



February 21, 2021

## Virtual Hospitality – Developing a Welcoming Atmosphere For Online Church

**Feb. 27th**  
**10:00 am—12:00 noon**  
**via Zoom**

*Facilitator: Rev. Cean James*

Did you know that most church members report that they are more comfortable inviting a friend or family member to online worship than in-person worship? Virtual church provides a wonderful opportunity to invite new people to experience your church from the comfort of their homes. It is also important to make sure that you recognize and welcome people when they join your online community for the first time. This workshop will explore ways that we can all be both invitational and welcoming in this “new normal” of congregational life.

This seminar is paid for by your OCWM contributions!

**Registration:**  
**<https://psecvirtualhosp2.eventbrite.com>**



## Allow for the Possibilities

More than one person has said recently, ‘we really don't need a season of lent this year.’ Separation and sequestration and the presence of pandemic death have made the last 365 days feel like a long Lent. Yet with all the suffering the people in our congregations, communities and country are as distant and divided as ever.

“That they may all be one.” It’s not just a motto it’s a mission. More than a mission, it is Jesus’ prayer for humanity (John 15). Bringing God’s people together. That is what we UCCer’s do. The United Church of Christ is committed to an intentional, biblical, and radical hospitality that welcomes a diverse rainbow of people to The Table. To get to that point—and here is where Lent type transformation is required—you and I must reconsider what we think about people because we have hardened our view of others.

Some of Jesus’ first words are, “Repent and believe the Kingdom of God is near.” Think differently and know that the kingdom of God is here. This is where the good stuff of life begins. So, step from the safe space of comfort and rightness and look at the complex mystery of the universe IN and AROUND you.

For instance, the physics and cosmology revolution that is 100 years old. According to physicists, the universe is permeated with movement and energy that vibrates and pulses with access to many dimensions. We are all interconnected, not just spiritually or imaginably, but actually and literally. Yet most of the voices you and I listen to tell us that for countless reasons-- race, political opinion, nation of origin and all the rest-- we are separate. Separate from each other and, by extension, separate from God. This is the lie the Lent is intended to expose.

So, allow for the possibilities that are hard to see through this pandemic; that maybe we can work together. Maybe ALL can be ONE. Jesus said so long before science-- “around the Table, in My presence, you already are.”

*Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister*