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Association of Presbyterian Church Educators
Chicago, Illinois • February 9-12, 2022

Workshop Schedule

Thursday, February 10

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Workshop A
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop B

Friday, February 11

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Workshop C
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop D / Extended and Off-Site
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop E

Workshop Selection Tips

- It is important to plan for second and third choices, as popular workshops fill quickly. When you register online, you need to select only your first choice. The system will alert you immediately if the workshop is full.
- Choose carefully! It is important to attend only the workshops to which you are assigned. Rooms have space limitations, and leaders prepare materials in advance based on actual registration numbers.
- Please note that while you can update your personal schedule on the APCE app, this does not change your registration. All workshop change requests much go through the registration desk.
- Learning takes place outside the traditional classroom too. Plan to spend time in the Marketplace, Bookstore, and Spirituality Center, as well as networking with new and longtime colleagues.
- **Choose the “Sabbath Rest” option if you are a daily rate registrant on workshop periods that you are not attending; you want a little unscheduled time for non-workshop options; anyone who wants to go to the next page of the registration form without picking a workshop!**

Thursday, February 10 – Workshop A
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

401. A Circle of Faith Formation for Children (Maximum 45)

Join us in the circle as we share stories of our faith. Young Children and Worship is an age-appropriate way to form the next generation of witnesses. Enrich your teaching of preschool and early elementary age children through a multisensory method of storytelling that can also be used in intergenerational settings. Children and adults are welcome here.

Carol Jones coordinates training events for Children and Worship. A storyteller since 1997, Carol was trained by Sonja Stewart in 2001 and became a trainer with the Reformed Church in America. She also serves as storyteller and support for volunteers of two worship centers at Emmanuel Church, Paramount, California. Ellen Vellenga has been a Children and Worship trainer for the Reformed Church in America for over 30 years. Trained by Sonja Stewart in 1987 she has trained volunteers from various denominations across the United States, in South Africa and Budapest, Hungary.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Children

402. Bridging the Gaps (Maximum 100)

The purpose of this workshop is to exponentially illustrate how the faith community can support families by connecting to the local schools. This workshop will cover the following: (1) Knowing the Land: Identifying existing opportunity gaps and (2) Owning Your Lens: Owning and recognizing preconceived notions that often create barriers between the faith community and schools.

Alan B. Conley, MDiv, is the founder and CEO of Beyond the Brick Ministries, Inc., and the Director of the Office of Faith Based Initiatives (2022 APCE Annual Event local offering recipient) in the third largest school district in our nation, the Chicago Public Schools. He has been influential in cultivating over fifty faith-based partnerships.

- Community Building
- Mission and Social Justice

403. Caring for Creation (Maximum 50)

Educating children about biblical resources for responding to environmental challenges is essential. This workshop will focus on stories of creation in Genesis 1-2 and resources in them that have been overlooked. The future requires that we face the ways we have harmed the environment and make commitments to caring for it in new and healthy ways.

Elizabeth Caldwell is Professor Emerita of McCormick Theological Seminary. Currently, she is an adjunct faculty at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She enjoys teaching courses in Ministry with Children. She is coauthor of Growing in God's Love with her friend Carol Wehrheim and coauthor of God's Big Plan with her colleague Ted Hiebert. Theodore Hiebert is Francis A. McGaw Professor of Old Testament and Dean of the Faculty Emeritus at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He is the author of The Beginning of Difference: Discovering Identity in God's Diverse World and with Elizabeth Caldwell, the children's book, God's Big Plan. Ted was the lead translator of the Book Of Genesis for The Common English Bible.

- Bible and Theology
- Children

404. Completing Our Church: Ministries for Those with Special Needs and Their Caregivers (Maximum 50)

If your church sign says, “All are welcome,” what are you doing to widen the circle and include those with special needs? In this workshop, participants will hear about ministries in two churches seeking to include those with special needs and their families. Participants will share resources and ideas while discerning what their churches can do to welcome all.

***Kathryn McGregor** is the Director of Christian Education at Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, South Carolina. She is a certified Christian educator who focuses on faith formation with children and adults. Her church has a Disabilities Ministry Team and is working to make sure the church is accessible for all. **Rev. Sarah Hegar** is Director of Congregational Ministries in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She loves connecting people to God, resources, and each other! As a parent of a child with special needs, Sarah has spent the last eight years learning A LOT and has quickly developed a passion for this ministry.*

- Faith Formation and Discipleship

405. Discerning the Path Together: A Community Practice for Rejuvenating Children's Ministry (Maximum 20)

Children and youth ministries often follow a predictable pattern of leader burnout. Creating a community-based culture of discernment is an antidote to this. In this workshop, participants will explore the model Amelia uses in guiding communities through children/youth ministry renewal. They will leave with a clear outline of a Discernment Workshop they can use immediately in their congregations.

***Amelia Richardson Dress** is a United Church of Christ pastor, writer, and fierce advocate for children. As part of a bivocational ministry, she also worked as an education consultant where she applied many of the same principles for discernment that guide her work with churches. She and her family live in Colorado.*

- Leadership
- Children

406. Do a New Thing! Grounding in Our Past to Find Something New (Maximum 50)

The church is ready for change! This is an exciting opportunity, but where do we begin? Come hear the story of how one church has moved away from traditional church school and focused instead on becoming intergenerational, building relationships, and grounding in Scripture. Participants will receive inspiration as well as tips and resources on finding and trying something new.

