



BMPC
Adult Education

Winter | Spring 2018

Adult Education

Sunday Mornings 8:45a.m.

SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

8:45 a.m. Conference Room, Ministries Center

Starting back Sunday, January 7

This longstanding class is a place for conversation and fellowship each week. Working through a variety of topics of life and faith, this group is led by the Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray.

This January Paul will lead the group through a discussion of Martin Buber's 1958 book *I and Thou*. This Christian classic is a small but important book that is still ahead of its time. Books are available from Paul MacMurray. **CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org**

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

8:45 a.m. Room 201, Education Building

February 4, 11, 25 & March 4, 11 & 18

Combining both the study of scripture and our own personal experiences of faith and the Bible, this group seeks to apply scripture to our daily lives as parents, grandparents and active members of the community. **This Lent the group will read and discuss Rob Bell's *What is the Bible?: How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters and Stories can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything*.** Conversation will be guided by the Rev. Franklyn Pottorff. **BarbhHeaton@gmail.com**

FILLING THE WELL

8:45 a.m. Children's Library, Education Building

Starting back Sunday, January 7

This weekly class gives women an opportunity for fellowship, study and conversation on issues of faith and life. This winter/spring the group will be using a new resource called **Animate**, which offers short video interpretations of issues of faith including the Bible, Church, God, Jesus and more featuring contemporary Christian leaders and scholars. **peggyhermann@hotmail.com**

LECTIO DIVINA 9:25-9:50 A.M., MIDDLETON CENTER

Lectio divina is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures. We set aside time just before Sunday communal worship to explore how the reading for that day intertwines with our concerns, relationships, hopes, and aspirations, . Attending "with the ear of our hearts," we listen for God's presence in the events of our lives and contemplate how we might carry what we hear during this prayer into the rest of our lives. This group is led by Paul Burgmayer. **info@middletontcenter.org**

Adult Education

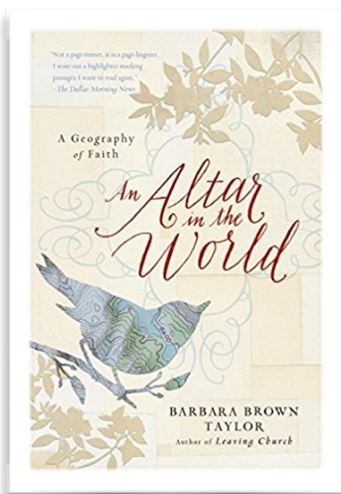
Sunday Mornings 11:15 a.m.

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 7, 14, 21, 28

11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor

Patricia Danzon, Spiritual Director, Middleton Center



In her book, ***An Altar in the World***, Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest, professor, author and theologian, describes spirituality as “the name for a longing – for more meaning, more feeling, more connection, more life.”

Her answer to this longing is to seek to become “more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world.” In each chapter of this book, Taylor talks about a simple practice or exercise in being human, that requires a body as well as a soul, and helps her live with her longing for more.

These simple practices include paying attention, encountering others, living with purpose, saying no, feeling pain, being present to God. In this class, we will discuss the book and these practices, and see how they fit in the altars of our own lives.

THREE WEEKS WITH REINHOLD NIEBUHR

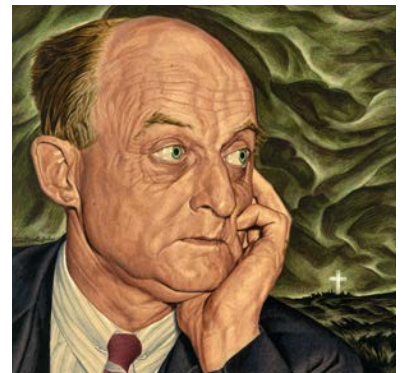
SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 4, 11 & 18

11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor

February 4 - Dr. Jeremy L Sabella, author of the recent book *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*, will provide an introduction to the work and life of the preeminent 20th Century American Theologian. We will examine his writings, theology and his impact on the social and political times in which he lived.

February 11 - This morning we will screen the new documentary *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*. (Dr. Sabella’s book is a companion to this film.) This documentary is rich with archival material and features new interviews with Jimmy Carter, civil rights leader Andrew Young, New York Times writer David Brooks, and a host of notable historians and theologians.

February 18 - David Smith, Interim Director of Youth Ministry, will lead us through an exploration of the impact and legacy of Niebuhr specifically related to our current cultural and political climate.



