



Lehigh Presbytery E-NEWS

“Strengthening & Supporting Congregations”

January 21, 2015

MODERATOR’S FORUM ~ Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Faith United Presbyterian Church
218 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Pen Argyl, PA



All are welcome to attend my first forum as Moderator. My goal is to discuss what our challenges are and what our future might be. We scratched the surface in 2014, now let’s dig deeper. My hope is that every congregation will have its voice heard at, at least one of the forums held during 2015.

I plan to hold these Moderator Forum’s on the 4th Tuesday of the months without a Presbytery meeting. That is, January 27, March 24, May 26, July 28, August 25, and October 27 (this one will need to be during the day). These meetings can be during the day or in the evening; I leave that to the preference of the host congregation with the exception of October 27.

Thank you to the Faith United Presbyterian Church for hosting this first forum. I welcome invitations from other congregations to host and hope that forums will be held in every region of our Presbytery – the Upper Tier, the Slate Belt, the Lehigh Valley, the Pocono’s, and Berks County.

The agenda for the forums is simple: Opening Prayer, Listening to what those assembled have to say, and Closing prayer. The record of our forum will then be published via our E-news so that we as a Presbytery can hear what one another has to say. We won’t publish names without permission, but we will publish the content of what is said.

If none of these forums suit your schedule, write me at: Pennside Presbyterian Church, 253 North 25th Street, Reading, PA 19606. Email: pastordave@pennsidepresby.org. Or call me, at 610/507-3927.

In Christ,

Rev. David Duquette
Moderator, Lehigh Presbytery

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OPEN HOUSE AT KIRKWOOD-BRAINERD CAMP



Kirkwood-Brainerd Camp

Join us on **Saturday, January 24, 2015** from **12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.** for the open house. The **Kirkwood-Brainerd Camp** is located at, 127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. Take time to check out their website at www.kirkwoodcamp.org.

All are welcome to come and check out the new camp.

The [summer camping season](#) is just around the corner, please check out the registration form and website for the offerings in 2015. Visit their website for more information and registration forms.

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TEACHING ELDERS...SAVE THESE DATES!

In 2015 there will be two opportunities for teaching elders to take a day away from normal responsibilities in order to experience learning and spiritual refreshment. Please reserve on your calendar the dates for these two retreats: **Wednesday, March 25, 2015** and **Wednesday, October 28, 2015**. The March retreat will be held at *Kirkwood-Brainerd Camp*.

If you have suggestions for presentation topics, or other ideas toward making these opportunities worth your time and effort, please contact RC Smith: 610-253-4792, or revrc5@aol.com. Offers of help are also welcome!

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Be a witness to the healing love of Christ by caring for communities who have been affected by a catastrophic event.



The Helping Hands Care Team of Lehigh Presbytery is seeking volunteers to participate in a mission work trip to **Pt. Pleasant, NJ** to help the community continue their rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Sandy damaged homes in that area.

The Helping Hands Care Team of Lehigh Presbytery will be sending a team of volunteers to Pt. Pleasant, New Jersey during the week of **April 12-18, 2015**. If you are interested in helping out, please download a registration form from our website at

<http://lehighpresbytery.org/our-faith-community/care-teams/helping-hands/>

Volunteers will be staying at the **Pt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, 701 Forman Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742** and sleeping on bunk beds with showers and bathrooms available on site. Meals while on the work site are provided. Transportation for this trip will be by personal vehicles. Car pooling is highly recommended.

The cost is **\$75.00 per person** for the week (includes your meals at the worksite). **Registrations must be received by March 22, 2015** and the registration fee will not be refunded after that date. You will find attached the flyer with all the information, registration form, release waiver and volunteer information forms. I have attached the forms in two formats for ease of opening the documents. You need only fill out one registration form, skill form, release waiver, and volunteer form and send it in with your check.

So please prayerfully consider volunteering or if you don't have the time, but would like to financially support these trips, please send your donation to Lehigh Presbytery, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104 and mark it for "Helping Hands."

