

# Lehigh Presbytery News

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March 20, 2017

## FEBRUARY PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The February 28, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Lehigh Presbytery was called to order by Moderator, Ruling Elder Jack Felch at the Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus. Ruling Elder Sue Vitale (Faith Presbyterian Church) delivered greetings from the Faith congregation and shared some of the churches history and the churches ministry.



Our special guest, Ruling Elder Jack Ferlino (Faith, Emmaus and The Barn), was honored for his founding and dedication to Worldwide Ministries. A tribute was shared by Stated Clerk Marsha Heimann who read the laudation presented by the Rev. Tibor Kiss, Secretary of the Hungarian Reformed Church in the Transylvania District of Romania, thanking Jack for his contributions as a bridge builder in the formal Covenant between the Lehigh Presbytery, Synod of the Trinity, Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania. Rev. Sue Pizor Yoder spoke of her long friendship with Jack and supporting his vision for overseas partnerships. Jack was praised for successfully fulfilling the aim of the Presbytery's statement by building mission that seeks to enforce Jesus Christ's disciples in

their hope and faith; to address the needs of all God's children; and to show God's love in this mission. Jack was joined by many friends and family to receive this tribute.

A special Worship Service followed with clergy members from the Expecting Hope Team; Rev. Kari Olson, Rev. Ruth Ann Christopher, Rev. Don Brown, Rev. David Duquette, and Rev. Stephen Emick, working together for the future of Lehigh Presbytery. Rev. Kari Olson, in her meditation, shared words from Galatians 4:8-20 which is guiding this team's work. She spoke of the process of discerning how the Presbytery can best facilitate Christ being formed among our Congregations and what our future looks like. This service also provided an opportunity for our members to renew their baptismal vows during a thanksgiving and remembrance. An offering was collected in honor of Jack Ferlino for the Worldwide Ministries Care Team to continue their mission work.

Our presenter for the afternoon was Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Officer for the Northeast Region of the Presbyterian Foundation. She spoke about today's environment and the need to look at stewardship differently by transforming your stewardship program to become a vital part of the life of your church. She focused on the foundational issues of spirituality and leadership, providing immediate do-able steps for growing generosity and transforming congregations. She answered questions and offered solutions to our members. Rev. Johns-Kelley will share more information with us at the June 27, 2017 Presbytery Meeting where she will speak about "Composing a Legacy: Live Forward, Give Forward".



Stated Clerk Marsha Heimann announced that the First Presbyterian Church, Reading was dismissed from PC(USA) at our September 27, 2016 Presbytery Meeting and has satisfied all financial commitments contained in the Terms for Dismissal. Marsha expressed her gratitude to the members of the PET for allowing this process to move forward as allowed by the Gracious Dismissal Policy.

Save the Date for April 29, 2017 for a Presbytery-wide Retreat at Kirkwood Camp from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity to hear from the Expecting Hope Team and our Consultant about the future of Lehigh Presbytery. All members of Lehigh Presbytery are invited to join us for a day of worship and conversation and to be a part of shaping our future together. Remember we are not complete without you.

**STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS:** Presented by Ruling Elder Sally Heimbach.  
An overview of the Peaks and Valleys during 2016 in Lehigh Presbytery.

Looking back on 2016, the Lehigh Presbytery's time line would look like an extremely erratic EKG, lots of peaks and valleys. We have a tendency to focus on the valleys, (yes, we are referring to Bethlehem) but our peaks were as wonderful as our valleys were distressing. We are not in cardiac arrest!!

While 2016 did have a great deal of focus on First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem and the First Presbyterian Church of Reading, we did, in fact, do some ministry with other churches.

The First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua and the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua were awarded a joint C-Change grant to help them secure a part-time Youth director. The BARN received a C-Change grant for their free monthly art program held at THE 412, a downtown Emmaus facility of Faith Presbyterian Church. We sent a group of youth and a leader to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University. We committed to assist First Presbyterian Church of Easton with a Teaching Elder subsidy grant. We supported Kirkwood Camp through a leadership grant. We hosted three Boundary training workshops. These were all funded through the Mission Budget.

There are two other sources of funds within the Presbytery. The small church fund is an account restricted for development of clergy and lay leadership in churches with less than 150 members or avg. attendance. This fund was utilized twice in 2016, once to assist with attendance at a seminar and also to help the First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua and the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua with the funds for their Youth Director. The Peacemaking fund is replenished each year through the Presbytery portion of the Peace and Global witness offering. Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus received a Peacemaking grant to help fund THE 412, their downtown outreach building and the Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua and the First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua received a grant for their youth program.

On the occasion that Lehigh Presbytery cannot assist a church directly, we can be of assistance to guide you to sources that may, as in the case of the United Presbyterian Church of Pottsville and their PILP (Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program) loan.

Some other highlights from 2016:

The BARN was approved for a seed grant from the 1001 Worshipping Community program. The Presbytery Lead Team passed a motion in the fall of 2015 to match any approved grants from the 1001 Worshipping Community program from the funds of the Saucon Valley land sale, which is currently restricted to new church development.

The Presbytery Lead Team in partnership with the Synod of the Trinity has embarked on a discernment process, EXPECTING HOPE, to seek the future path for Lehigh Presbytery.

Those are some of the peaks from 2016.

Our valleys often focused on the dismissal process for churches. While the Lehigh Presbytery and the First Presbyterian Church of Reading came to an agreement on their request for dismissal from the PC(USA), we are still in the ongoing process with the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem. We continue to ask for prayers for all involved.

One of our other valleys is the financial health of the Lehigh Presbytery.

Per Capita payments came up short in 2016 but the majority of the shortfall was due to First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, the First Presbyterian Church of Reading and due to the receipt of 2016 per capita in 2017.

Per Capita is the way Lehigh Presbytery funds their administrative budget. How boring is that!! Per capita is one of those “things” that some churches may hold off paying to balance their own budget.

Raise your hand if you have ever used this sentence “I think I will call Robin, she will know the answer” “I don’t have time to do this but Robin will have time to do it”. How many of you have benefitted from Robin’s kindness. PER CAPITA DOLLARS at work.

How many of you have benefitted from the actions of the Stated Clerk? PER CAPITA DOLLARS at work.

Lehigh Presbytery is very fortunate to have an OFFICE MANAGER and a STATED CLERK who have gone above and beyond their stated duties. PER CAPITA DOLLARS at work.

Our mission giving from churches has gone from a high of 14% to a low of 10% of receipts. The mission budget funds, unlike the Administration budget, are used for congregational and/or ministry support. The 2017 mission budget has \$10,000 allocated for C-Change grants and another \$10,000 allocated for other mission grants. If your church has an idea for a mission endeavor without the funds to bring it to reality, these may be for you. Go to the website, go to resources, forms & policies, grant applications and look it over (or call Robin). The funds are there to help you.

To be honest the mission budget is pretty simple. More \$ in, More \$ can go out to ministry.

We’ve been talking a lot about good things, bad things, ups and downs, mountain peaks and valleys. Valleys can be our opportunities to grow and change, to look towards the mountains. One of the most exciting developments in the Presbytery is the geographic diversity in the leadership. The Presbytery Lead Team chair comes from Pen Argyl, the chair of our future vision group, Expecting Hope, is from Summit Hill and the incoming chair of the Committee on Ministry is from Pottsville.

I would like to close with scripture from Isaiah 40:4

***“Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.”***

*Lehigh Presbytery thanks all the churches for their continued support!*

The Amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) from the 2016 General Assembly in Portland, Oregon were presented and voted on by commissioners. The results have been reported to General Assembly.

The Committee on Shared Gifts Chair Joel Hurley presented the slate of nominees to fill vacancies on committees. Ruling Elder Andrew Weiss was elected to the Committee on Ministry; Ruling Elder Alexis Green was elected to the Presbytery Lead Team; and Teaching Elder David Duquette was elected to the Committee on Shared Gifts.

Rev. Kari Olson asked all members of the Expecting Hope Team to stand and be acknowledged for their hard work. She explained the Synod of Trinity is sharing in the funding of the Consultant, Phil Bergey, the team is working with. She used the metaphor from Galatians 4 that labor is hard, there is no going back and no guarantee of the outcome. There is joy and grief, grief of loss of the old life. The goal is that Christ is formed among us. She shared that the Team has reviewed the information from the Congregational assessments. She spoke of the Retreat in April and the work to be done there. Invitations will be mailed in March and a RSVP will be asked.



