

“The Big Event 2016”



“Extending God’s Welcome to All”

Saturday, March 5, 2016

8:45 AM to 3:00 PM

**First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
250 West Seventh Street, Erie, PA 16501
814.456.4243**



www.lepbigevent.org

~ Keynote Speaker - Dr. Amy Oden ~

What is distinctive about Christian hospitality?

The keynote presentation will address the distinctive understanding of Christian hospitality as the welcome that comes from God & is shared with the world.



Amy Oden has taught theology & history & pursued scholarship in service of the church for 25 years & also teaches spiritual formation. She is currently teaching at Saint Paul Seminary in Oklahoma City. Most of her work has been an effort to make ancient voices, especially women's, accessible to current audiences (*In Her Words: Women's Writings in the History of Christian Thought*, 1994).

Her most recent scholarship has focused on the radical practice of hospitality in early Christianity (*And You Welcomed Me: Sourcebook on Hospitality in Early Christianity*, 2001) and its challenge for communities today (*God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World*, 2008).

The Presbytery of Lake Erie invites you to a day filled with Learning, worship, a keynote speaker, three workshops, a mission fair & lunch.

The cost for the day is \$15.

Register online at www.lepbigevent.org or mail in form.

Schedule:

8:45-9:15	Registration
9:15-9:25	Opening Worship
9:25-10:15	Keynote Address
10:15-10:25	Transition Time
10:25-11:25	First Workshop
11:25-11:35	Transition Time
11:35-12:35	Second Workshop
12:35-1:35	Lunch
1:35-2:35	Third Workshop
2:35-2:45	Transition Time
2:45-3:00	Evaluation & Closing Worship

~ Pick one of these for your first workshop:

A1 ~ 'Building a Church Where No One Is Excluded'

How do we build a church where all God's people, without any exclusionary clauses, can join together in worship, serve and enjoy God forever? The workshop will equip participants in using the new training materials *Better Together: Transformed by God's Variety of Gifts* in their congregations and councils. The materials come from extensive Bible studies and the stories and experiences of PC(USA) brothers and sisters confronting attitudes, misunderstanding and other barriers to full inclusion in the church. – *Sue Montgomery, Nickleville*

A2 ~ 'What is an Inside-Out Church?'

Culture is changing. Church is changing. People's need for God remains. But, what people? Where? How do we take what is on the "inside" of our churches to folks "outside" of our current influence? This workshop will share some of the (sometimes startling) experiences this Erie congregation has enjoyed when the church began asking God "Who is our neighbor?" and "How can we serve needs in our community?" and "How do you want to change us, God?" - *Seph Kumer, Director of Community Ministries, First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant*

A3 ~ 'Lessons for Hospitality & Education for the Developing Brain'

Neurobiological development of our youth may provide lessons and insight into how best to welcome and educate young people. By understanding their developing brain we might better provide a generous and hospitable welcome to young community members. - *Matthew Weaver, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Mercyhurst University*

A4 ~ 'Mandatory Reporter Training'

Required for church employees who work with children and is recommended for volunteers. The training is three hours so **participants in this workshop will be committed to the one workshop across all three hours.** The Crime Victim Center stressed that this training would be helpful for volunteers as well as those employed by the church. At the conclusion of the 3 Hour Training, participants will receive a certificate of completion to satisfy requirements. - *Facilitators from the Crime Victim Center*

A5 ~ 'Ancient Voices of Welcome'

What can our brothers and sisters of the early church teach us about welcoming the stranger? This workshop will present early Christian writings to identify practices and teachings on hospitality. - *Amy Oden, Professor of Theology and History, St. Paul Seminary*

A6 ~ 'Creating a Culture of Generosity'

Is your congregation's approach to stewardship stuck in a rut? Are you living in a state of scarcity and longing for abundance? You will leave this workshop with ideas for organizing your generosity/stewardship leadership group, communicating with the various generations composing your congregation, integrating all aspects of your church into the life of generosity and teaching the spirituality of generosity. - *Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation*

~ **Pick one of these for your second workshop:**

B1 ~ 'Soul Repair:

Supporting Those Who Have Experienced Trauma'

Those who have experienced trauma in their lives will often speak of how it effects not only the body and mind but also the soul. This seminar, led by VA Chaplain David Fugate, will seek to discuss some of the key spiritual questions that arise after a person experiences a traumatic event and share ways that churches can be more welcoming to those who are seeking the support of a church community.

