

## Our 4PM - 2017 Theme Statement "One in Christ"

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus". Galatians 3:28 NRSV*

*As Presbyterians, we are connectional people. We seek to be "One in Christ" by supporting and engaging with one another. We are gathering four Presbyteries for mutual education and support. There are many challenges facing us in our region. We are particularly concerned about the division of Christ's body through racism, economic inequalities, and our rural/urban disconnect. We believe that our unity in Christ and connection as Presbyterians equips us to respond to these needs together. We are stronger when we support each other, share resources and stories, and live into our unity. The 4PM gathering will help us meet the needs of our time with greater expressions of our unity in Christ and God's love for all people.*

### Keynote 1 – Bruce Reyes-Chow Sunday, April 29 -7:00 pm

#### "In Defense of Kindness: The power of treating humans like humans"

*Kindness can transform the world. From our most intimate relationships to movements for social change, when we see one another as created and complex created beings, we challenge ourselves to act as if the humanity of the other matters. Beyond just being nice or attempting to avoid conflict, kindness, and the complex ways it is expressed can be a powerful posture in fighting against oppression, injustice, and systematic marginalization.*

#### Scripture reference: Romans 12:9-21 TNIV

*9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not think you are superior. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

### Keynote 2 – Rev. Christine J. Hong, Ph.D Monday, May 1 – 8:15 am "Resistance is Not Futile"

#### Workshop Sessions #1 Monday, May 1 - 11:15am - 12:15pm

#### A. Advocacy, Activism, and Amplification: The power of social media social change.

Bruce Reyes-Chow, Keynote Speaker

*Tweet this, update that, Snap this, Insta that . . . in a world where we are often overwhelmed by information and stimulation, it is important not only to understand how social networking works, but how each person can best utilize the powerful tool. Like drinking water from a firehouse, we will explore larger cultural trends as well as specific actions so that communities of faith can use social networking in effective ways.*

#### B. Do Your Child/Youth Policies Really Protect?

Gina Struensee, Director of Christian Education, RE, First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, WI  
Marilyn Paulson, Retired Christian Educator, RE, First Presbyterian Church, Neenah, WI

*Picture the kindergarten Sunday school volunteer leaving her 12 year old in the classroom alone with a 5 year old student while getting supplies for class. The 12 year old fondles the 5 year old while the adult is out of the room. Or that new*

volunteer whose background check was never done, or who was never trained, spans a child. Do your policies protect these children? Now that Child/Youth protection policies are required of all PCUSA congregations, join us as we explore essential components of such policies, and see how yours measure up. Attendees are invited to bring a copy of their church's current policies to discuss and share with the group.

Gina Struensee, Menasha, WI, is the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church – Neenah.

Marilyn Paulson, Neenah, WI, is a retired Christian Educator who most recently served First Presbyterian Church – Wausau. Both have been active as leaders/trainers/organizers in Christian Education at presbytery, regional and national levels for many years.

**C. Transition and Trauma in Congregational Life**

Rev. Dr. Kevin and Sally Tarvid, Greenfield Avenue Presbyterian Church, West Allis, WI

*So – the church and society are deep in the overwhelming waters of change. How do we handle the challenge, pain, frustration and exhilaration of our future? One way, of course, is to process and express. Bring your concerns, stories, and strategies to share...*

Sally Tarvid is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Wisconsin, with experience helping people deal with anxiety and depression. The Rev. Dr. Kevin Tarvid has enjoyed a quarter-century of pastoral wrestling with many of the issues of church and society. Together, they have seen and survived most, and seek to share their strategies, love for and faith in the Church.

**D. Laughter's Healing Art**

The Reverend Dr. Thomas C. Willadsen, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Oshkosh, WI

*Anne LaMott calls laughter "Carbonated holiness." This presentation will cover the places where laughter appears in the Bible. A variety of theories about laughter will be explored. Tom guarantees that those in attendance will laugh.*

Tom has been a Presbyterian minister for more than 25 years, serving in Minnesota, Maryland and Wisconsin. His hometown is Peoria, Illinois, home of Fibber McGee & Molly and Richard Pryor. Tom is the author of "OMG! LOL! Faith and Laughter" published by Gemma Open Door in 2012. He gave the Bibfeldt Lecture at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago in 2013.

