



**APCE Annual Event 2023**  
 January 25-28, 2023  
 Birmingham, Alabama

Are you tired? Worn out? Walk with me and work with me.  
 Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

[www.apcenet.org](http://www.apcenet.org)

## APCE Annual Event 2023 Online Workshops

### Workshop Schedule

#### Thursday, January 26

10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.      Workshop A  
 2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.      Workshop B

#### Friday, January 27

1:30p.m. – 3:00p.m.      Workshop C  
 3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.      Workshop D  
 1:30p.m. – 4:30p.m.      Workshop E (Extended)

### On-line Workshop Information

This document provides descriptions for the 14 workshops that are part of the online component. Please read each description carefully before making your selections. Some of the workshops will be presented in a hybrid format; you will be joining the in-person workshop via Zoom. The other workshops will be available via Zoom to online component participants only.

You will be able to attend only the workshops for which you register. It is important to plan for second choices as some workshops have limited spaces available. As you register, the system will alert you if the workshop is full and prompt you to choose a different workshop.

On Friday, Workshops in the C and D blocks are 1.5 hour workshops; workshops in the E block are 3.0 hour workshops. You may register for one workshop in C and one in D OR one workshop in E.

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## Thursday, January 26 – Workshop A

### 10:00a.m. – 11:30a.m.

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#### **406. Foundation Building in Children and Youth Ministry**

##### **Jo Nygard Owens**

Foundation building is vital for any ministry to thrive, but it's often overlooked or put off. In this workshop, you'll learn the key pieces to include in your foundation for children and/or youth ministry and a helpful guide to shoring up the foundation of your ministry. **Hybrid format**

*Jo Nygard Owens is the founder of Vibrant Church Communications where she creates resources to help make ministry both vibrant and easy. Jo lives in Cleveland, OH with her husband and two kids. She is passionate about seeing the holy in all moments and the divine spark ignite in children and youth.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

#### **415. The Language of Grace**

##### **Elizabeth Boulware Landes**

In this workshop we will together seek to answer the question: "What does it look like when we live a life that reflects the rhythm of grace and how do we teach and model this for all ages in the church?" Internalizing the rhythm of grace allows us to blur the lines between secular and holy. **Hybrid format**

*Rev. Elizabeth Boulware Landes is Pastor at St. Paul Presbyterian Church in North Richland Hills, Texas. Elizabeth is passionate about sacramental education and exploring how we live this in and out of the church walls.*

- Bible and Theology
- Faith Formation/Discipleship

#### **503. Creative Worship Practices**

##### **Sandy Safford and Cindy Moorman**

This workshop will explore creative worship practices for the commissioned pastor and/or small church leader. It will examine incorporating visual arts into your space and order of worship, dressing the Lord's Table, and using prayer practices and interactive hands-on practices. Participants will learn to create generative practices into their worship experiences. **Online only format**

*Sandy Safford has served as Commissioned Pastor and Educator for almost 10 years in a small congregation in Eastern Colorado. She loves living in Colorado and spending time outside.*

*Cindy Moorman has served over 25 years in Faith Formation Ministry and is a Commissioned-ready Lay Pastor. She lives in Colorado with her family and loves being creative.*

- Creative Arts
  - Worship and Music
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## Thursday, January 26 – Workshop B

### 2:00p.m. – 3:30p.m.

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#### **422. Meet the Freedom Riders**

In the spring of 1961, a small interracial band of “Freedom Riders” set out to challenge discriminatory state laws and local customs that required a separation of the races on buses and in bus station facilities, like waiting areas, lunch counters, and restrooms. Their journey was dramatically opposed by white supremacists who viciously attacked the Freedom Riders on multiple occasions.

Through the media, the nation and the world witnessed the violence. Images, like that of a firebombed bus burning outside Anniston, Alabama, shocked the American public. Although only thirteen Freedom Riders started the journey, they inspired hundreds of others to join their cause. In the end there were over 400 Freedom Riders. Come hear their stories directly from a panel of Freedom Riders. **Hybrid format**

- Mission and Social Justice

#### **426. Engaging Children and Youth in Matthew 25**

##### **Jenna Campbell**

Explore a Matthew 25 emphasis for children's and youth ministry. Learn creative ways to engage children and youth in Matthew 25:31-46. Leave with ideas to adapt for your context (and for adults too!) and materials for hosting a Pay It Forward challenge to empower young people as world-changers. **Hybrid format**

*Jenna Campbell is a certified Christian educator serving as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma. She is passionate about empowering children and youth to put their faith in action.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Mission and Social Justice

#### **504. Five Simple Steps for New Christian Educators**

##### **Suzie Lane**

This workshop looks at the who, what, when, where, and, most importantly, why of faith formation. Participants get practical tools for managing day-to-day tasks, ways to be connected to other educators, and ideas for sustaining their energy. This workshop is for both new and experienced educators. **Online only format**

*Suzie Lane is the Program Director for GenOn Ministries, where she writes and edits training materials and curriculum. Suzie is retired from over twenty years of Christian education in small and large middle Tennessee church settings.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

#### **510. PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters with Jesus**

##### **Betsy Ensign-George and Olive Mahabir**

With a radical, inclusive, and hope-filled message to his community, Luke highlights the universal scope of Jesus’

message and the inclusivity of God's love and salvation. Participants will explore the grace-filled theme of the 2023–2024 PW/Horizons Bible study in Bible study with the author. **Online only format**

*Betsy Ensign-George is associate editor on the staff of Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc.*

*Author Rev. Olive Mahabir is Associate Pastor for Adult Spiritual Growth and Pastoral Care, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Roswell, Georgia.*

- Bible and Theology
- Faith Formation/Discipleship

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## Friday, January 27 – Workshop C

1:30p.m. – 3:00p.m.

