



March 12, 2017

## Diagnosing The Health of Your Congregation

Congregational Training with Rev. Cean James begins:

### Diagnosing The Health of Your Congregation with Bowen Family Systems Theory

For about 20 years now, congregations have been using the work of psychiatrist Murray Bowen to better understand the church as a family system. Bowen Family Systems Theory provides congregational leaders with a framework for understanding behaviors they are experiencing in congregations.

Surely, congregations aren't families, yet in congregations of all sizes the relationships within the congregation sometimes have family-like intensity. "We allow behaviors in congregations that we would only allow in our family or (adversely) we allow behaviors in congregations that we would never allow in our family. Bowen Theory, when used well, builds awareness and confidence in the leader, provides a more objective view of the congregation, and calms anxiety. It allows thinking to catch up with praying and praying to catch up with thinking."

*\*Alban at Duke Divinity School is our primary resource.*



### ***This is open to everyone, especially pastors and church leaders.***

These sessions are free to attend. Three different locations are being offered.

Sessions will take place at:

March 18th @ Woodcrest UCC in Philadelphia

April 22nd @ Reformed Church of the Ascension in Norristown

April 29th @ St. Paul's in Auburn

To register for any of these sessions, log onto the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference website at [www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org).

## Getting to Know :

### First UCC

367 Washington St., Royersford, PA 19468



First UCC, Royersford is celebrating 125 years of serving God and serving others! Some highlights from the past few years include the continuing success of organizing Royersford's National Night Out, which has grown to over two blocks of food, games and fun while bringing the community together and supporting local law and emergency personnel.

First is also proud to be Open and Affirming showing the community we welcome everyone in the church's life and ministry. Currently, we are in the process of developing an online leadership training program thanks in part to a grant awarded by the conference. It is our hope that all churches in the conference will be able to benefit from this training.

Two years ago, First became determined to face head-on the pattern of decline that many churches are facing today. We created the "Our Church of the Future" project with the goal of developing a common understanding of what constitutes a successful church, and *make it happen!* With the formation of five action teams focusing on Family Fellowship, Communications, Ministries and Missions, Spiritual Opportunities, and Church Building and Grounds we continue to come up with new ideas, plan events and generate new enthusiasm. We have a new sense of urgency to generate excitement about Church, to create and effectively sustain Out-Reach Missions to meet peoples' need to be generous and do God's work in our communities, and In-Reach Missions that meet peoples' need to be brought closer to God and learn faith deepening and sharing. In short, we are living the good news: once again we are engaged in our faith, our churches, and our communities.



Prayers are requested for the congregation  
of First UCC in Royersford

