

**2024  
APCE  
Annual Event**



**St. Louis, Missouri  
January 24-27,  
2024**

## **APCE 2024 AE Online Workshops**

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**Thursday, January 25 – Workshop A  
10:45a.m. – 12:15p.m.**

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### **101. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!**

Come enjoy being a learner rather than the leader in an advanced Bible study of texts from the Gospel according to John. We will use various approaches of interpretation to delve deeper while also benefiting from engaging in contemplative practices and exploring various ways liturgy interprets scripture. This Bible study continues through four workshop blocks and is designed with seasoned and retired educators/pastors. If you choose this workshop track, you will sign-up for workshop 101 (A block), 301 (C block), 401 (D block), and 501 (E block).

*The Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski is the Sr. Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian in Fort Worth, TX. In addition to serving the congregation and the larger church, Michael has served as adjunct professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Brite Divinity School. He was honored as APCE's Enrich Educator of the Year in 2020.*

### **103. Elephant, Ostriches, and Cows, Oh My!**

#### **APCE ENRICH Educator of the Year**

Why is it that we so seldom discuss the elephant in the room? In recent years, churches have opted to shut down instead of addressing the uncomfortable issues that may be contributing to their decline. Like an ostrich burying its head in the sand, we pretend that decreasing attendance, divisive topics, financial shortages, and other issues might magically disappear. And then, there are the Sacred Cows, considered untouchable traditions that limit creativity, innovation, and new possibilities. This workshop will explore common challenges and provide opportunities for individuals to identify their own "elephants, Ostriches, and Cows" and consider ways to overcome the limiting nature of Elephants, Ostriches, and Cows. Participants will engage in group discussions, breakout sessions, and presentations to brainstorm practical solutions and best practices for building a more robust, thriving church community.

*This workshop will be led by APCE's 2024 ENRICH Educator of the Year.*

- Leadership

## **107. Innovation 101**

### **Karen-Marie Yust and Erin Reibel**

With so much change happening around the church, figuring out how to meet the evolving needs of individuals and families often calls for innovative strategies. But just because we know change is needed doesn't mean we know what kind of change or how to make it happen. Come explore the innovation process, from deciding what is no longer working to identifying needs, developing ideas, garnering support, trying them out, and refining them over time. We'll help you answer questions like "How do I figure out if an idea 'fits' my context?" and "What makes something innovative?", as well as "What prevents innovative ideas from getting off the ground?" and "How do I know if an idea needs adjusting or just more time to gel?" We'll also share stories of successful innovation projects from our work as the Children's Spirituality Research and Innovation Hub and talk about the power of innovation cohorts for enriching and sustaining new ideas.

*Karen-Marie Yust, Th.D., is the Rowe Professor of Christian Education and Director of the Children's Spirituality Research and Innovation Hub at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is passionate about helping congregations discover new ways to be faithful in ministry and has studied and practiced innovation for three decades.*

*Erin Reibel, D.Min., is the Associate Director of the Children's Spirituality Research and Innovation Hub at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Her expertise in organizational leadership support her work identifying potential innovators and organizing the Hub's innovation projects.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

## **109. Long Distance Grandparenting**

### **Kerry Byrne**

Millions of grandparents live at a distance from their family. But distance doesn't have to mean distant. Come and join us for a unique webinar about how to create and nurture strong bonds from a distance. Learn how to design your "Grand Path to Connection" (i.e. Plan, Partner, Prepare, Play, and Preserve). Dr. Byrne will share practical, yet meaningful ways to move towards more intentional, consistent, and engaging relationship with your grandchildren -- no matter the distance between.

*Kerry Byrne, PhD, is a researcher and entrepreneur in aging, care and connection. She is the founder of The Long Distance Grandparent, a mission driven business helping grandparents strengthen relationship with their grandchildren. Kerry believes that strengthening intergenerational connections within families is critical to creating a more caring, connected, and less ageist society.*

## **117. Wonder of Worship Workshop**

### **Kathy Dawson**

If you were given a million dollars to enhance the participation of children in corporate worship or to nurture their prayer lives, what would you do? The Wonder of Worship Project through Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) answers that question with ways that your congregation can partner with CTS to benefit the worship and prayer lives of the children you serve. In this workshop we will explore what we've learned through the focus group phase of this project and introduce you to the initiatives that will take place over the next five years that will enhance your children's ministry and connect you with others who are also doing this work through regional gatherings and media support.

