



A virtual training event for church leaders
in the
Presbyteries of de Cristo and Grand Canyon



Living Amidst Disorientation: Seeking God's New Orientation for Our Communities and Churches

Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m. Worship provided (virtually) by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Tucson

10:15 a.m. Virtual Plenary Session- Keynote speaker- Rev. Brent Strawn, Duke Divinity School
The Psalms point to three-fold message of orientation, disorientation, new orientation
What does Psalmist's message suggest for being Church in 2020?
There will be opportunities provided for discussion during the presentation.

11:45 a.m. Break for lunch

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Workshops (choose 1)

LIST OF WORKSHOPS (Choose ONE)

Canoeing the Covacalypse: VUCA Ministry

Revs. Brad Munroe and Rene Rico

Volatile **U**ncertain **C**omplex **A**mbiguous – We live in VUCA times and people are wondering when church will get back to normal. This workshop will ask: can church get back to normal? What is “normal” anyway? We will explore leadership strategies and ministry pathways that will help our churches discover a “new normal” as we journey toward the places to which God is sending us and become the kind of churches God is calling to become.

Finding Solid Ground:

Stabilizing the Church to Serve as a Resource in a Time of Chaos

Reconciliation Team

One of the functions that churches serve is as a stabilizing force for its members such that they can be equipped with a faithful response to turmoil and crisis. So how can we serve in this capacity when our normal means of functioning have been so destabilized? We will explore this question and consider some tools for re-stabilizing relationships after a crisis event. The first half of the workshop will look at what happens in individuals and groups when we are “triggered” by stressful situations such as we are encountering in 2020. In the second half of the workshop we will look at ways to “practice the pause,” center ourselves based on core convictions, and invite dialogue through respectful listening and speaking the truth in love. Presenters include: Rev. Jen Fraser and Rev. Terry Palmer (first half), Rev. Mary Saylor, Rev. Ed Spence, RE Teri Conrad, and Rev. Dr. Linda Lloyd (second half).

Psalming Our Disorientation: Writing into the Presence of God **Rev. Rachel Srubas and Shirin McArthur**

In *Spirituality of the Psalms*, Walter Brueggemann argues that the Bible's psalms of disorientation (lament, protest, and complaint) “lead us into the dangerous acknowledgement of how life really is. They lead us into the presence of God where everything is not polite and civil.” Co-facilitators and seasoned writers Shirin McArthur and Rachel Srubas invite you to write

your way into God's presence by creating your own psalms of disorientation. This workshop will focus on truth-telling in written prayer and open-hearted listening to one another, not technical critique or theological debate. It will equip you to continue your own writing and encourage members of your faith community to write their way into God's presence by psalming their disorientation.

Resilience through Turbulent Times

Revs. John Cheek and Laura Munroe

We are in a season of emotional fatigue. As we wrestle with these times that can feel so disorienting, what are the tools and understandings which help sustain us as we work through a pandemic and a popular uprising on issues of race and equity? We invite you to learn new tools and share perspectives that help us lean into healing and wholeness to discover God's renewed beginning for our lives. Laura Munroe and John Cheek will share their experience and knowledge of stress, stress management, emotional and spiritual resilience.

Suspended in Disorientation: Immigrants at the Border and in Detention.

**Revs. Mark Adams, Joe Keesecker, Ms
Selena Petersen-Keesecker & Others**

What is it like for immigrants and refugees to be caught/suspended in the "disorientation" of our broken immigration system; in the ongoing CORONAVIRUS pandemic; in the disruption and potential of new racial awareness in the U.S.? How do they "sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Whether forced to wait on the other side of the border, held in detention or released into this strange new world, what is it like? How can we in the church hear their laments and songs; come alongside to support and accompany; discern the dawning of "New Orientation", the surprising new gifts that God is bringing into being? And when we hear the songs and laments, catch the visions, what can we do? How far must we move out of our comfort zones? Must we/can we engage in countercultural thoughts, prayers and action as we seek to welcome God's surprises with and through the "strangers" God puts in our midst.?

Join us as we learn of realities faced by our brothers and sisters who seek safety and a better life; as we join in their lament; as with them we see glimpses of what God has in store for us as God brings us, sometimes squirming, kicking and screaming, into God's new reality; and as we explore ways we can faithfully come alongside, be supportive, or at least get out of the way. Go away with deeper insights, personal encounters and resources for education, worship and action.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Logistics:

Deadline to register is August 15. Registrants will be emailed 3 Zoom links

1. Worship live with St. Andrew's, Tucson
2. Morning Plenary with Dr. Brent Strawn
3. The 90- minute afternoon workshop you select

Questions? Contact Carolyn McBurney at pbyoffice@gmail.com

Bio for Plenary speaker- Dr. Strawn

Dr. Brent Strawn is Professor of Old Testament at Duke Divinity School. Professor Strawn's research focuses on ancient Near Eastern iconography, Israelite religion, biblical law, the Psalms, poetry, and Old Testament theology. Dr. Strawn is the author of *What Is Stronger than a Lion? Leonine Image and Metaphor in the Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2005), *The Old Testament Is Dying: A Diagnosis and Recommended Treatment* (Baker Academic, 2017), and *The Old Testament: A Concise Introduction* (Routledge, 2019). He has edited or coedited over twenty volumes, including *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law* (Oxford, 2015), which received the 2016 Dartmouth Medal from the American Library Association for most outstanding reference work. Strawn is an ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church and regularly speaks and preaches at churches across the country. He has appeared on CNN on matters ranging from Easter celebrations to Pope Francis to gun violence and served as both translator and member of the editorial board for The Common English Bible.