

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley Presents

CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DAY

For New and Experienced Church Leaders and Church Members

Saturday, February 8, 2020

8:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

**Perinton Presbyterian Church
6511 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Fairport, NY 14450**



**Courses of Interest for All Congregational
Leaders and Members!!**

TEN MORNING COURSES

EIGHT "WORKING LUNCH" COURSES

REGISTRATION: \$5

**Optional box lunch is an additional \$8
Catered by ARC of Monroe**

Fully accessible facility



**CHILDCARE AVAILABLE
WITH PRIOR REGISTRATION**



USE THE LINK BELOW FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION:

(contact Cheryl Battaglia for questions with online registration at 585-242-0080 or financialadmin@pbygenval.org)

<https://pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day/>

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5 PER PERSON (registration form includes payment information)

SCHEDULE:

Registration & Hospitality 8:30 a.m.
Worship 9 a.m.
Morning Courses 9:45 a.m. - Noon
"Working Lunch" Courses 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

**LUNCH: Bring your own brown bag lunch
or order a box lunch for \$8**

LUNCHES MUST BE PRE-ORDERED

AND PAID FOR IN ADVANCE;

**No extra lunches will be available
the day of the event.**

(registration form includes payment information)

MORNING COURSES 9:45 a.m. - Noon
Choose from the following TEN COURSES

Called and Equipped: Training for Elders & Deacons

Rev. Laura Fry, Pastor, Perinton Presbyterian Church and Rev. Mike Fry, Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, East Avon

Join us in this interactive workshop to gain practical leadership tools, hone your skills for ministry, and discover how discernment lies at the heart of Presbyterian leadership. We hope new and returning elders and deacons will leave feeling equipped and inspired. Join us!

Pesky Questions from Jesus

Rev. Amy Williams Fowler, now in her eighth year of serving as the Presbytery Leader in Genesee Valley

Jesus asked profound questions of his disciples and of the persons he encountered along his journey. We will spend time with three questions from the Gospels to explore the faith of those whom Jesus encountered directly, and our own responses. You are invited to participate wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith!

Revitalize Your Church Music Program!

Laurence Tallman, Music Director at Byron Presbyterian and vocal music teacher (grades K-12) at Byron-Bergen Central Schools

This workshop provides music directors, ministers, church organists, and ANYONE with a love for worship music, different strategies and creative ideas to revamp, revitalize, and revive a music program of any size! Participants will engage in choir warm-up activities and recruitment strategies; creative programming for meaningful worship experiences; suggestions and ideas on how to utilize various congregational musicians as well as your choir; and fun ways to get the congregation more involved in the musical worship experience. This is a “hands on” workshop, so be prepared to sing, move, play, and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Ministry of Clerks of Session

Elder Susan Orr, Stated Clerk /Presbyter for Healthier Congregations, and Rev. Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk for Geneva Presbytery

“Each council shall elect a clerk who shall record the transactions of the council, keep its rolls of membership and attendance, maintain any required registers, preserve its records, and furnish extracts from them when required by another council of the church.” (G-3.0104). This is the definition of a Clerk of Session per the Book of Order. As Clerks we know that our role is oh so much more! We serve the members of the body by helping them accomplish their work fairly, efficiently, and faithfully, to the glory of God. This workshop will be an interactive opportunity to explore the joys and responsibilities of being a clerk of session, with a little bit of parliamentary procedure training sprinkled in. Participants will have the opportunity to share (and mutually respond to) the questions they bring.

Finance Forum (formerly Church Treasurer Forum)

Cheryl Battaglia, Presbytery Financial Administrator; Kim Emilo CPA with Heveron & Co., Colleen Allen—bookkeeper for multiple churches

Are you a church treasurer? How about a church bookkeeper?

Anyone involved with their church's financial procedures should consider taking this course!

Another year with two incredible guests! Kim will keep us updated on IRS reporting requirements for churches (including a parking tax!), answer accounting questions, and provide information about a CARE review that Heveron & Co. offers. Colleen will share from her experience being bookkeeper for several Presbyterian churches, and is a great resource for those of you who are involved with the daily financial duties at your church. This forum has proven to be a great place to share information and a wonderful resource for learning “what's new” in non-profit accounting. We will also discuss church treasurer's responsibilities. Treasurers are corporate officers of a religious not-for-profit corporation. Their duties must be carried out in accordance with federal and state law, church law, and sound accounting principles. Be sure to bring your own questions and we will take time to discuss them, along with reviewing our Presbytery's “Guide for Church Treasurers”.

