

LAITY ACADEMY – FALL 2022: SCRANTON WILKES-BARRE DISTRICT
SIXTEEN CLASSES, SIX LOCATIONS and VARIOUS DATES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

The Scranton Wilkes-Barre Laity Academy is for all laity interested in growing in their faith journey. Both basic and advanced classes are available for those who need recertification or want to begin the Lay Servant process. **HOWEVER**, participants do not have to be a lay speaker or lay servant to take courses. All laity are welcome! (Note: Pastors may attend classes as well and will receive CEUs.)

Cost per Course: \$30.00 (plus the purchase of your own books*)

Pre-registration is required. Three ways to register:

1. Go to sign-up at: (and mail a check)
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E49A9AF2DAAF58-layacademy>
2. Scan and e-mail registration to scrantonwilkesbarre.org (and mail a check)
3. Check the class you are registering for on the form, fill out the information below and send registration and payment to:

Scranton Wilkes-Barre District Office UMC
40 Knob Hill Road
Trucksville, PA 18708
(Check made payable to: SUSUMC)

Registration is not complete until payment is received.

I would appreciate a scholarship for class payment.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Church: _____

* Required books are listed with each class. Please indicate the following:

- I will purchase my own book(s).
- Please purchase the book(s) for me and I will bring payment to the first class.
- I would appreciate a scholarship for book purchases.

REGISTRATIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

September 17 and October 1 (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)
Shavertown United Methodist Church
163 N. Pioneer Avenue, Shavertown, PA 18708

O Basic Lay Speaking

Instructor: Jane O'Connell, Laity, Plains UMC

Lay Speaking is the first step to begin your faith journey. It will give you many opportunities to serve the local and greater Church. This class will familiarize you with all area of ministry and provide an opportunity to explore them. Many journeys of service to the church begin with this class.

Required Books: Lay Servants Ministry Basic Course

<https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR626/lay-servant-ministries-basic-course-participants-book.aspx> Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course

Bible will be needed.

O Christians and Racial Justice: Why We Are Called to Build a Beloved Community (and how to start)

Instructors: Pastor Robin Fillmore, Pastor, Lake Winola/Falls UMC

Brien & Liz McChesney, Youth Ministry at Lake Winola UMC

Jesus taught his followers about building a different kind of world where the powerful and the powerless can imagine and realize a just world together. Prophetic voices such as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have used the language of Beloved Community to describe the hope of building God's kingdom in our lives today, yet we still see racial strife and division in our country and in our churches. In this class, we will explore the embedded sin of racism, how it has affected the treatment of our African-American brothers and sisters throughout our nation's history and the meaning of repentance. We will then explore ways that we can be advocates for the Beloved Community in our churches.

Required Book: America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis

O Introduction to Lay Ministry for Youth

Instructor: Cathy Berkey, Laity, Shavertown UMC

Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended. Specifically designed for youth.

Required books: Lay Servant Ministries—Basic Course

<https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR626/lay-servant-ministries-basic-course-participants-book.aspx>

Copy of the "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" by Christine Hartman, Ed.D found at:

<http://good-assets.s3.amazonaws.com>

September 21 through October 19 (Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:30 PM)

Central UMC

65 Academy Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

O Introduction to Biblical Storytelling

Instructor: Rev. Laura Kyler, Lehman-Idetown UMC

The Bible is more than dry words on a page or screen. It is the Living Word of God! This course will introduce methods to help bring the Scriptures alive in a meaningful and memorable way.

Participants will learn to “tell” two stories by heart (not memory) – one assigned and one of their choosing – so that they can present Scriptures dynamically in their ministry settings.

Required Book: *Story Journey: An Invitation to the Gospel as Storytelling* by Thomas E.

Boomershine (available on Amazon; www.abebooks.com – this site is reliable and sometimes has better prices than Amazon; and other sites)

A Bible

O Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition

Instructor: Rev. Craig Gommer, Wilkes-Barre Cooperative Parish

Structured around Wesley’s “means of grace,” this study covers, among other topics, prayer, Scripture, the Lord’s Supper, and fasting – major features in John Wesley’s devotional life.

