THURSDAY MAILING



National Capital PRESBYTERY

MISSIONAL · PASTORAL · PROPHETIC

September 7, 2023



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Tara Spuhler McCabe – Dir. Congregational Dev. & Mission

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Presbytery Wide Installation Service Choir (signup)

October 28 – Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church

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NCP FALL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

FOR current session members and elders elect Led by David Baer and Tara Spuhler McCabe October 7 – Zoom

Jesus and Justice: Believe! Pray! Act!

hosted by PCUSA Advocacy Offices October 20-22 — Louisville, KY

Phantom of the Opera

Silent Film Featuring Live Organ Accompaniment October 28 – Bush Hill Presbyterian Church



Jim Adams, HR
Marty Albershardt
Alice Bellis
Heather Bobbitt
Meghan Brown
Judy Chan, HR
Emily Berman D'Andrea
Judith Fulp Eickstaedt
Campbell Hackett

Shelby Etheridge Harasty
Minette Hope, HR
Kasy Mansfield, HR
Willie Keaton
Jeanne MacKenzie, HR
Cathy McCollough
Sam McFerran
David Milam, HR
Roger Miller, HR

Bernice Parker Jones
Hallelujah Son, HR
Ted Sperduto, HR
Katherine Stanford
Rachel Vaagenes
Jose Velazco, HR
Caroline Wilson
Eunice Yang
Chris Yim

From the staff of National Capital Presbytery david, dina, heather, john, lajuan, tempest, and tara



Pastoral Concerns:

Join us in offering prayers and condolences to the family of John Molina-Moore, General Presbyter. Sadly, we share news of the death of, *Amy Molina-Moore's father, Oscar Molina,* he was 61. He perished over the weekend in a tragic accident. As you would expect, John is focusing on caring for their children and supporting Amy and the rest of the family.

Announcements:

2024 Pastor Compensation Policy - The Committee on Ministry has approved the 2024 Pastor Compensation Policy. It may be found on the website under DOCUMENTS - COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM) DOCUMENTS - Compensation. If you have any questions, reach out to Dina Bickel, dbickel@thepresbytery.org



UNITY - RECONCILIATION - JUSTICE Dismantling Racism

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! FALL ALLYSHIP TRAINING – Monday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Registration open!

Camp Hanover has three events coming up this fall:

Youth Retreat

October 13-15, 2023

Youth ministry leaders, bring your middle and high schoolers to Camp Hanover for a fun-filled weekend. With retreat leader Rev. Mike Burcher, youth will explore the idea of belonging and fitting in by not fitting in. Youth will grow their faith through keynote presentations, small group discussion, and other activities. This event is for youth groups of all sizes.

https://www.camphanover.org/youth-retreat/

Women's Retreat

October 20-21, 2023

Get away from the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life. Spend a night at Camp Hanover with someone else doing the planning and preparing. The retreat consists of a planned program, quiet time, activities, and worship. The speaker and program theme will be announced soon.

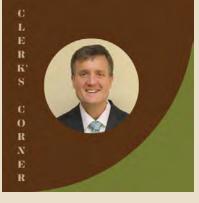
https://www.camphanover.org/womens-retreat/

Fall Mini Camp

October 27-29, 2023

Youth in grades 5-12 can explore Camp Hanover in the cooler temperatures of fall. Spend time outside enjoying creation and nature through favorite camp activities. Campers are divided into groups based on their ages, each supervised by our caring staff of counselors.

https://www.camphanover.org/fall-mini-camp/



For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. – Romans 12:4-5, NRSV

Dear Friends,

In my last Clerk's Corner, I mentioned that I was looking forward to this month's stated meeting, where we will be receiving a petition from the members of *Emmanuel Indonesian Presbyterian Church*, who are asking to be recognized as a congregation of this presbytery. This moment has been a long time in coming and is the result of many years of faithful work on the part of the members of this community and NCP's Congregational Development Commission. This week I wanted to take some time to talk about how congregations become part of the presbytery community.

