

Lehigh Presbytery News

710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104

610-391-9020 * office@lehighpresbytery.org * <http://lehighpresbytery.org>



April 26, 2016



Upcoming Speakers at the 2016 Meetings at Lehigh Presbytery

As Lehigh Presbytery looks at creating an atmosphere for cultivating leadership skills among Pastors, Elders, and Congregational Leaders we are pleased to present these educational opportunities. Plan now to join us. (All are welcome to attend.)

- June 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** **Stated Meeting** of Lehigh Presbytery at the Pennside Presbyterian Church, 253 N. 25th Street, Reading, PA.
Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Office of the Presbyterian Foundation, *will provide tips and techniques for Stewardship Education.*
- Sept. 27, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** **Stated Meeting** of Lehigh Presbytery at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, PA.
Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter of Philadelphia Presbytery will speak on *"Engaging in the Wilderness of Mid-Council Wanderings – the challenges, temptations, and opportunities of the journey and a new land."*
- Nov. 15, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** **Stated Meeting** of Lehigh Presbytery at the Community Presbyterian Church, 1755 S. Delaware Drive, Mt. Bethel, PA.
Worship Celebration and Speaker for Princeton Theological Seminary.

Boundary Training



This training is sponsored by Lehigh Presbytery and is open to all persons in the Presbytery, especially those for whom Lehigh Presbytery has oversight according to the Sexual Misconduct Policy.

This year's training will be led by Stephen R. Treat, DMin, LMFT. He is an in demand speaker and have been featured on numerous media programs. He has co-authored two books.

The cost for the training is \$20.00 and includes lunch. You have three opportunities to complete this training this year. Choose one of the following:

- Friday, April 29, 2016** – 9 a.m.-3p.m. at the Korean Church of the Lehigh Valley, 1987 Schadt Avenue, Whitehall, PA 18052.
- Monday, June 13, 2016** – 9 a.m.- 3p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of East Stroudsburg, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 (Registration Deadline June 1, 2016)
- Monday, October 10, 2016** – 9a.m.-3p.m. at the Pennside Presbyterian Church, 253 N. 25th Street, Reading, PA 19606 (Registration Deadline September 30, 2016)

Please register through Lehigh Presbytery (610-391-9020, office@lehighpresbytery.org).

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. So as not to conflict with Mother's Day weekend, I 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 accepted my request to host.

1. **Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon** - The Presbyterian Church of East Stroudsburg, 55 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA.
2. **Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.** - Hope of Christ Presbyterian Church, 44 West White Street, Summit Hill, PA.
3. **Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon** - Faith Presbyterian Church, 3002 N. Second Street, Emmaus, PA.
4. **Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.** - College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead Street, Easton, 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)
2. 2015 Annual Report
3. Most recent directory
4. Current bylaws and standing rules
5. Current Sexual Misconduct Policy (G-3.0106)

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.

Basket Raffle & Bake Sale



The First Presbyterian Church of Leighton will be holding a **Basket Raffle & Bake Sale** on **Saturday, April 30, 2016** from **10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Come join them for a great assortment of baked goods, baked by church members and try your chance in winning a gift basket.

They will also have lunch available: hot dog with macaroni salad and chips for \$3.50.

**First Presbyterian Church, 304 Mahoning Street, Leighton, PA 18235
610-377-5111**



Work Day At Camp Kirkwood
Saturday, May 14, 2016
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Help is needed to get the camp ready for the summer youth to enjoy their weeks at camp. There are jobs for all skill levels.

Many hands lighten the work load. Tasks will include cleaning the cabins and buildings, outdoor clean up (raking, weeding, mulching, etc.), setting up tents, sanding, painting and more.

Join us on Saturday, May 14th!

Camp Kirkwood, 127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-421-8625 + kirkwood@kirkwoodcamp.org



Scottish Communion Service

The First Presbyterian Church and College Hill Presbyterian Church of Easton will hold a joint Scottish Communion Service at **4:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, May 22, 2016** in the Sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church, 333 Spring Garden Street, Easton, PA. All are welcome to attend.

“SIMPLE GIFTS”



The **First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua** will be hosting the folk music duo **SIMPLE GIFTS** at their worship service on **Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** Their choir will be joining this group for their anthem *“O Mary Don’t You Weep”* that morning. All are invited to attend.

