christian Church, Hilo Coast UCC, Samoan Church of Hawai'i LMS Nanakuli, Henry O. /Hokuloa Chapel, Po'okela Church, Ka Hana O Ke Akua Church

We also encourage you to pray for our **Hawai'i Island Association (HIA)**, our partners in the **Congregational Christian Church of Samoa**, and the **UCC's Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, Washington DC.**



Support HCucc youth!

There are 52 youth signed up for this year's 'Aha youth event! To ensure financial accessibility to all youth, the event is highly subsidized for participants. Individuals and churches are invited to partner with us to make this experience possible. Please consider making a donation to the HCucc for the 'Aha youth event! This is one way to invest in our youth!

"Sent forth by the Spirit, we walk humbly in Christ's footsteps pursuing peace, justice and the renewal of all creation."



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