*Kathy Dawson, Ph. D., is a certified Christian Educator and ordained pastor in the PC(USA). She currently serves on the faculty at Columbia Theological Seminary and is project director for the Wonder of Worship grant project through Lilly Endowment. She loves spending time with her dog, Hope, and making regular visits to Disney World.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Worship and Music

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## **Thursday, January 25 – Workshop B**

### **2:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.**

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#### **204. Creating Worship Art on a Shoestring Budget**

**Grace Cox-Johnson**

This workshop will examine several different techniques for creating worship environments that cost very little money if any. We will also explore ways to acquire supplies and materials at very low costs. There will also be time allowed for a small hands on project that will demonstrate how easy it is to create a quality product at little or no financial burden.

*Grace Cox-Johnson is the Director of Music at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Raytown MO and the Artist-in-Residence at Community Christian Church in Kansas City MO. She has served the greater church creating vestments, banners, and paraments for over 35 years.*

- Creative Arts/Recreation

#### **205. Dying With Dignity...A Workshop with Regard to Protecting Life in Death**

**Dana Moulds**

Death is the greatest mystery known to humankind! Unlike birth, that welcomes and celebrates new life, death is shunned, frowned upon, and even viewed with disdain. The certainty that we will die, coupled with the complete uncertainty of when, how, or what happens beyond death is truly a fantastic paradox. We live in a death-denying culture. How we personally have experienced death is reflected in how we engage others during times of death and/or the dying process. As the Church is called to meet the caregiving needs of its congregation and surrounding communities – by journeying alongside those experiencing death in its varied expressions – it must be considered, is the Church reflective of who it's called to be "on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10b)," as the living embodiment of "a new heaven and a new earth" (Rev. 21:1)? Alua Arthur, Going With Grace Founder, asks the question, "What must I do to be at peace with myself so that I may live presently and die gracefully?" This workshop asks, "Who must the Church become in order to extend compassionate presence, cultivate courageous conversations, and make meaningful connections while accompanying the other during the death and dying process?" Through critical discussion, group talk, and role play this workshop aims to: \*Help participants reach a theologically and critically informed understanding about death and dying. \*Act as a catalyst in helping participants identify and use their spiritual gifts, in service to and support for care seekers, when experiencing their most vulnerable times of need in death and dying.

*Dana Moulds, M.Div/MACE is a recent graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Dana occasionally serves as Minister at CN Jenkins Presbyterian Church. Vocationally, Dana is a Death Doula and currently*

*on the path toward becoming a Chaplain. Dana is a mother of three young adults, and a pup named Hiccup.*

- Leadership

## **212. Fresh Elastic for Stretched Out Educators**

**Anne Wilson**

Interact with a group of APCE Educator of the Year and Life Achievement Award winners as they share what they as “Seasoned Educators” have learned over the years. Benefit from what they know now that they wished they had known when they first started and what they have learned from past “failures.” If you have fresh seasoning to add or if you are a fresh, new-to-the-job educator, please join us! A time for Q & A will also be allotted.

This workshop will be approximately 1.5 hours.

*The panel will be moderated by Anne Wilson, a seasoned educator from Houston, TX. Anne has served 3 different congregations and is a Past President of APCE and the 2017 Life Achievement Award winner.*

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## **Friday, January 26 – Workshop C** **11:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.**

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### **301. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!**

Come enjoy being a learner rather than the leader in an advanced Bible study of texts from the Gospel according to John. We will use various approaches of interpretation to delve deeper while also benefiting from engaging in contemplative practices and exploring various ways liturgy interprets scripture.

