

Join us for the 2021 Small Church Conference

"SAVED TO SERVE... Thy Kingdom come on earth"

Highlighting the Matthew 25 Initiative of the PCUSA



MATTHEW 25

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Saturday, September 18

First Presbyterian
Church, Clarksburg

Featuring Keynote Presenter Rev. Dr. Judi Slater

who previously presented at our 2019 Small Church Conference

Plus, your choice of two workshops

- **Imagine Equality for Racial Justice**
- **Becoming a Matthew 25 Church**
- **Congregational Vitality and the Christian Education Associate Process**

9:30-9:55 AM	Registration and refreshments
10-10:45 AM	Worship and The Lord's Supper <i>Preacher: Kari Preslar, CP</i>
10:45-11:30 AM	Keynote: A New Day Dawning for the Church <i>Rev. Dr. Judi Slater</i>
11:30 AM-12:20 PM	Lunch
12:30-1:30 PM	Workshop choice 1 <i>see descriptions on back</i>
1:45-2:45 PM	Workshop choice 2
3 PM	Regather in sanctuary for prayer, song, and blessing

The conference is free. Register by September 7 to allow for meal planning; late registrations will not be guaranteed lunch. Register with [this form](#) or by giving your name, church, and a contact email address or phone number to the Presbytery office at 304-744-7634 or office@wvpresbytery.org.

*CDC Covid-19 protocol, including social distance, will be followed.
Masks are optional for those fully vaccinated.*

KEYNOTE: A New Day Dawning for the Church

Times are changing for the church, but God's Spirit is alive in some new and exciting ways. The Matthew 25 initiative gives vision and guidance for creative, engaging ministry that will lead the church into the future.

KEYNOTE PRESENTER: Rev. Dr. Judi Slater

Returning this year as our keynote presenter is Rev. Dr. Judi Slater, who led us at our 2019 conference. Judi has been pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Duquesne, PA, since 1992. Over the past 29 years, the church has evolved from an aging, white congregation without much connection to their under-resourced community to a multicultural congregation with many community ministries. It has become a Matthew 25 church, and this vision continues to guide the church's ministry in new and exciting directions.

In addition to pastoring First Presbyterian, Duquesne, Judi served in ministry for seven years as the Associate Presbyter for Pittsburgh Presbytery, working with smaller congregations. A graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, she has participated in many church revitalization programs over the years, most recently completing the Church Planting and Revitalization Certificate at PTS.

Judi and her husband Steve have three grown children and six adorable grandchildren. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, who range in age from 7 months to 7 years.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Imagine Equality for Racial Justice

As God's people, we are called to honor the image of God in each person. One of the focuses of the Matthew 25 initiative is to dismantle structural racism. In this workshop, we will look at the issue of racial inequality and discuss some things we can do to combat racism.

Led by Judi Slater

Becoming a Matthew 25 Church

Members of Matthew 25 congregations in the PWV share how and why their churches decided to become part of the Matthew 25 initiative. There will be a Q&A time.

Led by members from Bream Memorial, Clifton, and First Presbyterian, Dunbar

Congregational Vitality and the Christian Education Associate Process

According to the Matthew 25 initiative, one of the marks of Vital Congregations is "a commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's congregations, carrying out this work in a variety of ways."

In smaller congregations, the work of nurturing disciples of different ages is often done by faithful volunteers and/or part-time professionals who have a passion for Christian education and faith formation but may have had little training or preparation for educational ministry. The Christian Education Associate program in the PCUSA educator certification process is designed to provide training in basic knowledge and skills related to Christian education and nurturing disciples. This workshop will explore this process and its potential to impact the vitality of congregations.

Led by Susan Sharp Campbell