

Renew in the Smokies 2025 Workshops and On-Campus Activities

Here is a list of workshop and on-campus activities planned for this year’s Renew in the Smokies.

Please note that these plans are subject to change.

Presenter	Morning Workshop	Description	Week offered
Christensen, April	<i>Women Mentoring Younger Women</i>	We will explore together the biblical mandate/examples of teaching younger women, best practices to mentorship, share how to leave a legacy of mentorship, and share positive stories with each other.	Both weeks
Christensen, April	<i>Hospitality</i>	We will explore together the gift of biblical hospitality, simple to more creative ways to be hospitable, and share hospitality stories.	Both weeks
Christensen, April	<i>Prayer Ideas for small groups and/or any Church Gathering</i>	Come explore simple and creative ways to pray together and to our Maker with a small to medium group of believers.	Both weeks
Christensen, Rory	<i>Developing Spiritual Readiness</i>	How do we develop the strength of spirit that enables us to live for and like Christ no matter the situation or temptation? How do we help those we care for and about to move in this direction? This session will answer these questions by marking out and showing you how to integrate the four spiritual readiness essentials drawn from Navy chaplaincy.	Both weeks
Drinnon, Missy & Eastep, Karen	<i>Kaleidoscopes Cast in Sand</i>	Using sand, plaster, pieces of glass, stone, and other materials, participants will create a one-of-a-kind mosaic.	Both weeks
Elliott, Marvin	<i>50 Tips and Trips for Senior Travelers</i>	Whether traveling alone, with friends, or as a couple, seeing the world both near and far is a goal of many seniors. Dr. Marvin Elliott, Special Assistant to the President and experienced travel coordinator, offers both travel tips and trip ideas in a fast-paced, information-packed workshop.	Both weeks
Eubanks, Philip	Living Trust	This workshop will focus on the basics of estate planning and answer questions regarding living trusts. You will also learn about a service that can help you develop or update your plans.	Both weeks
Fleenor, Rob	<i>Ethics & the Bear Necessities</i>	A Bible study of 2 Kings 2:23-25, Elisha and the bears at Bethel	Both weeks

Fleenor, Rob	<i>Ten Plagues and a Hard Heart: God's Fairness in Exodus</i>	A Bible study of Pharoah's hard heart from the book of Exodus.	Both weeks
Fleenor, Rob	<i>Eye See What You Did in Judges</i>	An Overview of the book of Judges.	Both weeks
Fleenor, Shawnee	<i>Paint a Smoky Mountain Scene</i>	Laugh and paint in acrylics with us as we enjoy creating a Smoky Mountain scene. No drawing skills needed: choose from a pre-drawn canvas or draw your own if you prefer. No perfectionism allowed—violators will be prosecuted. Just kidding! Come have fun! Sign up at table in back of PW Auditorium. Cost to cover expenses - \$6.00. Same class as Thursday afternoon.	Both weeks
Houser, Denise	<i>Grief: New Ways to Understand and Process Grief</i>	Grief is not just a journey through the five stages of grief. This workshop will explore different ways to think about grief, including the tasks of grief and the dual-process model. OFFERED SECOND WEEK OF RENEW ONLY.	WEEK 2 ONLY
Houser, Denise	<i>Gowing Through Loss: Post-traumatic Growth</i>	An exploration of the concept of post-traumatic growth following a loss, both as a journey and a destination. OFFERED SECOND WEEK OF RENEW ONLY.	WEEK 2 ONLY
Nelson, Mark & Gorman, Heather	<i>Lunchroom Theology- Pushing Tables Together in a Fractured World</i>	A study of John 17 and Acts 15, based upon a book written by Mark Nelson and Dr. Heather Gorman	Both weeks
Robbins, Greg	<i>Images of Hope in Revelation</i>	Like the air we breathe, hope is essential to our survival. Revelation reminds us that we have eternal hope as Christians. In Revelation, hope is pictured as a wedding, a city, and a garden.	WEEK 1 ONLY
Smith, Tommy	<i>My Kidney Transplant Journey: A Living Testimony to the Faithfulness of God</i>	This workshop describes my kidney transplant journey (so far) and the lessons learned from the now over two years process. It introduces you to my living kidney donor and the amazing story behind her loving sacrifice on my behalf. I will also share important lessons about faith, prayer and gratitude that my wife Debbie and I learned through this season of life. Ultimately, this is a testimony to the faithfulness of God—and the confidence that God continues to hear and answer our prayers.	BOTH weeks
Stricklen, John	<i>The Priesthood of All Believers: Firmly in the Saddle</i>	Martin Luther once said "Human nature is like a drunk peasant. Lift him into the saddle on one side, over he topples on the other side." While this insight is broadly applicable, this workshop focuses on the Christian's calling in the workplace. Without "toppling off" one side or the other, how should Christians bring their faith into the workplaces they find themselves?	WEEK 2 ONLY

