



Metropolitan Association, NY UCC Newsletter

May 21, 2021

Ministering to the
Metropolitan Association
Churches and Ministers

CREATIVITY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT &
COMMUNICATION

EADMIN@METROUCCNYC.ORG

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

50 days after the Resurrection, we find a community of the faithful gathered in one place. They had a single purpose and that was to wait as they had been instructed by the Resurrected Savior. *Wait, with expectation for the coming of God's Spirit. Wait, until they received the power from on high.*

Together, 120 of them, waited. Waiting, whether in a space of anticipation for something positively exciting or in a space of impending doom, is not easy. But that was Jesus' instructions: **WAIT**. Wait for the likes of something never seen. Wait for the ushering in of something fearfully, reverently new.

Last year, we hunkered down, sheltered in place, socially distanced and in many cases, isolated ourselves, grieved grave losses, and waited. Vaccines. Bit by bit, signs of life and light unfold.

PENTECOST! The outpouring of the Spirit. The ushering in of a new era. Power given to those who believe, gather, covenant together until God's Spirit breaks in and breaks us with wind and fire until we, at last, learn how to be in beloved community together. Wait. **PENTECOST POWER IS COMING.**

Rev. Dr. Ruby M. Wilson

FIND OUT ABOUT OUR NEWLY FORMED METRO LGBTQ ALLIANCE! WE ARE PREPARING FOR A KICKOFF FOR PRIDE MONTH IN JUNE.



**CREATIVITY, COMPASSION,
COMMITMENT AND
COMMUNICATION.**

The vision of the Metropolitan Association over the next three years is to enhance the role of the Association in offering resources for congregational connections, mutual learning and spirit filled fellowship that will inclusively reflect the rich diversity of the members, churches and ministers in the Metropolitan Association.

A NOTE ABOUT FELLOWSHIP DUES:

The National Office has recently sent the Association its Per Capita dues statements for all churches.

Your church Annual dues statements will be sent out by June 1, 2021. We are intending to send all statements electronically and follow up with a paper statement for the last time this year.

Please e mail

Eadmn@metrouccnyc.org with the proper e mail address of the person responsible for your local church finances so we can send out the statements by e mail.

Metro Spiritual Life Committee offers the CLERGY CLINIC

The purpose of the Clergy Clinic is to keep clergy connected to the Association, assist clergy with navigating the challenges of ministry and enhance growth.

The SLPC Support for Pastors, Clergy and Lay, partners with the Committee on Ministry to provide essential avenues of communication and prayer.

The team: *Rev. Erv Graves, Rev. Carolyn C. Blair, Rev. Dr. Floyd R. Blair*, are available to ensure that your needs are met.

We are asking that all pastors and clergy update their

information for the directory as requested by the Metro Office.

**Confidential conversations for those who require prayer, supportive ears, resources and tools for church stress, family stress and personal stress.*

(Referrals available for additional support). Individual conferences fulfill Metro Association clergy continuing education requirements (Referrals are available for additional support). Contact us @ metroclergy@gmail.com

CALLING ALL METRO AUTHORIZED CHAPLAINS!

If you are a chaplain authorized in the Association, we need to hear from you. The Spiritual Life Committee and the Metro Chaplains want to connect with you to offer guidance, support and fellowship.

Please e-mail: metroclergy@gmail.com

with your updated contact information and to find out about fellowship opportunities.

Or contact our Metro chaplains:

*Dr. Anesta Vannoy-Kwame disasterchap@metrouccnyc.org
Rev. Erv Graves metrochap@metrouccnyc.org*

KNOW OF ANYONE IN NEED OF FOOD? CHRIST CHURCH HAS A TERRIFIC FOOD AND CLOTHING PANTRY IN THE BRONX?



[Both/And: Maximizing Hybrid Worship Experiences For Online and In-Person Audiences](#)

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021
2:00 - 3:30 PM Eastern
Leader: Jason Moore**

As we begin to think about reopening our church buildings, we want to consider how we can create worship for two audiences at the same time: those who are in the pews, and those who are on their couches. How do we keep both audiences engaged so that neither one feels like they're spectators?

This *new webinar from Jason Moore* will explore:

- Re-imagining worship for both/and
- How to create interactive both/and experiences
- Bringing at home and in-person audiences together in real time
- Alternative opportunities for online audiences watching in-person livestreams
- Repurposing in-person worship for online audiences
- Strategies for adapting practices for both/and
- Avoiding letting your groove become a rut

First 500 attendees who log in will attend the live webinar, all others will receive a link to the recording that will be available for 30 days.

Live attendees will also receive the recording link that will be available for 30 days. **Register soon!**

Faithfully Steering a Closing Church

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3G_I8dkVr_aEtIhkI25xXQ

**Tuesday, June 29
1:00 - 2:00 PM Eastern
Leader: [Gail Cafferata](#)**

LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT WITH METRO CHURCHES?

