

Lunch and Learn explores child abuse

Early childhood teachers and workers in area congregations are invited to lunch and to learn about "Child Abuse and Congregations" in a Lunch & Learn session on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Soul Cafe at Duke Memorial United Methodist, 504 W. Chapel Hill St.

Ted Whiteside of Durham's Partnership for Children, will present an overview on what is child abuse, what are indicators of possible abuse and what is the reporting process.

Several teams from area congregations will share how prevention programs have been implemented in their faith community.

They include Michelle Old, child care coordinator at Watts Street Baptist; the Rev. Jessie Larkin, pastor of family life at Mt. Sylvan UMC; and the Rev. Heather Lear, pastor at Fletcher's Chapel UMC.

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, a second Lunch & Learn workshop will address "How Child Abuse and Trauma Impacts Early Development." Dr. George (Tripp) Ake of the Center for Child and Family Health will lead the session. He will address how abuse and neglect impact early child development, especially early brain development in young children.

These workshop sessions are free and open to all. Congregation staff, including faith educators, children's ministry directors, volunteers and/or parents who work with young children in faith-based environments are encouraged to attend.

These sessions begin at 11:30 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Those attending should bring a bag lunch. Beverages will be provided. The Soul Cafe is located at the back of the church.

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