A trip **orientation meeting** for those who register for the trip will be held on **Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** in Room #118 of the First Presbyterian Church, 3231 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy & Terry Jenkins at 610-298-2106, csc72ban@ptd.net, or Robin at the Presbytery office at 610-391-9020, office@lehighpresbytery.org

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THE LEHIGH CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES GATHERS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

IN A TIME WHEN OUR WORLD IS POLARIZED BY VIOLENCE AND COMPETING IDEOLOGIES, WE INVITE PEOPLE OF FAITH TO SUPPORT THIS INTIATIVE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY!

Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015

Time: 12:00 PM-1:00PM (*Speakers 12:00- to 12:15)

Location: Alliance Hall Gymnasium, 534 Chew Street Allentown, PA, <http://www.lehighchurches.org>

- Prime opportunity to hear Christian clergy and lay leadership throughout the community speak to the issues of Christian unity.
- Opportunity to learn about the 4:00 p.m. **Community Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service** on **Sunday January 25, 2015** at Third Day Church in Allentown; our speaker will be James Winkler the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA;
- You'll have many of the local leaders in one place to weigh in on the issues of Christian unity in a polarized world.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2015 JANUARY 18–25, 2015

The Theme for this Year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is: *Jesus said to her, "Give me a Drink."*

Selection of the Theme:

The theme and text for each year's observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity are chosen and prepared by representatives of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

This Joint Working Group invited the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil (CONIC) to prepare the resources for the week of prayer 2015. CONIC appointed a working group formed by representatives from its member churches and affiliated ecumenical organizations to produce the material. The working group met in February and in April 2012, and completed its work in July.

The Joint Working Group met September 22-27 in São Paulo, Brazil, to finalize the preparation of the material. The International Committee also dedicated one session to the contribution of the ecumenical movement (and particularly the World Council of Churches) to the clarification of violations to human rights committed during the years of military dictatorship in Brazil.

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DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (DCE)

Highland Presbyterian Church is seeking a DCE, part-time 3-4 days/wk. Responsible to oversee all education opportunities with special emphasis on children's ministry. Creative, energetic, ability to develop and promote programs; good organizational and communication skills. College degree required. Education training/experience preferred.

Visit www.highlandpc.org for more information and full job description. Accepting resumes through Sunday, January 25 at employment@highlandpc.org or 500 E. Roseville Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. EOE

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The Lehigh Conference of Churches Makes a Tangible Difference in Our Community

The Mission of the Lehigh Conference of Churches

Responding to the call of Jesus Christ, the mission of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches is to unite communities of faith as ecumenical partners. Putting their faith into action, they minister to and advocate for those in need and encourage all to reach their full potential.

The Lehigh County Conference of Churches is an association of over 138 churches and faith organizations working together with over 800 volunteers meeting the human and spiritual needs of our community. Since 1954, the Lehigh County Conference of Churches has sponsored programs that have made a difference in the lives of thousands of people - giving them hope, restoring their dignity and playing a crucial role in each person's life

Annually they:

- Serve over 60,000 meals for persons in need including 1,500 children
- Link 7,000 people in crisis to community resources
- Provide safe, supportive programs for over 500 people struggling with mental health needs
- Find shelter for 2,200 persons facing homelessness
- Assist 325 persons with pharmaceutical needs including 30 children
- Prevent homelessness for over 85 persons
- Keep over 100 persons from freezing in cold weather
- Promote ecumenical endeavors
- Provide ministry opportunities for over 3,000 volunteers

Lehigh Conference of Churches
534 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18102
610-433-6421
www.lehighchurches.org

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YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

Clinton (NJ) Presbyterian Church is looking for a new Youth Ministry Leader. This is a part-time exempt position, approximately 10 hours/week.

The youth ministry leader will oversee the church's young adult ministries by creating a faith-based curriculum of activities for youth in middle and high schools that include onsite, church-related activities, community outreach and social gatherings. A full job description is posted on the Lehigh Presbytery website (www.lehighpresbytery.org)

All questions related to the position and resumes should be sent to office4cpc@gmail.com c/o Clinton Presbyterian Church.

Bill Kreutel
bkreutel@gmail.com
Personnel Ministry Team
Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809
Phone: 908-735-5029

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"Tear Open the Heavens:" Race, Violence, and Faith in Our Times

In early December, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) received an invitation from two local churches. The pastors of these two churches --Pittsburgh Mennonite Church and Union Baptist Church of Swissvale - decided to partner in the wake of events in Ferguson and Staten Island. They wanted to see how their churches could provide a witness to a different way of living together, and they invited PTS to be a part of the collaboration.