Rev. Dave Duquette provided an update on the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem and reports the true church is passionate about being PC(USA). He spoke of Rev. Bill Hess doing remarkable work with the

congregation. There is much joy. Rev. Duquette announced that J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the National Church will be at First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem PC(USA) on March 12<sup>th</sup> offering support, answering questions and preaching at worship. He is known as a great visionary leader in PC(USA). Rev. Duquette encouraged everyone to attend and be a friend to our colleague in ministry.

Guest Devin Johns from Broad Street Ministries provided information about this ministry in Philadelphia which offers services and meals to their most vulnerable but also offers relational and impactful service learning opportunities for youth, adult and intergenerational groups. She spoke about the summer Youth Initiative which welcomes groups from all over the country for week-long service immersion programs. She spoke of the Broad Street Ministries goal to transform current and future disciples into creative, justice-seeking leaders within the churches and communities. Devin extended the invitation to our churches to encourage their youth to make a commitment to this service and be part of the summer Youth Initiative. It is a life changing experience and provides learning opportunities to prepare for continued leadership, education and management of outreach projects.

During Open Mic Time the names of those in Ministry celebrating their quinquennial anniversaries of their Ordination were read: Rev. Laura Stone, 5 years; Rev. Robert Snyder, 20 years; and Rev. Sherry Blackman, 10 years. Congratulations to all.



Rev. Ruth Ann Christopher and Ruling Elder Sally Heimbach escorted Rev. David Duquette from his seat to the front of the sanctuary for a special presentation of great thanks for his leadership in the Presbytery. They expressed appreciation for his dedication and his time given to serving as President of the Lead Team, representing the Presbytery in Bethlehem, chairing the PET, AC, and overseeing the everyday operations of the Presbytery. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Dave along with a restaurant gift certificate to take his family out for dinner. A box filled with cards of thanks, gratitude and blessings was also presented thanking Dave for all the hard, difficult work he has done and for being such a faithful servant.

Ruling Elder Sally Heimbach announced the details of the upcoming One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during the season of Lent. This will benefit PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), Hunger and Self Development of People.

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## *“Until Christ is formed among you”*

Paul’s hope for the church is that Christ would be formed among our congregations. (Galatians 4:19)

We are in the process of discerning how the Presbytery can best facilitate Christ being formed among our congregations.

**Join us for a day of worship and conversation** led by the **Expecting Hope Team**, and be a part of shaping our future together.

**Please RSVP to the Presbytery office (610-391-9020 or [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org)).**

*“Expecting  
Hope” Lehigh  
Presbytery  
Retreat*

April 29, 2017  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Kirkwood Camp  
127 Kirkwood Road  
Stroudsburg, PA

**Save the Date!**

## MODERTOR'S GATHERING



You are invited to join our Presbytery Moderator Jack Felch and our Presbytery Stated Clerk, Marsha Heimann for our second Moderator's Gathering on **Sunday, March 26, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, PA.**

The primary purpose of our gathering will be for Jack and Marsha to listen to the Good News in the life of your congregation. They will bring back what they hear and share it with others in the leadership of Lehigh Presbytery. Of course, you may also have questions or concerns for which they will seek answers and provide timely feedback to you. On request, they would be pleased to schedule private meetings before or after the regional gathering to address sensitive topics, not suitable for public sharing.

There will be a small gift, a book, for each congregation represented at this gathering. It is Jack's hope that the book can be shared and circulated among those with a passion for being the church in this time and place.

**Please RSVP by email to Robin, [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org), with the names of expected guests, no later than Wednesday, March 22, 2017.**

Upcoming Moderator's Gatherings (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.):

May 21, 2017 – Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua, 210 Pine Street, Catasauqua, PA

October 22, 2017 – Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 1129 Church Road, Shawnee on Delaware, PA

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## Lehigh Presbytery - Stated Meeting Hosts 2017

**Saturday, April 29, 2017**  
*(retreat)*

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. lunch will be served  
Kirkwood Camp  
127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA

**Tuesday, June 27, 2017**

4:00 p.m. dinner will be served  
Presbyterian Parish of Bangor-Roseto  
332 Kennedy Drive, Bangor, PA

**Saturday, September 30, 2017**  
*(retreat)*

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. lunch will be served  
Kirkwood Camp  
127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA

