

**2024
APCE
Annual Event**



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

APCE Annual Event 2024 Workshops

Workshop Schedule

Thursday, January 25

10:45a.m. – 12:15p.m. **Workshop A**
2:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. **Workshop B**

Friday, January 26

11:00a.m. – 12:30p.m. **Workshop C**
2:30p.m. – 4:00p.m. **Workshop D**

Saturday, January 27

9:00a.m. – 10:30a.m. **Workshop E**

Workshop Selection Tips

Choose carefully! You will be able to attend only the workshops for which you are registered. Rooms have space limitations, and leaders prepare materials in advance based on actual registration numbers.

It is important to plan for second (and possibly third) 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.

To continue through the registration process, you must select a workshop in each block. If you choose not to register for a workshop in a block, select “No Workshop.”

Thursday, January 25 – Workshop A

10:45a.m. – 12:15p.m.

101. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!

Michael Waschevski

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, Texas. 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.

- Faith Development/Discipleship

102. Drink Deeply of the Psalms of Wonder

Meg Rift and Christina Berry

In a hands-on workshop, come explore *Psalms of Wonder* at retro and contemporary centers. You may discover music, make art, delve into questions, create movement, and explore other ways to engage with and reveal new dimensions of the psalms. This new children's book by Wallace and illustrated by Khoa Le (Flyaway Books, 2023) appeals to all ages and can be used in home and church settings, individually or in groups. This workshop is both playful and meditative. Offered in partnership with Presbyterian Publishing and Learning Cooperation.

Meg Rift is a pastor, and creative soul currently serving Presbyterian Publishing Corporation as Women's Curriculum Editor in Louisville, Kentucky.

Christina Berry is the pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Sterling, Illinois. She is a leader in her community's arts and social justice programs. Christina also leads her German Shephard, Blue, in rousing carpool karaoke.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

103. Elephants, Ostriches, and Cows, Oh My!

APCE ENRICH Educator of the Year

Why Why is it that we so seldom discuss the elephant in the room? Like an ostrich burying its head in the sand, we pretend that decreasing attendance, divisive topics, financial shortages, and other issues might disappear if only we worked a little harder, added another program, and resurrected the Sacred Cows of

yesteryear. Warning: Elephants come with side effects – including exhaustion, a sense of being overwhelmed, and perhaps finding yourself on the brink of giving up on the church altogether.

As educators, we face challenging times. However, we can find solutions that don't require additional time, money, or energy. Together, we will explore scriptures, share stories, analyze current research, and acknowledge the possibility that God is already working on a solution. This workshop experience aims to provide you with renewed energy, optimism for the future, and valuable resources for your session or faith formation committee. Always remember that "God is Good!"

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

- Leadership

104. Films for Teaching and Engaging in Social Justice

Edward McNulty

"O Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked exult?" (Psalm 94:3) Victims of racism, violence, sexism, and such are among those thirsting for justice and crying out for relief from their oppression. Film can put a human face on social justice issues, so workshop participants will explore, with the aid of film clips, stories of rebellion against oppression. Participants will be helped to develop "eyes that see" more in a film than just entertainment, indeed, that some filmmakers can be considered as prophets with a camera. Thus, the films to be explored will be through eyes educated by the Scriptures in the belief that the God who spoke through a burning bush, a seer's donkey, and disturbing dreams of misfits still seeks to speak to and call us, sometimes even through a film. These films are like the parables of Jesus, meant to challenge, disturb, and inform, hence their being labeled as visual parables. Participants will leave with a list of over 1200 films--dramatic and documentary--that probe forty social justice themes. Recent films, as well as older and classic films will be explored, including so-called "children's films," such as Babe, The Iron Giant, and Zootopia.

Dr. Edward McNulty, a Presbyterian pastor, currently lives near Dayton, Ohio. Author of fourteen books, his articles on film and the arts have appeared in many Protestant, Catholic, and secular journals. Film critic for Presbyterian Life for 10 years, he writes two annual articles about film for the Presbyterian News Service. He edits Visual Parables.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

105. Holy Disruptions: Using Everyday Disruption as the Foundation for Faith Formation

Andrew Mochrie

Recognizing the role of teenagers as practical theologians and their ability to engage in robust theological dialogue born out of disruption and disorientation. Why seeing that rhythm of theological reflection as a means of faith formation is not only important but can lead to innovative, relevant, and growth-minded youth ministries. How we can empower youth to not be passive observers of their faith but active participants, theologians who engage scripture, the world, and their actual lives in real and active ways?

Andrew Mochrie is the Director of Theology Together for the Center for Youth Ministry Training. Andrew is a youth ministry veteran passionate about engaging teenagers in theological reflection and the impact it can make in our congregations and communities. As Director of Theology Together he fulfills that passion by managing its initiatives and programs.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

106. How to Find Joy, Not Exhaustion, Through Innovation

Meghan Hatcher

It's no secret that ministry leaders and the communities we serve have journeyed through the wilderness over the last few years. Many are fatigued, parched, and thirsting for new life in our ministries. In this season, talk of ministry innovation is all around us and commonly sold as a "quick fix" that relies on shiny, new ideas. But too often, attempts to innovate leave leaders feeling burned out, exhausted, overwhelmed, and frenetic. Innovation is not simply a problem-solving process or survival strategy. It can be a generative source of joy, growth, and transformation for faith communities when approached from the ground up. In this workshop, you'll be introduced to the role your faith community's organizational culture plays in fostering or hindering innovation. To borrow a metaphor from Jesus and gardening, a faith community's organizational culture is the soil into which an innovative seed is planted. Your faith community must learn to tend the soil before you'll be able to enact change effectively. Doing so greatly increases the likelihood innovative ministries will take root and lead to positive transformation in people's lives. This workshop will equip you with language and a tangible process for exploring the impacts of your ministry setting's organizational culture. You will learn how to discern appropriate next steps so innovation becomes increasingly possible in your unique context. This workshop is for any ministry leader – volunteers, staff, clergy, and lay-people.

Meghan Hatcher is the director of the Innovation Laboratory. She has served diverse faith communities through pastoral leadership, youth ministry, new church development, community engagement, and ministry innovation. She holds degrees in journalism; sustainable development and applied sociology; and a Master of Divinity. Meghan lives in Austin, Texas with her spouse Corey and an Australian Shepherd named Luna.

- 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

108. Listen, Learn, and Act for Change: A Tween Summer Experience

Michele Holifield

Are you thirsty to create a program for tweens in your ministry setting that steps away from the traditional VBS week? Do your tweens want to be involved with your summer programming, but are thirsty to find where God is calling them, and use their voices for action and change? Come to this hands-on workshop to learn about creating a week of learning and action for tweens in your community. The workshop will include discussion, hands-on activities, and a take home manual for you to use to create your own week of fun and learning.

Michele Holifield serves as the Director of Operations and Community Engagement at First Presbyterian Church Arlington Heights. Michele is passionate about educational ministry in the church and works each summer to lead the tween VBS program now titled Holy Troublemakers (formerly Mission Factory).

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

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.

