



July 22, 2018

## How to Understand Your Community

The “How to Understand Your Community” workshop will explain how to use all of the information gathered from MissionInsite to benefit the missions and ministries of your local congregation.

**Workshop: Friday, August 3rd. 6:30—8:30 pm**  
**@ Zwingli UCC, Souderton**

\$20.00 per individual or \$50 for a church “group”

**Register at: [psecmissioninsite.eventbrite.com](https://psecmissioninsite.eventbrite.com)**

MissionInsite empowers faith-based and nonprofit organizations with the tools they need to visualize and cultivate their current and prospective members, donors and volunteers and solve their most difficult challenges. With a combined experience in the fields of non-profit and church development, strategic planning and mission context analysis.

**Sign YOUR church up today!!**



## Ways To Help Disaster Survivors

[12 Ways You Can Help Disaster Survivors Recover Through UCC Disaster Ministries Organize a U.S. disaster recovery work team. Just a week of your time will help disaster survivors rebuild their homes and lives.](#)

Read about it on the PSEC Website ([psec.org](https://psec.org)) at:  
[psec.org/resources/ways-to-help-disaster-survivors/](https://psec.org/resources/ways-to-help-disaster-survivors/)

## What or Who Do You Love?

What or who do you love? What or who do you absolutely love the most in your entire life? I am talking about something/someone you love with your entire being, something or someone that you would be willing to give your life in order to protect.

Jesus is asked to illustrate what he believes to be the essential understanding of our relationship with God. In an effort not to be encumbered by legalism, Jesus cites two commandments direct from Jewish traditions. And Jesus, with two strokes of a very tiny brush, is able to create a masterpiece portraying the very foundation undergirding the relationship between the human and divine—and that is, our love for God and our love for our neighbor.

Did you ever stop to think how our world would be different if we could simply love our neighbor the way that Jesus expects us to? We would not have to get out of bed every morning and listen to news broadcast about yet another person with an automatic weapon killing innocent people for no reason at all. We wouldn't have to be worried about when and where the next terrorist strike will come. There would be no shut-down of our government because all people would be concerned for the welfare of others.

The ability to love our neighbor is essential in our ability to exist as a people of God. Our ability to love others is the only thing in our lives that guarantees the survival of the human race. It is not the stock market, not a cure for AIDS, not being the most powerful nation in the world. It is our ability to love.

I have noticed lately that there is a lot of conversation around morality and whose responsibility it is for the morality of the world. I don't know about you, but I don't want that responsibility. Jesus doesn't say that it is our responsibility to enforce morality in the world. Jesus says that it is our responsibility to love God and love others. Love!

I have found in my own spiritual journey that when I love God with my entire being, I am so filled with God's presence and Spirit that I can do nothing less than love those around me. Loving God is to love others! It is that simple.

The church stands on the edge of a new day. I believe that it is the church that can lead the way in showing society a new way of being community. We have the opportunity to show the world what it means to love one another. The church can be the one place that we can come and be brothers and sisters in Christ. The church can be the place where we come with all of our differences and our opinions and yet we can love one another enough to be in conversation and genuinely care for one another. That is what Jesus is calling us to do every day! Love God with all of your heart, soul, and mind. And love others! It is as simple as that. Loving others is a choice we make. I pray you choose love!

- Rev. Sharon S. Morris, Associate Conference Minister PSEC