

2018
PRE-LENT
WORKSHOP

*Meals of Freedom
for Life*



*A Congregational
Learning Program*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018

10:00am - 2:30pm

Jordan United Church of Christ

1837 Church Road

(off Walbert Ave at Rte 309)

Muhlenberg College
Institute for
Jewish-Christian
Understanding



Program Description

The Passover Seder is a central family ritual of the Jewish community with a long and rich history. Part of the history includes one tradition that Jesus's last meal with his disciples was a Passover meal. That tradition in turn reflects the Apostle Paul's use of Passover imagery to understand the dynamics of sacrifice and redemption for Gentiles. Finally, Paul's construal has then informed Christian theologies of Holy Communion/the Lord's Supper/the Eucharist.

In such a convoluted maze of relationships, how might we best teach Christian communities to understand the Seder and its relationship to the Christian sacrament? *Meals of Freedom for Life* is a congregational resource designed for just that purpose. Created locally by the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Emmaus and edited and adapted by the IJCU, it offers a hands-on, participatory experience of Seder foods and traditions in a communal meal setting.

The accompanying commentary makes the point that the Seder and the sacrament are parallel developments, each with its own integrity and meaning. While the parallels can be fascinating to explore, it is essential to keep the two distinct and afford each one its appropriate place within its own community.

This workshop will introduce *Meals of Freedom for Life* in its entirety, including background study, the full meal-based learning activity, and opportunity throughout for dialogue and discussion.

WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

Peter A. Pettit is the director of the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding of Muhlenberg College and an associate professor in the College's Department of Religion Studies. An ordained Lutheran minister with a decade of experience as a parish pastor, he completed his PhD in Bible and Early Judaism and has been involved in Christian-Jewish dialogue for more than 35 years. *Meals of Freedom for Life* is only one of the educational programs on which he has worked in developing resources for Christians and Jews to understand one another more clearly, more deeply, and more appreciatively.

The people of Jordan United Church of Christ are our gracious and generous hosts for this workshop and have created the meal for our enjoyment.

Ruth Doty, Jane Elliott, Karin Kahler, Ann Lindholm, and Margaret Wolff were the educational team at the **Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Emmaus PA** early in the 21st century who developed a participatory Seder experience for their congregation. Focusing on a family event that is child-friendly, they included the songs and activities with which Jewish children grow up as participants in Seders in their homes. Their commitment to honoring the integrity of the Seder as a Jewish family ritual has characterized this educational activity from its inception.

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Meals of Freedom for Life
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Program Schedule

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

10:00 am - 2:30 pm

10:00 – 11:15 am Passover, Seder, Last Supper, Lord's Supper

11:15 – 11:30 am Break

11:30 am – 1:15 pm *Meals of Freedom for Life*

1:15 – 1:30 pm Break

1:30 – 2:30 pm Q&A and Discussion

The registration fee is \$35; \$40 with Continuing Education credit of .4 CEU (4 contact hours). **Free to first-time participants!**

Please send payment and registration by Wednesday, January 17, so that food can be prepared in appropriate amounts.

Lunch is included in the fee. Some traditional Seder foods will contain gluten, nuts, and other allergens that may cause concern. Participants for whom this is an issue are advised to bring their own food for lunch, as alternatives will not be available. (Needless to say, in Jewish families where allergies and gluten are a concern, accommodations are made as a matter of course!)



IJCU of Muhlenberg College
2018 PRE-LENT WORKSHOP
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Registration Form

- Check enclosed for \$35 for Pre-Lent Workshop registration
- Check enclosed for \$30 with program discount coupon
- Check enclosed for \$40 for registration with Continuing Education certificate (*four [4] contact hrs.*)
- I am a first-time participant - FREE

Name

Congregation

Address

Address

Email Address

Phone

Mail this form with check payable to

IJCU of Muhlenberg College
2400 Chew Street
Allentown, PA 18104

For more information regarding the workshop and IJCU membership:

Phone: 484-664-3470

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