

ZEPHYR EXPERIENCE

JUNE 25-30, 2017

*Transformation
Awakening the Spirit
to Empower Wholeness*

Join a community of progressive Christians

Learn from scholars and church leaders

Probe more deeply together for answers

Celebrate in worship and song

Enjoy Lake Tahoe at your footsteps

Zephyr Experience 2017 offers five days of morning classes for adults and children. Afternoons are free to explore a choice of activities and evenings offer a time to worship together, watch the sunsets, and play games.

Session One Classes

8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.



Rev. Dr. Jane Spahr is a mother of adult sons, grandmother, and a twin. Former ED of Spectrum Center of LGBTQ Concerns in San Anselmo, CA. Minister Director of That All May Freely Serve, Rochester, New York, Presbyterian Minister in Pittsburgh, PA, San Rafael, CA and Oakland, CA.



Neuroscience and Christian Spirituality of Transformation

Nancy Wiens

For years, a perceived war between science and religion has kept the insights of science far from how a Christian might describe her daily experiences. Now, a robust dialogue between science and religion and an outburst of neurological research has changed that. Together they bring an increasing bounty for curious Christians to explore their experiences in daily life. Even more empowering, neuroscience research offers many practical resources to those who long for transformation—freedom to choose God's love.

John the Baptist's call to repentance is one way to describe this transformation: the turnaround from that which does not bring life, from patterns that deplete personally, relationally, socially, and ecologically. In the places we find ourselves longing for something to change, fresh insights from neuroscience can support our daily lives to live more aligned with the God of Love, Justice, and Peace. Together let's explore transformation.

The **Rev. Nancy S. Wiens, Ph.D.**, Christian Spirituality & Natural Science, teaches Christian Spirituality at Wake Forest School of Divinity, offers spiritual direction, and leads wilderness rites.

Zephyr Experience 2017



Advocating for Peace, Becoming a Peace Church

Ben Daniel

"*Advocating for Peace, Becoming a Peace Church*" will explore the history of Christianity's relationship to violence and war and will consider the ways in which modern church bodies can embrace nonviolence. The workshop is born of the conviction that the church needs new ways to express a commitment to nonviolence that are rooted in tradition, while addressing the modern military technology, perpetual warfare, and the 21st century's economics of violence.

Rev. Ben Daniel is the Senior Pastor of Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, CA. He also is a writer whose books include *Neighbor: Christian Encounters with "Illegal" Immigration*, *The Search for Truth About Islam: a Christian Pastor Separates Fact from Fiction*, and *Thoughtful Christianity: Faith and Action in the Way of Jesus*.



Hospitality as Contemplation and Action

Beth Brown

In this class we will explore the transformative nature of hospitality as a spiritual practice. Using Rev. Nanette Sawyer's book *Hospitality - The Sacred Art: Discovering the Hidden Power of Invitation and Welcome* as a guide, we will explore the themes of Hospitality to God, to Self, to Neighbor, to Strangers, and to Enemies. As we meet together we will use a format that will encourage both contemplation and action.

Rev. Beth Brown has been a pastor in the PC(USA) for more than 25 years and has more questions than answers. She is the proud mom of Emily and Anna, who have kept her honest. She has a wonderful partner, who keeps her growing. Beth is an extrovert who has learned how to cultivate her contemplative side and she has learned a great deal from the LGBTQ and ally community in the Presbyterian Church including how to be an activist. She is a trained spiritual director and mediator. She is passionate about transitional ministry and believes all churches are engaging in transitional ministry during these changing times.



The Change Toward Wholeness

Greg Love

Both the New Testament and psychology speak of a person's change from brokenness toward wholeness. But how does that change happen? Do we just "set our mind to it, and make the changes"? Or is it more difficult... and if so, why? Further, what is God's role in creating this change in us, and what is our role?

This course looks at how we change, from different angles of recent psychological studies on willpower; biology and neurology; and the New Testament's view of change rooted in the human spirit and in God.

The **Rev. Dr. Gregory Love** is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Also a Presbyterian pastor, Dr. Love brings together the best of contemporary Reformed theology with the issues of Christians in the pews. He specializes in questions of divine providence, and how God acts in the world. His most recent book, on the meaning of the cross, is *Love, Violence, and the Cross: How the Nonviolent God Saves Us through the Cross of Christ* (www.wipfandstock.com).

Morning Light: Begin the day with meditation, movement, and prayer by the lake.

Afternoon Free Time: The afternoons are free to explore, swim at the lake, hang out at the beach, bike or hike. Organized crafts & activities will be available and One Hour Overviews of the Sessions will be presented by our leaders.

Evening Program: Worship services Monday and Wednesday, Sunset Sing on Tuesday, and Variety Show on Thursday. All ages are invited to participate in our variety show with songs, skits, or special talents. There is quiet time for gazing at the Milky Way every night.

Communion: Friday before lunch, there will be a communion service to complete our experience.



Personal Transformation in Beloved Stories of Sacred Text, with Story Sharing, Art, and Song

Beverly Brewster

How many times have you heard someone say, "People don't change"? And yet much of the power of the Bible, the Qur'an, and other sacred texts comes from stories of personal transformation through encounters with God.

With sacred art and song for inspiration, we'll explore beloved and meaningful sacred stories of personal and communal transformation. We'll also share our own turning point stories, and learn the healing art of re-storying.

Rev. Beverly Brewster is the Pastor of the Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church. She is a child of the South, a storyteller, and story lover, a former trial attorney, and a lover of sacred art. She believes that storytelling and Spirit transform lives and communities in amazing ways.





CHILDREN (AGES 5-9)

Fun and Adventure in Day Camp

Zephyr Summer Day Camp offers fantastic camp experiences. Children will have fun and adventures within the Zephyr Point grounds. Activities include: swimming, canoeing, archery, nature hikes, arts and crafts, fun skits, singing, and group games.

Safety is a priority. Supervision and direction will be provided by caring, college-age role models. Red Cross certified lifeguards will be on duty when children enter the water. Additional CPR and First Aid certified staff will be onsite.

The children's day camp will run from 9am to 4pm. With parent consent, children may leave the day camp at any time during the day to rejoin their family.

Costs for the camp are included in the Zephyr Experience children's fee.



YOUTH CLASS (AGES 10-18)

“Until You Climb Into His Skin and Walk Around in It”

Jeanette Banashak

In Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* Atticus Finch teaches his daughter, Scout, empathy. Atticus tells Scout, “You never really understand a person until you consider things from their point of view.” This famous piece of advice is one that we will explore this year at ZE. How do we develop and nurture empathy? Why is it important? How do the Bible, traditions, and the Church practice it?

When not playing games or music, **Jeanette Banashak, Ph.D., Ed.D.** teaches Spanish and Education at Grand Valley State University, Michigan. She is a trained spiritual director and leads retreats and workshops for youth among pine trees of Michigan.