**Tuesday, November 28, 2017**

1:00 p.m. no meal served  
Presbyterian Church of Catasauqua  
210 Pine Street  
Catasauqua, PA



## Attention Pastors, Church Treasurers, and Chairs of Personnel Committees

The Rev. Douglas Portz, our Board of Pensions Regional Church Consultant, will be presenting an overview of recent changes to the Benefits Plan on

- ✦ **May 2, 2017 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.** at The Presbyterian Parish of Bangor-Roseto, 332 Kennedy Drive, Bangor, PA;
- ✦ or **May 3, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.** at The First Presbyterian Church, 3231 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA.

Time will be spent giving an overview what benefits are staying the same and which are changing. We will discuss questions regarding:

- How small churches (or a church of any size) can use the Menu-options for their situation;
- How to fill out Employer Agreements (even for one employee);
- Completing the Annual Enrollment;
- How to use Benefits Connect to monitor your Benefits;
- How to use online forms and update salary information;
- How to grandfather employees into the Plan;
- as well as, how to add new full-time and part-time employees.

If you are interested in how these changes will affect your church, the budget, and your staff benefits please be sure to come and learn how the Board of Pensions is serving you. **Please RSVP your attendance to the Presbytery office (610-391-9020 or email [office@lehighpresbytery.org](mailto:office@lehighpresbytery.org)). Thank you.**

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## **DAY OF CELEBRATION AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM PC (USA)**



Sunday March 12, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the PC (USA), proceeded into worship at First Bethlehem, escorted by a dozen clergypersons from several denominations. Dr. Nelson brought words of encouragement from Louisville to the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem who are engaged in ongoing litigation in the Northampton County court over property issues. Litigation started when a faction at the church broke away to form an ECO church last June.

Two hundred fifty worshippers heard Dr. Nelson's sermon titled "Fear Not" and countless more watched a report of the visit on WFMZ-TV and in a well-produced video on the

Morning Call website. Following worship, 160 members and friends sat down to a wonderful lunch, prepared by the church's hospitality committee. Dr. Nelson spent more than an hour answering questions and giving us his opinion on the strategies being used across the country to disrupt established congregations in the PC (USA) and other mainline churches.

Dr. Nelson and all of us understand it is doubtful the two churches in Bethlehem will reconcile; we should, however, remain friendly. He emphasized the importance of our members to continue to reach out to ECO members with the hand of friendship in respectful conversation. We need to share our stories, express our personal vulnerability and continue show our love to others as members of the body of Christ. If we do not reach out, we will never know what might have been.

# Thank You



*What a joyous celebration of God's grace to us as a church!*

*Led by the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, our worship service and the luncheon and discussion that followed were a true inspiration, a movement of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Nelson urged us not to fear or lose heart but also, just as important, not to forget who we are and whom we serve. His encouragement and admonition to seek reconciliation with our brothers and sisters, even as we stand on our history and principles, were just the Words we needed to hear.*

*For those of you able to join us, thank you, thank you!*

*Whatever happens down the road, we at First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem PC(USA) are grateful for the blessings that we have received through relationships that have grown with our sister churches throughout the Presbytery.*

*With our gratitude and love,  
the Steering Committee, FPCB PC(USA)*

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## Session Minute Reading



It is time for the Annual Reading of the Church Session Minutes. Clerks of Session are required to have their Minutes examined and Rolls/Registers reviewed during the month of May. We have scheduled four opportunities for you to attend. Please feel free to attend the **one** that is most convenient for you. Thank you to those who so graciously offered to host.

1. **Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon** – Shawnee Presbyterian Church, 1129 Shawnee Church Road, Shawnee on the Delaware, PA.
2. **Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.** – First Presbyterian Church, 3231 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA.
3. **Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon** – Freeland Presbyterian Church, 625 Front Street, Freeland, PA.
4. **Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.** – United Presbyterian Church, 6750 PA Route 873, Slatington, PA.

Please bring with you your current copy of the *Book of Order*.