Adult Education

Sunday Mornings 11:15 a.m.

SUNDAYS, FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 18

A LENTEN STUDY OF HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*

11:15 a.m., Congregational Hall

The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick,
Jeffrey Brillhart, Director of Music and Fine Arts.

Through careful reading of the scripture and a reflection on Handel's musical interpretation of the text we will walk through the season of Lent together. As we examine the pieces that make up what are considered the Easter portions of the Messiah, we will also be joined by our Chancel Choir section leaders who will sing each piece for us as well.



SUNDAY, APRIL 15

REFLECTIONS ON PAUL WINTER'S ICONIC *MISSA GAIA (EARTH MASS)*

11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor

Director of Music and Fine Arts Jeffrey Brillhart will share his reflections on the music and impact of Paul Winter's iconic mass - *Missa Gaia (Earth Mass)* as we prepare for its performance by all of our BMPC choirs the following Sunday as an Earth Day celebration.



SUNDAY, APRIL 22

JUSTICE AND GERRYMANDERING: FAITH PERSPECTIVES ON REDISTRICTING REFORM

11:15 a.m., Witherspoon Parlor

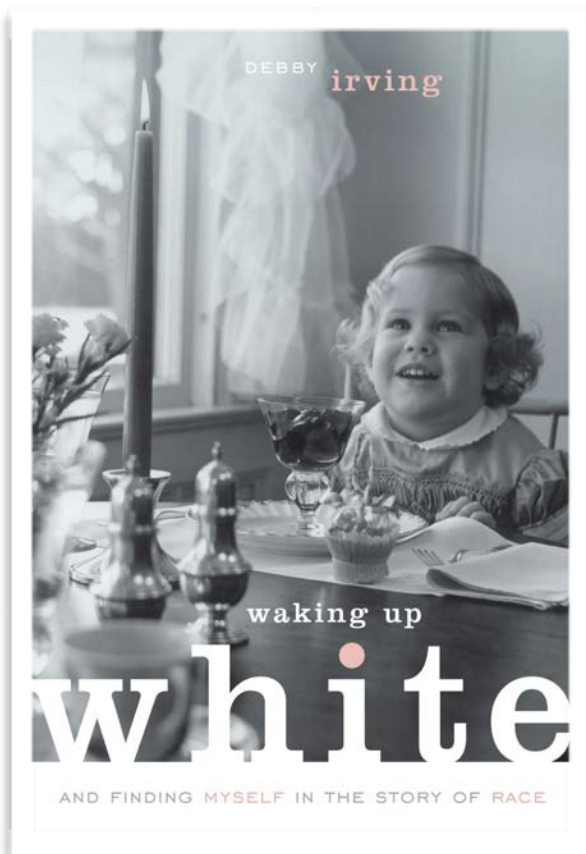
This Sunday we will be joined by Carol Kuniholm from Fair Districts PA to learn more about issues related to election reform and why this bipartisan issue relates to people of faith and larger matters of justice.



GET THE BOOK! SAVE THE DATE!

One Book - One Church

Waking Up White: *And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by author and racial justice educator Debbie Irving



You are invited to join us in an all church book discussion based on Debby Irving's book - *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. As a congregation we will explore Debby's honest telling of her own story to understand how to be an advocate when it comes to difficult issues of race in our culture today.

Debby Irving will be here with us at BMPC on Sunday, April 29th to lead us in a conversation about how we all have a part in the story of race in America. Join us at 11:15 a.m. in Congregational Hall.

*"For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us."*

In 2016 the current Moderators of the PC(USA) General Assembly, the Revs. Jan Edminston and Denise Anderson challenged the national church to read Debby's book and to engage in real conversations about how each of our own congregations can be working against the sin of racism in our churches, communities and national life.

Books are available from the BMPC book center starting in January for \$5.00 each

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Weekdays and Evenings

ROSEMONT HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY

First Wednesday of the month, Sept. - May, 10:30 a.m.

Rosemont Presbyterian Village

The Rev. Mary Steege, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Senior Adults leads our study of *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier. In nine lessons, the author invites us to explore major themes found in Hebrews, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community.

