



Multigenerational Transmission Process: Evolution in Real Time

Presentation Schedule | Friday, October 16, 2026

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome	Members of WPFC Board & Faculty
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Multigenerational Transmission Process: Evolution in Real Time	Priscilla Friesen, LICSW
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	Break	
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Multigenerational Transmission Process: Evolution in Real Time (Followed by Audience Discussion)	Priscilla Friesen, LICSW
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Lunch	
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Bowen Theory as Lens and Guide for Leadership: A Case Study (Followed by Audience Discussion)	Carl Jensen, M. Div., M. S. Ed.
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	A Focus Is a Focus: Food, Bodies, and Family Emotional Process (Followed by Audience Discussion)	Heather Brown, LMFT
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Break	
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	From Discovery to Resistance: The Termination of Murray Bowen's NIMH Research and the Development of Bowen Theory (Followed by Audience Discussion)	Catherine Rakow, MSW, ACSW
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Panel Discussion	Keynote and Presenters





Multigenerational Transmission Process: Evolution in Real Time

Presentation Schedule | Saturday, October 17, 2026

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Welcome	Members of WPFC Board & Faculty
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Multigenerational Transmission Process: Evolution in Real Time and Keynote Interview <i>(Followed by Audience Discussion)</i>	<i>Priscilla Friesen, LICSW</i> <i>Interviewer: Annette Kolski-Andreaco, LCSW, MURP</i>
10:30 AM - 10:45 AM	<i>Break</i>	
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	Multigenerational Transmission Process: Evolution in Real Time and Keynote Interview <i>(Followed by Audience Discussion)</i>	<i>Priscilla Friesen, LICSW</i> <i>Interviewer: Annette Kolski-Andreaco, LCSW, MURP</i>
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	<i>Lunch</i>	
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	Intuition, Bowen Theory, and Adaptive Capacity <i>(Followed by Audience Discussion)</i>	<i>Ann Depner, LCSW</i>
1:15 PM - 2:15 PM	The Multigenerational Legacy of Emotional Process in Family Businesses <i>(Followed by Audience Discussion)</i>	<i>Solange Moss, MBA, MS</i>
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	<i>Break</i>	
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	"If You Give my Kid a Cookie:" One Story of Multigenerational Transmission Around Emotions and Eating <i>(Followed by Audience Discussion)</i>	<i>Kimberly van Driel M.Div., S.T.M.</i>
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Panel Discussion	<i>Keynote and Presenters</i>





Speaker Bios

Priscilla Friesen LICSW

Keynote Speaker

Priscilla Friesen was introduced to the ideas of Murray Bowen in 1976 while completing her graduate studies in social work at the University of Kansas. In 1978, she moved from Kansas to Washington, DC, to further pursue her interest in Bowen theory.

At the Georgetown Family Center, she served as the clinical and administrative assistant to Dr. Lillian Rosenbaum, who developed the Center's Biofeedback Program. This early exposure to biofeedback significantly shaped Ms. Friesen's understanding of Bowen theory and the physiology of relationships.

Ms. Friesen was appointed to the faculty in 1987. From 1990 to 2003, she directed the Postgraduate Program in Bowen Family Systems Theory and Its Applications. In 1994, she expanded her clinical work to include neurofeedback, which led to a deeper study of evolution, brain development, and the ways the brain, mind, and relationships operate in synchrony.

In 2005, she co-founded The Learning Space to provide consultation integrating Bowen theory and neurofeedback. With Kathleen Wiseman, she later created Navigating Systems, a program for family enterprise that ran from 2012 to 2022 and integrated Bowen theory and neurofeedback to address functioning of self in family and work systems.

Ms. Friesen is active on the board of The Murray Bowen Archives Project, which is working to preserve Bowen's archival materials and make them available to the world.

Friday Presenters (Listed in presentation order)

Carl A. Jensen, M. Div., M. S. Ed.