***Karen Hammond** is the Director of Faith Formation at Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. Her background in elementary education has grown into a passion for intergenerational faith formation. She loves talking with others to share ideas about how to best help the church intersect with people's lives.*

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Intergenerational

407. Expanding Circles of Faith to Address Sustainable Development (Maximum 25)

In the next fifty years, how will we help persons to respond faithfully not only to the challenges of climate change but to the interconnected issues of hunger, poverty, racism, and limited livelihoods? We will explore some tools developed by the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations that can enhance the possibility of working for truly sustainable development.

***Martha Bettis Gee** is APCE's historian and writer, editor, and educational consultant. She is retired from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Martha is author of the Leader Guide for the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations' Study and Devotional Guide on the Sustainable Development Goals.*

- Mission and Social Justice
- Adult

408. Facing Down Negativity—Building Faithful, Positive Youth (Maximum 30)

Our youth are growing up in a polarized environment in which name-calling, stating falsehoods as fact, and making negative over-generalizations are not only acceptable but expected. These attitudes are a sinful weight that clings to us and poisons relationships. How do we teach “love your neighbor,” “pray for those who persecute you,” and positive ways of thinking that are countercultural? Using the “Complaint Free World” concept, participants will explore practical tools that will help them think in more positive, faithful ways and teach and model these principles not only to our youth but to our colleagues, families, and friends as well. **In Partnership with PYWA.**

"Mike" Burcher spent most of her ministry as a Camp Director, helping children and young adults who arrived as strangers go back into the world as friends for life. She is coauthor of Making Fun Out of Nothing at All: 101 Great Games That Need No Props. Mike currently serves as Associate Pastor for Youth and Christian Educator at Yorkminster Presbyterian Church in Virginia.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Youth

409. Family Caregiving, Often Uncharted Territory (Maximum 25)

Caregivers often need to be reminded to take care of themselves when they are in the role of caregiver for a spouse, parent, or other relative. This workshop will cover caregiver involvement, such as caregiver roles and responsibilities, a self-assessment as a caregiver, emotional aspects of caregiving, problem solving, and church involvement. **In Partnership with POAMN.**

Pat Baker, MS, has worked in the field of aging and with family caregivers for over forty-five years. After retiring from government-funded aging programs and services, Pat is now tithing her time and talents as Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries in her local congregation in Tucker, Georgia.

- Mission and Social Justice
- Older Adults

410. Fe/Faith in a Spanglish Church (Maximum 30)

The Spanish language has been a part of the story of the United States since before it was known as such. It is the language that a large number of our neighbors speak. How can we widen the circles of faith and hospitality to include those who speak Spanish? Discover and share resources, ideas, and best practices to do ministry in Spanglish. We will highlight the new Spanish language Book of Common Worship: Pastoral edition (Libro de adoración común: Edición pastoral), Flyaway Books that are available in Spanish and English, and other bilingual resources. **Sponsored by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.**

Marissa Galván-Valle is the Senior Spanish language editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. As such, she writes, edits, produces, and promotes resources in Spanish for the PC(USA). She is also pastor at Beechmont Presbyterian Church, an intercultural church that uses Spanish and English in every part of its ministry.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship

411. In God's Image: Making a Difference as 21st-Century Presbyterian Men (Maximum 50)

Join author Derek Maul for a workshop designed to inspire, build community, and encourage men of all ages to live as more deliberate disciples. “Regardless of church size,” Maul writes, “when men meet together for prayer and Bible-study, there will be growth. Authentic life by definition replicates itself. When men encourage one another in faith, we are stronger.”

Derek Maul is an author, blogger, and columnist. He has published eight inspirational books (five with Upper Room Books), including three targeting spiritual development for men. Derek has successfully implemented multiple covenant

groups for men and travels coast to coast to speak, lead retreats, and consult with churches.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship

413. Let the Little Children...Learn to THINK! (Maximum 25)

As educators, we are tasked with inviting children and adults alike to THINK about their faith as they read and interpret Scripture. This workshop explores a curriculum that pairs Scripture with children's books, covering many big, sometimes tough topics, aimed to teach children the value of applying thoughtful interpretation to Scripture from a young age! Participants will go home with resources!

Katherine Peiper has served in ministry for more than six years. She currently serves as Director of Children, Family and Youth Ministries at Wake Forest Presbyterian Church just outside Raleigh, North Carolina. She loves any opportunity to talk and engage with kids, most importantly her own two!

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship
- Children

414. Matthew 25 and Faith Formation (Maximum 100)

Learn about the many faith formation resources that are available to your congregation as you live into the Matthew 25 invitation of dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality. Curriculum for all ages, free downloadable resources, books for all ages, and video resources will be shared. **Sponsored by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.**

Led by members of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) staff and Stephanie Fritz, the Mission Coordinator for Christian Formation in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA).

- Faith Formation and Discipleship

415. Prayerful Painting: Accessing the Divine Creator (Maximum 12)

When we create, we remember that we are creation and have a Creator. This workshop will serve as space to practice a form of visual prayer through the art of contemplative painting. Artistic skill is not required, but openness to creativity and inspiration is. Rejuvenate your spirit through creative expression while making your prayers visual.

Jessica Maudlin, the Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, resources Presbyterians as they address issues of faith, environment, and sustainability.

- Creative Arts

416. Spirituality in Our Third Thirty; Our Best Asset as We Age? (Maximum 25)

This interactive workshop focuses on what spirituality is to each of us as it pertains to aging. How do we discover it within ourselves, how do we use it to overcome the fears of aging, and what benefits can it provide? Finally, can our spirituality become an automatic but constant and conscious feature of our daily lives? **Sponsored by POAMN**

Chris Pomfret is a former Vice-President of POAMN and has conducted several Third Thirty workshops in the United States and overseas. His Third Thirty concept challenges conventional wisdom that aging is best if ignored and identifies outlooks such that aging can be as enjoyable as possible, for the individual and loved ones.

