

# mid March 2020 eNews **COVID 19 resources**

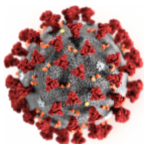
*Red Lodge Community UCC*

*altar for Lent*



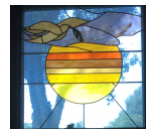
## **Wider Church and Community Resources**

*Click on these links for CoVid 19 resource information.*



### **Harvard Business Review**

Lead your organization  
through CoVid crisis



### **Worship and Prayer**

Resources for community  
worship



### **UCC eNews**

Establish protocols,  
preach awareness, not  
panic



### **Bulletin Insert**

Protocols and Information



## **World Council of Churches**

WCC fact sheet and WHO links



## **Coronavirus information**

latest CDC resources



### **A Prayer**

**Oh God, I'm Spinning Out**

**Rev. Dr. Hannah Adams Ingram**

**Franklin College Campus**

**Minister    March 10, 2020**

There is so much I do not know  
There is so much I cannot see  
There is so much I cannot control

In the moments I feel powerless, I will take a deep breath  
trusting that I am tasked only with doing my part, not the whole

In the moments I feel unsure, I will take a deep breath  
trusting that I am not alone and that together, our wisdom will be richer

In the moments I feel anxious, I will take a deep breath  
trusting that there is no depth I can fall out of reach of the Spirit that holds me close

What I do know is that my life and love and worth extend far beyond my work  
What I can see is that spring follows every winter and new life pokes out from cold ground  
What I can control is my breath and the love I inject into a world so clearly lacking it

“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

## **Conference Church Highlights**



### **Bozeman Pilgrim UCC**

Group protocols ask travelers to refrain from meetings for 2 weeks following their return



### **University UCC**

Facebook reminder to "Stay Calm and Church On"



### **First Billings UCC**

Passes the peace using Vulcan sign and greeting "Live Long and Prosper"



### **Sheridan UCC humor**

Warning: Next week includes time change, full moon, Friday the 13th and we'll be doing it all without toilet paper and hand sanitizer. May the force be with us.

## **God-seeds**



God-seeds, Rev. Dr. Marc Ian Stewart

### **CoVid 19 Reflections**

Our country is at least three weeks into dealing with COVID 19. Accurate information and the availability of testing have now made it to the forefront of national and local responses. There is still a panic mode,

seen in such absurdities as stores running out of toilet paper. There is still the serious question of how deeply a community "should" allow itself to be impacted by COVID 19, seen in some places where schools are being closed and in other places where college spring breaks happening in full swing.

A few weeks ago, I was in Los Angeles for 5-day trip that included a variety of meetings, guided visits to low-income housing, mingling with family and friends in downtown L.A., and going through LAX airport. I did not think much about any personal risk of getting infected with COVID 19. Might I have been exposed to someone who didn't even know whether they were a carrier? If there is this risk, then what is my responsibility to be extra diligent, as much for the care of others as for myself?

I am relieved to be past the virus incubation period from my time in L.A. Also, a week of meetings I was scheduled to attend with people from around the country has been cancelled at our national UCC offices in Cleveland. Before the

meetings were cancelled on March 10, I had told leaders I would not to attend. I did not want to be in the position of concern, again, about whether I might have been exposed and infected by COVID 19 and in turn expose others without knowing it.

During the SARS scare in 2002, I was quarantined for 24-hours at Rapid City Hospital until tests showed my flu-like symptoms were not SARS. Later, I was part of a regional response team called together to develop pandemic protocols that could close the interstate transportation system and lock down neighborhoods. Not only do I want to avoid possibilities of unknowingly transmitting COVID 19, I want to avoid contributing to any panic that could result in an enforced lockdown of vital institutions and services.

It has dawned on me that I have 4 of the identified risk factors of being vulnerable to the worst effects of COVID 19, though I mostly feel a youthful sense of invincibility (“it can’t get me”). I have to train myself to be extra cautious, and to be as wise about the hygiene of my surroundings as I am about the inherent dangers in visiting places where there are higher personal safety risks. I look for hygiene concerns to change how we do church gathers, such as when extra sanitary precautions were taken at our church potluck last Sunday.