Stricklen, John	<i>Christian Civics</i>	Everyone knows that you aren't supposed to talk about politics or religion. So let's talk about both. What does it look like to engage in civic conversations as followers of Christ? How can we bring hope, healing, and peace into an often contentious arena? This will be a time of reflection, encouragement, and prayer as we look at what it means to be people of Good News despite, well, the news.	WEEK 2 ONLY
Wheeler, Cathy	<i>My Times Are in Your Hands</i>	No need to throw out our day planners; but we do need to open them up and lay them down before the LORD. Our days are numbered so let's make them count!	BOTH weeks
Wheeler, David	<i>Get Dirty and Celebrate</i>	A study of the seeds, soil, and sower in Matthew 13.	BOTH weeks
Zorn, Walt	Segullah; From Trash to Treasure and Back Again	My favorite Hebrew word in the Old Testament is <i>Segullah</i> ! It is used only eight times in the Old Testament but the idea of this word can be found about seven times in the New Testament. It can change your thinking about God's view of Israel, the Church, and you as a Christian. Come and enjoy a beautiful word study and why I call it: "From Trash to Treasure and Back Again!"	BOTH weeks
Afternoon Activities			
Cook, Steve	<i>Gospels Study with <u>The Chosen</u></i>	Fans of the series <i>The Chosen</i> often comment that the show leads them toward, not away from, studying the Gospels themselves. In this workshop, we will watch several clips and discuss how each one challenges us to a deeper reading of the accounts of Christ's earthly ministry.	WEEK 1 ONLY
Eastep, Karen & Drinnon, Missy	<i>Bingo</i>	Enjoy a time of fellowship and fun. You may even take home some cool JU swag!	
Eubanks, Philip & Edwards, Kenn	<i>Too Good to be True</i>	Come learn about special financial arrangements that can help you earn more, save taxes, and enjoy the satisfaction of helping God's kingdom. Learn how these arrangements can provide income for life, turn low dividend stock into a higher monthly income, or convert real estate into a regular income stream with zero capital gains taxes.	WEEK 1 ONLY
Elliott, Marvin & Lakin, Marie	Hymn Sing and Choir	Do you love to sing? Join Marie Lakin and Dr. Marvin Elliott for an hour of classic hymns and four-part harmony! We'll use the amazing acoustics of the marble hallway, the rich tones of a grand piano, and the beautiful voices of the "choir" to make joyful—and glorious—sounds of praise.	BOTH weeks
Fish, Ashley	Sears Catalog Home Tour	Join Josh and Ashley Fish for a tour of their 1920s campus home, ordered through the Sears, Roebuck, and Company Catalog. This year their home is decorated for Christmas! The tour begins on their porch and will last 20 minutes. NOTE: There are 2 steps up to the porch. Sign up and get a ticket at the registration table.	BOTH weeks

