

The Lehigh Conference of Churches: Justice and Advocacy

The Heart of Justice: Jesus in Prison



Lord, when did we see you ... in prison
and visit you? – Matt. 25:37, 39

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

St. John's UCC

36 S. Sixth Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Program: The "War on Drugs," the "War on Crime," and "Zero Tolerance" policies have failed to reduce crime rates with their focus on harsh punishment; but these policies have resulted in mass incarceration; run-away spending on jails, prisons, and law enforcement; and exploitation of people of color, people in poverty, and people with mental disabilities. Our fall workshop will focus on ways we can begin to remake our criminal justice system to provide healing, hope, restoration, and reconciliation to both offenders and victims of crime.

Plenary Speakers:

Rev. Neftali (Charles) Olmeda, 3rd Day Worship Center
Andrea James, Families for Justice as Healing

Workshop Topics:

- Mentoring residents returning from prison – an introduction for volunteers
- Building a comprehensive prisoner reentry program in Pennsylvania
- Restorative practices in the community: a pilot program in Allentown
- Conversation with Andrea James / Families for Justice as Healing
- Racial and ethnic disparity among youth arrested: What's being done?
- Reentry from Prison: Facilitating Meaningful Change

Continental breakfast and lunch are included (suggested donation: \$10)
(students or unemployed: FREE, or what you can afford)

Sponsored by the **Justice and Advocacy Committee of**

The Lehigh Conference of Churches - and Lehigh Valley partner organizations.

Space is limited: please pre-register – by Nov. 5 online or by phone:

*See details and program updates at justice.ppj.org or contact
the TLCC office at 610-433-6421 or Bob Walden at justice@ppj.org.

The Heart of Justice: Jesus in Prison*

Saturday, November 8, 2014

St. John's United Church of Christ

8:30 am Registration; displays, coffee/tea & conversation

9:00– 9:45 Plenary 1: Welcome, Devotions, Introductions

Rev. Neftali (Charles) Olmeda

10:00-11:15 Breakout Session A - Parallel Workshops

11:20-12:30 Plenary 2: **Andrea James**

12:30 - 1:15 Lunch

1:15 - 2:30 Breakout Session B - Parallel Workshops

2:30 - 3:30 Plenary 3: Wrap Up: What Comes Next?

Plenary Speakers:

• **Neftali "Charles" Olmeda** is Senior Pastor of the multi-ethnic, bi-lingual, 3rd Day Worship Center in Allentown, affiliated with the Assemblies of God. Rev. Olmeda has served as President of the Board of Directors of the Lehigh Conference of Churches and currently leads a planning committee focused on providing re-entry assistance for people returning from prison.

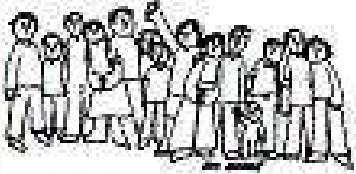
• **Andrea James** has worked within the criminal justice system for more than 25 years as a youth worker to a former criminal defense attorney. She dedicated her time and resources to providing zealous representation to families within her community of Roxbury, Mass. In 2009 she was disbarred as an attorney and sentenced to 24 months in federal prison. What she encountered in prison motivated her to establish Families for Justice as Healing, a criminal justice reform organization advocating for community wellness initiatives to replace the "War on Drugs" and incarceration.

Breakout Topics*:

- Mentoring residents returning from prison – an introduction for volunteers, with Latif Matt, reentry coordinator, Lehigh County Community Corrections
- Building a comprehensive prisoner reentry program in Pennsylvania, with Zelma Lang, WordSong Ministries, Lockhaven, PA
- Restorative practices in the community: a pilot program in urban Allentown, with Sherri Brokopp Binder & Ben Walter, Ripple Restorative Practices program
- Families for Justice as Healing – conversation with Andrea James
- Racial and ethnic disparity among youth arrested: What's being done? with Thomas Ganser, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- Reentry from Prison: Facilitating Meaningful Change with Joyce Dougherty, exec. director, THE PROGRAM for Women and Families

* This is a tentative schedule; please check the web announcement for program and schedule updates, and for program details, directions, and parking information, at justice.ppj.org or Email: justice@ppj.org or call the TLCC office at 610-433-6421.

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