Community Church of the Pelhams:

We offer a Bible Study, a meditation hour, a prayer time, and a discussion of Art and Prayer on Thursday evenings on a rotating basis, from 7 - 8pm, all on Zoom. but each Thursday evening program has its own separate link. You can contact Pastor Noel Vanek for the Thursday night link at pastorccop@gmail.com

Scarsdale Congregational Church:

Need a service anytime of day or night? View sermons by Dr. Kelly Hogue at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KOfd2IO3y2uDLHcymU1Zw>

Corona Congregational Church has Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday afternoon Bible Study at 1:00 p.m. The Zoom links for both can be found on our website: Coronaucc.org. We also have a Prayer Request tab on the website for anyone wanting prayer.

Safe Haven UCC
SUNDAY NOT SCHOOL
@10AM AND WORSHIP @ 11 am:
<https://zoom.us/j/668777305>
Meeting ID: 668 777 305
Call in:
+16468769923,,668777305#
US ---Meeting ID: 668 777 305



Craving In person worship?

Rev. Dr. Christopher Poonuraj is preaching this Sunday, May 2, 2021 at West Center Congregational at 101 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, NY. **WEAR A MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCE**

From the Practical Resource Center: Re-entering Church After Covid

PLEASE VISIT AND LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HAPPENINGS IN THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION!

Spread the news of all that Metro Association is offering to its members, churches, and ministers!

Share this newsletter with your congregation!

Reach out to us to see how you can get involved and volunteer your time talent and treasure!

Do you have a bright idea or project for us to engage in? Share it by e mailing our Executive Director at eadmin@metronyucc.org

Does your church need pulpit supply? We have a diversity of ministers willing and able to help. Please reach out to eadmin@metronyucc.org or call Rev. Kris Watson on her cell at 646-523-1936.

It appears that soon, our dreams of being together again in church will come true. One of these months we will be able to worship in person! Rather than “starting again right where we left off,” though, it will be important to take into account that this challenging year has changed us all. My colleague Heidi Unruh and I have written a new book Real Connections: Ministries to Strengthen Church and Community Relationships

(available from Judson Press in June) that details how to make your church more richly relational, especially important at a time like this.

Some things to keep in mind as we “re-enter” in-person church together:

Acknowledge the losses:

The New York Times recently reported that one in three Americans has lost someone to Covid. At church, create time and space for people to talk about who they lost during this time—telling stories, sharing photos, talking together to process grief. Other griefs people experienced could include losing a job, changed or cancelled celebrations, being unable to spend time with an elderly relative. The list of who and what was lost is long. Acknowledge what we have learned and the ways we have been blessed.

Also, make room for people to talk about God’s faithfulness and provision during this time as well. What have we learned and gained during this time

apart? What are we grateful for? In what ways did God see us through?

Create new listening and relational activities to help people re-enter

Dialogue groups that meet over a period of time, perhaps with a facilitator; Places where people can place visuals representing losses and gratitude comments, photo, artwork. New times to converse and connect, either before or after worship. Provide questions for people to use to help the conversation along as needed.

Being good listeners and acknowledging what church members have experienced this past year will help make church a welcoming and nurturing place as people return after the pandemic.

Joy Skjegstad is a consultant, author and trainer and can be reached at joynonprofit@juno.com. She consults with churches on vision, strategic planning, community ministry planning and making ministry more relational.

METRO NEWS:

DID YOU KNOW:

Rev. Dr. Donna Schaper is retiring as the senior minister at Judson Memorial Church at the end of May! Be sure to send her well wishes as she continues to lead Bricks and Mortals and is pastoring part time at Orient UCC in Long Island!

Broadway UCC is moving to Lincoln center!

They will install their next Associate Pastor, **Rev. Rebecca Pridmore on May 23, 2021** in their old space at St. Andrews Methodist church before moving to their new space.

Congratulations to **Erica Poellot** on her approval to proceed to an Ecclesiastical Council on May 27, 2021. Blessed with a call to the National UCC to work in the harm reduction team, Erica will also continue to serve at Judson Memorial!

Congratulations to **Amanda Meisenheimer** who was unanimously approved by the Association in Ecclesiastical Council on Wednesday, May 19, 2021

After five years of exemplary service to the Metropolitan Association, Aja Harris has stepped down from her position as Office Assistant to pursue other opportunities. We congratulate and thank Aja for her outstanding work on behalf of the Association, especially during trying and testing times after the death of her trusted mentor, Louise Manigault. Blessings and joy be with her as she moves on.

Job Openings:

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IS LOOKING FOR A PART TIME ASSISTANT

For job description and more information contact our ED at eadmin@metrouccnyc.org

Several churches are looking for technical support and staff to assist them in establishing hybrid worship. If you have these technical skills, please contact our Executive Director at eadmin@metroucc.nyc.org and she will connect you with churches in need.

If you have news for your Metro family, please e mail eadmin@metrouccnyc.org