

The Big Event 2020: “Where’s the Light?”

How is the church called to reframe her ministry in light of the change of society’s perspective on religion? This Big Event calls on the perspective of speakers from several denominations and ministries.

The Presbytery of Lake Erie invites you to a day filled with learning and worship. You will leave feeling encouraged, refreshed, and readied for joyful service to our Lord. The price for the day is only \$15.

We urge congregations to bring a team of listeners to cover all the workshops of interest.

A panel of four community and church leaders will kick off our day of exploration. Our guests include:

- Marcus Atkinson, Director of ServErie
- Josh Botts, Family and Youth Director, of the Second Presbyterian Church of Oil City
- Sr. Anne McCarthy, OSB, works toward new forms of ministry through Benetvision and Monasteries of the Heart
- The Honorable Joseph Schember, Mayor of the City of Erie

Schedule:

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome and Opening Worship

9:15 – 10:15 Panel

10:15 – 10:30 coffee break

10:30 – 11:30 Keynote Address

11:30 – 12:15 Lunch

12:15 – 1:30 PM workshops (offered only once)

Keynote Speaker: L. Roger Owens, Ph.D



We will welcome L. Roger Owens, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality and Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to speak on the subject: “Leadership in the Dark Night of the Church.” An ordained Elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Roger is the author of a number of books in spirituality. Among the courses he teaches at PTS are “Spiritual Formation,” “Parish Leadership and the Practice of Ministry,” and “Practicing Communal Discernment.”

Workshops:

- A. “Ministering to Young Adults” Alex Moldovan**, a former Resident Life director and now a second-year graduate student at Gannon who worships at FPCC and assists with Youth Programming, the Praise Band and College Ministry activities; **Jessie Hubert**, Director for Parish Support for the Diocese of Erie and former Director of the Center for Social Concerns at Gannon; **Jillian Zaczyk**, Director for Young Adult and Youth Ministry for the Erie Diocese will discuss what college students and young adult desire and how to guide them to successful outreach programs.
- B. “Living Better Stories” Rev. Jordan Rimmer**, pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church in New Castle: We are all living out stories, in our personal lives and in our churches. But sometimes we get writers block. Sometimes the stories get off track. In this workshop, Jordan will look at how story works and how understanding story can help churches to vital ministry. The language of this culture is story. We need to tell the Old Story again.

- C. “Trauma” Rev. Drew Himes**, pastor of The Church of the Cross and social worker specializing in the areas of adult survivors of sexual assault and substance addictions. Trauma is a wound that is created. Sometimes in our bodies; sometimes in our minds; but always in our spirits. Whether we are people of faith or simply unsure about God, we’re still wounded on a spiritual level when something out of the ordinary intersects with our lives. This short group will be a starting place to discuss how the church broadly and people of faith specifically can respond to trauma and help to walk alongside those still suffering. It is open to all people who wish to help others to heal their wounds.
- D. “Healthy Neighborhood; Healthy Church” Revs. Katherine Randall and Rob Klouw**, pastors of the First Presbyterian Church of Bradford, are engaged in community ministry in that city. Believing that the health of the church and the community are tied together, they will tell their story and make suggestions of how churches can reach out to their neighborhood.
- E. “Help, I’m Exhausted” Rev. Dr. David Oyler**, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Lake Erie; Does it seem like you are tired as a church leader but no one else steps forward to provide leadership? Have you run out of ideas and are anxious about the future of your church? Does it seem like the spirit (and the Spirit) is lagging in your journey of faith? If so, this workshop may spark your imagination. It is designed for elders and other church leaders who are eager to think forward – even when you sometimes feel exhausted.
- F. “Finding Your Calling” Marcus Atkinson** will share a program his church offers to help members find their ministry. Examining gifts and interest they discover where they are called to serve in the community.
- G. “Eyes Wide Open: Ministry Planning in the Dark Night of the Church” Roger Owens PTS**; When churches are in decline, they often think they need a strategic plan to get them out of decline. But what if a different approach is needed? What if churches don’t need so much a plan as a new posture of openness to God in the confusion and decline--something more like *strategic discernment*? This workshop will offer a process for ministry planning rooted more in discerning how God is leading than in coming up with a strategic plan that will save the day in a way that relates to each participants ministry context.

Registration Form:

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email address _____
Church _____

Workshop Choices: (Check One)

A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____
E _____ F _____ G _____

Babysitting:

Do you need babysitting? _____
Please provide ages _____
Special needs for child care _____

Parents are responsible for their children during the lunch hour. Parents can bring a meal for their children or purchase an adult meal for them.

Menu:

The noon meal will be provided by the host church, First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. Please call the presbytery office – 814-868-4891, Ext. 3 – if you have special dietary needs or with any questions.

Cost:

Cost is \$15, payable online, in advance by mail, or at the door. Cost includes the noon meal as well as participation in all the day’s events. Please register online at www.pbylakeerie.org or return this form via the mail by March 10, 2020.

Presbytery of Lake Erie
2816 Elmwood Avenue
Erie, PA 16508

Directions

First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

250 West 7th Street, Erie, PA
814-456-4243



Directions to the church: Exit Route 79 north at 12th Street and travel East. (this is the next exit to the right after the Mall exit). Take 12th street to Myrtle Street and turn left. Go five blocks north to 7th Street. Parking lots are across the street from each other on the right.

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Lake Erie
PRESBYTERY

March 28, 2020
First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant
250 West Seventh Street, Erie, PA 16501
9:00 AM to 1:30 PM