



Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's 2024 Continuing Education Events

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is offering a robust schedule of Continuing Education for clergy and interested laity in 2024. Ranging from Christian ID in the Age of AI, Worship Models, Grief Literacy, Suicide and your Congregation, Luke and Acts, Autism and the Church, and Why Leadership Matters, everyone will find a topic of interest. While credentialed clergy can receive Continuing Education units which are needed for ordination renewal in 2025, laity will also benefit from these topics. Please be sure that deacons and other interested folks receive information on these topics as everyone is invited to register. The ordination renewal for ordained clergy is coming quickly in 2025, so be sure to register for these excellent sessions and bring other interested persons from your congregation. **To register, click on the event Title for each event and follow the registration links, or email KarenHodges@SVMCcob.org, or call 717-361-1450.**

Worship Models from Genesis to Revelation

Leah Hileman, Leader

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Camp Harmony, Western PA District (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$45.00 for .3 CEUs; \$35.00 for no CEUs

Zoom: \$35.00 for .3 CEUs; \$25.00 for no CEUs

How did churches end up with altar tables, tambourines, separate seating, call-and-response songs, house churches, and hymns? How did the way God's people worship morph through the generations, adapting to culture shifts and changing in style, format, liturgy, and theology? In this workshop, we will survey the scripture to see evidence that, while the Good News never changes, the ways and means by which we approach God in worship have undergone dramatic change. We'll explore the biblical basis for large and small assemblies; varying styles of art, music, and architecture; and the "personality" of worship in high- and low-church traditions.

Christian ID in an Age of AI

Russell Haitch, Leader

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Juniata College (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom: \$45.00 for .5 CEUs; or \$35.00 for no CEUs

The world is shifting, the foundations shaking, and no innovation seen before—not the printing press or automobile or Internet—will be able to rival the impending impact of Artificial Intelligence, combined with genetic engineering and other advanced technologies. This workshop is designed to help you develop or improve a Christian framework for thinking through all the new issues on the horizon. The world is going to look dramatically different, so too our churches and the lives of our children. We need to be ready to respond. The best, most faithful response will grow out of our identity in Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Luke and Acts: Turning the World Upside Down

Chris Bucher & Bob Neff, Leaders

Thursday, May 2, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elizabethtown College (In-Person Only -- No Zoom Option for this event)

\$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

This class will draw upon the 2023 book Luke and Acts: Turning the World Upside Down, co-authored by Chris Bucher and Bob Neff. Chris and Bob will discuss Luke's theme of "turning the world upside down" through the gathering of Jesus' followers into communities that practice healing, inclusivity, and sharing. Presentations will assist in the understanding of these two books as a guide for Anabaptists and Radical Pietists and will incorporate visual art that offers new ways to see the Biblical texts.

(More Events on Next Page)

Suicide and Your Congregation

Julie Guistwite, Leader

Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Zoom Only

\$35.00 for .3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEUs.

Suicide is a rising public health concern and faith-based organizations hold a vital role in ministering to survivors. This interactive workshop examines the dual role of clergy in postvention care. Best practices in caring for survivors, the congregation, and oneself forms the basis of a small group role-play focusing on a faith community's response to a member's violent death. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills relevant to engaging suicide issues across congregational settings.

Autism and the Church

Lisa Kruse, Tim Miller, David Crumrine, Stan Dueck, Leaders

Thursday, September 26, 2024 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Juniata College (In-Person or Zoom)

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom: \$45.00 for .5 CEUs; or \$35.00 for no CEUs

The church is a place where people should feel welcome no matter what challenges they may have. Families with an autistic member need to feel the welcome and acceptance of a church who cares for their special circumstance. This Continuing Education event will provide information to pastors and other church leaders regarding autism, how to support families with an autistic member, and how to make the church a safe and welcoming place for families.

Grief Literacy

Julie Guistwite, Leader

Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Zoom Only

\$35.00 for .3 CEUs or \$25.00 for no CEUs.

Society's grief-avoiding mentality and limited community-based support initiatives affect the well-being of bereaved persons. This interactive case-based workshop examines the grief literacy movement in connection with Christ-Centered Ministry Leadership. Attendees will gain practical knowledge and skills applicable to enhancing the welfare of grieving congregational members and persons in their community.

The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters

Jeff Carter, Leader

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Elizabethtown College - In-Person or Zoom

In-person: \$65.00 for .5 CEUs or \$55.00 for no CEUs. Includes lunch.

Zoom: \$45.00 for .5 CEUs; or \$35.00 for no CEUs

What does it mean to lead in today's church and world? The American protestant church is in steep decline. The Church of the Brethren is experiencing schism. The pandemic accelerated the already changing patterns of religious life. Resources are scarce. Furthermore, Brethren are naturally suspicious of leaders; called, elected, or self-proclaimed. Values, such as humility, consensus, and the priesthood of all believers, lead to a flat hierarchy and a communal pragmatism. We celebrate leaders such as Dan West, Sarah Major, M.R. Zigler, and Anna Mow, but in their day, they stirred controversy by the manner of their leading. So, what does it mean to lead in today's church and world? I believe leadership begins by asking the first question and having the willingness and curiosity to pursue the second question. It is a way of thinking that results in effective doing. And yes, it is something we do together.

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is a Church of the Brethren ministry partnership that includes the districts of Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA, and Western PA, in addition to Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and Bethany Theological Seminary. SVMC's mission is to equip leaders for ministry in a regionally based, Christ centered, culturally relevant context in ways that bear witness to the beliefs, heritages and practices of the Church of the Brethren.