Our method of review involves reading each other's Minutes while following a Session Minutes Examination Checklist (copy enclosed). For good stewardship of your time, **please fill these forms out in advance of our meeting and bring the copies to our meeting.**

As we asked last year, please bring the following documents **if you did not do so previously.**

- |                              |                                                |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Property deed(s)          | 4. Current bylaws and standing rules           |
| 2. <b>2016</b> Annual Report | 5. Current Sexual Misconduct Policy (G-3.0106) |
| 3. Most recent directory     |                                                |

We hope that all Clerks can be present. Moderators of Session are welcome to attend and participate, but their attendance is not mandatory. Many find this time helpful in their ministry as Moderator of Session.



## **KIRKWOOD CAMP NEWS**

127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

570-421-8625

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

## **SUMMER CAMP**



At Kirkwood, Summer Camp is all about the kids. We offer a week-long, faithful and community building experience that sends our campers home full, happy, sleepy, and with new friends and deeper faith. On-line registration is now open at <https://kirkwoodcamp.org/summer-camp/>. There are several options to choose from:

» **Traditional Camp** Rising Grades 3-12 - Join us for the week, and experience our vibrant camp community at its fullest. Fly down the zip-line. Make lasting friendships. Hike up to the ridge, with the opportunity to sleep out under the stars. Practice living the gospel, and have a blast while doing it!

**Sun-Sat, offered 4 times: 6/18-6/24, 6/25-7/1, 7/16-7/22, 7/23-7/29/2017**

» **Night Owl** Rising Grades 6-12 - Have an incredible experience at camp—after dark! Night Owl campers will stay up into the early hours of the morning, only rising for a hearty breakfast at normal “lunch time.” Explore, create, sing, play, hang out, and worship in the middle of the night, while sleeping in our cool platform tents. Rising Middle and High School campers: This is going to be one camp week you don't want to miss.

**Sun-Sat, offered twice 7/16-7/22, 7/23-29/2017**

» **Joy of Creation** Rising Grades 3-12 - A camper favorite, Joy of Creation week will happen at Kirkwood twice in 2017! Experienced volunteers join us for the week to explore the fine and performing arts, including vocal and instrumental music, art, drama, guitar, journalism, outdoor living, and dance. This is your outlet to be creative with new friends and cool camp counselors. Bring your instrument, your voice, your creativity, and your love of nature for JOC week.

**Sun-Sat, offered twice: 7/9-7/14, 7/30-8/5/2017**



*Did you know that keeping an outdoor ministry going takes many hands?*

We are always looking for volunteers to take on projects like gardening, painting, cabin cleaning, and more at the camp. There are opportunities for all skill levels. You can contact them by calling 570-421-8625 or on line at <https://kirkwoodcamp.org/contact/>

## SUMMER STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE



We are looking for an awesome summer staff at Kirkwood Camp!

If you are, or know of any young adults who are looking for a summer job, the camp is looking for to fill counselor positions for the summer camping season.

We hope that will encourage any qualified young adults in your congregation to consider working at the camp this summer season. Applications are available online at <https://kirkwood.campbrainstaff.com/>.

If they should have questions or need more information they can contact Tommy Campbell the camp director at the phone number or email below.

For more information, please contact the Camp directly.

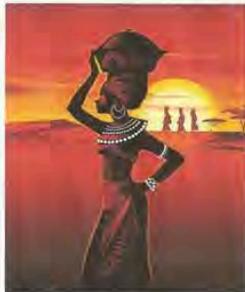
Kirkwood Camp, 127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

570-421-8625, email [Kirkwood@kirkwoodcamp.org](mailto:Kirkwood@kirkwoodcamp.org), [www.kirkwoodcamp.org](http://www.kirkwoodcamp.org)

## Kenyan Dinner

Saturday, March 25, 2017

First Presbyterian Church of Easton  
333 Spring Garden St., Easton, PA 18042



4:30 – 7:00 PM Eat In or Take Out  
Adults \$20 Students \$10

*Enjoy a sampling of authentic Kenyan specialties:*

*Samosas (savory appetizers), Pili-Pili (hot sauce),  
Kachumbari (chopped salad), Chapatti (flatbread), Basmati rice,  
Cardamom Chicken (sautéed chicken breast), Mchuzi ya nyama (beef stew),  
Ugali (corn meal mush), Coconut Ndengu (green peas and coconut milk)  
Kabeji (sautéed cabbage), Sukuma Wiki (sautéed collard greens)  
Dessert: Mandazi (Kenyan donuts) and Ice Cream  
Kenyan Coffee (Kahawa#1) and Chai Masala (ginger tea with spices)*

