#StrikeWithUs: Using Social Media to Drive Climate Action
Social media has become a powerful tool for activists young and old in driving the climate conversation. The youth-led climate strikes would have turn out much differently without the trending hashtags #StrikeWithUs and #ClimateCrisis or the globally shared photos of Greta Thunberg. In this workshop, discuss how and why social media has been so effective in the climate movement, and join us in creating your own social media.

Led by Brooks Berndt and Jessica Quinn. Brooks serves the UCC as the Minister for Environmental Justice. He has authored “Cathedral On Fire!: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis.” On Twitter, he is known as the Green_Rev. Jessica posts and tweets for justice as the Online Communications Specialist for the UCC’s advocacy office in Washington D.C.

Sr. High: Thursday 2-3, Friday 2-3

3 Great Loves...How Are You Living Out God’s Love?
Learn more about our UCC 3 Great Loves Initiative and discover ways you Unite with others around you and are living out God’s Love and transforming the world!

Led by Rev. Dave Sigmund and Rev. Kimberlee Whisler-Vasko, prior to joining UCC National Staff as the 3 Great Loves Ambassador the Rev. Dave Sigmund served as a local church pastor in Southern California for over 7 years. He hold a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from Palm Beach Atlantic University and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Dave is passionate about creative worship planning and design and sharing God’s love in the community and the wider church through our 3 Great Loves Initiative. Dave jokes that the UCC “claim to fame” is that he married his husband at General Synod 29 in Long Beach, CA in 2013 with over 2,000 attendees of their family and UCC friends from around the country.

Rev. Kimberlee Whisler-Vasko is the 3 Great Loves Coordinator for the United Church of Christ and serves as Pastor of St. John’s United Church of Christ in Lyons, IL. Kim grew up in the western suburbs of Chicago. She earned a Bachelor of Science Elmhurst College and her Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary. She accepted her call to ordained ministry after serving as the Coordinator of UCC Relations at Elmhurst al. She loves all things creative and has a special affinity for art and antiques – particularly anything that combines the two, making something old, even discarded – new. Kim is blessed with two children, Suzanna (24) and Brendan (22) and she lives in Lombard, IL.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

A Townhall with Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson
Rev. Karen Georgia will gather with a small group of youth to answer questions and describe the role of Wider Church Ministries and any opportunities that exist for young people to engage in its meaningful work.

Led by The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Operations with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Rev. Thompson served in the national setting of the United Church of Christ for 10 years – two years as Minister for Racial Justice and 8 years as Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. She led the UCC's Sacred Conversations on Race, facilitating trainings and workshops across the life of the denomination for congregations and conferences. Her passion moved her work on behalf of the UCC into a global context, affording the opportunity to participate globally in efforts to reduce the marginalization experienced by African descendant peoples and other communities globally.

Jr. High, Sr. High: Saturday 9:30-11:00 AM

Art as Resistance & the Immorality of Drone Warfare
This workshop will address how art can be used as personal expression and public witness as a way of provoking public discussion on social issues, in particular U.S. use of armed drones. Artist and veteran Essam Attia and Michael Neuroth will talk about the faith community’s opposition to drone warfare using Essam’s work as an example of creative responses. Essam is an outspoken critic of drone warfare based on his experience in the military and now uses his art to provoke discussion through street art, plush toys, and mass demonstrations. Youth will be encouraged to think of other issues and what creative responses might be.
Led by Rev. Michael Neuroth and Essam Attia, Michael is the UCC’s policy advocate for International Issues in the Washington D.C. office. His current work on international justice focuses on coordinating the UCC’s work and witness as a Just Peace church and related international peace, human rights, and economic justice issues reflected in UCC policy. He also currently serves as the co-chair for the board of Jubilee USA. Michael holds master’s degrees in divinity, theology, and social work from Princeton Seminary and Rutgers University. He currently resides in Washington D.C. with his wife, Amber, and their two boys.

Essam Attia joined the army in 2003, where he served for 3 years as a geospatial analyst. After earning a BFA in photography from the School of Visual Arts in 2011, his military service inspired his mission as an artist to create conversations about topical social and political issues, where in early 2012, he began working in the streets of New York City. Over a 12-month period he created his most notable works, Drone Zones and The Drone Campaign while working stealthily by night. These seminal works garnered international press and have been featured in The New Yorker, the Wall Street Journal, CNN and Fox News. More info: www.essamattia.com.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

Be an Advocate!
This session is intended as an Advocacy 101 workshop. Building on the experience of the UCC’s staff in Washington D.C. we will talk about the many different forms of faith-based advocacy and public witness and learn about what makes them effective. The session will be interactive with the youth encouraged to brainstorm what issues they have interest in addressing in their community and ways in which they could address them through direct advocacy, artistic expression, and social media


Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30

Beauty from Brokenness: Visible Mending
This workshop pairs how-to for visible mending techniques (patching, sashiko, embroidery, darning, etc.) with a theological exploration of being met in and honoring brokenness. It emphasizes an embodied knowledge of God’s love for us and the value of being vulnerable in community through difficulty, while also teaching mending techniques to extend the life of clothing for ecological and economic impact.

