



June 23 – June 27
Northwest Christian Church
1340 Fishinger Road
Columbus, Ohio

Schedule for the Week

Monday

- 3:30pm - Check in begins
- 5:00pm - Welcome & overview
- 5:30pm - Dinner on site
- 6:15pm - Choir practice
- 7:00pm - Opening vespers

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

- 8:30am - Continental breakfast
- 8:45am - Devotions
- 9:00am - Bible lecture
- 10:45am - Morning workshops
- 12:00pm - Lunch
- 1:00pm - Forum speakers

2:15pm - Afternoon workshops
3:30pm - Community input groups
4:00pm - Free time
5:00pm - Dinner
6:15pm - Choir practice
7:00pm - Vespers service

Friday

8:30am - Continental breakfast
8:45am - Devotions
9:00am - Bible Lecture wrap up
10:30am - Closing

Meals

All continental breakfasts, lunches, and Monday and Thursday dinners are served in the church fellowship hall. Tuesday and Wednesday evening dinners are "on your own" with optional organized meal groups.

Hotel Information

Hampton Inn & Suites Columbus-University Area, 3160 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH 43202

Participants will reserve their own room, but a block of rooms is saved for our Adult Conference.

Call +1 (614) 268-8700 to make your reservations.

The group code is 902 and is called "Christian Church In Ohio 2025."

Morning Devotions

8:45am in the Fellowship Hall

- Tuesday - Rev. David Zerby, First Christian Church Mansfield
President, Adult Conference 2025
- Wednesday - Cheryl Nagy, Southside Christian Church, Lima
Past President and Secretary, Adult Conference 2025
- Thursday - Pat Neidhard, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Cincinnati
Planning Team, Adult Conference 2025
- Friday - Rev. Mark Anthony, St. John's UCC, Germantown
Vice President, Adult Conference 2025

Join Our Adult Conference -Conference Choir

Michael Grimm, Director

Calling all musicians! You are invited to join the Adult Conference Choir, under the direction of Michael Grimm. Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or just love to sing casually, Conference Choir is a welcoming space to make music, build community, and experience the simple yet deep joy of singing together. The choir will learn several songs to share during the Wednesday and Thursday night Vespers services. Rehearsals are relaxed and encouraging - no pressure, just harmony and happiness.

We will meet and rehearse as a choir Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 6:15pm.

Michael Grimm (郭文星) is the Director of Worship Music at Saint Andrew Christian Church in Dublin, where he leads worship music on piano, organ, and guitar, as well as conducting seasonal chamber ensembles.

Our Keynote Speaker: Morning Bible Lecturer & Evening Vespers

Rev. Carl Robinson

Through nearly forty years of ministerial leadership in the United Church of Christ, Rev. Carl Robinson has served three congregations, Zion UCC, Junction City Kansas, Christ UCC, Evansville, Indiana, and Shiloh Church UCC, Dayton, Ohio, the Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association, as its Association Minister, taught at two universities, lectured at two seminaries, and is now semi-retired. Carl is currently working to develop a curriculum, for local church use, on quality adult faith formation. This six-part series will provide both structure and content for providing a program of sustained adult faith formation in churches and study groups. Carl resides just north of Dayton, Ohio, spending his spare time on yard and household improvements, care of four grandchildren, studying and writing. The content of the biblical study portion of the Adult Conference comes from the adult faith formation materials.

Morning Bible Lecture Series: Recovery of Jesus Ethic in Progressive Theology

- Tuesday - Application of Bible in Theologies
Introduction of NT Theologies; Paul and Liberal Theology
Philippians 2: 1-11
- Wednesday - Gospel Era
Imminent and delayed Parousia
Matthew 25: 31-40
- Thursday - Institutional Age
Universal Letters and Epistles
John 14: 1-14
- Friday - The Jesus Ethic
Precursor to Progressive Theology
Luke 4: 16-30

Afternoon Forum Speakers 1:00pm in the Sanctuary

- Tuesday - Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister, Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) & Rev. Patricia Battle, Association Minister for Central SouthEast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference, UCC.
- Wednesday - Dr. Peter Makari, Global Relations Minister, Middle East and Europe

- Thursday – Mr. Curtis Veiock, Regional Director for Growing Hope Globally

Workshops and Presenters - Tuesday

- **Pro-Reconciliation Anti-Racism Session 1**

We will gather together for rich spirit-led conversation to help raise awareness about Pro Reconciliation and Anti-Racism and how each of us can effect change. We will discuss various aspects and experiences of Racism and provide a safe place to start conversations in hopes of moving each of us forward in our Pro Reconciliation and Anti-Racism Ministry commitment.

Rev. Dr. Alecia Hayes, Bethany Christian Church

Rev. Jeff Wilder, First Christian Church Middletown

- **Safe Sanctuaries Session 1**

This multi-day workshop is designed to guide church leaders in understanding the necessity of having policies in place that ensure children's safety and begin creating a policy for their local congregation. Churches may choose to send one leader to participate in this workshop or a team of leaders. There will be time to work together throughout the week on individualized plans.

Topics explored: Why do we need a Safe Sanctuary policy? What should be included in this policy? Who should be involved in putting it together? What process should we

follow? How do we share the policy with our volunteers and congregation? Sample policies from different sized congregations will be provided. Throughout the week participants will have an opportunity to begin evaluating their church's current practices, identify their goals, and leave with a plan for how they will move through this process with their congregation.

If you have questions, please reach out to Reverend Laureen Roe at RevRoe3000@gmail.com

Rev. Laureen A. Roe, First Christian Church, Zanesville

- **Aging Abundantly Session 1**

Tuesday - Scams and Financial Exploitation of Older Adults

Wednesday - Talking About Faith: Helping Elders Share Their Faith Wisdom

Thursday - Supporting Solo Agers

In the first session we will discuss scams and financial exploitation of older adults, the signs someone close to you may be the potential victim of a scam, the many types of scams present today, and the moral and legal obligations of self and church when financial abuse is suspected or occurred. We will wrap up the session with take-away and online resources for what to do in the event of financial exploitation.

