



2019 Gathering Explorations

PW Synod of South Atlantic
October 25-27, 2019



Explorations A (Friday 1:30 – 2:45) Motivational discussions, arts/crafts

Explorations B (Friday 1:30 – 4:00) **and F** (Saturday 2:45 – 5:30) Boat and trolley tours, Painting Party, Mission Displays, Marketplace

Explorations C (Saturday 10:45 – noon) **and D** (Saturday 1:15 – 2:30) Workshops to inform, inspire, and equip

Explorations E (2:45 – 4:00) Motivational discussions, arts/crafts, PLUS meet the author and forum with PW staff

A FRESH LOOK

1. **Book Discussion of Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things*** –

4:30 pm on Saturday

No need to sign up in advance

Leader: Rev. Jeanne Simpson, Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia

<https://www.jodipicoult.com/small-great-things.html>

This discussion of Jodi Picoult's novel *Small Great Things* will look at race, privilege, prejudice, justice and compassion in a compelling story about an African American labor and delivery nurse who is told she is not allowed to touch the baby of white supremacists.

→ We encourage ALL women to read this riveting book prior to the gathering. ←

2. **PW Info Forum** –

E only

Leaders: Susan Jackson-Dowd, PW Executive Director; Jyung In Lee, PW Board of Directors Moderator; Shelagh Wirth, former Synod Representative to PW Board of Directors; Sandra Winslett, PW Synod of South Atlantic Moderator

Q & A time with PW Staff and CT Leaders. What would you like to know about the Presbyterian Women organization at the churchwide level? What does the PW staff do? What is the function of our Board of Directors (familarly known as the Churchwide Coordinating Team, or CCT). How can they assist you in your presbyteries? Your congregations? What about our Synod Coordinating Team? What resources can they provide to your congregations?

3. **Meet the Author** –

E only

Leader: Rev. Eugenia Gamble, Author, 2019-2020 *Horizons* Bible Study

<https://youtu.be/vRQWaJYbqiY>

Q & A time with Eugenia Gamble. What else would you like to know about Eugenia? What questions have emerged as you listened to her insights? Bring your study guide for an autograph!

EXPLORE

4. **Christ Church** – **B and F**
Christ Church, Frederica, an Episcopal community

<https://ccfssi.org/about-us-i-am-new/plan-your-tour.html>

Carpool to nearby Christ Church to visit the campus, walk the cemetery, learn the history, or pray. The church is open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. A docent led tour is available at 3:00 pm on Saturday; limit 30 persons; first come, first served basis.

5. **Trolley Tour** – **B (Friday) and F (Saturday)**
Saint Simons Colonial Island Trolley Tour

<https://www.colonialtrolley.com/>

See notable heritage sites and learn about the history of the island. Limited to 22 persons each day. Pickup is at Epworth. Add **\$20 fee** to Registration.

6. **Boat Ride** – **B (Friday) and F (Saturday)**
Lighthouse Trolleys Land and Sea Tours

<http://www.lighthousetrolleys.com/dolphin-tours>

Observe dolphin in the wild, view bird habitats, and more. Limited to 45 persons each day. Carpool to marina on St. Simons. Add **\$30 fee** to Registration.

7. **Ben Zander and the Art of Possibility** **A and E**
Leader: Rev. Stu Ritter, Stated Clerk, Northeast Georgia Presbytery

Join Rev. Stu Ritter as he shows you how to encourage the women in your congregation to become equipped for sharing God’s Word and the PW mission. Using Ben and Rosamund Zander’s uplifting stories, parables and personal anecdotes from the video *Art of Possibility*, you will learn innovative ways to become passionate communicators and leaders whose lives radiate possibility into the world of Presbyterian Women and beyond.

8. **Painting His Truth Together** **B and F**
Leader: Andrea Smith, Art Instructor, Truth be Told Art

<https://www.truthbetoldart.com/>

In today’s busy culture, it’s easy to miss out on real time together with our friends; time to relax, time to encourage. Our paint parties are designed as a relaxing and fun way to invite, reconnect, and learn to paint a beautiful canvas with God’s truth on it. Your instructor will take you step-by-step. Our designs are inspired by Scripture with your style in mind. What will you create? Add **\$30 fee** to Registration.



