

THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital
PRESBYTERY
MISSIONAL • PASTORAL • PROPHETIC

February 22, 2018

In this edition. . . .

Announcements

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The Once and Future Church

Christian Community in an age of "Loose Connections"

Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington (RIMW)

February 10,17,24 and March 3 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, VA

NEXT CHURCH 2018 – The Desert in BLOOM

National Gathering

February 26-28 – Baltimore, MD

Workshop - Why Palestinians Matter

March 3 – Washington, DC

4th Annual Film Series ~ Voices from the Holy Land 2018

"Disturbing the Peace"

March 4 – St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church

East Coast Bridges Workshop – "Total Immersion"

March 3 – Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

"All In" with Senate Chaplain Barry Black

March 4 – Georgetown Presbyterian Church

African Americans in Times of War"

presented by Black Presbyterians United

March 11 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, DC

2018 Lenten Study: Exploring Early Christian Reflections on Jesus' Suffering

Presented by Dr. Matthew D. Taylor

March 18,19, 20 – Lewinsville Presbyterian Church

ACT against RACISM (3-day event)

National Council of Churches

April 3-5 – Washington, DC

FILL T“HIS” TEMPLE

presented by the Sargent Gospel-Aires

37th Anniversary Celebration

April 7 – Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church

Coach Approach Skill Training – Fast Track Opportunity

NCP and Transformation Team

April 9-13 – TBD

BULLIES in the Church (Anti-Bullying Workshop)

How to Distinguish Between Normal Conflict and Bullying

(on-line registration available)

April 18 – Saint Mark Presbyterian Church

2018 CPJ Training Day (Compassion, Peace & Justice)

A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People

April 20 – New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Community Coalition for Haiti – Come and SEE!

Travel to Haiti and share your skills!

May 27 - June 3

SAVE THE DATE

Racial Awareness and Mindfulness 2018

Keynote Author-Scholar, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

October 20 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, DC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The National Council of Churches is planning for their major protest against racism on the National Mall on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 7:00AM-4:00PM, entitled **Act Now! Unite to End Racism**. They are looking for security/police/military types who are available to provide additional security to DC police on the Mall that day. Westminster Presbyterian Church, DC, along with other churches along the SW I Street corridor will be a hospitality site for the event.

Therese Taylor-Stinson, former NCP Moderator, volunteered to seek out those who might be available to provide an extra line of security during the event. If interested, please contact Therese at this email address: taylorstinson53@gmail.com.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church VBS Camp, July 30 - August 3, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. This all-day, Bible-centered program will include art, music, recreation, science, drama, and more, for kids age 3 through 6th grade. It will be staffed by Camp Hanover, a Presbyterian camp and retreat center known for great programming. The cost will be \$150 per child for the entire week – quite a bargain! Feel free to invite friends and neighbors. Kids will receive lunch and 2 snacks each day. Immanuel is located at 1125 Savile Lane, McLean, VA, 22101. Contact Pastor Susan Graceson (SGraceson@IPCMcLean.org) for more information. To register your child:

<http://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessionDetail.aspx?idCamp=662&idSession=179332&campCode=cha>

LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN - A great idea has come to us via James Potts, Director of Family Ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. He has networked with churches across the nation to begin a Children's Letter Writing Campaign to the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. If you would like to have your children or youth ministries participate, please begin the campaign as soon as you can, gather the letters and send them to the Presbytery Center, without envelopes (one envelope for all is fine). We will give them to Rev. Willy Figueredo to hand deliver them to a guidance counselor at Stoneman Douglas. There will not be a time frame for this project in frequency or duration. However immediate response will be beneficial for the students as they are currently in shock and in grief. Should you have any questions, please call Sandra 954-785-2220 or email sandra@tfpby.org.

Mail items to:

Presbytery of Tropical Florida
Attn: Sandra Figueredo
1919 SE 5th Street
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Have a House for Rent? Know Someone Who Does? - The PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer site here in Washington, DC is looking to rent a 2-3-bedroom home, ideally starting in August 2018. The program has values in creating an intentional community for the young adults, being good neighbors and fostering community, and living in the city itself. If you have any connections to people or spaces that might help us find a new location, we would be grateful. Contact Jessica Tate with any information or leads. revjetate@gmail.com.

February 22, 2018



At what point does an ideology become a religion? Then-National Rifle Association Executive Vice President J. Warren Cassidy once remarked, "You would get a far better understanding of the NRA if you approached us as if you were approaching one of the great religions of the world."

Religions start with an assertion that cannot be proven: Jesus rising from the dead; Moses shoeless before the burning bush; Joseph Smith translating the Book of Mormon; the Koran as God's revelation.

Many in this country have seized upon the absolute God-given right to bear arms without any restraints of government as their primary devotion. Witness Charlton Heston's white-knuckle grip. Witness Ted Nugent's messianic utterances. Witness the apocalyptic tone of Wayne LaPierre's sermons and the liturgical frame of NRA conventions. Witness the cacophony of voices resisting common sense gun regulation. This is religious expression. Reverence then tops responsibility, respect and restraint.