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

**2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month
10:00 a.m. Converse House Parlor.**

This winter the group will read and discuss theologian Philip Yancey's book *Soul Survivor: How Thirteen Unlikely Mentors Helped My Faith Survive the Church*. In it Yancey charts his spiritual pilgrimage through the influence of key individuals: "These are the people who ushered me into the Kingdom. In many ways, they are why I remain a Christian today, and I want to introduce them to other spiritual seekers." Men of all ages are invited. This group is facilitated by Paul Mac Murray. Books available from **AmyBauer@bmpc.org**

COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays through May,
starting back up January 17
10:00 a.m. Gloucester Room**

This fall the Coffee Cup Bible Study, will spend their time learning about spiritual practices during the weeks leading up to Lent. During the Lenten season the group will study the major covenant passages from the Old Testament that guide our 2018 BMPC Lenten Devotional. This women's Bible study is sponsored by BMPC's Presbyterian Women and is led by The Rev. Rachel Pedersen. **MaryRichards@bmpc.org**



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Weekdays and Evenings

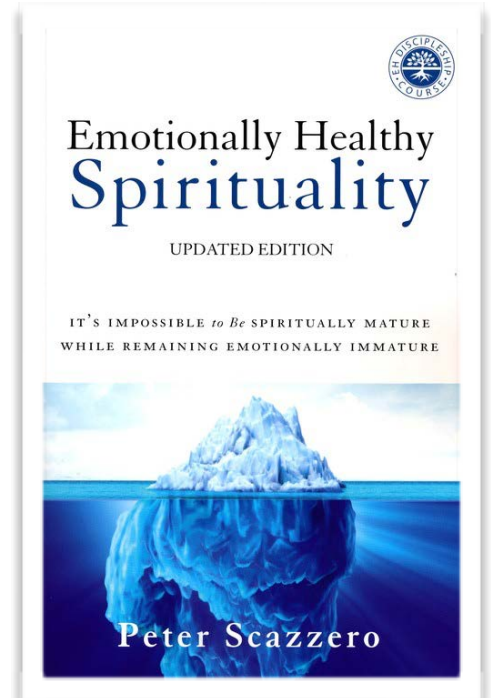
EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

It's impossible to become spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature. Come be part of a spiritual and emotional growth small group based on Peter Scazzero's *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. Invest in your spiritual, emotional and relationship health. This group will be led by the Rev. Mary Steege.

Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

January 16 & 23; February 6, 13, 20 & 27; March 6 & 20

Fullerton Room. Please RSVP to **MarySteege@bmpc.org**



THEOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS



The study of Theology, can seem overwhelming, especially when embarking on it for the first time. And then sometimes it can feel pretty disconnected from our actual life of faith and day to day living as a Christian in the world. This year we will gather monthly to review the basics of the most essential theological topics and how and why they matter to us. This will also be a moment to talk about how Presbyterians specifically approach these theological concepts. We will be using the book *Theology for Presbyterians* by Donald K. McKim.

This class is led by The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick.

Thursdays, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, & May 24.

7:00 p.m. Gloucester Room

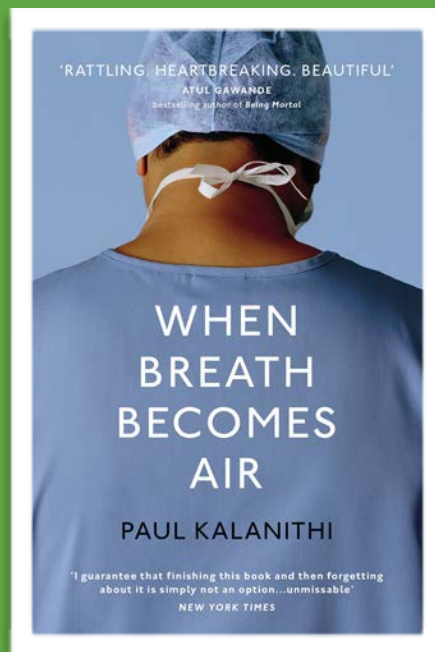
Contact Anita Iyengar **aciyengar@gmail.com**

PASTORS' BOOK GROUP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 6:30 P.M.

Witherspoon Parlor

The Rev. Mary Steege, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Senior Adults invites you to read and discuss with her Paul Kalanithi's best seller *When Breath Becomes Air*. This memoir has been described as an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing death and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a brilliant writer who became both. Books are available in the BMPC Book Center for \$8. **CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org**



"Thanks to *When Breath Becomes Air*, those of us who never met Paul Kalanithi will both mourn his death and benefit from his life. This is one of a handful of books I consider to be a universal donor—I would recommend it to anyone, everyone."—**Ann Patchett**



For more information on any of these classes please
contact **CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org**

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www.bmpc.org