

Keynote Speaker and Panelists
Annual Celebration 2024
Blessed Flexibility



Rev. Dr. Courtney Stange-Tregear is Vice President, Chief Relationship Officer of Cornerstone Fund and clergyperson in the United Church of Christ, anchored in the dynamic work of social justice advocacy and congregational transformation. She formerly served the Pacific Northwest Conference as the Minister for Church Vitality and then the Acting Conference Minister. While in conference leadership she worked to center relationship and storytelling for increased vitality, while drawing on her community organizing background to support and sustain

dynamic, collaborative, and intersectional churches. She previously pastored local congregations in California and Maryland. The Rev. Dr. Stange-Tregear is a founding member and former chair of the Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers and is a member of the Antoinette Brown Society leadership. Her beliefs are deeply rooted in the Great Books tradition of St. John's College, where she received her undergraduate degree. She is dedicated to lifelong learning, holding degrees from the University of Leeds in Philosophy and Religion, a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School, and a Doctor of Ministry from Bexley Seabury Seminary.



David Lewis (Council Moderator) and Kena Mathews (Council Member at-large) at Provo Community Congregational United Church of Christ have been working for the last several years on "*Keeping the Faith in Downtown Provo*". This campaign's mission is to create a "new history in the making" through restoration, renovation, and expansion of the historic church in the heart of downtown Provo, Utah. To build on the long community-focused mission of the Church, Lewis and Mathews head the goal to bring a state-of-the-art home for uplifting art, performance, and more

within the historic church buildings. In the past year the Church also opened its doors as a warming center during the winter months (with 2 other local congregations) to those who would otherwise be unsheltered.

Lewis also serves as the music director and organist, as well as building manager and co-chair with Mathews for the campaign. He also keeps busy directing a community interfaith choir (who also rehearses and performs at the Church) and as an interior designer.

Mathews uses her skills, many connections, and deep passions with over two-and-a-half decades experience in the non-profit and public sectors to bring assistance to others in need within the community.



Katie McKenna, is a member of Archway Communities' Real Estate development team where she works to advance development projects to support healthy and affordable communities throughout Colorado. Katie has expertise in housing policy, community-based leadership development, organizational sustainability, affordable multifamily development, affordable homeownership and community land trusts. Most recently, Katie worked in the Rocky Mountain Market at Enterprise Community Partners. She graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Arts, and from the University of Denver Daniels College of Business with an MBA.



Rev. Dr. Tracy L. Hughes, M.Ed., M.Div., D.Min. served 9 UCC congregations as interim and called minister, and with the Community Peacemaker Teams in places of war and conflict on the US/Mexico border, Chiapas, Mexico, Palestine, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda before joining the staff of Mountain View United Church as Lead Minister in 2017.

Mountain View is an ecumenical church with membership in the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian Church USA, and the United Methodist Church, living out the radical love of Open and Affirming, More Light, and Reconciling values. Over the last seven years, Mountain View has transformed

from a community that was only used on Sundays to a thriving Beloved Community made up of interfaith and multicultural partners who use the building seven days a week. Partners include the congregations of the Denver Marshallese Ministries, New Dawn for Spiritual Living and Denver Upper Mountain Church (Presbyterian Church of Korea). Mountain View received *In the Mud Grants* towards creating an Interfaith Prayer Room for our Muslim siblings to hold prayer, Mental Health First Aid training, LGBTQIA+ ministry programs, and support for reimagining the use of the vacant church property for affordable housing. To aid its Creation Care ministries, Mountain View received a Denver Presbytery Finance and Property Committee loan to replace 80+ windows, and a City of Aurora grant to install water conserving toilets to reduce electricity and water usage. In 2021, Mountain View received a Lily Foundation Clergy Renewal Grant to strengthen the community theme of Building Bridges in Beloved Community. In 2024, building on a three-year anti-racism book study with Aurora First Presbyterian Church, Mountain View joined the Front Range District of the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church to participate in the Intercultural Development Inventory to strengthen members' awareness and skills towards living out anti-racist values.



Rev. Wayne A. Laws, M.Ed, M.Div retired from parish ministry and served as the Minister of Social Justice and Mission at Mountain View United Church in Aurora, Colorado, in early 2022. In 2019, Mountain View received The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado's "Force for Good" annual award which recognizes one faith community each year in Colorado for their community involvement in social justice. Over the years Mountain View has been actively involved with numerous community organizations including: The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, Together Colorado, American Friends Service Community, Casa de Paz, the Denver Foundation, Love Knows no Borders / Poor People's Campaign, Colorado People's Alliance, and Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence. It has brought

faith-based support, voice, and direct action to issues including reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, immigration reform, gun violence, homelessness and affordable housing, and food and clothing assistance. During COVID, Mountain View teamed with the City of Aurora and the Stanley Marketplace to deliver over 20,000 meals to families in need of food assistance. In 2017 Mountain View initiated a Dream Team to provide a gift of its vacant land to the community to address the affordable housing crisis. Teaming with the Congregation Land Campaign and Habitat for Humanity, a design to build 20 affordable homes on its property, was approved by the Aurora City Council in late 2021. Ground was broken in 2023 and the first home will be ready for occupancy later this summer. Wayne and his wife have been a foster home for newborn infants for 36 years and during that time have been blessed to provide care for 170 newborns. Wayne continues to be actively involved in social justice issues in his retirement.



Rev. Dr. Jenny Whitcher (she/her) is the Minister of Prophetic Formation co-founder of Juniper Formation.

Jenny is an entrepreneurial minister, community organizer, and theologian committed to social justice. She has over 20 years of experience coaching and mentoring leaders, teaching, and developing community partnerships. Her work spans nonprofit, congregations, and higher education. Her areas of expertise include: change management; entrepreneurial and prophetic ministry formation; democratic culture, leadership, and pedagogy; and social change theory and practice.

She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and was the recipient of the Peacemaker Award from the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ in 2006. She has a B.A. from New York University, an M.A. in International Human Rights from the University of Denver, and a Ph.D. in Religion and Theological Studies from Iliff School of Theology & University of Denver.



Matt Huntington is excited to be part of this years panel about reminiaging the use of church buildings. a former RMC Treasurer and Finance Chair, Matt has had a long career in the insurance industry and specializes in church insurance.



Pastor Mallory Everhart has been part of the Vista Grande staff since 2018, beginning as a pastoral intern while completing seminary and called to pastor. She comes from a vocational background of eldercare, grief support, and hospice, which shapes her approach to parish ministry. She is a graduate of Iliff School of Theology in June 2019, completing a thesis entitled *But Joy Comes in the Mo(u)rning: A Grief-Informed Theological Reconstruction of the White Protestant Funeral* and was ordained in the United Church of Christ in May 2021. She is trained as a movement chaplain and abolitionist spiritual director and brings those skills to companioning the activist and organizing community in Colorado Springs, especially supporting the work of Southern Colorado Black and Pink. She is a published poet,

aspiring weaver, and guardian of a houseful of plants.



Rev. Melissa St. Clair has served Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Fort Collins, CO, since January 2013. She was ordained in 2008 by the Mercersburg Association of the Penn Central Conference and was granted ordained ministerial partner standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that same year. Her Master of Divinity is from **Eden Theological Seminary** (St. Louis, MO).

In recent years, Melissa has served as Moderator-Elect for the **Central Rocky Mountain Region** and as the chair of the Board of Stewards for the **Center for Faith and Giving**. She is an alumna of the **Bethany**

Fellows and a graduate of **Leadership Northern Colorado**. She currently serves on the **Leadership Team** of the Ecumenical Circle of the Bethany Fellows. When they're not camping in the mountains, Melissa and her spouse, Ben, reside in the home of their two rescue pups.