

Workshop Descriptions

2018



Escape Room To Go by Rev. Karen Wright

Escape rooms have been a craze lately as people work together to solve the puzzles to get out of a room. Learn how to create what some refer to as a “break in” box. Leave a trail of clues and misdirection for groups to solve and unlock a treasure box. In this workshop, you will take part in a break in activity and learn how to create one of your own. *(Rev. Karen Wright is the associate pastor at Southminster Presbyterian in Prairie Village, KS. She has found that creating escape room type puzzle using Bible stories has been a fun way to engage folks in the Bible.)*

An Honest Conversation About Suicide by Brian Kuhn

The suicide rates of adolescents have reached a 30 year high. As people in ministry, we have to educate ourselves about suicide and its effect on the lives of our young people.

Equipping Families Explore Connect by Jenna Campbell

Equipping Families Explore Connect: a model to equip families in their role as primary faith nurturers.

Building Resilience and Finding Renewal by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Let's Talk Resiliency Books by Laura Agee

1. Pick a book on resiliency or recommend one for the list.
2. Read the book.
3. Share what you liked/didn't like.
4. Wear a cozy sweater and bring a mug. Coffee/tea provided.

Resiliency and the Four Letter Word by Susan Phillips

Fail is a four-letter word to most people. But it can do wondrous things for us and for the folks engaged in our ministries. During the workshop, we'll be sharing short (5 minute) stories of times we have failed, whether big, little, or in between. While it might seem scary to come and bare our failure stories, of times when we didn't live up to what we or someone else thought we should be, we can learn and grow a lot from failure. And it's that growth that builds our resiliency, especially in the context of the church. So, come and let it all hang out a little. This workshop will be a space free from judgement. Just remember, no stories about anyone else; these stories are about you! Keep it clean, and bring your A-game. Remember, no fail is too small! Sometimes, it's the little things that have the biggest impact in our lives. Think about it ahead of time for a few minutes. We will explore common themes in our stories and share in the ways in which they have helped build our own resiliency and the resiliency of the church.

Can We Really “Be Still”?

Off-Site: Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church

Part of being resilient is caring for ourselves. Please come to an intentional time of being still with guided meditation, insightful scripture reading, creative ways to connect with God and a labyrinth available for you during this time. (If weather permits an outdoor labyrinth is available.) This workshop will be held at Rolling Hills immediately following worship, but can be made available throughout the conference.

Resilience, Resistance, Redemption

by Susan Phillips

We will explore the intersection of personal resilience, communal resistance and divine redemption as we seek to live into love and justice.

What If We Have It All Wrong? Re-Examining The Role of Retreat And Community Ministries In Lasting Faith Formation

by Brian Frick

Sixty years ago, the Presbyterian Church invested heavily in outdoor ministries, buying and building retreat and camp spaces. 2,000 years ago, twelve dusty men and a rabbi modeled camp ministry (traveling around, cookouts, large group gatherings, etc.) and retreat ministry (frequent trips to the desert and mountains for prayer). What if we have forgotten why we built these retreat spaces? What if now is the time to use them in a totally different way for a church that is radically different than 60 years ago? What if we explore the research that leads to a reclamation of purpose in faith formation?

Creating Community With Art

by Mary Riley

Using scripture, personal narrative and multi-media to create a group project on how we foster community. (Adaptable for all ages.)

Holding a Banquet and Welcoming All of God’s Children

by Jennifer Ross

Jennifer Ross will explore why churches should offer programs for individuals with special needs. She also will provide relevant data and biblical applications.

Cultivating Presence: An Introduction to Meditation Workshop

by Kristin Riegel

Come to learn basic meditation techniques that you can try at home and in your ministry. Workshop will include an introduction to meditation, time to practice sitting together, and a discussion of best practices for cultivating presence and incorporating meditation into your daily routine and ministry.

Teaching Leadership Through Games

by DJ Whetter

In this session we will explore innovative leadership principles and how they can be taught through the use of games. We will focus on leadership as an activity not a position and as something that can be practiced by anyone, anywhere, anytime. You will interact with a process that you can take back to your own context to help make progress with important issues.

*** Educate * Energize * Empower * Engage ***

The “success” or viability of Confirmation is rooted in the covenantal relationship between the confirmand and God, supported by the web of relationships among the congregation, mentors, and home. Confirmation has too often relegated to the periphery of congregational life; it needs to be front and center, as the church fulfills its call to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them. In this workshop, explore the covenant of Confirmation found in the four questions asked of confirmands and how *Big God Big Questions* can play a key role in your Confirmation program. Led by Rev. Meg Rift, pastor, educator, and editor with Geneva Press/Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and member of the editorial team for Big God Big Questions, our new Presbyterian denominational curriculum.