- Other

110. Making Space for Neurodiversity in Young Adult Ministry

Michelle Scott-Huffman

Neurodiversity is a relatively new term that recognizes the diversity of processing, learning, and behavior that exists in humanity. Neurodiversity includes people who are "neurotypical," "neurodivergent," and the many who are somewhere on a spectrum in between. Statistics suggest that 15-20% of our population is neurodivergent, an umbrella term including dyslexia, autism, ADHD, dyspraxia, and other neurological conditions. The presenter's experience in campus ministry suggests that the estimate of 15-20% is probably low, as young adults are now more commonly seeking diagnoses to help them

understand their cognitive function and how some of their needs can be better accommodated. Ekklesia Campus Ministry embarked on a grant funded project entitled “A Celebration of Neurodiversity” to become aware of the ways that their ministry was failing to truly welcome neurodivergent students and how they could be more intentional about creating spaces that celebrate neurodiversity within the ministry, across the campus, and in the local churches with which they are connected. This workshop shares some of the learnings from the project and explores the steps that local churches and other ministries can take to expand their welcome, both programmatically and in terms of physical space. Come learn how you can make these important adjustments to your ministries and widen the circle of your welcome.

Offered in partnership with UKirk Collegiate Ministries.

Rev. Michelle Scott-Huffman is the director and campus minister of Ekklesia, an ecumenical campus ministry serving several public and private universities in Springfield, Missouri. Her passion is sparking intergenerational conversation that encourages innovation and collaboration in our collective faith journey.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

111. Making the Children's Moment Meaningful

Lisa Witherspoon

On Sunday mornings, do you invite the children to come to the front of your worship space for a special message? Do you need some guidelines, some encouragement, or some new ideas (maybe just any ideas) to help make this time more meaningful and enriching? We know that Jesus welcomed children and we all make baptismal promises to guide children in their faith formation, but that is not always easy to do – especially in the context of a worship service. In this workshop, we will explore the challenges of presenting a children's time in worship, explore some ways to address those challenges, think about logistics and developmental appropriateness, and brainstorm some new ideas to try out in your own context.

Lisa Witherspoon is the Director of Children's Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. She has a background in Child Development and is passionate about welcoming children of all ages and abilities into faith formation.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Worship and Music

112. Parenting Faith: Supporting Faith Formation at Home

Lesli van Milligen

Recent studies by Andrew Root, Christian Smith, and The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada have examined what supports North American parents expect from their faith communities when it comes to supporting and resourcing faith formation in the home. These studies have given evidence of a deep disconnect between what church educators think parents need and what parents say they need. Parents/caregivers have repeatedly indicated that they do not need more resources and are satisfied

with the manner in which they are supporting the faith formation of their children while practitioners

continue to report discipleship gaps in biblical literacy and the ability of students to articulate what their Christian faith means to them. All is not lost. Far from being a doom and gloom scenario, this workshop will explore where parents/caregivers indicate they seek parenting support (and it is not the church), how a North American culture of self-discovery or actualization has impacted caregivers the ability to share their faith with their children, and how the digital world is continues to impact their faith formation efforts. Together we will literally create new strategies for helping families and churches work together in this new climate. Participants will leave with at least five actionable ways to re-engage parents in their faith communities.

Rev. Lesli van Milligen is the Canadian Director of Congregational Ministries for the Christian Reformed Church. Lesli has pastored churches in both the US and Canada before taking on the role of supporting congregational renewal and cradle-to-grave Faith Formation programming throughout North America.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

113. Resilient Spirituality

Linda Reynolds

What are the rhythms and rituals that hold your life together? What do you do to sustain them? There seems to be much that is destabilizing the rhythm of our lives and the world in which we live. How do we maintain and grow our faith through the ups and downs of life while growing the roots that go deep into our ever-changing understanding of who God is? This workshop will consider how we cultivate restful moments and opportunities for restoration and transformation in our personal lives and as a model for our ministries both life stage and intergenerational. Workshop time will include practical rituals, creative experiences, and take a-ways for exploring our longing for restoration and transformation.

Linda Reynolds is ordained in the United Church of Christ. She is currently retired and serves her home church, Kirkwood UCC, supporting Faith Formation/Intergenerational ministries. Linda is a former AUCE Board member. She is currently consulting with several UCC churches visioning their Intergenerational Faith Formation for the future.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Creative Arts

114. This Is Not Just Fun and Games

Joel Winchip

You cannot just hand a game book to your church leaders and say, "Have fun." Recreation leadership should be a part of the training for your youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, and childcare workers. So how do we give those folks a crash course in the basics? Discover what is to be attempted and avoided as we look at the fundamentals of recreation leadership. This workshop also covers some tried-and-true activities that your leaders could share at your next youth, adult, or intergenerational event. Offered in partnership with 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.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

115. Using Faith Practices to Deepen the Discipleship Experience of Church Members and Volunteers

Trudy Ash

This interactive workshop will explore different methods of weaving faith practices into all areas of church life (worship, Sunday School, youth groups, mission projects, etc.). Participants will hear stories and experience themselves how the faith practices of Sabbath, Gratitude, Hospitality, Engaging Scripture (and more!) can be modeled, taught, and experienced in congregations as an intentional way of living and being with God as individuals and as a community.

Trudy Ash is the Regional Catalyzer for the Midwest region of the Christian Reformed Church of North America. Trudy is passionate about helping the local church thrive by supporting and encouraging congregations in all areas of ministry, from faith formation to outreach.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

116. What the Church Can Do to Minister to Persons Living with Dementia and Their Caregivers

Pat Baker

Alzheimer's or other types of dementia are scary for the person living with the disease as well as their caregivers. Ministry for and with persons with dementia and their caregivers can be an uncomfortable prospect if you have no experience being around persons challenged with these diseases. This workshop will bring about some comfort and hope for an effective ministry with God's "confused" angels and the ones caring for them.

Offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN).

Pat Baker, MS, is the Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucker, Georgia. She is a trained caregiver specialist with expertise in dealing with dementia and caregiver support groups.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

117. Wonder of Worship

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

118. Writing for Renewal in a Thirsty World

Julie Hester

Are you thirsty for a way to pay attention to God's presence in your life? In this workshop, we'll use writing as a spiritual practice as we reflect on the themes of the conference and the poetry of Mary Oliver. In her collection titled "Thirst," Oliver explores grief and faith, all mirrored in her love of the natural world. With her poems as prompts, we'll write about our own thirst for justice, life, kindness, and joy, and the ways God meets us every day. During a busy conference, join with others to take a deep breath, listen, write, read, and be refreshed.

Fee: \$7

Rev. Julie Hester is a pastor and writer in North Carolina, specializing in curriculum and faith formation. She leads workshops on writing through grief and writing as a spiritual practice, and scribbles online at www.juliehester.com.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

Thursday, January 25 – Workshop B

2:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.

202. Art and Faith

Mark Montgomery and Leslie McCarthy

Using the art installations from the 2024 Annual Event, as well as those dreamed by class participants, we will explore materials, construction, and installation of art pieces that interpret scripture texts and themes for a deeper understanding of faith.

Mark Montgomery is a Pastor currently serving at Wilton Presbyterian Church, Wilton, Connecticut. His focus is on emerging leadership models with a focus on co-pastor and bi-vocational opportunities for churches and pastors. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Mark is a cradle Presbyterian and happy to be back among the Presbys with his last two calls. From local church, to regional ministry, Montreat to Triennium, to APCE, Mark is grateful for the opportunities that welcome him back to the PCUSA, and their partners, and the good work that God is doing among the faithful here.

Leslie McCarthy is a creative spirit with a sense of adventure and play thrown in the mix. Leslie owned and operated a large home dec fabric store for 26 years, and now as a retired business owner, she is free to volunteer, play and create with like hearted friends. She would say that she is primarily a textile and fiber artist but loves to play with wood and paint for a little variety. Her passion is creating fun and funky

bright colored furniture and home decor...because every house needs a conversation piece! Leslie's wonderful husband is Jeff... the one that supports all her crazy ideas!

