

# Shenango Marriage Retreat

Villa Maria Retreat Center | April 1-3, 2016

## Friday

5:00pm	Arrival and Registration	Potier Center lobby
5:30	Supper	Dining Hall
6:15	Gathering Worship	Magnificat Chapel
7:00	<b>COMMUNICATION: The Lifeline of a Good Relationship</b>	Conference Rooms

## Saturday

8:00am	Morning Prayers	
8:30	Breakfast	Dining Hall
9:15	<b>CONFLICT: The Challenge of Creative Problem Solving</b>	Conference Rooms
	Break	
11:45	Lunch	Dining Hall
12:30pm	<b>COVENANT: The Promises We Make</b>	Conference Rooms
2:30	Recreation time	
5:30	Supper	Dining Hall
6:15	<b>COMMITMENT: Living Out of Our Values and Calling</b>	Conference Rooms
8:30	<b>Shenango Not-So-Newlywed Game</b>	TBD

## Sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayers	
8:30	Breakfast	Dining Hall
9am	<b>CHILDREN: Our Future Story</b>	Conference Rooms
11:00	Sending Worship	Magnificat Chapel
11:45	Lunch	Dining Hall
12:15pm	Depart	

# Marriage Retreat FAQ

***Why a marriage retreat?*** Over the years, our semi-annual overnight retreats have been a great blessing to our pastors—wonderful fellowship and great learning. We decided it would be an equal blessing to offer a retreat for our married pastors, and to hold it on a weekend, so that spouses could also enjoy a time of respite, learning, and fellowship with other Shenango couples. Villa Maria is a beautiful and relaxing retreat space, and the schedule will include free time and space to relax and reflect.

***Can we commute for the day to the retreat?*** Because of the importance of truly retreating from home and church responsibilities, we are asking couples who attend to commit to the entire weekend, including staying overnight. We believe the sacrifice of time away from home and ministry will be worth the great blessing of an uncluttered and unbusy weekend.

***What is the cost?*** Our presbytery is underwriting the overall cost for the weekend in order to keep it affordable. We are asking younger couples and couples with kids still at home to pay \$150 for the weekend. We are asking empty-nest couples to pay \$200. You will enjoy overnight accommodations in the new Villa Maria guests rooms as well as six meals and all the learning materials from Nathan Brooks.

***What about Sunday morning at our church?*** Because we want this to be a true weekend away, we are asking participants not to return home for Sunday morning duties. If needed, we are offering your session either a preacher to supply the pulpit or an honorarium reimbursement to underwrite a preacher of their invitation. Either way, we are asking your session to support your participation in this retreat, should you choose to attend.

***What about childcare?*** Because most (but certainly not all) of our pastor couples with children at home have extended family in the area or congregational friends who could provide childcare for two nights, we are not offering any official childcare options. We believe you know best the arrangements that will provide for your children. However, we do not want the absence of practical options to prevent anyone's participation, so speak to Ralph Hawkins if you need assistance with childcare for the weekend.

***Is this just for younger couples?*** Absolutely not! Nathan is looking forward to a variety of ages and years of marriage among our participants. No doubt part of the joy of fellowship will be hearing from couples of different generations and years of experience.

***What's the Friday afternoon workshop?*** Because all pastors wind up working with couples who are preparing for married life, we've asked Nathan Brooks to offer a 90-minute workshop on the pastoral work of marriage preparation. This is a free refresher workshop open to all our pastors, whether or not they are attending the weekend retreat with a spouse. It will be held at New Wilmington Presbyterian Church, 1pm, on Friday afternoon. There will be time to attend, return home, and then travel to Villa Maria with your spouse for the weekend retreat.

***How do I register for the retreat?*** Call Autumn in the presbytery office (724-528-1610) or go online to [www.shenango.org](http://www.shenango.org) to register today. Payment options are available.