- Spirituality
- Older Adults

417. Thoughts and Prayers (Maximum 20)

Too often we hear the phrase “thoughts and prayers” from public leaders as a way to acknowledge and sometimes dismiss tragic events. What if we were able to turn this into action and advocacy by creating interactive-interfaith prayer stations that bear witness to the injustices that face our shared community? Participants will collaboratively create stations that draw from various traditions.

***Erika Funk** is the Director of CROSS Missions in Charlotte, North Carolina. Erika has served churches from California to Florida. She developed and curated the Youth Initiative of Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia. She loves creating prayer stations with an emphasis on justice and advocacy.*

- Mission and Social Justice
- Spirituality

Thursday, February 10 -- Workshop B
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

418. A New Lens on Gender (Maximum 50)

This workshop will look at what gender is and what it isn't, how it shows up in varying ways in the Bible, how gender identity and gender expression are defined, and how understanding and respecting gender helps to facilitate a more inclusive church and celebrate the full dignity of all people.

***Shanea D. Leonard**, MDiv, is the Associate for Gender & Racial Justice for the PC(USA). They had dedicated their life to the work of liberation in the areas of gender, inclusivity, and race. Shanea is published in several Presbyterian and national publications. They previously pastored in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.*

- Mission and Social Justice

419. Biblical Practices for Faithful Living—New Curriculum for the Whole Church (Maximum 50)

To be a Christian means more than believing in Jesus. It means following him. Get a first hands-on look at a new curriculum (*Follow Me*) offering based on Christian practices, something Jesus told his followers to do, such as follow, confess, love, and visit. Resources for preschool, children, youth, and adults, as well as intergenerational sessions, café discussion guides, and worship helps are included. **Sponsored by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.**

***Meg Rift** is a pastor, parent, and creative soul. She currently serves as the children's curriculum editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky.*

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship

420. CERCA@40

As CERCA (Christian Educators Reformed Church in America) celebrates forty years, educators gather to reflect critically on Christian educators and education in the Reformed Church in America—past, present, and future. In Hebrews 12:1, participants will recognize a great cloud of witnesses, examine educational initiatives that have (and may continue to) separate people from God, and discover ways to envision Jesus as the author/finisher of faith.

***Ken Bradsell** (retired) and **Jeff Japinga**, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, are both former Reformed Church in America directors of Christian Discipleship and Education. **Carol Jones** is the RCA coordinator for Children and Worship. **Bethany Popkes**, RCA minister and chair of the RCA Commission on Christian Discipleship and Education, is pastor at First Reformed Church of Wynantskill, New York. **John Schmidt**, RCA minister, has served in*

congregations, at Western Theological Seminary, and at McCormick Theological Seminary.

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship

421. Children and Music— the Basics for the NonMusician Leader (Maximum 20)

Music is a wonderful way to help lay foundations of faith formation for children but incorporating musical elements can be intimidating if you don't know where to start. Come learn some tips on integrating music for children in an age-appropriate manner into your current church programming and hear some ideas for new opportunities as well! This workshop will be interactive!

Mary Ann Rutkowski has a degree in Interdisciplinary Arts for Children and has worked for the past fifteen years in volunteer, part-time, and full-time church music leadership in the PC(USA) and United Methodist churches. Outside of work, Mary Ann enjoys cooking and baking, musical theater, and spoiling her two cats, Clara and Henry.

- Worship & Music
- Children

422. Dementia: Using the Language of Worship When Words Fade (Maximum 100)

Discover important information about dementia and practical ideas to use for worshipping and interacting with someone experiencing dementia. You will learn effective multisensory strategies, family support ideas, and best practices for worship and connection.

Victoria White, a church consultant for All Belong, shares best practices for creating congregations of belonging. She speaks and consults with churches around North America as a member of the Church Services team. Her desire to see people of all abilities active in the life of the church fuels her work with congregations, ministries, and organizations. She brings over twenty years of experiences in ministry and educational settings, in chronic illness, and through her mentorship under Barbara J. Newman. She has collaborated with Newman on several projects, including All Belong's Inclusive Worship Kit, portions of the book Accessible Gospel, Inclusive Worship, numerous trainings, and a course for the Christian Leader's Institute. Victoria has also written units for Friendship Ministries' new line of inclusive adult Bible study materials titled Together.

- Worship & Music
- Older Adult

423. Equipping Adult Small Groups (Maximum 25)

Are your small groups left to run themselves despite varying levels of capability and leadership? Would you like to better support your leaders? Do you hope to strengthen your small groups—helping them engage authentically and improve retention? This interactive workshop will prepare you to equip your adult small groups: from developing leadership to nurturing the groups themselves.

Cassie Waits is the Associate Pastor for Discipleship at First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, Georgia. Her passion is in nurturing scripturally grounded, practically equipped disciples so that God's grace may flood their lives and pour into the world.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Leadership
- Adult

424. Living Matthew 25—50 Ways to Empower Your Ministries (Maximum 50)

Matthew 25 was Jesus' directive two thousand years ago, and this timely, yet timeless, passage is the focus for the church today. Explore creative, concrete ways to help all ages "see" the hungry, thirsty, stranger, poor, sick, and

imprisoned in your congregation, community and beyond and to impact your education and outreach programs to make a difference in God's world.

Phyllis Wezeman is an author/educator who has served congregations, ecumenical and interfaith organizations, not-for-profit groups, and colleges and universities in the United States and throughout the world. Her approach to learning connects the creative with the concrete and puts Scripture stories and theological themes into practice for today's followers of Jesus.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Intergenerational

425. PDA Story Ministry Documentary Films— Using "Story" as a Teaching Tool (Maximum 75)

Stories at their core have the ability to connect us all and cultivate wider circles of community engagement. Trailers for award-winning films on many current social justice issues will be shown. Outlines for hosting a screening, study guides for the films, and more will be available for download.