- Creative Arts/Recreation
- Worship and Music

203. Building a Real Welcome for All God's People: LGBTQIA+ People and the Church

Brian Ellison and Slats Toole

This workshop offers biblical and theological foundation and practical help in ensuring the church's full welcome and embrace of LGBTQIA+ people. We'll acknowledge the different ways our churches have addressed issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and how views have changed. We'll consider particular acts of hospitality we can take with our words and deeds to strengthen our congregations and our common life for all people. The workshop includes a basic overview of terminology, deeper theological reflection, and practical tips. Participants will share ideas and shape the content through their interests and needs.

*Brian Ellison has served as Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians since 2012, preaching, teaching, and providing overall strategic leadership in implementing the organization's mission seeking welcome and affirmation of LGBTQIA+ people, fostering and navigating difficult conversations, organizing, and advocating for transformation. He previously served for 13 years as pastor of Parkville Presbyterian Church in the Kansas City area, where he still lives with his partner Troy and their delightful dog daughters, the recalcitrant Willoughby and the dopey-but-cuddly Sage. Slats Toole (they/them) is a writer, musician, preacher and theater professional currently based in the Twin Cities. They serve as co-moderator of the board of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. Slats' Lenten poetry series has been compiled in the collection *Queering Lent*, and their work has also been published in places like *Call to Worship*, *The Presbyterian Outlook* and *Sacramental Life*. Slats has led workshops on expansive language and queer theology (with a particular emphasis on gender identity) throughout the United States and Canada, Slats makes their home in Minneapolis with their partner Mads.*

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

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 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, Missouri and the Artist-in-Residence at Community Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. 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 seeks to meet the caregiving needs of its congregation and surrounding community, how is the Church reflecting alongside those experiencing death in its varied expressions – it is the Church reflective of who it's called to be "on earth as it is in heaven" (Rev. 21:1)? This workshop aims to help participants reach a theologically and critically informed understanding about death and dying and 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

206. Innovative Practices in Children's Ministry

Karen-Marie Yust and Erin Reibel

As educators, we are thirsty for new ways to nurture faith. Yet, we would also like to know that the ideas we hear about have been tested and refined. We want to understand how a practice works and the reasons behind various components. And we wonder how to make sure a practice is a good 'fit' for our setting. This workshop, led by Children's Spirituality Hub staff from Union Presbyterian Seminary, invites participants to drink from our wellspring of innovative practices. We'll teach you three practices (Holy Listening, Embodied Prayer, and Questions?) designed and tested in multiple settings through the Hub. Holy Listening is a one-on-one practice with young children that uses a finger labyrinth, symbol stones, and a hand blessing to explore centering, emotions, and spiritual connections. Embodied Prayer involves movement-based prayers designed to help children experience spiritual connection with self, others, the natural world, and God. We tested a set of six themed prayers (Connection, Empowerment, Wonder, Awareness, Empathy, Justice) with groups ranging in size from 6 - 100+ kids. Questions? uses a set of infographic cards to help parents recognize the types of spiritual questions children are asking and guide families in exploring those questions together. You'll learn how the practices work, as well as the child development and education theories that shaped their design. We'll also show you how to integrate these ideas into existing ministries, as well as create new components (your own embodied prayer scripts) and approaches (using holy listening with groups) to fit your needs.

Karen-Marie Yust, Th.D., is the Rowe Professor of Christian Education and Director of the Children's Spirituality Hub at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She has studied children's spirituality for more than two decades. She is the primary architect of the Hub's research collaborations and writes most of the content for www.RealKidsRealFaith.org.

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

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

207. Knitting as a Spiritual Practice

Kirk Dunn

Join Kirk Dunn, aka The Knitting Pilgrim, after he performs his one-man show of the same name, to talk about the miraculous transformation of a single strand into a fabric stitched with care, intention, and love. In this workshop, Kirk meets the participants at their skill level—beginner to advanced—and looks at three spiritual applications of this accessible artform: mindfulness, ministry, and craftivism. Each application is explored through small group brainstorming, knitting exercises, and free pattern/how-to handouts which participants can use to start a program of their own. Kirk will encourage and empower knitters to be the change they want to see in the world. Participants will leave the session with a deeper appreciation of what they can do for themselves, and, more importantly, for others... through the accessible craft of knitting.

Kirk Dunn, aka "The Knitting Pilgrim," is an actor, writer, knitter, and elder in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. His one-man show has toured places of faith and theatres in Canada and Europe. He has been a speaker at the Parliament of World Religions, Aga Khan Museum, and the PCC General Assembly.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

208. Monuments and History: The St. Louis Gateway Arch

Carl Horton

We'll visit the St. Louis Gateway Arch as tourists, but as educators we'll dig deeper to examine what it can teach us about colonialism, Manifest Destiny, and other challenging parts of our national and church history. This offsite workshop will equip us to learn from and look more carefully at the monuments in our own communities.

Fee: \$30 (includes transportation to and from the Gateway Arch and a ticket for the tram to the top of the Arch)

Carl Horton serves as the Coordinator for Mission for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. He spends his spare time as a backyard farmer, dog-wrangler, and piano student. He never has enough hours in the day for everything he wants to do.

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

209. Slavery and the Underground Railroad in Missouri and Illinois

Julie Nicolai

I will discuss the above-referenced topic, present questions/discussion points, and encourage dialogue to enlighten ways in which enslaved people were able to escape bondage. Faith, hope and trust in God guided them through their perilous journey. African American spirituals, many of them adapted and still used in our churches today, contained coded references to the next destination, etc. The theme will be how human dignity and perseverance trump unjust "laws" and systematic brutality. The goal will be to leave with a renewed sense of justice and ways we can overcome injustice in our world today.

Julie is a local author and historian. She is a member of the Presbytery History Team and The Dismantling Racism and White Privilege Team of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. She helped write An Apology to Our African American Sisters & Brothers for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy, which was adopted by the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) General Assembly in 2022.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

210. Thirsty for Belonging: Teens and Adults with Disabilities

Evelyn McMullen and Hunter Steinitz

This workshop will open the window into the lived experience of people with disabilities. Come and hear their questions. Learn how to listen to the experience of people with disabilities in your community.

“What is your relationship with us and our families? We may be Included, but do we really Belong?”

“We are thirsty...Do you notice when we are not there? Do you know if we are sick, or if we just need transportation?”

“Do you know that we are looking for relationships, not a separate program with a label?”

Through our stories and our conversations, this workshop will equip you to walk beside us as we navigate the transition from being teens to living as adults in our communities. You will learn “best practices” for making your congregation a community of Belonging where our gifts and leadership are valued. The workshop will include small group time. Leaders from Presbyterians for Disability Concerns will facilitate conversations about implementing “best practices” in your congregation or community. Our spirits are renewed by community – a community which filters the barriers to our participation in Christ’s abundant love and grace.

Throughout her 40-year ministry Evelyn Worth McMullen (Certified Educator and DEdMin) paid attention to people on the margins of congregations and communities. Evelyn founded a non-profit to help churches include people with disabilities. She is retired now, enjoying family in NC, and still serving through Presbyterians for Disability Concerns.

Hunter Steinitz is a 2022 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She was keynote speaker for the 2022 FIRST Conference (Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types). Hunter now heads up a new venture in leadership development with teens living with disabilities. She joined Presbyterians for Disability Concerns in January 2023.

