

Lehigh Presbytery News

710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104
610-391-9020 * office@lehighpresbytery.org * <http://lehighpresbytery.org>



November 17, 2015

Letter from the Moderator

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you again for the honor and privilege of serving as your Moderator this year! I appreciate the support, attendance, and invitations to hold Moderator Forum's in Pen Argyl, Allentown, Reading, Shawnee, and Ashland.



Listening to you has led to significant changes; changes that provide opportunities for us as we look at what is next.

Past budgets left Lehigh Presbytery with little money to use to "strengthen and support congregations." Looking ahead to 2016, our Per Capita Budget is balanced; no Mission money will be needed to offset a deficit; so for the first time in some time, we have the capacity to be a meaningful partner in ministry. The lessons learned from the congregational self-assessment and Mission Insite studies can be applied to equip congregations to create and innovate in response to the needs and opportunities for growth and ministry in our communities. For the first time in some time, we can think in terms of "what to do with our capacity" rather than in terms of scarcity.

We have accomplished a great deal! It is a new day in Lehigh Presbytery.

So what's next? What about Bethlehem?

We have questions and we have concerns, but whether Bethlehem stays or goes; we have the capacity to respond to the possibilities that are before us. We also have the time to discern the future God is calling us to.

We've talked about this informally. I am looking forward to us talking about this formally, so that the future we discern is a future that we discern rather than a future that we feel compelled by adverse circumstance to accept.

It has been a great blessing to me to serve as your Moderator. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Lead Team; and, with incoming Moderator Rev. Sue Bennetch and Stated Clerk Marsha Heimann, to discovering what God has in store for us on this new day.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David", is placed above the printed name of the Moderator.

Rev. David Duquette

Moderator



The next Stated Meeting of Lehigh Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of East Stroudsburg.



*We invite you to a
very special event
for a very special season!*

**3rd Annual Carol Fest
sponsored by the
Upper Tier Churches**

**Sunday, November 29,
2015 at 2:30 p.m.**

**Freeland Presbyterian
Church
625 Front Street
Freeland, PA 18224**

Come and enjoy the fellowship and sing your favorite Carols. Hear feature performances and presentation from the churches in the area. A cookie and dessert fest will immediately follow the Songfest!

For additional information, please contact either Rev. Glen Hueholt at 570-722-8803 or Elder Paul Lucia at 610-385-0909, email paullucia@dejazzd.org.

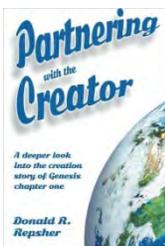
HERE I AM by Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim



A member of Lehigh Presbytery, the Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Associate Professor of Theology at Earlham School of Religion has recently published a book "**Here I Am**". This book is in celebration of 25th anniversary of the Korean American Presbyterian Women's Group. You can find out more about this book by visiting Amazon.com.

She is also the author of *Christian Doctrines for Global Gender Justice* co-edited with Jenny Dagers; *Theological Reflections on "Gangnam Style"* co-written with Joseph Cheah; *Reimagining with Christian Doctrines* co-edited with Jenny Dagers; *Contemplations from the Heart*; *Colonialism, Han and the Transformative Spirit*; *The Holy Spirit, Chi, and the Other*; and *The Grace of Sophia*.

PARTNERING WITH THE CREATOR by Rev. Donald R. Repsher



A former member of Lehigh Presbytery, the Rev. Donald R. Repsher has recently published a new book "Partnering with the Creator". There is more information and an order form on the registration table or you can find out more on Amazon.com.

Does the creation story in the first chapter of Genesis tell us about how our planet was created, or is it a message of hope declaring that the Creator can take what is worthless, even a life that has encountered the worst circumstances possible, and transform it into a life that is of great worth? This book shows that the first chapter of Genesis emerges from the hopeless experience of Jewish exiles in ancient Babylon and powerfully introduces the most essential message of the Bible: the Creator's initiative invites human beings into a life-changing partnership intended to sustain and care for all of the Creator's good creation.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS CHRISTMAS JOY

Supporting past, present, and future leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season. However, you can help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by the Christmas Joy Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year.