Led by Megan Berkowitz, who is a handcrafters, storyteller, baking enthusiast, and current seminarian in the Metro Boston Association of the UCC. Preaching about spoken word and writing about the theology of Janelle Monae’s Dirty Computer are some of the ways she has lived into a belief that God is still speaking. She has been excited to work as part of the Spaces team for NYE.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3
Participants will need to bring: ripped/torn clothing if you have some.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

Becoming a Mindful Leader
The challenging times in which we live demands that we all become spiritually grounded leaders. Learn mindfulness techniques that increase your calm so that you may lead your church or youth program with intention and purpose.

Led by Rev. Nicole Havelka, who loves Jesus and yoga. Her consulting work now brings together her training as a yoga teacher, ordained UCC clergy, faith formation practitioner and leadership development coach and trainer. Learn more about her at www.nicolehavelkaconsulting.com

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

Being a Responsible Global Citizen
Issues like human trafficking, welcoming refugees, fair trade, human rights, and climate justice are important to Global Ministries and international partners. Come learn about specific, practical ways that you can heed God’s call for justice.

Led by Rebekah Choate, who is a Global Advocacy and Education Associate with Global Ministries. Her work looks at the big, global issues the UCC and our international partners care about.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

Bohemian Rhapsody: Finding the Gospel in the Music of Queen
Since the release of the "Bohemian Rhapsody" movie, another generation has fallen in love with the music of Queen. Using their songs (audio & Video Clips), we will explore the Christian message in many of their lyrics.
Led by Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins, who currently serves as Pastor at St. Paul in Staunton, IL. This will be her 6th NYE as a workshop presenter. She believes that the gospel can be found in the most unlikely of places if we will just open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to receive it.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3

Bundle the Rainbow

Unite and Bless our circle of service. Help transform the large rainbow back into brightly colored clothing. With hands & hearts at work, pack boxes of our clothing drive items that will be shared in nearby communities or take to your home church & community shelters. Whether you carry heavy boxes, please share what you have put on paper, cloth, or media, to affirm one another, and UNITE in hope, growing good where two or more are gathered.

Led by Sunny Miller, Artist in Residence, and Kristin Putney, Project Director.

Jr. High and Sr High: Sat 9:30-11

Celebrating Our Cultures in Communion

This workshop is intended for the participants to appreciate their own and other cultures and encourage a dialogue of mutual sharing with respect to each other’s unique and beautiful diversity. Using the principles of “cultural rhythm” (an example: http://www.being-here.net/page/4933/rhythm-and-culture), the participants will create four fantasy cultures, create fantasy creatures, and then stage cultural “encounters” loosely based on biblical stories. There will be an opportunity of group and personal reflections of the experience and an encouragement for the participants to continue and explore cross cultural learning and relationships in their own settings. The goal is to open dialogue among youth in how to find multi-cultural/ethnic/lingual common grounds and minimizing “othering”.

Led by Roberto Ochoa, who is originally from Los Angeles, CA and currently is the Program Associate from Congregations of Color and ethnic identified congregations from Faith Education, Innovation and Formation (Faith INFO) in the National Setting of the UCC. Roberto serves as part of the Colectivo de UCC latinx Ministries, the Council of Racial and Ethnic Ministries, the Leadership team for Proyecto Ecuentos de Gracia y Bienvenida, and the UCC Collaboration for Immigration and Refugees. He also serves on the leadership team for Red Ecumenica para el Desarrollo de Iglesias Latinas.

Jr. High: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

Changing the Story: The Power of Protest

In response to the greatest crisis human civilization has ever encountered how do we, as people of faith, change the story of our society from avoidance to engaging in time for an effective response? We will take a quick look at what’s happening across our nation and the globe in response to the Climate Crisis and then spend time reflecting on what are some of the actions that people of faith can do that can help our society move forward.

Led by Rev. Dr. Terry Gallaher, who is an ordained minister in the UCC. Educated originally as an engineer, Terry, following a 30-year career as an industrial manufacturing executive answered the Call to Ministry. In response to the escalating double-edged global crisis of unsustainable economics and ecological destruction, he has focused his ministry efforts in serving the greater society as a Public Theologian. His current ministry is faith based ecological-justice education, advocacy and action. You can find his efforts working towards a just sustainable world on the web, in the church, in community meetings, in legislative offices and on the public square.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

Combatting Climate Change, Ending Human Trafficking, Giving Economic Access to Underserved Groups – a New Activism You’ve Probably Never Heard Of

This workshop begins with a video of climate activist Greta Thunberg, and focuses on three issues young persons care deeply about and new strategies that youth may participate in for addressing them. The emphasis will be on real world solutions and actions. There will be opportunities for interaction and discussion.

Led by members of the Pension Board.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

Crucial Conversation: Influencing the way we talk in church

How to find your voice and articulate your space in the church. Speaking your truth when stakes are high, emotions run strong and opinions vary.

Led by Arthur Butler, who serves as the National Project Coordinator of the Framework for Dialogue – USA. He is an astute servant leader who has committed his life to service. He helped to create the Faith Communities Program for
the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute which leveraged the role of faith communities in the communities most impacted by HIV and AIDS. He co-founded the Capital District African American Coalition on AIDS, providing leadership for innovative and culturally specific evidence-informed initiatives benefitting over 20,000 individuals and their families. As National Project Coordinator of the Framework for Dialogue, Arthur works with faith leaders, people living with HIV and HIV service providers in Detroit and New Jersey to support and provide technical assistance in their joint efforts to address the issues of stigma identified by the Stigma Index data for those areas. Arthur lives in Albany, NY.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

**Deaf Community Ministry, Advocacy and ASL!**

Present the MIUCC Deaf Community Ministry. Information on Deaf Community Cultural & Advocacy. How to get started learning ASL and describing career opportunity in ASL.