### Reservations and Tickets

Contact: Shirley 610-258-4259 or ([shirlbimvannorman@verizon.net](mailto:shirlbimvannorman@verizon.net))

First Presbyterian Church of Easton, 333 Spring Garden St., Easton, PA 18042  
Website: [www.eastonfpc.com](http://www.eastonfpc.com) Phone: 610-253-3579 Email: [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org)



sale

## CRAFT SALE & FLEA MARKET

Presbyterian Church of  
Catasauqua  
210 Pine Street, Catasauqua, PA  
Saturday, April 8, 2017  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women of the  
Catasauqua Presbyterian Church  
will sponsor their Vendor, Craft & Flea  
Sale in the Church Chapel. Baked  
goods, Chinese Auction, Breakfast  
and Lunch will be available.



## BIG TENT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

*Washington University in St. Louis, MO, July 6 -8th*

Registration is now live! We recommend that you review the [schedule of events](#) before beginning the [registration](#) process.

We invite you to join Presbyterians from around the country at Big Tent 2017, held on the beautiful campus of Washington University in St. Louis, MO, July 6 -8th. The theme will emphasize the hope of the Gospel and its power to transform society in our current cultural context, marked by anxiety, racial division, political animosity, and

economic inequality. Through dialogue, workshops, exhibits, and engagement with one another, participants will engage the Church in its mission of justice-making and peace.

Registration is \$395 and includes accommodations for three nights and six meals. Commuter rate (big tent programming and four meals) is \$225. You can find a complete listing of other available packages on the [Accommodations & Meals](#) page.

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/churchwide-ministries/big-tent-2017/>



Don't miss the  
**BASKET RAFFLE & BAKE SALE**  
at  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
3<sup>rd</sup> & Mahoning St., Lehighon

**Saturday, April 1st 2017**  
**10 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

Featuring  
a Great assortment of Baked Goods!  
From members of  
First Presbyterian Church of Lehighon

Hot dog Lunch available from kitchen  
Hot Dog with Macaroni Salad and Chips  
**\$4.00**



## YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS

The final date in Round 3 for the [2017-18 application season](#) is three weeks away. Please encourage young adults to consider a formative year of service and follow [@yavprogram](#) on social media as [current YAVs](#) take over the account and showcase each site.

[National sites](#) are still open and quickly filling up. The final date to [apply](#) is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Feel free to share the attached images on your social media sites, websites and e-newsletters as well. Thank you for planting seeds of service and for your continued investment in the faith development of young people in our church. Blessings in your ministries!



**Blake A. Collins,**  
Associate for  
Recruitment &  
Relationships, Young  
Adult Volunteer  
(502) 528-5936,  
[blake.collins@pcusa.org](mailto:blake.collins@pcusa.org),  
[www.youngadultvolunteers.org](http://www.youngadultvolunteers.org),  
[@yavprogram](#)

Round 3 Final Date- April 1st- Fast Approaching (YAV).  
Subscribe to our quarterly [Young Adult Volunteers eNewsletter!](#)





## RULING ELDERS AND BAPTISM

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/>

March 15, 2017

Rodger Nishioka, Office of the General Assembly

Clive Gregory Guerra was clearly not having a good time. He was struggling in the arms of his mother. Perhaps he sensed her anxiety as they all stood in front of the congregation. When she passed him to his father, it did not help. He struggled in his dad's arms and let out a loud cry. He did not want to be passed from his father to Pastor Tom. He struggled and squirmed and then when Pastor Tom put water on his head and said some important words, he let out a loud cry right into Pastor's Tom's microphone. His parents were cringing. So was the congregation. Then Ruling Elder Joni put out her arms and Pastor Tom gladly transferred Clive to her. Joni looked down at him and said, "That's all right, Clive Gregory. God has given you a great voice. You use it to God's glory!" That's when Clive's parents and the congregation broke out into smiles and for the first time in his baptism, so did Clive. Ruling Elder Joni then went on to look out at the congregation and ask if all were willing to care for Clive and to teach him about Jesus and to learn from him as well. Everyone said, "Yes!" Joni spoke to Clive who was now looking directly into her eyes and smiling, and said, "Pastor Tom better watch out. From now on, you belong to God and God has given you the gift of volume. I see a preacher in you one day!"