A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

Take time to watch the Christmas Joy Offer video on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=2&v=Lm4xuCdH-b8>

For more information or to download the many resources to promote this offering, please visit <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.html>. You can also order resources directly by calling Presbyterian Distribution Services at (800) 524-2612.



CHRISTMAS JOY

Please give generously

-  presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy
-  Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
-  Call 800-872-3283
-  Through your congregation



ADVENT 2015

Whether you're leading worship or a study group, we have the resources you need for Advent 2015!

You can explore [Advent themes in Narnia](#), spend devotional time with [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#), [illuminate Advent](#) for your adult study group, and so much [more!](#)

Visit the PC(USA) Store at <http://www.pcusastore.com/>



**CLICK TO SEE
ALL RESOURCES**

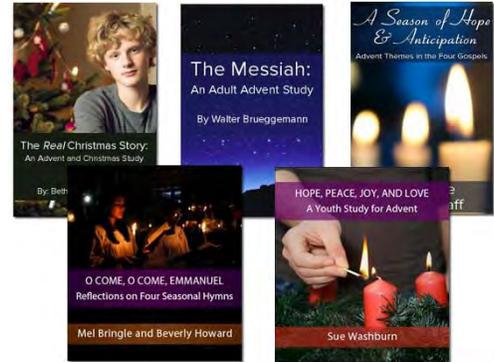


The ThoughtfulChristian.com has information on over 15 downloadable study packs for the season. Each study pack contains four sessions (one for each week of Advent) and all of the sessions include a Participant's Handout and Leader's Guide.

You can click the link above or go to:
<http://www.thethoughtfulchristian.com/>

The Thoughtful Christian.com
100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202

Advent Study Packs



Learn more >

#Giving Tuesday 2015

Make this the year your ministry participates in **#GivingTuesday**, a global day dedicated to giving back.

On Tuesday, December 1, charities, families, community centers and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

All Presbyterian ministries can accept online gifts through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange. [Find out more.](#)



one person
can change
history

Being a member of the Presbyterian Historical Society is all about benefits. The benefits you receive as a member, and the benefits your financial support extends to explorers of Reformed history from around the world.

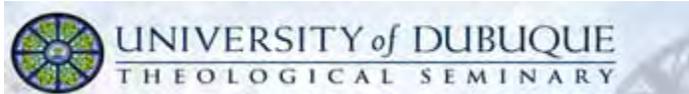
PHS members can receive free publications, discounted services, genealogy research assistance, and commemorative engraved bricks. Membership support in turn helps to make the Society's service ministry possible, preserving church records, missionary papers, museum items, and unique recordings at our state-of-the-art archives. Each year, thousands visit our building or experience Presbyterian history remotely, using our website and online catalogs free of cost.

Will you become a member today? By joining PHS you ensure that current and future generations will learn the valuable lessons of America's Presbyterian past, and that our church heritage will continue to educate and inspire.

This year we're also offering gift memberships and memberships for churches in addition to individual memberships. Visit www.history.pcusa.org to learn more about the Society's membership levels, programs, and services.

Thank you,
Samantha Piccolo
Director of Development & Communications, spiccolo@history.pcusa.org, 215-928-3889





Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary is pleased to announce that we will be offering nine online courses for Commissioned Ruling Elders in our CLP/CRE lay ministry program, scheduled from **February 1 to May 13.**

OUR TRADITIONAL EIGHT SPRING CLASS OFFERINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Introduction to Old Testament – Rev. Martin Benckhuysen

Introduction to New Testament – Dr. Jim Gunn

Christian Education – Dr. Bonnie Sue Lewis

Pastoral Care – Dr. Beth McCaw

Reformed Theology – Dr. Gary Eller

Introduction to Preaching – Dr. Robert Hoch

Presbyterian Polity – Dr. Scott Nesbitt

Reformed Worship & Sacraments – Dr. Robert Hoch

NEW SPRING COURSE OFFERING: Christian Leadership Ethics – Dr. Richard Shaffer

For the 2015-2016 academic year, we have added two new courses to our CLP/CRE course lineup. During the **Fall 2015 semester we offered Church Administration and Finance with Dr. Phillip Jamieson, and in the Spring 2016 term we are offering Christian Leadership Ethics which I am teaching.** Christian Leadership Ethics will examine topics like sexual misconduct, confidentiality, boundaries, money, youth programs, volunteers, etc. and the implications for ministry. Both are essential for anyone who is preparing for successful service in the church.

