

Workshop Descriptions

2017



Playing in the Dark by Holly Samborski

Do you or the children/youth you work with like to play with glow-in-the-dark stuff? If so, you will want to come play in the dark for a while and learn how to put a glowing twist on some classic youth group games (and some new ones) that are sure to provide a glowing good time! *(Holly serves as the Director of Faith Formation at First Pres. Lee's Summit, MO, where her main ministry is with the children and youth! She loves to get crazy and creative and has a reputation at Heartland Camp for coming up with some crazy games each summer, especially when it involves things that glow-in-the-dark!)*

Grief recovery: Resiliency the Lemonade of Life by Doris Arwine

Resiliency is the "Lemonade of Life". Losses represent the lemon, sugar is a positive attitude and water represents grief, tears, and willingness to go on. As we grieve our losses we can find the good out of the loss by making lemonade. Resiliency is the ability to bounce back after a loss. We must have positive attitude, support system, and faith. *(Doris is a Licensed Clinical Social Work Therapist who owns "In His Image Christian Counseling, LLC", in Garden City, KS. Doris has worked with hospice, foster care, and has a private practice serving people from ages 3 thru the 90s. Much work revolves around losses and recovery with resiliency with various cultures.)*

Ecumenical Youth Ministry by Bonnie Ratcliff & Laura Agee

What does it look like to combine with other churches in your area to form a youth group? Come explore the challenges and insights of broadening our view of youth ministry. *(Bonnie Ratcliff, Director of CE at First Pres. Independence, MO, holds a M.Div & MAPT with an emphasis in CE from Columbia Seminary, is married to Will and has a big, beautiful cat, George. Laura Agee, Director of Youth and Media at First Pres. Fort Scott, KS, holds a M.Div from Fuller Seminary and loves her two guinea pigs, Cappuccino and Latte.)*

God and Your Brain: What neuroscience is Revealing About Faith Formation by Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Some of the most exciting research in faith formation is coming from the field of neuroscience. Because what we do shapes and rewires the brain, persons who regularly engage in prayer and deep meditation, for instance, have brains that differ from those who do not. Further, because we can locate places for language acquisition and reasoning, neuroscientists are looking for where faith might lodge in the brain's cerebral cortex. Participants in this workshop will explore the latest brain research and the implications for how faith is formed in all ages.

Families at the Center of Faith Formation by Dr. Rodger Nishioka

We know now that families have the single greatest impact on faith formation for our children and adolescents. So how do we as congregational leaders focus our efforts on nurturing the family so they will help grow a vibrant and sustaining faith? Participants in this workshop will explore how to emphasize families in faith formation. *(Dr. Rodger Nishioka serves as the senior associate pastor and director of adult educational ministries at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS.)*

Engaging Young Adults in Ministry by Rev. Hallie Hottle

Statistically, the majority of our young adult generation is not interested in the Church. But God never needs a majority. In this workshop we'll explore what we might learn from our millennials who are finding life in the church, and how they might be the generation to destroy what we've been, and save us all. *(Rev. Hallie Hottle is the pastor of Young Adult Ministry at Village Presbyterian Church in Kansas City. She spent the last 1.5 years creating a new young adult community, cultivating an alternative worship service, and launching Village's new satellite church. She lives "on the Missouri side" with her husband, Nick Dorn, and an assortment of dogs.)*

How the Church Equips and Journeys with Students by Preston Turley

We'll take a look at what college students are experiencing as they enter, journey through, and leave college. We'll examine the key role the Church can play in meeting these students' needs, shaping their faith, and equipping them to both be the church today and remain with it tomorrow. *(Preston Turley is the Director of UKIRK Ministries-Columbia, MO, the campus ministry of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia MO.)*

Managing Conflict in the Church by Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne

Everyone encounters conflict! Beginning with a biblical approach to the topic, this workshop will focus on practical steps to take in addressing conflict, whether it be with colleagues or church members. Participants will also identify their conflict management style and receive a helpful list of resources for future use.

(Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne, an experienced presenter on conflict management and mediation, has served as a teaching elder for 26 years. She currently serves as the General Presbyter in Missouri Union Presbytery and has served both suburban and rural congregations, as head of staff and solo pastor.)

Worship Art by Grace Cox-Johnson

In this time we will be doing hands-on learning and creating clergy stoles. On leaving you will take an unfinished stole top which will need to be finished by a sewer. We will have three different techniques from which to choose for your project. You may also choose to do a small art piece if you'd rather have something for a wall hanging. *(Grace Cox-Johnson is a nationally known liturgical artist who has served over 25 years with local and national congregations creating art for worship settings. She is currently the artist in residence for Color 4 the Journey, lives in Kansas City, and is also the Director of Music at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Raytown.)*

Suicide: The Guilt of Grieving by Rev. Stephanie Voss—THIS WORKSHOP HAS BEEN CANCELLED

All deaths are painful and leave us asking the question “Why?” in one form or another. However, grieving after a suicide involves a different kind of pain and questioning. For this type of death, a certain level of choice is perceived to be involved which can create unique challenges for processing the grief as well as bring up moral and ethical issues. The majority of western religions have historically viewed suicide as a sin. Although this viewpoint has changed due to an increased understanding of suicide from a mental health perspective, questions regarding sin and guilt often complicate how grief is experienced. This workshop will examine suicide related grief from a faith based mental health perspective.

