

ADULT EDUCATION SPRING 2024



SUNDAY CLASSES

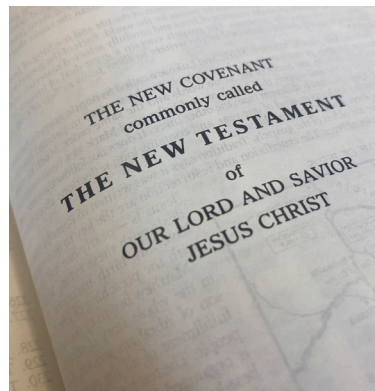
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

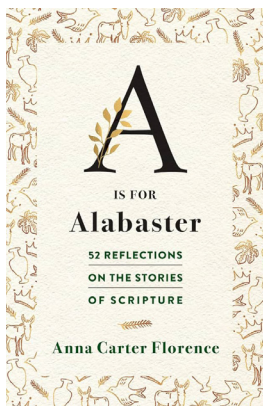
Starting back January 7, 8:30 a.m.

Cannon Room, Ministries Center, and via Zoom

Read the New Testament: From Beginning to End. Join us for a thoughtful and comprehensive reflection on our Christian scripture in its broad diversity. In troubled times, we need to be grounded in the way we have chosen to live our lives together. This longstanding class is led by the Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray and will have a discussion format. Please note that homework will be required. Contact Paul MacMurray at 610-935-7582 for additional information.



8:45 A.M.



FILLING THE WELL

Starting back January 7, 8:45 a.m.

Children's Library, Education Building

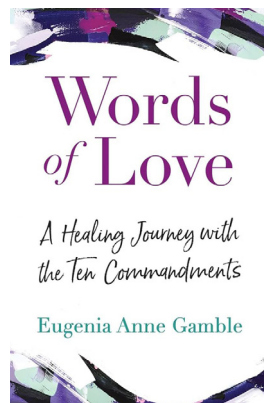
For almost 10 years this group of women have been meeting weekly on Sunday mornings for conversation, support and study. All women are welcome to join. This winter, we will spend time reflecting on *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*. Beloved preacher and writer Anna Carter Florence brings winsome insight to an array of characters and stories in the Bible—some celebrated and some overlooked. For more information and to receive a copy of the book, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpe.org.

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

February 18 – March 24, 8:45 a.m.

Gloucester Room, Ministries Center

This six-week study will be guided by the book *Words of Love: a Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments*. Presbyterian pastor Eugenia Gamble writes that these laws are words from the heart of God, given to reconcile creation to Creator and God's people to one another. She dives into each of the commandments and examines their application for modern-day Christians. The Rev. Dr. Franklyn C. Pottorff will lead this class. For more information and to receive a copy of the book, contact FranklynPottorff@bmpe.org.



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MINISTRY AND MISSION

This winter and spring, we will continue to celebrate a variety of facets of our mission life together as a church. We will continue to learn from and be challenged by our partners whose own history and future are so connected to ours that they received substantial grants from BMPC in celebration of our 150th Anniversary.



SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

MBF

THE LEGACY OF MEDICAL MISSION MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION

February 4, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION

The Medical Benevolence Foundation transforms historic models of medical mission around the world with an emphasis on strengthening the local leaders who oversee mission hospitals, clinics and nursing schools in the 21st century. BMPC has a long history of international medical mission work dating back to 1889 when the church sent Dr. Wanless to engage in medical mission in India. Join us as MBF staff share what medical mission means today and how they have put the \$50,000 Anniversary grant from BMPC into action.



THE LEGACY OF PRESBYTERIAN PARTNERSHIP WEST KENSINGTON MINISTRY, ADAN MAIRENA

February 11, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

BMPC has a long history of supporting and walking alongside new church developments in Philly and around the country. For fifteen years we have supported West Kensington Ministry, located at Norris Square in the West Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. This Sunday we are delighted to welcome the Rev. Adan Mairena as he shares the creative and compassionate work happening at WKM in these days. WKM is also a recipient of a \$50,000 Anniversary grant from BMPC.

SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

THE LENTEN SEASON 2024 - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

As we make our way from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week this year as a whole congregation, we will study and reflect on the significance of the Ten Commandments for our lives today. During our Adult Education hour on Sundays in Lent, we will expand our thinking about the Law beyond the Ten Commandments to better understand the meaning of Law within the fullness of our tradition.

UNDERSTANDING LEVITICUS

February 18, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

As we spend the season of Lent immersed in the Ten Commandments, this morning we will explore the significance of the other Old Testament Laws that shaped the identity of the Jewish people.