Simple Gifts is a nationally acclaimed group and you can read more about them on their website www.simplegiftsmusic.com.

First Presbyterian Church of Hokendauqua, 3005 S. Front Street, Whitehall, PA 18052
610-264-9693 email: hokeypres@gmail.com



KOREAN STREET BAZAAR
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016 FROM 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Korean Church of the Lehigh Valley, 1987 Schadt Avenue, Whitehall, PA

Join them for a fun day of Korean food, games, crafts, and music.
There will also be a photo booth and raffle.

Congratulations to the Rev. Glen Hueholt



The **Greater White Haven Chamber of Commerce** named six to their **Hall of Fame** on Friday, April 1, 2016 at their awards dinner. Among them was the Rev. Glen Hueholt, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Weatherly. He was honored for his involvement in the White Haven Center volunteer efforts.

PW REGIONAL GATHERING

JUNE 3-4, 2016

FRIDAY, JUNE 3 FROM 5 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 FROM 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.



The Presbyteries of Donegal, Lackawanna, Lehigh and Philadelphia will hold a Presbyterian Women's Gathering on **June 3-4, 2016**.

Join them for a time of fellowship and spiritual nourishment. This gathering is being hosted by **Highland Presbyterian Church, 500 E. Roseville Road, Lancaster PA.**

Cost: \$75.00 (due by May 3, 2016) includes gathering & meals. To register please send your check (made out to the PW-Synod of the Trinity) and mail with your registration form to: Ellie Grove, 815 Kylemore Way, York, PA 17402.

Lodging is on your own and accommodations in the area are the Best Western Eden Resort (717-569-6444), Days Inn & Suites (717-293-8400), or Fairfield Inn & Suites (717-581-1800)

Registration forms can be found at the Presbytery office or by contacting Nora Harford (Lehigh PW Moderator) at nmharford@gmail.com.

Register for Kirkwood Camp

6 nights, 7 days, one week that could have a huge effect on a young person's life.

Campers can expect to have a ton of fun, and parents can expect a safe, empowering, technology-free, and faithful experience led by Christian role models from Pennsylvania and around the world.

Kirkwood Camp is a joint ministry of Lehigh and Philadelphia Presbyteries.



Open to rising grades 1-12. For more information and to register, please visit www.kirkwoodcamp.org

Helping Hands in South Carolina

A group of 26 Helping Hands volunteers traveled to Georgetown, South Carolina on Saturday, April 2, 2016. It was a grueling, 12 hour day of travel down I- 95 but we made it with no traffic backups!



Our lodging was at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church's Youth House which was a lovely building newly renovated. Since we traveled on Saturday, we were able to have some down time on Sunday. Many of us went to church in the morning, which is right next door to the Youth House. In the afternoon, some folks visited Charleston while others went to the beach at Pawley's Island and the Huntington Beach State Park. The downtime allowed us to rest up before the week's work.

Monday brought us to Andrews, SC where we worked on an old school called the Jerusalem Center. The school was originally the segregated school for Andrews. When desegregation took place around 1971, the school became an integrated middle school. It closed 15 years ago and is now owned by 39 churches of Missionary Alliance Baptist. Future plans are to restore it to serve the families and youth of their churches and communities. It will also be a shelter if a flood ever occurs again.



We had great fun and worked hard together. The leaders of the Jerusalem Center were amazed at what we accomplished. During the week, we were able to remove the old carpet, scrape off floor tiles, removed old putty from the windows and replaced broken panes, cut back overgrown shrubbery, power washed exterior and interior walls, painted 2 classrooms, dug a 45 foot trench to solve a drainage problem, set studs for dry walling the ceiling, sided parts of and repaired the roof. We really worked hard every day!!



Our work week ended too quickly on Friday, April 8th. The leaders of Jerusalem Center invited us back any time and it's possible that we may go back to Georgetown in the fall.

Tired but happy, we departed for home on Saturday, April 9th. The trip home was uneventful until we hit the snow in Maryland! We were ready to return to South Carolina for warmer weather!

