

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley Presents
**CONGREGATIONAL
LEARNING DAY**

For New and Experienced Church Leaders and Church Members

Saturday, February 9, 2019

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Optional Working Lunch Course 12:15 PM-1:45 PM

**Perinton Presbyterian Church
6551 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Fairport, NY 14450**



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

TEN MORNING COURSES

NINE "WORKING LUNCH" COURSES

REGISTRATION IS \$5.

The optional box lunch is an additional \$8.

It is being 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: \$5.00 PER PERSON (registration form includes payment information)

SCHEDULE:

Registration & Hospitality	8:30 AM
Worship	9:00 AM
Morning Courses	9:45 AM - 12:00 PM
"Working Lunch" Courses	12:15 PM - 1:45 PM

**LUNCH: Bring your own brown bag lunch
or order a box lunch for \$8.00.**

LUNCHESES 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 AM - 12:00 PM
Choose from the following **TEN COURSES**

New Elder & Deacon Orientation

Rev. Aaron Neff, Pastor of Corfu United Presbyterian Church

This course is for new elders and deacons. It is an introduction and orientation to those roles and will cover topics to help new officers understand the purpose and function of their positions.

Ministry of Clerks of Session

Elder Susan Orr, Presbyterian for Healthier Congregations/Stated Clerk and Rev. Laura Norris Buisch, Stated Clerk for Western NY 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, however, 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 facilitated by not one but two stated clerks, 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 & Company; and Colleen Allen, Bookkeeper for six Presbyterian 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 discuss **NEW** IRS reporting requirements for churches, as well as answer any accounting questions you may have. Colleen will share from her experience of being the 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 proved 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. Your 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 to the 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 on the Presbytery Trustee’s portion of the Presbytery website, so you will have access to forms and information you need to help you serve the congregation.

Clergy Debriefing and Support

Rev. Deb Swift, Pastor, South Presbyterian Church and the Acts of Faith Community and Chair, Pastoral Care & Development Committee

Whether it's Compassion Fatigue from the challenges or Adrenalin Overload from all the good things, this will be a time to connect with clergy colleagues in a safe and supportive environment. We will do a little spiritual work and a lot of sharing for our own health. Prayer and laughter included!

God, Improv, and the Art of Faithfulness *(also offered as a working lunch course)*

Rev. Amy Williams Fowler, now in her 8th year of serving as the Presbytery Leader in Genesee Valley

Do you feel sometimes that “being Church” does not include enough laughter, creativity, and playfulness? We will explore ways developed by Rev. Mary Ann McKibben Dana in her book, **God, Improv, and the Art of Living**, to weave improvisational skills into our daily lives, and our lives at Church. This will not be a lecture! Come dressed to move (even if it is February).

The Church as Employer: A Seminar for Personnel Committees and Supervisors

Elder Linda Badger Becker, currently serving as the Presbytery Transitional Leader for the Presbytery of Geneva

Whether the congregation has a few or several employees, personnel matters can be challenging for church leaders. This seminar will provide guidance in developing and implementing personnel practices that are consistent with professional and Christian values. We’ll explore such topics as personnel policies, position descriptions, supervision, performance evaluations, and more.

Worship Without Worry (also offered as a working lunch course)

Gerald Sink, Director of Loss Control for the Insurance Board, offering effective risk management and risk mitigation techniques and strategies to organizations

This workshop is designed to equip church leaders and congregations to consider, among many options, the most appropriate response to employ during an emergency scenario. It will provide information to churches and related ministries to inform them about relevant tools available to respond to emergency situations in the most appropriate ways possible. While every response is contingent upon the circumstance presented, there are several important considerations that every church should assess, evaluate, and discuss in their respective church setting.

Telling Biblical Stories by Heart

Cindy Mildenerger, member of Downtown United Presbyterian Church and the Network of Biblical Storytellers, is certified by the Academy for Biblical Storytellers and has been actively involved in biblical storytelling since 2009. She is also a member of "Women of the Well".

How does one make a biblical story "come alive" for listeners? The answer is – tell it by heart! This is an introduction to Biblical Storytelling; a beginner workshop to learn the steps of how to learn to tell a story "by heart" and be able to tell it with confidence.

Creative Worship

Rev. Colin Pritchard, Pastor, Victor First Presbyterian Church

Organ & Choir or PowerPoint & Praise Band? Doesn't matter, until we ground our worship in the Holy and in a gathered people. High Liturgy or Informal Flow? Doesn't matter, until we ground our worship in the Holy and in a gathered people. This shared time is intended to help us pay attention to our expectations of worship, to name our priorities, and to assess which voices really speak when we gather. When the body of Christ responds to the goodness of God and gathers in communal proclamation ... worship happens.

<p>"WORKING LUNCH" COURSES 12:15 PM - 1:45 PM Choose from the following NINE COURSES</p>
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The Vital Congregations Initiative

Rev. James Renfrew, Pastor at Byron Presbyterian Church and former Presbytery Moderator

This workshop is an introduction to the "Vital Congregations Initiative" of the PC(USA). We are unlikely to accomplish our purpose as followers of Jesus Christ if we are something less than vital within our membership and in the surrounding community. We will look at the "7 Marks of Vital Congregations" to see how vital we are (or aren't). Some new ideas will be offered for healthier ministry, and there will be a lot of conversation among participants about what our congregations could look like as "vital", and how to get there. Warning: there are no quick fixes or short cuts here—this is the beginning of a journey that we can take together on the way to Redefinition, Redevelopment and Rebirth. NOTE: Early registrants will be sent links to key documents that tell about "Vital Congregations", useful preparation for our conversation, but also available at the workshop.