Essentials for Trustees, Finance and Property Elders

Elder Ron Hansen, Chair, Board of Trustees

Fulfilling your property and financial responsibilities in the Body of Christ is a vital ministry in your church! Come and get the answers to everything you want and need to know to be an effective servant of Lord and your church family. This user-friendly seminar will discuss building, finance, legal and insurance issues. It will be useful for first-time trustees as well as those with experience. Is your church a hub of community activity? What needs to happen to lease space in your facility? This seminar will also introduce you to the wealth of information available on the Presbytery Trustee's page of the Presbytery website, so you will have access to forms and information you need to help you serve the congregation. Sexual misconduct is an area of increased concern on many dimensions including liability exposure. This year we are fortunate to have Joel Gough, Risk Management Services Representative for PHLY Insurance, the Presbytery's insurer, join us to discuss this area of concern. He will provide a presentation that briefly highlights the landscape of sexual abuse in America, best practices for managing

Sabbath Practices and Intergenerational Faith Formation

Elder Lea Kone, Director, Camp Whitman, recently attended a symposium with other Christian educators to begin producing resources for churches, camps and other ministries.

The Office of Christian Formation of the PC (U.S.A.) has been examining the role of “Sabbath practices” in intergenerational faith formation. Sabbath practices give us a common language and a common way to connect with God and with each other. By sharing practices and building toward intergenerational ministries sharing these practices together, we begin to rebuild the community that is our congregation – our church. The five Sabbath practices that have been identified are: Hospitality, Prayer, Retreat, Service and Storytelling.

No Preacher, No Problem!

Elder Linda Badger Becker, Gates Presbyterian, retired presbytery transitional leader; and Rev. Ellen Donnan, Presbytery of Geneva, Pastor at Junius Presbyterian, Interim Pastor at United Church of Phelps, Committee on Ministry Chair

Having trouble finding pulpit supply? According to the Book of Order (W-2.0303), ruling elders “should cultivate an ability to teach the Word when called upon to do so.” Maybe God is calling you to do just that! Or maybe you already are and would like some help improving your skill. Please join us for a you-can-do-it workshop designed to assist local congregational leaders to offer inspirational sermons for your faith community. We’ll share resources, some basic skills, and some do’s and don’ts.

Community on the Journey: Clergy Sharing & Support *(for Clergy and CPs only)*

Rev. Laura Bachmann, Associate Pastor, South Presbyterian Church

Whether we’re feeling compassion fatigue or adrenalin overload, we can all benefit from some Sabbath time with friends and colleagues in a safe and supportive environment. We will do a little spiritual work and a lot of sharing for our own health and well-being. Prayer and laughter included as we “lay down our burdens” and create a sacred space for each other to rest. “Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.”

Coming To Our Senses

Rev. Derek R. Davenport, ThM, Director of the Miller Summer Youth Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the parish associate pastor for discipleship at Sewickley Presbyterian Church.

The weight of a sling stone. The smell of frankincense. The sound of joyful noise. The shape of an oil lamp. The varied tastes of bread. Presbyterians have a complex relationship with our senses, particularly regarding their role in our faith. Yet our senses provide fruitful avenues for teaching and worshiping. This workshop will examine a history of Reformed resistance to the arts, and explore ways to incorporate the arts in our ministries. Rev. Davenport will share insights from the Institute’s work with congregations, youth, and college students to create multisensory experiences for people of all ages. Participants will have the chance to engage with artifacts from the Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology, and will leave with a workbook and practical ideas for experimenting with multisensory ministry.

"WORKING LUNCH" COURSES 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Choose from the following EIGHT COURSES

New York State Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Elder Rose Peet, Third Presbyterian Church and Elder Karen Bolinger, Bethany Presbyterian Church

Sexual harassment is against the law. All employees have a right to a workplace free from sexual harassment. All non-profit employers, including congregations, are now required to adopt a Sexual Harassment Policy which was effective October 2018 and provide annual training for all employees, paid and unpaid. The Presbytery of Genesee Valley is committed to assist with training all congregation employees to be free from sexual harassment. In this course we will watch a video, provide opportunity for questions and answers. Case studies will be reviewed and ways to prevent sexual harassment will be discussed.