David Barnhart is an award-winning filmmaker working with the PC(USA) and is committed to story as a means to facilitate community engagement. His documentaries have received awards, most recently the Susan A. K. Shaffer Humanitarian Award, and have been screened at film festivals and distributed on Amazon and cable.

- Mission and Social Justice
- Adult

426. Sustainable Church Preschool—Building Staff Culture and Staying Relevant (Maximum 40)

Come explore the changing face of preschool education and leave with practical tools to train a staff to blend solid early childhood education and Christian education principles. We will explore how half-day programs can maintain relevance in our changing world and how church preschools have the opportunity to cement their students' awareness of being a child of God from the beginning.

Meri Kate Marcum is a longtime Presbyterian who currently serves as director of a preschool in a United Methodist context. She has extensive experience in children's ministry and preschool education and served for twenty years as the adjunct staff person to the College Conference in Montreat.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Children

427. Touch the Earth Lightly, Use the Earth Gently (Maximum 25)

Under the guidance of a church musician and educator, we will experience and cocreate a cross-generational, multisensory learning unit on creation care. Leave with resources to offer a post-Easter encounter, a VBS extravaganza, or a mid-week series that will incorporate prayer, music, Scripture, upcycled art, and mission for the whole body of Christ to make a difference to our hurting planet.

Anne Wilson is a past president of APCE and recipient of an APCE Sustain Life Achievement Award. She is a retired educator who now spends her time as a volunteer serving on five governing boards. **David VanderMeer** is Minister of Music & Fine Arts at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dave is past president of Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Dave has degrees from Westminster Choir College and Columbia Theological Seminary.

- Leadership
- Intergenerational

428. Walking with Youth as They Discern Life after High School (Maximum 30)

In this workshop, we will unpack responses from current youth about the realities of preparing for life after high school and explore best practices for helping youth discern life's next steps. We will discuss ways to equip youth to cope with today's stress while framing opportunities for the future. **In Partnership with PYWA.**

Perrin Tribble is the Director of Church Relations for Presbyterian College (PC). A lifelong Presbyterian and PC alum, Perrin served in youth ministry for eight years and has served as leadership for youth retreats and conferences. She finds joy when youth have confidence in themselves as children of God.

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship
- Youth

430. Why Does “Difference” Matter? Educating for Interfaith Understanding (Maximum 25)

We will be talking about a crucial—but frequently overlooked—principle when educating for interfaith relationships: “difference.” Beginning with difference rather than sameness leads to a deeper understanding of the distinctive identity of others’ faiths. Focusing on difference allows us to identify where the truly shared bonds are between traditions while building respect for faith communities different from our own.

Sarah Tanzer is an author of Discoveries in the Judean Desert: Cryptic Texts. She is an editor of several Wisdom Commentary volumes, a series offering detailed feminist interpretation of every book of the Bible. Sarah is professor of New Testament and Early Judaism at McCormick Theological Seminary. Theodore Hiebert is Francis A. McGaw Professor of Old Testament and Dean of the Faculty Emeritus at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He is the author of The Beginning of Difference: Discovering Identity in God’s Diverse World and with Elizabeth Caldwell, the children’s book, God’s Big Plan. Ted was the lead translator of the Book Of Genesis for The Common English Bible.

- Bible and Theology

431. Youth Ministry in the Digital Age (Maximum 30)

We will explore practical uses and warnings of websites, social media, and screens in youth ministry. Youth and the parents are using them, so how can we take advantage of it? In this workshop, participants will dig into the use of technology in youth ministry. **In Partnership with PYWA.**

Jessie Kuehner is a volunteer at Webster Presbyterian Church in Webster, Texas. She has her MDiv with emphasis in Youth and Family Ministry from Fuller Seminary. She had been a Youth Director and Christian Education Director in churches for ten years. She is currently volunteering at her church as she focuses on her three small children.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Youth

432. Wine or Unwind: Ministry with Young Professionals (Maximum 20)

Fee: \$20.00

Connecting, enriching, empowering, and sustaining are four main goals of educators in the church. Strive as we may, there are still individuals within the church who are often overlooked. This workshop will explore creative ways for the church to widen its circle of faith as it holds space for young professionals between the ages of 23-35 years old.

Christina Cosby, a graduate of Princeton Seminary, currently serves the Presbyterian Mission Agency as Mission Specialist for the Office of the Middle East and Europe. Before joining the national staff of the PCUSA, Christina worked as the Director of Christian Formation at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship

Friday, February 11 – Workshop C

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

502. Circles of Connection: Bridging the Generations (Maximum 50)

Bridging the generations doesn't necessarily mean changing your existing programs. Workshop leaders from three generations will lead participants in an exploration of inter-, multi-, and cross-generational ministry within the context of any size church. Participants will reflect on existing ministries and ways to create ongoing connections among generations that can sustain your church into the future. Plus, together, we can be awesome!

Bill Wildey (Older Adult Coordinator), and Jimmy Steele (Youth Ministry Coordinator) serve at Palms Presbyterian in Florida. Their combined circle of ministry yields over one hundred years of inter-, multi-, and cross-generational experiences across multiple denominations. Plus, they are awesome!

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Intergenerational

503. Circles of Prayer (Maximum 30)

"Bow your head, fold your hands, and close your eyes." These are commonly used words of invitation to prayer time. Have you ever done the clock prayer or the water pitcher prayer? Prayer stones or prayer chains? In this workshop, participants will experience a variety of prayer practices that are engaging and interactive for families, children, and small and large groups.