The Directory for Worship in the *Book of Order* tells us that Baptism is "the sign and seal of incorporation into Christ" (W-2.3001). While the pastor invites the individuals being baptized or the parents of the child being baptized to respond to a series of professions, the Directory for Worship says that a ruling elder may lead the whole congregation in a similar profession of faith and an affirmation of those being baptized and a promise to care for and nurture them (W-3.3603). Many liturgical theologians believe this is right and good since it is the responsibility of the session to authorize the Sacrament on behalf of the congregation.



The Holy Sacrament —Bill McChesney - Flickr, CC 2.0

Further, it is the ruling elders' responsibility to invite parents to have their child baptized and to invite individuals to seek the Sacrament of Baptism. When I arrived as the guest preacher in one of our congregations in Michigan, I was told that three generations of one family—a grandfather, a daughter, and a grandson—were being baptized that day. I was delighted to hear this and when I asked how this came about, the pastor told me that the daughter, a frequent visitor, had approached one of the ruling elders after a worship service that included a baptism asking about her young son being baptized. When the elder asked about the mother's own baptism experience, she replied that she had never been baptized. The elder then suggested that they both be baptized. Then when the young woman's father heard about it, he revealed that he had never been baptized and would be honored to be baptized on the same day in the same service as his daughter and grandson. What a celebration that day as the three held hands and walked around the congregation to applause and laughter as the whole congregation welcomed them into the family of Jesus Christ!

The *Book of Order* also stipulates that ruling elders must ensure that those being baptized go through a process of preparation and following the baptism, continue to be nurtured in the faith (W-2.3012b, c, e). This helps Clive Gregory and his folks understand that baptism is not the end of the journey but rather one step on the lifelong adventure of following the Lord. The Sacrament of Baptism is an act of the whole congregation. This means that both ruling and teaching elders should participate in all aspects of the sacrament from the invitation to the preparation to the baptism to the nurture that follows. In this way, we demonstrate to the whole world our life together as the Body of Christ.

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*Dr. Rodger Nishioka is the director of adult educational ministries at the Village Church in Prairie Village, Kansas.*

For more about the information provided here, please contact Martha Miller at [martha.miller@pcusa.org](mailto:martha.miller@pcusa.org) and browse the [Ruling Elders website](#). Read this post in [한국어](#) and [Español](#).

## Looking Ahead: Women's Connection 2017

Featuring Rachel Held Evans

August 11-13, 2017

The theme of Women's Connection 2017 will be **The Fullness of Life**. Women are made in the image of God, created as physical, emotional/relational, and spiritual beings. Women's Connection 2017 is a holy time for women to honor who God has created us to be. We hope to provide space for opportunities to nurture mind and body, to connect with community of old friends and new, and to recenter our communal lives and our individual selves in God's good news. Come as you are.



This year's conference, featuring [Rachel Held Evans](#), will encourage participants to find grace and renewal through reflection, rest, and community. Conference activities will include worship, fellowship, recreation, rest, and workshops. There will also be a time set aside to study and discuss Rachel's book together as a conference community. All participants will receive a copy of Rachel Held Evans's book, *Searching for Sunday*, as part of their registration for the full conference.

Visit their website to learn more: <http://www.montreat.org/women/>



401 Assembly Drive  
PO Box 969  
Montreat, NC 28757  
800.572.2257



Kairos is pleased to announce that they will be hosting a **Centering Prayer Workshop** in Allentown on Saturday, April 1, 2017. The day will be led by Steve Shussett, current Kairos faculty member, and will provide both instruction in the practice of Centering Prayer and opportunities to engage this prayer practice.

### **Centering Prayer Workshop**

**Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 9 am-3:30 pm**

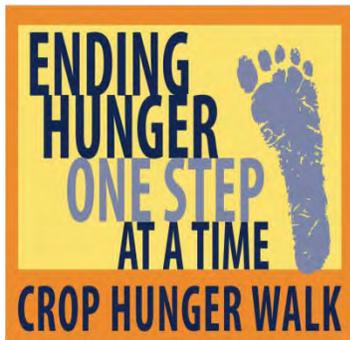
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 36 South Eighth Street, Allentown, PA 18101**

Registration Fee: **\$50** (Early Bird: **\$40** by 3/22)

More information and registration is available at [www.kairosjourney.org/centering-prayer-workshop/](http://www.kairosjourney.org/centering-prayer-workshop/). We hope that you will also consider sharing this email and/or the attached flier with those in your churches and local networks.

