

Creativity, Innovation, & Risk in Faith Formation



April 24-26, 2023

Rhodes Grove Conference Center
7693 Browns Mill Road
Chambersburg, PA

Conference Leadership

Can We Perceive it? ***Creativity, Innovation, & Risk in Faith Formation***

Rev. Dr. Rebecca L. Davis,
Associate Professor of Christian Education at
Union Presbyterian Seminary and Minister of
the Word and Sacrament joins EAPCE for our
2023 Spring Event!



Rev. Dr. Rebecca L. Davis

This event's pragmatic foci are: the arts & faith, educational technologies, nurturing spirituality, curriculum development, & more! Come learn the latest and greatest in Christian Education from the 2018 APCE Educator of the Year.

As we emerge from the strangest two-years of ministry in recent memory, we find ourselves both yearning for what was and the acknowledging the futility of turning back to a way of "being the church" that is long gone. As we sit with the prophet Isaiah, especially in the forty-third chapter, we can hear God word calling to us and we are compelled to ask, "Is the ancient prophet, Isaiah, speaking directly to our current context?" The prophet proclaims on God's behalf,

"I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert."

The questions are, "Can we perceive this new thing?" and "How shall we perceive it?" These questions summon us to consider the formation of faith in a church that lives between **what was** and **what will be**. Whatever answers we find, we know the answers will not:

- Be found in a box of curriculum or
- In a closed off area of what has always been but

**Rather, answers will be found and discovered in the interplay of
CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION and RISK.**

During our time together, I invite you to explore what is possible in this new and strange religious landscape of forming faith when we:

- Cultivate adaptive curiosity that leads to creativity,
- Take a lesson or two from jazz, and
- Consider the difference between INNOVATION and IMPROVISATION

***Come, as we discern together a place where the Spirit does not let
fear outdistance the need to RISK for the sake of the Gospel.***

Conference Leadership

Rev. Dr. Amy Wallace Parker Worship Leader

Rev. Dr. Amy Wallace Parker is the Minister of Education and the Arts at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston, WV. Her work includes curating seasonal art exhibits featuring local artists, producing recorded and live-streamed worship services, creating original liturgical art and creative worship experiences, and vesting the sanctuary for worship. She received her DMin in Arts and Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2018.



EAPCE Scholarship Match

Two retired educators from our region have pledged to match scholarship donations up to \$500.00. That means if we receive \$500.00 in donations, it grows into \$1000.00 to enable more folks to attend the EAPCE spring event. Please consider giving towards this generous gift.

**Donations can be mailed to
EAPCE Treasurer,
Jenny Newman: PO Box 486
Washington, PA 15301**

***Please make checks out to EAPCE
Eastern Region with "Scholarship" in
the memo line.***

Tuesday Morning Workshops: 10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

Workshop #1: Equipping Parents and Guardians

led by Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

While the media is quick to describe today's parents and guardians as stressed, stretched, and struggling; church educators know that we are also searching and seeking. How can we come alongside parents to help both equip them in faith formation while simultaneously strengthening and nurturing their own faith and practice? This interactive workshop will provide background and current information about the challenges, best practices, and realities facing parents and guardians in 2023. As a group, we will workshop some key questions and share resources on how to equip and encourage parents in our church contexts.



Workshop #2: Community Art Workshop

led by Priscilla Andre-Colton, CCE, retired and Colleen Duffy, Associate for Family Nurture, First Presbyterian Church of Newton

Collaborative or community art describes artwork created with a group of people. It can be framed around a theme, an idea, a Bible passage, a phrase. It can be done in a variety of media, including markers, paints, crayons, colored pencils, fabric, and paper. Community art has the potential to build relationships among those who participate. In this workshop we will examine and experiment with methods of doing community art.



Workshop #3: Who is Your Christian

Nationalist Neighbor? *led by John Fea, Distinguished Professor of History at Messiah University*

This workshop examines a growing approach to politics that scholars have described as "Christian nationalism." We will take a deep dive into the religious, political, and cultural agenda of those affiliated with this movement and reflect on how to respond to Christian nationalists in our communities. While it is easy to criticize Christian nationalists for the way they fuse conservative evangelical theology and right-wing politics, this workshop is guided by the premise that one cannot love their neighbors until they understand them.



Tuesday Afternoon Workshops: 1:00-2:30 PM

Workshop #4: Edu-Tech: Beyond Easels, Flip Charts, and Markers

led by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis

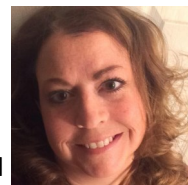
Educational technologies that support the teaching ministry are now essential for educators and pastors as we lean into our new normal for nurturing faith. Let's learn tips, tricks, and tools as we become as comfortable with edu-tech as we are with easels, flip charts, and markers.

Workshop #5: Beyond Brainstorming:

Using Design Thinking in Ministry

led by Jenny Newman, Director of Christian Education., Sixth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

Explore the concept of Design Thinking and dig into how Design Thinking as a process and a mindset can bring new energy, innovation, and creativity to ministry. In this workshop, we will learn about using Design Thinking as a process to help committees, volunteers, co-workers, or groups work together to find new ways of planning, problem-solving, and visioning. We will also explore how Design Thinking as a mindset can strengthen empathy and collaboration. We will discuss the origins and basic elements of Design Thinking, practice together how it can be used when working with a group of people, and identify ways participants can use Design Thinking in their specific context.