Carl Jensen has served as a pastoral counselor/marriage and family therapist, counseling center administrator, consultant to clergy and congregations, and adjunct instructor. In semi-retirement, he has continued to provide consultation, worship leadership, and interim pastorates.

Specifically, he was the Executive Director of Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, Newport News, Va. for nine years, the Director of Pastoral Counselor Training at Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute for eighteen years, and a parish pastor for twelve years full time and seven years part time.

Before retirement he was a Diplomate, American Association of Pastoral Counselors, a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Academically, he received the degrees of Post-Master's Family Therapy Certificate from the School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, M.S.Ed. from Duquesne University, and M.Div., Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He was ordained in 1972 in the Lutheran Church in America.





Heather Brown, LMFT

Heather Brown is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist at The Center for Relational Change in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She works with individuals, couples, and families through Bowen family systems theory, helping clients explore emotional process and relationship patterns. Heather supervises clinicians pursuing licensure through the center's residency program and mentors therapists seeking to deepen their systemic thinking. She serves on the board of the Western Pennsylvania Family Center, a nonprofit dedicated to education grounded in Bowen theory, and has taught as an adjunct professor in Seton Hill University's Marriage and Family Therapy program. Heather is committed to exploring systems of oppression, societal emotional process, and differentiation of self through conferences, workshops, and symposia. She values lifelong learning through relationships, nature, photography, movement, and creative practice, embracing these experiences as opportunities for growth and reflection.

Catherine Rakow, MSW, ACSW

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, she studied Bowen family systems theory at the WPIC Family Therapy Institute and at the Georgetown Family Center. Mrs. Rakow is a licensed social worker retired from private practice. Her independent study of Dr. Bowen's early research at the Menninger Clinic, 1946 to 1954, and at the National Institute of Mental Health from 1954 to 1959 at the National Library of Medicine deepened understanding of his research approach, the observations underlying the original theoretical concepts, and the continued relevance of these data for extending Bowen theory.

Saturday Presenters (Listed in presentation order)

Ann Depner, LCSW

A licensed clinical social worker, Ann Depner maintains a private practice of family therapy and spiritual direction in Pittsburgh, PA, where she also serves on the faculty of the Western PA Family Center. Ann received her training in Bowen theory at WPFC and completed the 2-year postgraduate course in 1989. She formerly worked as a clinician and Director of Family Services for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Ann has applied Bowen theory to her work as a clinician, administrator, and spiritual director throughout her career. Speaking from a family systems perspective, she has presented locally and nationally on topics such as the process of development for clinicians, ethics in the mental health profession, differentiation of self as a developmental process, and the relationship of Bowen theory and spirituality.

Solange Moss, MBA, MS

Solange Moss is a doctoral candidate in the Marriage and Family Therapy (D.M.F.T.) program at Nova Southeastern University and a Registered Marriage and Family Therapist Intern in Florida. She also holds a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Management. Raised in a multigenerational family business, Solange developed an early appreciation for entrepreneurship, community service, and the relational dynamics that shape family enterprises. Her clinical work, particularly with a Children's Crisis Response Team, deepened her understanding of recurring family interaction patterns and sparked a personal connection to Bowen Family Systems Theory (BFST). She has integrated her professional, academic, and personal experiences into her doctoral research, which examines the emotional system within multigenerational family businesses through the lens of BFST. Solange is passionate about bridging family systems theory with business consultation to strengthen families and their enterprises. She is married and the proud mother of two children.





Kimberly van Driel M.Div., S.T.M.

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel received her M.Div. from Yale University and her B.A. from the University of Virginia. She currently serves as pastor of First English Lutheran Church in Butler, Pennsylvania and has also pastored congregations in Naugatuck, Connecticut, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has studied Bowen Family Systems Theory throughout her ministry, first as a resident in Yale-New Haven Hospital's Clinical Pastoral Education program and then through the Lombard-Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, IL. She is active in interfaith work and has authored one book of sermons and several articles on the craft of preaching.