9. Joyful Journaling: Begin the Journey

A and E

Leader: Gayle Anne Bone, Moderator of St. Augustine Presbytery PW

This hands-on workshop will help you begin the practice of journaling your thoughts and prayers as a means of spiritual growth. Each participant will be given a journal with starter Bible verses, quotes, questions and artwork to expand upon. Bring colored pencils, a Bible and a pen. Add **\$7 fee** to Registration.

10. Find your Why

A and C

Leaders: Susan Jackson-Dowd, PW Executive Director; Jyung In Lee, PW Board of Directors Moderator

Why PW? Is the Presbyterian Women organization still relevant in the 21st century? How can we keep PW vibrant and attract younger women?

11. Sabbath-Keeping – The Key to Wellness of Body and Soul

C and D

Leader: Rev. Joan Stevens, PC (USA) Teaching Elder and Former Hospice Chaplain with Certificate in Spiritual Formation, Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

The 4th commandment – “Remember the Sabbath Day and Keep it Holy” – is a gift from God that is essential to maintaining our spiritual and physical wellbeing, especially in today’s busy world. Come and learn creative ways to apply “Sabbath-Keeping” practices that will nurture your relationship with God, others and yourself on a regular basis.

12. Drum Circles

C and D

Leader: Charles Tighe, Assistant Professor, Kennesaw and Reinhardt Universities; international music workshop presenter

Drum Circles, formed with the goal of establishing community (communion), are often inter-generational and allow for musical expression to expand beyond age. The objective of the session is to create drum pieces built on texts taken from scripture - Books of the Bible, Psalms and prayers, and verses to entrain and resonate praising God. Using the drums, we create a new collective voice, emerging from the group as a musical offering. The session is also meant to create a collective joy through the act of making music.

13. Living Long in the Land of the Lord:

C and D

Healthy boundaries in Marriage and Family Relationships

Leader: Rev. Karla Condit Daniels, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Parish Associate at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Augusta, GA

<http://covenantaugusta.org/about/staff/>

Honoring our parents, partners, and relatives can be a natural expression in vital and positive relationships but how do we “honor” others when our relationships are complicated or hurtful? What does it mean to honor our parents, even if they have not modeled respect and reverence for others in their own lives? Through discussion and exercises, this workshop will explore avenues of thinking and behavior that will invite new opportunities for faithful living, even in the midst of some of God’s difficult people.

EXPLORE

14. Jesus the Storyteller

C and D

Leader: Rev. Jeanne Simpson, Pastor of Senior Adult Ministries, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia

Jesus was a storyteller, and He often spoke in parables. We will look at the definition of a parable, why Jesus used this form of story, the different types in the gospels, and then examine several specific parables in depth.

15. Explore the 7 Marks of a Vital Congregation

C and D

Leader: Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, Associate for Vital Congregations

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/>

Learn about the PC(USA) Office of Vital Congregations as we explore the 7-Marks of Vital Congregations. Learn a new perspective of what pastors and presbyteries around the country are sharing, the realities that we are up against, and the necessary work the Spirit is calling us to embark upon if we are going to join God in the “new thing Christ is doing” in the Church.

16. Ending Modern Slavery

C and D

Leader: Rev. Cameron Trimble, CEO, The Center For Progressive Renewal

<https://www.stophetraffik.org/>

People shouldn't be bought or sold. What are the economic causes of this issue? Can we prevent, reduce, or stop modern slavery? Cameron will identify the challenges we face to combat human trafficking, the progress being made using intelligence-led tools, and how to engage congregations to end this global crime.

17. Highlights of the 2017 PW Global Exchange to Indonesia

C only

Leader: Linda Spencer, PW Vice Moderator, Northeast Georgia Presbytery

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/global-exchange/

The Global Exchange takes a group of Presbyterian Women to another part of the world to learn about the lives of women, to share faith stories and ministries, and to "build bridges of understanding" for years to come. In addition to personal experiences, Linda will share colorful, inspirational photos of PW's journey to southeast Asia. Thanks be to God for raising awareness that we are God's children and can share Christ's love for all people.

18. Highlights of the 2019 PW USAME to Finger Lakes Region of New York

D only

Leader: Gayle Anne Bone, PW Moderator, St. Augustine Presbytery

https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/build-community/usa-mission-experience/

The USA Mission Experience equips women with an understanding of the region's history and culture, the existing ministry of the church there, and the challenges faced by women and children living in the area. Anticipated topics include women's and civil rights movements, migrant workers, Native Americans, National Women's Hall of Fame, the Susan B. Anthony home, and the Harriet Tubman House.