Please pass this information on to and encourage anyone you may know with gifts for ministry to consider applying to our lay ministry program. Application and course information for our CLP/CRE program can be found at <http://udtslearning.net/> and then click on “CLP/CRE Info” in the “Welcome” box under the news feed. I have also attached our CLP/CRE flier for additional information.

As always, current students can register by going online at <http://udtslearning.net/mod/page/view.php?id=15076> or by contacting Carla Gibbons, Distance Education Coordinator (CGibbons@dbq.edu or call 563-589-3630 / 1-888-207-8218), to pay by credit card or check. The tuition rate is \$380.00 per course.

Feel free to contact Carla or me if you have any questions. In addition, please check our continuing education website at <http://udts.dbq.edu/academics/continuingeducation> for upcoming events.

Yours in Christ,
Skip Shaffer

Richard J. Shaffer Jr.
Associate Dean and Assistant Professor of Ministry
Director of Distance Education
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
(563) 589-3691
rshaffer@dbq.edu

Camp Director, Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center

The Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center, a joint ministry of Lehigh Presbytery and the Presbytery of Philadelphia and an ACA accredited camp, seeks a Camp Director to lead us into our new future together. We are committed to work with the congregations of our presbyteries to provide an exciting and relevant camping ministry that helps children, youth, and adults experience the joy of God's creation and grow in Christian discipleship.

Serving the Presbyteries of Philadelphia and Lehigh, Kirkwood Camp has recently merged with Camp Brainerd. Growing on their strong traditions, Kirkwood Camp seeks to transform into a future of relevance and impact for a new season of campers and guests. We know today's population is drawn to new and different experiences and we seek a visionary director to model a program and facility that meets that exciting future.

Primary Responsibilities

- Discern and develop a vision for the camp, in conversation with the Board of Directors, the staff, congregations, camp consumers, and Presbytery leadership that builds on the strengths and potential of Camp Kirkwood to grow its camping and conference ministry.
- Strengthen the financial health of Camp Kirkwood by building relationships with the two Presbyteries and their congregations, designing and implementing development strategies, overseeing sound fiscal management, and increasing year-round use of the Camp's facilities.
- Oversee the design, planning, resourcing, and evaluation of creative and quality year-round programming for all ages.
- Develop and supervise a marketing plan that includes communication through the website, social media, print, and visits with congregations, campers, alumni/ae, and potential campers and guests.
- Build, develop, and supervise a camp staff team who will provide high-quality programming in a caring, welcoming, safe, and faithful environment.

Personal Attributes

- A firm and sustaining faith in the gracious love of Jesus Christ.
- A passionate commitment to camp and conference ministry and faith formation with a good understanding of best practices for programming and safety.
- A visionary leader able to see both the "big picture" and attend to necessary details.
- An excellent communicator with effective interpersonal skills committed to team ministry.
- A self-starter who takes initiative and can lead change and innovation.

Required Education and Experience

- A minimum of three years camp and conference experience.
- Previous management and supervisory experience.
- A bachelor's degree or comparable preparation in a relevant field.

Accountability and Compensation

The Camp Director is responsible to the Board of Directors, which is a representative governing body of both Lehigh and Philadelphia presbyteries and serves as a staff resource to both presbyteries. Salary will be based on education and experience, and includes full medical and pension benefits (PCUSA Board of Pensions or equivalent), four weeks of vacation, and one to two weeks of continuing education at conferences, conventions, or seminars approved in advance by the Personnel Committee as being beneficial to the Camp.

Interested applicants can send their questions, cover letters and resumes to Courtenay Willcox at mcwillcox@gmail.com or mail to her at 364 Sentry Lane, Wayne, PA 19087.