- Leadership

211. Walking Empowered Through Grief

Kate Meyer

Too often Christian grieverers are rushed to focus on the promise of heaven rather than faithfully navigating the process of grief, but grief is not a season of either/or. In this workshop, meant for grieverers and helpers alike, participants will learn how to move through grief in a way that honors both their faith and the truths God reveals in the psychology of grieving. Phases of grief will be introduced and several tools will be taught to assist participants in learning the foundations of grief and faith, what emotions are, why it is crucial to embrace emotions, and why one's spiritual life is so central to the grief journey. Fee: \$5

Rev. Kate J. Meyer, LPC is an author, public speaker, and ordained minister in the RCA. She is the author of Faith Doesn't Erase Grief, as well the novel, The Red Couch. Kate lives in West Michigan with her husband and chocolate lab, and she is passionate about bring grief into the light.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

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.

Friday, January 26 – Workshop C

11:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.

301. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!

Michael Waschevski

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.

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.

- Faith Development/Discipleship

302. A Well-Loved Life: Honoring our Story

Zeena Regis

According to current research, 56% of Americans have not communicated their end-of-life wishes to their circle of support. This reality often leads to adverse outcomes at one of life's most sacred times, including a higher likelihood of dying in a hospital, unwanted and invasive end-of-life treatments, and inadequate pain management throughout the dying process. The lack of planning and conversation can also complicate the grieving process and impact spiritual and emotional health. It is important to start

the conversation. Yet, the societal focus on the individualist, legalistic, and monetary aspects of advanced care planning is often off-putting to many people of faith. Embracing the process's spiritual, communal, and cultural elements can offer a new lens through which we can view end-of-life care planning. End-of-life planning can be a life-affirming and generative process that improves our lives in the here and now and for future generations. This workshop will provide tools and resources to transform end-of-life planning into a spiritual practice.

Offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN).

*Zeena Regis currently serves at the Faith Engagement Manager for Compassion & Choices. Prior to her role with Compassion & Choices, Zeena served as a hospice chaplain and grief care coordinator for almost a decade. Zeena was selected as 2021-2022 fellow in Collegeville Institute's Emerging Writers Mentorship Program. She serves on the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary's Older Adult Ministry Certification program. Her training includes a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Agness Scott College and a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. Zeena is also a playwright and her latest work, *A Free Black Women's Guide to Death & Dying*, was selected as the Synchronicity Theatre's arts incubator project and premiered in May 2022.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

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 a 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, South Carolina.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

304. Becoming a Neighborhood Church

Robert Mueller

This workshop is a practical primer on how to reengage in meaningful and missional relationship with the neighborhood around your congregation. Many congregations began as neighborhood churches, drawing membership and ministry directly from the community where the church was planted. Over time, members move, and neighborhoods transition. The original connections are often lost, and the church can struggle to re-connect with the new reality in the hood. Rev. Mueller will draw upon over thirty years of experience working in one congregation and neighborhood to reestablish and maintain meaningful and missional relationships that bless the families of the neighborhood and the congregation.

Rev. Rob Mueller is the pastor of Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, Texas, a bilingual inner city congregation. Rob has been a passionate advocate for local ministry and outreach within the communities where our congregations live. He is co-author of Neighborhood Church: Turning your congregation into a powerhouse for mission, the PCUSA Moderators Book of the year in 2020 and a resource for the Mathew 25 initiative.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

305. Caring for Creation Together

Rodney Haveman

This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of community organizing with the purpose of organizing houses of worship to work together to build a critical mass of buildings and projects to negotiate the best rates and prices for transitioning to renewable energy. The workshop will also include a basic introduction to the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Act, which provide non-profits and religious organizations money to do this work. In addition, the workshop will provide a basic introduction to how this work in renewable energy can be a force for outreach in your community. Finally, the workshop will try to include examples of how the principles of community organizing can provide benefits to every area of your ministry, including discipleship and faith formation.

Rev. Rodney Haveman is a community organizer with New Jersey Together and an RCA pastor, who is helping houses of worship and non-profits build coalitions to care for creation through renewable energy.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach
- Other

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

307. Demystifying Young Adult Ministry

Michelle Scott-Huffman

Who is nurturing your young adults in their faith formation when they go off to college or begin a trade? Learn how you can be more engaged in the lives of students during these formative years and commit to investing in these emerging church leaders now. This workshop demystifies young adult faith development and equips local churches to connect with and support young adults in the area. Intentional attention given to the faith formation of people at this integral stage of development helps the individuals to find their place in church and society more readily and to thrive once they are there. It also helps the church to understand what it means to make space for the gifts and wisdom of young adult leaders. This workshop draws on insights from campus ministers, sociologists, and others who work regularly with emerging adults. Among the many topics covered are stages of psychosocial development, stages of faith development, patterns and cycles in young adult life, and a 4-phase process that many young adults experience on their way from the embedded faith handed down to them to the deliberative faith that they claim and practice in their adult life. Offered in partnership with UKirk Collegiate Ministries.

Rev. Michelle Scott-Huffman is the director and campus minister of Ekklesia, an ecumenical campus ministry serving several public and private universities in Springfield, MO. Her passion is sparking intergenerational conversation that encourages innovation and collaboration in our collective faith journey.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

308. Embracing Neurodiversity (ADHD, Dyslexia, and Autism) in Ministry

Allie Atchison

In our ministries we are seeing more and more students who have ADHD, Dyslexia, and Autism. As a mother of an autistic daughter and a Children's Director, I am passionate about embracing neurodiversity in the Church. When we create spaces to welcome those on the spectrum of neurodiversity, everyone benefits. We will cover basic tools and strategies in Christian Education for neurodiversity and how to partner with families.

Allie Atchison is the Director of Children and Family Ministries at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Castle Rock, Colorado. Allie is passionate about teaching children they are loved unconditionally by God and welcoming everyone for who they are, all the while having fun.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

309. Engaging All by Creating a Welcoming and Safe Space for Children and Youth in Your Community

Megan Higle

Finding creative ways to engage the community around you through children/youth programming during the year. We will look at some successful programming and ways to leverage the relationships in your community to build a space of safety and comfort for the people who live closest to your church building.

Megan Higle is the CE Director at Lansing First Presbyterian (Michigan) as well as the Director of Music. Megan is passionate about teaching and equipping young people with tools to live their lives "in the world" as they grow and discover their own talents and gifts.

- Worship and Music
- Community Building Through Children/Youth Programming

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 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 (Presbyterian School of Christian Education) and a Doctor of Educational Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary, where her final project was on the sexuality education program she facilitated in a congregation for three decades. Christy is the Organizational Administrator for the Presbyterian Youth Workers Association (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

311. Finishing Well: Gracefully Exiting Ministry Leadership

Jodi Craiglow

Presbyterians spend a lot of time and energy onboarding vocational and volunteer ministry leaders – we’re really good at training, credentialing, and orienting folks at the outset of their respective journeys. However, when it comes to “offboarding,” we don’t typically have much strategy or structure in place – which can leave our siblings adrift as they search for their new identity and purpose. In this workshop, we will help you think through the purpose, significance, and usefulness of ministry transitions. We’ll also walk through methods to help you ensure that leaders will “finish well.” (Spoiler Alert: It takes a LOT longer to do it well – and we need to start a LOT earlier – than you might think.)

Jodi Craiglow holds a PhD in Educational Studies with a focus on organizational leadership. She is an elected member of the PC(USA) Committee on Theological Education and recording clerk for Chicago Presbytery, and has written articles for Presbyterians Today and The Presbyterian Outlook.