If you would like to participate in their next trip in the fall, watch for details in upcoming newsletters or the website. If you are unable to physically help on a trip, they are always looking for new members to the Helping Hands Care Team to plan upcoming trips. Please contact the Presbytery office for their next meeting and help out!

2016-2017 Presbyterian Planning Calendar



Once again, Lehigh Presbytery is taking orders for the Presbyterian Planning Calendars in order for you to take advantage of the reduced pricing for bulk orders.

If you wish to order any this year, please fill out the information below and send it to the Presbytery with your check. **Orders must be received by May 1st, 2016.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robin at the Presbytery office (610-391-9020, office@lehighpresbytery.org)

Calendar Features

- Monthly calendar pages from June 2016 through December 2017
- Lectionary for the Lord's Day and special liturgical days
- Colors for the liturgical seasons
- Liturgical days, programmatic emphases and secular holidays
- Monthly planning suggestions and resources
- Synod and presbytery directories
- GA staff directories
- Foldout synod/presbytery and world maps in color
- User-friendly size—easily fits into a binder

ORDER FORM

2016-2017 PRESBYTERIAN PLANNING CALENDARS

NAME: _____

CHURCH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

QUANTITY: _____ @\$9.00/EACH TOTAL DUE: _____

Please make check out to Lehigh Presbytery and mail to:

Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104

Engaging churches in educating young people

CPJ Day workshop to show churches how they can get involved
March 31, 2016



Alonzo Johnson leads a workshop at Big Tent 2015. —Gregg Brekke

Presbyterian News Service
Rick Jones
LOUISVILLE

As Presbyterians and other Christian denominations gather in Washington, D.C. next month for [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#), they'll be looking at a number of factors that inspired this year's conference theme "Lift Every Voice!: Racism, Class and Power." One that continues to resonate across the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) is education.

In 2014, the PMA, with General Assembly approval, launched the "[Educate a Child, Transform the World](#)" initiative aimed at alleviating poverty in the U.S. and around the world. The Rev. Alonzo Johnson, convener for the national facet of the campaign, says his goal has been to get churches interested in making the education of young people one of its top priorities.

"We don't want participants to just hear about the initiative, but go back to their own churches and get involved in these issues. They need to empower their congregations, churches and friends to get connected," said Johnson. "We want Presbyterians to have a sense of urgency about this because children are facing stumbling blocks to their education and well-being every day. We must be engaged in the lives young people, not just African-American but all young people from low-income households."

The Federal government reports as many as 17.7 million children in the U.S. live below the poverty line, making children the most poverty-stricken age group in our nation. More than 6.5 million children must survive on less than half of the poverty line income. The U.S. Department of Education reports that 25 percent of poor and minority children who enter high school will not earn a diploma.

"If they fall behind, they begin to lose hope and when they drop out of school, that's it," said Johnson. "When students quit or are thrown out of school, we should be concerned about what happens to them. Where do they go? What are they supposed to do now? We need to be ready to engage and act."

Johnson will be leading a workshop at [Compassion, Peace and Justice Training Day](#) on April 15 entitled "Educate a Child: Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline." Through hands-on activities and participatory learning, participants will examine the relationship between poverty, racism, educational inadequacies and mass incarceration. Johnson hopes this will inspire churches to do more. However, he recognizes some churches may not feel they are capable of tackling such a huge issue.

“Many churches are in maintenance mode, struggling to take care of themselves including paying bills and keeping the church building together, so working with young people to improve education may not be their top priority. Many churches may not think they can afford to do this work,” said Johnson. “Resources are a challenge but there is also fear about engaging with young people or concern that they won’t be interested. Some churches don’t know how to start, where to go for help or who to talk to. It can be overwhelming.”

While the task may seem intimidating, Johnson says churches don’t have to work alone. There are many opportunities to connect with existing after-school programs or meet with local school officials to learn ways they can get involved.

“When Jesus walked this earth he didn’t work alone, but called on His disciples and gave them the authority to minister,” said Johnson. “We have the authority of Jesus Christ as well as the strength, power and love to do this kind of work.”

Leaders from Compassion, Peace and Justice as well as World Mission have reached out to churches and their partners over the past two years, sharing stories and providing tools to help.