There are a variety of excellent resources that are available to us through the research and development of our national UCC leaders and from Conferences most effected by COVID 19. This special mid-March edition of the eNews compiles the best of these resources for your use.

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## **NATIONAL UCC LEADERS OFFER PASTORAL CARE SUPPORT**

JLCM Worship Leaders have volunteered to be present for zoom pastoral care support during the following times:

March 13 3:30pm–4:30pm EST with Sue Blain, Minister for Worship & Gospel Arts

Join URL: <https://UCC.zoom.us/j/538116554>

March 17 3:30pm–4:30pm EST with Rachel Hackenberg, Pilgrim Press and Faith Forming Publications

Join URL: <https://UCC.zoom.us/j/838421818>

March 24 3:30pm–4:30pm EST with Chris Davies, Faith Education, Innovation and Formation

Join URL: <https://UCC.zoom.us/j/255855881>

March 30 3:30pm-4:30pm EST with Tracy Howe Wispelwey, Minister of  
Congregational and Community Engagement

Join URL: <https://UCC.zoom.us/j/992536087>



## **United Church Insurance Board plan for churches covered by UCIB insurance**

### **Event Cancellation Expense Reimbursement**

(The Insurance Board) will pay for any business-related event expenses paid by you and not otherwise refunded or reimbursed resulting from the cancellation of an event that an employee or volunteer was scheduled to attend. The cancellation must be directly caused by a Covered Cause of Loss or a Communicable Disease outbreak that forces the cancellation of the event. Communicable Disease means an illness, sickness, condition or an interruption or disorder of body functions, systems or organs that is transmissible by an infection or contagion directly or indirectly through human contact, or contact with human fluids, waste, or similar agent, such as, but not limited to meningitis, measles or Legionnaire's Disease. The most (the Insurance Board) will pay under this Additional Coverage is \$25,000 in any one policy period.

Insurance Board [Resource page](#) on CoVid 19.

## **Stewardship Workshops for all churches**

There are 2 Zoom stewardship training events being offered in March by our UCC Generosity Outreach Officer, Rev. Andrew Warner. These will now be offered on ZOOM.

March 19, Red Lodge Community Church, 4 - 5:30 pm "Planned Giving for Local Churches"

March 21, "From Good to Great 12-month Stewardship Programs" times to be announced

### **ZOOM Connection Information**

<https://zoom.us/j/5163956042>

Meeting ID: 516 395 6042

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,5163956042#

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose))

Meeting ID: 516 395 6042

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## Changes to Calendar

### Calendar

**March 19** Workshop on Planned Giving with [national UCC Generosity Outreach Officer, Rev. Andrew Warner](#), Red Lodge UCC, 4 pm – 5:30 pm

TO BE OFFERED ON ZOOM

**March 20** Board of Directors and Stewardship Team meet with Rev. Andrew Warner, 10 am – 3 pm T.B.A.

**March 21** All-Church "Good to Great Stewardship" seminar with Rev. Andrew Warner, times to be announced TO BE OFFERED ON ZOOM

**March 24–27** Council of Conference Minister meeting in Cleveland CANCELLED, TO BE OFFERED ON ZOOM

**April 20–22** Clergy and Spouse Retreat for Rest and Refreshment, [Chico Hot Springs](#) STILL SCHEDULED

**April 25** [Ordination Ecclesiastical Councils](#) for Lisa Harmon and Tom King, Pilgrim UCC, Bozeman, 10 am – 3 pm STILL SCHEDULED

**April 24–27** [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#), Washington DC T.B.D.

**April 27–May 1** Alabama Civil Rights Tour CANCELLED

**April 30–May 3** "Let's Talk about It" Weekend, Plymouth UCC Helena STILL SCHEDULED

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## **Montana – N.Wyoming Conference United Church of Christ**

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