

HOW CAN YOUR CHURCH BECOME MORE VITAL IN 2024?

Presbytery Moderators from Lackawanna (Rev. Bill Carter) and Lehigh (Rev. Don Brown) have designated Congregational Care and Vitality as the focus of this year's Presbytery gatherings. Both our larger and smaller congregations, those already thriving and those sensing they cannot continue in their present form, will benefit from the variety of programs planned for our shared assemblies in 2024.

Mark your calendars! All are welcome! Come ready to consider new ways of being the church in the present and hear where God's Spirit may be leading your church in the future.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 17 | 10:00 AM

WYOMING VALLEY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
WILKES-BARRE

Rev. Stephen Emick (Lehigh) will explore what was shared in a recent denomination-wide online conversation focusing on congregations of 20 members or less. How do we resource and support them? What can they teach other congregations, even larger ones, who may be facing decline?

Rev. Tony Oltmann, Associate for Vital Congregations, Presbyterian Mission Agency, will describe the Seven Marks of a Vital Congregation. What does it look like for a congregation to be healthy and what might be preventing your church from claiming new vitality? Rev. Oltmann will share how your congregation can undertake an honest assessment, capture your own unique stories, confess your realities, and discern the Spirit's call to action.

SATURDAY

APRIL 27 | 10:00 AM

HOPE OF CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
SUMMIT HILL

SUNDAY

APRIL 28 | 10:30 AM

HOPE OF CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
SUMMIT HILL

Worship with Rev. Oltmann preaching, followed by an afternoon workshop with more in-depth conversation about church vitality

Tuning Up for Church Vitality workshops on a variety of topics to inspire new energy in your congregation, including music, stewardship, and technology

SUNDAY

JUNE 2 | 2:00 PM

MOUNTAIN TOP
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
MOUNTAIN TOP

CALENDAR OF *EVENTS*

MONDAY

JUNE 24 | TBD

KIRBY HOUSE
CONFERENCE CENTER,
MOUNTAIN TOP

Rev. Carol Howard has co-authored a new book, *Wounded Pastors, Navigating Burnout, Finding Healing, and Discerning the Future of your Ministry*. In this mini retreat for clergy, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and anyone involved in pastoral care, Rev. Howard will explore the challenges and demands of ministry, the pain and struggles that result, and where support and healing can be found.

Rev. Mark Elsdon recently edited a new book, *Gone for Good? Negotiating the Coming Wave of Church Property Transitions*, that explores the losses to our communities as church buildings are sold and converted to new purposes. He will help us consider how we might reimagine innovative uses for our church properties. Many (most?) of our congregations have more building than they need, making this a relevant and important conversation.

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 17 | 1:00 PM

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
HAZLETON

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 18 | TBD

TBD

Paul Grier, from the Presbyterian Foundation's Project Regeneration, works with congregations facing challenges revolving around property, giving, membership, or mission and seeking new ways of fulfilling their purpose. He will lead a conversation with churches ready to explore options for their future and write their next chapter.

Where are we in the merger process?
Presbytery leaders will provide an update on the merger, focusing on how combining as one presbytery will allow us to maximize the kinds of support we are able to offer our congregations and will create space and energy for new ministry and mission in Northeast Pennsylvania.

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 9 | 10:00 AM

CHESTNUT
RETREAT CENTER,
SAYLORSBURG