

# Creativity, Innovation, & Risk in Faith Formation



**April 24-26, 2023**

Rhodes Grove Conference Center  
7693 Browns Mill Road  
Chambersburg, PA

## Conference Leadership

### *Can We Perceive it?* **Creativity, Innovation, & Risk in Faith Formation**

Rev. Dr. Rebecca L. Davis,  
Associate Professor of Christian Education at  
Union Presbyterian Seminary and Minister of  
the Word and Sacrament joins EAPCE for our  
2023 Spring Event!



**Rev. Dr. Rebecca L. Davis**

**This event's pragmatic foci are: the arts & faith, educational technologies, nurturing spirituality, curriculum development, & more! Come learn the latest and greatest in Christian Education from the 2018 APCE Educator of the Year.**

As we emerge from the strangest two-years of ministry in recent memory, we find ourselves both yearning for what was and the acknowledging the futility of turning back to a way of "being the church" that is long gone. As we sit with the prophet Isaiah, especially in the forty-third chapter, we can hear God word calling to us and we are compelled to ask, "Is the ancient prophet, Isaiah, speaking directly to our current context?" The prophet proclaims on God's behalf,

"I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert."

The questions are, "Can we perceive this new thing?" and "How shall we perceive it?" These questions summon us to consider the formation of faith in a church that lives between **what was** and **what will be**. Whatever answers we find, we know the answers will not:

- Be found in a box of curriculum or
- In a closed off area of what has always been but

**Rather, answers will be found and discovered in the interplay of  
CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION and RISK.**

During our time together, I invite you to explore what is possible in this new and strange religious landscape of forming faith when we:

- Cultivate adaptive curiosity that leads to creativity,
- Take a lesson or two from jazz, and
- Consider the difference between INNOVATION and IMPROVISATION

***Come, as we discern together a place where the Spirit does not let  
fear outdistance the need to RISK for the sake of the Gospel.***

## Conference Leadership

### **Rev. Dr. Amy Wallace Parker** Worship Leader

Rev. Dr. Amy Wallace Parker is the Minister of Education and the Arts at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston, WV. Her work includes curating seasonal art exhibits featuring local artists, producing recorded and live-streamed worship services, creating original liturgical art and creative worship experiences, and vesting the sanctuary for worship. She received her DMin in Arts and Theology from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2018.



## **EAPCE Scholarship Match**

Two retired educators from our region have pledged to match scholarship donations up to \$500.00. That means if we receive \$500.00 in donations, it grows into \$1000.00 to enable more folks to attend the EAPCE spring event. Please consider giving towards this generous gift.

**Donations can be mailed to  
EAPCE Treasurer,  
Jenny Newman: PO Box 486  
Washington, PA 15301**

***Please make checks out to EAPCE  
Eastern Region with "Scholarship" in  
the memo line.***

## Tuesday Morning Workshops: 10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon

### Workshop #1: Equipping Parents and Guardians

*led by Rachel Pedersen, Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministry, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church*

While the media is quick to describe today's parents and guardians as stressed, stretched, and struggling; church educators know that we are also searching and seeking. How can we come alongside parents to help both equip them in faith formation while simultaneously strengthening and nurturing their own faith and practice? This interactive workshop will provide background and current information about the challenges, best practices, and realities facing parents and guardians in 2023. As a group, we will workshop some key questions and share resources on how to equip and encourage parents in our church contexts.



### Workshop #2: Community Art Workshop

*led by Priscilla Andre-Colton, CCE, retired and Colleen Duffy, Associate for Family Nurture, First Presbyterian Church of Newton*

Collaborative or community art describes artwork created with a group of people. It can be framed around a theme, an idea, a Bible passage, a phrase. It can be done in a variety of media, including markers, paints, crayons, colored pencils, fabric, and paper. Community art has the potential to build relationships among those who participate. In this workshop we will examine and experiment with methods of doing community art.



