

Annual Celebration is just over a month away. As we prepare to meet in person and online for this once-a-year-opportunity for Christ's family to come together to share, laugh, be angry, and even cry, I am reminded of how important it is to focus on our marble jar relationships. We may not be in each others' lives on a daily basis to build the kinds of friendships that Ellen has built with her friends, but we are in a relationship of another kind—we are united by Christ as siblings in the communities of faith that make up the Rocky Mountain Conference. Our covenant binds us together in marble jar relationships.

We are going to disagree. We are going to feel deep and important emotions. We are going to struggle with what we want to say and what we are afraid to say. We are going to feel and do all of that and more. We are humans. We are people of faith. We are God's people gathering together because we care about this critical and important work of ministry that we have all committed to.

When we tend to the marble jar, we can disagree in a way that honors our relationships and our commitment. We build trust with one another so disagreement is not something we have to tolerate or try to resolve as quickly as possible in order to avoid discomfort. Instead, disagreement becomes an invitation to look critically at the work before us, our systems and structures and policies, and the changes that we need to make to grown in the call God has put before us.

We can do that because we trust one another to listen just as we promise to listen to others. We can participate in conversations without pulling away or becoming disengaged because we know our common beliefs and values will remain in place and offer support to our work, no matter how difficult.

We don't have to dig our heels in because we are not afraid that what is so important to us is not understood or appreciated by others. We instead trust that as deeply as we care about a situation, the person across from us cares just as deeply. Because we have promised to listen to understand and honor one another's good intentions, we can disagree without being divided. All of this allows us to use our marble jar community to tackle any issue that is before us in a way that brings understanding and commitment to our sacred work *together*.

Conference Events and News

49th Annual Celebration

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](#) scan this QR code, so please check back often.



Godly Play Core Training

Interested in getting fully trained as a Godly Play teacher? Join other UCC churches on June 23-25 for Core Godly Play training. We will meet at First Congregational Church in Greeley. Meet some new ministry friends and be better equipped to journey with the children in your congregation!

Interested? Contact [Tammi VanDrunen](#)

Clergy Renewal Day with Horses

Monday, June 5 10am-4pm - Lyons, CO
WHATEVER YOUR MINISTRY SETTING - YOU NEED AND DESERVE A DAY AWAY!! Allow the horses to offer you an opportunity to restore your whole self. To be seen and held energetically by a horse allows you to experience genuine connection, heart-felt support, expanded vision or insight, and/or a deeper level of personal awareness. Plus, let's have some fun!! This is a non-riding workshop and no horse experience is needed. Time for reflection and stillness provided throughout the day. For more information checkout the QR code.



www.dancingspirthorse.com 720-320-7237
Jacque's contact info 719-510-9113

Generations United Federal Credit Union

Generations United Federal Credit Union (Generations), a newly-formed financial ministry of the United Church of Christ (UCC), has been granted a federal charter and Share Insurance Fund participation by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), effective April 21, 2023.

Generations is committed to strengthening its community of faith through tailored, affordable financial products and services to better ensure that community's vibrancy.

For more information see the flyer [HERE](#).

*Makerspace **

During a time when many have written off the church as a dying institution, John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, suggests that what is unfolding is nothing short of a Second Reformation. However, to move the institutional church into this new world of possibility, Dorhauer argues, people of faith will need to cultivate the "gift of experimentation." That is, they must come together and devise new ways to be the church, be more inclusive, engage others' deepest needs, and radiate a compassionate embrace. Towards that end, the Rocky Mountain Conference has made monies available through its Tributary Fund for UCC churches to participate in a new program sponsored by the State of Colorado called the AIR Collaborative that provides communities the tools, resources, and support to amplify their unique cultures and realize their potential. If you would like to learn more about this initiative and the workshops it will be offering this summer, please contact [Don Grant](#).

*Makerspace Tributary Funded Ministry

Upcoming Events and Important Links

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](#).