

Using The Arts to Do Inner and Outer Work for Community and Healing Monday, May 24, 2021

We Lift Our Voice: Building Communities for Social Change through Song *with Charon Hribar*

Throughout history, music has played a powerful role in bringing people together during challenging times and giving our communities a voice to stand up against injustice. This workshop will explore the way song has inspired faith communities and social justice movements to work for lasting social change. It is designed to help us build our collective capacity to use music in more effective, sustainable, and inspiring ways for these times. We will learn about songs that have emerged from long-standing faith and movement traditions as well as contemporary social movement music that can be used to overcome fear and hatred and ground us in the values of love and justice.

Start Close In: The Arts and Life In Process *with Carrie Newcomer*

Carrie Newcomer facilitates a workshop to explore our lives in process through the use of the arts. In this time of uncertainty and change we have a unique opportunity to step into a more intentional life. Carrie will explore how healing and personal and social change begins close in and how this process can be facilitated by engaging in music, poetry, personal reflection, journaling, contemplative practice and open honest conversation. In this time of pandemic, personal and social change, the arts can be used for inner reflection and outer expression to process grief, trauma and loss as well as our hopes and revelations as we lean into the next growing edge.

Prays Well With Others: Confessions of an Interfaith Leader Using Film to Save His Community *with Skyler Oberst*

Let's face it: our communities are no longer talking with one another. They are reading less, encountering difference less and spending more time behind screens. They know it but have no idea how to take the first step in bridging the divide. From finding common ground with radically different groups, to exhibiting good allyship behind and in front of a crowd and creating teachable moments, this interactive workshop will equip participants with tools and tricks to help build community in unexpected ways.

**Using History and Skills to Do Inner and Outer Work
for Community and Healing
May 25, 2021**

Myths of Polarization: Reframing Difference and Conflict for the Work of the Church *with
Melissa Florer-Bixler*

In the past five years, parts of the church have experienced the division and conflict mirrored in state politics. But is polarization to be blamed for these divisions? In this workshop, we will probe the myths of polarization and explore how beginning with this framework restricts outcomes and possibilities for resolution. We will work toward reframing conflict in a way that offers a vision for hope and liberation rather than compromise toward the center.

Bridges Without Compromise: Practical Tools for Bringing Peace to a Polarized World
with Justin Lee

Our world is becoming increasingly divided, thanks in part to social media, biased news sources, and online filter bubbles. Some of our disagreements are too important to ignore or compromise on, so how do we address these important issues and help heal a broken world at the same time? In this workshop, Justin Lee, author of *Torn and Talking across the Divide*, will share practical Bible- and psychology-based techniques for combating misinformation and winning over people you disagree with.

Discovering Our “Theologies of Conflict” *with Leah D. Shade*

Tensions and conflict are normal within churches and among people of faith, but they are also sources of anxiety and dread for many. However, if we look at conflict from a theological perspective, we may discover God’s presence in unexpected ways. This session will explore the unspoken assumptions that people of faith can have about the relationship between God and our human disagreements and skirmishes. Is it possible to be in conflict and yet remain connected? How do we assess our “theologies of conflict”? Participants will work with a tool developed by the Rev. Dr. Leah Schade to unearth our beliefs about how God relates to us and our congregations in the midst of conflict so that we can find common vocabulary and handle tensions in a healthier and growth-producing way.

Another Way to Lead *with Stephen Lewis and Dori Grinenko Baker*

This highly interactive workshop will guide participants through an experience of living and leading change during disruptive times. Drawing from their recent book, *Another Way*, Stephen and Dori will walk through four key disciplines of the acronym CARE: Create hospitable space; Asking self-awakening questions; Reflect theologically and critically together; and Enact your next most faithful step. In the foreword to their book, Parker Palmer describes these four practices as calling us into the “deep discomfort and hard work of personal and social transformation.” Our time together will invite integration of Palmer’s keynote with our ongoing individual and communal callings.