

# Interest Groups

INFORMAL WORKSHOP STYLE  
CONVERSATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS



## Interest Group Schedule

Wednesday, July 17th 8:00 - 9:00 PM & Friday, July 19th 3:45 - 4:45 PM

Interest Groups are optional and participants simply self-select and “show up” to the assigned location for their chosen Interest Group. Building /abbreviated names and locations can be found on the Purdue/PYT map in your Participant packet and in your Pocket Schedule (you receive both during check-in).

### **Locating your Interest Group Classroom**

To find the location for the Interest Group you plan to attend search for the Location Name (abbreviated name of the building or classroom and #) on the Purdue Map in your Participant Packet, your pocket schedule or using your smart phone with the Purdue Interactive map.

### ► **Big God Big Questions: The Covenant of Confirmation**

Confirmation is rooted in the covenantal relationship between the confirmand and God, supported by the web of relationships among the congregation, mentors, and home. It is a natural setting for intergenerational relationships and activity as young people prepare to proclaim their faith, the faith of their elders, and participate in the life of the faith community. Explore the covenant of Confirmation found in the four questions asked of confirmands, the intergenerational possibilities, and how Big God Big Questions can play a crucial role in your Confirmation program.

**LEADER:** Meg Rift and Katie Snyder

*Meg Rift* is a pastor, educator, & curriculum editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. She was on the editorial team for *Big God Big Questions*. Meg loves that time spent with youth, families, & the congregation in Confirmation & believes it is a holy time.

*Katie Snyder*, raised in Winchester, VA is a Certified Christian Educator. She previously served as the Director of Christian Education for over 7 years in churches in and around northern Virginia. In 2019 she moved to Louisville to serve as a Curriculum specialist and POINT Coordinator for the Presbyterian Publishing Company. Katie aspires to faithfully seek God while encouraging and empowering others to do the same.

**LOCATION:** Lily G126 | **AUDIENCE:** Adults (geared toward teachers/adult leaders but all are welcome)

### ► **CITI Urban Ministry Immersion**

By coming to this interest group, participants, youth group leaders, and others can learn about a summer mission trip opportunity in Memphis, Tennessee. CITI Camp is a day camp focused on child care and literacy skills for children who are experiencing housing insecurity. This camp functions with help from volunteer groups of high school or college students. CITI Camp is only one place groups will serve their week-long trip, with many other opportunities to volunteer in Memphis available, along with an exploration of Memphis' history, and time spent in scripture to see where and how youth groups can take what they learned about service into their own communities.

**LEADER:** Emma Stewart, Coordinator of Care and Education at CITI Camp

**LOCATION:** MATH 175 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

## ► Climate Care Challenge

The Climate Care Challenge and accompanying toolkit are ways that Presbyterians can use our lives and communities to be part of creating a clean energy future and a healthier, safer world for all. We will learn about, track, & lower our impact on the earth—particularly the ways we contribute to climate change. We will explore and experience some of the newest PC(USA) tools on creation care & climate action, share how these concerns are enlivening our lives and churches, & make connections with racial & economic justice. Participants will have an opportunity to create action plans to adopt (and spread) the Climate Care Challenge.

**LEADER:** Rebecca Barnes and Jessica Maudlin

*Rebecca Barnes* is Coordinator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program—which works to explore and address the reasons why people are hungry in our world. Rebecca is a member of the youth team at her local church and author of “50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Congregation Can Make a Difference.”

*Jessica Maudlin* works to resource Presbyterians as they address issues of faith, lifestyle choices and sustainability. She also manages the Earth Care Congregation and Hunger Action Advocate networks. Her background is in the study of Liberation Theology as well as international studies.

**LOCATION:** EE 129 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

## ► Ending Cash Bail: Freedom Should be Free

Did you know that thousands of people are sitting in local jails because they can't afford to pay bail? The cash bail system has become a tool that criminalizes poverty and maintains white supremacy. But there is a movement to end cash bail and its gaining strength from California to New York. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is active in the end cash bail campaign. Come and learn how the church is involved and why it is critical to end the practice of cash bail.

**LEADER:** J. Herbert Nelson, II - Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, PC(USA)

**LOCATION:** FRNY G140 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

## ► Faith, Politics, and Authentic Conversations

Our faith journey is an amazing journey of grace and responding to God's grace with all that we are and have. God does the saving (Ephesians 2: 8). By the power of the Holy Spirit, we do the living. Our lives matter. So, faith without works is dead (James 2:26). Our faith is always connected with the way we live. Faith informs our life in the world. So, why is it that we hear faith and politics do not mix? How do we have honest conversations with people with whom we disagree? We will use Romans 12:1-21 and Philippians 4:1-9 as the biblical context for sharing our lives and diving deeply into the intersection of faith & action.

**LEADER:** Ray Jones, Acting Director of Theology Formation and Evangelism ministry area of Presbyterian Mission Agency

**LOCATION:** MTHW 210 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

## ► Feeding the mind, Spirit and body of the Farmworking Community: Service opportunities for Youth groups at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry is a PCUSA and CPC effort to serve the farmworker community near Tampa, FL. Each year Beth-El serves thousands of farm workers through hunger relief programs, health and wellness programs, immigration legal services, education opportunities, and a worship community. This interest group workshop is an invitation to youth Pastors, youth group leaders, youth groups, and any other church groups interested in learning about what we do, and also service and missional opportunities for Church groups throughout the year.

