

March 05, 2027, 6:30 pm – Mar 06, 2027, 4:00 pm
UALC Mill Run Campus
3500 Mill Run Drive | Hilliard, Ohio 43026

About the event

Join us for a new Parenting Conference designed to encourage and equip anyone raising children today. Through engaging keynote sessions and practical breakouts, parents, grandparents, caregivers, and ministry leaders will gain wisdom, support, and fresh encouragement for the journey of raising kids in faith and love.

This year's conference features keynote speaker and author, Dr. Michelle Anthony. She will share insights on building lasting faith in children and teens. Learn more about her here.

Breakout sessions include:

- Caring and Advocating for Children with Special Needs
- Grandparenting Well
- Four Tips to Talk to Kids of Any Age About Sex
- Mentally Healthy Families
- Parenting in the Age of Technology
- Raising Resilient Kids
- Will My Kid be Okay in the Future?

Read about the breakout sessions and speakers on the following pages.

Register Here

Breakout Sessions

Caring and Advocating for Children with Special Needs
with Tonya Reidel

Hear from parents as they share experiences and practical wisdom for caring and advocating for children with special needs—from everyday life and relationships to school, adulthood, and nurturing a lifelong faith.

Grandparenting Well
with Christine Thompson

Explore the unique calling of grandparents to nurture faith across generations through encouragement and prayer, while navigating relationships with adult children and responding with grace when facing estrangement or loss of faith.

Four Tips to Talk to Kids of Any Age About Sex from a Biblical Lens
with Kristen Miele

Taught by Kristen Miele, Owner and Founder of Sex Ed Reclaimed, a Biblical curriculum designed to equip parents for honest, age-appropriate conversations about sex, relationships, identity, and God's design. You'll leave this presentation with the skills to talk to your children about sex with confidence, wisdom, and grace.

Mentally Healthy Families
with Sarah Schweisthal, MA, MFT

Many, well actually, most families are navigating the difficulties of mental health issues. Challenges like anxiety, depression, or ADHD are very real. But we certainly don't have to let those challenges take over. Join us to discover ways we can work towards greater mental health for our kids and family.

Parenting in the Age of Technology
with Emily Meister, LPCC

Understand how technology impacts a child's developing brain and explore practical, grace-filled ways to set healthy boundaries and make wise choices—wherever your family is starting from in today's digital world.

Resilient Kids, Resilient Families
with Eric Pickering, PhD

We live in a culture that encourages the avoidance of normal challenges and unpleasant emotions - especially for our children. Yet, no one wants to be seen as a fragile person. Join us to explore how we might raise our children to have strength and resiliency.

Will My Kid be Okay In the Future?
with Greg Schad, LISW-S, IMFT-S

Many people intuitively believe the purpose of parenting is "to raise a happy, healthy adult." Christian parents often add "who is following the Lord." Find out why this is an impossible task. Also, find out what shifts we need to make to fulfill our parenting purposes.

Speakers

Dr. Michelle Anthony: Michelle is a Sr. Executive Pastor at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, and the Director of The Initiative for Faith and Family. She is the author of Spiritual Parenting,The Big God Story, Becoming a Spiritually Healthy Family, A Theology of Family Ministry, and 7 Family Ministry Essentials. Michelle has 40 years of church ministry and leadership experience in children's and family ministries and graduate degrees in Christian Education, Bible and Theology from Talbot School of Theology, and her Doctorate in Education from Southern Seminary. In her free time, Michelle enjoys being with her family, entertaining, reading,, and a good cup of coffee.

Dr. Eric Pickering: Eric earned a Bachelor of Arts at Butler University and a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology from The Ohio State University. He earned the Excellence in Psychology Award from Butler University in 1996 and The Best Practices Award from the School Psychologists of Central Ohio in 2008. As a licensed psychologist in the state of Ohio, Eric provides psychological services including counseling, performance consultation, and evaluations for children, adolescents and adults as well as presentations and seminars. Eric does a great job assessing, understanding and explaining the interplay between cognitive, behavioral, and emotional factors in learning and in performance. Eric has helped many students and parents navigate issues from giftedness to ADHD and learning disabilities. He has also helped middle school, high school, and college age athletes elevate their performance to maximize potential for success at the collegiate and/or professional level. Additionally, Eric provides invaluable direction as he assists parents in navigating their teenagers' academic and athletic development.

