

Christian Academy 2024 Spring Classes

March 7, 2024

The Potomac Highlands District Board of Laity is pleased to announce this Spring's Lay Servant Ministry classes **on Friday April the 12th and Saturday the 13th** at First United Methodist Church, 32 North Davis Street, Keyser WV. 26726

This Spring's Academy will consist of one ten-hour in-person class and two eight-hour in-person courses with additional homework. Additionally, a ten-hour alternate course for one's personal enrichment is being offered as well. All of these courses are approved in advancing or beginning the journey of Lay Servant Ministries.

Lay Servant Ministries - Basic Course

Advance Course – Prayer

Advance Course – Preaching

Alternate Course – Sacraments of Baptism & Holy Communion

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

The ministry of the laity flows from a commitment to Christ's outreaching love. Lay members of the United Methodist Church are by history and calling active advocates of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every layperson is called to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); every layperson is called to be missional.

The witness of the laity, their Christ-like examples of everyday living as well as the sharing of their own faith experiences of the gospel, is the primary evangelistic ministry through which all people will come to know Christ. (Book of Discipline 2016). *The Ministry of the Laity*

LAY SERVANTS are called to serve the local church in any way in which their witness or leadership and service inspires the laity to deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship. The two categories of servanthood in the local church are:

1. **CERTIFIED LAY SERVANT** – Requirement: Obtain recommendation from your pastor and charge conference. Completion of the Basic Course, and one approved lay ministry course every three years of taking Basic.
2. **CERTIFIED LAY SPEAKER** – Completion of all Certified Lay Servant requirements and completing a track of study including courses on leading worship, leading prayer, discovering spiritual gifts, preaching, and United Methodist heritage and policy.

MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION STATUS

All certification holders must submit an annual report and renewal application to their charge conferences obtaining recommendation for continuing their certification from their pastor and members of the charge conference.

Please remember Lay Servant Ministries courses are open to everyone whether or not a participant desires recognition in certification. They are not only edifying, but fun to attend.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course (Two-day course Friday and Saturday)

Reverend Mike Funkhouser

This course is necessary for people wanting to become a local church lay servant and for those who have not had a Basic or Advanced class in over three years. The Basic Course includes a study guide of what it means to be God's called people and how we may be at work for God in our own communities. There is more to being a lay servant than just speaking. The course provides learning opportunities in three areas of service for lay servants: leading, caring and communicating.

Breakthrough Prayer (One day course - Saturday)

Reverend Lisa Fox

As we all know, prayer is the foundation upon which we build all ministries. The Prayer Initiative class is designed to equip leaders to breakthrough whatever may have been holding you back, and move into God's preferred future for your ministry. A prayer initiative is a movement. A movement to change the world, starting with your local community. The fuel of the church is not how many people are in the building on Sundays, or how much money is in the offering plate -- the fuel of the church is prayer. For this class, it is required to read the book "Open Road" by Sue Nilson Kibbey and answer the discussion/reflection questions at the end of each chapter. Since we are just meeting on Saturday, it is important to read and answer the questions prior to attending class.

Preaching (One day course – Saturday)

Reverend Scott Ferguson

Dig deeper into the art of preaching. What's the motivation for preaching? Learn to listen for God in the scripture. Outlines, Illustrations and Applications. Bring a Bible and a notebook.

NOTE: "Three Main Points." This class will take place on Saturday ONLY. Please plan to be present all day. Before class all participants are asked to produce an Outline that includes the following: (1) Sermon Title (2) Scripture Used (3) Main Points.

Please take time to prayerfully discern what you feel God is leading you to say and include this within the three main points. You will be preaching this sermon before class ends.

Sacraments of Baptism & Holy Communion (Two-day course Friday and Saturday)

Reverend Alana McGuinn

Using as the primary source Dr. Mark W Stamm's Sacraments & Discipleship: Understanding Baptism & the Lord's Supper in a UM Context, this class will be divided into two sessions. On Friday night, April 12 we will focus on baptism and on Saturday, the 13th, the focus will be on the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion.) In both sessions we will examine the history of each sacrament; the liturgy used; and the relationship between these sacraments and one's spiritual formation.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, April 12, 2024

Registration	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Opening Worship	6:30 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.
Classes	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, April 13, 2024

Opening Worship	8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m.
Classes	9:00 a.m. - Noon
Lunch	Noon - 12:45 p.m.
Classes	12:50 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.
Dismissal	

Consecration

Lay servants are persons who have responded to a call to serve the local church. Who have received specific training in developing skills in witnessing to our Christian faith. Who have been additionally called and adequately equipped to serve the church in pulpit supply. Who have made the commitment to sharing Christ's outreach through their profession of faith. Therefore, the Potomac Highland District of Lay Servant Ministries suggests this celebration of commitment be administered in front of the Lay Servants home church.

Registration Opportunities

You can register your courses on-line through the District web site; www.phdumc.org or mail the enclosed registration form to Aaron Himes at 3526 Needmore Road, Baker, WV 26801. Registration must be received one week prior to the Academy. To confirm course availability please contact Aaron by phone; 304-897-6413 or 301-667-1951 or email; lev8v12@aol.com Checks should be made out to the Potomac Highlands District Fund and paid at the Academy's check-in-table.

FEE: \$20.00 per person. Fee includes snacks, lunch, and registration.

Grace and blessings,

Betty H. Rizer
District Director of Lay Servant Ministries

2023 Christian Academy Fall Class Registration

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Church _____

Charge _____

Course Preference:

If the course of your choice is unavailable, please list two alternative classes.

Class Choice _____

Alternate 1 _____

Alternate 2 _____

Do you have any walking handicaps: Yes _____ No _____

Food Restrictions _____

Comment /

Notes: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____