Led by Paul Fugate, who is a Nationally Certified ASL Interpreter, Deaf Blind Certified Interpreter, and teacher to hearing individuals, grades 8-12, at Romeo Community Schools in Romeo, Michigan. Paul also teaches level 1, 2, & 3 ASL to night school students as Adjunct Faculty member at Oakland University in Rochester, MI. He is an ASL Video Relay interpreter at Sorensen Video Relay Service. He is also the creator of [www.ASLdeafined.com](http://www.ASLdeafined.com) – an online learning curriculum developed for use in the classroom. This program is now used at over 200 schools nationwide. Workshop participants will receive FREE access [www.ASLdeafined.com](http://www.ASLdeafined.com) for their personal use for 1 year.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

**Demystifying the College Process**

Having difficulty understanding the myself behind the college search process. Hear about how to demystify the college process by the Elmhurst College Office of Admissions.

Led by Megan Wajda, she is the Assistant Director of Admission at Elmhurst College. She has been in the Admission office for five years. Also, a proud alumni of Elmhurst for her undergrad and North Central College for a masters in leadership with a concentration in higher education.

Sr. High: Friday 3:30-4:30

**Emergent Church Strategies for Adult Leaders in the 21st Century**

Emergent Church Strategies for Adult Leaders in the 21st Century is a necessary workshop for those who plan to engage with youth and young adults where they reside—outside the structures and traditions of the church building. The United States demographics is changing from predominately European descended people to a rich cultural diversity of those who are multicultural, and of non-European descent. This workshop is interactive and conversational. The workshop will equip adult leaders with strategies for engaging the next generation of youth and young adults in the spaces and places that motivate them to seek faith, embody the Spirit, and lean into conversations about the God of creation and the Savior of all people. Participants are invited to think deeply about the movement of faith in nontraditional spaces, and develop new approaches to journeying with and listening to emerging leaders.

Led by Velda Love, who currently serves as Minister for Racial Justice in The Justice and and Local Church Ministries of The United Church of Christ National Office in Cleveland, OH. Velda develops, comprehensive culture centered curriculum, restorative justice study guides, restorative justice faith practices, facilitator training resources, Witness For Justice Commentary contributor, Racial Justice workshops and church-wide teaching & preaching. Velda develops resources in an effort to equip UCC congregations to be on a restorative racial justice journey in order to dismantle and eradicate structural, systemic, and individual racism.

Adults: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

**Ethnic/Immigrant Churches: History, Diversity, Practices**

Participants will learn the history, diversity, and practices of ethnic/immigrant churches in the context pf Asian America.

Led by Pamela K Sari, Ph.D. and Manabu Taketani. Pamela is an Interim Director of the Asian America Resource and Cultural Center ay Purdue University. She has a Ph.D. in American Studies. Manabu Taketani, M.A. is a Program Administrator of the Asian American and Asian resource Center at Purdue University. He has a MA in Higher Education and Student Development from Taylor University.

Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

**Faith and Justice, a United Church of Christ**

Justice and Church are not separate! They never have been for Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of...
Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ. Come listen to Traci share stories of how the local church can be an instrument of justice and change the world. You will have the chance to ask her questions as well!

Led by Traci Blackmon, who is the Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO. Rev. Blackmon currently resides in both St. Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH and was named 2017 Citizen of the Year by The St. Louis American and as one of St. Louis' 100 most influential voices. Rev. Blackmon is the proud mother of three adult children.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Saturday 9:30-11

Faith in College
This workshop would be about exploring and maintaining faith in college. A discussion with Catawba students and campus ministry staff about their experiences and expertise, with a chance for High School students to ask their questions and share concerns and expectations about faith in college. We will also draw upon research from Sticky Faith to share some practical tips for developing a faith that lasts.

Led by Shannon Axtell Martin, the Director of Discovery, Catawba College’s Youth Theology Institute, a residential program for middle and high schoolers to explore theology, and the Catawba Clergy Network, a program to support clergy so they might thrive in their ministry. Shannon graduated from Catawba College in 2008, she returned to work in campus ministry after receiving her M. Div from Wake Forest University School of Divinity, working as a hospital Chaplin, and then with the NC Council of Churches Partners in Health and Wholeness Program. She has been surprised at how her own calling had unfolded and loves taking the journey one day at a time with her spouse Robert, their daughters Audrey and Norah, and their dogs Benny and Truman.

Sr High: Thursday 3:30-4:30

Finding the Gospel in Disney/Pixar Movies
Using videos clips, we will explore the Christian messages in Disney Pixar movies. Be prepared to share thoughts, ideas and perhaps even sing a little as we “Let it Go” and discover the good news all around us.

Led by Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins, who currently serves as Pastor at St. Paul in Staunton, IL. This will be her 6th NYE as a workshop presenter. She believes that the gospel can be found in the most unlikely of places if we will just open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to receive it.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Saturday 9:30-11

Finding the Gospel in Harry Potter
Using video clips from the movies and passages from the books, we will explore the Christian message in these works by J.K. Rowling. Participants should be familiar with the books or the movies.