- Leadership

312. Living Water – The Sacraments from a Child’s Perspective

Craig 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, New York. He is a proud graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary with a MDiv.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Worship and Music

313. Ministry with Children in the Garden

Konnie Vissers

What would it look like to live in a world where children were able to experience fullness of life in the here-and-now? Drawing on practical work starting the “Children’s Garden” in Hamilton, Ontario, I will offer insights into what it looks like to minister with children in the context of an urban garden. Gardening as a spiritual practice with children nurtures their resilience potential, but also lays the groundwork for a robust spirituality that can continue into adulthood. This workshop will consider psychological resilience and the role of spirituality in the context of the garden. Additionally, it will cover how food insecurity and environmental racism threatens child well-being and calls for the church’s response. This workshop will bring together theoretical insights rooted in real ministry practice and practical tools for others to use gardening as a spiritual practice with children. Participants will come away with the tools necessary to start children’s gardens in their own ministry contexts and the

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insights to promote outdoor children's ministry as a sustainable opportunity for local churches to connect with their communities and the planet.

Rev. Konnie Vissers is currently working on her PhD in practical theology at University of Toronto—Emmanuel College specializing in children's spirituality and trauma. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario with her partner (Grant), two daughters (Ana and Evie), and trusty labradoodle (Capt.). Together they hike, camp, and garden the summers away! She also serves as the Minister-in-Association of Knox Waterdown and the Executive Director of the Children's Garden Collective.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach
- Creative Arts/Recreation Other

314. Psalms that Refresh

Lib Caldwell and Mollie Donihe Wilkerson

Are you thirsty for time for your soul? Are you seeking space and time to prepare your heart and your hands for leading others through the season of Lent? Then come participate in an interactive art experience. Visio Divina is a spiritual practice of sacred seeing. It invites us to see with our hands, our eyes, and our spirits what God is saying to us, what God invites us to be doing in this world. Our souls are quenched, our thirsts are satisfied when we spend time with biblical texts, engaging texts with our heads, our hearts and our creative spirits. In this workshop you'll have a chance to sit with and respond to psalms that are read during the five weeks of Lent. Each psalm will be engaged using a variety of materials including fiber, paper, paint, beading, stitching, and simple weaving. Yes, you should come if your soul is parched. Yes, you should come if your soul needs nourishment so you can nourish others during Lent. Yes, you should come if getting messy and creative with art is what you love. Yes, you should come if you are terrified of engaging in media with which you are not familiar. Come and be refreshed!

*Elizabeth Caldwell enjoys reading, writing, quilting and gardening after retiring from teaching at McCormick Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt Divinity School. She is the author of *Pause, A Lenten Journey with the Psalms* (WJK Books, 2024). Lib especially enjoys conversations and creating with her friend and co-teacher, Mollie Donihe Wilkerson, a gifted artist.*

Mollie Donihe Wilkerson is a textile artist born and raised in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Southwest Virginia. She received a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School where she met Lib, her friend, mentor, and co-creator. She was selected as Creative Director and Artist-in-Residence at the 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Working primarily with secondhand and upcycled fabrics, Mollie's pieces are often tactile, inviting interaction and contemplation. Find her at molliedonihe.com or on Instagram @molliedonihe.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Creative Arts/Recreation

315. Quenching Spiritual Thirst of Your Congregation

Renda Brinson

We all thirst to be closer to God. One way to satisfy this thirst is to find ways that connect us to God through spiritual practices that we enjoy doing. Spirituality Centers are wonderful at retreats, APCE

Conferences, and other special settings. But, we do not always have a Spirituality Center in our church. They do not have to be a huge expense or elaborate - they just need to be meaningful. This workshop will allow participants to learn a few simple exercises that can be used in your ministry setting. Instructions for a variety of centers for your own ministry will be included. Following this workshop, you will be equipped to return home and set up a Spirituality Center for your congregation to experience. Come prepared to experience new ways to quench your spiritual thirst for you and your ministry.

Renda Brinson, CCE is the Director of the Resource Center for Union Presbyterian Seminary used by students and the Presbytery of Charlotte. Renda enjoys all needle arts and papercrafts and finding ways to share them in ministry. Renda is the current Past President of APCE.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

316. Upcoming Trends in Faith Formation

Thom Bower and Kim Nagy

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) Board of Directors will share projections of upcoming trends in faith formation. The AUCE Board has been tracking community (as faith formation), inter-generational practices, and increasing call for lay training, because these have growing trends in the UCC; these will likely be keystones. After sharing reflections from AUCE Board members, we'll facilitate a forum.

The Board of Directors of the Association of United Church Educators is a diverse group from across the United Church of Christ.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

317. Thirsty for Gathering that Matters

Vickie Dieth

We're gathering in-person again, but as we move further away from the pandemic, do our gatherings feel different? Should they feel different, or is getting together like we used to the goal? In her book, *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why it Matters*, Priya Parker challenges us to reconsider the whys and hows of getting people together. While not written specifically for church leaders, Parker has much to offer us as we invite people to deepen their relationships with Christ and with others. If you are thirsty for gathering that matters, and if you're responsible for gathering people who matter, join us as we apply Parker's work to our own contexts. While not required, participants who have read Parker's book before the Annual Event will get the most out of our time together.

Vickie Caro Dieth, D.Ed.Min., is the Director of Educational Ministries at First Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Georgia and a Ruling Elder in the PC(USA). She loves baby giggles, purring cats, sleepy Saturdays, and warm, gooey chocolate chip cookies.

- Leadership

318. Where Do You Belong: Creating Ministries of Belonging and Solidarity with LGBTQIA+ people **Sarah Leer**

We are all seeking a place to belong and be seen fully and authentically. Too often, church workers are overwhelmed by the demands on their time and the complexities of working within an ever-changing social, political, and ecclesiastical landscape. Dr. Sarah Leer (she/her), an educator, former youth worker, and practical theologian will invite youth workers, educators, and pastors to engage in practical conversations of affirmation and belonging through the lens of abundance. We will discuss safe and brave spaces, LGBTQIA+ affirming terminology, and resources to affirm and celebrate LGBTQIA+ people in our midst. She will discuss ways adults can share power with youth and young adults with intentionality in order to increase belonging in faith communities. Sarah believes transformation comes from engaging discussion, creativity, collaboration, and vulnerability. She believes conferences like the APCE Annual Event provide rich opportunities for deep theological discussion and opportunities to learn together. This workshop will create a space to learn together while also equipping participants with tools/resources/frameworks to deepen/ express belonging in their spaces and institutions.

Dr. Sarah Leer (she/her/hers) is a native Arkansan who has served PC(USA) churches in Austin, Dallas, and NW Arkansas. Sarah is a graduate of Wake Forest University, Columbia Theological Seminary, and the Clinton School of Public Service. She is a practical theologian and educator who is living into her call to seek liberation, justice, and belonging in solidarity with those living on the margins. Sarah enjoys singing Broadway songs in her car, random road trips, traveling, hanging out with her family, SEC college football, and youth conferences that include energizers.

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

319. Your Year of Youth Ministry in a Box **Emily Powers**

Running a successful youth ministry takes a lot of planning and organizing! There are forms, procedures, policies, and flyers needed for everything. What if all of that was right at your finger tips? We've created Youth Ministry in a Box: everything you need for a year of youth ministry. This workshop is designed to help you start your year off right: analyze what you already have and what you're missing, then imagine how these tools can strengthen your ministry. We hope this will save you time, so you can focus on the relational aspects with your youth and families! You get to take home your "box" too! Offered in partnership wwith the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association (PYWA).