Priscilla Andre-Colton is a retired certified Christian educator (CCE). She has served as Director of Christian Education for churches in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida, and Virginia. Priscilla was the 2020 APCE Life Achievement Award recipient.

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship

504. Conversation with Retirees (Maximum 20)

Retirees, this is an opportunity to share what's happening in your "retired life"! What are you doing to enrich your life? What are you doing to reach out to those who are coming into the field of Christian education to nurture and encourage them as they serve? What is the one thing that you have learned that surprised you?

Loretta Gratias-Bremer is a certified Christian educator and a former APCE Cabinet Member, and she has served as a Christian Educator in churches as well as on staff of the Presbytery of Chicago. Loretta is passionate about sharing resources and connecting folks!

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship
- Older Adults

505. Faith Formation in the Small Church with Everyone in the Circle (Maximum 40)

Faith Formation in the Small Church (less than one hundred) needs to include everyone in the circle. How can ministry in and outside of worship include not only all ages and stages but also all walks of life in various places on their faith journey? We will explore practical tips on interactive worship practices for Advent, Lent, and Summer and for mission and outreach into the community.

Sandy Safford serves as educator and commissioned lay pastor for a small, rural congregation in Eastern Colorado. She is in her eighth year serving a congregation that celebrated 110 years in ministry in 2020. She has more than twenty-five years serving the Presbyterian Church as a Christian educator.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship

506. Faith in Formation for Others' Faith Formation (Maximum 50)

Scripture and the history of Christianity are full of diverse preaching examples. This workshop is about teaching others to claim and proclaim their faith, which is always in ongoing formation. Participants will practice how to help others find a message from the Divine and use their best God-given gifts to share it with a particular worshipping community.

Sponsored by McCormick Theological Seminary.

Lis Valle, PhD, is the Associate Professor of Homiletics and Worship at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois. Lis is a decolonial scholar and is passionate about proclaiming the gospel through dramatic arts. Lis will be the preacher during Friday morning worship.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship

507. Organizing Around the "Common Good"

Local churches have a serious role to play in helping their communities engage difficult and often divisive issues which threaten the flourishing of their neighbors — such as housing crises, gun violence, and educational disparities. How we invite people into the work of transformation is critical. Come and imagine how your church can be the one that organizes their community around “common good” efforts that get everyone involved, address systemic injustices, and have ecumenical benefits.

Russ May is co-founder of Anthony's Plot Community, a Moravian intentional community rooted in the Sunnyside neighborhood in Winston-Salem, NC. Anthony's Plot is committed to the work of reconciliation across lines that divide, and to an agenda which reflects the hopes and ambitions of their neighbors.

- Mission and Social Justice

508. Mapping Children's Faith Formation in 2022 (Maximum 50)

The world is changing and, with it, so does our understanding of children's spiritual needs and hopes. Come explore findings from the Mapping Children's Faith Formation project, which brought together experts in developmental psychology, media studies, sociology, education, and family learning to ask how research in their fields might translate into effective faith formation practices for contemporary children and their caregivers.

Karen-Marie Yust, ThD, is Rowe Professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia. Her research focuses primarily on how new discoveries in the social sciences, education, and media studies help us understand and respond to the spiritual needs of children and families in a digital world.

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship
- Children

509. Not-Pinterested Ministry (No maximum)

Our culture (riddled with the constant presence of social media) encourages us to connect around “having it all together.” Interestingly, we are the loneliest and most medicated society of all time. What does it look like to do *real life* with our people: to allow our flaws and cracks to be part of what informs our ministry and *authentic connection*?

Brooke Brundige is the Director of Children and Family Ministry at Village Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, Kansas. Her deepest passion is living real life with those around her, embracing obstacles and struggles as integral parts of God's story within each of us—of growth, redemption, and, ultimately, connection.

- Community Building

510. Please Pass the Faith: How Faith Is Passed on in the Family (Maximum 50)

Parents and grandparents wonder if what they are doing helps share faith with their children. Parents have the most critical influence on their children's faith development, and grandparents play a significant but different role too! Together we will look at best practices for passing on faith in the family, discover practical ideas and great resources, and consider some challenging situations too.

***Tori Smit** serves congregations as a Regional Minister for Faith Formation. She has written a broad variety of curriculum for the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), Montreal, and Kerygma; keynoted at many PCC and PCUSA events; and taught at Columbia Theological Seminary and Emmanuel College. She is passionate about intergenerational ministry and families.*

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Children and Intergenerational

511. Praying the Pathway – A Time for Reviewing, Examining, and Receiving for Christian Formation Leaders and Learners (Maximum 50)

The ideas, the notes, the conversations, it's the gift of a learning event! What would it look like to pause, listen, examine, and take time to absorb what you are hearing, feeling, and thinking in your work, in your ministry, in the busy hours of a great experience? In this workshop, participants will examine their work in Christian education and formational ministries through the lens of reflection, sharing, prayerful examen, and shared laughter, anxiety, and collegiality. Using guided conversations, personal story sharing, and spiritual-direction-born experiences, we will inspire one another, listen to our stories, and set a fresh path for our ministry.

***Gina Yeager-Buckley** serves the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PC(USA) as Associate for Presbyterian Youth and Triennium. Gina is a certified Christian educator, a graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary (and the former Union Presbyterian School of Christian Education) and a volunteer youth worker and Sunday school teacher at her church in Louisville, Kentucky. Gina lives and works in Louisville, Kentucky with her husband, Andrew. She was born and raised in the Dallas, Texas, area.*

- Spirituality

512. Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study—Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight (Maximum 25)

If your circle of faith has ever felt like a vicious circle and you know it's time to stop living as if you are being chased by a train, maybe it's time to embrace Sabbath as a new way to mark time in your life. Sabbath is not a burden; it is a blessing—and a celebration. Explore the theme of the 2022–2023 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible study with author Carol Bechtel and editor Betsy Ensign-George. You don't have to be a PW to benefit—everyone will leave with resources to lead others in the study.

