



foibles had attempted to confine and constrain the very life that God came to give each one of us and the whole of us together.

When Mary came to the tomb and saw that the body was gone, her grief turned to panic. Her tears became laced with distress. "Sir if you have carried him away tell me where you have laid him and I will take him away!"

And then one word. Mary. Jesus calls her by name. And the place of endings and ruin and death was no longer the end of the story. It doesn't end on Good Friday. There at the tomb she is met by a love more powerful than Mary could ever have imagined. She runs and tells the others "I have seen the Lord!"

I don't know how or even if we are going to find a way from Good Friday to Easter, I do know that if there is a way through it will not be because of our own doing but because God will meet us in this place of ruin. That is the promise of Easter. God meets us in our tombs and is with us as we walk towards new beginnings. Easter doesn't solve everything or say it is all fixed, but it does tell us that God can do something with all the pain, separation and sin that we humans find ourselves in. It is my fervent hope that our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Rocky Mountain Conference will be such that we will one day find ourselves running to proclaim "I too have seen the Lord!"

Until that day comes, I ask God daily for the courage to stay in the discomfort of Good Friday and all our human frailties' and to not rush to an Easter of my own making.

Trusting in the profound mystery of God's unfailing love,

Rev. Erin Gilmore

---

## Conference Events and News

### Listening Sessions Scheduled

Listening sessions for all the Associations of the Rocky Mountain Conference have now been scheduled. Our Bridge Conference Minister and leaders in the Conference want to listen to the members of our Conference. This is an important time for listening to each other as we begin to look at the work before us and we hope you can join us.

If registration or Zoom links are needed for the sessions below, Association Moderators have sent or will soon be sending out that information. If you cannot attend the session scheduled for your Association and would like to attend a different day or time, please reach out to [Diane Weible](#).

- Platte Valley Association:
    - Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom
    - Tuesday, April 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Paul's UCC, Laramie
  - Metro Denver Association: April 16, 3 p.m., Berkeley Community Church
  - Southeastern Association: Wednesday, April 12, 6 p.m. Via Zoom
  - Intermountain Association: Tuesday, April 25, 6 p.m., via Zoom
  - Western Association: Saturday, April 29, 10 a.m. via Zoom
- 

## From the Board of Directors

### The Tributary Fund

The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Conference is to inspire, challenge, and empower generous faith and justice communities across the West. One way we do this is by supporting people – both

ministers and laypersons – who are called to work on behalf of the ministry of Christ in the greater Rocky Mountain area. The Tributary Fund is just one of the tools we use to do this.

Funding [applications](#) will be received by April 28 this year, with the discernment conversations beginning soon after. Funding decisions and disbursement of funds generally will be completed six months after the application date.

For more information [click here](#).

---

## From the Conference Wide Committee on Ministry

**ORDINATION**  
BELOVED, YOU'RE INVITED TO A  
CELEBRATION OF  
CALL + MISSION + LOVE  
FOR DR. MANDY TODD  
**INSTALLATION**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023 AT 3:30 PM  
AT BETHANY HOME  
321 NORTH CHESTNUT  
LINDSBORG • KANSAS 67456  
**CELEBRATION**

If you wish to attend or have questions contact [Mandy Todd](#).

---

## From the National Setting



The Pension Boards is pleased to invite you to join our next Investment Watch webinar on Thursday, April 20 at 3:00 p.m. ET.

This webinar will be led by our Fixed Income team who will discuss the features and benefits of fixed income investments, which are aligned with UCC values and are doing social and environmental good. We will highlight some of these examples. The team may also review current news and market activity up through the first quarter of 2023, and how that may be impacting your PBUCC retirement funds, as well as provide a market outlook.

[Ask Your Questions in Advance!](#)

In preparation for the webinar, we ask that you provide any advance questions that you may have concerning your investments or retirement plan account by no later than April 17 here.

[Members may register for the Investment Watch webinar here by April 19.](#)

We also encourage you to save the dates below for upcoming Investment Watch events.

- Thursday, July 20 (Second Quarter 2023)
- October 19 (Third Quarter 2023)
- January 18, 2024 (Fourth Quarter 2024)

We hope you will find Investment Watch informative and well worth your time. We look forward to connecting with you all on Thursday, April 20!

## **Cultivating Generous Congregations Seminar: A Pre-Synod Event**

The CGC Seminar for pastors and leaders offers an opportunity to explore faithful, practical, and tested ways to promote generosity in our congregations. Be sure to recruit at least a team of two for this program. Changing the culture of your congregation requires more than one dedicated leader.

This pre-Synod seminar will be held in person on June 29th at First Congregational Church (7171 N Pennsylvania St, Indianapolis, IN 46240) from 9 am – 5 pm with lunch provided and on June 30th from 9 am-Noon.

An online session will be held on June 7th from 6pm - 7:30pm CT.

The registration fee is \$300 (per team of two) and \$150 for each additional team member.

Individuals without a team may register for \$200.

Click [here to register](#).

Contact [Andrew Warner](#) for any questions about the event.



Join UCC staff and advocates at Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2023, a virtual conference to worship, educate, and advocate for the innovative and courageous policies needed to realize the prophet Micah's vision: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The conference this year will again be virtual, and will start with worship at 10am ET on Tuesday, April 25. All worship, plenaries, and workshops will be recorded for later viewing.

Registration is \$50 and scholarships are available. [Register today!](#)



### CWS Period Packs (Menstrual Hygiene Kits) Service Project at General Synod 34

In the United States, some people cannot afford menstrual hygiene products such as pads, tampons, and other items that promote healthy practices. This inability to purchase hygiene products is known as period poverty, affecting over 22 million individuals. Church World Service (CWS), a UCC global partner, introduced a Period Pack (Menstrual Hygiene Kit) to help individuals living in period poverty. The kit provides several products that promote cleanliness and health during a menstrual cycle.

Delegates and guests to General Synod are invited to participate in assembling 1,000 CWS Period Packs (Menstrual Hygiene Kits) as a service project. To help with purchasing supplies for this [service project](#), we are requesting your generous [financial donations](#). General Synod delegates and guests can also bring already assembled kits to Synod to drop off in the collection bins that will be available.

If you are not attending General Synod, you may participate by assembling kits at your church using these easy [instructions](#). To assist your efforts, you can apply for a \$250 UCC kits matching grant. For more information about the UCC kits matching grants, contact: [Craig Hoffman](#), Program Assistant, UCC Global H.O.P.E., a ministry of Wider Church Ministries.



Did you know the Korean War had not yet officially ended? Our Global Ministries Partners in Korea are asking for our help to end the Korean War by gathering 10,000 signatures from UCC and DOC members. To learn more and sign visit the [website](#).

---

# Upcoming Events and Important Links

*April 22: Earth Day*

*April 27: RMC Board of Directors Meeting*

*May 2, 9, 16 and 23 : Daring Greatly Book study Zoom link*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3296187641?pwd=MU4yRGpMb3pEQ0MwbFFrUVFzalppZz09>

*June 15-17: Annual Celebration [Learn more](#). [Register](#).*

---

Previous versions of the Together Newsletter can be found [here](#).