



Lehigh Presbytery E-NEWS

"Strengthening & Supporting Congregations"

December 30, 2014

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the Year of our Lord 2015 commences, let us come together and discover what God has in store for us!

My goal as your moderator is to build upon what was begun in 2014 under the able leadership of David Boltz; specifically, our meeting in May where we came together and began to discuss what our challenges are and what our future might be.

We scratched the surface that night. Let's dig deeper. To that end: I plan to hold 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 on which the Lead Team will be meeting to better serve the Presbytery's meeting schedule.

I appreciate the invitation from the Faith United Presbyterian Church, 218 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Pen Argyl, who will host the January 27th Forum at 10:00 a.m. I welcome invitations from other congregations. My hope is that every congregation will have its voice heard at, at least one of these forums. To that end, I would prefer if congregations who cannot host a presbytery meeting would be the sites for these forums. I 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.

Members of the Lead Team will be with me at these forums to serve as recorders. 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.

I am honored by the call to be your Moderator in 2015! I look forward to serving with you and to hearing what you have to say!

In Christ,

Rev. David Duquette
Moderator, Lehigh Presbytery

+ + + + +

Lehigh Presbytery has an Opening for a part-time Stated Clerk

The Committee on Shared Gifts of Lehigh Presbytery is seeking to fill the position of Stated Clerk. This is a part-time position and any interested candidates are asked to send a letter of interest along with contact information, qualifications, and why they feel they would be a good candidate for the job.

The deadline for receiving this information in the Presbytery office is **January 23, 2015**.

To view a job description, visit the Presbytery website at www.lehighpresbytery.org

Please send letters of interest to: *Lehigh Presbytery, Attn: Committee on Shared Gifts, 710 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104*

+ + + + +

2015 Summer Camp Schedule Available. . .



The **Kirkwood-Brainerd Camp** is located at, 127 Kirkwood Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. Take time to check out their website at www.kirkwoodcamp.org.

Don't miss out there will be an **OPEN HOUSE** at the camp on **Saturday, January 24, 2015**.

All are welcome to come and check out the camp.

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

+ + + + +



You are cordially invited to join Dianne Kareha and John Deisinger for a celebration of their commitment to each other at The First Presbyterian Church of Allentown (3231 W. Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA) at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

Rev. Dianne Kareha is a member of Lehigh Presbytery and Chaplain at Luther Crest Retirement Village. No presents, please; just your presence.

+ + + + +

Emmaus congregation branching out with 'The 412'

By Michael Givler, Synod of the Trinity

The Rev. Tim Dooner felt his congregation could do more. So the pastor of [Faith Presbyterian Church](#) in Emmaus (PA) pushed his worshipers to go outside of their comfort zones. And that's when "The 412" was born.



On Dec. 6, Faith PC opened the doors to a new ministry in downtown Emmaus, about a mile from its church building that is tucked into the north corner of the borough. The location of this new center-of-town outreach is – predictably – 412 Chestnut St. Even though it's a small storefront that might only comfortably hold 20 or so people, the goal of "The 412" is large.

"This for us just feels like a really big step out in faith, and we have a lot of anticipation of what it will become," Dooner said.

Faith Presbyterian Church in Emmaus has created a downtown location for which to be a presence within the community. And its name (The 412) is its address.

The idea is years in the making, and it's two-fold. First, it will give people in Emmaus a place to go and socialize with members of the congregation, even though religion will not be at the forefront of the nightly activities at "The 412." Second, it will allow for the church to have a greater presence in Emmaus, reaching out to people who don't know what Faith PC is all about.

"There are lifelong residents of our town who don't know that there's this congregation that has life up in the corner of the borough," Dooner said. "We're very kind and we're very good at relationships, but we're not necessarily the ones to get up and start preaching downtown."

Even though "The 412" is two-plus years in the making, conversations were held years before that among the congregation about how to better serve Emmaus and be a presence there.

“Years ago, before I was called here to serve, the congregation began to wrestle with what it means to have a witness in Emmaus without really having a presence in the heart of town,” Dooner said. “That was just a question they were resigned to not answer for a while.”

“As we talked and talked and talked and prayed and discerned about how it was that we would begin to have a witness out of our strengths, the idea of having a storefront space in the heart of the downtown area of the borough began to emerge. It really seemed to connect with our temperament, with our sense of call, our personality and the culture of our town to have a community space.”

