

New England Regional Youth Event

Workshop Information

MORNING WORKSHOPS: Each participant will be assigned one workshop in the morning slot, be sure to indicate your top three choices on the registration form.

A. Faith and Fantastic Fiction led by Rev. Maren Tirabassi. Middle Earth readers, leave your cloaks and hobbit feet; Night World readers, file your fangs. Come as you are to discuss how fiction expresses the religious imagination. Examples for discussion will come from participants – whether you're a fan of CS Lewis, Stephanie Meyer, Madeleine L'Engle, Philip Pullman or Rick Riordan, or the classics, like Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland, or 2000 Leagues Under the Sea. Books will be central, but we will talk about movies as well. (Friday and Saturday)

B. Prayer and Color led by Rev. Mary Angela Davis. Do you ever find it difficult to pray? Here's an idea: use art supplies to help you pray. Let doodling and drawing open up your personal prayers! No artistic talent necessary. Our discussion and practice will be guided by the book *Praying in Color* by Sybil MacBeth. (Friday and Saturday)

C. Finding God in Rock Climbing led by Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer. Do you connect with God outside of church? Do you know that you can experience God through movement and connecting with the world around you? Climbing is a great way to do that. Climb on the indoor rock wall at Boston University. The University certified belayers and safety team will be assisting with the workshop. It is open to those who are climbing for the first time and those who are experienced climbers. (Friday and Saturday) *There is an additional \$15 fee for this workshop. You will be notified if you are assigned to this workshop to bring cash or a check for \$15 to the event to cover this cost.

D. Climate Change & the Church – The Next Moral Revolution led by Rev. Dr. Jim Antal. This concerns ALL of us: all people and creatures, those alive today and those born in all tomorrows, all 193 countries as well as the earth's vast oceans. All life depends on a healthy planet. Earth has sustained life for over 2 billion years, but in the last 200 years, our use of fossil fuels has jeopardized life as we know it. People of every faith perspective must initiate a moral revolution and promote new "environmental spiritual practices" if the Eden into which we were born will survive. This workshop will identify what you and your church can do to be part of that moral revolution. (Friday ONLY)

E. Sexual & Emotional Ethics, Relationships and Dating led by Mr. Timothy Brown. This workshop is designed for youth and young adults and uses the values of the Our Whole Lives curriculum. In her book, "Love Does No Harm," Rev. Marie Fortune outlines many of the issues in relationships. Individuals have differing levels of power based on factors such as age, race, education, and sexual orientation. The purpose of this workshop is to put forth the concepts involved in ethical dating and relationship

situations. The workshop will include discussion, role plays and practical ideas. (Friday and Saturday)

F. Living & Promoting Loving Kindness through Yoga led by Anandi Diane Landall. Through the use of yoga we will explore a variety of ways to help us discover ourselves, improve concentration, and answer our prayers in meditation. We will also cover ways to enhance our self-confidence and promote loving kindness to all. Please bring your own yoga mat if you have one. (Friday and Saturday)

G. UCC 101: Finding Our Way in God's Church led by Rev. Oby Ballinger. How is the United Church of Christ different from other denominations? Why do you go to a UCC church? What do you love, and what would you change, about the UCC? Join the conversation and learn more about the history and future of the UCC. (Friday ONLY)

H. Sacred Conversations on Race led by Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson & Martina Radwen. A follow up discussion to the documentary "Aliens Among Us." What might you and your church community do to become more informed about the discrimination and religious intolerance that Arab Americans and Muslims face in your local community? What might you and your church do to address this discrimination and religious bias? (Saturday Only)

I. Calling for Comprehensive HIV Prevention in Churches & Communities led by Rev. Michael Schuenemeyer. Young people, age 13-25, of all races are among those with the highest rates of HIV infection, as well as other STDs. Peer leadership helps to create awareness, reducing risks and preventing the spread of HIV. Find out what is happening and how you can reach out to others to care for them or prevent health issues in this workshop. (Friday and Saturday)

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS: Each participant will be assigned one workshop in the afternoon slot, be sure to indicate your top three choices on the registration form.

J. God is Still Speaking through Movies facilitated by Rev. Derek White. Learn how to use popular movie clips in worship to convey Christian messages. See how Biblical themes are being incorporated into popular movies today. Using film in devotionals can infuse new life into worship. (Friday and Saturday)

K. ONA: Why and How led by Mr. Bill Walsh. Has your church thought about becoming an Open and Affirming (ONA) Church? Have you thought about your church becoming an ONA Church? Have you or anyone in your church wondered what it would mean to become an ONA Church? Have people in your church asked, 'Do we really need Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender members? What about other groups who have been marginalized? Are they included in the ONA discussions?' If you answer "Yes!" to any of these questions, then this is the workshop for you. Join us as we discuss how a church becomes recognized as Open and Affirming of LGBT people. Come join us as we

discuss why this is important work and what steps are necessary in beginning an ONA process. (Friday and Saturday)

L. Sing OUT! led by Ms. Carolyn Paulus. Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy singing in a choir? Come join us for a choral workshop where we will prepare an anthem for the Saturday night worship service. It's your chance to sing from the inside out and to receive other's voices from the outside in. Nothing is more fulfilling than praising God with our voices, especially in a choir. (Friday and Saturday)

M. Take a Knee: Spiritual Lessons Learned from the World of Sports led by Mr. Josh Tinley. This workshop will utilize sports as a lens through which to look at the Christian faith and will draw parallels between scriptural stories and memorable tales from the field or court, by looking at a key transcendent moments in sports history that reveal larger truths about life. (Friday and Saturday)

N. Drumming: the Big Banging led by Rev. Laura Ruth Jarrett. There is nothing more fun than drumming! Drumming is a way to condition the self for joy, to express grief, sorrow, love, anger, longing, confusion. Through rhythm, we can even express that which does not yet have words. Please bring hand drums, rhythm instruments, something to bang on. We'll teach drumming technique. (Friday and Saturday)

O. Expressing Our Faith through Poetry led by Ms. Shelley Abreu. Through poetry, an artist expresses, with precise language, the depths of what it means to be human. Poetry helps us make sense of our belief and expresses our deepest questions about life, God, and our Christian faith. By reading and writing poetry we can grow in the knowledge of God. We'll read a selection of poems from the Bible to modern day and then become poets ourselves through a variety of creative writing exercises. (Friday and Saturday)

P. Peer Mediation & Conflict Resolution Caught in the middle? Want to help a friend sort out problems? You can learn to handle conflict in a proactive way. This workshop will give you problem solving and critical thinking skills for dealing with disputes and challenging choices. (Friday and Saturday)

Q. Community organizing and mobilizing from a faith -based perspective led by Ms. Claudia de la Cruz. How can communities of faith be active participants in the creation of a new and better world? How can our faith be active and liberating? What is our mission in the world? What is the mission of our community of faith? In this workshop we will explore these questions and the importance of congregational -based community organizing in the development of empowered, healthy and strong human beings, and communities. (Saturday ONLY)