



May 20, 2018

### Is there any fire left in the belly of the body of Christ?

If we didn't know it before, we surely know it now, as the second chapter of Acts unfolds: this is no tame God who comes to us, no safe and predictable deity-- certainly not the one you worship from your safe and predictable pew. This is the God whose loving sometimes takes the form of scorching. And should. There are fears, "-isms", and cynical spirits that need to be burned away from your church your Christian life.

Before he left, Jesus told his friends he would send them the Advocate, the Comforter. Now, on this Pentecost Sunday, the Comforter comes as wind and flame, reminding us that comfort is not always comfortable. It makes itself known in community where we find the most searing challenges—and the deepest blessings—we will ever know.

Jan Richardson writes about that blessing in a manner that is particularly relevant for your church: *"To bear this blessing, you must first take yourself to a place where everyone does not look like you or think like you; a place where they do not believe precisely as you believe, where their thoughts and ideas and gestures are not exact echoes of your own.*

*Bring your sorrow. Bring your grief. Bring your fear. Bring your weariness, your pain, your disgust at how broken the world is...by its fighting, its hungers, its penchant for power, its ceaseless repetition of the history it refuses to rise above. I will not tell you this blessing will fix all that.*

*But in the place where you have gathered, wait. Watch. Listen. Lay aside your inability to be surprised, your resistance to what you do not understand. See then whether this blessing turns to flame on your tongue, sets you to speaking what you cannot fathom or opens your ear to a language beyond your imagining that comes as a knowing in your bones that...this is the reason we were made, for this ache that finally opens us, for this struggle, this grace that scorches us toward one another and into the blazing day."*

The world outside your church is wondering, 'is there any fire left in the belly of the body of Christ? Does anything ignite the souls of the people who go there? Are they the carriers of the flame that transforms the world?' Today is our day to offer the world a resounding "YES!"

- Rev. William P. Worley, Conference Minister

## Ventures 2018

Date: September 25-27, 2018

Begins: 11:00 am Tuesday

Ends: After lunch Thursday

Where: Mariawald Renewal Center

1094 Welsh Rd., Reading



### "Listening to Your Life"

Ventures, in its 43rd year, is a retreat for all ages. It is a time of faith, Bible study, worship, fellowship and fun! Come and experience a beautifully relaxed and peaceful setting at Mariawald Renewal Center. This year's theme "Listening to Your Life" will provide participants with an opportunity to reflect on their life and faith journey thus far, focusing on learnings and memories at the various stages of their lives from childhood to seasoned maturity.



Full time: \$160. pp—(program, 2 overnights w/ double occupancy, 7 meals)

Full time Commuter: \$100. pp—(program & 5 meals)

Wednesday only: \$65.pp—(program, lunch & dinner)

Scholarship funds: Contact Rev. Worley @ PSEC, 484-949-8774 x 308 or Worley@psec.org

For more information contact: June Rung @ jrung1@hometownu.com or 610-683-6563

A limited number of single rooms are available at \$175. Contact June Rung for information.

**REGISTER AT: <https://psecventures18.eventbrite.com>**