



so much. Does he hope for food to be produced in a sustainable way that helps people and place flourish, yes? And so he is choosing to farm in a way that does just that.

Every Sunday we gather together as churches and we acknowledge what is broken and we pray for what we hope: justice, love, compassion, kindness, generosity, honesty, abundance, not just for us, or for some, but for all. And then as individuals and as a collective, we seek to practice, to embody, to be the love and justice of Jesus that we so long for the world to be. That is the kind of church I hope for anyway, and so that is the direction in which aim, to be a church that expands the presence of love in the world.

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

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## **A time to listen, a time to dream, a time to share**

In the spirit of becoming radically connected, the Racial Justice Ministry team is excited to begin the new year with an opportunity to connect with one another. Over the first six weeks of 2024 the team will be hosting listening sessions for the churches of the RMC to share how it is churches are engaging in racial justice ministry. We know in each setting this looks different, in urban settings, in rural settings, in small towns, in the suburbs, and so on. As we consider how we might move forward together in creating a more just and equitable world, we want to know how various churches across our conference understand racial justice in their own context, what they are already doing and what they want to do, and in what kinds of ways we might be part of this movement together. We've scheduled some sessions below with an invitation to pastors and lay leaders to self-select the one that most resembles your context. If that day or time does not work, you are encouraged and welcomed to participate at another time. More than anything this work starts in relationships and we look forward to deepening these relationships over the next few weeks. Our team will follow up with a phone call and/or email. To register for and we encourage you to register and we look forward to seeing you online soon!

The RJM team

- Outpost\* : Sunday, January 14, 12:30 - 2 pm [Register HERE](#)
- Urban: Sunday January 14, 4:00-5:30 pm [Register HERE](#)
- Seasonal/Tourism: Tuesday, January 23, 12:30-2:00 pm [Register HERE](#)
- Suburban: Tuesday, January 23 6:00-7:30 pm [Register HERE](#)
- Small/Medium city: Sunday, February 4, 12:30-2:00 pm [Register HERE](#)
- Rural, Sunday, February 4, 4:00-5:30 pm [Register HERE](#)

\*we think of an outpost as a church that is far from any other UCC church and is often different from the majority culture in which it exists.

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## **In Loving Memory of Rev. Ken Ingram November 3, 1957 - November 21, 2023**

Services will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024, 11am  
St. Paul's Congregational Church, (602 E. Garfield Street, Laramie, Wyoming)

Rev. Ken Ingram died unexpectedly on November 21 while traveling with his husband, Don. Ken had a lifelong love of learning, exemplified in his certifications and degrees as a hypnotherapist, his B.A., his M.B.A. and, eventually, his MDiv. After a successful career in the business world, Ken returned to seminary and committed his work to the Church, where he served first as a chaplain and then as Pastor to St. Paul's UCC in Laramie, WY.

Ken's commitment to service spanned the entirety of his life. He believed in community and enjoyed working with other faith organizations in the Laramie Ministerial Association. He had a passion for social justice and equality, serving on various boards, including Wyoming Equality, Wyoming Interfaith Network and he recently served as Moderator of the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC, as well as engaging with organizations such as PFLAG and Laramie Pride.

Ken should be remembered for his incredible heart and his thoughtful gifts. He was always thinking of his family, and supporting them, even though they were often miles away. He loved his family unconditionally, as he taught them to love. Ken leaves a large hole in the hearts of his loved ones.

Please hold Ken's husband Don Deham, his father George, his siblings Georgette, Glenna, Mike, Donna, Stephanie, Chrissy and Christopher, Ken's extended family, and the St. Paul's community in your prayers as they celebrate his life on January 20.

Ken's extended obituary can be found here. In lieu of flowers, Ken's family asks that donations be made to the UCC Pension Boards Christmas Fund in Ken's honor.

You are invited to join Ken's community in remembering and celebrating his life on Saturday, January 20 at 11am at St. Paul's Congregational Church, (602 E. Garfield Street, Laramie, Wyoming). Virtual attendance will be available, but details have not yet been finalized; please reach out to RMC Board Member Laura Gurney if you'd like that information once available ([laura@firstconggreeley.com](mailto:laura@firstconggreeley.com)).

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## **Annual Church Yearbook Data Collection.**

All the churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference like those throughout the United Church of Christ are requested to participate in a data collection effort. The drive has begun and ends on March 6.