Workshop #6: Celebrating Sabbath: Experiencing Calm and Rest in our Call to Ministry

led by Sharon Stewart, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care, Jefferson United Presbyterian Church

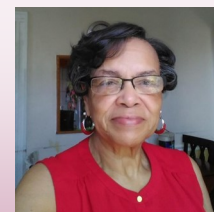
Life is filled with demands and the sense of urgency with the never-ending check list for ministry goals. What does it look like to experience renewal and delight in our relationship with the Holy One? During this workshop, we will explore ways to develop a rhythm of rest and reflection. Allowing time for Sabbath gives us the opportunity to remember what is beautiful and sacred. When we intentionally schedule time for renewal, we gain strength in our re-connection with God who delights in us, our work, and our relationships!



Spirituality Center

The 2023 EAPCE Spirituality Center is a place where, during free time, conference participants can choose to engage in stations that will provide opportunities for intentionality and reflection.

Thank you to **Brenda Alston** for sharing her spiritual gifts with us. Brenda is the administrative assistant at Knox Presbyterian Church in Baltimore City. She has been married for 54 years, is the proud mother of 4 children, and grandmother of 10 grandchildren whom she loves to spoil. She has worked with children all of her adult life and is passionate about their spiritual education. Brenda has done at least 6 prayer walks at her church, one at a Baltimore Presbytery Gathering, and has shared with other churches in the city.



Event Schedule

Monday	April 24	
1:00 pm	Registration and Check-In	
3:00-3:45 pm	Welcome and Community Building	
4:00-5:15 pm	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
5:30 pm	Dinner	
6:45-7:45 pm	Open Spaces/Spirituality Center	
8:00-8:30 pm	Evening Prayer	Rev. Dr. Amy Parker
8:45 pm	Fellowship Options	
Tuesday	April 25	
7:30 am	Morning Prayer	
8:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00-10:15 am	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
10:30am-noon	Morning Workshops	
	#1 Equipping Parents and Guardians	Rachel Pedersen
	#2 Community Art	Priscilla Andre-Colton & Colleen Duffy
	#3 Who is Your Christian Nationalist Neighbor?	John Fea
12:00 noon	Lunch	
1:00-2:30 pm	Afternoon Workshops	
	#4 Edu-Tech: Beyond Easels, Flip Charts, and Markers	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
	#5 Beyond Brainstorming: Using Design Thinking in Ministry	Jenny Newman
	#6 Celebrating Sabbath	Rev. Sharon Stewart
2:30-5:00 pm	Free Time	
4:00 pm	Byron's Book Picks	
5:00 pm	Dinner	
6:30-7:45 pm	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
8:00-8:30 pm	Evening Worship	Rev. Dr. Amy Parker
8:45 pm	Educator Celebration	
Wednesday	April 26	
7:30 am	Morning Prayer	
8:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00-9:45 am	EAPCE Business Meeting	Carolyn Leah
9:45-11:00 am	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
11:15 am	Closing Worship with Communion	Rev. Dr. Amy Parker

Eastern Association of Partners in Christian Education

Creativity, Innovation, & Risk in Faith Formation

Electronic Event Registration here:

<https://tinyurl.com/EAPCE2023>

Deadline: April 3

Back in 2023: Open Spaces

Open spaces are roundtable discussions on a set topic, where anyone can share ideas and learn from one-another. Topics may include: VBS, how to get & keep church volunteers, Confirmation, hands-on youth & kids ideas, & more! We hope you'll choose to spend some down time chatting informally with friends and peers. Share your suggestions for subjects on your registration form!

Scholarships are Available!

◇ To receive a scholarship application email:

jennyrnew@gmail.com

◇ **Due March 15, 2023**

New This Year: Early Arrival Option

Are you looking for a little more downtime after a tiring journey to Chambersburg? Consider extending your Sabbath with our Early Arrival option!

\$95 includes breakfast and lunch on Monday and Sunday night's stay.

Please note: No meals are available on Sunday.

Join us as we honor Retired Saints and Educators of the Year Awards for 2023

Hearts and Minds Bookstore

Books and resources will be available to purchase through Hearts and Minds Bookstore all 3 days of the event.

**Masks optional; subject to change based on circumstances.*

EAPCE SPRING EVENT 2023 REGISTRATION

Name (as desired on your nametag) _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Church/Position _____

APCE Member? Yes _____ No _____

First time attendee? Yes _____

Are there any dietary or special needs? _____

WORKSHOP CHOICES: (circle one for each time slot)

10:30 AM #1 / #2 / #3 1:00 PM #4 / #5 / #6

Open Space suggestion: _____

Conference Fees:

(Includes Conference, Keynotes, Workshops, 2 nights lodging and 5 meals and snacks):

Early Arrival (\$95) _____

Double Room (\$415) _____

Single Room (\$480) _____

Commuter.....\$160 3 day (meals included) _____

.....\$115 1 day (meals included) _____

Add \$40 for non-APCE members _____

Conference Fee Total _____

Roommate Preference _____

May EAPCE use your image in publicity? Y or N?

May EACPE share your name & email with other attendees? Y or N?

Cancellations: Cancellations can be honored only if made 10+ days before the event.

Please complete and mail registration with check payable to APCE Eastern Region to:

Jennifer Newman, EAPCE Treasurer

PO Box 486

Washington, PA 15301

Deadline to Register: Monday, April 3, 2023

Questions: easternapce@gmail.com