***Carol Bechtel** is Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan. **Betsy Ensign-George** is on the staff of Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc., and serves as associate editor.*

- Bible & Theology

513. Volunteers: Calling, Assuring, Equipping, and Upholding (Maximum 50)

This workshop will provide participants with a process and ideas for calling and sustaining volunteers in the local church context. Participants will be able to: (1) delineate elements of calling volunteers based on a biblical call formula, (2) identify ways to address the challenge of too few volunteers to fill positions, and (3) distinguish signs of burnout in church volunteers.

***Cheryl Carson** is the Associate Executive Presbyter for Central Florida Presbytery. Cheryl has a Doctor of Educational Ministries degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. She also has her Masters of Christian Education from Union-PSCE. Cheryl and her husband, Bill, live in Merritt Island, Florida, with their dog and three cats.*

- Leadership

514. Walking the Bridge from Youth to Adulthood: The Church and College Students (Maximum 50)

For many of us, college was the main thoroughfare we traveled from youth to adulthood.. Today’s college students are also crossing their own bridge, but instead of a solid and reliable highway, it can seem more like a suspension bridge over an abyss. This workshop will explore what college students are facing and how churches can support them. **In Partnership with PYWA.**

Gini Norris-Lane is the executive director of UKirk Collegiate Ministries Association of the PC(USA) and Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Prior to joining Ukirk, she served as the campus minister at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, for fourteen years, and she has a passion for helping collegians connect with the Christian faith.

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship
- Youth

Friday, February 11 – Workshop D
Extended Three Hour and Off-Site
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

515. Along for the Journey: Building and Sustaining Ministry with LGBTQIA+ Youth (Maximum 50)

Many people doing ministry with LGBTQIA+ youth can feel overwhelmed by the ever-expanding ways young people describe their gender and/or sexuality, often feeling as if they need to reinvent the wheel. This workshop will offer participants ways to approach ministry utilizing the tools of our ancestors in the faith and building adaptive skills for ministry with the sacraments as our foundation. **In Partnership with PYWA.**

More Light Presbyterians

- Pastoral Skills
- Youth

516. Celebrating All God’s People—Exploring Diversity in Community (Maximum 40)

Off-Site in Chicago’s Pilsen Neighborhood

Fee \$30

Explore Chicago’s cultural diversity with a visit to the Pilsen neighborhood, its National Museum of Mexican Art, a panaderia (bakery), a church, and a tortilla factory. Discover ways to use the city as a classroom and consider how to raise global awareness with readily available resources. This session will open your eyes to the richness in any community.

Phyllis Wezeman, author of numerous publications, has served congregations, ecumenical and interfaith organizations, not-for-profit groups, and colleges and universities in the United States and throughout the world. Her approach to learning connects the creative with the concrete and puts Scripture stories and theological themes into practice for today's followers of Jesus.

- Mission and Social Justice

517. Communicating Effectively about Race and Racism: A Workshop in Nonviolent Conversation/Action (Maximum 50)

In this workshop, we will address “difficult conversations” about race. Throughout this experience, we will model and practice ways of addressing the often-painful reactions and internal work that recognizing our internalized race identity provokes in us. Do you get tongue tied when a total stranger makes a disturbing remark in your presence? Are you frustrated with your ability to communicate effectively when racism emerges in conversations in your daily life? We invite you to bring stories from your own experiences to share with the group. Together we will work out a range of possible solutions and practice holding a respectful but firm space in response to such remarks. What you learn here will also be useful for engaging in difficult political conversations and other realms of conflict.

*The pre-event course #201, offered on Tuesday, is a good companion to this workshop.

Willard W. Bass Jr. and **Christy Clore**, co-trainers from the Institute for Dismantling Racism (IDR) based in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Willard is the founder and executive director of IDR and has spent over fifteen years working to strengthen local economies and cultivate resilient and self-reliant community leaders, entrepreneurs, and activists. Christy is a transitional pastor who has partnered with IDR since 2006, believing in the importance of intentional dialogue about race and gender in developing a more self-aware and compassionate society.

- Mission and Social Justice

518. Educational Leadership in a Post-Pandemic Church: Getting Real about New Approaches to Ministry (Maximum 100)

As the pandemic crashed into our vague notions of a changing church, most congregations relied upon ERT (Emergency Remote Teaching) and ERM (Emergency Remote Ministry) as they scrambled to adjust to the new context. Now, however, it is time to name our reality: the church is not going to change, it has changed. We need to begin the intentional work of developing quality educational ministries that form faith in these volatile, uncertain, complex, and anxious times. We will explore how to use vision, understanding, creativity, and agility to create flourishing ministries that move us into the future God is even now creating.

***Rebecca Davis** is Associate Professor of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina. Becky is a teacher, elder, and certified Christian educator who is passionate about teaching, child advocacy, transformative pedagogy, and creating community around tables of home-cooked meals.*

- Pastoral Skills and Leadership

519. Exploring Visual Theology at the Art Institute of Chicago (Maximum 15)

Off-Site at Art Institute

Fee \$30

The Art Institute of Chicago is one of the world’s great art museums. This workshop offers participants a guided tour from an experienced Christian educator/pastor/curator/artist. After a general introduction to understanding art, we will focus on several pieces, exploring their theological depths with attention on how to and how not to use art in church.

