

To Register:

Call 717-560-9969 x 273 or visit www.SamaritanSafeChurch.org and click on Workshops, Retreats and Circles for a downloadable registration form.

Cost:

\$150 for five 3 hour workshops. Scholarship funds are available.

Meeting Dates:

Saturdays 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- September 23rd
- October 14th & 28th
- November 11th and 18th

Location:

Highland Presbyterian Church
500 E Roseville Rd.
Lancaster, PA

About the Instructor:

Deb Helt is the Senior Safe Church Facilitator & Congregation Support Specialist. She joined the Safe Places team in 2013, and has more than 20 years of experience as a Pastor and is trained as a Spiritual Director.

For More Information: Contact Deb at 717-560-9969 x 273 or dhelt@scclanc.org



**God Hears Their Cries,
Do We?**



“To sexually harm a child is an abuse of power. To hold power as an adult and not use it to protect children is also an abuse of power.”

*Linda Crockett, Founder,
Safe Church / Safe Places*

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**Circles of
Learning**

Starts September 2017



**Educate. Equip. Engage.
Move to End
Child Sexual Abuse**

Do you want to make a difference? Do you believe you have a contribution to make in keeping all children safe from sexual harm? We agree! *Circles of Learning* is a series of 5 workshops for anyone who believes the prevention of child sexual abuse is possible and wants to learn more.

Session Descriptions:

Session 1: Introduction to and Defining Six Types of Abuse

The fact that one in four girls and one in six boys is sexually abused before the age of 18 is NOT okay. Our goal is to equip and inspire people of faith to become proactive in protecting children from sexual and other forms of abuse, not only at church, but in the communities where we live.

This session will help you understand six types of abuse and provide ways to recognize the indicators of abuse.

Session 2: Navigating the Mandated Reporting Maze

In January of 2015, more than 20 pieces of legislation went into effect regarding the ways abuse is reported in Pennsylvania.

This session provides training on the most significant changes to PA's Child Protective Services Law. It will help you understand the revisions to

how child abuse is defined, new reporting thresholds (i.e. what "triggers" a legal obligation to report suspected abuse), specific certification requirements for all those who care for children, institutional responsibility, mandated reporting and new direct reporting requirements.

Session 3: The Grooming Process: What Every Adult Needs To Know

In many cases of child sexual abuse and incest, the "grooming process" consists of five distinct phases that offenders use to engage children and parents in a trusting relationship prior to sexually exploiting the child.

This session will help you understand the five phases of the grooming process. We will also view the compelling video "It's Not Just Jenna", based on a true story of a teen who was sexually abused by a family friend.

Session 4: Accompaniment of Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse

"To accompany is to walk with those who suffer. To form relationships with survivors that allow us to listen to their stories, to hear their pain. To bear witness to their journey, and to support their attempts to liberate themselves from the chains of past abuse." (*The Deepest Wound*, Linda Crockett) Adult survivors are often held captive to the trauma and violence they experienced decades ago which play out in their lives in many ways.

This session will explore how we can accompany, or walk with, survivors to support their healing. We will look at the accompaniment process, the impact of childhood sexual trauma on adult physical, emotional and spiritual health, as well as relationships.

Session 5: What about Forgiveness?

Forgiveness can become an obstacle to safety, survival, and healing for a survivor of sexual abuse. Many survivors express anxiety about forgiveness because they feel pressured to forgive their abusers, and then bear the burden of shame all of their lives because they can't forgive.

In this session we will explore questions that include, "What do we really mean by forgiveness?" "Is forgiveness one size fits all?" based on the work of Dr. James N. Poling on Five Types of Forgiveness.

After the Circles of Learning, participants will continue to receive support from the Samaritan Safe Places team and become part of the growing network of individuals and congregations committed to making God's dream of keeping children safe from sexual harm a reality.

