

“PSEC Strong” General Synod Kick-off Event – Walk/Ride Event

Our General Synod this year will be all virtual, so we are trying to provide some opportunities to have Conference-focused, in-person connection. Beginning Friday, July 9th-Saturday, July 10th we will be hosting a “PSEC Strong” event along the Schuylkill River Trail, a time for fellowship and fun physical activity together. There are opportunities for everyone at every level of physical fitness to participate, and you can participate in all/specific parts of the weekend (see the schedule below for how to “jump in.” Hope you can join us!

We’ll gather each day from 8:30-9:30 am and 11:00am-1:00pm for a time of fellowship with light refreshments. We recommend bringing your own meals; snacks and drinks will be available. At each gathering point, we’ll offer some instructions for the hike or ride ahead. The schedule should give our bikers enough time to get from one gathering point to the next, and our walkers enough time to enjoy a nice hike, return to the parking lot, and drive to the next gathering point to meet the bikers!

If you are planning to bike all or part of the trail with us, please be aware that you will need transportation back to your car at whatever gathering point you begin your journey.

Friday – July 9th

8:30-9:30am –Gather at the Kernsville Recreation Area
25 Kernsville Dam Rd
Hamburg, PA

9:30am – Hikers will walk north to Port Clinton (or as far as you’d like!) before returning to Kernsville. Bikers will head south to Gring’s Mill. Bikers, please be aware that this portion of the Trail includes some on-road/off trail ride for bikers – this is the most intermediate/difficulty part of the event, and will take you to Gring’s Mill via the Union Canal Trail.

11:00am-1:00pm – Gather at Gring’s Mill, we’ll meet near the barn!
2083 Tulpehocken Rd
Reading, PA

1:00pm – There are a few options for hikers at Gring’s Mill, depending on how far you want to walk. Bikers will take the trail to Union Meadows Community Park Trailhead. This portion of the trail is an easy to medium difficulty ride.

The bikers will arrive at Fork & Ale Restaurant, 1281 E Main St, Douglassville, PA 19518, around 3:30pm. Anyone who would like to meet for a meal Friday afternoon is welcome, please RSVP so we can make a reservation! (Meal cost is at your own expense.)

Saturday – July 10th

8:30-9:30am –Gathering at Gay Street Trailhead

42 Gay St.

Phoenixville, PA 19460

9:30am – Hikers will walk north to Parkerford Trailhead (or as far as you like!) before returning to the Gay Street Trailhead. Bikers will take the trail south to Betzwood. This portion of the trail is an easy to medium difficulty ride.

11:00am-1:00pm – Meet at Betzwood/Valley Forge Trailhead

Sullivans Lane

Norristown, PA

1:00pm – Hikers will explore the Valley Forge National Park. Bikers will take the trail south to the Philadelphia Art Museum. This portion of the trail is an easy to medium difficulty ride.

Bikers will arrive at the Philadelphia Art Museum around 3:30 PM, meet them there to celebrate!

5:00pm – Kick-off Party at Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia! Please RSVP! Salt and Light Church is graciously providing transportation for riders back to Valley Forge and Phoenixville. Please let Nichole know if you need to take advantage of this service.

- We are looking for a couple churches to provide refreshments – water, Gatorade, granola bars, etc. If you are interested in providing this, please email Rev. Selina Hamilton at selinahamilton@gmail.com.
- If you are interested in participating in the walking sections, please email Rev. Becky Hoover at revrjph@outlook.com
- If you are interested in riding (bicycle), please email Rev. Nichole Jackson at Nichole.b.jackson@gmail.com