



conference 2023

Additional Speakers



Crystal Wieland

Crystal Wieland has homeschooled since the beginning of her parenting career. She and her amazing husband, Jason, have two sons, Isaiah (16) and Justice (10). Though they are beyond busy bags now, she would go back to diaper bags and full library bags in a flash. She is grateful to her cousin who first planted the seed of homeschooling in her heart, along with awesome books to get her ready, and for a sweet homeschool community to encourage and lift her up both spiritually and academically.

CRYSTAL'S WORKSHOP:

Toddler Busy Bags [Make & Take Workshop]



Lori Heschke

Lori Heschke has been an artist at heart for as long as she can remember. She heard the Lord's grace-filled invitation to homeschool more than 30 years ago and has been learning along the way ever since. Her kids are all grown now, but she still loves to teach. Weaving Scripture, prayer, and art together, she tells the story of God's goodness in her life and never tires of seeing glimpses of His glory right in the midst of the everyday. Lori lives in Pella, where she does commissioned artwork, teaches lessons, leads workshops, and serves at her church in creative arts ministry for all ages.

LORI'S WORKSHOP:

Personalized Journals [Make & Take Workshop]



Mandy Berkley

Mandy Berkley was an elementary teacher for 12 years before she and her husband decided to homeschool their two children almost nine years ago. During her homeschool years, she opened Homespun Elegance, an all Iowa handmade store, classroom, and splatter room in West Des Moines. She also teaches homeschool art classes to students in grades K-6, and she enjoys working with homeschool co-ops to bring art projects into their groups as well.

MANDY'S WORKSHOP:

Welcome Home Signs [Make & Take Workshop]



Donna Owen

Donna lives on a farm in western Iowa with her husband, Jon, and their youngest two. They have been home educators since 2006 and have graduated two. She loves Jesus, her husband and family, backpacking, photography, nourishing food, books, and more. She has been making sourdough bread for her family and friends for many years and enjoys sharing this wonderful skill with others and encouraging them and learning from them as well.

DONNA'S WORKSHOP:

Sourdough Bread [Make & Take Workshop]



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Amy Ratekin

Amy Ratekin has taught self-defense skills for over 35 years. She has enjoyed careers as a music therapist/music teacher, a caregiver/residential director for adults and children with developmental disabilities and special needs, a hospice nurse for children with special needs, an event producer, a mother of three children, and a military spouse for 18 years.

In 2010, her family began Spirit TKD, offering Traditional Taekwondo & adaptive martial arts for students with special needs of age 5-adult. She has achieved the rank of 6th Dan, International Kukkiwon Senior Master Instructor, and Internationally Certified Adaptive/Para Taekwondo Instructor. Amy and her family of black belts joined COBRA in 2013 to become professional/certified self-defense instructors and began COBRA Self-Defense Iowa, working to empower all people against all forms of violence. In 2020, the family began Spread Your Wings, Inc. and The Village youth center.

AMY'S WORKSHOP:

Self Defense [Teen Track Workshop]

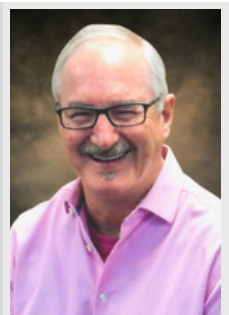


Tressa Teel

Tressa Teel is a homeschool graduate, business owner, and speaker. She has served as a legislative secretary in the Iowa House of Representatives and has travelled with TeenPact Leadership Schools teaching the legislative process. Tressa is enthusiastic about equipping Christians to take a stand for issues they care about in the local political space.

TRESSA'S WORKSHOP:

Government Involvement [Teen Track Workshop]



Larry Hanthorn

Larry Hanthorn is a husband, father, grandfather, church leader, and business professional. Larry is retired from a career in IT and software development. He is a certified seminar instructor with Crown Financial Ministries and has a passion to see people learn and apply God's financial principles to every aspect of their lives.

Larry has been a budget coach for hundreds of singles, couples, and families and has taught God's financial principles to audiences across the United States.

Larry is a spiritual "prodigal son" and now has a heart for reaching people who don't know Jesus. He and his wife, Sheryl, live in Pella within a short driving distance from their three adult children and nine grandchildren.

LARRY'S WORKSHOP:

Financial Freedom for Teens [Teen Track Workshop]