Coming Alive As a Worship Leader/Liturgist

Rev. Sue Thaine, Stated Supply Pastor, First Presbyterian church, Albion and former PGV Moderator

According to the *Book of Order*, worship is a collective activity of the people of God and an expression of our common life and ministry. It demands the full conscious and active participation of the whole body of Christ, with heart, mind, soul, and strength. Therefore it is appropriate for any member of the church to pray, read Scripture, or assist in worship in other ways according to his or her gifts. This workshop is designed to build confidence and ability to lead authentic and heartfelt worship in your congregation. This is an experiential time together rather than a lecture so come prepared to experiment together.

Rethinking Stewardship – New Strategies for Changing Times

Rev. Dr. Roula Alkhouri, Pastor, First Presbyterian church, Batavia and Rachel Norton, Director of Stewardship, Development, and Communications at Third Presbyterian Church with experience as a professional fundraiser for nonprofit organizations. Both attended the 2019 Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference

How do we instill and grow a strong spirit of giving in our hearts and in our congregations? These are challenging times for church stewardship programs. Unfortunately, even in the face of declining memberships, many churches continue to have a, “We’re worthy, give us money” mentality with the predictable result that they struggle to fund their missions. This workshop will offer new strategies to change this dynamic and lay the foundation of successful stewardship campaigns. Among the topics to be covered are: the church’s place in American philanthropy, the key reasons why people give, the roles of the pastor and Session, and the care and feeding of donors. We will offer practical tools for cultivating generosity in congregations.

7 Marks of Vital Congregations – What Are They and How Do We Get Them?

Elder Susan Orr, Stated Clerk/Presbyter for Healthier Congregations and Rev. Jim Renfrew, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Byron

“Vital” has something to do with life.

How vital is the ministry of your congregation?

How vital is your congregation to your surrounding community?

What are the “marks” of a vital congregation?

We Presbyterians sure do like big theological words. “Lifelong Discipleship Formation”, “Intentional Authentic Evangelism”, “Outward Incarnational Focus”....these are three of the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations, but just what exactly do they mean? Whether your congregation is participating in the Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) or not, come learn the language and the nitty gritty as we dig deeper into the 7 Marks and how they are demonstrated – or not – in your congregation. The Vital Congregations Initiative is a two-year process that seeks to help congregations assess, discern and live into transformative actions that increase vitality. Not membership....vitality!

Early registrants will be sent links to key documents that describe the Vital Congregations Initiative which will be useful preparation for our conversation.

What Does It Mean to be Presbyterian? (Class size is limited to 20 participants)

Rev. Nancy Lowmaster, Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church, Geneseo, and a former chemistry professor

Join me for a conversation on the basic tenants of the Reformed tradition of Christian faith, including:

Where did Presbyterians come from?

What’s most important to Presbyterians?

What does it mean for me that Jesus is Lord?

What do Presbyterians believe about Scripture and how to hear it?

Are Presbyterians hopelessly boring?

The session will allow plenty of time for discussion and questions – so bring yours!

Understanding White Fragility

Elders Karen and Don Pryor, Third Presbyterian church

This workshop is based on the antiracism work of Robin D’Angelo and her recently published book, *White Fragility*. After an introduction to her theories, there will be opportunity for participants to share both their reactions and their own life experiences related to racism. It is not necessary to have read the book to participate.

Teaching without Preaching

Rev. Colin Pritchard, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Victor, and a singer/songwriter who supports discipleship exploration and worship expressions through music.

There are wonderful invitations to experiencing the holy and learning about God that can come from your creative expressions. Telling the story might be more effective than preaching the message. Singing the song might say it better than 1000 words. Silent observation of a beautiful creation might just be prayer in a pure form. Let’s talk about the gifts you have and ways you can consider using them to help others attend to the sacred.

Measuring Mission

Rev. Roderic Frohman, HR and Rev. James Evinger, HR

This workshop introduces a year-long, eight workshop series about best practices for congregational mission. This series has been successfully used by eight congregations in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. These workshops teach five New Testament principles of Congregational Mission, five dynamic mission factors, and how to assess a congregation’s current mission projects on a five-step continuum beginning with toxic charity. Who should take this workshop? Congregations seeking tools to assess missional efficacy and efficiency. Congregations that want to re-engage members in social mission. Congregations willing to consider a one year commitment to a mission study process.