In the second session we will look at how we can help people, especially elders, overcome their fear of talking

about their faith with others and how talking about our faith can build a deeper relationship with children, youth, and adults. We'll offer strategies for opening questions, story preparation, and how to avoid conversation killers.

In the third session we will look at vulnerable solo agers, who, by definition, live alone, are unmarried and either childless or distant from any children or other family members. These individuals are at greater risk for loneliness, depression, health and financial struggles. We will consider specific strategies around purpose, connections, and service that both individuals and groups can do to best support vulnerable solo agers.

Rev. Darla Metz and Rev. Kim Moeller, United Church Homes

- **Spiritual Practices: Learning to Listen Session 1**

These are contentious times. How do we find the spiritual grounding to have conversations with others who see the world differently? Let's explore how we can learn to listen to each other and not just hear what they are saying. We'll discuss the things that get in the way and the mindset we need to have to make sure all voices are heard and valued.

Alejandro Rodriguez, Executive Director, The Spirituality Network

Rev. Seth Stearns, Minister of Spiritual Life and Learning, First Community Church, Columbus

- **Harm Reduction**

“In the workshop Harm Reduction Resources for Congregations, we will explore different models of understanding substance use, what harm reduction is and how it relates to drug overdose prevention, how the values of harm reduction align with UCC values, and what individuals and congregations can do to respond to the overdose crisis. This webinar is for those who are curious and would like to understand this topic more, those ready to take action but unclear what their next steps are, those heavily involved in this work already, and everyone in between. The hope and intention is for folks to come away with a real tether to a community involved in this life-saving ministry as well as insights, perspective, and perhaps even more questions about what a harm reduction response means for them and their congregations.”

Rev. Dr. Elyse Berry, Council for Health and Human Services Ministries (CHSSM) for the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ

- **Music that Makes Community**

Building Musical Community will be a course of singing, learning, and community building. There are no special talents required - just a love of music and fellowship! Musicians of all backgrounds and experience levels are warmly welcomed to participate. Together, we'll explore a practice of paperless (oral tradition) singing leadership grounded in a spirit of welcome and generosity; engage models of teaching and leading that welcome our bodies,

hearts, and minds; experience music reflective of the growing diversity of our communities and celebrating our rich spiritual and liturgical traditions; build community and strengthen relationships through singing. Each person will leave with new music to share, as well as experiences of learning and teaching songs applicable to their context.

Rev. Dillon Shipman, Associate Minister, Plymouth Church
UCC

Workshops and Presenters – Wednesday

- **Pro-Reconciliation Anti-Racism Session 2**

See description from Tuesday

- **Safe Sanctuaries Session 2**

See description from Tuesday

- **Aging Abundantly Session 2**

See description from Tuesday

- **Spiritual Practices: Learning to Listen Session 2**

See description from Tuesday

- **Artificial Intelligence and Spirituality**

Your Free Research Assistant: How AI can help make you more effective and efficient. When something new comes across the threshold, we tend to view it with fear. In this presentation, the Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon will talk about a role-

playing game he got for Christmas, his niece who codes machine learning, and how insights from both helped him become a more effective and efficient pastor. And you just might, too.

Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon, United Church of Christ
Congregational, Medina

- **Stories from the Southern Border**

During the week of January 13-19, 2025, a group of 22 adults from the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ made a pilgrimage to the U.S. Southern border. Their goal was to learn, experience, see, and engage with people from both the Mexican side and U.S. side of the border in an attempt to gain a better understanding of the important and complicated topic of immigration. Rev Lisa Bowersock was one of those on the trip. While lodging in Arizona, the first few days of the trip were spent crossing into Mexico through two different ports of entry, visiting migrant shelters, walking the wall, and participating in a vigil for migrants who have lost their lives while trying to cross into the United States.

The final days of the pilgrimage were spent at a national event called Common Ground on the Border where immigration attorneys, authors, Samaritans who routinely offer humanitarian aid to immigrants, and others, shared information describing their important work. The workshop presented at the Adult Conference by Lisa Bowersock will be a summary of some of her experiences and what she learned on this pilgrimage.

Rev. Lisa Bowersock, Dublin Community Church UCC

Workshops and Presenters - Thursday

- **Pro-Reconciliation Anti-Racism Session 3**

See description from Tuesday

- **Safe Sanctuaries Session 3**

See description from Tuesday

- **Aging Abundantly Session 3**

See description from Tuesday

- **Spiritual Practices: Learning to Listen Session 3**

See description from Tuesday

- **Healing Church Hurts**

For far too long, the Christian Church has been a place of hurt rather than a place of refuge. There are so many people out there who have experienced intense pain at the hands of the church. We who identify as Progressive Christians have a special job to do; we are called to show the world around us that a different kind of church does exist. How do we welcome everyone into our sacred spaces while at the same time work to bring healing to wounds created by the church? We will spend time talking about how to make sure our churches stay a place of refuge.

Rev. Michelle Wilkey, Lead Pastor, Harmony Creek UCC,
Kettering

- **Visio Divina**

Visio Divina, often called sacred seeing, is an ancient form of prayer. In this guided meditation session you will use images of trees (Visio Divina) to explore what God might be saying to you in this moment and what lessons it might teach you about your life right now.

Jacquelyn Stith Dean, Commissioned Minister in Spiritual Formation and Direction, First Congregational UCC,
Columbus

QR Code takes you to the Christian Church in Ohio website and directly to registration page for Adult Conference.

