

## PREACHING A RELEVANT WORD TO A RESTLESS PEOPLE

### DATES

Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 26, and April 23, 2020, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### OVERVIEW

Preachers may be reluctant to mention current events from the pulpit. But not speaking to the concerns people bring with them into church implicitly communicates that the church – and worse, God – doesn't care. Together, we will discuss both our resistance and our sacred calling and learn ways to preach sermons that are pastorally sensitive, prophetically challenging, and particularly relevant in our world today.

### OBJECTIVES

From taking part in this class, participants will:

Discuss why preachers are resistant to addressing issues in the world today and why current issues should inform preaching, noting the risks and the rewards;

Explore the biblical call to speak to the concerns people bring with them to church;

Learn how to preach a relevant word to a restless people through a process of writing and a practice of preaching sermons; and

Share in Christian community our attempts to preach a relevant word in our congregations, getting feedback and support.

## INSTRUCTOR

**Donna Giver-Johnston** is pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon in Pittsburgh. A native Pennsylvanian, she was baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Donna loves to read and travel, do yoga and swim, to listen to music, and to write; she has made pilgrimages to Taizé, Iona, and the Holy Land. She earned her BA from Westminster College, her MDiv from Princeton Seminary, and a MA and PhD from Vanderbilt University. In addition, she received a certificate in spiritual formation from Pittsburgh and Columbia Theological Seminaries. Donna sees a glimpse of heaven when gathered with friends around the dinner table, enjoying nourishing food, fun fellowship, good red wine, and a delicious chocolate dessert!

## REGISTRATION

Registration for this class will open soon. Thank you for your patience.

### REGISTRATION FEE

\$100

## DIRECTIONS / CEUS

### DIRECTIONS

**Directions to the Seminary.** There is free parking available on campus behind the chapel and library. Signs from the parking lot will direct you to the location of the class.

### CEUS

1.2 CEUs will be available for this class upon [Click to view e-mail](#).

## QUESTIONS

E-mail [Click to view e-mail](#) or call 412-924-1345.

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Pittsburgh Theological Seminary  
616 North Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Phone: 412-362-5610



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