We invite you to share in the fruit of that discernment. On January 31, 2015, we will be honored to welcome the 2015 Grawemeyer Award winner Rev. Dr. Willie James Jennings to Pittsburgh. Jennings, associate professor of theology and black church studies at Duke Divinity School, will lead us in an afternoon of conversation, bread-breaking, and worship as we wrestle with what it means to be people of faith in a racially divided world.

What: ***"Tear Open the Heavens:" Race, Violence, and Faith in Our Times.***

Who: Rev. Dr. Willie James Jennings

When: 2pm-8pm, January 31, 2015

Where: Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ

This event is **free and open to the public** (RSVP requested for the dinner: limited space). Come for one part or for the whole afternoon.

More information can be found on the website [here](#).

Helen Blier, Ph.D.

Director of Continuing Education

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

616 N. Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

(412) 924-1346

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Four Chaplains Sunday – February 1, 2015

On Sunday, February 1 (or another Sunday of your choosing), we invite you to support Presbyterian chaplains and families through a special appeal. Traditionally, the first Sunday in February is Four Chaplains Sunday. The story of the four chaplains is compelling, highlighting the faith, courage, and spirit of interfaith cooperation that chaplains are called to exhibit in caring for service members and their families.

More about the story of the four chaplains story can be found at <http://www.fourchaplains.org/>

By going to <http://pccmp.org/news/four-chaplains-sunday-1feb-2014/> you will find

- a bulletin insert that you might like to use on that Sunday.
- a two and half minute video that you are free to use with your Church, Sunday School Class, Presbytery, Session, or Group. The video shares the purpose of the appeal and explains how the PCCMP intends to use the funds that are raised.

If you choose to make a donation for this appeal, please place the words "Four Chaplains Sunday Appeal" in the memo line. This designation will ensure that the funds raised through this appeal are restricted to providing pastoral care for our chaplains and their families.

Presbyterian Council for Chaplains

4125 Nebraska Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20016-2735

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Applications Accepted for 2015 Guthrie Scholars Cohort

Decatur Georgia—The Center for Lifelong Learning is accepting applications for the **2015 Guthrie Scholars Cohort**. This is a limited enrollment opportunity to engage in five days of independent study among a small group of clergy, educators and other church leaders on the campus of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

The program is named for the late Shirley Guthrie, professor of theology at the seminary and funded in part by an endowment established in his honor. Those selected for Guthrie Scholars are invited to the campus to pursue a topic of their choice that engages a pressing issue of the church from a Reformed perspective. Scholars are provided with a guest room and meals in the campus dining facilities, and will have access to the seminary library, chapel services, and fitness room.

The dates for the **2015 Cohort** are **September 21-25, 2015**. Applications must be submitted using the electronic form, linked below. They will be reviewed as they are received and the application process will close when the available spaces are filled.

For additional information about Guthrie and the Scholars program, including a link to the application form, please see the **Guthrie Scholar Brochure** posted on the seminary website.

For more information, contact Sarah Erickson at 404-687-4526

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UPCOMING LEHIGH PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 23, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. – Camp Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. – Moderator's Forum at the Faith United Presbyterian Church, 218 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. – C-Change Meeting at "The 412", 412 Chestnut Street, Emmaus

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. – New Worshipping Community at the First Presbyterian Church, 2344 Center St, Bethlehem

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. – Presbytery Lead Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. – Worldwide Ministries Care Team in the Conference Room of Lehigh Presbytery

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. – Committee on Ministry in Rm#118, First Presbyterian Church of Allentown

2015 LEHIGH PRESBYTERY STATED MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. (no meal) Presbyterian Parish of Bangor-Roseto, 332 Kennedy Drive, Bangor, PA

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. (meal) First Presbyterian Church, 37 S. Fifth Street, Reading, PA

Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. (meal) United Presbyterian Church, 6750 PA Route 873, Slatington, PA

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. (meal) First Presbyterian Church, 2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. (no meal) Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church, 150 Pilgrim Way, Brodheadsville, PA

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

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email office@lehighpresbytery.org.

If you have an article or event you would like to include, please email it to office@lehighpresbytery.org.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at office@lehighpresbytery.org or call 610-391-9020.