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### **303. A Whole New World: Paracosms in Christian Education**

**Lynn Miller**

Paracosms are highly detailed, imagined worlds developed by one or more persons and revisited often. The Bronte sisters developed paracosms, and C.S. Lewis and his brother “Warnie” developed a paracosm, complete with a written history and artifacts. They didn’t return to that world after they became adults, but, of course, C.S. Lewis created imagined worlds that many of us have visited on the page and on the screen. Often, paracosms are dismissed as play, but Christians create a paracosm every time we imagine a world where people “come from north and south and east and west and sit at table in the Kingdom of God.” Paracosms can be more than entertainment. They are excellent tools for teaching

everything from ethics and theology to the SEL skills that make all of us better citizens in this world. In this workshop we will consider what paracosms are, looking at some of the more famous ones in literature and the arts, as well as the research findings on individuals who develop paracosms. We'll consider the ways that paracosms can enhance aspects of Christian Education in the church and look at strategies and prompts for helping people (including participants!) develop their own paracosms.

*Lynn Miller holds degrees in graphic design, art history, and studio art. She also holds the MFA in Creative Writing, creating a poetry collection about church architecture as her MFA thesis. A native of Mississippi, she currently serves as pastor of the Limestone Presbyterian Church, Gaffney, SC.*

- Creative Arts/Recreation

### **306. Crossed Wires: Misunderstandings from Families and Faith Leaders Regarding the Spiritual Needs and Desires of the Contemporary Family**

#### **Cheryl Minor**

As Christian religious institutions of all sizes and kinds emerge from the shutdowns enforced by the Covid-19 pandemic, many ask, "Where are the young families? What can we do to get them back? Why are they choosing not to come? What are we doing wrong?" All of this is leading to a high level of burnout for lay and ordained leadership. Everyone is looking for answers. This workshop will give some answers to these questions, sharing research conducted with both caregivers and congregational leaders. Data revealed that congregational leaders perceive the lack of engagement from families as a lack of interest at best and, at worst, a devaluing of spirituality and faith over and against other pursuits. However, caregivers revealed that they deeply value spirituality and issues of faith. Current parents are the children of yesterday's church whose experiences were less than positive and sometimes even hurtful. Today, these parents feel a need to do something different. As a result, they are not disinterested in spirituality. They just aren't convinced institutionalized forms of instruction and formation are the best choice for their children. Perhaps the isolation of Covid-19, for better or worse, further validated this assumption. How do we bridge the gap? Join us as we consider some potential pathways for congregations looking for new ways to meet the needs of families.

*Dr. Cheryl Minor, is the Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood, for the Godly Play Foundation. She recently published, "Godly Play in Middle and Late Childhood," and articles in the International Journal of Children's Spirituality and in Religious Education.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

### **310. Faithfully Navigating Sexuality Education for Your Congregation**

#### **Christy Williams**

This workshop will both explore the essentials of a faithful sexuality program with youth and will create a model plan for each person's own congregation. Participants will consider research on the positive effects of sexuality education in the church and then will collaborate on ways to integrate this aspect of faithful living into their own faith formation programs. Bring a bible, and something with which to take notes. Play doh will be provided.

Offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association (PYWA).

*Christy Williams is a certified Christian Educator with a MA in Christian Education from PSCE and a Doctor of Educational Ministry from CTS, where her final project was on the sexuality education program she facilitated in a congregation for three decades. Christy is the Organizational Administrator for PYWA, the*

*Director of Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and an adjunct staff person for the Montreat Youth Conferences. If you see Christy at home, she is probably walking her dog, Jack.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

### **312. Living Water - The Sacraments from a Child's Perspective**

#### **Craig Kunkle Kunkle**

In Hebrews 12 we read that faith is a lifelong race. Come explore the traditional meaning of the sacraments and how, putting those theological understandings into language children can understand, can create lifelong disciples. When adults and children understand that baptism is our "saying yes" to the race, the Lord's Supper is the water stations along the way, and the race itself is our struggle to bring justice, inclusion, reconciliation, and hope to the world. We will unpack the theology around the sacraments, explore the meaning and purpose of our Christian call as a group, and collaborate on ways to talk about the sacraments with children.