Synod of the Trinity

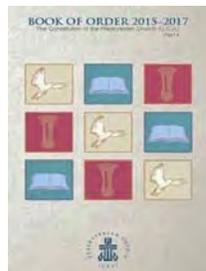
Partnering with Presbyteries to serve God in your Community and Beyond

To read the happenings at the Synod Meeting held on October 5-6, 2015 please read the *Rhythm of the Synod* at <http://www.synternity.org/featured/october-2015-synod-assembly-rhythm-of-the-synod/>.

Save The Date

Training Seminars Coming Next Spring

Sponsored by The Synod of the Trinity
Online Registration Available January 15, 2016



APRIL 2, 2016

New & Sitting Permanent Judicial Commission
Member Training

Who Will Be Invited?

Members of Presbytery & Synod
Permanent Judicial Commissions
Presbytery Stated Clerks
Executive Presbyters

APRIL 9, 2016

2016 GA COMMISSIONER
Training Session

**G.A. Commissioners Must be Elected and
Reported to OGA by December 21, 2015**

Receive valuable preparation and
information for the 2016 General Assembly.



SEMINAR LOCATION

The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference
Center, State College, PA
Lodging provided along with complimentary
breakfast & lunch, courtesy of The Synod of
the Trinity.



February 29 - March 2, 2016
San Antonio, TX
Hilton San Antonio Airport



Keynote
Karl Travis
Pastor/Head of Staff
First Presbyterian Church
Fort Worth, TX



Keynote
Grace Duddy Pomroy
Financial Education
Specialist
Portico Benefit Services



Worship Leader
Cynthia M. Campbell
Pastor/Head of Staff
Highland Presbyterian Church
Louisville, KY

Plus over 35 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns, and generosity

For more information or to register, visit their website at:
<http://stewardshipkaleidoscope.org/>

PRESENTATIONS AT LUTHER CREST

The public is cordially invited to attend the following free presentations in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104:

- Rev. Dianne Kareha on **“Growing Closer with God through Music”**: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE



Luther Crest has a variety of speakers available to speak to congregations, adult Sunday School classes, organizations such as women's and men's groups, Bible studies, seniors groups, and youth groups.

Topics include: Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia, Depression, Elder Care, Caring for the Caregiver, Senior Housing Options, Continuum of Care, Living with Loss/Grief Support, Communicating during Times of Conflict, Prayer, and Scripture Studies.

For more information or to schedule a speaker, please contact Rev. Dianne Kareha, Diakon Chaplain for Luther Crest at 610-391-8210.

Seeking a Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown New Jersey **bordentownpresbyterian.org**

About Us: The First Presbyterian Church is located in the heart of historic Bordentown New Jersey. We are a warm, welcoming church located in a beautiful, friendly community on the banks of the Delaware River. The church recently celebrated its 165th anniversary and has a rich experience of excellent pastoral leadership.

Job Description: This is a 20 hour per week position with a manse available.

Brief Description of Job Duties:

- ❖ Preach regularly as determined in consultation with the Worship Team in particular and the Session in general.
- ❖ Plan and lead worship services (including the sacraments as scheduled, plus funerals and weddings as needed) in consultation with the Worship Team and the Music Director in particular and the Session in general.
- ❖ Provide pastoral care to members as needed, especially to persons /families in crisis.
- ❖ Serve as Session moderator and provide active leadership to the Session.
- ❖ Nurture and support church leaders, especially:
 - the Session and each of its teams;
 - the Board of Deacons;
 - the Sunday School Director / Youth Group Leader;
 - the Music Director.
- ❖ Guide laypersons in recruitment of new members and assist with Stewardship campaigns.

Requirements: Characteristics the ideal candidate will possess are, among others, the ability and motivation to: grow our church and the vision to move it forward; good preaching skills; connect with people and provide pastoral care; be a persuasive but not overbearing leader.

Qualifications: The candidate must have a Bachelor's degree and a Masters in Divinity from an accredited seminary and be eligible for ordination.

Where to find more detailed information: bordentownpresbyterian.org under the Pastoral Job Information tab.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to:

First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown
435 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown New Jersey 08505
Or by email to: bpcpersonnelcommittee@gmail.com

Interim Pastor Position for Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church

The Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church is seeking an Interim Pastor to begin in late November. Interim/Transitional Leadership is required, and demonstrated experience in an interim/transitional pastorate is highly preferred.