**LEADER:** Johan Daza, Coordinator for Cross Cultural Ministries; Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

**LOCATION:** KRAN G016 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

### ► **Imaging God: Creativity and the Creator** (*Offered WEDNESDAY Only*)

Creativity. You've either got it, or you don't, right - you're right-brained or left-brained, into art or into math? WRONG. Creativity is hardwired into our DNA by God himself. All of us were made to be creative people. Learn how we are all God's image-bearers and reflect God to the world. We'll explore the creative process behind the Triennium theme, engage in creative mental exercises, and discuss how imagination may be the most God-like trait we possess.

**LEADER:** Ashley Rash - Senior Art Director and owner of a graphic design firm in Atlanta, GA

**LOCATION:** RHPH 172 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

### ► **Introduction to the Enneagram**

The Enneagram is a dynamic system for understanding ourselves and others, and seeing everyone as a beloved child of God. Unlike many of the more static personality typing models, the Enneagram leads us to deep self-awareness, and personal transformation, helping us discover our true selves, beyond our ego and default behaviors. The Enneagram doesn't put you in a box, but helps you see the box you already inhabit (and offers ways to get out!) The nine ways of experiencing and being in the world articulated by the Enneagram, help us live beyond our knee-jerk, default reactions and behaviors, and engage the world, and ourselves with more compassion and understanding. This one-hour class will introduce you to this wonderful tool. Beware, we can only scratch the surface in 1 hour, but I hope it will spark a desire to begin or continue your own journey of self-exploration and transformation. For adult and youth participants.

**LEADER:** Beth Mueller

*Beth Mueller* currently serves Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX as the Sr. Director of Worship Arts. She has been a student of the Enneagram for nearly 20 years, and has studied in a variety of contexts with a variety of teachers. She has been teaching Enneagram wisdom for a number of years, with an in-depth, conversational approach. She is funny, approachable and knowledgeable. Beth leads Enneagram workshops for all kinds of groups, both in the church and out.

**LOCATION:** RAWLS 1086 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

### ► **Matthew 25 - Strengthening Our Work and Witness of Jesus Christ**

Learn more about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s bold vision and invitation for churches to actively engage in the world around us by committing to becoming a Matthew 25 church. In doing so, congregations can embrace one or more of the three mission focuses: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Matthew 25 invites Presbyterians of all ages, and various theological and political views to stand on common ground together, strengthening our work and witness of Jesus Christ and making our denomination an even more relevant presence in the world.

**LEADER:** Diane Moffett, Executive Director - Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC (USA)

**LOCATION:** STEW 202 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

### ► **Share your passion in 60 seconds or less**

Learn how to create your own 60 second video sermon to connect your congregation with issues that are important to you. Whether you are passionate about hunger, disaster, education, or any other issue, you will walk away with the tools you need to creatively engage your congregation. Don't forget to bring your phone!

**LEADER:** Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings and the Special Offerings (PCUSA) team

**LOCATION:** STEW 320 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

## ► **Standing Our Holy Ground – Young People & Campuses Stand Up to Gun Violence**

There is an average of one school or college campus shooting each and every week in the United States. “Standing Our Holy Ground” is a year-long webinar series about gun violence and what the faith community can do about it. This episode will be broadcast live from the Presbyterian Youth Triennium and will feature a panel of young people and adults – activists, experts and those impacted by gun violence – who are working to address this national epidemic and make our campuses and communities safer.

**LEADER:** Carl Horton and Simon Doong of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program along with a panel of presenters.

**LOCATION:** FWLR-Fowler Theater | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

## ► **Taking Next Steps: Faith Formation Thru Service and Accompaniment (Young Adult Volunteer Program)**

Service experiences can be wonderful expressions of faith in action. Often, mission participants claim these experiences have lasting impacts on their faith, but what does that really look like? Come hear how Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) are challenged to serve in partnership, ask deeper questions, and allow their faith to continually grow long after their service experience. Current volunteers and recent alum will share more about “a year of service for a lifetime of change.”

**LEADER:** Blake A. Collins

*Blake Collins* is associate for recruitment & relationships with Young Adult Volunteer. The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people (ages 19-30) in sites across the United States and around the world. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation. Alongside this work, volunteers explore the meaning of their Christian faith and accountability to their neighbor in community with peers & mentors.

**LOCATION:** LILY 1105 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth, Young Adults and Adults

## ► **What is a Racist? Unlearning what we think we already know**

It seems like a silly question, but it is one that we have been seriously bad at answering. Perhaps the greatest roadblock to racial justice is our lack of understanding of what racism truly is. In this learning opportunity, we will unpack with humor and honesty our common misconceptions about racism. Whether you’ve been doing anti-racist work for a long time or are just getting started, whatever your understanding of racism may be, you are welcome.

**LEADER:** Denise Anderson

*Rev. Denise Anderson* serves as Coordinator for Racial and Intercultural Justice with the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Before joining the PMA, she served as Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She enjoys life with her husband, 10-year-old daughter, and rescue tabby.

**LOCATION:** CL 50 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults

## ► **You are the Change You are Waiting For: How Youth Led Movements Changed Adults**

Young people have been engaged in advocacy for the cause of justice throughout the history of this country. During slavery, African American children in the North wrote petitions and essays against slavery. The Children’s March was a vital component of the Civil Rights Movement. And the March for our Lives is inspiring adults to advocate for the elimination of gun violence. We will examine strategies youth can use as tools in the justice movement as well as biblical passages which call us to justice advocacy.

**LEADER:** Rev. Jimmie R Hawkins, Director of the Office of Public Witness, Presbyterian Church (USA)

**LOCATION:** SMTH 108 | **AUDIENCE:** Youth and Adults