

# Healing Communities

## Balancing Justice with Mercy

Healing Communities is a national program framework adaptable for clergy and congregations to offer restoration and healing for everyone affected by the criminal justice system.

Healing Communities is about fostering relationships through redemption and reconciliation in families and communities impacted by crime and incarceration.

Healing Communities provides training and support to communities of faith ministering to people affected by crime, incarceration and the reentry of former inmates back into communities.



### Sponsors

This training event is co-sponsored by 3 Eastern PA Conference Work Teams:

- Prison Ministries & Restorative Justice
- Church & Society
- Healing & Wholeness Work Team

**Healing Communities**  
 Saturday, October 10, 2015  
 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
 at St. Matthews UM Church  
 Wayne, PA



**Eastern Pennsylvania Conference  
 of The United Methodist Church**  
 P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482  
 800-828-9093 | 610-666-9090  
[www.epaumc.org](http://www.epaumc.org)

# Healing Communities

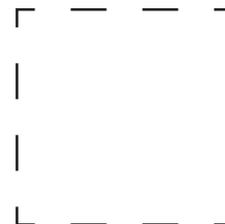


**Balancing Justice  
 with Mercy**

A training event in restoring lives and relationships among people affected by crime and incarceration.

**Saturday, October 10, 2015**  
 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
 (with working lunch)

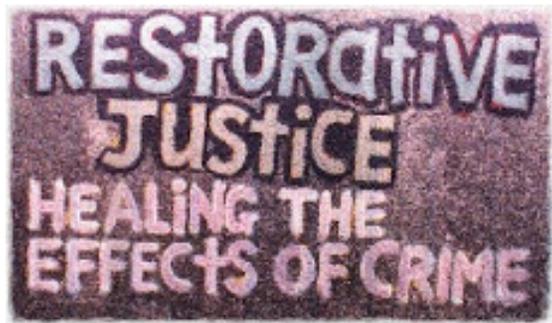
**St. Matthews United Methodist  
 Church of Valley Forge**  
 600 Walker Road  
 Wayne, PA 19087




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## Healing Communities

**Healing Communities** is a proven, national social intervention model created in 2006 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation along with faith leaders from across the theological spectrum. Implemented in more than 25 sites so far, it is a critical response to the devastating human impact of mass incarceration and the War on Drugs on urban communities. It engages congregations in providing healing and restoration among individuals, families and communities damaged or negatively impacted by crime and the criminal justice system.



Healing Communities offers a framework for ministry outreach to persons returning from, or at risk of, incarceration, along with their families and communities. It challenges congregations to mobilize existing resources that can enable them to become "Stations of Hope" for persons affected by the criminal justice system.

## Training Event Info

The Healing Communities training model identifies basic program components of planning and action by congregations. Each action builds on existing strengths and opportunities within the ministry structure and mission outlook of the local church.

Churches that are engaged or want to engage in ministries among persons and families impacted by the criminal justice system have available resources that include:

- formal and informal networks of congregational life;
- principled leaders and a mission to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world"; and
- devotion to Christian values of forgiveness, healing, redemption, reconciliation, mercy and justice.

### The training covers:

- Essential information and important perspectives on the criminal justice system and the impact of crime on victims, survivors, offenders and families;
- Relevant questions for reflection and discussion within congregations;
- Ideas and resources to help pastors and faith leaders engage congregants;
- Tools, information and resources for church members;
- The resources, guidance and time needed to begin developing a customized congregational action plan suited to the culture, demographics and core beliefs of each congregation.

This Healing Communities training has been approved for 6 credit hours for Christ Servant Ministers in their Leading ministry emphasis.

## Register Today. Space is Limited.

Our first Healing Communities training event is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2015, from 9 AM to 4 PM at St. Matthews UM Church of Valley Forge at 600 Walker Rd, Wayne, PA. Your church is encouraged to send a team of three or more persons, including the pastor, to enhance your training and begin your Healing Communities planning effort as a group.

You can [REGISTER ONLINE](#) at EPA Conference Events or mail in your registration. Lunch is included. (See registration for lunch choices.). The cost is \$25 per person, which provides training materials, continental breakfast and a light lunch.

**Attendance will be limited to 25 participants. Please register today. Registration Deadline: September 30**



Our trainers are **Doug Walker**, National Coordinator for Criminal Justice Reform at the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, based in Washington, DC, and **Linda Van Til**, a Certified Lay Minister and member of the Eastern PA Conference Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Work Team.

Questions? Contact Linda Van Til at [ravenlinda1@dejazzd.com](mailto:ravenlinda1@dejazzd.com) or 717-626-0745.