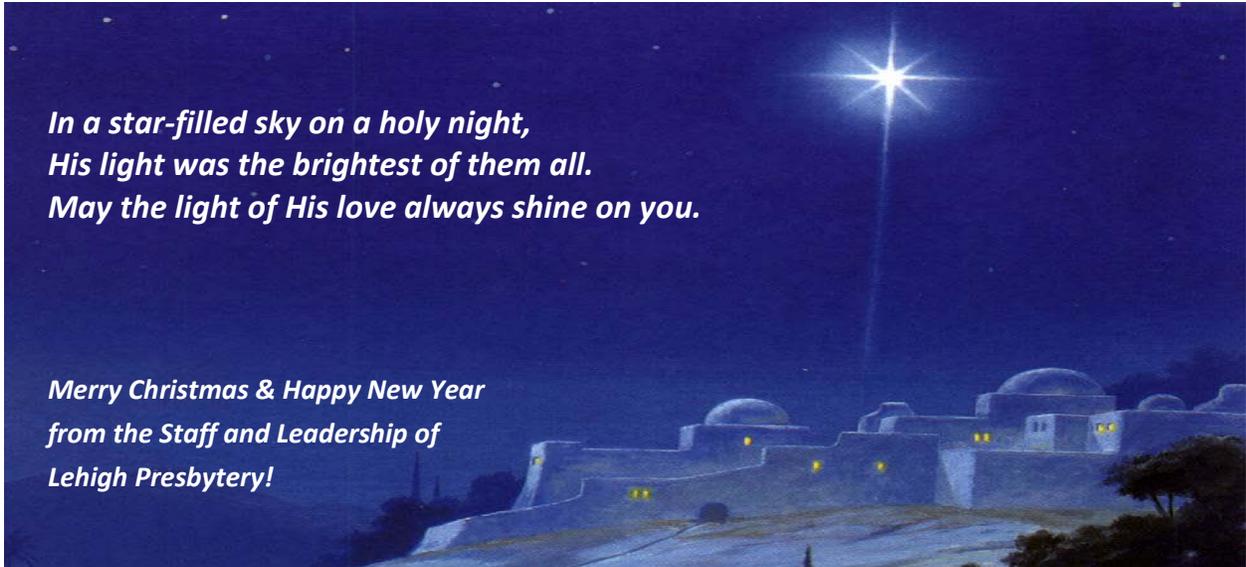
Chestnut Level is a 500+ member church that exercises practices of hospitality, outreach to the community, and investment in discipleship and mission. The congregation describes itself as warmly evangelical, and expects the Interim Pastor to lead them in engaging with the Fellowship Community. The current pastor is leaving to pursue Ph.D. studies. The congregation is healthy, happy, and continuing with their strategic plan. They have just burned their mortgage for an innovative Family Life Center, and worship in a sanctuary dating back to the 1700s. Chestnut Level is in rural southern Lancaster County, 20 miles south of the city of Lancaster.

Please send your PIF or resume to the chair of the Interim Search Committee, Ruling Elder Sue Murphy, at semurphy@frontiernet.net.

Questions may be addressed to her or to the Executive Presbyter Erin Cox-Holmes at Donegal Presbytery (cell phone: 717.723.7765 or email erincoxholmes@gmail.com). [Please click here for Interim Pastor Job Description](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** – Lehigh Presbytery Stated Meeting at Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church, 150 Pilgrim Way, Brodheadsville, PA.
- **Thursday, November 26, 2015** – HOLIDAY – HAPPY THANKSGIVING! – Lehigh Presbytery office CLOSED.
- **Friday, November 27, 2015** – HOLIDAY – Lehigh Presbytery office CLOSED.
- **Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.** – Lead Team Meeting and dinner at the home of Marsha Heimann, 2713 W. Greenleaf Street, Allentown, PA 18104.
- **Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.** – Worldwide Ministries Meeting in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA.



*In a star-filled sky on a holy night,
His light was the brightest of them all.
May the light of His love always shine on you.*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from the Staff and Leadership of
Lehigh Presbytery!*