

unseen organisms beneath the surface that contribute to the life of these plants.



I also found myself thinking about all the various “shoots of life” that I have been able to witness in various settings across this conference over the last year. There are all kinds of stories of thoughtful, intentional acts bringing forth new life in surprising and unexpected ways. It is not hard to find visible signs of faithfulness and courage in your congregations and ministry settings. And I have to say, that too has been a source of joy in the midst of this particularly challenging season.

As I reflect on all of this I am aware that outside of the congregation I am often only one of handful who know these stories. I am also aware that for much of the past year the focus of conference has been inward on itself. And to be sure, there is still inward work to be done. But I am also cognizant of why I was drawn to conference ministry in the first place, which was to get to help create the kind of connections and foster the kind of learning that can help build the kind of communities in which life can thrive. As we seek to embody an

understanding of conference as a collective network of leaders and ministries, it only makes sense to me that we start sharing our stories with one another.

Which leads me to an idea: Beginning in Advent I’d like us to begin to share stories and reflections from our various settings in the Together newsletter. Each week, a different setting will be given the responsibility to share a bit of who they are, how God is showing up in their life together, and/or what has their attention in their communities in these days. I will be sharing in future newsletters the mechanism by which we will decide how to divvy up the weeks, but for now, I encourage you to consider what stories feel essential to share about your setting and about who and what God is calling you to be and to do. What is bringing you joy? What the signs of the Spirit at work in you and in your community?

Rev. Erin Gilmore Acting Conference Minister
Rocky Mountain conference, UCC

From the RMCUCC Finance Committee

In preparation for the Called Special Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference to be held on November 28, 2023 at 6:30pm, the Finance Committee will hold two sessions to answer questions about the proposed ‘23-’24 budget:

Monday, Nov. 6th, 12:00pm, Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85823079357?pwd=c09ZRjlGRFITV05hQXRzdUhfLytnZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 2307 9357

Passcode: xbq6yyPhG

Monday, Nov. 6th, 6:30pm, Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83395512289?pwd=dWJ3eTlwb1liY2tqUkVpTnB1cVZTUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 9551 2289

Passcode: WA8FMZ0qP

There is no need to register in advance for a session.

If you are unable to attend either session and have questions on the proposed budget prior to the Nov. 28th Special Meeting, please don't hesitate to contact the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, or a member of the Finance Committee (contact info below).

- Proposed FY '23-'24 Budget (linked [HERE](#)):
- A brief explanation ([HERE](#));
- The June 2023 balance sheet [HERE](#); and
- The June 2023 Financial Report [HERE](#).

The RMC Finance Committee:

Rev. Kari Collins, Treasurer, pastorkaricollins@gmail.com

Teresa Campbell, Assistant Treasurer, campbelltl@aol.com

Rev. Brent Gundlah, pastor@holladayucc.org

Rev. Curt Preston, curt@lakewooducc.com

Linda Trantow, ltrantow@q.com

Rev. Chuck Wright, wrightrev@aol.com

Rev. Rich Williams, rchaswms@yahoo.com

Rev. Erin Gilmore (ex officio), erin@rmcucc.org

From the CWCOM





You are invited to the

**Sacramental Service of
Ordination + Covenanting of
Rev. Candace Woods
Minister of Gender + Sexuality Liberation**

Saturday, December 9, 2023, 2pm
Taylor Memorial Chapel, La Foret Conference + Retreat Center
6145 Shoup Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80908