Fleenor, Shawnee	<i>Paint a Smokey Mountain Scene</i>	Laugh and paint in acrylics with us as we enjoy creating a Smoky Mountain scene. No drawing skills needed: choose from a pre-drawn canvas or draw your own if you prefer. No perfectionism allowed—violators will be prosecuted. Just kidding! Come have fun! Sign up at table in back of PW Auditorium. Cost to cover expenses - \$6.00. Same class as Wednesday morning.	BOTH weeks
Houser, Denise	<i>Families Grieving a Shared Loss</i>	Based on research with families who have experienced the loss of a child, this workshop will explore how families can navigate grief in a way that draws them closer together instead of pulling them apart.	WEEK 2 ONLY
Irwin, Hope	<i>Slow Flow Vinyasa Yoga</i>	A Yoga class designed for all skill levels. Modifications and/or progressions will be offered.	BOTH weeks
Mattingly, Jerry	<i>Museum Talk/Afternoon Visit</i>	The Archeology Museum will be open from 2:00 - 3:00.	BOTH weeks
Nelson, Monica & Norton, Cindi	<i>Low Impact Movement</i>	Put on your tennis shoes and comfy clothes and meet us in the Graham Center for a 40 minute fitness class for all fitness levels. Monica and Cindi will guide you through exercises that will improve flexibility, strength, and mobility. They will offer a more difficult 20 minutes after a slight break. Come for the first and stay for the second if you'd like.	BOTH weeks
Nelson, Monica & Norton, Cindi	<i>Water Aerobics</i>	Join Monica and Cindi at the Graham Center pool for an hour of water aerobics. Please arrive by 1:40 so you can change and be in the pool ready to begin at 2:00. Water shoes are preferred to wear in the pool to prevent slipping. Shoes must be worn to and from the pool. Please bring a towel. Waiver must be signed at front desk of Graham Center.	BOTH weeks
Shedd, Nathan	<i>The Crucifixion of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew</i>	This workshop will study the account of Jesus' death in Matthew's narrative by contextualizing it in its ancient Jewish context. The lecture will challenge the participants to hear the story with fresh ears, in line with how Matthew's first-century audience might have heard the story and thereby deepen their understanding of the significance of Jesus' crucifixion.	BOTH weeks
Thurman, Brooke	<i>Name that Tune</i>	Join us as we play Name that Tune. We will have fun as we work as a group to come up with song names, reminisce favorite music, and enjoy the company of others. We will be listening to hit songs from the oldies. Dancing is optional.	BOTH weeks
Thurman, Brooke	<i>Not Your Grandma's Medicare Educational Seminar</i>	Join us for a session that will provide education with a mixture of some general Medicare trivia and Q&A. You can educate yourself on the world of Medicare AND earn prizes. We will have fun and learn in the process!	BOTH weeks

Wheeler, Ron	<i>Reading The Screwtape Letters for Instruction in Practical Theology</i>	In <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> , C. S. Lewis exposes difficulties in and distractions to the transformation process faced by disciples of Jesus. Four questions relating to transformation emerge from the letters: What constitutes Reality in the human sense? How do we develop as Christ followers? What should we avoid as Christ followers? What should we engage in Christ followers? Contemplating these four questions advances disciples along the path of transformation.	BOTH weeks
Wolf, Bill	<i>What We've Left Undone: Congregational Confession & the Hunchback of Notre Dame</i>	When we hear the term "worship renewal," we may think of brand new and innovative ways of worship. But what if the most needed area of worship renewal today is the rediscovery of an ancient practice?	BOTH weeks
Woods-Miazza, Barb	<i>Greeting Card Craft</i>	What a pleasant surprise it is to receive an unexpected card in the mail. How much more meaningful and encouraging to receive one that is handmade and written especially for you. Come learn to create two kinds of clean and simple handmade cards in this make and take craft class. Cost to cover expenses - \$5.00. Sign up at table in back of PW Auditorium. Same class repeated on Thursday.	BOTH weeks