

Announcing the Fall 2020 Catalyst Grant Recipients

Arts and Science Literacy Micro Pod Learning

James Wick, jameswick73@gmail.com

Christ UCC, Milwaukee.

This project is a creative pivot of the [Arts Science and Literacy Camp](#) Catalyst funded in 2019. In light of the pandemic, this program has altered its approach to provide safe, socially-distanced, small, in-person learning cohorts within the host church, Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, for some of the most vulnerable learners in the Milwaukee Public Schools. These are learners for whom the on-line school option is difficult for a variety of reasons and this program is creating a safety net for these young people during a difficult school year. We applaud their dedication and creativity. An ecumenical group of congregations, including Christ UCC, provides ongoing support and leadership to this project

The Interfaith Ministries Project

Jeanne Williams, Jeanne@riponcongregationalucc.org

First Congregational UCC, Ripon

This project also represents a creative pivot of a project funded in 2019 by Catalyst. This coming year, Ripon College and First Congregational, UCC in Ripon continue to collaborate to provide “Home Away Families” to students attending Ripon College from all over the world. This effort extends radical hospitality to students from a range of cultures and traditions. During the pandemic the Interfaith Ministries Project’s focus will be on providing ongoing safe and socially distanced social support and to-go meals for international students unable to travel home for school breaks. Work to create an inviting, religiously neutral space within First Congregational, UCC’s chapel continues in anticipation of a time when students will once again be invited to practice their own religious traditions in person and to gather to study and socialize. The Spirit of unity in the midst of diversity is alive and well in and through this project.

The Wisconsin Gospellers International Choir Project

Kimberly Redding, Leadership Team

Contact: wisconsinospellers@gmail.com

The Wisconsin Gospellers is an all-conference choir of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC with a 12+ year history of sharing the gospel and practicing Christian community through multi-generational, cross-cultural rehearsals, workshops and participation in both congregational and community worship in Wisconsin, Illinois., NYC, and Germany. This project is responding to COVID-based limitations by piloting a virtual choir project with faith and community partners during their 2020-2021 program year. The choir will produce two song recordings, one for Advent 2020 and the other for Easter 2021, which will be made widely available. The recordings will represent a collaborative effort between the Wisconsin Gospellers, the Metro Association Choir from the New York Conference, the Gospel & More Choir, in Essen Germany and the

UWGB-Sheboygan/Lakeland University Chamber Orchestra which will provide the accompaniment.

The Rice Lake Area Free Clinic

Nancy Kraft, nancykraft@centurytel.net

Ladysmith UCC

The Rice Lake Area Free Clinic provides free healthcare to the medically uninsured/homeless in Barron, Washburn, Rusk, Polk, Burnett and Sawyer Counties. This clinic has seen a rise in expenses related to COVID-19 and came to Catalyst for support. It was our pleasure to support this clinic with a 10-year history of providing much needed health care in an underserved area of our state. We send our prayers to them as they navigate a particularly challenging year for those who are among the most vulnerable among us during a pandemic. All of the health care professionals currently serving in this clinic do so on a volunteer basis. We invite your prayers for their courageous and important work.

Living God's Shalom

Lex Liberatore, pastor@lakeedge.org

Alliance @4200 (Lake Edge, UCC and Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church), Madison,

Living God's Shalom is a faith-grounded program that leads to discovery of Love's power to create strong interpersonal bonds and community cohesiveness. There is no graduation from this program; it is a life-long learning effort. As the Alliance @4200 continues to live into its vision of actively bridging the racial divide and modeling God's Shalom, they will work together to take the faith and life lessons of Sunday school and expand their influence to include the entire community – a "whole life academy." Catalyst funds will be used to seed funding for a part-time employee who will be responsible for the day to day operation of Living God's Shalom.

Expanding Online Presence/Ministry

Steve Gorton, sgorton@charter.net

Memorial UCC, Fitchburg

COVID-19 has presented an opportunity to Memorial UCC in Fitchburg to expand the use of streaming technology to expand its online presence and ministry and to offer a useful resource to its key building users, including Music Makers – a program of the Wisconsin Youth Symphony to provide musical instruction to disadvantaged youth. They envision a temporary staff position that will bring the technological expertise to the congregation and will help them develop processes and systems to make the most of their technology resources to expand their ministry and to create opportunities for building users and others in their community.

Addressing Systemic Racism through Training and Education

Niki Moore, mikijmoore@gmail.com

Redeemer UCC, Sussex

Redeemer UCC and others from The Cooperating Churches of Sussex, an ecumenical group of seven churches, will engage in Race & Faith's Training program throughout the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. The primary objective is to learn more about the roots and causes of systemic racism and to create together projects and approaches to address systemic racism in their communities.

Addressing Systemic Racism through Learning, Discussion and Creativity

Rev. Christie Mandas, revchristiestjohnsucc@gmail.com

St. John's UCC, Monroe

In the coming year, St. John's UCC will partner with the Multi-cultural Outreach Program of Green County and the Monroe Arts Center for a multi-faceted approach to addressing Racism and White Privilege in their community and schools. The project includes discussion of the book *White Fragility*, a speaker series and culminates in a community-wide effort to create a portable mural.

For more info about Catalyst Grants, check the [Wisconsin Conference website](#) or [contact Tisha Brown](#).