**E. Global Mission Ministry**

Rev. Dr. Susan Gilbert Zencka, Pastor, Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stevens Point, WI  
Jeffrey Todd, Moderator – Winnebago Presbytery, RE, First Presbyterian Church, Wausau, WI

*To be "One in Christ" means there are no boundaries to ministry and service. Congregations, mid-level councils, and General Assembly are engaged in missions world-wide. This workshop will highlight some ways individuals and groups, congregations and presbyteries can be connected in service with our brothers and sisters across the globe.*

Susan Gilbert Zencka has been working with Winnebago's Global Mission Partnership since 2008. She has made two trips to Colombia, in 2008 and 2014, as well as facilitating our partners' visits to the Winnebago Presbytery.

Jeffrey Todd, moderator of Winnebago Presbytery, has served on Winnebago's Global Mission Partnership Task Force for six years. As an ordained RE since 1981, Jeff has served in a number of leadership capacities in both Illinois and Wisconsin. In 2016 he was trained and commissioned as a Mission Co-worker by the Presbyterian Mission Agency and spent a month in Uraba as an Accompanier through the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship with la Iglesia Presbiteriana de Columbia.

**F. On Behalf of Our Children: Wisconsin's Racial Disparities and the Call of the Gospel**

Rev. Scott D. Anderson, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Madison

*The Annie E. Casey Foundation released a study identifying Wisconsin as last among the states in the well-being of Black children. This workshop will introduce On Behalf of our Children, the recently-published, highly interactive, four-session study guide for congregations from the Wisconsin Council of Churches. This new resource will help your congregation begin the conversation about race and racial equity, look at the data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and discover ways to engage this important issue at the community level that leads to congregational action.*

Rev. Scott Anderson was recently called to be pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Madison. He served for 13 years as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC), which is comprised of 19 denominations, almost 2,000 congregations and almost one million Christians statewide. The mission of the Council is to pray and work together

for the unity and renewal of the church and the healing and reconciliation of the world. Wisconsin's four Presbyteries are members of the WCC.

**G. White Folks' Work: Engaging Race and Racism**

Rev. W. Mark Koenig, Coordinator for Leader Development, Racial Justice, and Network Support  
Presbyterian Mission Agency of the PCUSA, Louisville, KY

*Faith leaders of color from around the country and from within the PC(USA) have challenged white people to engage in conversations about race and to work for racial justice. It has rarely been more urgent to answer the challenge than in the present moment. In this workshop, we will consider why this work is important for followers of Jesus and we will discuss the specific work that white people need to do with one another to disrupt racism in ourselves and our communities. We will consider the historic precedent of white Presbyterians organizing in the Civil Rights movement, and make connections to current movement building work.*

The Rev. W. Mark Koenig is the Coordinator for Leader Development, Racial Justice, and Network Support in the Presbyterian Mission Agency for the PC(USA).

**P. Shelter, Nurture, and the Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God**

Malinda Spencer, Associate for Curricula, Training and Promotion, Congregational Ministries Publishing,  
Presbyterian Mission Agency, Louisville, KY

*Christian education is key in providing "shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God." Adult education shapes the congregation while touching individual lives. This workshop will cover structuring classes, equipping facilitators, and choosing curriculum. Curriculum samples will be available.*

Malinda Spencer is the associate for curricula training and promotion for Congregational Ministries Publishing, in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Prior to this position, she served as Christian educator at the congregational and presbytery level.

**Workshops Session #2**

**Monday, May 1 -1:30 - 2:30pm**

**H. Advocacy, Activism, and Amplification: The power of social media social change.**

Bruce Reyes-Chow

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**I. Resistance is not futile: Ally-ship for our times**

Rev. Christine J. Hong, Ph.D., Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY

*Ally-ship is an important part of collective and communal acts of resistance and resilience against racism and other systemic oppressions. Learn what it means to be an Ally and how to accompany one another in solidarity in our immediate communities and beyond.*

**J. Learning to Fly: How to have difficult conversations in your ministry setting**

Revs. David King and Linda Kuhn, Sand Bur Consulting, New Lisbon, WI

*Each congregation has its own difficult conversation that is hard to engage: survival, stewardship, leadership, worship style, etc. This workshop deals with how to get a congregation to face and discuss the most pressing issues facing their community.*

Dave and Linda are Honorably Retired Teaching Elders with a wide variety of experience in the region. They currently serve the church through their consulting firm, Sand bur Consultants.