This religion is prevalent across the United States. NRA "logic" serves this primary devotion. The gun lobby, Congress, presidents of both parties and gun manufacturers all kowtow together, circulate the money, and profess the faith. Legislation has effectively, though tacitly, established it as the religion of the land in violation of the First Amendment. These gundamentalists tell us that there is nothing we should do in the wake of yet another horrific school shooting. These passively offered thoughts and prayers just serve this functional idolatry that endorses easy access to assault rifles.

Do note that this religion practices child sacrifice.

G. Wilson Gunn Jr.

Quill of the Stated Clerk

The National Capital Presbytery met on January 23, 2018 at National Presbyterian Church around the theme “Connecting Our Congregations.” During the meeting, NCP, led by Moderator Bill Plitt:

- Participated in bilingual worship led by Rev. Beth Goss and Pastor William Velasquez.
- Recognized the many parts of our presbytery and its churches that are engaged in numerous missions.
- Voted to concur with an overture to the 223rd General Assembly “On Responding to the Current Syrian Crisis.”
- Voted to concur with an overture to the 223rd General Assembly “On Directing the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church USA Foundation to Divest From Fossil Fuel and Actively Invest in Securities That Focus on Renewable Energy.”
- Approved allocation of the retention amount of \$109,389 received from First Korean Presbyterian Church of Northern Virginia to past per capita and to reimburse the General Directors Funds that had been tapped for Covenant Presbyterian Church debt service payments.
- Celebrated the Lord’s Supper led by Rev. Beth Goss and Rev. Mike McNamara with servers from our newest congregation, Christ the King.

And, prior to the meeting, at 4:00, was one of the most important ways we help connect our congregations: Open Space. This time there were gatherings on NCP Communications, Refugee Ministry, Intergenerational Poverty, College Students and Vocation, the Outlook’s 200th anniversary, Starting an Alternative Worship Service, Healing, Middle East Peace, Gracious Conversation Between Conservatives and Progressives, and Earth Care. There was also a Mission Fair.

You don’t have to be a commissioner to attend either Open Space or the Presbytery Meeting. Y’all come.

Peace and blessings, Sara

Sara M. Coe
Stated Clerk
National Capital Presbytery
scoe@thepresbytery.org
240-514-5352

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Clerks' Tip of the Month

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Website



I always encourage people to become familiar with National Capital Presbytery's website, www.thepresbytery.org. There is quite a bit of information to be found there. But, by virtue of my job, I also get a lot of email that points me to useful resources for churches on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website. The other day, I got a link to what appears to be a very useful guide for church treasurers: http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/mid_council_ministries/treasurers_manual_pcusa.pdf. Clerks, you might want to pass this link along to your Finance Ministries.

There are also a lot of program helps on the PCUSA website. On the home page, www.pcusa.org, at the bottom you will see links to components of the Office of the General Assembly and to Mid Councils. The Presbyterian History link under the Office of the General Assembly will take you to the website for the Presbyterian Historical Society. The PHS website is interesting in itself—but it also has information on records maintenance—what records should a church keep, and for how long. Under Mid Councils (not a place that a church would normally think to look) there is a page on ruling elders-- <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/ruling-elders/> -- that contains a periodical publication ruling elders can subscribe to (for free) and elder training helps, among other things.

Also at the bottom of the home page are a list of departments in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. There is lots to be found. For instance, under "Compassion, Peace & Justice" you will find lots of resources on human trafficking if your church has an interest in that. Or information on places looking for disaster assistance if that is of interest. Under "Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries" there are resources on Racial & Intercultural Justice ministries and information on getting Mission Program Grants.

One caveat about the PCUSA website—the search engine is not very good. I got a tip from someone who works in the Office of General Assembly—it is usually better to use Google to find something rather than rely on the PCUSA search engine. I have found that to be true.

If you find you have a spare half hour, it might be productive to look around on the PCUSA website. I have often been pleasantly surprised at what's available.

If you have a tip you think others could use or a question you would like me to answer, please email it to me at scoe@thepresbytery.org.

Sara Coe, Stated Clerk (National Capital Presbytery).

Dear Friends,



When I awoke on the morning of February 16, I felt overwhelmed by fear. Not for myself, but fear that there will be many more Columbine High School attacks, Oklahoma Federal shootings, Orlando night club hate crimes, Virginia Tech nightmares, Las Vegas festivals/massacres, Charleston church atrocities, Sandy Hook Elementary School slaughters, and now, Parkland, Florida. That is way too much death and mayhem, and it is only the tip of that cold, vast iceberg that surrounds us beyond belief. What feeds such violence? Why are there such feelings of alienation among the perpetrators? Where is our humanity for one another, other than in the courage of heroes who emerge during such evil acts? What is our response to such violence, and how much of that is driven by fear of “the other”?