***Amy Wallace Parker** is the Minister of Education and the Arts at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church in Charleston, West Virginia. Her work includes curating seasonal art exhibits featuring local artists and creating liturgical art for worship. She received her DMin in Arts and Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2018.*

- Creative Arts

520. Faith Formation for All Seasons of Life

Lifelong faith formation can renew and revitalize the faith life of all ages and contribute toward building a thriving congregation that lives its mission. How and what a congregation is learning is critical to building a vital congregation. Drawing on research and innovative practices, this workshop will present how to make lifelong faith formation a reality in your church today.

John Roberto is president of LifelongFaith Associates and has served on the leadership team of Vibrant Faith Ministries. He works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses, conducts workshops in faith formation, and writes books and program manuals for faith formation.

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship

521. Finding Comfort and Hope on the Journey of Grief (Maximum 30)

The workshop explores sacred stories that focus on grief, includes a presentation on the nature and dynamics of grief, offers small-group discussions. Participants will leave with a spiritual practice designed to promote comfort to them on their grief journey.

Shelley Craig joined Faith and Grief Ministries in 2019 as the program director. She has a passion for helping others and has experience in non-profit consulting, digital marketing, and corporate training. She has a degree in Communications from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in eLearning from Texas A&M-Commerce. **Fran Tilton Shelton** is an author and founder of Faith & Grief Ministries, leads bereavement workshops and spiritual retreats, and keynotes at conferences. For twenty years, she served PC(USA) congregations in Texas, primarily in pastoral care.

- Pastoral Skills

522. Here We Are: Death Has Come, and There Is Only Resurrection Left (Maximum 25)

Off-Site at Creation Lab

Fee: \$10.00 includes cost of public transportation to the workshop.

At Creation Lab, we know that the wisdom of the artists and creatives mingle with the Holy Spirit on the margins and in the revolutionary work of racial and social justice. If we are eager not only to survive but to participate in the transformation of our communities, the culture of the whole church must shift to one that is more resilient and less risk-averse, more adventurous, and less fearful, where we value justice and sustainability and release our obsession with perpetuity. And the reality is this: no one is coming to do this work for us. To be of service in the world we must, at every level of our institutional life, learn how to embrace change and center the voices of the historically marginalized and the needs of the most vulnerable. We are called to be a cultivating, experimental, and collaborative space that builds our capacity to join in this faithful work.

Come conspire at Creation Lab for an afternoon of creativity, conversation, and spiritual grounding focusing on how to unleash spaces like this in your congregation, presbytery, or faith community. Creation Lab is a not-for-profit organization located in Edgewater on Chicago's Northeast side. Creation Lab is an incubator space and art studio co-op designed for the exploration of the intersection of spirituality, creativity, and prophetic imagination. Creation Lab is sustained through a co-op studio model and offers workshops, retreats, and (dis)course at the place where liberation theology and the arts meet. *Hosted by the Local Committee.*

Shawna Bowman (they/them) is an artist and pastor doing ministry with the creative and justice-seeking folks at Friendship Presbyterian Church in Chicago and is cofounder of Creation Lab. Shawna serves as Affiliate Faculty at McCormick Theological Seminary and is an organizer and facilitator with Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training.

- Mission and Social Justice
- Creative Arts

523. Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance

“Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance” is a new four-episode series currently available as a resource to bring groups together through story, to listen to one another, to have difficult but honest conversations, and to work together to disrupt systemic and structural racism. Myles Markham will lead discussion through each episode and explore congregational engagement around these issues.

Myles Markham (he/him or they/them) is a Los Angeles-based Impact Producer for Multitude Films and a Mission Specialist for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Myles is also a recent graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary and has a decade of experience in community organizing, Christian education, and non-profit management. **David Barnhart** is an award-winning filmmaker working with the PC(USA) and is committed to story as a means to facilitate community engagement. His documentaries have received awards, most recently the Susan A. K. Shaffer Humanitarian Award, and have been screened at film festivals and distributed on Amazon and cable.

- Mission and Social Justice

524. When Retirement Calls: Preparing to Thrive (Maximum 40)

For many, retirement marks a significant ending to a season of life and ministry. How are we called to prepare for this transition in order to thrive in retirement? Workshop participants will reflect on the importance of holistic preparation for retirement, identify key areas of discernment, and acquire knowledge and tools to confidently transition to and experience wholeness in retirement. **Sponsored by the Board of Pensions.**

Lori Neff LaRue is Director, Board University, at the Board of Pensions. She oversees the Board’s educational programs, emphasizing well-being and wholeness. Lori has over thirty years’ experience in education, has served in transitional ministry, is a frequent supply preacher, and serves on her presbytery’s Committee on Ministry.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Older Adults

525. Wise Up | Mental Health in Children and Youth Continued (Maximum 100)

One in five teenagers suffers from at least one mental health disorder. Are we as the church equipped to help our children, youth, and families through this? In this workshop, participants will learn more about different mental illnesses and eating disorders and how to equip themselves and those around them with the best resources available. **In Partnership with PYWA.**

Christina Rees-Fletcher is the Director of Youth Ministries at Pine Ridge Presbyterian in Kansas City, Missouri. Christina is an avid blogger of her Presbyterian faith. She has a passion for bringing light to the realities facing children and youth in our ministries and beyond, including mental health and social media. **Jen Phelps** is a Nurse Practitioner as well as the Director of Youth Ministries for St. Andrews Covenant Presbyterian Church. After presenting at last year’s APCE Conference, Jen has decided to take her knowledge on the road - sharing insight into mental health for children and youth.

