

2018 West District Day of Learning Workshops

Behind the Wall: A Firsthand Glimpse into the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

Rev. Jody Topping
Pastor, Faith UMC

In 2017, a resolution was approved by our Annual Conference which strongly urged persons traveling in the Holy Land to meet with UM Missionaries in the region in order to learn more about the impact of the Arab/Israeli conflict on Palestinian Christians. In this session, Jody will share her 2017 experience doing just that, and will discuss how to increase awareness of the overt, yet often ignored, oppression of Palestinians living in the Holy Land.

Caring for Your Congregation and Community (morning only)

Rev. Patti Blackwood
Minister of Congregational Care, Prescott UMC
Leigh Downing
Pastoral Assistant, Prescott UMC

People face life-changing challenges and losses every day: the death of a loved one, an unexpected move, a change in health status, and on and on. In this workshop we explore supportive, compassionate, and constructive ways to care for those facing these kinds of events.

Centering Prayer

Rev. Rock Fremont
Associate Pastor, Central UMC

Centering prayer is a simple yet profound method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of God's presence. In this workshop you will receive the tools and the encouragement to engage in this daily practice that has the potential to bring you into a deeper relationship with God.

Church Leadership the Disney Way (morning only)

Rev. Dan Hurlbert
Sr. Pastor, Prescott UMC

What are the secrets at the happiest place on earth? Come and learn church leadership in the Disney style. Rev. Dan Hurlbert has studied the Walt Disney Company for the last 20 years. Learn how you can make your church more inviting and intentional about mission.

Generational Challenges in Collaborative Ministry (morning only)

Rev. Dr. William M. Lyons
Conference Minister
Southwest Conference UCC

For the first time in American history, five generations (at least) are trying to make faith their own. What characterizes each generation? How does understanding each generation's values and views of institutions shift ministry paths from conflict to collaboration?

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry and Certified Lay Minister Programs (afternoon only)

Jeannie Ward
Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Roger Harlow and Sandy Kerr
Certified Lay Ministers

How do you feel the call to serve? These presentations will provide the steps and procedures to enter into one, or both, of these special ministries.

It's All About the Soul

Rev. Beth Rambikur
Director of Connectional Ministries
Desert Southwest Conference

Remember that old Billy Joel song: "It's all about soul, it's all about faith and a deeper devotion...cause under the love is a stronger emotion"? These words speak to the heart of connectional ministries, the shared life in The United Methodist Church that binds us together through Story, Outreach, Uniting hope, and Love. This workshop will be an introduction to the "SOUL" of our connectional work together, so come, learn, dream, and discover how it's all about SOUL.

O For a Thousand Tongues (afternoon only)

Joshua Elder
Worship leader, composer, and songwriter, First UMC, Phoenix

John and Charles Wesley understood the power music has to share deep theological ideas and embed them in the heart. But in our modern Christian musical scene, we have lost their methods of sharing the teachings that have set the Methodist Church apart from all the rest. Join us as we take a look at the writings of the Wesley brothers through a modern musical lens.