



THIS MONTH'S EMERGING THOUGHT

"All we've ever wanted to do is make it possible for people to express themselves through the system of broadcasting. If broadcasters are to serve the public interest, they need to be reminded that they serve *all* the publics."

—**Everett C. Parker**

(born January 17, 1913 – died 2015)
founder and longtime director of
the United Church of Christ's
Office of Communications,
as told to *The New York Times*
when he retired in 1983.
Parker established in court the
right of citizens to challenge
broadcasters who fail in their
duty to serve the public interest.

REMINDERS

January 17, 2026

marks 133 years since
the illegal overthrow of
the Hawaiian Kingdom.

"Mai poina 'ole"

(Never forget)

—Queen Lili'uokalani



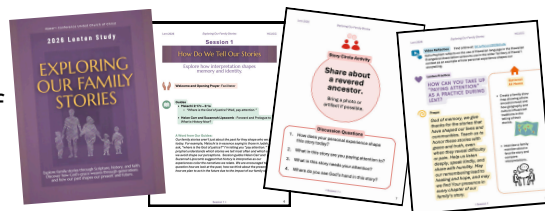
Kalaupapa Sunday

On the **fourth Sunday of every January**, churches are invited to commemorate the estimated 8,000 people diagnosed with Hansen's Disease who were exiled to Moloka'i's remote Kalaupapa peninsula. The suggested date for observing Kalaupapa Sunday is **January 25, 2026**, though churches may honor the patients of Kalaupapa and their families on any chosen Sunday in the year.

Resources are available on the HCUC website:
hcucc.org/kalaupapa-sunday

DISCOVER THE POWER OF YOUR FAMILY STORY DURING LENT

This Lent, the Hawai'i Conference invites you to dive into the sacred ground of family stories with our 2026 Lenten Study: **Exploring Our Family Stories**. Together, we'll uncover how the narratives we inherit and share shape our identity, faith, and relationships. This study is your invitation to honesty, creativity, and prayerful reflection to open space for forgiveness, healing, and hope during this holy season.



The HCUC Editorial Team has put together a **study guide** for groups to use on their own. Churches are encouraged to host their own study groups during Lent. The Conference office will also host a weekly Zoom option starting in February.



Learn more & view resources
on the HCUC website:

bit.ly/hcucc2026study

PASTORAL TRANSITIONS

Merle Lai retired from United Community Church in Hilo after 15 years of ministry. Her last Sunday was December 28, 2025.

Daniel Kawaha, Kahu Pono of Haili Congregational Church, passed away on December 29, 2025 after a brief illness.

EJ Ravago concluded his ministry with Waialua UCC. His last Sunday was January 4, 2026.

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 **January**, in whatever way you are moved.



Kapa'a United Church of Christ,
Windward Samoan CCC,
Kalanikāhua Hou Church,
Ewa Community Church,
Kalaiaakamanu Hou Cong'l
Church, Waipahu United
Church of Christ, Kalemela
Church, Kalāhikiola Church,
Wai'oli Hui'ia Church



We also encourage you to pray for our
**'Aha O Nā Mokupuni 'O Maui,
Moloka'i a Me Lāna'i**, our
partners in the **Congregational
Christian Church of America
Samoa (CCAS)**, and the **UCC's
Research and Data team**.

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



Website: hcucc.org

Connect with us on Facebook & Instagram: [f](https://www.facebook.com/hcucc) [@hcucc](https://www.instagram.com/hcucc)

Hawai'i Conference Office: 700 Bishop Street, Suite 825; Honolulu, HI 96813 [808.537.9516](tel:808.537.9516)



January 2026



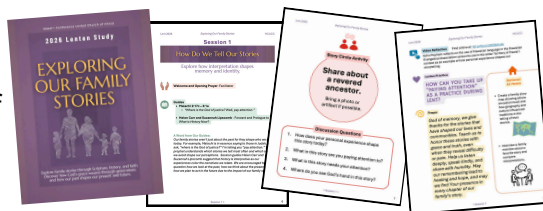
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