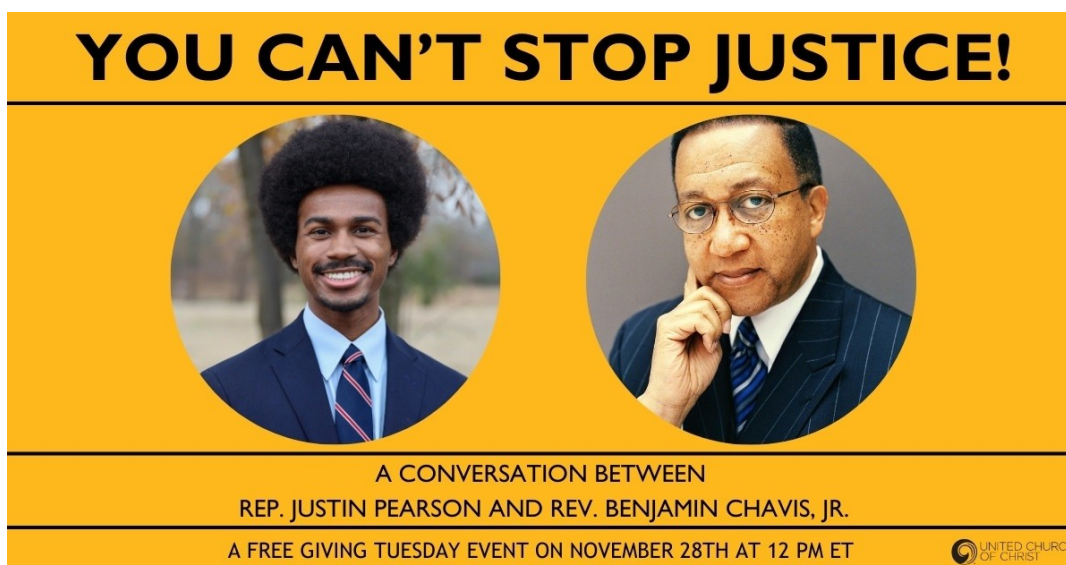
Please RSVP via the registration link provided.
Clergy are invited to wear red or nature themed stoles.

Resources & Wisdom Sharing for Moderators

Church Moderators (and co- and vice- and -elect, etc!) are invited to join us for our monthly Moderators gatherings on Zoom! This is an excellent time to connect with other lay leaders to share resources, wisdom, and brainstorm together. For more information or to be added to the Moderators email list, please reach out to Lay Leader Liaison, Laura Gurney (laura@firstconggreeley.com).

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 30 from 6:30-8pm and will be an open conversation. Please bring your questions for other lay leaders and join us as we share ideas, questions, and solutions from across the conference! (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82491627642>)

UCC Webinar—You Can't Stop Justice: A Dialogue between Rep. Justin Pearson and the Rev. Benjamin Chavis, Jr.



In this Giving Tuesday event, two prophetic leaders will join in an online conversation about the never-ending river of justice that extends from one generation to the next. The Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr. coined the phrase "environmental racism" and helped lead the struggle for environmental justice, while Rep. Justin Pearson went from leading a grassroots environmental justice organization to serving as a state representative who made headlines around the world for his courageous stand in calling for commonsense gun legislation. Join us on November 28th at 12 pm ET to hear from these two leaders. [Register today!](#)

Boundary Training Registration Still Open

Space is still available for the Last Boundary Training Session of 2023 to be held via Zoom on November 7 & 8, 9 a.m. to noon (Pacific Time) each day. [More information](#). [Register](#). Questions? Email dweible@enkei-resolutions.com. Cost for training is \$60 per person.

Racial Justice Training Registration Still Open

Registration is still open for the last Racial Justice Training Session of 2023. This session will be held via Zoom on November 14 & 15, 9 a.m. to Noon (Pacific Time) each day. [More information](#). Cost is \$60 per person. [Register](#). Questions? Email dweible@enkei-resolutions.com.

A NIGHT TO ILLUMINATE GRIEF

Join us on the Winter Solstice to celebrate the LIGHT movement:
Love in Grief Held Together.

Thursday Dec 21, 2023 from 7 PM - 9 PM MST

First Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 S Colorado Blvd, Cherry Hills, CO 80113

In person and virtual | All faith and spiritual modalities welcome | This event is free for all

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

We have all experienced grief and you do not have to experience it alone. This event is dedicated to reminding you that support is everywhere. Join us to encircle our world with love on solstice night. Led by Amy Pickett-Williams LCSW & 200 RYT, gifted musician Heidi Thomas, and a team of volunteers.

JOIN US IN COMMUNITY TO:



Explore the Grief Journey

Discover how grief resides within our bodies and gain tools to navigate this emotional voyage.



Embrace Community

Engage in meaningful conversations, gentle movement, breathwork, therapeutic art rituals, and the harmonious power of music.



Hold a Candlelight Remembrance

As the Winter Solstice envelops us, we'll come together in person and through a live stream to heal, remember, and honor together.

WORLD WIDE ILLUMINATION MOVEMENT

We encourage the whole world to hold grief with us through love, prayer, energy, meditation.



[FPOlighteventurl.com](https://fpolighteventurl.com)

Event is sponsored by the Worship and Well-being Committee at First Plymouth Congregational Church. Donations are optional and will be directed to non-profit grief organizations.

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