The Book of Order describes the congregation as "the basic form of the church, but ... not of itself a sufficient form of the church" (G-1.0101). As Presbyterians, we live within the creative tension described here. Congregations are where God's people meet for worship, fellowship, and education. It is where the people hear God's Word proclaimed and experience the Word sealed in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The ministry of our congregations equips all of us for lives as Christ's faithful disciples bearing the good news of God's grace in Jesus to the world.

Nonetheless, the church is bigger than any one of its congregations. We celebrate the wide-ranging work of the Spirit in congregations spread out across the geographic bounds of this presbytery, within the borders of our nation, and throughout the world. We give thanks for the continuing miracle of Pentecost, as each community of believers proclaims the gospel and lifts its voice in prayer in its own language. And we thrill in wonder at the faithful witness that is possible when we join with neighbors nearby or in other nations. Congregations are necessary as the basic form of church, but the church truly comes alive in the Spirit when congregations cooperate and move together as members of the one Body of Christ.

When a group of people feel themselves called to become a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), they submit a signed covenant to the presbytery, consisting of only two sentences:

We, the undersigned, in response to the grace of God, desire to be constituted and organized as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to be known as ______. We promise and covenant to live together in unity and to work together in ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ in this place according to the principles of faith, mission, and order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (G-1.0201)

Then, "[a]t its sole discretion the presbytery may ... declare them an organized congregation of the presbytery" (G-1.0201). The presbytery then supports the new congregation in identifying and electing pastoral leadership and elders, creating bylaws, and so on.

A simple beginning—a stated desire and a promise to follow Jesus together—gives rise to so much more. What an exciting time for communities like Emmanuel Indonesian! What a joy to share in their hope and energy as they take the next step in faith!

Grace and Peace, Rev. David Baer, Stated Clerk



Greetings People,

These are the paradoxes I keep tripping into:

- "You're a minister? Wow. Where is your church or congregation?"
- In-Person, Hybrid, OR virtual worship?
- Which path, afford a Full-Time pastor OR afford to take care of our building?
- The "Great Pastor Resignation" OR more Women are in the workforce than ever before in American History (which includes ordained ministry).

These points are what your NCP leaders and the office continue to organize around. In all the upcoming NCP Gatherings, Webinars, Grants, Scholarships, Coaching, and Trainings be assured these points are critical right now in a Good Way! God calls it Good!

In our Great Ends of the Church tradition, we are called and compelled

- to Proclaim the Gospel "Here is a list of five congregations in your area and the two things unique to this community of Christians"
- to Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the children of God how we provide ACCESS to worship and service through the Body of Christ is a privilege we will always be navigating. There is no ONE way to do this, there is only ONE Body of why we do this.
- To provide the Maintenance of Divine Worship this has so many options for each
 congregation to organize and budget around. You get to lead with what you can do really, really,
 really, well, according to your gifts and talents and not according to what you think others do
 well.
- To engage the Preservation of the Truth God is Love, Love your Neighbor, Salvation is a gift, Grace Abounds...we get to provide access to real experiences and education towards these Truths as Ministers (members of our congregations ordained and beyond)! What a privilege.
- To be guided by the Promotion of Social Righteousness There are more people today drawn and desiring a Spiritual Authenticity with the Triune God - "What would Jesus do?" As church members begin to act in ways consistent with their answers to this question, the community surrounding the church is transformed by Christ. We need to be the leaders in reconciling this truth!
- To be about the Exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world With God's Help! Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in Heaven.

We are committed, with you, to live faithfully in our budgets and practices through our tradition. Join in the upcoming offerings: HolyCow! Consulting webinars on Strategic Planning and Volunteering; In-Person Presbytery Meeting; Session and Elder Training, and NCP wide Installation. If you are tripping into these paradoxes with me, I would love for us to be catching one another so that we are able to recognize the embrace of the Body of Christ as we participate in building this Kingdom with God!