Sarah Schweisthal, MA, MFT: Sarah received her Bachelor of Arts in Comparative World Religions through Miami University (Ohio), and received her Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from Kairos University completing her Masters in Marriage Family Therapy. Sarah is licensed in Ohio as a Marriage and Family Therapist. She is under the clinical supervision of Greg Schad, LISW-S, IMFT-S. Sarah has 20 years of experience working in full time ministry primarily with college aged students. She enjoys working with families, couple and individuals and hold certifications in Gottman Method Couples Therapy Level One and Trauma Focused CBT. As a therapist she utilizes an experiential, strengths based approach and strives to create an atmosphere of compassion and curiosity with her clients.

Greg Schad, LISW-S, IMFT-S: Greg received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Master of Social Work from The Ohio State University. He has many years of experience working with individuals, couples and families in a variety of settings including churches, schools, hospitals, corporations, and community mental health. Greg serves as Executive Director for Crossroads Counseling Group. He holds the independent level of licensure in social work and in marriage and family therapy. Greg works with adults and offers individual, marital, and family counseling. He also provides trainings for organizations as well as consultation.

Kristen Miele: Kristen has a Bachelor's and Master's of Science in Community Health from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Kristen became a Certified Health Education Specialist (NCHEC) in 2016 to further her abilities in teaching prevention and safety. She's taught sex ed in many diverse settings covering all childhood ages. Currently, over 35 hours of content exists in the digital library curriculum of Sex Ed Reclaimed. The curriculum is the compilation of all she's taught in the last 15 years in hundreds of classrooms. The content of Sex Ed Reclaimed is utilized in all 50 states and 14 countries. Her materials are designed to protect, empower, and encourage kids as they engage with the content while still living in a sexualized world. The vision for curriculum originally came to her in November 2021 through prayer. Kristen and her husband live in Columbus Ohio with two daughters and their cats. They married in 2012, went overseas in 2019, and returned to the states in 2021. Kristen's work has been featured on several podcasts and various media found here.

Emily Meister: Emily holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from The Ohio State University and a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary. She has a general clinical practice at WellSpring counseling children (5+), adolescents and adults. Emily enjoys working with people in all stages of life but especially enjoys working with children, adolescents, teens and their families. With children and adolescents, she incorporates play, activities, educational videos, and workbooks in sessions. Emily finds it a privilege to offer counseling to individuals in need and enjoys the process of facilitating their growth and healing. She and her husband have two daughters and enjoy spending time outdoors as a family. They highly value their local church community, which plays a significant role in their lives and provides a network of support and fellowship.

Times

Friday, March 5, 6:30-8:00 pm
Doors open at 5:45 with "first-come" seating.

Saturday, March 6, 9:30 am-4:00 pm
doors open at 9:00 am with same seating policy.

Cost

$50. Ticket includes lunch and snacks

What to Expect

Weekend Schedule

Friday, March 5

- 5:45 pm: Doors open, "first come" seating available
- 6:30 pm: Mai Session 1 with Dr. Michelle Anthony
- 7:45 pm: Light Reception

Saturday, March 6

- 9:00 am: Doors open, "first come" seating available
- 9:30 am- Session 2 with Dr. Michelle Anthony
- 11:00 am Lunch break
- 12:15 pm Doors open for break-out session
- 12:30 pm Breakout session A
- 1:45 pm Breakout session B
- 2:45 pm Session 3 with Dr. Michelle Anthony
- 4: 00 pm Dismissal, cleanup crew begins

Join us for Worship

Led by Ashley Corryn Music

About Ashley: My heart is to write and create authentic expressions – snapshots of my deepest inner wonderings, conversations, and longings. I've found that when I'm attentive to these and intentional to create from that space, I'm much more aware of Divine involvement in my life. It feels vulnerable, but I want to invite you into that space with me. I believe God is longing and waiting for us there. Here's an invitation to courageous attentiveness – an invitation to feel again.

Link to Ashley's music:
https://www.ashleycorryn.com/music

Register Here

Learn more about our prepared boxed lunches provided by our partnership with Freedom a la Cart.

People are not property. No person should be bought or sold for sex. Not here in Central Ohio. Not anywhere.

Freedom a la Cart empowers survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation to build lives of freedom and self-sufficiency. We believe that breaking down employment barriers is vital for creating a pathway to freedom. So, we've created a safe place of restoration where survivors can heal, learn and grow as they prepare for sustainable employment, gain personal independence and reintegrate into our community.

https://freedomalacart.org/about/