Led by Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins, who currently serves as Pastor at St. Paul in Staunton, IL. This will be her 6th NYE as a workshop presenter. She believes that the gospel can be found in the most unlikely of places if we will just open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to receive it.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Friday 2-3

Fish in Christianity
Handcrafting of fish with paracord, comes with a short introduction (historic-fictional interactive story) about the history, significance and using in modern context of the fish as a Christian symbol and the significance of the 9 liturgical colors from the UCC among which the participants will choose for handcrafting their fish.

Led by Jonas Pabst, who was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1997. HE has engaged in protestant youth work since confirmation; church youth politics, worships, Confirmation camps and other Christian events, during the 500-year reformation jubilee in 2017. He spent 3 month serving as a volunteer in Taizé and a one year internship at the protestant youth parish office in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Jr. High, Sr. High: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

From Shame to Sacred: Faithful Sexuality Education in the UCC
God created our bodies and called them very good. Join Amy to explore how dismantling shame and stigma about our bodies and relationships is a way to practice justice and faith. Learn ways you can help your congregation engage in healthy conversation about sex and sexuality.

Led by Amy Johnson, the UCC Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice. Amy has facilitated Our Whole Lives/Sexuality and Our Faith for over 14 years for children, youth, and adults, and she regularly trains adults to bring this ministry to their faith communities. She is passionate about her work!
From the U.S. Mexico Border to the Garden: A journey of theology, spirituality and migration
This workshop weaves the stories of migrants on the U.S. Mexico border with my own journey of faith. Using the tools of storytelling, song and theology I hope the participants will understand more deeply the men and women that incarnate our current global migration reality. Along the way the participants will be invited to reflect on their own journey of faith and the place they occupy within this Global Borders.

Led by Natalia Serna (LaMuna), who is an American Columbian Sociologist who moved to the US Mexico border in order to offer humanitarian aid to migrants as a volunteer at the KBI initiative in Nogales. Currently she produces educational and musical material around social justice issues, accompanies detained migrants in the city of Hermosillo Sonora and offers housing and hospitality to refugees being released from detention.

Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3

GMP Meets NYE
Rev. John Dorhauer will describe what makes the UCC is unique and will explore with participants what they see in the future of the church that he can help give shape to. He wants to talk about the shared future in a church with a mission that matters to youth and young people.

Led by the Rev. John Dorhauer, the UCC General Minister and President. He was born in St. Louis and is a die-hard Cardinal fan and lover of baseball. He served 2 rural churches for a total of 16 years. After that, he served 12 years in Conference offices in Missouri and the Southwest. In 2015 he was elected as the General Minister and President. He has authored three books. He and Mimi have celebrated 36 years of marriage, have 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 3:30-4:30, Saturday 9:30-11

Guided Mediation with Obi Wan
We’ll begin our time together with some reflection on the spiritual insights and wisdom from George Lucas’ world of the Jedi. This will lead us to a spiritual practice that has roots in many traditions.

Led by Rev. Don Remick, who is the Bridge Conference Minister for Southern New England Conference. He served in ministry in Massachusetts for many years. He is a husband, father, and grandfather who also love syfi.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3

Gun Violence and Religion
A look at guns, gun violence and gun control through the lens of religion, specifically Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Led by Rabbi Michael Harvey, who has been the rabbi Temple Israel, in West Lafayette, since 2017. He joins the community from his previous position as rabbi of The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Ordained by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in 2015, Rabbi Harvey earned a Master’s degree in Hebrew Letters from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion and a Bachelor’s degree in psychology from Boston University. Throughout his tenure at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Harvey served congregations, small and large, in Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas. Rabbi Harvey was recently admitted to the Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, within the Doctor of Science in Jewish Studies program. Rabbi Harvey hopes to earn his PhD in Jewish Studies within the next five to seven years. Additionally, Rabbi Harvey serves as the local spokesperson for Moms Demand Action and is a proud member of Rabbis Against Gun Violence.

Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3

How are the Children? Exploring the issues of Palestinian Children and Youths in Israeli Military Detention
This workshop explores the traumatic situation of Palestinian children and youths’ lives with constant fear of arrest, detention, and violence at the hands of Israeli military forces. Will include highlights from the film “How Are the Children?”, which provides a concise description of the current situation and riveting personal testimony of UCC leaders Traci Blackmon, John Dorhauer, Peter Makari, and former Global Ministries Co-Worker Loren McGrail (www.bit.ly/ChildrenTrailer). Attendees will meet a youth representative from the YMCA of Palestinian and discover how they can join the UCC and other faith communities in working to end this system of abuse.

Led by Rev. Diane Dublin, who has traveled to Palestine many times and served as a Short Term UCC Mission Volunteer at a refugee camp in the Palestinian city of Ramallah. She serves on the Steering Committee of the UCC Palestine Israel Network (www.UCCPIN.org), and the Board of Directors of FOSNA, a leading Christian voice for Palestine rights. Our youth representative from the YMCA of Palestine will be an invited guest of Global Ministries of the UCC and Disciples of Christ.
How to Write Youth Ministry Curriculum and Find the Best Resources for Your Teens
Do the curriculum materials you use with your teens tend to fall short of your expectations? That’s because the publisher does not know your teens like you do. This workshop will provide guidance in evaluating, selecting, adapting, and writing youth ministry materials to meet the needs of your youth.

Led by Debbie Gline Allen, who is the Associate for Faith Formation & Youth Ministries in the Southern New England Conference and has written for three UCC-based curriculum resources. She lives in Derry, New Hampshire, with her spouse, two sons, and beloved cat.

Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

I Want You(th) to Make a Difference
This workshop is an interactive seminar on the importance of voting, the intricacies of voter registration and is also a lesson on how minors and those ineligible to become voter deputy registrars can register their communities to vote. Our nation functions as a representative government but because youth can’t vote we aren’t represented. By registering our neighbors and communities as young people we not only inspire them to vote but to vote in the best interests of youth.

Led by the United Christian Church of Austin Youth Group. The church hosts a youth group of approximately youth aged between 11-18 who live across the greater Austin metropolitan area. This group is unique and diverse coming from a variety of backgrounds and spiritual ideologies who congregate to discuss the issues faced by our communities and create solutions.

Jr. High, Sr. High: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

In God’s Image
Spiritual references Gen 1:27, 1 Cor 13:12; 20-30 minute Bible study. Remainder - Interactive artistic activities in which they create themselves as God sees them, including visual art, performance art (dance, vocal, drama, spoken word). Performance and sharing to culminate workshop; Especially relevant to youth of color, but open to all! Bilingual capabilities - Spanish/English

Led by Linda Filomeno, who have been working with youth in the church since 1976. Linda graduated with a BA from Eastern University, a Christian college outside of Philadelphia, PA in 1976 and has worked as a certified teacher of English as a Second Language since then. She has 3 Masters of Education degrees and post-Master level graduate work in Psychology and Educational Leadership. Her husband is pastor of the Hispanic Evangelical UCC in Rhode Island, where she leads youth and children’s ministry.

Jr. High, Sr, High: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

Introduction into Indigenous Peoples
Learn about the Indigenous Peoples of Indiana through the lens of Native American Educational and Cultural Center at Purdue University. Tour the facilities and discover current issues impacting tribal communities.

Led by Felica Ahasteen-Bryant, who is the director of the Native American Educational and Cultural Center at Purdue University. Born and raised on the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, Felica brings a wealth of experience related to Indigenous Peoples and provides lectures and presentations focused Native American, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian cultures and traditions.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3

It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood; the Gospel Message of Mr. Rogers
Mr. Rogers helped shape generations with his quiet, gentle wisdom, love and acceptance of all. Using clips, we will explore the Gospel messages in Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood.

Led by Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins, who currently serves as Pastor at St. Paul in Staunton, IL. This will be her 6th NYE as a workshop presenter. She believes that the gospel can be found in the most unlikely of places if we will just open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to receive it.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Friday 3:30-4:30

Jesus is Such a Pisces! (A Christian approach to astrology)
We often think of Astrology as a non-Christian thing, but the Bible frequently references the Zodiac. In this workshop: learn how the Bible uses the stars as a map for spiritual truth and how modern Christianity can make use of this ancient wisdom. (Will be offered separately for adults and youth)
Led by Joshua Berkowitz, who is the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at Central Congregation Church in Providence, RI. He runs a small spiritual counseling practice from home and has been working with clients in this capacity for 14 years. Joshua has a MA in Jewish Studies from Hebrew College and is passionate about reading Scripture in its original languages and contexts.

**Adults: Thursday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30**  
**Jr. High, Sr. High: Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3**

**Join the NYE Choir**

All participants interested in being a part of the NYE ensemble as a musician, singer or praise team member will gather for rehearsal on Thursday and Friday. The choir will perform during the closing worship service on Saturday.

Led by James Dekle, a Resident in Artist at Purdue’s Black Cultural Center.

**Jr. High, Sr. High: Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 3:30-4:30**

**Just Say Know! Uniting for Justice through Faithful Sexuality Education**

God created our bodies and called them very good. Join Amy to explore how dismantling shame and stigma about our bodies and relationships is a way to practice justice and faith. Learn ways you can help your congregation engage in healthy conversation about sex and sexuality.

Led by Amy Johnson, the UCC Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice. Amy has facilitated Our Whole Lives/Sexuality and Our Faith for over 14 years for children, youth, and adults, and she regularly trains adults to bring this ministry to their faith communities. She is passionate about her work!

**Jr. High, Sr. High: Thursday 2-3**

**Knowing Me, Knowing You: An Experiment in Compassion**

Are there things that get in your way of loving yourself? How about loving other people? Are there times when it gets really hard to do? We’re going to talk and listen, play a game or two and deepen our compassion for ourselves and the other humans we’re meeting. You’ll leave with a better understanding of yourself and some tools to take home.

Led by Rev Tara Barber has grown up in the amazing messiness of a complicated family, surrounded by the love of the UCC, camp, and friends who have taught her that being different is a gift. She’s been attending WRYE and NYE since the 80’s, and works with church folks to increase our health and ability to more fully be who God calls. She recently moved to Cleveland to serve as the Minister for Ministerial Support and Accountability.

**Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30**

**Making Our Churches “Accessible to All”**

This workshop is offered for Youth Ministers and Youth Leaders who are looking for ways to engage middle and high schoolers I the life and leadership of the congregation. We want to offer God’s extravagant welcome into our places of worship and our faith communities. For people with disabilities or mental health issues that welcome may be hard to find. Buildings may not be physically accessible, or they may be greeted with misconceptions and misunderstandings. The UCC’s “Accessible to ALL (A2A)” curriculum offers opportunities for study and reflection designed to help congregations recognize people with disabilities for who they are as humans and the gifts that they can bring to the church. The program also includes an audit to help churches evaluate the physical accessibility to their buildings in order to make plans toward becoming “Accessible to All.”