### Workshop #3: Who is Your Christian

Nationalist Neighbor? *led by John Fea, Distinguished Professor of History at Messiah University*

This workshop examines a growing approach to politics that scholars have described as "Christian nationalism." We will take a deep dive into the religious, political, and cultural agenda of those affiliated with this movement and reflect on how to respond to Christian nationalists in our communities. While it is easy to criticize Christian nationalists for the way they fuse conservative evangelical theology and right-wing politics, this workshop is guided by the premise that one cannot love their neighbors until they understand them.



## Tuesday Afternoon Workshops: 1:00-2:30 PM

### Workshop #4: Edu-Tech: Beyond Easels, Flip Charts, and Markers

*led by Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis*

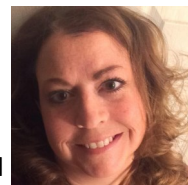
Educational technologies that support the teaching ministry are now essential for educators and pastors as we lean into our new normal for nurturing faith. Let's learn tips, tricks, and tools as we become as comfortable with edu-tech as we are with easels, flip charts, and markers.

### Workshop #5: Beyond Brainstorming:

#### Using Design Thinking in Ministry

*led by Jenny Newman, Director of Christian Education., Sixth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh*

Explore the concept of Design Thinking and dig into how Design Thinking as a process and a mindset can bring new energy, innovation, and creativity to ministry. In this workshop, we will learn about using Design Thinking as a process to help committees, volunteers, co-workers, or groups work together to find new ways of planning, problem-solving, and visioning. We will also explore how Design Thinking as a mindset can strengthen empathy and collaboration. We will discuss the origins and basic elements of Design Thinking, practice together how it can be used when working with a group of people, and identify ways participants can use Design Thinking in their specific context.



### Workshop #6: Celebrating Sabbath: Experiencing Calm and Rest in our Call to Ministry

*led by Sharon Stewart, Pastor for Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care, Jefferson United Presbyterian Church*

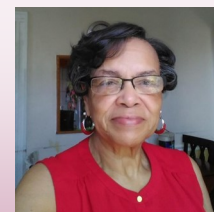
Life is filled with demands and the sense of urgency with the never-ending check list for ministry goals. What does it look like to experience renewal and delight in our relationship with the Holy One? During this workshop, we will explore ways to develop a rhythm of rest and reflection. Allowing time for Sabbath gives us the opportunity to remember what is beautiful and sacred. When we intentionally schedule time for renewal, we gain strength in our re-connection with God who delights in us, our work, and our relationships!



## Spirituality Center

The 2023 EAPCE Spirituality Center is a place where, during free time, conference participants can choose to engage in stations that will provide opportunities for intentionality and reflection.

Thank you to **Brenda Alston** for sharing her spiritual gifts with us. Brenda is the administrative assistant at Knox Presbyterian Church in Baltimore City. She has been married for 54 years, is the proud mother of 4 children, and grandmother of 10 grandchildren whom she loves to spoil. She has worked with children all of her adult life and is passionate about their spiritual education. Brenda has done at least 6 prayer walks at her church, one at a Baltimore Presbytery Gathering, and has shared with other churches in the city.