Emily is the Director of Children's and Youth Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington Kentucky. She is member of the Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association (PYWA) Board. Growing up in the PC(USA) world, she is a self-proclaimed Presbyterian nerd, who is passionate about mission, social justice, and education for all ages.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

Friday, January 26 – Workshop D

2:30p.m. – 4:00p.m.

401. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!

Michael Waschevski

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.

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.

- Faith Development/Discipleship

402. Act your Size! Congregational Size and Ministry Effectiveness

John-Peter Smit

One of the most important ways to understand your congregation is by its size. More important than theology or denomination, understanding the implications of your size has a direct bearing on your programming, your decision making, and your ministry. This workshop offers those in leadership the opportunity of both a more effective and a more efficient ministry.

The Rev. Dr. John-Peter Smit is the Regional Minister for Congregational Health for the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. His passion with ministry transition and effectiveness. John-Peter loves to travel and play with old cars.

- Leadership
- Program and Ministry Development

403. Come to the Deep Wells of Middle Eastern Hope

Billie Sutter and Ann Brunger

Do you need a boost of hope in your ministry or personal life? Come be filled with hope as Middle East Christian Educators reflect on the challenges of their ministries. Come be reminded of the place where Christianity was birthed and first shared with others. Come hear about life in the midst of economic collapse, wars and conflicts, social disruption, political chaos, and natural disasters. Come especially to hear how Christians in the Middle East continue to witness to the hope they find in Jesus Christ. You'll hear from Rev. Najla Kassab (Director of Christian Education for the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) and the President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches WCRC); Rev. Dr. Rima Nasrallah van Saane (Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at the Near School of Theology

(NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon); and Rev. Mathilde Michael Sabbagh (Pastor of the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Al-Hassakeh, Syria). These Educators have led, and continue to lead, their communities with spiritual strength and grace through very difficult times. Their ministries influence people around the world, as well as their home communities. Through scriptural reflection, table conversation, and video visits with these three amazing women, participants will hear about ministry in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq and the hope that sustains our siblings in Christ in the region....hope that can also sustain you in your own ministry.

Billie Sutter, APCE's Certification Course Coordinator, is a retired Certified ACE who is enthusiastic about mission with the Middle East. When not volunteering with Cherokee Presbytery, APCE, or SLPN, she enjoys watching her athletically gifted granddaughter play high school lacrosse.

The Rev. Ann Owens Brunger, retired Teaching Elder in the Presbytery of East Tennessee, is active in PC(USA)'s Syria Lebanon Partnership Network, which brings her full circle from her teenage years when her parents served as Presbyterian Mission Co-workers in the Middle East.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

404. Creating a Spirituality Center

Erika Funk

Looking for a guided time in the Spirituality Center? Join this year's creator of the space for a conversation around how to set up and use spaces such as this.

Rev. Erika Funk is the Director of CROSS missions at Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina. CROSS is a service and justice experience for youth and young adults.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

405. Digital Storytelling: Exploring Faith Formation Through Digital Media

Kirsten Trachsel

Are you thirsty for innovative ways to enrich faith formation? Bring your thirst and explore easy ways to use digital media to enrich and enable storytelling. Digital storytelling combines the art of telling stories with a variety of multimedia. Using digital storytelling techniques allows students to tell stories in immersive ways with creative processes that stimulate imagination, allow for deep content processing and understanding, and serve as a form of communication that resonates with today's learners. In this workshop, we will explore a variety of digital storytelling techniques that can be used with all ages of learners for faith formation in a variety of settings using basic apps and programs that are user-friendly. Participants should bring an electronic device with them to the workshop (laptop, ipad, smartphone, etc.) to explore media options.

Kirsten Trachsel is a MACE student at Union Presbyterian Seminary and has been active in the Christian education field for over a decade. She enjoys finding new and creative ways to engage learners in life-long faith formation.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

406. Expanding Our Worship

Brian Ellison and Amy Cerniglia

The central element of most churches' lives and any gathering of Christians is our worship -- praise and prayer, singing and celebrating, preaching and teaching. Unfortunately, it's also the place where our habits and traditions can exclude people, especially people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. Additionally, people of color, people with disabilities, and those living at the intersections of those identities or experiences can experience disconnection and real pain in worship settings. Drawing on the workshop leaders' experiences in both ministry and advocacy, this workshop will foster conversation about practical ways to make our worship more expansive and richer for all participants through language, music, and more.

Brian Ellison is Executive Director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and Stated Clerk of the Synod of Mid-America (PCUSA). He has preached and planned worship at many national conferences and previously was Pastor/Head of Staff of a congregation in the Kansas City area, where he lives with his partner Troy.

Amy Cerniglia is Communications Coordinator of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians and Director of Music and Outreach at Peace Presbyterian Church in Bradenton, Florida. She is a Candidate for Ministry under care of Peace River Presbytery and a student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Her work has been published by the Presbyterian Outlook and the American Hymn Society. She and her wife Leslie live in Bradenton.

- Leadership
- Worship and Music

407. Faithful Conversations about End of Life Inequality

Zeena Regis

Disparities in care at the end of life continue in the U.S. healthcare system, which historically has not served everyone fairly or equitably. Research demonstrates that these disparities in access to hospice, palliative care, and advance planning cause increased pain, suffering, and distress for people with serious advanced illnesses and their loved ones. Faith communities can be central advocates and resources for congregants encountering these disparities and inequalities. This workshop will review the current data showing disparities based on racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender-identity demographic information and provide strategies for faith communities to provide a powerful witness in addressing these significant inequalities.

Offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN).

*Zeena Regis currently serves at the Faith Engagement Manager for Compassion & Choices. Prior to her role with Compassion & Choices, Zeena served as a hospice chaplain and grief care coordinator for almost a decade. Zeena was selected as 2021-2022 fellow in Collegeville Institute's Emerging Writers Mentorship Program. She serves on the faculty of Columbia Theological Seminary's Older Adult Ministry Certification program. Her training includes a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Agness Scott College and a Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. Zeena is also a playwright and her latest work, *A Free Black Women's Guide to Death & Dying*, was selected as the Synchronicity Theatre's arts incubator project and premiered in May 2022.*

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

408. Fresh Strategies for Adult Discipleship

Cassie Waits

Are your adult programs drying up? Are your existing classes failing to draw new members? Are your teachers coming from the same pool, year after year? Are your congregants thirsty for connection, but unable to find it through your existing offerings? In this interactive workshop, participants will use life cycle theory to identify the parched places, deep reservoirs, and springs of fresh water within their adult discipleship programs. We will then discuss strategies to nurture our groups through each season of life. Finally, we will address groups in crisis: when to walk away and when to dig a deeper well.

Rev. Cassie Waits is the Associate Pastor for Discipleship at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta, GA and currently serves as treasurer for APCE's SOAP region. When she's not at the church or paddleboarding at the lake, she's with her husband, two children, and one very fluffy dog.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

409. Gaming Together

Cliff Haddox

Games that are cooperative, both video games and board games, where the focus is playing together as opposed to against one another.

Cliff is an unashamed geek. He has always worked to find ways to mold his passions with his ministry. As one of the gamer kids in his youth, he never really got on board with the "playing ultimate frisbee every youth meeting" and offers alternatives at conferences and camps. From Dungeons and Dragons to space ship simulators, Cliff enjoys introducing new players to games where they are working to overcome an objective rather than each other.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

410. Practices and Approaches for Family and Intergenerational Faith Formation

John Roberto

This workshop will present effective practices, approaches, and models of family and intergenerational (all ages) faith formation that emerged from a 2023 national survey of Christian churches. This is a "how-to" workshop that provides practical guidance for creating, enhancing, and implementing family and intergenerational faith formation in your church.

