

Rev. Erin Gilmore
Associate Conference Minister
Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC

From CWCOM

Jesse Ophoff - Ecclesiastical Council

Thursday September 28, 2023 7 p.m. an Ecclesiastical Council will be held via Zoom for Jesse Ophoff. All members with standing in the RMC and Lay Delegates from every member church in RMC are encouraged to attend and offer support to this candidate as he continues the journey toward ordination in the United Church of Christ. Please register [HERE](#).

For Jesse's Marks Portfolio click [HERE](#). For a "What is a Marks Portfolio?" document click [HERE](#).

Free Boundary Training for Retired Clergy--Monday, November 6 from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM

By request, another Zoom-based Boundary Training opportunity has been added for those considering retirement or who are already in retirement. Join MESA staff for a focused conversation on boundary topics faced in retirement – identity, leaving well, exempt status, as well as a refresher on the Ministerial Code, power, and accountability. Led by Revs. Tara Barber, Melanie Oommen, and Anissa Glaser-Bacon. There is no charge for this training.

After successful completion of this training, you will receive a certificate to this effect.

Please reach out to [Rev. Karen Winkel](#), co-chair of the Supportive Oversight Committee if you have questions or concerns.

Click [HERE](#) to register for this free Zoom training.

Moderators & Assistant Moderators

If you are a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Moderator-Elect, or any other version of Moderator or Moderator-To-Be of your local church, we want to support you! Our Lay Leader Liaison to the Board, Laura Gurney, will be resuming Moderator Meetings in October and would love to meet you.

If you did not have a chance to complete a survey and tell us about topics that would be most helpful in supporting you, please do so [HERE](#). These responses will shape the next year of offerings for lay leaders.

Upcoming Moderators Meeting

Wednesday, October 4 from 6-7:15pm OR Thursday, October 5 from 7-8:15pm

Wednesday Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85222193243>

Thursday Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81802220674>

If you didn't receive the invitation directly via email, please reach out to [Laura Gurney](#) to be added to the Moderator email list!

RMC Rural Church Initiative

Recently a RMC Rural Church Initiative Team was formed to re-energize our effort to support rural churches in our Conference begun two years ago. Current team members are [Chuck Wright](#), MDA; [Laura Gurney](#), PVA; [Rev. Dr. Doug Wooten](#), Interim Conference Minister; and Rev. Erin Gilmore, Associate Conference Minister.

Our team's immediate goals through the end of this year are:

- Collect information on what has already been planned to support rural churches.
- Personally contact every rural church in our Conference.
- Create a communication network for our rural churches to facilitate the sharing of information around church status, needs, and visions for the future.
- Identify resources available to support individual rural churches.

Early next year we plan to host a meeting of rural church leaders to build relationships, share ideas and begin to develop specific plans of support.

We are enthusiastic about our work moving forward. We encourage rural church leaders and members to connect with us particularly if there is an urgent need for immediate support. You are invited to contact any of our members, or directly contact [Chuck Wright](#)

We look forward to building a community of support!

UCC Webinar— A Plea from the Pope



A PLEA FROM THE POPE

**A FREE WEBINAR
OCTOBER 14TH AT 1 PM ET**

**ADDRESSING
CLIMATE AND INEQUALITY
WITH MORAL URGENCY AND FAITH**

As the feast day of Francis of Assisi is celebrated on October 4th, Pope Francis will release the "second part" of his encyclical on the climate crisis and inequality. The new edition of the encyclical will provide an update to confronting "the senseless war on our common home." A panel of climate faith leaders will reflect upon Pope Francis's plea for climate action. Even if you cannot make the

webinar at its scheduled time on October 11th at 1 pm ET, still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it. [Register now!](#)

plymouthucc.org/visitingscholar

Visiting Scholar at Plymouth
October 1, 2023

**Diana
Butler
Bass**



Worship at 9 & 11 a.m.



**Workshop at
6:30 p.m.
Offering accepted (\$20
recommended)**

Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D., is an award-winning author, popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality.



LaForet - Valarie Kaur

This fall, join other Colorado Springs community leaders in a celebration and declaration of revolutionary love with Valarie Kaur. This transformational weekend will be located at La Foret Conference & Retreat Center on September 29th to October 1st. A coalition of diverse faith

communities and organizations of all types are coming together to sponsor this weekend which features The Revolutionary Love Compass at the heart of Valerie Kaur's bestselling book, See No Stranger.

Dr. Kaur is an activist, lawyer, and founder of the Revolutionary Love Project. Her nonprofit The Revolutionary Love Project "inspires and equips people to build beloved communities where they are, centered around the ethic of love."

The Rocky Mountain Conference is proud to be a sponsor of this event. Many of us encountered Valerie Kaur first when she joined our 2021 Annual Celebration as the keynote speaker, and we are excited to deepen the conference's commitment to Revolutionary Love as a method and ethos of activism.

Anyone in the RMC may use the coupon code RMC20 to take 20% off any attendance package. Additionally, any church in the RMC that has already sponsored this event has automatically had their coupon code upgraded to take 40% off, combining the church's sponsorship and the conference's sponsorship!