Peace and Courage, Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe





Looking for Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Bass for the



Presbytery-wide Installation Service Choir



All are invited to the join the presbytery-wide choir! The choir is led by Kevin Allen Director of Music, John Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Kevin Allen is a multi-faceted musician, working as a music educator, conductor, pianist, accompanist, and singer.

The Service is Saturday, October 28th, 3:00 pm, at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church.

Rehearsal will be held in the choir room of Gaithersburg, 1-2:30 pm on October 28th. Use this link to sign up.



NCP NOMINATIONS FOR 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Applications due

Applications are due by September 28. Send applications, photos and reference letters to nominating@thepresbytery.org

How many folks will we send?

- 3 Teaching Elders (including NCP Moderator, Rev. Chris Deacon)
- 3 Ruling Elders (including NCP Vice-Moderator, Lou Durden)
- 1 Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD), age 18-23
- 2 Alternates (1 Ruling Elder, 1 Teaching Elder).

When and where?

The 226th GA will be virtual and in person.

Virtual committee meetings will be Tuesday, June 25 to Thursday, June 27.

In-Person plenary sessions will be Sunday, June 30 to Thursday, July 4 in Salt Lake City, UT.





How to apply

Applications for nominations are available here on the NCP website.

There are separate applications for Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders and Young Adult Advisory Delegates.

REs and YAADs must be endorsed by their sessions.

Timeline Review:

- o September 28, 2023: All forms and recommendations due to the NCP Nominating Committee
- o By October 25, 2023: NCP approves slate of nominees to be posted on the NCP website
- October 31: Forms due for those seeking to be nominated from the floor of Presbytery during the November 14, 2023 meeting
- November 14, 2023: Delegates approved at Presbytery Meeting

Becoming Better Earth Care Stewards In Virginia: Reconsidering Lawn Care

Nearly every church in our presbytery and for that matter the whole country, confronts the same balancing act that homeowners face: How can we create an attractive landscape and also be responsible stewards of our environment? In this piece the NCP Earth Care Network would like to offer a couple of recommendations – reduce the size of our lawns and reduce the amount of herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides that we apply to them.

Reduce our lawns

Dan Zak of *The Washington Post* summarized the issue:

"We are still, largely, lawn people. The biggest irrigated crop, by area, in the United States? Not corn, or soybean, but lawn. Unproductive, ornamental lawn: around 40 million acres of it, or 2 percent of the land area of the Lower 48, according to multiple estimates cited by Garik Gutman, program manager for NASA's Land-Cover/Land-Use Change Program.

"Forty million acres: The entire state of Georgia couldn't contain America's total lawnage. And we pour 9 billion gallons of water on landscaping every day, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Meanwhile the Southwest United States is enduring a megadrought; the past two decades constitute its driest period since the year 800. California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a drought state of emergency in October. In a world thirsty for water, lawns are a sneaky siphon."

Dan Zak, "There's a Water Crisis, so why do we still have lawns?" *The Washington Post*, 8/24/2022 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2022/08/24/lawns-and-replacement/)

We can reduce the size of our lawns and still have attractive grounds by opting for native plants. This will support native insects, birds, and other animals. So, what native plants might you consider? See this brochure from Fairfax County. https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-plants

Reducing the amount of lawn chemicals

For those congregations located in Virginia, the state Department of Conservation and Recreation has established what it calls its "Green and Clean" program. The program is designed to encourage lawn care companies to reduce their use of chemicals on our lawns. Here is how the state describes the program's purpose:

"The Green & Clean initiative is an effort to help meet water quality standards set forth by the federal Clean Water Act and the state. Many of Virginia's water bodies are unhealthy and do not meet these standards. Voluntary actions from [lawn care] businesses, such as those that are a part of this initiative, can help protect the environment and improve degraded areas without creating a need for new regulations.

https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-

water/wqagree#:~:text=The%20Green%20%26%20Clean%20initiative%20is,do%20not%20 meet%20these%20standards.

