

## Cultivating Generous Congregations

January 24-25, 2020

The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ and Lake Institute on Faith & Giving invite you and your ministry teams to participate in a seminar experience that could change the way you and your congregation approach giving and generosity.

January 24-25, 2020

(Friday: 8:00am – 4:00 pm / Saturday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm)

Church of the Good Shepherd, Boyertown

Cost: \$350 per church team (4-5 members made up of clergy, lay leaders, administration and/or stewardship committees)

Cultivating Generous Congregations is a two-day interactive seminar, demonstrating how pastors and ministry leaders can unearth and energize congregational generosity by exploring the significant and necessary steps to creating lasting cultural change within a congregation.

This course is intended for those who:

- Believe in their congregation's capacity for greater generosity;
- Have a desire to become more comfortable with money;
- Are willing to redefine giving in your congregation; and
- Understand giving to include service, social networks and the sharing of ideas and professional expertise.

Register at: <https://psecgenerouscongregations.eventbrite.com>

### Registration

Registration fee for the seminar is \$350.00 per ministry team which includes, lunch and morning and afternoon snacks, each day, for your entire team. Each attendee must purchase the participant workbook. Space is limited. The deadline to register will be Dec. 5, 2019

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MORNING PRAYER

August 11, 2019

VOLUNTARY: "A Memorial Prelude on Shall We Gather at the River" Charles Callahan  
Jane Richards, Flute

OPENING HYMN: "Gather Us In" Hymn #649

### SOLEMN DECLARATION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

### SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:42, 44

Pastor: Watch and be ready,

All: for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

### INVOCATION

Pastor: Eternal God, companion of all who seek you, and seeker of all who turn away from you, draw near to us that we may draw near to you, and grant us the grace to love and to serve you that we may find in your will our true freedom; through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.

All: Amen.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us join our hearts and voices in making our confession.

*The congregation may be seated in reverence.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Eternal God, whose Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, we recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to your gracious presence in our lives. Through Jesus Christ you have offered us new life, fulfillment, and the freedom to serve you. We confess that we are captive to sin, that our sin binds us with false pride, and that the wrong we do is made worse by the good we leave undone. Reconcile us to you and to all people. God of mercy, forgive all our sin and strengthen us anew for life as you intend it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*Silent confession and reflection.*

### ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, who is great in mercy and promises forgiveness of sin to all who truly repent and are sincere in faith, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all sin, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

*The congregation may stand as you are able.*

PRAISE

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips.  
All: And our mouths shall show forth your praise.  
Pastor: O God, make speed to save us.  
All: O Lord, make haste to help us.  
Pastor: Praise the Lord.  
All: The Lord’s Name be praised.

GLORIA (“Glory to God”)

Hymn #240

*Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

*The congregation may be seated.*

*Scriptures are printed on the back of the bulletin.*

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22 (Sing responsively)

PSALM 33 C. P. M. ANNETTA William J. Kirkpatrick

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION IN SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA WWW.PSEC.ORG



PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE  
1441 Laura Lane, Suite 100, Pottstown, PA 19454  
610-949-8774

August 11, 2019

PSEC Annual Bookkeeper/  
Treasurer Training

Saturday, October 26th  
9:00 am—Noon  
Calvary UCC, Barto



Bring your questions, concerns to this annual gathering of those entrusted with financial processes in the Conference’s churches. Led by Tammie Wisniewski, CPA, CGMA, Finance Operations Manager of the PSEC.



Webinar on the Youth Climate Movement  
as a Moral Force

On Fridays throughout the world this past year, students walked out of classrooms and went into the streets to compel action in addressing the climate crisis. What started as a one-person protest by Greta Thunberg has grown to a movement of millions in over 160 countries and at least 2000 locations. Youth are now calling upon adults to join them for a week of action in September. This month’s Creation Justice Webinar will prepare us for action by featuring Jamie Margolin, the 17-year-old who has been at the forefront of the youth climate movement in the United States. She led the call for last year’s youth climate march, and she is a co-founder of the youth organization Zero Hour. The webinar will be held on Aug. 15 at 1:00p, but a recording will be sent out to all who register. Register today at: [https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rhF8qpFMQg2xI5EF1iopXg](https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rhF8qpFMQg2xI5EF1iopXg)

### Sunday, September 29th - Pastor's Night Out - 6:00 p.m.

- Join Pastor Ray for a night of fun and fellowship. Details to follow.

### Saturday, October 12th - Rise Against Hunger Packing Event - 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- 8:30 a.m. - volunteers are needed to set up tables and help off-load the bags of grain from the truck. Hand dollies will be provided.
- 10:00 a.m. - start time for the event. If you are not involved with the set-up, you should arrive no later than 9:00 a.m.
- **A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. 30 volunteers are needed for this event.**

### Wednesday, October 16th - Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Discount Shopping

- On this day only, receive a 25% discount on your purchases. This cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts and promotions.
- Cost: \$5.00 per pass.
- Please see Ginny Filipovic to purchase the passes.
- Remember to fill out the stub on the back for your coupon to win prizes including four \$500 shopping sprees (Plus forty-seven \$100 shopping Sprees, one for each Boscov's Store Location)