As with all La Foret events, there is a tiered registration cost and scholarships available. We never want cost to be the reason not to attend- we are more than happy to provide assistance.

Students in grades 8-college get a 50% off discount with the coupon code YOUTH50

We will have childcare available for young children from infants to 2nd grade, mini-camp experiences are available for 3rd-7th graders, and a youth program facilitated by our partner organization, The Rock Center, during this retreat. It truly is an event with something for everyone.

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Registration and more information can be found at [HERE](#).

Updates about the event will be posted periodically to our Instagram and Facebook accounts, so be sure to follow us (@laforetblackforest and <https://www.facebook.com/LaForetRetreats>)

Please feel free to contact Rev. Logan Bennett, Director of Transformational Programs, logan@laforet.org 719-822-7243

The Rocky Mountain Conference is also pleased to announce that we are sponsoring the collaboration of La Foret with Pikes Peak Poet Laureate, Ashley Cornelius, with an In The Mud Grant. You can hear from Ashley about why she is looking forward to this transformational event [HERE](#).



A Night with Carrie Newcomer

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 7:30pm
First Plymouth Congregational Church

All proceeds from this event will support Archway's mission of elevating lives by providing access to affordable housing, food security and the supportive social services people need to thrive.

TICKETS

\$30 General Admission
\$50 Friends of Archway (including reception)

For more information and to purchase tickets click [HERE](#).

The 2023 Colorado Legislative Session and Gun Violence Prevention Bills: What's Next?

Speaker : Eileen McCarron, President, Colorado Ceasefire Legislative Action

Sponsored by : Lakewood United Church of Christ and Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence

Time and Date: Sunday, October 22, 2023, 11:30 am



The 2023 Colorado Legislative Session resulted in six gun violence prevention bills signed by Governor Jared Polis at the close of the session. Come listen to Colorado Ceasefire Legislative Action President provide an overview of the laws and the challenges ahead for people of faith.

Colorado Ceasefire is the longest serving statewide, grassroots gun violence prevention organization in the State of Colorado. We are parents, teachers, students, community members, gun violence survivors and more who have been working for over twenty years to prevent and reduce gun violence in Colorado through education, outreach and legislative advocacy. Our efforts are making a difference.



Colorado Faith Communities
United to End Gun Violence

Lakewood UCC is a member church of Colorado FAith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU) Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU) is the only faith-based organization in Colorado dedicated to ending gun violence.

Book Study this Fall

Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide

Mondays, September 11, 18, 25 and October 2, 9, 16 from 11:30am – 1pm

Rev. Richard F. Ward, Fred B. Craddock Professor Emeritus of Homiletics and Worship and Member of Sixth Avenue UCC and the Rocky Mountain Conference will be hosting an online discussion of a book this fall titled *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* by Professor Leah Schade of Lexington Theological Seminary. He specifically chose this book as way to prepare to preach through next year's election season. This will give us some time to begin with prayer for our preaching ministries and then discuss 2 chapters in the book. The topics that Professor Schade covers suggest several preaching strategies as we approach what promises to be a highly contentious election season. If you are interested in participating register [HERE](#). There is no cost but donations are welcome.

dweible@enkei-resolutions.com'."/>

enkei
RESOLUTIONS

Minister as Coach

A workshop for clergy

Coaching is not about having the answers. It is about asking the questions.

Minister as Coach is a 4-hour workshop designed to offer introductory skills in coaching to empower faith community leaders for ministry today.

January 24, 2024, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time

Topics include:

- Having the answers vs. asking the questions
- Basic coaching skills
- Letting go of the outcome
- Understanding the coaching shift
- Coaching skills practice

Register by December 31, 2023, to receive the earlybird price of \$75.

[Link to register](#)

Cost to register after December 31, 2023, will be \$85.

A 20% discount will be given for organizations registering 2 or more people (email for special link to register)

www.enkei-resolutions.com

Questions? Email Rev. Dr. Diane Weible at dweible@enkei-resolutions.com

Boundary Training!

Registration is still open for upcoming Boundary Training sessions on October 10 & 11 or November 7 & 8, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day (Pacific Time). Cost is \$60 per person. [More information](#). [Register](#). If Boundary Training is required for authorization, please check with the appropriate authorizing body to make sure this training qualifies for your requirements. If you need information from me in order to receive approval, please email [Rev. Dr. Weible](#).

Racial Justice Training Sessions!

Two additional Sessions have been scheduled for October 10 & 11 or November 7 & 8, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day (Pacific Time). [More information](#). Cost is \$60 per person. [Register](#). Questions? Email [Rev. Dr. Weible](#).

Request for Feedback

We are requesting feedback on our Facilitated Conversations program. If you could spare a few minutes to fill out the survey to assess interest in this program, we would appreciate your help. Click [HERE](#) for the five question survey.

Visit Rev. Dr. Weible's Website!

Please visit her [website](#) to learn more about the services Enkei Resolutions can offer to support you and your ministry.

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