19. Sharing Our Stories

C and D

Leader: David Barnhart, award-winning Producer, Director, and filmmaker

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/story-productions/>

"Story is as basic to human nature as eating and sleeping. Our life experience has narrative quality. We live life and share our stories." Story Productions is a ministry that connects and equips congregations and communities through the medium of Story. During our exploration, we will screen short clips of award-winning documentary films that are available to your congregation and community and discuss ways that you can facilitate dialogue and congregational engagement.

20. How to Teach a Bible Study –

C and D

Learn techniques that make Scripture come alive

Leader: Rev. Dr. Tom Malone, Retired Pastor; Educator in the PC(USA) for over 45 years

This workshop will explore how to teach a Bible study (a *Horizons* study or any other) that is not just a learning exercise, but is a transformative event. Holy Scripture nurtures the holy community as food nurtures the human body. We will learn techniques and strategies that make the Scripture come alive for us so that we are challenged to lives of love and service and mission.

21. Moving in the Spirit

C and D

Leader: Amanda Lower, teaching artist for Moving in the Spirit, B.A. from Duke University, M.F.A. from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts

<http://www.movinginthespirit.org/our-people/amanda-lower/>

Using the human body to interpret organ intonations, choral anthems, prayers, and Scripture reading, Amanda explores ways of incorporating movement into the worship and church setting. You will be invited into the movement process with warm up exercises, creating movements inspired by both music and scripture, and then explorations of how movements come together in the context of worship. Come in comfortable clothes that allow for movement. All types of movers are invited. Every exercise can be modified to be safe and supportive to physical limitations.

22. Notes of Love – Handmade Spirit Led Creations

C and D

Leader: Rev. Ann Mann, Associate Pastor, Due West United Methodist Church, Marietta, Georgia.

<https://www.duewest.org/about/our-staff/>

Each participant will receive a kit with all the supplies needed to create at least two cards. These cards are inspired by our theme, Carved in Stone. We will explore stamping and embossing techniques as we create hand-made cards. We are created to create. Whether we create with the stroke of a paint brush, or a kind word or gesture, we are a part of creating a better world. Add **\$5 fee** to Registration.

EXPLORE

23. Transformation of Foster Care

C and D

Leader: Sonya O'Neal, MSW from University of South Carolina, Vice President of programs and clinical services, Thornwell, Clinton, SC

<https://www.thornwell.org/>

The goal of this exploration is to create understanding that there is hope and healing for every child and family. Techniques and tools developed at Thornwell through years of experience in this field will be described, using some lecture with PowerPoint, interactive activities with the opportunity for sharing and discussing, self-reflection and journaling, and viewing a few video clips.

24. The Examined Life: Beginning A Life Review

C and D

Leader: Rev. Holly Shoaf-O'Kula, Pastor for Compassionate Ministries, First Presbyterian Church, Aiken, SC

<https://www.aikenpresbyterian.org/our-staff.html>

There are questions we can ask ourselves and events we can recall that guide us in appreciating the value and meaning of our lives. Life reviews are not only about our past, they can also guide us as we live more fully into the person God desires us to be. Let's get started! Come ready to ponder some questions, discover various ways to structure your life review, and consider how to share your review with loved ones, if desired.

25. Worship as Sacred Time, as Home, and as Fiesta

C (Spanish) and D (English)

Leader: Marissa Galván-Valle, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Associate, Hispanic Resources and Relationships

<https://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-2015/worship-sacred-time-home-and-fiesta>

Confronting multicultural worship challenges as opportunities to grow in faith. We are still learning, but by the grace of God we are striving to be the church that God wants us to be: a church that loves its time with God and with one another, a church where all those who are homeless find *familia*, and a church where there is fiesta and joy in everything we do and say.

26. Mission Displays

Anytime except plenary

Learn more about mission opportunities, including Mission Haven, Thornwell, Villa International, Costa Rica School Mission, Days for Girls, and more.

27. Marketplace

Open selected hours on Friday and Saturday

Shop for PW supplies, arts/crafts, fair trade items, books, and more.

28. Contemplation Center

Prayer Tower, anytime

A self-guided time for reflection. Meditate, read your Bible, or just sit in silence and rest.