*John Roberto has spent a lifetime working in Christian faith formation—teaching, writing, researching, and consulting. He founded Lifelong Faith Associates in 2006 to continue his work. His latest publication is *Lifelong Faith: Formation for All Ages and Generations* (Church Publishing 2022). His earlier books include *Faith Formation with a New Generation*, *Families at the Center of Faith Formation*, *Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*, *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century*, and *Generations Together*.*

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

411. Sacred Art Time With Children

Joelle Brummitt-Yale

Many of us are discovering the old Sunday School model no longer works for our families with children. They have an hour to attend worship, and they may struggle with having their kids in the sanctuary. Sacred Art Time offers an alternative to traditional Sunday School. It integrates children's experiences in worship services with opportunities to use art to explore and deepen faith formation. We will share the ways that Sacred Art Time along with Time With Young Disciples can be used to form faith, build community, explore and offer our God-given gifts to the church--all during and within the worship service structure.

Joelle is the Director of Children's and Youth Ministries at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She has been an educator for 20+ years teaching in public schools and a community college before transitioning to church ministry. She believes the church should provide access for people of all ages to the joys of worship and life together as disciples of Christ. She enjoys helping young people discover ways to engage in and serve Christ's church.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship, Worship and Music

412. Stamps-Ink-Paper: Hobby-Ministry-Spiritual Practice

Priscilla Andre-Colton

Putting rubber stamp to ink and paper began as a hobby, became a ministry, and morphed into a spiritual practice. I began making cards for folks as a hobby, an outlet for creativity and personal enjoyment. Then I began a card ministry, making and sending cards for shut-ins and birthdays. It became a spiritual practice when I found myself praying specifically for the person who would receive that card. Participants in this workshop will make two completed cards. We will consider the ministry to those who receive the cards and the spiritual practice of praying experienced by those making and sending cards. Fee: \$12

Priscilla Andre-Colton is a retired Certified Christian Educator currently living in Alexandria, Virginia. She served churches in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Priscilla served as secretary for APCE, wrote curriculum for Follow Me, worked on Opening Doors to Discipleship, and received the Life Achievement award in 2020.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Creative Arts/Recreation

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 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 the 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

414. The Spiritual Growth of Children (and Adults) in Intergenerational Worship

Debbie Gline Allen

Children are natural worshippers and enjoy engaging in spiritual practices alongside and with the support of the adults around them. Adults, as well, benefit from experiencing worship with children in the ways that Jesus recognized as he called the children to him. Intergenerational worship can be the water of life for everyone! But how can all ages mature in their faith together when each approaches worship from a different developmental stage? In this workshop, we will examine recent research on spiritual growth and its benefits from Dr. Lisa Miller, author of "The Spiritual Child." Participants will learn how a culture of intergenerational, transformational worship and ministry can support the maturation of children and youth that will affect their journey into adolescence and adulthood in positive ways.

Debbie Gline Allen serves the Southern New England Conference (UCC) as Minister of Faith Formation, providing resourcing, consulting, programming, and training in faith-forming ministries. She serves on the Board of the Association of United Church Educators, APCE's sister organization, and lives in Derry, New Hampshire with her family and beloved cat.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Worship and Music

415. Thirsting for Joy and Play

Sophie Maness

If you are ready to come play and laugh together and let your guard down and have some fun, come play with us. You will have fun and learn some tips and tricks for planning and leading in your context, as well as the theological framework for your planning and leading. Play and laughter open us up for the spirit to move. The spirit will be dancing with us in this class.

Sophie Maness is a Certified Christian Educator who has been playing a long time. She lives and works in Nashville, Tennessee. She is on staff at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

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 the themes of these children's picture books we will present a framework for a common VBS structure of stories, games, crafts, music, and snacks, as well as encourage participants in the creative process to generate additional ideas.

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

Meg Rift is a writer, educator, editor, and creative soul currently serving as the Children's Curriculum Editor at the 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 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 as 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 as 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, North Carolina. 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

418. Well Moments

Cece Armstrong

The thought for this workshop is to explore ways two women have come to the well and have been sent away with assignments (Genesis 16:7 and John 4:7). The moments at the well have provided ways to quench thirst and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in word, action, and deed. This workshop will call participants to explore their well moments with God and to uncover the potential assignment they may receive while at the well. The workshop will offer ways for personal spiritual growth and resources to use to equip congregants and clergy for personal spiritual growth.

The Rev. Cecelia D. Armstrong is a cradle Presbyterian who held membership at Calvary, New Life, Belle-Terrace Presbyterian churches in Detroit, Michigan, Atlanta, Georgia, and Augusta, Georgia, respectively. She was educated at Spelman College, the University of Southern Mississippi, the Interdenominational Theological Center where she attended Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, and is currently enrolled at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree. She was ordained as a Deacon, and then an Elder, before she accepted the call on her life into ministry. As an ordained Minister of the Word and Sacraments, Rev. Armstrong served as Solo Pastor of Grace in Lantana, Florida, and now is the very proud Associate Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church on James Island in Charleston, South Carolina. Rev. Armstrong was one of the preachers for the 2023 Annual Event.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

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 (YMCo), 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, North Carolina and loves enjoys live music, barbecue, and craft beer.

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

Saturday, January 27 – Workshop E

9:00a.m. – 10:30a.m.

501. Bible Study – Roles Reversed!

Michael Waschevski

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.

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.

- Faith Development/Discipleship

502. Art as Community Building

Kris Adler-Brammer

Come and explore the conference theme through different creative, artistic expressions. Each of the options can then be used to generate discussion about how we live into justice, life, kindness, and joy as a people of faith.

Kris Adler-Brammer, is the Director of Christian Education at Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Kris enjoys spending time creating, cheering on her favorite college football team, and doing anything that includes both of her four-legged children.

- Creative Arts/Recreation

503. Drawing from the Well with Water-bearers and Other Caregivers

Kathryn Johnson Cameron and Judy Jennings

Come to the well with Jesus, Photina[1], the previously unnamed Samaritan, and other water-bearers to receive living water. In this workshop, caregivers Kathryn Johnson Cameron and Liz Jennings offer you practices of neurodiverse writing, and exuberant water serving that will provide you in new perspectives for engaging mission and everyday service. Kathryn is a teacher, Kathryn Johnson Cameron and community advocate and public speaker. Judy Jennings, you will rediscover the ways of reaching across borders, healing, and building connections modeled in John's Gospel by Jesus and Photina. Draw from the well with challenges and gifts and discover a new community. Draw from the well with Water-bearers Kathryn Johnson Cameron and Liz Jennings, their moms, Kathryn and Judy, and other caregivers who share God's living water. Will, who does not speak, offers you his neuro-graphic writing, immersion meditation, and daily water serving practices. Liz offers her mission hacks, her worship leadership, and her "do what you can when you can" theology. The leaders will share their experiences of kin-enabled,

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adaptively-communicated, and community-supported care with their exceptional adult children who live at home. As seekers and caregivers, we meet at the reservoir with strangers, family, school and community partners, and church folk, name our thirst, and share the spirit and truth of quenched life.

[1] Both the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches recognize Photina as the unnamed woman from John's Gospel who meets Jesus at the well near Samaria.

Will is a goodwill ambassador with his mom in their community. Kathryn retired from teaching and pastoral ministry in 2021 and continues to meet people, particularly folks on the autism spectrum and their families, to connect with church and other agencies for mutual ministry. Both Will and Kathryn are life-long swimmers.