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

How Faith In God Influences The Grieving Process by Rev. Stephanie Voss—THIS WORKSHOP HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Grief is an almost universal experience. It would be difficult to find a human being who has not encountered some kind of grief. Each individual will experience various levels of grief depending upon what he/she is grieving and the importance attached to that grief. During times of extreme crisis, many people turn to their faith in God as a means of coping with grief. This workshop will look at various aspects of grief, dying and death, including Christian faith perspectives and practices, grief resources, and end of life experiences. A Grief Observed by C.S. Lewis and Our Greatest Gift by Henri Nouwen will be referenced and incorporated into the discussion. These books are short in length but deep in perspective. Each writes about grief and loss, but each writes from a different place both personally and theologically.

(Due to health issues, presenter, Stephanie Voss, is unable to attend his year's E4 Conference. Please join us in prayer as we lift up Ms. Voss for health and a speedy recovery. This is for workshops "How Faith In God Influences The Grieving Process" and "Suicide: the Guilt of Grieving")

Zentangle: A Sacred Artistic Expression by Rev. Pat Cleeland

Zentangles are easy to learn, relaxing, and fun to create. Even if you feel you are art-challenged, Zentangle can be for you. Please join in learning a few techniques and creating art together. Maybe this workshop will help you begin a practice of mindfulness and focus in your ministry setting. *(Patricia Cleeland, M.Div, CZT, is a Member-at-Large of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. Her background is in youth ministry. Pat is wife to Chris and mom to Sarah (21), Sawyer (17), and Maggie (14).)*

Worship as Family Time by Rev. Jason Carle

Worship is meant to be a time when we come together as brothers and sisters in Christ. But do we make time for all people to participate as they are able? How do we help families of all kinds experience worship together? This will be a time where we share ideas and experiences (both good and bad) about how to make space for this. We will also talk about the kind of church culture changes that are needed to do this well. *(Jason Carle is the pastor at Overland Park Presbyterian Church. He is known for his love of boardgames, video games, theological discussions and belly laughs. He is currently shepherding and being shepherded by his congregation as they figure out what it means to be a church without a building.)*

Systems Thinking: Making You a Better Leader by Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison—NEW!

"How can systems thinking help me be a better leader?" Systems Theory: Friedman, Gilbert, Steinke-come learn how these names will help you approach your work more effectively.

(Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison is the pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, Kansas, and has been a licensed clinical social worker for over 15 years.)

Intergenerational Theory In The Church by Jason Santos—NEW

This workshop explores the history of that trend through generational and identity formation theories that shed light on the problem and offer insight toward a more communal understand of discipleship which is most faithfully cultivated through intentional intergenerational spiritual formation.

After Paradise: Sustaining Spiritual Formation by Jason Santos

Based off a ten-year study on the pilgrims of Taizé, this seminar endeavors to uncover why sustaining formation is so difficult after experiencing spiritual transformation in episodic environments. By reframing these places of transformation as Sabbath Community, we're able to see how sustaining faith might really be possible.

(Jason Brian Santos is the Mission Coordinator for Christian Formation (Christian education, children, youth, college, young adult, camps and conference ministries) at the Presbyterian Mission Agency.)

Teaching Leadership Through Games by DJ Whetter & John Holt

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. *(D.J. Whetter is in his 8th year as the Director of Youth Ministries and Adult Discipleship at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Overland Park, KS. In that role, he co-directs the Kansas City Lutheran Youth Coalition (KCLYC). D.J. also manages Kansas City Programs for the Wichita-based Kansas Leadership Center. John Holt has been the director of student ministries and communication at Salem Lutheran Church in Lenexa, KS, for the past 5 years. John has also been a co-director of the Kansas City Lutheran Youth Coalition (KCLYC) for the past 8 years. KCLYC gathers middle and high school students from area congregations for monthly events, mission trips, leadership, and service.)*

Experiential Christian Education by Dan Scheneman & Christine Foster

This informal workshop addresses the question, “How do we nurture and strengthen ties between the pew, the education room, and the camp experience?” This workshop will draw connections to how camp, worship and Christian education can minister together for the faith formation of children and youth.... Even adults. *(Dan has spent over twenty-five years in camp and conference ministry at Heartland Presbyterian Center in Parkville, Missouri. Dan grew up spending his summers at Heartland Center. First as a camper, and then as a camp counselor while in college. In 1993, Dan started as the Program Director for Heartland and became Executive Director in 2001. Dan and his wife, Jennifer have three wonderful kids who keep them very busy. Dan is a life-long Presbyterian, a Ruling Elder at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, Missouri, and he served as the President of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association from 2008 – 2012. Christy Foster, Elder/Deacon in the Presbyterian Church PC(USA), has been actively involved in children and youth ministries for 33 years from Sunday School teacher to Presbytery Youth Ministry Coordinator. She is now new to the position of Executive Director of Mound Ridge Retreat and Mission Center, Inc., which recently incorporated and has a close ministry partnership with the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, St. Louis, Missouri.)*

A quote taken from a survey of our 2016 event—

“It was great to connect with other Presbyterians and to be exposed to the wealth of resources out there in our denomination. Very refreshing.”