**Choose one workshop from C and one workshop from D  
or one workshop from E. You cannot choose from C and E.**

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### **419. Build on Your Strengths: Churches and Mental Health**

**Talitha Arnold**

Through presentation and participant engagement, the workshop provides the Biblical basis, practical training, and current research on the church's role in mental health, along with ways to identify and build on what your congregation already does to foster mental health and help prevent suicide. **Online only format**

*Rev. Talitha Arnold is Senior Minister of United Church of Santa Fe (UCC). A graduate of Yale Divinity School, she is a founding member of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and co-led its Faith Communities Task Force for ten years.*

- Bible and Theology
- Mission and Social Justice

### **511. Sustainable Compassion: A Retreat for Caregivers**

**John Pavlovitz**

To be compassionate is to bleed, to feel deeply for the damage around you and to be moved to respond to it. This is a beautiful and invaluable instinct, but it is costly too. There is a toll the trauma of the world takes on us when we seek to step into that dangerous space and to work for healing and justice. In days when so much need is at our doorsteps and on our news feeds, how do we attend to it all without becoming overwhelmed and consumed by it? How can we cultivate hope when it is hard to come by? Join pastor and author John Pavlovitz for a time of authentic conversation on how to be safely burdened with the pain of this world and what to do when you've exhausted your resources. **Hybrid format**

*Reverend John Pavlovitz is a writer, pastor, and activist from Wake Forest, NC. Over the past six years his blog, *Stuff That Needs To Be Said*, has reached a diverse worldwide audience, recently passing the 100 million views mark. A 25-year veteran in the trenches of local church ministry, John is committed to equality, diversity, and justice - both inside and outside of faith communities.*

- Leadership
- Spirituality

## 512. The Grace of Story

**Elizabeth Caldwell and Carol Wehrheim**

The rhythm of reading the Bible is nourishing for people of all ages. The practice of reading the Bible with children and engaging biblical stories in ways that invite children to want to know more is a graceful act. Come engage stories and learn how contemporary biblical scholarship is made available to children. **Hybrid format**

*Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Caldwell is an author, teacher, quilter, and gardener. Her most recent books are *Wondering about the Bible with Children*, and *God's Big Plan with Theodore Hiebert*. She has been APCE Educator of the Year and President.*

*Carol Wehrheim is an active member and elder at Nassau Presbyterian Church where she is a storyteller for children in worship. She is an author, curriculum writer and editor, educator, and long time member of APCE.*

- Bible and Theology
- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Spirituality

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## Friday, January 27 – Workshop D

3:30p.m. – 5:00p.m.

**Choose one workshop from C and one workshop from D  
or one workshop from E. You cannot choose from D and E.**

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## 420. Building and Maintaining Resilience

**Kathy Riley and Pat Ashley**

This workshop addresses the resilience needs of faith leaders in the midst of the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. It will focus on practical ways to support participants' own resilience and tools to support others, including self-care and spiritual practices. **Online only format**

*Rev. Kathy Riley is a clinical psychologist and an ordained minister in the PC(USA) who serves as the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care. Kathy has responded to natural and human-caused disasters.*

*Rev. Pat Ashley is a retired PC(USA) minister and spiritual director. She has been a member of the volunteer National Response Team of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for over 10 years.*

- Leadership, Spirituality

## 525. What to Do When the Kids Are Few

**Tori Smit**

Many of our churches have ten or fewer children and struggle as they try to use programs designed for 100's of

kids. It's not working! Together we will consider six best practices for ministry with few children that take the emphasis off Sunday school and place responsibility with the whole church. **Hybrid format**

*Tori Smit serves as Regional Minister for Faith Formation with the Presbyterian Church of Canada (PCC). She has written a broad variety of curriculum, keynoted and led workshops across North America, and taught at CTS, Emmanuel and Knox Colleges. She's a committed Louise Penny fan.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

### **526. Opening Doors to Discipleship**

**Rebecca Guzman and Jessie Kuehner**

Have your teachers been the victims of a Google search about Reformed theology? Do you struggle with helping your leaders understand basic educational principles? Do you need a quick refresher yourself? Come see how we are Opening Doors to Discipleship with many options that require 10 minutes or less. **Hybrid format**

*Rebecca Guzman is the Director of Spiritual Formation at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. She also serves as the Opening Doors to Discipleship liaison to the APCE Communications and Resource Ministry Team.*

*Jessie Kuehner is Family Ministry Director at First Presbyterian Church in Pearland, TX. She has been a Youth Director and Christian Education Director in churches for ten+ years and is working towards educator certification in the PC(USA).*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

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## **Friday, January 27 – Workshop E**

**1:30p.m. – 4:30p.m.**

**Extended 3-Hour and Off-Site**

**Choose one workshop from E. You cannot choose from E and C or D.**

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### **535. Teaching for Understanding and Engagement**

**Rebecca Davis**

Teaching in the church has changed little in the last 70 years. This hands-on practicum explores a new approach that shapes identity, nurtures meaning-making, and engenders faithful living in the world through transformative pedagogy and propositional curriculum so that our lives embody our faith. **Hybrid format**

*Rev. Rebecca Davis is a professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte. She is a Teaching Elder and certified Christian Educator who intentionally bridges the false divide between theory/theology and the practices of ministry.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