Along those lines, “The 412” will also include the gifts and passions of the congregation. Among the nightly activities are things like book clubs, a children’s story time, after-school homework groups, discussions on art and music, and even things like fantasy football leagues for the community.

“It’s all about building these no-strings-attached friendships and relationships with the community with the hope that this becomes our witness,” Dooner said. “These people, our neighbors, may not have seen God, but when they experience our love for them, they are experiencing God on display in us.”



The space inside ‘The 412’ fits about two dozen people comfortably and includes anything from tutoring help to art classes to discussion on fantasy football.

Dooner does see traditional church programming like Bible studies eventually ending up in “The 412” building. He plans to have some office hours for himself there during the week, as well as youth activities on Sunday evenings that would be open to the community, but for right now he’s looking at keeping the activities more community-oriented.

“We’ve learned that there’s just something about that religious façade that is intimidating and off-putting enough to people that they won’t come through the door. ... This is a space where we’re really saying it’s not about that overt religion but it’s about love being on display more subtly and helping our neighbors to get over that hump of being afraid of the church as they meet Christians who are not there with an agenda other than to be their loving neighbor.”

While trying not to be too religion-oriented on the surface, Faith PC has been able to incorporate some Biblical foundation into “The 412” name. The congregation has come up with Bible verses that are from chapter 4, verse 12 of several books of the Bible to help explain its ministry.

“There just seems to be an abundance of wisdom aligned with these 4:12 verses of the Bible,” Dooner said. “Someone walking by can see the 412 and that brings up no other associations that might give them pause. If anything, it’s vague enough to spark a curiosity to open the door. And on the congregational end it give us all this meat and all this content to develop a deeper theological conversation about our mission in this space.”

The opening of “The 412” coincided with Emmaus’ annual winter holiday fest. Things like coffee and hot chocolate were handed out to those who came downtown for the event and all were invited to come into the space and meet some of their neighbors.

“There’s something about small groups that are really conducive to building and nurturing meaningful relationships,” Dooner said. “We weren’t afraid to start small. ... We’re looking to not just create entertainment but also create an avenue for meaningful relationships. We’re trying to intentionally create a space that’s conducive to small circles.”

Thanks to money set aside through a congregational tithe on its mortgage payments, plus funds received through a Lehigh Presbytery new initiative grant called “C Change,” a year’s worth of funding for “The 412” is already in place for Faith PC.

“The 412’ is more than inviting to people in downtown Emmaus.

What “The 412” will look like 12 to 18 months from now is unknown. Sure, Dooner and the Faith PC congregation would like to see the activities and amount of people being reached grow, but they are just taking a wait-and-see approach for the time being.

“This is really hard for us because we’re a group of people that loves to have a plan and to have it all mapped out,” Dooner admitted. “In a lot of ways we’re just trying to go out on faith and let God lead. I think there’s a lot of us that

are really confident that, because Emmaus is a small town that doesn't have any kind of community space but loves its identity as a small town and a really connected community, we expect this to really blow up in some awesome ways, to take root quickly, to get a lot of support from the community and to grow."

Dooner would like to eventually see the amount of activities doubled and times when multiple events are held in the building in a day's time. There could be partnerships with other organizations and even eventually a larger space, even though the current building sits conveniently near a bus stop and across the street from a well-known bakery, both of which create traffic on their doorstep. Local artists have also been invited to display their artwork there, further putting a stamp on the community theme of "The 412."

"What we want to see is God's reconciliation come to the community of Emmaus where we are not strangers to each other anymore but we are together in community and that could be in a Bible study or it might be in a book club," Dooner said. "We just want to see people not afraid of each other, not ignoring and avoiding each other. We just want to see people come together because we think that's God's will for Emmaus."

+ + + + +

Synod of the Trinity Grant for Assistance with the new Family Board of Pensions Model

In response to a request from our Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity is making available a one-time grant to local presbyteries **to assist congregations in paying for the increase in Board of Pensions dues for family plan members in 2015.**

Starting in 2015, the Board of Pensions (BOP) requires payment for medical coverage for the family of the member enrolled in the plan. Dues for medical coverage for a member's family will be 1.5% of effective salary. For part time teaching elders, dues for the BOP's medical coverage is on church-wide median, even if the teaching elder's salary is below that median.

