

Mini CSM Academy on the South District – All are Welcome!

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Hopewell UMC

852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown 19335

We are offering the Basic Course and 3 Advanced CSM/CLM Classes

Basic Course: The Journey Begins - Led by Judy Ehninger, CLM

- Ready to explore God's call in your life? Take the first step in the Christ Servant Ministry program with others who have heard that still, small voice calling in the night or are sure they have been hit across the head with a two-by-four. The Basic Course provides a firm foundational understanding of God's presence in our lives, the meaning and mission of the church, and insight into how and where you can apply the gifts you have and will receive from our Lord. You will learn about the need for servant ministries in our world and what it means to be a servant for Christ. The Basic Course is also the first step towards further development as a Certified Lay Speaker or Certified Lay Minister. The Basic Course Study Guide will be emailed following registration.
- Participants in this course must request the recommendation and approval from their Local Church and submit it with their registration. The initial application form will be sent to each person registering along with the BASIC Study Guide and pre-class homework. Registrants are required to complete assignments from a Basic Course Study Guide prior to attending the course.

Finding Your Voice: Essentials of Preaching - Led by Rev. Amy Banka

- This course is designed to help you discover and develop your unique voice as a preacher. We'll cover everything from self-awareness and understanding your audience to mastering different types of sermons and effective communication techniques. This course is about more than just delivering a message; it's about connecting with your congregation and making God's word come alive in their hearts and minds. Together, we'll explore the art and heart of preaching, ensuring you feel confident and inspired in your role as a lay preacher.
- **This is an Advanced CSM course in Speaking. Pre-requisite – Speaking 1.** Saturday classroom time and 2 hours of pre-class preparation/assignment will be combined to make up the required 10 hours for the advanced course credit. The pre-class preparation/assignment will be emailed once you have registered.

Leadership Lessons from a Reluctant Prophet - Led by Rev. Steve Morton

- Sometimes we glean leadership excellence demonstrated in public figures; sometimes their performance reveals a stark absence of leadership skill! Embedded within the familiar text of an ancient Hebrew story, the prophet Jonah serves as a comedic foil showing us some tendency toward faithful, effective leadership....and at the same time, a whole lot of leadership lacking! This course will be a step-by-step investigation of The Book of Jonah, exploring its significant theological themes and its intentional, homiletical function - yet with a specific eye toward cultivating our own Best Practices in leadership as revealed to us in this Jewish "hero."

- **This is an Advanced CSM course in Leadership.** Saturday classroom time and 2 hours of pre-class preparation/assignment will be combined to make up the required 10 hours for the advanced course credit. The pre-class preparation/assignment will be emailed once you have registered.

Finishing Strong: Nurturing Our Aging Congregations – led by Margie Krut, CSM and Celeste Schiller, CSM

- “Finishing Strong” - empowering congregations to recognize and minister to the needs of aging members, maximize their engagement, and honor their contributions to the Body of Christ. This course will encourage you to appreciate the gifts and contributions of older persons, no matter what stage of life they are in. It will help you to recognize the physical, spiritual, and social needs of these members so that your church can be more effective in older adult ministry and continue to benefit from the faith and wisdom of these individuals. There is also significant attention to the role of Christian faith in helping us to finish strong, no matter what age we are, when God calls us home. The course includes group discussion, problem solving with real life scenarios, sharing scriptures that relate to aging, humor, and use of multimedia.
- **This is an Advanced CSM course in Caring. All Laity are invited to attend however in order to receive credit as an advanced course you will need to complete the pre-class preparation/assignment.** (Saturday classroom time and 2 hours of pre-class preparation/assignment will be combined to make up the required 10 hours for the advanced course credit.) The pre-class preparation/assignment will be emailed to participants after registration and are due 2 weeks prior to the class.

Register at:

christianservantministries.net/events

The cost for the course is \$35

Check-in opens at 8:00 am

Class time - 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Lunch will be provided (please make sure you alert us to any dietary needs).

You can contact Sheri Kentner for more information at sherikentner@gmail.com