**K. "Chocolate" - Why We Want it....NO!...Why We Need IT"**

Tammie McCarthy and Polly Exferd, First Presbyterian Church, Oconto, WI

*Chocolate - it is in foods we eat, hair and body care products, its' titled in home decor, paint for your rooms /home and linen, art /sculptures, and did I say foods we eat! It is everywhere!  
Come and join us for some tasty treats, our story of chocolate and even a little bible lesson.  
Come, enjoy and "O taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalm 34:8*

Polly Exferd has been a member of First Presbyterian Church-Oconto for 41 years. She is married, mother of 3 daughters, 8 grandchildren, retired 3 years, busier than ever, and directs adult, youth and little children handbell and handchime choirs...and is a lover of chocolate!

Tammie McCarthy is a member of First Presbyterian Church-Oconto. She has one son who is newly married, a grand-do and is retired from teaching. She is busy volunteering in her community and being involved in the local theater group.....AND SHE LOVES CHOCOLATE!

**L. White Folks' Work: Engaging Race and Racism**

Rev. W. Mark Koenig, PMA, Louisville, KY

*Faith leaders of color from around the country and from within the PC(USA) have challenged white people to engage in conversations about race and to work for racial justice. It has rarely been more urgent to answer the challenge than in the present moment. In this workshop, we will consider why this work is important for followers of Jesus and we will discuss the specific work that white people need to do with one another to disrupt racism in ourselves and our communities. We will consider the historic precedent of white Presbyterians organizing in the Civil Rights movement, and make connections to current movement building work.*

The Rev. W. Mark Koenig is the Coordinator for Leader Development, Racial Justice, and Network Support in the Presbyterian Mission Agency for the PC(USA) in Louisville, KY.

**M. "DO YOU? AND WILL YOU?": A Primer for Ruling Elders**

Alyson Janke, CRE, Presbyterian Church in Wild Rose, WI and Stated Clerk, John Knox Presbytery

*This workshop will be an overview of the duties and responsibilities of ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The ordination questions will provide the lens through which we examine this important ministry.*

Alyson Janke is a ruling elder and proud of it! She has been the stated clerk of John Knox Presbytery for 22 years. She taught Presbyterian Polity at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary for 18 years. She has served the church at all levels, including terms on the General Assembly Council, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and the Special Committee on Existing Authoritative Interpretations. She is also Commissioned to Pastoral Service at Wild Rose Presbyterian Church, Winnebago Presbytery. She and her husband own a farm in central WI and have three children and five grandchildren.

**N. From Charity to Justice: Public Policy Advocacy for Faith Communities**

Peter Bakken, Ph.D., Wisconsin Council of Churches, Sun Prairie, WI

*Public Policy Advocacy is a way of loving our neighbors as ourselves by helping shape public policy in ways that will affect their lives for the better. An advocate does not have to be an "expert" or a "political activist," only someone who takes seriously the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. But how can people of faith be effective advocates in a challenging and polarized political climate? This workshop will introduce you to the tools, opportunities, and best practices for communicating with your elected officials.*

Peter Bakken is Coordinator for Public Policy at the Wisconsin Council of Churches. He received his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Chicago Divinity School and is the author of the WCC publications, *Hunger at Our Doorstep: A Study-Action Guide for Wisconsin Congregations* (2006; 2014) and *Becoming Welcoming Communities: Immigration in Light of Biblical Faith* (2011). He lives in Madison, Wisconsin, with his wife and daughter, where they are members of Advent Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).

**O. Loving our Interfaith Neighbors**

Rev. Kathleen Cook Owens, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Oregon, WI

*The Wisconsin Council of Churches recently released a new study-action guide to compliment their Policy Statement "Loving Our Interfaith Neighbors." This is a resource for churches looking to begin or deepen interfaith partnerships. In this workshop we will present the study guide and variety of ways to use it, highlight the teaching tools included, and particularly focus on how to help your congregation move from study to action.*

Rev. Kathleen Cook Owens is the lead writer for the "Loving Our Interfaith Neighbors" Study-Action Guide and part of the writing team for the WCC Policy Statement of the same name. Rev. Owens served on the Wisconsin Council of Churches Unity and Relationships Commission 2011-2016. In the past she has also served on the General Assembly Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations for the PCUSA and as a PCUSA representative to the National Council of Churches. Rev. Owens currently serves as Pastor at First Presbyterian in Oregon, Wisconsin and as Moderator of The John Knox Presbytery.