*Craig Kunkle is the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford NY. He is a proud graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary with an MDiv.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Worship and Music

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## **Friday, January 26 – Workshop D**

### **2:30p.m. – 4:00p.m.**

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### **401. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!**

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### **413. The Holy Spirit – More Than Pentecost – Lots More!**

#### **Debbie Hough, Joyce MacKichan Walker, and Keith Sundberg**

When three long-time church educators agreed to work on the Holy Spirit section of Opening Doors to Discipleship, they had no idea the adventure the Spirit would take them on. From the waters of thirst to the fire of inspiration, we would like to invite you to join us on that adventure by first exploring the Holy

Spirit in the Old Testament. This exploration will then inform the Spirit's work in the New Testament, the Church, and in our lives and education work today. Just be careful – you may become inspired, too!

*Debbie Hough is a retired Certified Church Educator and 2014 APCE Educator of the Year. Most recently she has been supply preaching and worked on Reformed Theology portion of Opening Doors to Discipleship. In her real life, she collects dolls, loves cats and the blues!*

*Joyce MacKichan Walker is a retired certified Christian educator in the PCUSA and APCE's 2008 Educator of the Year. She was ordained as a pastor in 2007 to a role in education and mission at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton NJ, where she served for 30 years.*

*For Keith Sundberg retirement has afforded him time to continue to teach. He is grateful for educational ventures with Debbie and Joyce over the years, and to APCE for the Educator of the Year Award in 2019.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

#### **416. Vacation Bible School: A Flyaway Framework**

##### **Meg Rift and Cathy Hoop**

A story about Moses' sister Miriam? A blue elephant's transformation? A red coat or a red dress? What would a Vacation Bible School look like using Bible stories and children's picture books? Flyaway Books embrace diversity, inclusivity, and compassion, exploring themes of social justice, emotions, character, and values. Focusing on Bible stories and faithful practices that arise from the themes of these children's picture books we will present a framework for a VBS using common a VBS structure of stories, games, crafts, music, and snacks, as well as engage participants in the creative process to generate additional ideas.

Offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC).

*Meg Rift is a pastor, educator, editor, and creative soul currently serving as the Children's Curriculum Editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky. She loves being a part of the collaborative process of faith formation, particularly with children.*

*Cathy Hoop is pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Holland, Michigan. Art and justice and dogs and her grandchildren are just a few of her passions.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

#### **417. Water in the Desert of Transition**

##### **Mason Todd and Katie Todd**

Sustaining ministries for a church in the throes of pastoral transition can be tricky, draining, and also quite confusing. This workshop provides participants with a birds-eye view of the transitional process as it pertains to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Using real-life illustrations from congregations in transition, participants will learn the steps through which a church moves in conjunction with a presbytery, as well the steps through which pastors move as they are either departing or entering a congregation. With the understanding that long-term volunteers and support staff may be heavily relied upon by both transitional pastors and new pastors alike, this workshop is designed to offer such church leaders the space to ask questions, share from their experiences, and learn from experienced transitional pastors. This workshop hopes to acknowledge and empower the ministries of those on whom the congregation might lean the heaviest during transitional time, as well encourage and sustain their gifts and skills so that they as leaders (and the congregation as a whole) might thrive during the desert time of pastoral transition. This workshop also encourages clergy who might be considering a transition to participate

and learn, as well. Time-allowing, this workshop will also introduce participants to the CLC system of the PC(USA) which is used for connecting churches who are searching to pastors who are seeking new calls.