Companies that want to be part of the program must abide by the state's standards. The good news is that for 2023, five companies in northern Virginia have signed onto the program. The NCP Earth Care network strongly encourages congregations seeking a northern Virginia lawn care service to consider using one of these companies. Here is a listing of the companies.

Brandon Rushing Lawn & Garden Care

7805 Cinder Bed Rd, Lorton, VA 22079 703-339-0067

Del Ray Landscapes

PO Box 31497, Alexandria, VA 22310 703-298-0146

NexGreen LLC

5415 Yukon Court, Suite E, Frederick, MD 21703 301-712-9999

NuLeaf Lawn Care

8354 E Terminal Rd., Lorton, VA 22079 703-989-9405

Oaktree Property Care

4439 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 703-862-8733



An offering for congregations who have participated in a Church Assessment Tool. Data doesn't do the work for you. It just tells you where to go next.



On behalf of Church Development Committee Using the CAT and Conversations results for Strategic Planning in Congregations

September 8th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. EST

After using the CAT and Conversations results for many congregations strategic planning processes, Emily Swanson will host a 2 hour session on how to use the data to take effective next steps - from building a solid strategic planning team to making sure there are goals and milestones that keep the plan moving forward.

If you are Interested in ATTENDING contact Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe tspuhlermccabe@thepresbytery.org for the link or the recording.



CONCERTS FROM KIRKWOOD PRESENTS

DISTRICT5

This DC-based wind quintet will perform "Hopelessly Romantic."
Distric5 invites you to experience the passions and pitfalls of love as they guide you through a humorous concert of tantalizing works by Hector Berlioz, Cecil Chaminde, Franz Liszt, Amy Beach, and more.

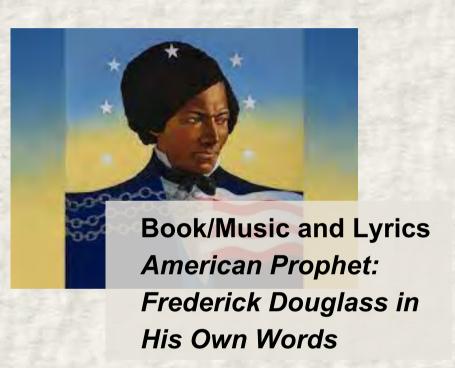
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 3 PM

free Admission, Donations Appreciated

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield, VA 22152 kirkwoodpres.com

Berger Lecture AN EVENING WITH

Marcus Hummon





Saturday, September 9, 2023 7:00pm-9:00pm

301.299.6007

potomacpresbyterian.org

10301 River Road, Potomac, MD

Grammy
winner, and
2019 inductee
into the
Nashville
Songwriter's
Hall of Fame.





On behalf of the Church Development Committee

The volunteer culture has shifted; have you pivoted with it?

The research around managing volunteers is clear. It is all about building and sustaining meaningful relationships! If done effectively, you can build a strong support base. Miss the mark and ministries and other programming struggle to have enough help to be effective.

Join us to learn simple and actionable steps to build strong connections, have fun, motivate your volunteer base, streamline sign-up processes, and recruit new participants.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24–25 NIV

Join Us:

Wednesday, September 13th at 7 p.m.

or

Friday, September 15th at 1 p.m Contact Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe for the link or the recording, tspuhlermccabe@thepresbytery.org



Meet the Presenter

Elizabeth Hamilton is the newest member of the Holy Cow! team and has over 14 years of experience coordinating volunteers both in the United States and overseas. During that time, she led several large programs from being staff dependent to volunteer managed. She also had fun in the process!

