

May 18, 2023

Pastoral Reflection: Wonder

In the work I do in the practice of coaching, wonder is something near and dear to my heart.

I see wonder as being what allows us to approach something with an open heart and curiosity. I see it at the opposite of certainty. When we are certain about something, sometimes, it means we have already made our assumptions and judgments and we have closed ourselves off from other stories, of other ways of seeing an issue or an individual.

Valarie Kaur says that who we wonder about determines whose stories we let into our hearts.

"To wonder is to let in a sense of awe, openness, and deep curiosity. It is to look upon the face of anyone or anything and say: You are a part of me I do not yet know. It's an orientation to humility. Wondering about another person — their thoughts and experiences, pains and joys, needs and wants — gives us information for how to love them. It's how we have learned how to love our partners, children, and friends. When we wonder about people we would otherwise see as strangers, and let even them inside our circle of care, then wonder becomes a revolutionary act."

A while back I heard a podcast where Glennon Doyle interviewed Ocean Vuong, a well-known poet and novelist. Ocean shared his experiences of walking into a store with his mother as a child and witnessing the assumptions that people made about who his mother was or what she could or couldn't do. He talked about his own experience of that as well and how limiting it is when we make up stories for another person based on our own lived experiences.

By choosing wonder over assumptions we are committing to a practice of stepping out of our own single narrative and seeking to discover parts of God's creation and parts of ourselves that are still hidden from us.

A committed practice of opening our ears and our eyes and our hearts to understand what God may be trying to tell us is an invitation to a wonder-full way of seeing the breadth and depth of who God is and how God may be speaking to us.

I invite us to curiosity about what is going on in our bodies and in our minds and in our hearts. What are we wondering about? Whose story are we leaning into and what do those stories teach us about ourselves?

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible



49th Annual Celebration

Registration is open and can be found <u>HERE</u>. The "Early Bird" registration ends May 24. Deadline to register is June 12. Hotel reservations can be made directly by use the <u>Online Group Booking Codes</u> 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 <u>HERE</u> scan this QR code, so please check back often.





Welcome Home... to Robinson Place



Located on Wadsworth Boulevard, in Lakewood, Colorado, Robinson Place is a brand new, affordable housing property from Archway Communities for seniors aged 62+. A fully non-smoking campus, Robinson Place will feature community spaces, one parking space per unit, and a full array of on-site Supportive Services. There will be a total of 67 one bedroom and two-bedroom units with some ADA compatible units. The units will be reserved for individuals with an income range of \$26,000-\$41,000 annually.

Construction of Robinson Place began in December 2021, and was named for Robinson (Robb) Lapp. Robb, one of Archway's co-founders and board chair, was a leading force in inspiring change

throughout the Denver community. During his time as a minister, Robb, led by compassion and determination, formed two new congregations of the United Church of Christ in the Denver Metro Area.

In addition to an array of in-unit and shared amenities, Robinson Place will have an on-site service coordinator who will oversee programming and case management. The Supportive Services Coordinator will work with residents to identify building needs and connect residents to appropriate programming, resources, and activities. This will take the form of on-site programming, such as life skills groups, therapeutic support groups, advocacy opportunities, community integration, no-cost food programs, and wellness activities.

As we get ready to welcome residents into their new home, we also need your help! We want each person to feel right at home on day one, and we need the support of our community to make that happen. The Archway team is working to assemble 67 move-in kits to ensure that each apartment comes with the essentials needed to make it feel like home. This includes linens, cleaning supplies, kitchen utensils and so much more. We have also added furniture items for the 15 formerly homeless older adult Veterans that will be moving into this community.

Please consider making a gift from our Amazon Wish List today. In addition, monetary donations can be made through our website <u>HERE</u>. At Archway, we are committed to ensuring all our residents have access to everything they need to thrive.

For inquiries on joining the interest list to live at Robinson Place, contact: robinsonplace@archwaycommunities.org or (720) 821-3285. For more information on how you can support Archway and residents at Robinson Place, please contact Georgeanne Barrett, Director of Philanthropy



From the National Setting



UCC Webinar—Seizing an Opportunity: Strengthening EPA Protections in 2023

As UCC congregations across the country embark upon collecting thousands of signed postcards for the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the <u>Climate Hope Cards</u> campaign, this webinar will cover how the coming months at the EPA present a significant opportunity to save thousands of lives, address societal inequalities, and put the United States on a path to achieve 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2035. Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on June 14th at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it. Register now <u>HERE!</u>

Daring Greatly

Diane is conducting 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 <u>Zoom</u> every Tuesday, May 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!

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

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.