At the meeting of Lehigh Presbytery on June 24, 2014, we approved a recommendation from our Committee on Ministry (COM) that each church and its called and installed pastor or temporary supply pastor negotiate responsibility for covering the additional 1.5 % increase for dependents in BOP medical dues for 2015. (e.g. that the Presbytery not adopt a uniform dues policy for all congregations.)

At the September 23, 2014 meeting of Lehigh Presbytery, we approved a recommendation from the COM that our 2015 minimum terms of call for called and installed pastors and temporary supply pastors remain the same as 2014 at \$43,478. This minimum was recommended in part because of the new medical dues model for family coverage and the increase this would represent for congregations. For a pastor receiving the minimum salary, the increase for family medical coverage will be \$675. At the same time, however, this recommendation does not permit a pastor to realize a decrease in their total income in 2015 due to the increase in the dues for family coverage.

The COM **will consider all requests from congregations in Lehigh Presbytery for assistance from this grant** from the Synod of the Trinity. If your congregation is interested in receiving this one-time assistance for 2015, you must:

- Notify the Committee on Ministry of your request no later than January 15, 2015
- Specify the amount you are requesting
- Provide a copy of the terms of call for your pastor/temporary supply pastor for 2015
- Offer in writing an explanation of why you need this assistance and how, if you receive it, you will cover this expense in 2016.

After January 15, 2015, the Committee on Ministry will consider all requests and notify congregations by February 15, 2015 of their decision.

+ + + + +

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

+ + + + +

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!



Organists, singers, and choirs are invited to share their gifts at Westminster Village! Donations of time and talents are needed on occasion to lead music for the afternoon worship services.

Do you have the time and the talent? If so, call Rev. Virginia Heimer, 610-782-8358.

Westminster Village, 803 N Wahneta St, Allentown, PA 18109

+ + + + +

CROSSROADS

Crossroads Winter Semester Courses at Moravian Theological Seminary are Missional Leadership (Monday 6-9 pm, Jan 5-Feb 23) and Traditions (Thursdays 6-9 pm, Jan 8-Feb 26). In Missional Leadership, participants learn organizational principles applied to missional faith communities taught through a church simulation game. A must course for lay leaders in congregations. Taught by Dr. Jill Peters who has a strong background in Organizational Leadership. Traditions, or the study of World Religions and Protestant Denominations, will be taught by Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner. Gain a better knowledge of the many faith traditions that exist not only around the world but right here in our communities.

Distance participation is possible through Go To Meeting. Participants must be available at the East Coast class time. Again, contact Jill Peters to learn more about if this is an option for you.

More information on CROSSROADS courses and registering online is at www.moravianseminary.edu/crossroads

+ + + + +

ON-LINE EDUCATION FOR COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (UDTS) has online education for CRE (Commissioned Ruling Elder) students. Registration is now opened for the Spring 2015 semester.

UDTS will be offering the following eight online classes for CLP/CRE students this coming Spring, 2015. All classes begin February 2, 2015, and space is limited. Therefore, students are encouraged to register soon 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). As always, students may pay through PayPal online or by credit card or check by contacting Carla.

Our Spring 2015 classes are:

- Christian Education – Dr. Susan Forshey
- Pastoral Care – Dr. Beth McCaw
- Reformed Theology – Dr. Gary Hansen
- Introduction to Preaching – Dr. Timothy Slemmons
- Presbyterian Polity – Dr. Scott Nesbitt
- Introduction to Old Testament – Rev. Martin Benckhuysen
- Introduction to New Testament – Dr. Annette Huizenga
- Reformed Worship & Sacraments – Dr. Timothy Slemmons

Application and course information for our CLP/CRE program can be found at <http://udtslearning.net/> and then click on "CLP Registration Information."

Feel free to contact Carla or me if you have any questions. In addition, remember to check our continuing education website (<http://udts.dbq.edu/edu.cfm>) for upcoming spring events.