“We are seeing more churches expressing an interest in the program. They want to know what this initiative is all about,” said Johnson. “We are lifting up the stories of churches doing great things and many congregations are looking at ways that they get involved.”

Church leaders recognize educators themselves can only do so much, having little control over such hurdles as hunger or racial inequities.

“Schools may offer very good programs, but the students’ stomachs are empty. If the students aren’t getting enough to eat, how can they concentrate?” asked Johnson. “Their basic needs must be taken care of. Young people need things that are key to survival and they need to feel safe and loved. Churches can be powerful entities in providing that.”

Johnson adds there may be no need to “reinvent the wheel” when it comes to supporting educational efforts in your community. More often than not, the work is already happening, and a congregation’s role is simply to discern where and how to get involved. It may be as simple as offering their building for needed meeting space or providing a meal before or after school.

“Young people need us. As adults, we had mentors and people who cared about us growing up. Churches are still full of mentors that can help young people make the right decisions,” he said. “Our youth are facing difficult life decisions. Some are not conducive to a healthy life and many of their parents are struggling to make ends meet and can’t always provide that guidance. That’s where churches can help.”

A [toolkit](#) is available for congregations on how to minister to children through education.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Ecumenical Advocacy Weekend and how to register

The Reverend Joseph Johnson, Evergreen Presbyterian Church - Dothan, Alabama

2016 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study

The 120 year old *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* has transformed to a new digital-only resource. By offering this as a free resource through our website, we are able to broaden its reach, share inspiring content in a timelier manner, and demonstrate better stewardship.

Click the link below to read the daily Mission Yearbook article.



COMING THIS SUMMER

	<p><i>Frederick Buechner Writers Workshop</i> June 7–10, 2016. Registration is now open for this summer workshop designed for writers and pastors seeking to communicate their Christian faith with clarity and power. Leadership includes Philip Yancey, Kathleen Norris, Jeff Chu, Marilyn Nelson, and many more.</p> <p>REGISTER NOW</p>
	<p><i>The Engle Institute of Preaching</i> June 12–17, 2016. Practice the craft of preaching in the company of colleagues at the Engle Institute of Preaching. Apply to be a 2016 Engle Fellow if you are in the first three to seven years of your preaching ministry.</p> <p>LEARN MORE</p>
	<p><i>The Annual Black Theology and Leadership Institute</i> July 17–23, 2016. Grow spiritually. Be challenged. Apply to be part of the 4th Annual Black Theology and Leadership Institute. The theme is “African American Biblical Interpretation in a Protest Era.” Leadership includes Neichelle R. Guidry, Marion Hall, Obery Hendricks, Lisa Bowens, and more.</p> <p>LEARN MORE</p>

Questions about these events can be directed to 609.497.7990.
More information is also available at ptsem.edu/coned.

April 2016



Support Outreach at Pathways Housing Services By Donating Laundry Items



Each week, individuals and families come to **Pathways Housing Services** seeking help in stabilizing their living situation.

Caseworkers have recently received a number of requests for assistance with laundry services. **To fulfill these needs, the Lehigh Conference of Churches is seeking donations of laundry detergent (single-use pods are preferred) as well as laundry bags.**

Funds designated to cover the cost of visits to the laundromat would also be greatly appreciated. Would you consider reaching out to those in our community who struggle to make ends meet?

Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator **Laura Rowe** at 610-433-6421 ext. 6101 for more information or to arrange a drop off. With your help and generosity, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

The Lehigh Conference of Churches | 610-433-6421 | 610-439-8039
[Email](#) | [Website](#)



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

In an effort to provide easier access to updated information on disaster response and recovery, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has created a special web page that contains disaster response resources.

It is called a quiet page because the URL for this page is not published.

The address of the web page is <http://pda.pcusa.org/page/midcouncil-epda/>

New Live Simply Resources are Available Now

Live Simply, based on Philippians 4:11, is the theme for just-released resources published by the Ecumenical Stewardship Center. Use [Giving magazine volume 18](#), Live Simply [theme materials](#), and the digital [Companion Resource](#) to create your congregational stewardship emphasis. Magazine writers include Adam Hamilton, Shane Claiborne, and Nathan Dungan. [More](#)

Peruse all of ESC resources <https://stewardshipresources.org/resources>