Led by Rev. Shawn Garan, who has served as the youth minister and Associate Pastor of Second Congregational Church. He is serves on the Disabilities Ministries Team of the Connecticut Conference. Shawn is married to Ashley and they have seven-year-old twins. Shawn is a missional pastor that looks to inspire people to see the Bible in a different way. For him, success is connecting people with the stories found in Scripture and finding an application that can help us in our everyday lives.

**Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30**

**Mental Health/Illness and Our Christian Faith**

In this workshop we will explore how our UCC congregations can be more welcoming and inclusive of people living with mental healthy conditions. We will look at basic theologies of liberation to see where God is in times of mental distress.

Led by Rev. Megan Snell, who is a member of the UCC Mental Health Network Board of Directors and a writer with the UCC MHN Blog. Rev. Megan serves as a local church pastor just north of Boston and studies mental health conditions and congregational life (DMin) at the Pacific School of religion. She writes, preaches, and teaches extensively on the topics of mental health/illness and the church. Rev. Megan lives openly with Bipolar 1 and shares her home with her wife and 3 dogs.
Multiplying Our Impact and Our Lives: Intersectional Partnerships for Justice Action
Participants will meet and engage a diverse panel of justice advocates including a Palestinian Christian queer man, a black woman, and a transgender/non-binary/genderqueer person who bring often-silences voices to our process of exploration. Participants will learn about specific justice issues facing youth (and adults) who are Palestinian, immigrant, non-white, non-binary, LGBTQ, disabled, economically deprived or in other ways subject to marginalization or violence. We will discuss and explore ways to unite in all our diversity, to amplify silences voices and discover connections between justice issues. There will be ample time for discussion, participants reflection, and Q & A.

Led by Tarek Abuata, who is Executive Director of FOSNA (Friends of Sabeel North America), a leading Christian voice for Palestine. He grew up in Bethlehem, Palestinian, and moved with his family to Texas when he was 12. After graduating from the University of Texas Law School, Tarek started his career with the Negotiations Support in Ramallah, researching legal and policy issues for the recognition of a Palestinian state. He then worked for 9 years as coordinator of the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron and served as the representative of Rev. Bernard LaFayette (protégé of Dr. Martin Luther King) for 5 years, training Palestinian youth in grassroots organizing and activism.

Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

Prayer and Pondering
Enter into a sacred space filled with many creative Prayer & Pondering stations to experience at your own pace. Each station will offer a variety of ways to PRAY and will have a wide range of focus including stations for personal reflection and release, stations for specific prayers for peace, justice, equality and inclusivity, and stations lifting up environmental concerns. Some of the stations may include creating items to use in prayer and others will guide prayer through movement, meditation or writing.

Praying with Color
Participants will learn the meanings of color prayer beads and create an unique prayer bead piece. Special meditations and prayers for each color will be incorporated in the workshop.

Led by Kristin Putney and Michelle Girasole, Kristin is a Christian Educator and Youth Ministry consultant for the SNE conference and for her local church in Seekonk, MA. She also is a mural artist & designer. She uses the creative arts in all her ministries especially with children. Michelle is a church school and communications director of Kingston Congregation Church in RI. Her creative outlets are writing and painting and enjoys working creatively with children and youth.

Queer Clergy Trading Cards
Come and witness to the radical queer clergy of the United Church of Christ and beyond! On the forefront of every church movement, queer clergy are changing the way Christianity engages the world. No longer relegated to either side of a binary, these superstars are stepping up and taking names towards faith. We’ll talk about the history of the QCTC, some queer theology, and play a game together: Who do you want as your pastor when you’re in a challenging circumstance, based on their super powers, kryptonites, the song they walk out to preach to, or any other card details!? #queerthechurch #queerclergytradingcards

Led by Rev. Chris Davies (she/her), who is a Connecticut, US native and a Cleveland transplant and a wandering Irish Rover at heart. Chris is a queer femme, a local beer enthusiast, and a creative networker of communities. She is passionate about justice and Jesus and is the founder and curator of the Queer Clergy Trading Cards, a project bringing visibility to queer clergy, using humor and irreverence to help change the conversation highlighting the common awe (and absurdities) in faith work. She loves the church deeply and is committed to finding new ways to continue to bring the gospel into the world. She grew up I the United Church of Christ and was baptized and ordained within her home congregation in Connecticut. Chris lives in Cleveland, OH where she is still seeking community and continuing to learn in faith and live justly, serving Christ in all things.

Queer Theology
This workshop will explore the way we get to reconcile our right to express our Christian faith when we are members of the LGBTQI community. Though breathing meditation and grounding activities. Participants will be able to reclaim their
spirituality.

Led by Rev. Rhina Ramos, who is the National Coordinator for Proyecto Encuentros Bienvenida y Gracia. This program aims to create inclusivity of LGBTQI member in Latinx UCC Churches and also support inclusivity of Latinx members in white UCC churches. Working to create an embrace and acceptance as God intended.

Sr. High, Adults: Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

**Questioning**

Often young people (and people of faith of all ages) have questions and doubts about faith, God, the church, and their place within it. Are questions the sign of a faltering faith, or of a faith that is growing? How can we channel our questions and the questions of others into helpful, sincere, and productive conversation? Underlying this session would be the idea that doubt is not the opposite of faith, but a natural and expected part of a sincere and thoughtful faith.