And then I read an advertisement* from our denomination’s Office of Public Witness announcing a conference in April that said, “We believe that God is with the **Dreamer**, the **migrant**, and the **outcast**; that God calls us to create places of sanctuary, and to **Welcome all** - regardless of faith, race, gender identity or nationality; and that **we must break down the dividing walls that separate us!**” That was when I felt some relief; there is the hope in the Church of Christ Jesus that we see reflected in the “other” - our own humanity.

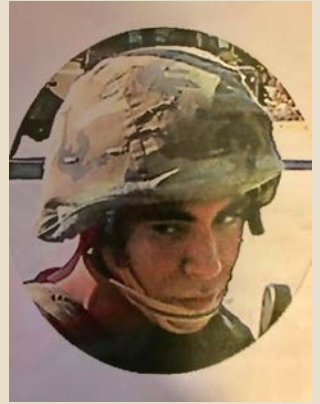
As I reflect on my own life these days, several personal stories come to mind when thinking about the stranger whom I did not know and taking that leap of faith that somehow, I might be able to make a difference – maybe offer a different perspective – maybe. I remember a moment on one of my several visits to the Holy Land over the years, this one in 2009, when the opportunity arose to stand in solidarity with Palestinians. We stood together, as an act of non-violence, against the proposed wall that would surround their village of Al Ma’sara, located just south of Bethlehem. Standing along the road between the proposed wall section and Al Ma’sara was a line of young, teenaged Israeli soldiers with drawn M-16 automatic weapons. They were protected by a roll of razor-barbed wire separating them from the gathering of peaceful protestors. As internationals, we were encouraged to speak to the soldiers with words of truth.

At first, I chose two young soldiers standing nearby with whom to share one of my poems about walls and barriers; this seemed a bit less confrontational than the singing and shouting of others but was, nevertheless, an honest approach. They had been ordered by their officers to not say anything to, nor have eye contact with, the demonstrators. As I introduced myself as a U.S. citizen from the Washington, DC area and a Christian who was concerned for the well-being of both Palestinian and Israeli people, I could not help but notice a slight softening in their faces as they glanced from the Palestinians to my right to the direction of the sound of my voice. They heard me, I know. I recited from memory the poem that had come to me years earlier when I saw the walls in the West Bank for the first time and felt the impact, not only for my own sense of freedom, but also the sense of inhumanity on both sides of the wall. The words were a gift to me; I shared it with them in the same vein.

After I finished speaking to the young men before me, I could sense their discomfort. I suspected that they didn’t want to be there, in full battle gear, at age 18 or so, in the face of a non-violent group of foreigners and youth. I could tell that they were embarrassed, as well as a bit frightened, and they didn’t want to trouble this day.

I moved down the line to the others, including a young African Jew, who really seemed out of place amongst the ranks of white, European-like Israelis. I spoke to him with the first words I could find which referred to the fact that he must truly know within his heart, from his own experience in this adopted state of his, about the pain of a life caused by one’s identity. He, too, seemed moved, or at least I wanted to believe he was.

As I moved back to the first young soldier, I thought the wind shifted a little, but, in fact, I would learn later that the movement was the result of a playful tussle between a soldier and two young boys who were trying to pull the wire away with a leather strap. At that point, though, the razor wire caught the material of my pants, and I struggled to keep it from tearing the cloth further. As I worked with my own predicament, I glanced across the wire at the young helmeted soldier who was suffering the same misfortune with his fatigue pants. There we were, standing and holding the same wire in our hands, he on one side and I on the other, our worlds joined together in such an embarrassing way. For a small fraction of time, I felt we were both aware of the two faces of the wire, linked by our common humanity. As we got disentangled, I hope that the shared experience made him think about that link and what he could do to maintain his humanity in difficult times to come. Maybe he will think about “the other” as someone like him. Maybe.



What will our witness be today? Where will we find the opportunities to reach out in our faith before these acts of violence occur again? The theme of our next meeting together is “Evangelism.” Some of us are also frightened by this word; , it is a concept deeply rooted in our tradition of going out into the world to share the love of God and our love for one another. During our meeting, you will hear stories from panelists who will share their own experiences in discovering their common humanity. I suggest that you find your story, too; I know that it is there.

Bill Plitt
Moderator, National Capital Presbytery

*"A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees, and Displaced People" *April 20-23, 2018 - Washington, DC*
Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day - April 20
Ecumenical Advocacy Days - April 20-23

Final Deadlines

Submission of Overtures for 223rd General Assembly

June 16 to 23, 2018

St. Louis, Missouri

Deadline for Submission to the Bills and Overtures
Committee of Overtures and Requests for Concurrences with
Other Presbyteries' Overtures for the 223rd General
Assembly:

- March 2, 2018 – final deadline for concurrences regarding non-Book of Order/ non-authoritative interpretation/non-financial implications overtures (to be considered at special April 24, 2018 presbytery meeting).