Participants will learn how they can apply Wesley’s ministry to their own life.

Required Book: *Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition* by Steve Harper

O Beginning to Preach God’s Word for All

Instructor: Pastor Eric Luczak, Court Street and Embury

Be ready to preach God’s word in any situation. This course is for all who want to preach at their church or beyond.

Required Book: *Called to Preach-From Pew to Pulpit: A Beginners Guide To Preaching*, Clifton F. Guthrie

September 17 and October 1 (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

Central Honesdale UMC

205 11th St, Honesdale, PA 18431

O Soul Reset

Instructor: Allison Francesco, Deaconess, Beach Lake UMC

How can leaders nurture their own souls during seasons of chaos, anxiety, and distress? The course, Soul Reset: Relearning the Rhythms of Grace Through Daily Life with God, based on the book by Junius B. Dotson, helps laity discover and lead others into the spiritual power of self-care through the means of grace.

Required Book: Soul Reset Participant's Guide

<https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/1896/soul-reset.aspx>

O GROW! (Basic Course) (Sessions 1-4)

Instructor: Megan Wessman, Laity, Damascus/Abrahamsville Charge

GROW! is the response of the Growing Spiritual Leadership vision focus for the Susquehanna Conference UMC. This course challenges you to grow in your spiritual life and ministry setting, addressing best practices for leading in these in-between times: between what used to work and what we don't know will work yet. The full 8-week course meets the requirements for those in the Local Church Lay Servant, Certified Lay Servant, or Lay Speaker programs and is open to anyone who wants to deepen their faith—both laity and clergy. This course may also be taken as an Advanced Class for recertification. This course will cover the first four GROW! sessions, which focus on spiritual practices, gratitude, discipleship and clarity of purpose.

Required Book: Simple Harmony: Thoughts on Holistic Christian Life by Larry Duggins

O The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation

Instructor: Rev. Judy Walker, Conference Superintendent

Every church deals with conflict, both healthy and unhealthy, but perhaps even more so in this season of uncertainty and division. Transforming conflict into a positive rather than a negative force is a spiritual pursuit and needs to be grounded in biblical principles: love of God, neighbor, and self. We can be equipped and empowered to help lead through times of conflict as a time of transformation.

Required Book: The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of Justpeace by Thomas Porter

For Clergy Only:

September 17, 2022 (only); 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

O Boundaries Course for Clergy Only

Instructor: Rev. Kathy Kind, Susquehanna Conference Director of Connectional Ministries

Required training every four years for clergy.

Please register through the District Office at scrantonwilkesbarre@susumc.org

*Note: No payment required.

October 8 and October 29 (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

First UMC New Milford

69 Pratt St, New Milford, PA 18834

O Leading Prayer

Instructor: Rev. Laura Kincaid, First UMC New Milford

Prayer is something we learn; it is something that can be taught. For many, however, the only teaching about prayer they ever receive is modeled in Sunday worship. This course may challenge some of your assumptions, test some of your preconceived ideas, stretch your thinking, and enrich your prayer life. It will, at the very least, present you with an opportunity to grow in the discipline of leading public prayer.

Required Books:

“Let the Whole Church Say Amen!” By Laurence Hull Stookey

“I’m Praying for You” by Nancy Guthrie

O Leading Congregational Worship

Rev. Michelle Whitlock, Pastor, Hawley UMC

Understand and apply the basic pattern of worship in the United Methodist Church. Develop your understanding of the sacraments and learn practical tips for leading worship with your congregation.