- *Veterans Affairs Chaplain David Fugate*

**B2 ~ 'Asset-Based Stewardship for the
Small Membership Church'**

Small membership congregations are often better at recognizing their limitations than affirming their unique assets. The church's vision need not be small, nor must it struggle with financial resources. From nurturing leadership, special gifts, bequests and the annual financial stewardship emphasis, this workshop will explore energizing stewardship ministry in the small membership congregations, offering new ideas and possibilities. Participants will receive a variety of practical resources to be adapted to their particular context. - *Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation*

B3 ~ 'Mind the Gap'

Come and hear the story of how FPCC became involved in hands-on ministries with people who are homeless or living in poverty. See how the Holy Spirit is working and inspiring the Church to care for those in need and ponder where the gaps may be in your community. - *Pat Tracy, First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant*

B4 ~ 'Welcoming the LGBTQQ+ community'

This workshop will help you to: Understand terms such as gender identity, cisgender, pansexual, intersex, FTM, MTF. Recognize the unique issues faced by members of the LGBTQQ+ community. Learn specific strategies to make your place of worship open and affirming. - *Penny Mechley-Porter, MA, LPC, NCC; & Alice Edwards, PhD, Mercyhurst University*

**Please visit the Mission Fair
during the time of registration & the lunch hour.
The Mission Fair provides the chance
to expand your horizons & engage your imagination!**

~ **Pick one of these for your third workshop:**

C1 ~ 'Essentials (& Encouragement!) for Session Clerks'

Clerks of Session have a variety of roles: maintain records, sort through communications, and liaison with a variety of groups. Come find advice for what is most essential, how to streamline tasks, and keeping a light-hearted and spiritual focus as a leader in the local congregation. (New, returning, and potential future clerks are all welcomed!) - *Greg Gillispie, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Lake Erie*

C2 ~ 'Refugee 101 in the NW PA Context'

In this workshop, we will explore who the refugees are, how they got here and what they experience once they arrive in Northwest Pennsylvania. Both national and international experience will be brought to this workshop. - *Paul Jericho, Associate Director – Programs, Multicultural Community Resource Center*

C3 ~ 'Congregational Hospitality & Mental Illness'

Stigmas continue to be attached to mental illness. Congregational support can make a world of difference to sufferers. Rev. Tony Roberts has lived with Bi-polar disorder in the context of the church and has found his ministry in being a bridge between Christian faith and those with mental illness. His insights can help the church to be more welcoming to those living with mental illness. - *Tony Roberts and Charlie McClung, both speakers on matters of mental illness*

**C4 ~ 'Welcoming Children & Youth
into the Ministry of the Church'**

Children and youth bring unique spiritual gifts to our churches. This workshop will explore how the church can celebrate these gifts and become responsive to their needs of our young people. - *Dawn Sears, Director of Christian Education, Warren*

C5 ~ 'Spiritual Dimensions of Hospitality'

This workshop will use specific meditations from the book, 'God's Welcome' (Oden), to explore the spiritual dimensions of hospitality. Participants will walk through several meditations that include scripture, reflection and practical experiments. - *Amy Oden, Professor of Theology and History, St. Paul Seminary*



*The Big Event 2016 is being underwritten through
a generous grant from the Synod of the Trinity.
The planning team is most appreciative of the Synod's
desire to partner with Lake Erie Presbytery
in shared educational ministry.*

~ Registration for "The Big Event" ~

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Church _____

Workshop Choices:

Workshop A _____ 2nd choice _____

Workshop B _____ 2nd choice _____

Workshop C _____ 2nd choice _____

Child Care:

Do you require child care? _____ Yes _____ No

Please provide ages _____

Special needs for child care _____

****Parents are responsible for their children during the lunch hour. Parents can bring a meal for their child or purchase an adult meal.***

~ Lunch:

The noon meal is being arranged by the host congregation,
First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant.

****Please call the presbytery office – 814-868-4891, Ext. 3 – if you have questions about the meal.***

~ Cost:

\$15 per person – payable online, in advance by mail, or at the door.

Please make checks payable to *Presbytery of Lake Erie*.

Cost includes the noon meal as well as participation in all the day's events.

Please register online at: www.lepbigevent.org
or return this form via mail by **February 20, 2016** to:

**Presbytery of Lake Erie
2816 Elmwood Avenue
Erie, PA 16508**