Dr. 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

+ + + + +

IRS Announces 2015 Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service has announced the 2015 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for ministry, business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

The ministry/business rate is increasing from the 2014 rate, while the medical and moving mileage rates are decreasing from last year. The charitable rate is remaining the same.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2015, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

57.5 cents per mile for business/ministry miles driven

23 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs. Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

Source: Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov

+ + + + +

2015 Boundary Training

In conjunction with our ecumenical partners, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ is hosting a Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshop. Three all-day events are planned to help church leaders and members address topics that arise in your settings. These will also fulfill the every-four-year requirement for Lehigh Presbytery Teaching Elders, and be good education for others in your congregation.

According to the Sexual Misconduct Policy of Lehigh Presbytery, adopted January 25, 2011, "The Presbytery shall provide access to annual educational programs to inform and to promote the prevention of sexual misconduct. **All Covered Persons shall be required to attend such programs every four years**, and at a minimum must review this policy annually and attest in writing that the policy has been reviewed. **Attendance and compliance records will be kept by the Stated Clerk.**"

Each workshop will last from **9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m.** Workshops will be held as follows:

- **March 17, 2015** – Trinity Reformed UCC, 60 N. Hanover Street, Pottsville, PA 19464
- **May 13, 2015** – Chestnut Hill United Church, 8812 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118
- **October 22, 2015** – First UCC, 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Mark your calendars with these dates. More details to follow.

+ + + + +

UPCOMING EVENTS AT LUTHER CREST

When All Hell Breaks Loose

The public is cordially invited to listen in on a panel discussion of Dr. Manfred Bahmann's new book When All Hell Breaks Loose on **Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 2:30 p.m.** in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104. For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

"Islamic Imperialism" Presentation at Luther Crest

The public is cordially invited to attend Rev. Dr. Manfred Bahmann's presentation, "Islamic Imperialism," on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 2:30 p.m., in Crest Hall of Luther Crest, 800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104. For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210).

+ + + + +

Presbyterian Association of Musicians launches internship program for aspiring church musicians



In its ongoing efforts to encourage gifted new candidates to enter the field of church music, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) has launched a new church-based grant program to support the training of church musicians in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

PAM — a national organization of the PC(USA) for those involved in the areas of worship, music, and the arts — will award two grants in 2015 in the amount of \$1,500 to each of two PC(USA) congregations who seek to teach interns in church music.

"Since earliest times, the church has been a place where music has played a central role," said William McConnell, executive director of PAM. "Through this new grant program, we are pleased to help facilitate a learning

experience where interns will learn from seasoned mentors those lessons many of us learned instead in the school of hard knocks. Interns will learn valuable skills that will serve them and their future church employers well."

Funding for the grants has been provided through the generosity of the Ansel Reed Children's Enrichment Fund and Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Dardaganian, a couple with a lifelong passion for worship and music, particularly as expressed by children.

"It is our hope that this program — which was itself made possible through the passion of faithful supporters — will encourage congregations of all sizes and musical traditions to share their own love and passion for music with a new generation of church leaders," McConnell said. "Every church has something that it does well and can teach others."

Michael Vaughn — a church musician in Texas and a frequent participant in the [Mo-Ranch/PAM Conference](#) on Worship and Music — said that churches can benefit from all the gifts that interns have to offer.

"I started as an intern with no idea that it would lead to a career in church music," Vaughn said. "I now have 8 interns singing in my current choir and plan to teach them the great things I learned at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church [in Houston]. I know these grants will help the next round of music and worship leaders emerge and discover their talents."

Complete information on how to apply for the grants — including a request for proposals — may be found on PAM's [website](#). Applications will be accepted beginning December 1, 2014, with a **deadline of January 30, 2015**.

"We're anticipating a successful first year of this program and want to make this an ongoing part of PAM's ministry to the church," McConnell said.

+ + + + +

Courage and Renewal Retreats at [Kirkridge Retreat Center](#) 2495 Fox Gap Road, Bangor, PA 18013, 610-588-1793, [www.kirkridge.org](#)

It's Not Really Gone! Reclaiming Your Vision for Education

Feb. 27 - March 1, 2015 -- Morgan Lee and Pat Mulroy

Join us to re-discover what you "never really lost"; your passion, your vision and your excitement for making schools places where children and adults learn together. Some days, amid the policies and paperwork, we forget about why we got into teaching in the first place. Schools seem to be bound by mandates, budgets and plenty of things that do not seem related to learning. This retreat will help you to re-connect to your passion for the mission and vision of quality education for all children.