# Event Schedule

<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 24</b>	
<b>1:00 pm</b>	Registration and Check-In	
<b>3:00-3:45 pm</b>	Welcome and Community Building	
<b>4:00-5:15 pm</b>	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Dinner	
<b>6:45-7:45 pm</b>	Open Spaces/Spirituality Center	
<b>8:00-8:30 pm</b>	Evening Prayer	Rev. Dr. Amy Parker
<b>8:45 pm</b>	Fellowship Options	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 25</b>	
<b>7:30 am</b>	Morning Prayer	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Breakfast	
<b>9:00-10:15 am</b>	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
<b>10:30am-noon</b>	Morning Workshops	
	#1 Equipping Parents and Guardians	Rachel Pedersen
	#2 Community Art	Priscilla Andre-Colton & Colleen Duffy
	#3 Who is Your Christian Nationalist Neighbor?	John Fea
<b>12:00 noon</b>	Lunch	
<b>1:00-2:30 pm</b>	Afternoon Workshops	
	#4 Edu-Tech: Beyond Easels, Flip Charts, and Markers	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
	#5 Beyond Brainstorming: Using Design Thinking in Ministry	Jenny Newman
	#6 Celebrating Sabbath	Rev. Sharon Stewart
<b>2:30-5:00 pm</b>	Free Time	
<b>4:00 pm</b>	Byron's Book Picks	
<b>5:00 pm</b>	Dinner	
<b>6:30-7:45 pm</b>	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
<b>8:00-8:30 pm</b>	Evening Worship	Rev. Dr. Amy Parker
<b>8:45 pm</b>	Educator Celebration	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 26</b>	
<b>7:30 am</b>	Morning Prayer	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Breakfast	
<b>9:00-9:45 am</b>	EAPCE Business Meeting	Carolyn Leah
<b>9:45-11:00 am</b>	Plenary	Rev. Dr. Rebecca Davis
<b>11:15 am</b>	Closing Worship with Communion	Rev. Dr. Amy Parker

**Eastern Association of Partners in Christian Education**



# Creativity, Innovation, & Risk in Faith Formation

Electronic Event Registration here:

<https://tinyurl.com/EAPCE2023>

**Deadline: April 3**

## Back in 2023: Open Spaces

**Open spaces** are roundtable discussions on a set topic, where anyone can share ideas and learn from one-another. Topics may include: VBS, how to get & keep church volunteers, Confirmation, hands-on youth & kids ideas, & more! We hope you'll choose to spend some down time chatting informally with friends and peers. Share your suggestions for subjects on your registration form!

## Scholarships are Available!

◇ To receive a scholarship application email:

[jennyrunew@gmail.com](mailto:jennyrunew@gmail.com)

◇ **Due March 15, 2023**

## New This Year: Early Arrival Option

Are you looking for a little more downtime after a tiring journey to Chambersburg? Consider extending your Sabbath with our Early Arrival option!

**\$95 includes breakfast and lunch on Monday and Sunday night's stay.**

*Please note: No meals are available on Sunday.*

**Join us as we honor Retired Saints and Educators of the Year Awards for 2023**

## Hearts and Minds Bookstore

Books and resources will be available to purchase through Hearts and Minds Bookstore all 3 days of the event.

*\*Masks optional; subject to change based on circumstances.*

## EAPCE SPRING EVENT 2023 REGISTRATION

Name (as desired on your nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Position \_\_\_\_\_

APCE Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

First time attendee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any dietary or special needs? \_\_\_\_\_

**WORKSHOP CHOICES:** (circle one for each time slot)

10:30 AM #1 / #2 / #3 1:00 PM #4 / #5 / #6

Open Space suggestion: \_\_\_\_\_

### Conference Fees:

(Includes Conference, Keynotes, Workshops, 2 nights lodging and 5 meals and snacks):

Early Arrival ..... (\$95) \_\_\_\_\_

Double Room ..... (\$415) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Room ..... (\$480) \_\_\_\_\_

Commuter.....\$160 3 day (meals included) \_\_\_\_\_

.....\$115 1 day (meals included) \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$40 for non-APCE members \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Fee Total \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Preference \_\_\_\_\_

May EAPCE use your image in publicity? Y or N?

May EACPE share your name & email with other attendees? Y or N?

**Cancellations:** Cancellations can be honored only if made 10+ days before the event.

**Please complete and mail registration with check payable to APCE Eastern Region to:**

Jennifer Newman, EAPCE Treasurer

PO Box 486

Washington, PA 15301

**Deadline to Register:** Monday, April 3, 2023

**Questions:** [easternapce@gmail.com](mailto:easternapce@gmail.com)

