

# LOVE NOW!



## A CONVERSATION ON OPENING HEARTS AND MINDS

*Saturday, October 21*

### Love Now Conference

Saturday, October 21st @ Ponds Reformed Church  
341 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, NJ 07436

8:30 am to 3:30 pm

\$20, \$25 after Oct 8th

Includes continental breakfast and lunch.

8:30 am	Coffee/Check In
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Opening worship
9:45 am – 10:45 am	Session 1
11:00 am – 12 pm	Session 2
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Session 3
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Closing

### Rev. Joanne Van Sant

#### Broadening the Parameters For People With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

According to the study by the Collaborative on Faith and Disability, 84% of people with disabilities say their faith is important to them. So how do we provide an inclusive experience in our communities of faith for people with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities? In our time together we will discuss challenges and solutions that will enhance each of our community's ability to be welcoming and inclusive. We will exchange ideas and creative approaches we already use and build new approaches for these uniquely abled people.

### Marilyn Paarlberg

#### From Pique to Peak - First Steps on the Climb to LGBTQ Inclusion

Becoming an LGBTQ-affirming congregation often starts with restlessness; a ranking that perhaps the church's "all" doesn't yet mean all. When that pique is carefully nudged and nurtured, the result can be a sacred journey toward fuller embodiment of God's love.

To Register for the conference go to:  
[www.pondsnj.org](http://www.pondsnj.org) or call 201-337-6744  
Deadline is October 15th

### Participants Can Choose 3 Workshops

#### Rev. Randy Van Doornik - Respect, Compassion, Community - Welcoming people in poverty to ministry

Issues such as racism, class division, geography and even theology often hinder the Church in mission & ministry among the very poor. We will respond to these challenges by discussing some foundational principles guiding a church's approach to ministry among people living in deep poverty.

#### Rev. Nathan Busker & Sandy Khabbازه - The Blessing of the Other. A Story of Working with Refugees

What happens when a church declares it is open and affirming? The leaders will share their stories of how an open and affirming posture opened up ministry opportunities the church never imagined.

#### Cameron Van Kooten Laughead - Entangled and Embodied: Unpacking the Intersecting Identities We Hold

"Intersectionality" is not a new term, but is one that's met more and more frequently, and with some confusion. What is it and how does it apply to me (or to my neighbor?) Are you sure I'm someone with intersecting identities? (The answer to that last one is Yes!) This workshop will help us each unpack our own identities, how they connect within ourselves and to others, and how/when we can use these identities to advocate with oppressed persons.

#### Rev. Andy Rienstra - Mental Illness a Family Story

How does a family deal with their 20-year old daughter who is diagnosed with Schizophrenia? Rev. Andy Rienstra will share his personal story over the past 37 years with his daughter.