

## Renewing of the Mind Youthfully 2024 Speakers

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### **June 29th:** Different Definitions of Faith Across Generations and History of the Black Church



**Persephone Modeste** is a certified school and community counselor who is gaining licensure as a mental health counselor from the University of Rochester Warner School of Education. She has an MS in School and Community Counseling from Warner (2015) and a Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences from SUNY Brockport (2011). Persephone has 35+ years of experience providing culturally informed support, services, and interventions to children, women, and families in community and academic settings. She contracts with Sankofa Family Counseling, Rise-Up Rochester, and Roc the Peace and is a Coach on the RCSD RocRestorative Team. She is an active member of the Black Women's Leadership Forum and the Equity Review Board for the United Way TogetherNow Community Integration Initiative.

Persephone believes that inside each person is the power to see and to overcome life's challenges. She herself has survived many of life's obstacles and traumatic events, having been married, divorced and resilient through attending school and developing a career while raising two sons and one daughter. Her experiences have led her to do the work that brings her joy. She also enjoys African studies and embraces the sentiment that, "it takes a village." Persephone loves music and is passionate about people. She takes a reality-based approach to providing Person-Centered Narrative Therapy. She knows that we all have a story and our stories have stories that have shaped our reality, reactions, and outcomes. Her goal is to help individuals find what is necessary to recognize their strengths and to find new meaning in their experiences.

### **July 20th:** Community Engagement - Engaging Peers and Elders to Support and Build a Healthy Space in the Faith Community



**Jini Figueroa** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Founder/Senior Clinician of Natural Restoration Counseling Services (established in January 2020). Jini is a City of Rochester Native. She grew up in the Joseph Avenue Neighborhood, attending city schools and graduating 6th in her class from Benjamin Franklin High School. She went on to attend the State University of New York University at Albany, where she received a bachelor's degree in Biology. She continued her education in the Greater Rochester Collaborative Masters of Social Work Program with a concentration in Family and Community, receiving her Masters from Nazareth and Brockport University. Her research focus continues to explore resilience within families and communities inclusive of cultural influences. Jini has served her community in various capacities over the years, foremost as

a proud mother of AfroLatinas, Jailyn and Giana. Jini has sat at several tables advocating for educational and health equity for youth and families for the last fourteen years; Horizons at Harley Board of Directors, Civic Design Team of Greater Rochester parent Leadership Training Institute, to name a few. Currently, Jini sits on the Common Ground Health Board of Directors as a Parent Advocate.