NCP Open Space: An Invitation to Share Your Passion and Leadership

The goal of **NCP Open Space** is to provide time and space for presbyters (that is, teaching and ruling elders) to network and share ideas, build relationships, and launch new mission initiatives or partnerships arising from your own passion and leadership.

Teaching and ruling elders in NCP (you do not have to be a commissioner) are invited to come and share an idea around which you have a passion, and invite others to join you in seeing where that idea might lead.

You could...

- Organize a new mission initiative (with troubled youth, or creating community gardens, or....)
- Provide a forum to share information about a topic of concern (such as gun violence, or the Middle East, or...)
- Create a network across congregations to accomplish a task that your congregation can't achieve by itself (such as networking smaller congregations to plan a combined youth mission trip, or share Christian education resources, or...)
- Invite others in a shared demographic to join you for sharing and mutual support (such as associate pastors who work with youth, or multi-cultural church leaders, or...)

Any topic that serves the Presbytery's purpose to "empower and challenge our congregations to be missional, pastoral, and prophetic" is fair game.

Beginning at the March 20 meeting, in recognition of how popular the Open Space concept has become, listed below are some new guidelines for reserving space:

1. There are no more than 10 Open Spaces offered per presbytery meeting
2. Groups are limited to hosting no more than three Open Spaces per year (Unless extra spaces are available)
3. Descriptions of Open Space offerings, up to 10, will be posted on NCP website as they are submitted up until two weeks before presbytery meeting. Send Open Space Topics to:
LaJuan Quander at LQuander@thepresbytery.org.
4. Groups must provide their own room set up and technical equipment, including projectors/screens/laptops. Neither NCP nor National PC staff can assist with Open Space set up.
5. To answer questions and check on room assignments, contact:
Jan Moody, jmoody@thepresbytery.org



The *Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington* has been created by a group of Presbyterian churches in the Washington, D.C. area to promote understanding and deepen appreciation of the Reformed tradition among the staffs and members of Presbyterian churches.

HOW IS THE INSTITUTE SUPPORTED AND STAFFED?

Funding for the Institute comes from gifts from individual donors, fees for services, and grants from the sponsoring Presbyterian churches: Darnestown, First Arlington, Georgetown, Heritage, Immanuel, Lewinsville, National, Old Meeting House, Potomac, Rock, and Westminster (Alexandria).

The Institute is governed by a board of directors composed of the sponsoring churches' representatives. The staff consists of Dr. R. Bruce Douglass, Director, Ms. Mary J. Hill, Program Coordinator, and Ms. Mary K. Miano, Program Associate.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INSTITUTE?

Contact the Program Coordinator:
P.O. Box 1928
Alexandria, VA 22313-1928
Tel/Fax: 703-518-5125
info@reformedinstitute.org

www.reformedinstitute.org



/reformedinst



@reformedinst

THE ONCE & FUTURE CHURCH

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN AN AGE OF "LOOSE CONNECTIONS"

A course offered by the Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington

Dates: Saturdays: February 10, 17, 24 and March 3, 2018
Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church
2701 Cameron Mills Road
Alexandria, VA 22302
www.wpc-alex.org
Instructors: Dr. R. Bruce Douglass
Cost: \$75 for members of Reformed Institute sponsoring churches, \$90 for all others

In recent years social scientists have been telling us that we are living in a time when people are less likely to commit themselves to active, ongoing participation in such voluntary organizations as the church. This appears to be especially problematic for organizations whose effectiveness has presupposed strong commitment and active involvement on the part of their self-selecting members. This course is designed to consider the challenge this development poses for the erstwhile "mainline" Protestant churches in the light of the understanding of the nature and purpose of the church in Reformed theology. It is designed to provide a setting for informed deliberation about such questions as these: How historically have Reformed Christians understood the nature and purpose of the church? Why have they taken that view? Why do we now find ourselves in a situation where lay commitment and participation appear increasingly to be problematic? What are our options in responding to this challenge? Do we need to rethink our theology as well as the forms of church life we have inherited--or not?



REGISTRATION

- ❖ [Saturday, February 10:](#) The Reformed Heritage
- ❖ [Saturday, February 17:](#) Why “Loose Connections”? Why “Believing without Belonging”?
- ❖ [Saturday, February 24:](#) Strategic Options: Accommodating or Resisting Cultural Trends
- ❖ [Saturday, March 3:](#) New Forms

Advanced Readings (available online):

-Amy Frykholm, "Loose Connections: What is Happening to Church Membership", *Christian Century*, May 16, 2011

(<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-05/loose-connections>)

-David Lewicki, "Denominations", *Christian Century*, March 25, 2011

(<https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2011-03/denominations>)

Course Instructor:



All sessions will be led by Dr. Bruce Douglass, Director of the Reformed Institute, Associate Professor in the Department of Government at Georgetown University and an Elder at the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean, VA. Dr. Douglass has an M.Div from Yale University and a Ph.D. (in political science) from Duke University.