She believes that simple changes can lead to significant increases in outcomes in volunteer management. It is not complicated but it must be intentional.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY

2023 FALL GATHERING

Hybrid Gathering

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 10am to 12pm

Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church

1701 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Speaker: Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

Director for Congregational Development and Mission (NCP)

Interim Pastor 15th Street Presbyterian

Subject: Faith Discipleship is Uncomfortable

The Least Coin collection will be gathered

Please no loose or rolled coins

Here is the link to Register to Attend:

https://forms.gle/JNcpvr7kUMVRDhxd7

You're Invited!

Fall for Lunch With Rev. Drew Ensz



- Delight in good stories about campus ministry.
- · Enjoy great colleagues.
- Bring someone with you from church.
- Wonder about faith that shapes learning.
- Consider your church's support for this mission.

Date:

Monday, September 18, 2023

Time:

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where:

4916 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

R.S.V.P:

office@bushhill.org by Friday, September 15



Come with colleagues and friends interested in campus ministry, faith development of young adults, and strategies to connect the different worlds of the local church and campus ministry.

The Sun Can Shine: A Call to Assist Those Who Are or Were Incarcerated



An evening with Anthony Ray Hinton of the Equal Justice Initiative Best selling author who spent 30 years as an innocent man on death row

Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 PM EDT

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20009
Free Parking and close to Metro Center
Refreshments and appetizers will be served at 6:00 PM
Available as a webinar for those who can't attend in person

Anthony Ray Hinton spent 30 years on death row in Alabama for a crime he did not commit before he was finally freed in 2015 through the efforts of Bryan Stevenson and the Equal Justice Initiative. Hear about his experiences and learn ways that individuals and congregations can assist those who are currently or formerly incarcerated.

Register to attend in person: https://HintonSeptember20.eventbrite.com
Register to attend the webinar: https://HintonSeptember20webinar.eventbrite.com

Organizations assisting this program include: Returning Citizens Assistance Network, Free Minds Book Club, Voices for a Second Chance, Offender Aid and Restoration, Welcome Home Program of Catholic Charities and DC Books to Prisons.

The Syria Lebanon Partnership Network of the Presbyterian Church USA is happy to announce plans for our Annual Meeting in September 2023. We hope many Presbyterians in the D.C. Area will be able to participate.

Dates: September 26-28, 2023 Location: United Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C.

"Loosening the Chains: Advocating for Sanctions Relief for Syria and Lebanon

PROGRAM

<u>Tuesday, September 26th</u> – 1-3 pm, at the United Methodist Center Keynote Speakers

Dr. Joshua Landis, Sandra Mackey Chair, Director, Center of Middle East Studies, University of Oklahoma,

Rev. Salam Hanna, Pastor of Evangelical Church in Latakia, Syria and Director of NESSL Relief Program in Syria

<u>Wednesday, September 27th</u> – in person lobbying with lawmakers & staff of Treasury and State Departments with training and logistical support from the PCUSA Office of Public Witness

<u>Thursday, September 28th</u> – 9 am-noon at the United Methodist Center

Reports from the National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon, Compassion Protestant Service, Mission Co-Worker Elmarie Parker, Business Meeting with election of officers,

Closing Worship

We urge people to register as soon as possible by going to the website www.syrialebanonpn.org. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 7:00-8:00 PM

Public Zoom "Table Talk"

with the Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

WHAT IS PROCESS THEOLOGY – AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?



Sponsored by Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Here's the Zoom link

Process Theology presents a creative and transformative theological vision of God, human existence, spirituality, religious pluralism, science and medicine. It enables Christians to go beyond binary and parochial thinking in its vision of faith as a holy adventure.

This one-hour session – half lecture, half Q-and-A – will explore the insights of process theology and ways they deepen and energize personal and congregational life "for just such a time as this."

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly (M.Div., Ph.D.) is a pastor, professor, author, spiritual guide, and author of over 70 books, including *Walking with Francis of Assisi: From Privilege to Activism* and *Messy Incarnation: Reflections on Christ in Process.* While "retired", Bruce teaches at Wesley Theological Seminary and gives seminars on theology, spirituality, and clergy well-being across the nation.

