



May 12, 2019

## 2019 PSEC Annual Meeting

May 31—June 1

@West Chester University

### Are your delegates registered?

Author, speaker, activist, and public theologian, Brian McLaren will join us to facilitate the weekend. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for “a new kind of Christianity” – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. We will use this time to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ and each other and to strengthen our gifts to ministry in service to God's people.

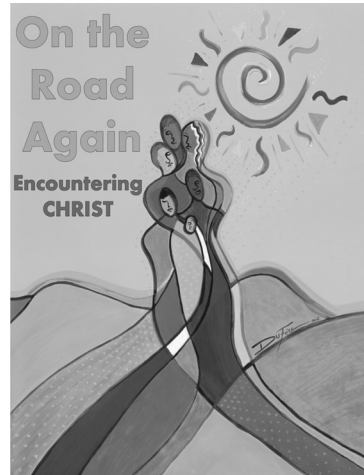
**Register at: <https://psecannual19.eventbrite.com>**



## Church Opens Day-Long Mission Trip To Others July 27th

St. Peter's UCC in Pine Grove is traveling to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg on July 27. Mission Central is a mission of the Susquehanna Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. They are a fantastic resource for disaster ministries and much more, who are continuing to assist in the flood recovery efforts in eastern PA.

The purpose of the trip is to do some work around their warehouse. The group from St. Peter's will be leaving their church at 7:45am and working in Mechanicsburg from 9am-2pm. To get more information or register please contact Pastor Jason Stump at 757-630-6577 or [pastorstump@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstump@gmail.com).



## Happy Mother's Day!

I have mixed emotions about Mother's Day. To be honest I never liked it. In fact, as a mother, I often thought it was punishment. The church often had a breakfast to celebrate mothers which meant I had to get the children up earlier on a Sunday morning—more work for me. Now that my mother has died, it is a day of emotions and missing her more.



Mother's Day was about the only Sunday in the church of my youth that you heard about women. I never even thought of God as Mother, because I grew up in a church that depicted and spoke of God as male. That is all I ever knew until I attended seminary. Then on a cross-cultural trip to Ghana, West Africa, I learned that the Ghanaians have two names for God, one is masculine and one is feminine. That was eye-opening and I resonated with that. Unfortunately, the German missionaries told them that was wrong, they could only worship one God. What a loss.

As we look at history, why has the church not thought of God as much a Mother as a Father? We, the church, have lost so much because of that. Because of the belief that God is male, many women have been looked at as second-class citizens. Because of that belief, female pastors face so much more resistance than male clergy. Both have been called by God, so why does their gender make a difference in pastoring a church?

Matthew 23:37 states “How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings...” This scripture certainly depicts God as feminine, a mother hen gathering her chicks.

Can you see God as a mother that gathers her children in order to protect them just as you think of God as Shepherd? Can you worship a God that is a mother that loves and nurtures her children just as you worship a God as King of Kings? Can you worship God as mother and father?

I am very aware that not everyone has/had a mother that they choose to celebrate. However, I also know that at some time in your life, there was a woman that supported you, nurtured you, and encouraged you to become the person you are today.

On this Mother's Day, I pray that you can begin to think of God so much larger and more than we as humans can even imagine. God is not something that we can make in our own image. God is indeed male and female and even more.

-Rev. Sharon S. Morris, Associate Conference Minister