*The deadline for registration is **February 7, 2018***

Mail the completed form below with registration payment to:

P.O. Box 1928
Alexandria, VA 22313-1928
Attn: Mary Hill

Please make checks payable to “Reformed Institute.”

Or go to our website: www.reformedinstitute.org to register and pay online.

- ❖ Cost to members of sponsoring churches is \$75.00.
- ❖ Cost to other participants is \$90.00.

Individual churches may wish to subsidize the cost for members. The course is limited to 20 participants, and must have a minimum enrollment of 10. Registration Deadline is **February 7, 2018**.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

YOUR CHURCH



NEXT CHURCH

THE DESERT IN BLOOM

LIVING, DYING, AND RISING
IN A WILDERNESS CHURCH

NATIONAL
GATHERING
BALTIMORE, MD
FEBRUARY 26-28

JOIN NEXT CHURCH IN BALTIMORE FOR THE 2018 NATIONAL GATHERING!

The National Gathering is filled with church leaders (pastors and lay people) sharing stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversations about ministry today. Creative worship centers us around God's presence. Multiple opportunities to engage in workshops and conversation about aspects of ministry foster new and deeper connections.

SPEAKERS

David Leong and Jonathan Walton will give keynotes. Kathryn Johnston, Billy Honor, and Jennifer Barchi are preaching.

LAY LEADERS

There is a 20% discount for lay leaders, plus workshop opportunities specifically for lay leaders as well.

WORKSHOPS

Interested in learning more about worship, ideological diversity, mission, or Cultivated Ministry? There's a workshop for you - and you have the chance to participate in three!

REGISTRATION

The registration cost ranges from \$189-\$319. There are day rates for those not able to attend the entire Gathering. Scholarships are available as well!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER: WWW.NEXTCHURCH.NET



Why Palestinians Matter...

and How You and Your Church Can Help Them
Get Their Rights Through Faith-Based Advocacy

Dynamic Speakers | Relevant Panels | Breakouts

Rev. Graylan Hagler - senior pastor of DC's Plymouth Congregational UCC, leader of recent delegation of African American clergy to Palestine/Israel
Topic: *Advocacy for Palestinian rights in African American Congregations.*

Noushin Framke – Well-known Presbyterian activist, founding member of Israel Palestine Mission Network, author and editor
Topic: *Prodding our Church Denominations into Action*

Dr. Philip Farah – Native of Jerusalem, co-founder Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace (WIAMEP), contributor to the *Huffington Post*.
Topic: *Advocacy for Palestinian rights in all Church Congregations*

PLUS - Strategic Planning, Simulated Checkpoint Exercise, Guest Choir

Saturday | March 3 | 12:30 to 5 pm | Washington DC

First Trinity Lutheran Church/New Hope Baptist Church (UCC)
501 4th St. NW - ½ block from Judiciary Square Metro on the Red Line

Coming to WRMEA's Conference on Israel Lobby and American Policy on March 2?
Stay over for the workshop!

FREE! Register today via Email FREE!

Send an email with these items:

Name, email address, state, zip code,
Church or affiliation,
(optional) cellphone or other phone
number of those attending

To:

Paul Verduin
phverduin@gmail.com AND
Monica Burnett
monica70x7@yahoo.com

Voices from the Holy Land

2018



ST. JOHN'S NORWOOD
Chevy Chase-Bethesda

[facebook.com/StJohnsNorwood](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsNorwood)

[stjohnsnorwood.org](http://www.stjohnsnorwood.org)

www.voicesfromtheholylnd.org

[facebook.com/voicesholylnd](https://www.facebook.com/voicesholylnd)

voicesfromtheholylnd2017@gmail.com



DATE: Sunday, March 4

TIME: 2:30pm

VENUE: St. John's Norwood
Episcopal Church
6701 Wisconsin Ave
Chevy Chase, MD

All films are
free and will
begin at
2:30pm.

The story of Combatants for Peace,
an organization of former Israeli and
Palestinian fighters who work
together for peace.