Liz scans a room full of people, then mirrors the most joy-filled soul or offers a "lean in" (her version of a hug) to the one who most needs noticing. Her infectious empathy inspires compassion. Judy has taught students with complex learning needs for over 25 years and currently works with students from middle school age to adulthood. From a young age, water has been Liz's refuge, as well as her mom's. Together they enjoy walks along the Chatuge Dam, swimming, paddling, and boating. Together Liz and Judy share their spiritual journey through boundary breaking connections in their community.

- Other - By resisting categorization, we hold up the Holy Otherness God's boundary-crossing living water.

504. Empowering Parents and Caregivers (for Household Faith Formation)

Brittany Sky

What if I told you that thousands of parents DO value spiritual formation as a vital part of raising their children? You might laugh an exasperated chuckle and gesture around at the many families who are no longer coming to worship on Sunday morning. You might find it hard to believe. But when we talk to parents, not only do they value it, they feel responsible for it. When asked what they want churches to do, they say, "Empower us. Resource us. Support us." Participants of this workshop will learn new tools for ministries to support families and empower parents/caregivers to answer the call of parenting.

Brittany Sky is the Project Director of the GenOn Christian Parenting Project. A children's pastor at heart, she loves getting to support families to thrive. Brittany loves her preschooler, her dogs, and writing Bible story retellings.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship
- Leadership

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 fifteen years. She continues teaching adults at her home church, First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. 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

506. Infants in Worship: Helps for Worship Planners and Parents

Lynne Pabst and Lynace Veit

Many young parents struggle with worship when they have infants in tow. Worshiping with your infant grows your own faith and lays the foundation for forming the child's faith. This workshop provides a Biblical foundation for infants being present in worship, offers a developmental basis for including infants in worship, defines the new vocation of parent as worship guide, and suggests practical ways worship planners and pastors can support parents in this new role.

Lynne Bundy Pabst, DEdMin, is Director of Christian Education at Grove Presbyterian Church, Danville, Pennsylvania.

Lynace Pabst Veit is Director of Children and Family Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Shreveport, Louisiana.

- Worship and Music

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, Georgia), where he teaches their camp/conference ministry and recreation courses.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

508. Putting Prayer into Action with Advocacy and Social Justice

Suzanne Parker Miller

Is your congregation thirsting for justice? Do you find charity and mission easy and struggle to figure out how to add justice or advocacy? Are some in your congregation not sure politics belongs in church? Do you want to help build the beloved community but are not sure where to start? In this workshop participants will have the opportunity to name the mission work and charity their congregations

participate in and explore how this work connects to larger issues in our communities. We will discuss ways congregations and groups can add advocacy to their existing work to amplify their love of their neighbors and bring about transformation in their communities. Participants will leave with practical next steps and resources to put prayers into action that can be done by children, teens, and adults! While public education advocacy in North Carolina will be one example, the principles and ideas shared will be useful for any topic your congregation may want to support in any location. We hope you will join us as we put prayer into action!

The Rev. Suzanne Parker Miller is a Moravian minister based in Raleigh, North Carolina. Suzanne is the Founder and Executive Director of Pastors For NC Children, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, ecumenical justice ministry mobilizing faith communities to advocate for public education.

- Mission and Social Justice/Outreach

509. Presbyterian Women/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*.*

- Leadership

510. The Care Partner Toolkit: Helping Congregations Serve Caregivers Pat Baker and Renda Brinson

Pat Baker (POAMN) and Renda Brinson (APCE) co-produced the Care-Partner Toolkit with the contributions of other experts in the field of caregiving. Included in this Toolkit are numerous Quicksheets with information, ideas, and resource links that will assist individuals in the role of care partner and help faith communities in supporting them. During the workshop, we'll walk participants through the Toolkit and explain the different parts and how they can be utilized with a congregation. Our hope is that by doing this people will be equipped to go home and use this tool! Offered in partnership with the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN).

Pat Baker, MS, Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Tucker, Georgia. Specializing in caregiver support group facilitation especially with person that are dealing with

dementia.

Renda Brinson, CCE is the Director of the Resource Center for Union Presbyterian Seminary used by students and the Presbytery of Charlotte. Renda enjoys all needle arts and papercrafts and finding ways to share them in ministry.

- Other - Older Adults and Caregivers

511. "The Promise": An Intergenerational Musical for Your Ministry

Laura Jernigan

This workshop will engage our Biblical imaginations through the creative lens of "The Promise," a new intergenerational musical. Based on the stories of Genesis 12-25, "The Promise" tells the story of God's call and promises to Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, and their children, Ishmael and Isaac. Using excerpts of script and songs, we will imagine the characters' perspectives as they respond to God's call and seek God's promise to "bless all the families of the earth." We follow the family's journeys toward the blessing: into faith and doubt, famine and fruitfulness, thirst and life-giving water, cries and laughter, oppression and freedom. Along the way, we see a family who is tested and broken. Can this family be restored and dwell together? Diving into this family's story encourages us to seek God's blessings for our global family tree and journey toward God's promise that all families "and faiths of the earth might live in reconciliation." Laura Jernigan, the composer/lyricist/ book writer, who is also a Presbyterian minister and educator, will provide an overview of the musical and share the inspiration behind her own reimagining of this story, with reference to varied Biblical interpretations as well as Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. Calling for a small cast of adults, youth, and children, "The Promise" offers an exciting performance and educational opportunity for your church or interfaith setting. Come explore "The Promise" and journey toward God's blessing together.

Laura Jernigan loves to open up the world of the Bible with God's people of all ages through music and drama. A pastor, educator and musician, Laura believes the Spirit moves as we imaginatively engage God's word and play out the good news!

- Worship and Music

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, New Jersey, for several years.

- Worship and Music

513. What If... Brain Research and Faith Formation

Kris Brammer

What if we used practical principles of brain research to help us create, devise, and adapt our faith formation ministries? By looking at the twelve guiding principles identified by brain researcher John Medina in his book *Brain Rules*, this workshop will dare to dream what faith formation experiences could look like if we applied those practical principles in our faith formation ministries such as educational classes (children, youth, and adults), Bible studies, youth group activities, and even worship. This is a workshop of the imagination and what could be.

Kris Brammer, D.Ed.Min. and Certified Christian Educator is the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian in Lincoln, Nebraska and has over twenty-five years of experience in educational ministry. Kris is married to fellow church educator, Kris Adler-Brammer, and they navigate life with their two dogs Wrigley and Herbie.

- Faith Formation/Discipleship

514. You can Write! - Devotional Writing for Beginners

Nancy Boote

“Come, all who are thirsty” to the Living Water found in the Living Word of God. Devotionals rooted in God’s Word help satisfy our thirsty souls and offer opportunities for us to engage with God through personal worship. Writing devotionals for others deepens our faith and relationship with God. Devotional writing is one form of spiritual writing. In this workshop, you will learn about devotional writing, how it differs from other spiritual writing, and why it is important for believers to write. You will learn the importance of the centrality of Scripture in devotional writing, and how to practically write a devotional that will encourage others through the application of Scripture. You also will help new believers grow in faith and provide Living Water for those who are thirsty. Plus, devotional publishers are always looking for new contributors. You may become one of them! Previous writing experience is not required. Anyone who has a heart to share God’s Word with others is welcome to attend.

Nancy Boote is a Pastor in the Reformed Church in America. Nancy is a devotional writer for Words of Hope and leads the Dismantling Racism Prayer Movement in the RCA. Besides writing, she enjoys being a grandma, traveling, and taking long walks.