Required Book: *Worshiping with United Methodists Revised Edition: A Guide for Pastors and Church Leaders*

By Hoyt Hickman

<https://a.co/d/8vTcZ4P>

This Holy Mystery

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/this-holy-mystery-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-holy-communion>

By Water and the Spirit

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/by-water-and-the-spirit-full-text>

O Basic Lay Speaking

Instructor: Rev. Judy Walker, Conference Superintendent

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Required Books: Lay Servants Ministry Basic Course

<https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR626/lay-servant-ministries-basic-course-participants-book.aspx> Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course

Bible will be needed.

October 15 and 29 (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

Dalton UMC

125 S Turnpike Rd, Dalton, PA 18414

O Why Preach in 2022?

Instructors: Rev. Jim Hollister, Pastor, Countryside UMC
Ron Lucas, Laity, Dalton UMC

Why Preach in 2022? Not so much, Why do YOU preach, but Why do we preach in 2022, in this place and time? What purpose does it serve? What do we hope to accomplish—what do we believe God wants to accomplish? We will explore these questions and others that you bring with you, so that we would preach with more humility and confidence, more obedience and effectiveness. We'll look not only at the act of preaching, but also at preaching's role in worship and in the process of disciple-making as a whole. You are invited to enter this conversation as we seek to learn from each other and hear again what God would say to us, so that God may speak through us.

Required books for participants:

Preachers Dare: Speaking for God, Will Willimon (Paperback ISBN: 9781791008055)

Deepening Your Effectiveness: Restructuring the Local Church for Life Transformation, Dan Glover and Claudia Lavy (Paperback ISBN: 978-0-88177-475-7)

O Spiritual Giftedness – Accepting and Unwrapping Yours

Instructor: Rev. Tenny Rupnick, Pastor, Tunkhannock UMC

Are you aware of the spiritual gifts you have been (and are being) handed by God? Have you ever thought about your role in accepting them and then unwrapping them? This course offers an opportunity to recognize, accept, and unwrap your God-given gifts for use in our Christian community and your lay ministry by highlighting a scriptural understanding of spiritual gifts as always given “for the common good.”

Required Book: *For the Common Good: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts*
Christine Harman

<https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR958/for-the-common-good.aspx>

O Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (UM Heritage)

Instructors: Bob Baker, Laity, East Lemon UMC

Tom Meyer, Laity, Gibson/S. Gibson Charge

In this course participants will: discover the relationship of doctrine to the missional movement of Methodism and its theological influence on the practical structure and disciplines of early Methodists; learn about the formation of Methodist denominations as an important part of the history of The United Methodist Church; explore the Wesleyan understanding of grace, the means of grace, and how practicing spiritual disciplines leads to holiness of heart and life.

Required Book: *Living our Beliefs*, Kenneth L. Carder

<https://bookstore.upperroom.org/Products/DR571/living-our-beliefs.aspx>

GROW! CLASS BY ZOOM ONLY

Mondays Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21

6:30 to 8:30 PM

O GROW! Living as Spiritual Transformational Leaders (CLASS BY ZOOM ONLY)

Leader: Pastor Cathy B. Wilcox

The GROW! course is designed to help you deepen, on a more personal level, your connection with God and explore how God wants to use you right now. There are a total of eight GROW! sessions. This course will cover the first four GROW! sessions, which focus on spiritual practices, gratitude, discipleship and clarity of purpose. It will be offered on Zoom in the Fall. (The last four GROW! sessions, which focus on the leadership skills of change-making, mentoring, identifying your purpose and collaboration, will be offered on Zoom in the Winter.)

Required book for participants in the Fall sessions:

Simple Harmony, Larry Duggins (2018) <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/simple-harmony-larry-duggins/1111776840>

- read before session 1

Technology required: Participants need an internet connection and free Zoom account on a device with a camera - so we can see each other and participants can see the slides. Go to <https://zoom.us/signup> to set up an account. The ability to print the material is desired but not required.

Other needs: A willingness to complete homework each day. The experiential learning activities (homework) will help participants to develop lifelong spiritual practices that are essential for drawing nearer to God. Without this practice, the course will have less meaning.