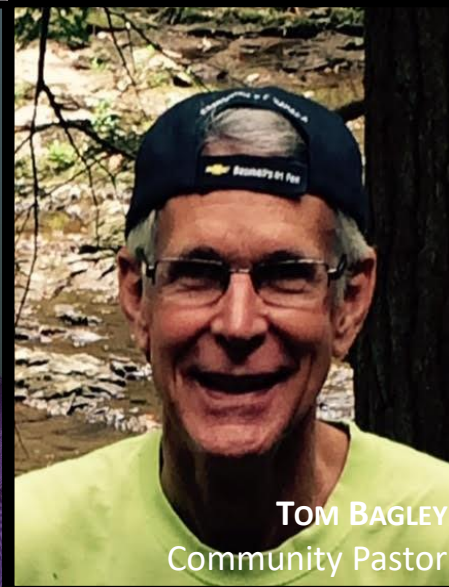
Co-Sponsors: St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church • Ravensworth Baptist Church • Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington • Westminster Presbyterian Church • Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro **Supporters:** Jerusalem Companion Diocese Committee – Episcopal Diocese of Washington • Grace Presbyterian Church • Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center • Churches for Middle East Peace • St. Francis of Assisi Pax Christi • Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace • Alliance of Baptists' Justice in Palestine & Israel • Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace • Rock Spring Congregational UCC • Trinity Presbyterian Church • Israel Palestine Mission Network – PCUSA/NCP • Westmoreland Congregational UCC • St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish • Sabeel - DC Metro • St. Mark's Episcopal Church – Middle East Working Group • Pax Christi - DC & Baltimore • Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, NVA • Rockville United Church • Friends of Tent Nations-NA • River Road Unitarian Universalist Church • Episcopal Church of the Redeemer • Vienna Baptist Church • Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church • St. Patrick's Episcopal Church • Christ Church Durham Parish • Grace Episcopal Church • Good Shepherd Episcopal Church • St. Columba's Episcopal Church • Little River UCC • St. Alban's Episcopal Church • New Hope Baptist UCC • Christ the Servant Lutheran Church • St. Rose of Lima Pax Christi • Universalist National Memorial Church • Steadfast Hope Group • Virginia Theological Seminary

TOTAL IMMERSION

You want your church to
connect with those
outside the walls... BUT
WHERE DO YOU
BEGIN?



SANDY MENZIES
Yoga Instructor



TOM BAGLEY
Community Pastor



NORM GORDON
Local Missionary

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 @ Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church
9:00 am – 12:30 pm includes lunch \$10/person

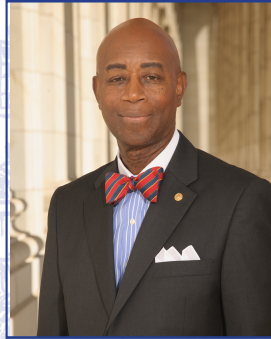
A workshop for clergy, lay leaders, entrepreneurs, and honest followers of Jesus who want to create space for God to move in secular culture.

Register at: <https://bridgesus.org/east-coast-workshop-total-immersion-2018>
Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, 610 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD



THE
GEORGETOWN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

FIFTH ANNUAL
GUEST PREACHER SUNDAY
MARCH 4, 2018



featuring

Senate Chaplain Barry C. Black

Please join us for:

***A morning with
Senate Chaplain Barry C. Black***

Join us on **March 4** as we welcome Rev. Dr. Barry C. Black, U.S. Senate Chaplain, author, and former Chief of Navy Chaplains. Chaplain Black is known for his searching prayers to open each day's Senate session, seeking God's wisdom and mutual charity even in contentious times.

9:30 - Lecture and Discussion

11:00 - Sermon: "All In"

12:00 - Lunch and Discussion



Please allow time for parking.
Childcare will be provided.

For more information, please visit: www.gtownpres.org/guest-preacher/

LENT

Reflection Resources For The Season

2018 Lenten Study
March 18, 19 & 20



EXPLORING EARLY CHRISTIAN REFLECTIONS ON JESUS' SUFFERING

PRESENTED BY DR. MATTHEW D. TAYLOR

Dr. Taylor will take a comparative approach, putting the different New Testament reflections on the passion in conversation with each other, with a mind to how these reflections are situated within the first-century Judaism that was the New Testament context and highlighting what makes each distinct.

Lecture 1: Sunday, March 18 *"The Original Gospel: Mark's Interpretation of Jesus' Suffering"* (Mark 11-16)
(9:45-10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall)

Lecture 2: Sunday, March 18 *"The Synoptic Problem: How Matthew and Luke Build on Mark's View of Jesus' Suffering"* (Matthew 21-28, Luke 19-24)
(6:30-8:00 p.m.—The evening lecture will be preceded by light refreshment & fellowship
6:00-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall)

Lecture 3: Monday, March 19 *"The Outlying Gospel: John's Unique Approach to Jesus' Passion"* (John 12-21)
(7:30-9:00 p.m.—The evening lecture will be preceded by light refreshment & fellowship
7:00-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall)

Lecture 4: Tuesday, March 20 *"The Fifth Gospel? The Book of Hebrews and an Old Testament Vision of Jesus' Suffering"* (Hebrews 1-13)
(7:30-9:00 p.m.—The evening lecture will be preceded by light refreshment & fellowship
7:00-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall)



Our Speaker:

Matthew D. Taylor is a Professorial Lecturer at Georgetown University and George Washington University. He earned his Ph.D. in Theology and Religious Studies from Georgetown in 2017 with a specialization in Christian and Muslim approaches to scripture in the modern world. He also holds a Master's degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. A native of Southern California, Matthew spent seven years as a college minister with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, mentoring college students and leading intensive Bible studies. He lives in Alexandria with his wife and two-year-old daughter.

