

care and compassion to those who are hurting. This is what we do in times of tragedy. It is in our DNA.

Holding safe space for people dealing with fears and threats in all its forms is a gift that our faith communities are given in the most tender and difficult times in an individual's life; in the life of a family; and/or in our communities.

The "Lament for Louisville" statement ends with a prayer from All Creation Sings (sundaysandseasons.com), which includes these words: With your might, empower us to change this broken world. Make us advocates for a stable society, alive with hope in you.

May we find ways to work together to offer care and compassion in the face of the tragedies we experience in our broken world. May we find opportunities to lean in when it feels uncomfortable and stay with the hard work when we are exhausted. May we find the brave spaces where we can offer respite and care for those who are hurting.

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Conference Events and News

Important information and opportunity for our 49th Annual Celebration in Grand Junction, CO

Its hard to believe we are just a little more than two months away from gathering together in Grand Junction for our 49th Annual Celebration of the Rocky Mountain Conference. In preparing for our time together we wanted to share a few updates and offer opportunities for those who want to help.

Parliamentarian: We are excited to welcome Derek Ritenour who will be with us throughout the gathering to serve as our Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Standing Rules: Derek has already been working on our behalf when he noticed that while our Bylaws recognize nominations can be made from the floor, there was no process outlined in our standing rules. To clarify this process, the Board approved a 13th standing rule. The updated standing rules can be found [HERE](#).

Nominations: After much thoughtful conversation, the Nominating Committee has decided that it will be presenting a ballot with all names of those who are willing to serve in the various open positions. If the committee comes to consensus on which candidate they recommend for a particular position, they will make that known on the ballot. The Nominating Committee will continue to receive Nominations through April 30, and the form to nominate someone for a position can be found [HERE](#).

Tech Team: This being our first ever hybrid Annual Celebration, we are looking for 3-5 people with experience in hybrid gatherings to serve on a tech team that will help us prepare for and manage the virtual platform during the gathering. If you are interested or have a recommendation, please contact David Bristow at connect@rmcucc.org

Service Project: Several people across the conference recommended that as part of our annual celebration this year we join together in a service project/s. Eleanor Downey is heading up the organization of what we will be doing together. If you are interested in helping out please contact erin@rmcucc.org and she will connect you to the team.

Registration is now open and can be found [HERE](#). Deadline to register is 6/12/2023. Hotel reservations can be made directly by use the [Online Group Booking Codes](#) if you plan to book your room online click here otherwise booking over the phone 970-241-8888, be sure to ask for the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC rate when making your reservation. Make your reservation by

May 24, to receive our special rate of \$129.95. Business meeting information as well as other details about the gathering will be posted [HERE](#) so please check back often.

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

Book Study

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible will be offering a book study on one of Brene's books, *Daring Greatly* for anyone in the Conference who would like to join us in this important work. The book study will meet via [Zoom](#) every Tuesday, May 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 12-1 p.m. Feel free to bring your lunch with you and join us for a one-hour conversation. We will cover two chapters each week. There is no need to sign up ahead of time. If you would like to be part of this, get the book and start reading and we will see you on May 2!

From the Board of Directors

In the Mud

In 2016, our Conference voted to adopt a the "in the mud" program to sharing mission dollars. Instead of sending funds directly to organizations, we now grant the funds to our local churches, empowering them to build new partnerships and ministries within their communities.

For the first few years of In the Mud, we were focused on awarding grants for church-based

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

community outreach programs. In 2020, we shifted our focus towards technology and improving online outreach efforts.

In 2023 we continue supporting tech improvements as well as in-person outreach projects. The important thing is the intention of the project and how it will expand your church's reach into your community.

For more information click [HERE](#). The in the Mud Grant Application form can be found [HERE](#).

The schedule for tis program is:

- Application Opens: June 1, 2023
- Application Deadline: July 29, 2023
- Evaluations will be made and grants announced in the month of August
- Grant funds will be disbursed: September 1, 2023

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](#).

Pinedale Godly Play Training

Christ has risen, indeed!!!

We've seen and "caught up" with people and families that may attend only Christmas and Easter church services. We would like to draw them into our church families and add the value to their lives that only church families can bring. We would also like to bring back some of our young families with their children. Perhaps COVID got them "out of the Sunday church habit?"

Following a long unwanted COVID vacation, we at Pinedale Community UCC have resumed Godly Play which is our hands-on Christian education program. This ecumenical program helped our children thrive and their numbers grew before COVID. The same thing is now happening since we've resumed Godly Play.

What is Godly Play? See it in action! Go to YouTube "The Sower" Full Godly Play Session. More info and registration is available at godlyplayfoundation.org

We need to train more storytellers, so we've arranged to have the Godly Play foundation send a trainer to Pinedale, WY. There are no other trainings scheduled in Wyoming or our Western area. We will host the in-person portion of a Godly Play Core Training May 6th and 7th. The online portion of this training will be 2 evening sessions, April 26th and 29th.

We need 10 participants to make it worthwhile for the Godly Play Foundation to send a trainer.

We'll be good hosts! We will provide airport shuttles from and back to Rock Springs and Jackson Hole airports. Home stays and special motel rates will be available. We'll have Friday night's supper and Saturday light breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

Godly Play is fun and beneficial, for both children and storytellers and door persons.

Please consider joining us for Godly Play training!

Questions?? Contact [Jim Huntley](#) (307) 859-8607

From the National Setting



Creating a Disaster Plan for Your Finances *April 19 Webinar*

Whether it is everyday disasters like car or home repairs, personal disasters like illness or death, or natural disasters, each of these events can have a significant impact on your finances.

Join us on Wednesday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m. ET for Creating a Disaster Plan for Your Finances webinar.

This 30-minute webinar covers:

- How a pandemic, hurricane, flood or other natural disaster can threaten your financial security
- Emergency savings and insurance
- How to safely store documents and other items you may need in an emergency

Register by April 18 [HERE](#). Zoom credentials will be available upon registration.

You can view all upcoming Financial Wellness Group Learning events [HERE](#) and register.



The CPC Palestine/Israel Network invites you to a three part series asking three questions:

- Has Israel become an Apartheid State?
- What's up on the ground in Palestine/Israel?
- What do we do?

Full Schedule of Events with [ZOOM Links](#)

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](#).