*Rev. Mason Todd is a transitional pastor in Salem Presbytery and serves as the Chair of the COM Committee on Transitions in Ministry. He is one-half of The RevsTodd, a partnership with his clergy spouse that seeks to provide resources and curricula to congregations and ministries of any and all sizes.*

*Rev. Katie Barrett Todd is the Executive Director and Campus minister at UKIRK Greensboro, serving college students in Greensboro, NC. She is one-half of The RevsTodd, a partnership with her clergy spouse that seeks to provide resources and curricula to congregations and ministries of any and all sizes.*

- Leadership

#### **419. What's the Mission? Youth Thirsting for Justice**

**Bill Buchanan**

How do we describe the “mission” of the church to our young people? When we go on the annual youth mission trip, what are we hoping to accomplish? Join Bill Buchanan, Executive Director of the non-profit ministry Youth Mission Co, along with other YMCo staff, as we discuss together the role of mission immersion in Christian formation. This interactive workshop will include the history of Christian mission, the distinction between acts of charity and justice, and how we can help youth discern their calling to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

*Bill is a Christian educator, pastor, and life long youth worker. He is the Executive Director of the non-profit ministry Youth Mission Co. Bill lives in Asheville, NC and loves enjoys live music, barbecue, and craft beer.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

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

### **9:00a.m. – 10:30a.m.**

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#### **501. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!**

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### **505. Ex Nihilo - Creating a Lesson or Study When No Curriculum Exists**

**Julia Boyce**

Do you have an idea for a faith study you would like to lead but no curriculum already exists? Come learn about a process to transform your idea into the reality of a multi-week study or single lesson, which is reformed, multi-sensory and engaging. Whether your original idea is from an existing book or film, or is a nugget from a conversation or lecture, you can put together an excellent learning experience. This approach to creating a learning event from a germ of an idea is applicable whether you teach adults, youth or children.

*Julia A. Boyce is a retired Certified Christian Educator in the PCUSA. She earned her Masters of Religious Education at Perkins Theological Seminary, SMU. Julia served as the Director of Christian Education and the Resource Center in Grace Presbytery for 15 years. She continues teaching adults at her home church, First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, TX. Julia lead teacher training in India with Sunday School teachers of the Church of South India in 2005. While there she learned the value of creating a lesson with minimal resources.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

### **507. Planning Our Escape: Putting Together Your Next Retreat**

**Joel Winchip**

Regardless of the age groups served by your ministry, getting away for a retreat is so important. The setting is an incredible place for fellowship and Christian education. This workshop will look at the logistics that go into planning a retreat for youth, adult, and intergenerational groups. The session includes tips on scheduling, structure, and programming (including free curriculum resources). Offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA).

*Joel Winchip is the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association and Campfire Collective. He also serves on the adjunct faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA), where he teaches their camp/conference ministry and recreation courses.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

### **509. PW/Horizons Bible Study Workshop: The Bible and Environmental Justice**

**Betsy Ensign-George and Patricia Tull**

According to Scripture, the earth and its members belong to God. We are called to care for creation not only because God loves it, but also because a healthy creation supports human well-being. While the biblical writers knew nothing of modern forms of environmental degradation, they did express deeply held views about social justice and even land justice. Humans are part of creation, and what impacts creation impacts us, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Explore these themes of the 2024–2025 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible study on Environmental Justice with author Patricia K. Tull and editor Betsy Ensign-George. The study encompasses justice regarding land, food, water, and air, as well as climate change, environmental justice for future generations, and visions of a sustainable future. Everyone will leave the workshop with resources to lead others in the study.

*Betsy Ensign-George is on the staff of Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA) and has edited PW/Horizons Bible studies for over 10 years.*

*Patricia K. Tull is A.B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Hebrew Bible, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, and author of Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

## **512. Time with Children 101: The Hows, Whys, and for Whoms**

### **Carol Wehrheim and Corrie Berg**

This workshop will present a theology and practice of children's sermons. The goal is to give worship leaders concrete skills, supported by a theoretical understanding of the role of the children's sermon in worship. We will discuss why object lessons so often fall short of their goal and present an argument instead for telling the stories of our faith to the children (and adults) of our congregations.

*Carol Wehrheim is author, editor and workshop leader. She was the 2001 APCE Educator of the Year. Her publications include Feasting on the Word Children's Sermons for Years A, B, and C.*

*Corrie Berg has been the Director of Educational Ministries at Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ, for several years.*

<<Corrie is moving this summer so we will want to update this later.>>

- Worship and Music