This annual collection of church data is pivotal for the UCC community. It not only nurtures relationships but also enhances visibility in UCC platforms. This data contributes to denominational trends, aiding in understanding and supporting congregations. It influences representation at General Synod, guides staffing practices, and supports financial responsibilities. Beyond financial recognition, the data contributes to crucial statistical analyses and ensures a historical legacy for future generations. In essence, it is integral to the vitality and sustainability of the church community.

Last year 36% of RMC churches completed their data entries.

David Bristow  
Director of Communications  
Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC

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## Finding the Information We Need



This might be the worst time of year to bring this up, it seems as though every entity that has ever had my email address has recycled their list and I am hitting “unsubscribe” multiple times a day. And yet, we all have things we wish we knew. Events that have happened of which we were unaware. As the reminders happened at the Metro Denver Association meeting last Sunday, I knew this would be a good topic for our entire conference.

First, here is the leadership directory list for the Rocky Mountain conference, where you can find the emails to all the board members, conference staff, ministry teams and more.

<https://rmcucc.org/leadership-directory/>

Take a peek, there might be someone you’d like to answer a question, or discuss an idea. The Board of Directors is always available to help you find answers to your concerns. While we are trying to share as much information as possible, there is always something we might present without a detail you wonder about, and we remain available to you all.

Second, did you know the Rocky Mountain Conference is in the process of hiring a communications person? David Bristow has faithfully volunteered to provide his services for more than two years, and we are so grateful. We have future plans for website changes, and continuing the better ideas provided by COVID, such as the extra connections which are allowed by Zoom. I am sure there will be ideas the new person has that will be amazing, and we can’t wait to begin work with them.

Last, the National Office of the United Church of Christ has an entire subscription page with at least a dozen entries, covering a variety of interests and issues. <https://www.ucc.org/subscriptions-at-the-united-church-of-christ/>

Included on this page is the UCC News Digest which “brings the latest news stories, action alerts, podcasts and prayers directly to your inbox.” It is published every Tuesday.

More resources will be introduced in a future Together Newsletter. Thank you for reading us today!

MaryEllen Beltracchi, Vice Moderator  
RMC Board of Directors

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## Authorized Boundary Training and Anti-Racism Training

Provided you submit a certificate of completion to the Supportive Oversight Committee's Registrar, Martha Jones (comregistrar2@rmcucc.org), any of these classes completes individual requirements for boundary or anti-racism training for clergy with standing in the Rocky Mountain Conference.

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Clergy poised to retire, as well as those who have already retired, are invited to participate in an upcoming, free three-hour training offered by MESA in the national setting. (Monday, March 14, 2024, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Mountain Time.)

Here is MESA's course description: Maintaining healthy boundaries is challenging at any stage in ministry and it is particularly tender and difficult attending to boundaries as we transition out of our

last call, and while in retirement. "A Sure Foundation", "The Ministerial Code" and Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly's new book, "The Jubilee Years" along with case studies, will provide the content of this training. Rev. Tara Barber will offer this focused Boundary Awareness Training for those entering and living in retirement.

Register [HERE](#)

Please reach out to [Rev. Karen Winkel](#) with questions or concerns.

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Monday, January 29, 6:00 – 9:00pm ET, Boundary Awareness Training for Ministers in Specialized Settings, with Revs. Tara Barber and Anissa Glaser-Bacon

This training, hosted by Revs. Tara Barber and Anissa Glaser-Bacon, is open to ministers serving in specialized settings throughout the United Church of Christ. Serving in specialized settings requires particular attention to boundaries within the ministry setting and home church that are challenging and different from those serving as local church pastors. This training will focus on matters that relate specifically to issues that these ministers face, providing opportunities for clergy to reflect on best practices and growth in their practice of ministry.

Register [HERE](#)

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Dates for Enkei Resolutions' 2024 Boundary and Racial Justice Trainings have been scheduled. Please see dates, links for registration and for more information below. Each training will be held via Zoom from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Pacific Time) on each of two days. Participants who complete all six hours of their selected training will receive a certificate of completion.

**Boundary Training**

- February 13-14
- April 10-11
- September 10-11

[Information](#) [Register](#)

**Racial Justice Training**

- March 19-20
- May 14-15
- October 8-9

[Information](#) [Register](#)

Questions? Email [dweible@enkei-resolutions.com](mailto:dweible@enkei-resolutions.com). Cost for training is \$60 per person per training.

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