- Mission and Social Justice
- Youth

Friday, February 11 – Workshop E
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

527. All Together Now: Intergenerational Worship Is for the Whole Church Family (Maximum 50)

Intergenerational worship is not a new thing; in fact it is a very, very old thing. Over time we've let go of the intergenerational aspects of our worship and now wonder what we might have lost along the way. Together we will learn the whys, the hows, and what's needed to make an intentional shift toward intergenerational worship.

Tori Smit serves congregations as a Regional Minister for Faith Formation. She has written a broad variety of curriculum for the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), Montreat, and Kerygma, keynoted at many PCC and PC(USA) events, and taught at Columbia Theological Seminary and Emmanuel College. She is passionate about intergenerational ministry and families.

- Faith Formation/ Discipleship
- Intergenerational

528. Circle of Faith Bracelet (Maximum 30)

Supply Fee: \$15.00

Using a variety of beads, give meaning and relate memories to these beads through conversation, song, and prayer. Participants will create their own unique circle of faith bracelet representing biblical, historical, and contemporary members of the cloud of witnesses in their life. **Sponsored by Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.**

Meg Rift is a pastor, parent, and creative soul. She currently serves as the children's curriculum editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky. Meg enjoys beading and has led beading workshops at APCE gatherings. **Betsy Ensign-George** is on the staff of Presbyterian Women in the PC(USA), Inc., and serves as associate editor.

- Creative Arts

529. Cultivating Community for a Thriving Church (Maximum 50)

Participants will focus on three hows for creating thriving church communities: (1) how faith is caught from others through Christ-centered relationships, (2) how calling volunteers based on their gifts sustains ministry, and (3) how empowering leaders nurtures them and those they lead. Participants will receive colorful graphics and tools for equipping leaders in their own church.

Suzie Lane is the Children's Ministry Director at Downtown Presbyterian Church, Nashville, and Program Director for GenOn Ministries, where she leads training events and writes and edits training materials and curriculum. Suzie has over twenty years of Christian education experience in small and large church settings.

- Leadership

531. Family Camp, Making Memories for a Lifetime (Maximum 100)

A family camp experience can create memories that last a lifetime! After starting a successful family camp ministry with three different congregations, Lisa learned how family camp can be an incredible opportunity to gather families together, celebrate God's beautiful creation, build lasting relationships, and learn about being families called to discipleship.

Lisa Henderson is the Director of Children and Family Ministry at Community Presbyterian Church in Clarendon Hills, Illinois. She has been serving in ministry for over seventeen years, and creating family camp memories has been one of her favorite family ministries. Lisa enjoys camping, biking, kayaking, travel, and music.

- Community Building
- Children and Intergenerational

533. Finding the Wilderness in the Walls of the Church (Maximum 30)

This course is designed to help new youth workers translate their mountaintop experiences to practical ministry ideas, talk with parents and senior pastors, and offer insight on how to navigate the complicated world of church politics in their first few years of ministry. **In Partnership with PYWA.**

***Nick Wallwork** is the Director of Youth and Children's Ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey. He has been working with young people for seventeen years.*

- Leadership
- Youth

534. It's Not Just a Bible Drill! It's Fun! (Maximum 30)

We share the stories of God's Word, but how do we get children to learn where to find the stories in the Bible? We will play some games and talk about ways to modify them for different contexts and ages. Participants will leave the workshop with more than a dozen game ideas, a resource list, and more! Games have been approved by children and youth.

***Lissa Long** works with children of all ages at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina, as the Associate Pastor. She is married to a fellow Presbyterian College Grad, Grahame Long, and they have two fabulous daughters. Lissa enjoys spending time with family and watching the Holy Spirit move in the work of Christ's church.*

- Recreation/Play
- Children and Youth

535. Surrounding Children and Families in the Circle of Faith (Maximum 50)

Who knew how our circles of faith would be challenged in 2020 and 2021? Who knew the ways educators and pastors would find to creatively sustain the faith formation of children and families? Through engagement with resources (books, websites, blogs) and consideration of spiritual practices (old and new) this workshop will help participants consider the ways children can participate fully in the all-inclusive welcoming family of faith.

***Carol Wehrheim** is a freelance educator, writer, and editor. She is the author of Baptism Promises and was the editor of the Feasting on the Word Curriculum. She enjoys mysteries, jigsaw puzzles, and knitting. **Elizabeth Caldwell** is Professor Emerita of McCormick Theological Seminary. Currently she is adjunct faculty at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She enjoys teaching courses in Ministry with Children with her friend, Carol Wehrheim, she is the author of Growing in God's Love. With her colleague, Ted Hiebert, she is the author of God's Big Plan.*

- Faith Formation and Discipleship
- Children

536. Welcoming Transgender Persons in Our Congregations (Maximum 50)

God calls us to welcome all of God's children as siblings in Christ. But what are the best ways to welcome those who have been "born into the wrong body"? Debbie will share helpful learnings from her experience as a member of a "transgender family" for your congregation to use in providing an extravagant welcome to all.

***Debbie Gline Allen** serves as the Associate for Faith Formation and Youth Ministries for the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ. She and her two sons "transitioned" with her spouse/their father-now-mother to become a new family together.*

- Mission and Social Justice

537. Wine or Unwind: Ministry with Young Professionals (Maximum 20)

Fee: \$20.00

Connecting, enriching, empowering, and sustaining are four main goals of educators in the church. Strive as we may, there are still individuals within the church who are often overlooked. This workshop will explore creative ways for the church to widen its circle of faith as it holds space for young professionals between the ages of 23-35 years old.

Christina Cosby, a graduate of Princeton Seminary, currently serves the Presbyterian Mission Agency as Mission Specialist for the Office of the Middle East and Europe. Before joining the national staff of the PCUSA, Christina worked as the Director of Christian Formation at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

- Faith Formation and Discipleship