



February 12, 2017

### Could your church benefit from these sessions?

**On Monday, March 20th, Heather Kimmel, General Counsel of the United Church of Christ, will be leading three educational opportunities**

**#1** 10:00 am - "Best Practices for Boards and Councils" - She will help us understand what are the primary responsibilities, the legal obligations, and best practices for governing boards.



**#2** 2:00 pm - "The New PA State Child Abuse Laws" - This session is designed to speak to pastors, Christian educators, and youth ministers who are employees of a church.

Heather will review both the new child abuse reporting obligations and the required background checks for employees. Lay leaders are welcome to attend, however there will be a special event for them in the evening.

**#3** 7:00 pm - "The New PA State Child Abuse Laws for Volunteers" - This session will be similar to the afternoon session but will address the same issues as they pertain to local church volunteers.

There is no cost for these events. We are going to try and hold them at the PNEC Conference Office (in Palmerton), unless we have more register than we can accommodate at the Office. In that event we will move to a local church Fellowship Hall. Thus to help us please register early by calling or emailing either Barbara Jennings ([barbarj@pnec.org](mailto:barbarj@pnec.org)) or Patty Rehrig ([patty@pnec.org](mailto:patty@pnec.org)), 610-826-3113.

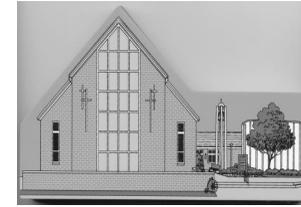
Heather E. Kimmel is the General Counsel of the United Church of Christ. She has been serving in that capacity since December 1, 2015. Prior to that, she served as Associate General Counsel of the United Church of Christ. Before joining the Office of General Counsel, she practiced in the areas of white-collar defense and complex civil litigation at Jones Day and Baker & Hostetler, as well as serving as a federal judicial clerk. She also served as an adjunct professor at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

**THANKS to PNEC for allowing us to join in on this great opportunity!**

### *Getting to Know :*

### **Christ Church UCC**

4870 Kutztown Rd and Euclid Ave, Temple, PA



Christ Church United Church of Christ, Temple, PA, seeks to embody its mission of "growing in discipleship and outreach that all may experience, live, and share the love of God." The pastor is the Rev. Dr. Harry L. Serio.

Recently, in order to maintain its viability as a congregation and serve the needs of the surrounding community, two congregations representing the changing ethnicity of the neighborhood were invited to share space for worship; a Haitian nondenominational church, Good Samaritan Church of God and the Berean Church of the New Covenant

Special worship services are held throughout the year that features various voice music traditions such as Southern Gospel, Celtic, Shape-Note singing and Jazz. It participates in the Berks Jazz Fest, and holds an annual All Saints Sunday Dixieland Jazz Service as well as a Blessing of the Animals with "Critter Music" by Dave Kline.

The church serves a free community dinner each month, participates in various local service projects, and is exploring other ways to extend its ministry.

Recognizing the changing spiritual/religious landscape, Christ Church is involved in "Spirit on Tap," a program designed to encourage theological discussion, explore alternative views and stimulate dialogue around issues of faith and spirituality. In partnership with two neighboring churches, it holds "Movie Nights," in which spiritual and social justice issues are presented through current film. The Reading Theater Project uses the churches facilities.



Christ Church is involved in the Spiritual Exploration Project, a multi-faceted community-based initiative to create greater understanding and harmony among various faith traditions that features dialogue among Christians, Jews, Muslims, and other faith expressions and those who are not part of any religious community; the development of a contemplative community; a storytelling group, and a justice and mercy task force.

Christ Church seeks to create an open and diverse environment for worship and spiritual expression where persons can encounter a God who is still speaking to them in a language they can understand; where each person strives to be the Christ to others and be the incarnation of God's presence in the world.

Prayers are requested for Christ Church UCC in Temple  
and Rev. Dr. Harry L. Serio

