

Workshops at the 56th Penn West Conference Annual Gathering & Meeting

Workshop One:

- A. **“Continuing Care Retirement Communities”**: Leaders of our Continuing Care Retirement Communities will provide group participants with information and insights into questions of continuing care and what our facilities have to offer.
Led by Leaders of our CCRC Group
- B. **“Chatting with David”**: In this time, we will have opportunities for informal conversation and questions/answers with our Conference Minister, David Ackerman. *Led by David Ackerman*
Led by David Ackerman
- C. **“Mission Grants Training”**: The Penn West Conference is blessed to have a healthy Mission Grants program (which we hope, with help over time, will remain healthy). We’ve given away roughly \$90,000.00 worth of grants over the past three years! Members of our Mission Grants Committee can provide you with an overview of the application process, along with pointers and tips for your church to have the best chances of making a successful application for these grant monies.
Led by Bruce Ashlock & Doug Satterlee
- D. **“Media Relations for Churches/Nanprofit Organizations”**: Do you want to promote a ministry, program, or issue? Are you dealing with a crisis that might receive media attention? In this workshop, Rev. Jane Duffield will discuss how to strategically plan for positive publicity, minimize negative stories, and develop productive working relationships with reporters. Prior to answering a call to ministry, Jane served as the founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) News Bureau. She has taught media relations at Union Seminary in NYC, Chautauqua, and other national and international venues.
Led by Jane Duffield
- E. **“Self-Care”**: This workshop will create space for us to reflect on and share self-care practices then it will offer an opportunity to take time to practice self-care. The first workshop will offer an easy Christian-based chair yoga practice. The second workshop will invite you to use praying through painting as a way to tend to one's imagination and spirituality. No experience or special materials are required. Bring your whole self for a time to breath, relax, and pray in beloved community.
Led by TJ Lucas

- F. **“Christian Eschatology and Sexual Ethics”**: In this workshop, participants will consider how descriptions of the eschatological life (in the resurrection of the dead) have been used to isolate human sexuality to a marital and/or procreative purpose, while idealizing virginity and celibacy. However, new scholarship into eschatology and sexual ethics is considering how human sexuality might have a place in the resurrection, and if so, how Christians can think about sexual ethics from the perspective of eschatology.

Led by Dr. Richard McCarty

- G. **“Choir Rehearsal”**: Ruth Miller, Music Director at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Bedford, and Kathy Fair, Music Director at Faith United Church of Christ in Ridgway, will lead a group of joyful voices who will sing for our closing worship service on Saturday afternoon.

Led by Kathy Fair & Ruth Miller

Worship Area

- H. **“Loving Your Neighbors’ Shoes: Youth Workshop”**: The Bible calls us to “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31). What exactly does that mean though, and how do we do it? What if we don’t like our neighbors? What if their shoes are ugly? What do we do then? Join us for an interactive workshop in which we will figure out together just who our neighbors are, how we are called to love them, and what we can do to fill their love shoes (even if we don’t like them)! Participants are encouraged to come with open hearts and minds; and a willingness to not only think outside the box, but to throw the box away completely! *Speaker Bio*: Melissa McLean is a member-in-discernment of Emanuel UCC in Warren, PA. She is a fourth year student at the Penn West Academy, and a first year M.Div. student at Chicago Theological Seminary. She is a member of the Penn West’s Global Missions Team, a certified ALICE instructor, volunteers with both CASA and Relay for Life, and is an avid reader. Melissa resides in Warren with her husband James, their son Joshua, and their rather large dog Moose.

Led by Melissa McLean

Youth Room

- I. **“If Not for Grace: Practicing the Gospel through Recovery Ministry”**: Using her personal story as a point of departure, Rev. Donna Jarrell will reflect on God's call to the body of Christ to enter *recovery* ministry. What is "recovery"? Who needs it? Who is qualified to lead recovery ministry? What resources are available to support this type of ministry? These are a few of the questions Donna will address during the session.

Led by Donna Jarrell

- J. **“The LeMoyné Center”**: Ms. Joyce Ellis will provide an overview of the LeMoyné Center in Washington PA. This is the mission project for our Eastern Regional Youth Event this year and has a historical connection to partners in the United Church of Christ.

Led by Joyce Ellis

Workshop Two:

- A. ***“Stepping into Stewardship”***: As we seek to be faithful stewards of precious missional resources, we in the church need to consider new models of inspiring generosity and modeling faithfulness. Our Financial Stewards have wisdom to share, not only about becoming Faithful Stewards, but also about helping individuals and the church to live into their fullest potential as disciples.

Led by Tom Croner, Debbie Long, Jim Neatrour, and Brenda Haws

- B. ***“Chatting with David”***: In this time, we will have opportunities for informal conversation and questions/answers with our Conference Minister, David Ackerman. *Led by David Ackerman*
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- C. ***“Penn West Academy”***: The Rev. Joseph Hedden, Dean of the Penn West Academy for Ministry, will lead this workshop about the Academy. The Academy helps to prepare people for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ and also offers opportunity for continuing education.

Led by Joseph Hedden

- D. ***“The Marks, Pathways to Ordination, and the UCC Ministerial Code”***

Led by Liddy Barlow

- E. ***“Self-Care”***: This workshop will create space for us to reflect on and share self-care practices then it will offer an opportunity to take time to practice self-care. The first workshop will offer an easy Christian-based chair yoga practice. The second workshop will invite you to use praying through painting as a way to tend to one's imagination and spirituality. No experience or special materials are required. Bring your whole self for a time to breath, relax, and pray in beloved community.

Led by TJ Lucas

- F. ***“Sexual Ethics Roundtable”***: Christians have drawn from scripture, tradition, reason, and experience in order to inform our theological ethics, including sexual ethics. Since 1930, Protestant Christians have opened the door to consider new possibilities in the realm of sexual morality, including contraception, gender equality, reproductive choice, gender and sexual diversities, as well as the requirements and shape of marriage. In this roundtable, a brief overview of Christian sexual ethics will be provided, from which participants can name

their ongoing questions about Christian sexual ethics, as well as to engage in constructive theological ethics with one another about these topics.

Led by Dr. Richard McCarty

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Led by Kathy Fair & Ruth Miller

Worship Area

- H. **“Voices from Bethlehem: Youth Workshop”**: Using connections through Skype, we'll be talking with members of the Christian community in Bethlehem about their lives. The city sits behind a series of concrete walls and fences built by the Israeli government. Many Israelis consider it a security barrier to stop terrorism; many Palestinians see it as a means to annex Palestinian land. Come and listen! *Presenter Bio*: The Rev. Dr. Alexa Smith is a journalist and an ordained Presbyterian Church (USA) minister. She currently serves two UCC churches in the Penn West Conference, St. John's in Salisbury, PA, and Trinity in New Germany, MD. She reported in-and-out of Israel/Palestine for nearly seven years for the Presbyterian News Service and other church news agencies.

Led by Alexa Smith

Youth Room

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