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church * 1724 Chain Bridge Road * McLean, Virginia 22101

703 356-7200 * www.lewinsville.org

RACISM

The National Council of Churches is organizing a three-day event to ACT against RACISM. Contact Karen (kchamis@thepresbytery.org) if you wish to connect with other NCP folks at these events.

ACT Now to:

- Awaken** to the truth that racism is evil and hurts us all
- Confront** racism through truth-telling and action to right the wrong
- Transform** the hearts, minds, and behaviors of people and institutions

ACT Now: Unite to End Racism in the areas of church life and practices, criminal, economic and social justice, civil and human rights, environmental justice, immigration, media, and education.

Join in the clarion call to heal the soul of the nation as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination. Let's finish the work!

Where: At sites across Washington, DC, including the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall

When: April 3-5, 2018

- **Tuesday evening, April 3:** Service of Worship in the Orthodox Tradition
- **Wednesday, April 4:** Rally on the National Mall, 7:00am to 4:00pm
- **Thursday, April 5:** A Day of Action in the Nation's Capital

More information can be found: www.rally2endracism.org

Black Presbyterian United Black History Month Program

-- Reception with Refreshments and Music

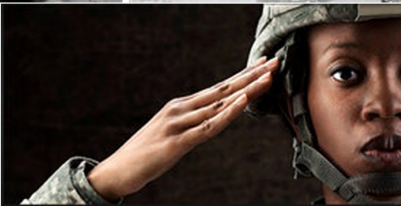
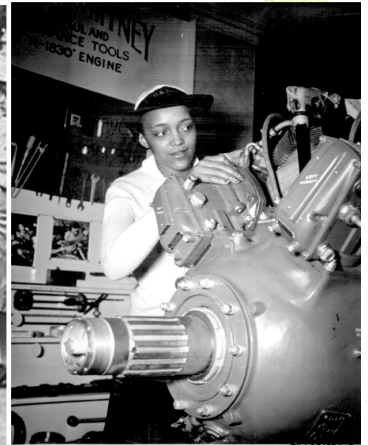
National Black History Month Theme:
African Americans in Times of War

MARCH 11, 2018

Westminster Presbyterian Church
401 I Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20024

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Inclement Weather Date: March 18



**NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY
and TRANSFORMATION TEAM**

**COACH APPROACH SKILL TRAINING
FAST TRACK OPPORTUNITY**



**In person segment held April 9-13, 2018
Location will be at a local church, TBD**

This program will provide the 60 hours of Coach Specific Training required by ICF (International Coaching Federation).

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- **Basic Introduction to Coaching:** History and Benefits of Coaching, Importance of Presence, Deep Listening, Asking Powerful Questions, Expanding Possibilities, and Action Planning with accountability.
- **Advanced Coaching Skills:** Laser Informing, Hunches and Blurts and Blunders, Encourage and Celebrate, Huge Requests and Challenges, Metaphors and Image, Saboteur and Future self, and Personal Coaching Style Inventory.
- **Group and Team Coaching:** Group facilitation with coaching, team coaching, stages of team life, establishing a team, the art of team coaching, and benefits and special challenges of group coaching.
- **Synergy in Coaching:** Appreciative coaching, the spirituality of coaching, the ICF Core Competencies, The ICF Code of Ethics, and artful coaching

SCHEDULE:

- Guided Self-Study including a 2 hour teleconference
- Five days of in-person training at a church in the NCP region, April 9-13 (35 hours).
- An additional 17 hours of training will be held virtually beginning with 2 hour teleconference calls. All calls are recorded. Participants can miss up to two of the lives calls.

CERTIFICATION:

Participants will be awarded 60 ICF approved training hours that they can apply toward ICF certification. If they choose to become ICF certified, they will also need Mentor Coaching and final ICF exam (additional costs apply).

CONTACT:

Karen Chamis, Director, Congregational Development and Mission, kchamis@thepresbytery.org
LeAnn Hodges, Chair of NCP Transformation Team, LeAnn.Hodges@me.com

The Sargent Gospel-Aires presents...

FILL T^{HIS} TEMPLE

the 37th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, April 7, 2018
4 pm

*Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church
5109 Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20019
Rev. Juan P. Guthrie, Pastor*

BULLIES in the Church

How to Distinguish Between
Normal Conflict and Bullying



Strategies to Deal with
Entrenched Bullies

DATE April 18, 2018
HOURS 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
PLACE Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
10701 Old Georgetown Road
Rockville, MD 20852
COST \$75 includes lunch
CONTACT For more information call 240-514-5351
REGISTER Online at www.thepresbytery.org/events
“Anti-Bullying Workshop”
LEADERS Roy Howard, Pastor Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
Rose Wayland, Pastoral Counselor in private practice
Wilson Gunn, Executive Presbyter

Participants will learn and explore skills for distinguishing normal conflict from bullying. They will also learn strategies to address long-term patterns that lead to conflict and sustain bullying behaviors in the congregation. This will be a safe place to discuss the pain that permeates a congregation and pastor when bullies reign.