Cost \$425 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition -- Visit Kirkridge website for details.

Daughters: Searching for the Garden of Plenty

April 24-26, 2015 -- Jean Richardson, Marcia Eames-Sheavly

The deep connection between mothers and daughters can be filled with joy, fraught with challenge, and often contains everything in between. This special weekend will offer a safe place to explore our relationships with our mothers through the lens of a garden metaphor - of germination, growth and plentiful harvest, as well as the natural processes of decay, death and transformation.

Cost \$445 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition -- Visit Kirkridge website for details.

Hidden in Plain View: Exploring Scarcity and Abundance
May 15 - 17, 2015 -- Megan LeBoutillier and Jean Richardson

In the palms of our hands we hold both scarcity and abundance. In plain view they dance in our lives, an interplay of feelings that challenge our relationship to love, support, community and financial resources. This retreat will assist us to re-discover what we have lost, denied, ignored or hidden from ourselves and move from myth toward truth.

Cost \$425 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition -- Visit Kirkridge website for details.

Returning Home: A Men's Courage & Renewal® Retreat
June 26-28, 2015 -- Dan Hines, Fred Monteith

This active and reflective experience for men of all ages explores returning to who we are, using the personal stories of men, our experiences, poetry, and stories from wisdom traditions. The Circle of Trust® Approach creates a trustworthy circle in which we can listen to each other with courage and compassion. The setting at Kirkridge invites us to return, rest and hike, contemplate and converse: an exploration of solitude in community.

Cost \$465 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition. Visit Kirkridge website for details.

+ + + + +

2015 Pilgrimage to IONA - September 6-18, 2015



Join us for this exciting Pilgrimage to IONA and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne!

Special holiday discount... ***Register by January 5 and save \$100!***

Rev. Matilda Chase & Rev. Kathleen Roney will be your tour hosts!

- Visit the Isle of Iona and learn about the formation of the monastic community by Irish priest St. Columba. This pilgrimage will offer the rich history and remarkable poetic Celtic spirituality that is identified with the Iona Community.
- See the Glasgow Cathedral, a medieval cathedral with an active Christian congregation in the Church of Scotland.
- Stop at Oban & Loch Lomand
- Drive across the Isle of Mull. Relax and enjoy the Hebridean scenery on the way to "the isle of Colm Cille"
- Visit Edinburgh
- Experience the Holy Island of Landisfarne (This small, windswept island is only accessible by causeway at low tide, and is one of the holiest sites in the U.K.
- Tour the Iona Abbey

For complete tour details contact:

WWW.KIRKRIDGE.ORG
Kirkridge Retreat Center
2495 Fox Gap Road, Bangor, PA 18013
610-588-1793

+ + + + +

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE



The **N. Milton Wood Home for Presbyterian Ministers** has **two apartments available** for immediate occupancy. The basic qualification is that the tenant be a retired Presbyterian (USA) minister. The apartments are provided **rent free**, but tenants will be asked to contribute toward the heat and utilities.

The available units are two of three located in an historic stone dwelling in Paradise Township, Lancaster County, PA. The Home is situated on a four-acre parcel with a maintained lawn and mature trees. Tenants may, if desired, establish flower and vegetable gardens.

The ground-floor apartment has one bedroom, a bathroom with shower, a large living room, and an eat-in kitchen. The second-floor apartment (with star lift) is comprised of two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, a dining area, and a bathroom with shower. Included with each unit is one bay of the garage storage with automatic garage door opener.

If you are interested in learning more about these apartments, or know of someone you believe may be interested, contact Edwin Margerum (717-442-4027) or David Homsher (717-687-6469).

+ + + + +

Ministry with Our Elders (Senior Adults)

For Clergy, Parish Nurses, Secretaries of Congregations, Pastoral Care Visitors, and Other Caregivers



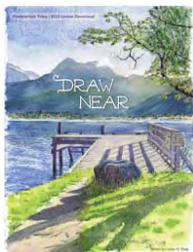
Luther Crest (800 Hausman Road, Allentown, PA 18104) will host a Moravian Theological Seminary course on **Mondays, January 26 through March 2, 2015, 1:30-4:30 p.m.**

This six-week course is designed for clergy and laity who want to become more effective in ministry with the senior adults with whom they serve. Participants will have an opportunity to improve their skills of communication with older adults, as well as gain an understanding of the life issues that confront them. The course will cover the following topics: grief, dynamics and issues of dementia and aging, caring for the caregiver, life review, spirituality and faith, visitation and communication skills, effects of aging on family systems, and community resources.