Led by Shannon Axtell Martin, the Director of Discovery, Catawba College’s Youth Theology Institute, a residential program for middle and high schoolers to explore theology, and the Catawba Clergy Network, a program to support clergy so their might thrive in their ministry. Shannon graduated from Catawba College in 2008, she returned to work in campus ministry after receiving her M. Div from Wake Forest University School of Divinity, working as a hospital Chaplin, and then with the NC Council of Churches Partners in Health and Wholeness Program. She has been surprised at how her own calling had unfolded and loves taking the journey one day at a time with her spouse Robert, their daughters Audrey and Norah, and their dogs Benny and Truman.

Jr. High, Sr. High and Adults: Friday 3:30-4:30

**Restorative Justice, Education and Faith**

Sana Sunia is a Samoan American educator, preacher, musician and coach. He works with groups to integrate processes of restorative justice into the education system. Come learn what restorative justice is and how it can be used in community building.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

**Something to Say: The Writer Within**

Prepare to take your writing public! The Pilgrim Press offers this workshop with tools to inspire your writing, to publish your writing and to market your writing. Discuss everything form writer’s block to publishing contracts with editor and published author Rachel Hackenberg.

Led by Rachel Hackenberg, who is the publisher and editor of The Pilgrim Press, the UCC’s publishing house. She is also the published author of four books and maintains an active blog.

Jr. High, Sr. High: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

**Songwriting, Beatmaking and Healthy Communities**

Join the music producers, songwriters and artists of Refresh Collective, who harness the power of music to equip youth and uplift communities. In this hour long workshop you will gain the tools to write your own songs, create your own beats and collaborate to uplift your own communities.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-4, Friday 2-4

**Spiritual Art – Mandala**

Come discover the “sacred circle” and experience the spiritual practice of centering by creating these beautiful geometric designs. Follow the history of the Mandala through centuries of spiritual and ritual significance to its use in Christianity. Explore your mystical center through shapes and color – no art skills required.

Led by Marcia Tolman, who serves at Phoenix UCC in Western NY. She is a facilitator for the State Youth Planning Committee of the NY Conference and participates at the regional and national youth events as a workshop presenter and Chaplin. Her workshops provide participants with an alternative insight to prayer through movement, hands-on and creative work. Pastor Tolman is a former teacher with many years of experience in the classroom and beyond leading spiritual practice workshops. She has two adult sons and enjoys reading, crafting, baking, and antique hunting.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

**Suicide Prevention**

Discussion revolving around ways to talk to peers about suicide. We will also discuss self-care. (Will be offered separately for adults and youth)
The Mountaintop: Galvanizing student momentum for the next phase of the fight for civil rights
Will discuss intersections between different forms of activism. During this workshop, students will be invited to discuss different barriers to student anti-racist organizing and reimagining ways to overcome them.

Led by Zyahna Bryant, who is an award-winning student activist, community organizer, and author who published her first book, a collection of poetry and essays titled, “Reclaim.” in January of 2019. Zyahna founded the Charlottesville High School Black Student Union at the age of 14. In the Spring of 2016, Zyahna wrote the petition calling for the removal of Confederate statues from Charlottesville’s parks, and City Council voted to remove them in 2017. Zyahna was recently appointed as the youngest member of Virginia’s African American Advisory Board. She will work to advise Governor Northam on issues that impact African Americans across the commonwealth. Zyahna also serves as the youngest member President’s Council for UVA-Community Partnership where she hopes to amplify the work of student leaders and grassroots organizers who are actively working to bridge the gap between the Charlottesville community and the University. She was recently named as a member of Teen Vogue’s 21 under 21 class of 2019.

Jr. High, Sr, High: Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

The Sounds of Silence: Music as Voice for the Oppressed
Many artists have championed the rights of the oppressed through their music, representing the countless voices of silence populations. We will explore how popular music has given voice to those who have been historically silenced and has served as an engine of social change and as a reflection of various social movements.

Led by Dr. Julie Chamberlain, who is a Professor of Music and Director of Worship Arts at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC. Her teaching interests have evolved to include world music, film music and modern worship music. She also enjoys teaches College Honors Program and the First Year Experience Program.

Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 3:30-4:30 and Friday 3:30-4:30

This Little Light of Mine: Bridging the Gap Between Technology and Tradition
The topic of technology in worship has been a thorn in the side of many ministry leaders. Emotionally based perspectives have led the “worship wars” of recent years – many longing for tradition while other desire technology and change. These concepts are not mutually exclusive. When leaders understand and communicate key principles, everything changes.

Led by John Kale, who is an Adjunct Professor of Popular Music and Worship Arts at Catawba College. He has a Masters in Worship Studies from Liberty University. He has served as a worship pastor, creative director and ministry consultant for 16 years. He has worked with a wide range of denominations and para-church organizations; including serving as worship leader at Walt Disney World’s official Easter Sunday service- Easter at Disney.

Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Friday 2-3

This Week in Palestine
Guided by the questions of those of you who attend. Almost every day we learn of dramatic new events unfolding in the State of Palestine (including Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem): expanding Israeli settlements on Palestine land; arrest and ill-treatment of Palestine children and youth by Israeli military forces; Palestinian calls for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS); the siege of Gaza and Gaza’s Great March of Return; Christian Zionism; and new laws which demonize and criminalize legitimate criticism of the Israeli government on college campuses. This workshop will provide accurate facts and insights behind the headlines. Responding to attendees’ questions, our panel of experts will include a member of Jewish Voice for Peace and a Palestinian-American who has lives in Palestine.