Presbyterian Mission
**Compassion,
Peace & Justice**

2018 CPJ Training Day

April 20, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC**

In a time of historically high levels of migration, racism, xenophobia, sexism and religious bigotry are gaining a dangerous foothold. Violent conflict, climate change, and corruption foment discord and raise the stakes for vulnerable populations. Join fellow Presbyterians for Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day to look at how our church and our partners are confronting white supremacy and nativism while supporting refugee and migrant populations in our country and abroad. Through plenaries and workshops, we'll analyze our current context and provide tools for members and their congregations to address these urgent issues.

We believe God is with the Dreamer, the migrant and the outcast; that God calls us to create places of sanctuary to offer hospitality to the stranger and to welcome all — regardless of faith, race, gender identity or nationality; and that we must break down the dividing walls that separate us, opposing the false narratives spawned of hatred and nativism.

A WORLD UPROOTED

**RESPONDING TO
MIGRANTS, REFUGEES
AND DISPLACED
PEOPLE**

Register at: pcusa.org/advocacytraining

\$85 for CPJ Training Day only

\$70 with a registration to Ecumenical
Advocacy Days (EAD) Training Weekend

\$40 for students and youth (under 30)

(Cost will increase \$10 after March 16)

2018 CPJ Training Day, April 20:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Matilde Moros is a decolonial, transnational feminist Christian ethicist, for whom theological and social ethics must respond to sexual violence and racism which have led to social exclusion of many peoples including Latin American and

Latinx communities. Her research on the communal and historical effects of violence has led her to an approach to liberation ethics in which resistance methods has become the primary focus. Dr. Moros is assistant professor with the Department of Gender Sexuality and Women's Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University.

FEATURED PANELISTS



Rev. James Makuei Choul serves as the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA), the humanitarian arm of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan (PCOSS). He is a highly experienced advocate for

peace and reconciliation in South Sudan, with a strong commitment to human rights and humanitarian issues. Rev. Choul works in partnership with local communities to further PRDA's mission of hope, through community based relief efforts, rehabilitation and development activities that meet and address the social and physical needs of the South Sudan people.

Maha Kolko is a caseworker and co-sponsorship developer at Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Originally from Syria, she received a Ph.D. degree in linguistics from The University of Reading, United Kingdom. She has been active in communicating with different churches and other community faiths to provide a safe, welcoming environment for refugees. She also assists refugees in their resettlement process and integration.



Elmer Zavala pastors the Presbyterian Hispanic Latino Ministry of Preston Highway, a new worshiping community of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery comprised mainly of undocumented immigrants. The ministry focuses on house-church

worship and relational, incarnational accompaniment. Elmer participated in the PC(USA) Reconciliation and Mission Program, a mutual mission-exchange program between citizens of the United States and citizens of Central American countries which introduced him to a PC(USA) church partner and theological seminary in Managua, Nicaragua, where he pursued theological training. Elmer served in local, pastoral roles and in national church leadership of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Nicaragua (IGLEMEN) and was ordained to IGLEMEN in 2011.

Stay for EAD Advocacy
Training Weekend April 20–23!

A WORLD UPROOTED

RESPONDING TO MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE

After Compassion Peace and Justice Training Day, join the ecumenical community in facing ***"A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People"*** at Ecumenical Advocacy Days (EAD), April 20–23 at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton, Crystal City. Nearly one thousand Christian advocates engage in a weekend of workshops, lectures, and concrete actions, including "lobby day" on April 23, when advocates raise their voices in the halls of power for a more just society.



EAD Training Day Weekend 2017

Register for EAD at advocacydays.org/2018-a-world-uprooted/

For discounted hotel rates at EAD, visit advocacydays.org/2018-a-world-uprooted/location-housing/ or call the hotel at 1-800-222-8733.

For more information visit advocacydays.org
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/

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MUSIC, DRUMMING,
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CIRCLES, INTERPLAY,
INTERGENERATIONAL,
CAUCUSES,
MULTIRACIAL,
CHILDREN'S TRACK,
FREE LUNCH, A
LEARNING
COMMUNITY



Save the Date: October 20, 2018

Racial Awareness and Mindfulness 2018

A Mini-Festival of the Arts Awareness and Healing

Keynote: Author-Scholar, Dr. Ibram X. Kendi "How To Be an Antiracist"

[For more information on this Speaker, please visit www.prhspeakers.com]

Westminster Presbyterian Church.

400 I Street SW, Washington DC 20024

Potter's House Books will be present.

Registration on
Eventbrite coming....

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS

10:00AM-5:00PM

Check-In onsite at 9:00 AM.