In a world that is so often hectic and busy, Centering Prayer allows us to be open to the Divine within us and in the world. Join us as we invite fellow travelers on this journey to deepen their relationship with God by being still.

## 2017 CROP HUNGER WALK DATES



Mark your calendars for these events at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (140 S. Ott Street, Allentown, PA.)

**CROP Recruiters' Pizza Party/Kickoff:**

*Sunday, August 27, 2017; 1:30-2:30 p.m.*

Receive materials, ideas, and inspiration for yourself and your congregation.

**Greater Allentown CROP Hunger Walk:**

*Sunday, October 8, 2017; 1:30 p.m.*

Registration begins at 12:45 p.m.



### MILLER SUMMER YOUTH INSTITUTE 2017

Since 1997, the Miller Summer Youth Institute has drawn rising high school seniors from across the United States and abroad. These scholars come from small parishes and big steeples, big cities and small towns, representing all walks of life and theological perspectives within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and beyond.

This year, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is working in partnership with Waynesburg University to expand the Miller Summer Youth Institute. At the event, students will earn 2 college credits by working with Waynesburg and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty, stay in the Waynesburg University dorms, have meals provided on campus, and spend a day in Pittsburgh at the Seminary.

SYI is designed to form an intentional Christian community where young people can be challenged to move beyond their comfort zones in order to grow in faith, engage in academic theological study, and explore ministry. In addition to times of study and reflection, you will have the chance to participate in outstanding recreation events, or shall we say, have fun!

All spots at the Miller Summer Youth Institute are filled on a first come, first served basis. Your spot is not secured until you have paid your deposit in the amount of \$100 and we have received your satisfactory references and transcript. Once you have completed this form, click submit to start the payment process.

Date: Sunday, July 9, to Saturday, July 15, 2017.

Cost: \$450

To apply visit: <https://forms.waynesburg.edu/machform/view.php?id=747259>

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gala Celebrating Lives Changed

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

– Romans 12:2a

The Allentown Rescue Mission formally invites you to attend our 2nd Annual Gala Celebrating Lives Changed, this year's theme "Transformed".

We are thrilled to announce keynote speaker will be John Ashmen, President of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions (AGRM).

**Join us on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

**DeSales University - The University Center  
2755 Station Ave., Center Valley, PA 18034**

Reserve your seat (\$125) by contacting Deirdre at 610-740-5500 x322 or get more information online at [www.allentownrescuemission.org/events](http://www.allentownrescuemission.org/events)

**Deirdre Federico Snyder** - Development Associate

355 W Hamilton St. Allentown PA 18101 P: 610-740-5500 Ext. 322 | F: 610-740-0646

[allentownrescuemission.org](http://allentownrescuemission.org) Follow us | <https://www.facebook.com/AllentownRescueMission>



### ALLENTOWN RESCUE MISSION

*Rescue, rehabilitation and restoration for men in crisis.*



### Free Public Concert

The College of Wooster's kilt-clad **Scot Symphonic Band**, along with the **Fighting Scot Pipe Band** and **Highland Dancers**, perform a free, public concert at Easton Area High School, 2601 William Penn Highway, Easton (Palmer Twp.) PA on **Tuesday, March 21, at 7 p.m.**

Founded in 1866 by the Presbyterian Church, it has been a co-educational institution since its creation. Early Wooster teams were known as the Presbyterians, or unofficially as the "Presbyterian Steamroller" due to the football team's success. Scottish culture eventually became part of the school's heritage, and the mascot is now the "Fighting Scot." The band is on its annual Spring Break tour, which this year stops in the Lehigh Valley.

### STANDING UP – AND EATING OUT – FOR OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Consider dining out at an immigrant-serving restaurant. With the recent uptick in immigrant enforcement, the area's many and diverse immigrant-serving businesses are hurting. How sad the area's restaurant scene would be if we lost our Hispanic, Asian, African, and Middle Eastern options! Let us help as we can – eat well!