Led by Thomas Beilman and Rev. Diane Dulin. Thomas is an activist working for the rights of Palestinian men, women, and children. He is a frequent speaker on Palestine and serves on the Steering Committee of the UCC Palestine Israel Network. Thomas is co-author of a 2017 General Synod resolution in support of human rights of Palestinian children, and Executive Producer of the film “How Are the Children?” (www.bit.ly/ChildrenTrailer). Rev. Diane has traveled to Palestine many times and served as a Short Term UCC Mission Volunteer at a refugee camp in the Palestinian city of Ramallah. She serves on the Steering Committee of the UCC Palestine Israel Network (www.UCCPIN.org), and the Board of Directors of FOSNA, a leading Christian voice for Palestine rights.

Jr. High, Sr, High, Adults: Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30
Unite for Mental Health Justice
What is mental health justice? Learn how you and your church can be part of the powerful movement to end stigma and discrimination against people with invisible disabilities and illness. Come learn about the UCC WISE (welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health program.

Led by Rev. Sarah Lund, who is a UCC pastor, author and national staff leader for disabilities and mental healthy justice. She believes that each one of us can be part of a movement for health and hope.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

United in Music, Art and Love
Come spend time with featured artists and speakers from NYE. Listen to them talk about their work, what they are struggling with and where they are growing. Ask them your own questions about life, artistry, faith and working for change in the world!

Led by the Featured Artist.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Saturday 9:30-11

Walking in the History of My People
Participants will go on a tour of the building highlighting its history born out of student activist. After the tour students will be divided into groups and look through pre-selected newspapers to find stories where young people are performing some type of service. Groups will make their own headline and share around a sentence that states “Young people can help make our world a better place to live.” This sentence will be the heart of discussion.

Led by Juanita Crider, who works full time as the Program advisor for the Purdue Black Cultural Center. She is also a doctoral student in American Studies at Purdue who has completed course work and is preparing for qualifying exams. She earned her B.S. in History from Ball State University and an M.A. in American Studies from Purdue. She also holds a doctoral graduate certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies from Purdue.

Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Friday 2-3

What? Am I Called?
How many times has someone asked you “What do you want to be when you grow up?” This workshop asks a different question, “How do I know what God want me to be?”

Led by Rev. Tony Clark, who was first called by God into biology and veterinary medicine and later into ministry. Through active service as a lay person in North Congregational Church in Columbus, OH he began to realize his call to professional ministry and followed God’s call to Eden Seminary in St. Louis. He has serves as a hospital Chaplin and a pastor in Missouri, Minnesota, and California and currently is working with the Ministerial excellence, support and Authorization Team in Cleveland. He lives with his husband, and their beautiful cat, Bora.

Sr. High: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3, Friday 3:30-4:30

What Do I Do With My Hands? A Beginners Guide to Conducting
While many traditional churches are often faced with the challenge of adding a contemporary service with a praise team and band, many contemporary churches are wishing to add a traditional 4-part choir to enhance and expand their current ministry. This workshop is designed for those persons who suddenly find themselves starting a “traditional” choir or stepping into the leadership role of an existing choir. This fast paced workshop will teach participants the basic conducting patterns needed to become an effective choral conductor. This workshop is designed both the beginner and the “not-so” beginner who may want a refresher course.

Led by Dr. Phillip E. Burgess, Phillip is the Associate Chair and Director of Choral/Vocal Studies at Catawba College, Salisbury, NC. His choirs have appeared in concerts and festivals throughout the Eastern US. As a clinician, Dr. Burgess regularly presents workshops for the American Choral Directors Association, The American Guild of Organists, and the Orff Society. He is a frequent guest conductor at All-County and All-District events in the Southeast.

Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 3:30-4:30, Friday 2-3

Worship and Culture: Engaging an Ever-Changing World with a Never-Changing Message
Throughout history, ministry leaders have struggled with the delicate balance between engaging culture and communicating the Gospel message. A survey of worship history identifies a blueprint of every-changing culture with a never-changing message.

Led by John Kale, who is an Adjunct Professor of Popular Music and Worship Arts at Catawba College. He has a Masters in Worship Studies from Liberty University. He has served as a worship pastor, creative director and ministry
consultant for 16 years. He has worked with a wide range of denominations and para-church organizations; including serving as worship leader at Walt Disney World’s official Easter Sunday service- Easter at Disney.

**Sr. High, Adults: Friday 3:30-4:30**

**Youth to Power, Your Voice and How To Use It**
Join Jamie as she presents the essentials to changemaking, advice on writing and pitching op-eds, organizing successful events and peaceful protests, time management as a student activist, utilizing social media and traditional media to spread a message, and sustaining long-term action. She will share more of her life and journey, what she is learning and give guidance on handling backlash, keeping your mental health a priority, and how to avoid getting taken advantage of. Come learn what effective, healthy, intersectional activism looks like.

Led by Jamie Margolin, who has been organizing and protesting since she was fourteen years old. Now the co-leader of a global climate action movement, she knows better than most how powerful a young person can be. You don't have to be able to vote or hold positions of power to change the world.

**Jr. High, Sr. High, Adults: Thursday 2-3, Thursday 3:30-4:30**