



Polishing Stones: Nurturing Faith Practice

A Virtual Event of EAPCE April 26-28

Keynote: Meg Rift and David Maxwell

Worship & Music Leader: Rev. Dr. Jim Morgan

[Click here](#) to register.



Faith practices, those actions we do as followers of Jesus Christ, have been around since the days of Jesus himself, and before. They have stood the test of time through the ages. In these days of the politicization of Christianity, the questions of “What does it mean to be Christian?” and “How do we live out our faith?” are crucial. We return to the basics. What did Jesus do and embody in his life and by his example, how are we, as followers of Jesus, to live? We practice, and practice again, to put faith and love into action because we follow the one who practiced what he preached!



Meg Rift: Meg Rift is a pastor, parent, and creative soul. She currently serves as the children’s curriculum editor at Presbyterian Publishing Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky. This year, along with her husband Dan, she will celebrate the marriages of her twin daughters (May and October) and continue to train her new rescue dog Honey, along with their still-needs-training dog Zoey.

David Maxwell: David Maxwell loves working at Presbyterian Publishing where he can make a living reading and editing brilliant, creative academic and church authors. He thinks he’s growing in discipleship as he works with a team to edit the new curriculum *Follow Me*, based on things Jesus did and told followers to do.



Rev. Dr. Jim Morgan (Worship & Music Leader): Jim Morgan is presently the pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Laurinburg, North Carolina. He has spent much of his ministry leading worship and music at youth events around the PCUSA, and maintains a busy schedule playing solo piano concerts of Advent hymns.



EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

EAPCE's 2021 Educator of the Year, Carolyn Leah, CCE from Pittsburgh, PA has served in Christian Education for more than 30 years; she was called to Beulah PC in 2009 where she serves as Director of Christian Discipleship. Carolyn is passionate about intergenerational ministry, and works with adult education, children and families, special needs ministries as well as the environmental ministries of her church. Currently, she is working on certification in Spiritual Formation and a Pennsylvania Naturalist Certification. When able, she enjoys hiking, nature photography, and spending time with her grandchildren.



WORKSHOPS

April 27, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Workshops

#1 - The Inside Scoop: Denominational Resource Panel Discussion

A panel of representatives from across our partner denominations will share cutting edge faith formation resources. Stephanie Fritz from the PC(USA), Jill Benson from the Christian Reformed Church, and Beth Hayes from the Moravian Church will bring their knowledge of resources within their denominations. Come prepared to take home some practical resource ideas!

#2 - Self Care as Spiritual Practice - MJ Junkin, Certified Christian Educator and Spiritual Director

In a culture that is utterly egocentric, it can seem selfish to want to focus on yourself and your deepest longings in life. But God has a deep yearning for you to experience the true depth of Love in which you are being created each day. And in order to experience this Love and therefore become aware of self desires, you must practice self care regularly. In this workshop, participants will be given an introduction to a variety of types of spiritual practices as a way to nurture spiritual growth.



#3 - Intentional and Attentional Faith Practices: Energizing Our Youth - Jimmy Steele, Youth Ministry Coordinator at Palms Presbyterian Church

Youth these days are mentally, physically, and spiritually drained. Want to learn more about how intentionally including and integrating faith practices such as hospitality, sabbath, retreat, prayer, storytelling, and service into our ministry can energize youth and leadership? If you are like me, you may unintentionally be including these important aspects into your programming. Join us for a time of discussion and networking as we share ways we can integrate and weave these faith practices into our ministry.

April 27, 2:00 - 3:30 pm Workshops

#4 - Advocacy as a Spiritual Discipline - Rev. Jimmie Ray Hawkins, Director of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC

The search for justice is a lifelong pursuit and a part of the Christian life. Mission is integral to the life of faith. Jesus criticized the Pharisees for neglecting the "weightier matters" of a life of faith, and he listed "justice" first. Presbyterians, and other denominations, promote mission and charity as vital to the life of congregations. Advocacy is connected to mission outreach as the other side of the coin. We must continue to meet the everyday needs of people, but we must also transform the structures and institutions to provide the resources needed to supplement a deficit of financial resources and opportunities. We will discuss how to talk to people of faith without alienating them accusing you of "just being political." This call comes from a biblical understanding of the role justice plays in the Christian life.

Christianity has stood on the side of those impoverished and sought to transform society into a Beloved Kingdom which is just and fair.





#5 - 99 Mandalas: Creativity Amid Chaos - Bonnie Edwards, Certified Christian Educator

Mandalas are circular designs found in many cultures. During the COVID-19 pandemic, one person’s attempt to create order and do something joyful each day led to the discovery of nature mandalas. Sometimes spiritual practice, sometimes pure whimsy, these designs--spanning 99 days--reflect the human imagination and marvels of God’s Creation.

In this workshop you are invited to:

- SEE a variety of mandalas
- FIND interesting materials near at hand
- CREATE your own unique design
- CELEBRATE the creative spark in yourself and others

No art degree or experience necessary! Bring an open mind and playful spirit.



#6 - When They Stop Coming to Sunday School: Storytelling by Zoom - Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber, Certified Christian Educator



Know someone who can tell a story about traffic jams, or parties? They can tell the story about God and God’s people – by Zoom! Long before the “season of COVID-19,” many Sessions had decided to not hold Sunday School because “nobody comes.” In this workshop, we will explore ways for people-in-the-pews-who-care-about-lifelong-discipleship to anticipate (and make the most of) teaching moments with children, teens and adults. Nurturing the faith practice of storytelling by Zoom means adapting our traditional techniques to make theologically meaningful what already goes on in our lives – from unlocking doors, to preparing virtual Communion. We can do this!

EVENT SCHEDULE

Monday, April 26

6:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Welcome Worship with Rev. Jim Morgan
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Plenary #1

Tuesday, April 27

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Plenary #2
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Workshops #1-3
	#1 The Inside Scoop: Denominational Resource Panel Discussion
	#2 Self-Care as Spiritual Practice
	#3 Intentional and Attentional Faith Practices: Energizing Our Youth
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Workshops #4-6
	#4 Advocacy as Spiritual Discipline
	#5 99 Mandalas: Creativity Amid Chaos
	#6 When They Stop Coming to Sunday School
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Plenary #3
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner Break
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner with Byron Berger, Owner of Hearts and Minds Bookstore
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Social gathering/ Educator of the Year celebration

Wednesday, April 28

8:45 – 9:30 a.m.	EAPCE Meeting
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Plenary #4
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Closing Worship

REGISTRATION

[Click here](#) to register.

Please make your \$50* registration check payable to “APCE Eastern Region” and mail to:

Katy Brungraber, EAPCE Treasurer/Registrar
7 Spanish Moss Court
Chambersburg, PA 17202

*If you are unable to afford the \$50 registration fee email EasternRegionAPCE@gmail.com.

The deadline for receipt of payment is April 13, 2021. Your registration is complete when payment is received.