Bush Hill Presbyterian Church Blood Drive

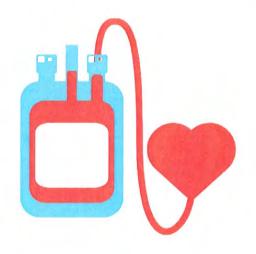
WHEN:

Saturday, Sep. 30, 2023 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WHERE:

4916 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA

Inova Blood Donor Services will be in the Dickson Room.



Every Drop Counts.

Donate Blood.

Book Your Appointment Today

- •Visit https://bit.ly/BushHillPC0930
- •Call 1(866) 256-6372, use Sponsor Code 8796
- •Contact Mary Elizabeth Morriss memorriss@msn.com



Blood Donor Services

inovablood.org

Photo ID Required. Masking is optional for all donors and team members. Allow one hour for your donation.



BLACK PRESBYTERIANS UNITED INVITES ALL WEARE ONE

Companion Sunday

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023 3:00 P.M.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Northeastern Presbyterian Church 2112 Varnum St NE Washington, DC 20018 Guest Preacher:
Rev. Dr. Ron Hankins
Pastor, Silver Spring Presbyterian Church

THE DISMANTLING RACISM TEAM OF NCP INVITE YOU TO

ALLY TRAINING

led by Service Never Sleeps



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

(Training consists of TWO sessions. Your registration confirms you will attend both)

Monday, October 2 & Tuesday, October 3 (5:30 pm to 9:00 pm)

via **Zoom**

Open to CLERGY and members of NCP congregations, communities and friends

Led by Whitney Parnell, CEO and Founder of Service Never Sleeps, these sessions will provide helpful definitions, invitations to self-mirroring, and active ally education involving the CLAIM acronym: Care, Learn, Act, Influence, and Maintain. The workshops teach individuals about the causes of social injustice, how to be effective allies for marginalized communities, and how to actively influence and educate others. Our time together on Zoom will involve breakouts for practice together in pairs and small groups intermittently throughout our time of learning, so come ready to "try on" the Ally Training strategies of Service Never Sleeps.

Register HERE

NCP FALL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

for current session members and elders elect

Saturday, October 7, 2023

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM via Zoom

This training will address:

- Being a Session from the New Form of Government, BOO
- The roles, duties, responsibilities of the Session
- The spiritual role and responsibilitie of the Session

LED BY



DAVID BAER STATED CLERK



TARA SPUHLER MCCABE DIR. CONGREGATIONAL DEV. & MISSION

ZOOM LINK HERE





Jesus and Justice: Believe! Pray! Act!

Commit acts of justice. Advocacy changes the world!
Young Adult Advocacy Conference for College Students and Seminarians

Oct. 20-22, 2023 | Presbyterian Center, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville | Free to All!

Does God care about injustice? Yes! At the conference you will explore the connection between faith and justice. It is important to go to church, but it is more important to be the church. Faith means little without action (James 2). To follow Jesus involves a commitment to care for others and to act on their behalf. Anytime anyone is mistreated, God is mistreated.

College students, seminarians, and young adults in or near Louisville or Southern Indiana are invited to attend in person. If you're farther away, join us online on Saturday, Oct. 21, at 9 a.m.

- Friday: Registration and Worship
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Plenary, Panel and Workshops
 - A plenary of local activists
 - Voices of young adults committed to justice
 - Lunch Provided
 - Workshops on how to engage in your school and community
- Sunday: Closing Worship and an Action

Upcoming Conferences: Save the dates!

October 20-22: Louisville | October 2024: Charlotte, NC | October 2025: East Lansing, MI (Michigan State University)

Visit <u>pcusa.info/jesusandjustice</u> to download a registration form.

This event is hosted by the PC(USA) Advocacy Offices (Office of Public Witness and Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations), which are part of the Compassion, Peace & Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. All young people are invited to attend, regardless of their faith background.

