

The graphic features a dark blue background with a stylized orange and yellow circular shape on the left side. The text is centered in white, uppercase letters.

## MISSIONS CLASS TRAINING FOR TODAY'S REALITIES

This Winter, our Mission Class will be a series of training sessions to prepare us to be ready to respond to a variety of life's realities.

*Topics include the following:*

- February 2: **Emergency Operations Plan**  
led by Julie Ruchniewicz
- February 9: **Five-Fold Ministry Functions (Equipped for Service)** led Melanie Myatt
- February 16: **De-escalation Practices (Part 1)**  
Co-led by Jen Feuer-Crystal and Susan Murphy
- February 23: **Self Care when Serving Others**
- March 1: **Scope of Services: Connections for the Homeless**
- March 8: **De-escalation Practices (Part 2)**  
Co-led by Jen Feuer- Crystal and Susan Murphy

**March 15: All Church Sunday School with Dr. Andy Root**

- March 22: **Best Practices with Refugees**  
Led by Galya Ben-Aria, J.D., PhD.
- March 29: **World Relief: The Situation of Refugees in the U.S. today.** Led by Sara Aardema

### SPEAKER BIOS:

**Julie Ruchniewicz** has been the Parish Nurse at First Presbyterian Church, Evanston since 2009. She has a BSN in nursing and practices in the Neonatal ICU at Northshore Hospital, Evanston. She is married with three children.

**Melanie Myatt** has a Master of Divinity from Trinity International University. She preaches, teaches, and writes a variety of Bible studies. Along with caring for her four children, she is currently completing her certificate for Spiritual Direction.

**Jennifer Feuer-Crystal** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and has worked in homeless and housing services for twenty years including working with survivors of domestic violence, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, and working with participants once they secure housing. Jen is currently the Director of Housing Programs at Connections for the Homeless. Jen is a graduate of The Ohio State University and received her Master's of Social Work degree from The University of Michigan. Jen is passionate about using philosophies of Trauma Informed Care, Harm Reduction, and other strengths based models and enjoys sharing her experiences through training others.

**Susan Murphy** has lived in Evanston for 35 years. She has four children and was an active volunteer at Pope John XXIII School and Evanston Township High School. She previously worked for The Charlie Murdough Foundation which was at First Presbyterian Church. She participated in Leadership Evanston in 2012 and graduated from Evanston's Citizen Police Academy in 2013. She began working at Interfaith Action of Evanston 23 years ago when it was still the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council and has been Executive Director for 18 years.

**Galya Ben-Arieh, J.D., Ph.D.**, is Professor of Instruction in Political Science at Northwestern University. Her research centers on the rights and processes of refugee protection and the role of law in settlement and inclusion in host societies. She has spent time researching refugee protection in a digital age as well as publishing a recent book, *Adjudicating Refugee and Asylum Status: The Role of Witness, Expertise, and Testimony*.

**Sara Aardema** helps refugees and local churches build relationships as World Relief Chicago's Director of Volunteer and Church Engagement. Sara trains and equips churches to advocate for Chicago's refugee and immigrant community, and loves witnessing God transform lives through cross-cultural ministry. Sara holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Loyola University Chicago and a B.A. in International Studies from Hope College.