Hospitality as Evangelism

Elder Linda Badger Becker, currently serving as the Presbytery Transitional Leader for the Presbytery of Geneva.

Of course, yours is a warm and friendly congregation. But evangelism is more complex than just being friendly and hoping folks will stick around. Yet, it's more than getting people to come to our church. We'll unpack the "E" word and consider what it means to practice radical hospitality that goes beyond coffee hour. Are you brave enough to leave your comfort zone and explore this topic?

"Tis the Season": Exploring and Examining the Seasonal Team Model

Elder Robin Sheppard, member of Penfield Presbyterian Church, and Elder Brian Shaffer, member of Caledonia First

The main focus of this workshop is to engage in a dynamic time of learning and sharing related to the Seasonal Team Model. This conversation will be valuable for congregations familiar with the model, as well as those considering a new structure. This format offers members of a congregation a more interpretative approach to church seasons, providing a shorter-term commitment that better suits our more progressive lifestyles. Members often find this model enables them to become more active in the church while also bringing new ideas and energy. The Seasonal Team Model was designed as an alternative structure for "doing church" by living the liturgical seasons and using the rhythms of the seasons for faith development, planning, and mission orientation. Wherever you and your congregation may be along the journey, it is always worthwhile to connect with others to share insights, experiences, and the creative processes that have been developed using this format.

Church Questions You've Always Wanted Answers To...

Rev John Wilkinson, Pastor of Third Presbyterian Church and Former Moderator of Genesee Valley

Not the most elegant title, but you get the point! We all have questions about who we are as Presbyterians, why we do things the way we do, what we believe, and why. Here are a few:

Why is our order of worship the way it is?

What's a Book of Order?

How are we different from the _____ (fill in the denomination)?

We will spend our time in this session exploring these types of questions. While John will be ready to discuss his own list, it would be even better if you email him beforehand at jwilkinson@thirdpresbyterian.org. There are NO bad questions. This time together promises to be fun and informative. Join us!

Exploration of Palliative Care for Individuals & Congregations

Rev Marcia Reiff, Pastor of Dansville Presbyterian Church; Rev Gordon Webster, Westminster Worship Ministry; and Rev Anne Waasdorp, Presbytery Big Picture Team Member & Synod Commissioner.

Faith. Hope. Love. So now faith, hope and love abide, these three ..." so concludes the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians, also known as the love chapter. These three things are the building blocks of life, as necessary as the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. While we rejoice at impending birth, we tend to avoid, deny and defy signs of sickness and death. This workshop allows space for an exploration of our complex responses to end-of-life issues, for individuals and congregations.

A Discussion of the Book "White Awake" by Daniel Hill (please read at least half beforehand)

Rev. Laurel Nelson, co-founder of Lagom Landing, a gap-year ministry to young adults; and Elder Roger Estes, Commissioned Pastor of Mumford Presbyterian Church and current Moderator Elect of Genesee Valley

Author Daniel Hill commented to an Indian friend at the friend's wedding, "I'm jealous of (you having) such an amazing culture! I wish I had a culture too." His friend replied with a comment that made a pivotal difference in Daniel's life: "You may be white, but don't let that lull you into thinking you have no culture. White culture is very real. In fact, when white culture comes in contact with other cultures, it almost always wins. So it would be a really good idea for you to learn about your culture." Join us in becoming more aware of systemic and racial injustice in discussion of Daniel's book. We will wrestle with this challenging book and our own perspectives on being called by Jesus to be agents of reconciliation.

Get in the Know and Get Inspired—Feedback from the 223rd General Assembly

Rev Sue Thaine, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Albion, and current Moderator of Genesee Valley; and Elder Hezekiah Simmons, member of First Presbyterian Church, Pittsford and former Genesee Valley Moderator. Both were 2018 GA commissioners.

General Assembly 2018 was held this past summer in St. Louis. Hear from your Presbytery of Genesee Valley Commissioners as they share their reflections on the GA experience. At this session we will:

Explore some of the powerful thematic worship services that were the cornerstone of General Assembly, including reflections on attending Sunday worship in local congregations.

Gain a clearer picture of the challenges and opportunities present and arising in the Denomination.

Get to know the 13 Assembly Committees and how they work to support the ministry and mission of PCUSA.

Be Inspired! The Hands and Feet Initiative of General Assembly raised \$54,000 for the March for Justice and delivered to the St. Louis court house. Funds were used to post bail for poor people jailed for non-violent infractions who were awaiting trial because they were too poor to come up with bail money.

Lift up highlights of the more impactful programs or decisions voted on by the General Assembly, 6 and what these may mean for the life of the Church.

Worship Without Worry (also offered as a morning course)

Gerald Sink is the Director of Loss Control for the Insurance Board enhancing the organization's value proposition through effective risk management and risk mitigation techniques and strategies.

**See the course description in "Morning Courses" section

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