Cost for this 1.8 CEU course is \$60 (payable to Moravian Theological Seminary, 1220 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018-6650); early bird registration is \$50 (by January 19, 2015). For more information, please contact Luther Crest's Chaplain Dianne Kareha (610-391-8210) or go to <http://moravianseminary.edu>

+ + + + +

It's time to order your *Presbyterians Today* 2015 Lenten Devotional



Presbyterian Today's new Lenten Devotional for 2015 invites you to journey with Jesus to his cross and resurrection with the help of the book of Psalms, often called the prayer book of the Bible. Along this journey, you'll sample a variety of spiritual practices and seek prayerful ways to draw nearer to God.

Draw Near features a Scripture reading, meditation, prayer, and set of reflection questions for each day of the Lenten season. The beautifully-illustrated devotional is a perfect daily companion, making it easy to grab a moment for quiet meditation.

Lynne M. Baab, author of this year's devotional, has written numerous books about Christian spiritual practices. She is a PC(USA) minister who now lives in New Zealand, where she is a lecturer in pastoral theology. Her husband, Dave Baab, created the rich pen and ink watercolors throughout.

2015 Lenten Devotional Discount Pricing: 1 copy, \$4.50 • 2–9 copies, \$3.50 each • 10–99 copies, \$2.50 each • 100–249 copies, \$1.95 each • 250+ copies, \$1.65 each. Shipping: 10% of order, \$5.25 minimum. Order by phone at 800-524-2612 and ask for PDS 17116-14-013.

+ + + + +

Health, Wellness and Spirituality Series–Level 1

Presented by *Next Step* at the
Saint Francis Center for Renewal
395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Twelve Inspirational and Informative Tuesday Evenings (visit for a schedule
January 13, 20, 27 February 3, 10, 17, 24 March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Ten-Session Workshop Series: \$175 Individual Sessions: \$20 ea. Natural Cooking Classes: \$40 ea.

This series is designed for individuals who want to initiate constructive and meaningful change in their lives. Scheduled workshops, films and discussions will examine the inter-relationship of spiritual, emotional, psychological and physical wellness, and identify resources to assist participants in long-term transformation and growth.

Emphasis will be placed on strategies for achieving gradual and sustained transition, as opposed to quick fixes, and on establishing practical routines supportive of each participant's life goals. Coaches will be available to assist each participant develop a personalized "Wellness Transition Plan" as a guide for continued development.

The program's spirituality workshops will provide insightful instruction on incorporating prayer and meditation in daily life, and on recognizing and using your unique spiritual gifts to help others. Classes in natural cooking, holistic approaches to weight loss and restorative exercise are included to assist participants seeking to improve their physical health and achieve their ideal body weight.

** Give a Wonderful and Lasting Holiday Gift - Register Someone You Love!*

For further information please contact Bob Drake at bdrake@schoolsistersosf.org or 610-867-8494.

+ + + + +

Encountering Jesus ~Meeting the Son of God & Carpenter from Nazareth

In his new book, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*, Fr. James Martin, SJ, helps us encounter Jesus in a new, vivid, and exciting way with a seamless combination of stories from his real-life pilgrimage to the Holy Land, the most up-to-date biblical scholarship, and profound spiritual reflections.

Join us for an evening with Fr. Martin as he shares with us, via Skype, about the Jesus he loves.

January 21, 2015 from 6:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Offering: \$25
Deposit: \$15 ~ Pre registration required
Includes Refreshments

St. Francis Center for Renewal, 395 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017
Phone: 610.867.8890
E-mail: Staff@StFrancisCenterForRenewal.Net

+ + + + +

UPCOMING LEHIGH PRESBYTERY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. – Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. – Presbytery Lead Team

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. – Committee on Ministry

Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. – Moderator’s Forum held 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 Street, Bethlehem

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](mailto: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.