## DONATIONS

### Noisy Mission

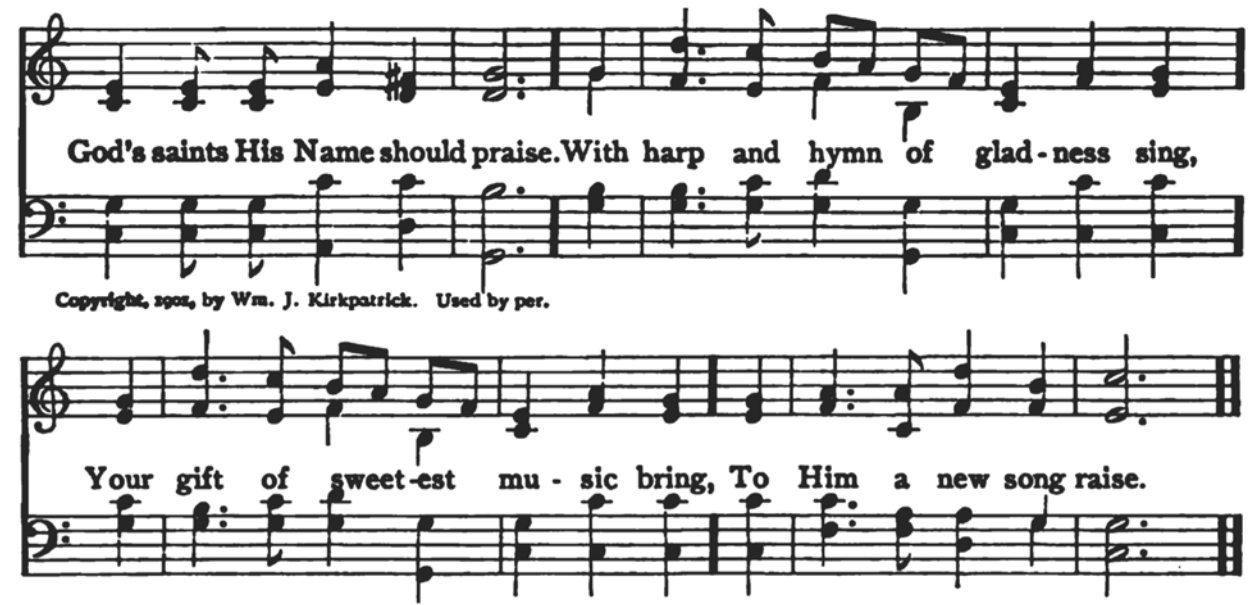
- This month's Noisy Mission will support **Bethany Children's Home "Helping Hands"** program.
- This program provides temporary shelter to unaccompanied children who have crossed our borders to enter the United States.
- These children are seeking to reunite with their families who already reside in the US. Many of these children are victims of human trafficking and/or have come from very dangerous environments.
- The children, infant through eighteen years of age, are in desperate need of a safe and appropriate shelter while seeking reunification with their family members.
- A wish list of items currently needed to support this effort is listed on the bulletin board in Gruber Hall. A bin is provided on the table in the back of the hall. **Items must be new, they do not accept used items.**
- Bethany Children's Home website: [www.bethanyhome.org](http://www.bethanyhome.org).

### Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS)

- The donation items are assorted food items.
- A bin is located in the back of Gruber Hall for your donations.

### Redner's Tapes

- Please donate your Redner's receipts to St. John's.
- We receive 1% of the value of the tapes.
- A bin is located above the mailboxes.



<sup>12</sup>Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people you have chosen to be your own!

<sup>13</sup>**O Lord, you look down from heaven and behold all the people in the world.**

<sup>14</sup>From where you sit enthroned you turn your gaze on all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**You fashion all the hearts of them and understand all their works.**

<sup>16</sup>There is no ruler that can be saved by a might army; a warrior is not delivered by strength.

<sup>17</sup>**The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; for all its strength it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup>Behold, your eye, O Lord, is upon those who fear you, on those who wait upon your love,

<sup>19</sup>**to pluck their lives from death, and to feed them in time of famine.**

<sup>20</sup>Our soul waits for you, O Lord; you are our help and our shield.

<sup>21</sup>**Indeed, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup>Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us, as we have put our trust in you.

*(Sing verse)*

SECOND READING: *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16*

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

*Kathleen Woodruff, Soloist  
Jane Richards, Flute*

*The congregation may stand as you are able.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ is written in the twelfth chapter of the Gospel According to St. Luke, beginning at the thirty-second verse.

All: **Glory be to you, O Lord.**



**PRAYER UPON ENTERING THE PEW**

On this new day, Lord, make me watchful for all that you are doing in the world; keep me faithful, that I may do your will in all things; and hold me in your grace, as I seek to do the same for all I meet. Amen.

**TODAY’S BULLETIN** is given to the Glory of God by the Vircsik family in memory of Mary Vircsik.

**USHERS:** Members of the congregation.    **CHAIRLIFT:** Mike Hendricks

**LECTOR:** Ginny Filipovic                      **VAN:** Larry Challenger

**PROOFREADER:** Betty Booraem

**WEEKLY FLOWERS:** If you would like to have flowers on the altar on a specific Sunday, please contact Ginny Filipovic. Altar flowers are \$25.00. A two-week notice is required prior to the specific Sunday; and your order will need to be prepaid.

**MIDWEEK EUCHARIST:** Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in Leiby Chapel. This service provides an alternative to Sunday worship, but is also for those who would like deeper communion with God through a weekly Lord's Supper. The service has a different liturgy and sermon than Sunday.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 Patricia Benes
- 13 Sally Gearhart
- 13 Patricia Verish
- 17 Alice Astle
- 20 Cynthia Stubanas
- 25 Ruth Brobst
- 25 Marie Byers
- 26 Deborah Giannopoulos
- 27 William Stubanas

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Pastor: O God, we give to thee a portion of the treasure thou hast given us and for which we ask thy blessing. May our minds and our hearts always yearn for that true treasure which art in heaven, even Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us bless God.

**All:**



DEPARTING HYMN: “Faith of Our Fathers”

*Hymn #530*

SORTIE: “God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

*Wilber Held*