

2021 Annual Meeting  
June 5, 2021  
**Workshop Descriptions**

**All Workshops are being offered at the same time slot: 1:00 – 2:30**

**Deepening Our Connection to God's Abundance: Moving Away from the Scarcity Model  
with Rev. Sara Hertzog**

Description: *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it abundantly."* ~ John 10:10b  
Sometimes it's hard to believe, much less follow what Jesus said. We live out our lives believing if we only had more money, a better job, a more fit body, ..... we would be happier. In the church we start to believe if we only had more young families, better givers, visitors, a larger choir, ..... all our problems would be solved. How could our lives change if we focused on what we have - instead of what we don't have. Imagine a church believing these words from Jesus. A church, instead of dwelling on the negative, living out their abundance. The possibilities are endless!

**Deepening Our Journey: Stepping into the Church of the Future  
with Rev. Josh Blakesley and Rev. Cean James**

Description: Many years ago, Charles Wesley wrote these words in a hymn, "To serve this present age, my calling to fulfill." We live in an ever evolving and progressing society, while the church is often considered a relic, animatedly resisting change. Effective congregations, of all varieties, have this in common; they adapt to "serve this present age." In this workshop we will discuss how both traditional and contemporary churches can adapt to serve their community while remaining true to their core values and mission.

**Deepening Our Connection with our Youth through Conversation: OWL Sexuality Education  
with Rev. Kim Kendrick**

Description: Our Whole Lives and Sexuality and Our Faith create a partnership between the family and faith community, and they help parents fulfill their role as their children's primary educators. The curricula support and nurture four sexuality values: Self Worth, Sexual Health, Responsibility, and Justice and Inclusivity. Participants learn how to embody these values in their own decision making and relationships and how to support others' efforts to do so.

**Deepening Our Journey: Jesus Justice  
with Rev. Dr. Steve Ohnsman, PhD**

Description: The use of the phrase "social justice" has become of concern for some who believe it is more focused on politics than faithfulness. Steve considers the justice concerns in the teachings of Jesus and how the church should respond to His commitment to doing the work of Jesus Justice in the world. Steve is the pastor of Calvary UCC in Reading, Pa. He has an M. Div. from Drew Theological Seminary, a D. Min from United Theological Seminary, and a PhD from Alvernia University.

**Deepening Our Journey: Repurposing Your Church  
with Jill White**

Description: What's your congregation's mission? What are your congregation's distinctive gifts for ministry? What needs does your community have? In today's world churches must understand their purpose and their "why" in order to be most faithfully effective. A "Repurposing" process can help your church make sure that your mission (your "why"), your assets (people, gifts, and property), and your community's needs are in alignment. This workshop will describe and provide tools for an intentional process that your church can use to help ensure that alignment. Examples will also be shared of how a few UCC congregations transformed their lives, mission and community presence through the use of their buildings and campus.

## **Doing the Most & Going Nowhere: Deepening our Journey When We Feel Stuck**

**with Rev. Kimberly Berenotto** *This workshop is only open to Middle and High School Youth.*

Has this past school year felt like spinning in circles instead of moving forward? Life can often feel like we're doing so much, but going nowhere. Take some steps with us to head in the direction God is calling you, creating your own path, walking your own faith journey. We'll play games, engage in videos, check out some scriptures, reconnect with ourselves and God, and figure out what might be next when we follow the spirit's guidance.

## **Deepening Our Journey: A Path to Retirement**

**with Baheru Mengistu, Pension Counselor of The Pension Boards United Church of Christ, Inc.**

Path to Retirement, will detail the mileposts along the way toward this new region of your life. Baheru will talk about your investments in the Annuity Plan, your options for withdrawal, lifetime income, and further investment, and the resources available to guide you along the way.