Dr. Perry Yoder will help us explore how these Laws can still have meaning for us as Christians today. Dr. Yoder taught Old Testament for many years at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, and is the author of a recent commentary for preachers on the Book of Leviticus.



CONVERSATIONS ON THE LAW WITH RABBI DAVID STRAUS

February 25 & March 3, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Rabbi Straus will spend two Sundays with us in this Lenten season to help us understand the meaning of the Ten Commandments and the Law for modern Jews. David Straus serves as Rabbi Emeritus at Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood.



THE LAW AND THE GOSPELS

March 10, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Jesus declared that he did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. Often he was at odds with religious leaders around his interpretations of the Law. In this class we will look more closely at how Jesus interpreted the Law and how it impacts our understanding of Christian discipleship today. This class will be taught by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick.

PAUL AND THE LAW

March 17, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Paul is often known for valuing grace above Law in his letters to young churches. But his views are more complex than simply one versus the other. In this class, we will explore the historic debates around Paul's relationship to the Law. This class will be taught by Dr. Joshua Yoder.

SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

THE EASTER SEASON 2024 - CELEBRATING CHURCH

We have a special opportunity this Easter season to celebrate the past and future of the church universal, our own congregation, and especially the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each week we will learn how we preserve the wisdom of the past and nurture the future.

THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 7, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

PHS is an extraordinary resource for congregations and the larger Church as they preserve not just the vital artifacts but the story of the Church as well. Join Executive Director of PHS (and BMPC member) Nancy Taylor for a conversation on the work of the historical society and how we can continue to partner together to imagine and create the future Church. This is the final presentation from our 150th Anniversary grant recipients.



WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

April 14, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

How did the first generations of Christians worship together and support each other? How was that different than the ways we are accustomed to today? We will look to the Acts of the Apostles, the letters of Paul, and other early Christian documents that give us clues about the first Christian churches. This class will be taught by Dr. Joshua Yoder.

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER, THE REV. RACHEL PEDERSEN

April 21, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Is the Church the building, the people, the organization, or something else entirely? As part of her final project for her D.Ed.Min., the Rev. Rachel Pedersen has been studying the language, images, and metaphors children use to explain and understand the church. Learn from these uncanny observers as they help us take an honest assessment of the Church as it is and give us new eyes to see the Church that God is forming.



PC(USA) CO-MODERATOR, THE REV. RUTH SANTANA GRACE

April 28, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

Join us as we welcome the Rev. Ruth Santana Grace, who is not only the Executive Presbyter of Philadelphia Presbytery but also the Co-Moderator of the 225th General Assembly, the highest non-staff elected office in our denomination. She will bring greetings from the National Church as well as share her hopes for the Presbyterian Church in this next generation.

WEDNESDAY CLASSES

10:00 A.M.

COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY

Starting back January 10, 10:00 a.m.
Cannon Room, Ministries Center &
via Zoom

This weekly group brings together women of all ages to read and reflect on Scripture – what it has meant for communities in the past and how it speaks to us as individuals, as women, and as a Church today. BMPC's Presbyterian Women sponsors this women's Bible study, which is led by the Rev. Rachel Pedersen. For more information, contact RachelPedersen@bmpc.org.



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

2nd and 4th Wednesdays,
starting back January 10, 10:00 a.m.
Converse House Parlor, Ministries Center

All men are welcome to join this study and discussion group that meets twice a month throughout the program year. This winter we will read Justo and Catherine Gonzalez' book, *Heretics for Armchair Theologians*. In the book, these noted church historians introduce readers to important early church figures whose teachings were denounced by the Church as heresies. Instructional for what they taught and for revealing what the Church wished to safeguard and uphold, the book presents such "heretics" as Marcion, Arius, Nestorius, and Pelagius. The group will be led by Dr. Joshua Yoder. To register and to find out how to purchase the book, contact MonicaDevane@bmpc.org.

HERETICS

for Armchair Theologians



Illustrations by Ron Hill

JUSTO L. GONZÁLEZ and
CATHERINE GUNSALUS GONZÁLEZ

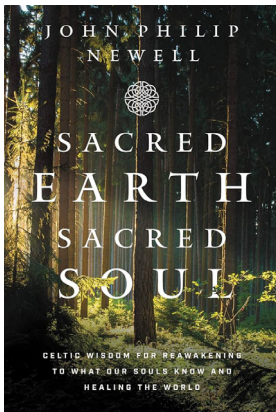
THURSDAY CLASS

10:00 A.M.

THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

January 25 through February 22, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick, this fully online book discussion group focuses on topics around faith, spirituality and personal growth. This winter we will spend five weeks on John Philip Newell's book – *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World*. By embracing the wisdom of Celtic Christianity we can learn how to listen to the sacred and see the divine in all of creation and within each of us. To register for this class and to purchase the book, contact AliciaFranklin@bmpc.org.



EVENING CLASSES

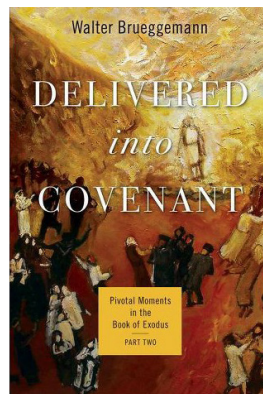
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DELIVERED INTO COVENANT: PIVOTAL MOMENTS IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Mondays, March 11, 18, 25, 7:00 p.m.

Witherspoon Parlor, Ministries Center

In *Delivered into Covenant*, Walter Brueggemann offers a guide to the second half of Exodus from Israel's journey through the wilderness to Mount Sinai to the establishment of the tabernacle, drawing out "pivotal moments" in the text. Throughout, Brueggemann shows how Exodus consistently reveals a God who is in radical solidarity with the powerless and who is dedicated to cultivating a covenant people who act to repudiate the powers of empire. This class will provide the narrative context for our congregation-wide study of the Ten Commandments this Lenten season and is a follow up to last spring's study of *Delivered out of Empire*. The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick will lead this class. Contact AliciaFranklin@bmpc.org to sign up for the class and reserve a copy of the book.



6:00 P.M.

PASTORS' MOVIE NIGHT EIGHTH GRADE (2018)

Wednesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Join the Rev. Leigh DeVries for a viewing and discussion of this compelling coming of age film written and directed by Bo Burnham. It tells the story of Kayla, a teenager attending middle school who struggles with anxiety but strives to gain social acceptance from her peers during their final week of eighth grade.

The movie provides helpful insight into the lives of today's teenagers as they navigate the complicated work of social media and growing up in the world. Participants are encouraged to grab dinner from Congregational Hall and join us in Fullerton where tables will be set up for eating and viewing. For more information, contact AliciaFranklin@bmpc.org.

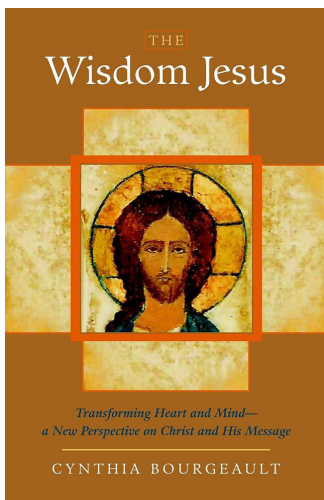
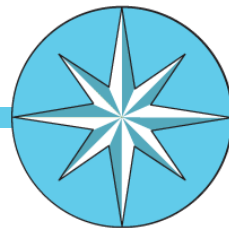


It's the first movie to capture, in a major way, the teenage experience of those who have only existed on this planet during the digital era. What "Eighth Grade" captures is how the omnipresent digital air we breathe has begun to make a profound mark on our social structure and personalities - Variety

EVENING CLASSES

SPONSORED BY MIDDLETON COUNSELING CENTER

7:00 P.M.



THE WISDOM OF JESUS: TRANSFORMING HEART AND MIND— A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON CHRIST AND HIS MESSAGE

Tuesdays, February 6 - 27 , 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

Spiritual Director Patricia Danzon leads this four-week conversation on *The Wisdom of Jesus*, which provides a new perspective on Christ and an expansive interpretation of his message. Cynthia Bourgeault creates a masterful guide to Jesus' vision and the traditional contemplative practices you can use to experience the heart of his teachings for yourself. To sign up, please contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

SACRED THREADS:

THE OTHER WES MOORE—ONE NAME TWO FATES

Thursdays, April 18 - May 9, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

In his thoughtful coming of age story Moore explores the shaping of our values and core beliefs and the role of spirituality and religion. The book explores the parallel lives of two men with the same name, growing up in similar circumstances but taking different paths. One becomes a Rhodes Scholar and successful author, while the other falls into a life of crime. The book delves into the impact of choices and opportunities.

Sacred Threads is a recurring opportunity for folks to gather together for conversation, reflection and prayer with the Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins, a spiritual director for the Middleton Center who accompanies those who are seeking to discern the light of God's leading as they live out their daily lives. To sign up, please contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Other Wes Moore

One Name, Two Fates

"Startling and revelatory . . . a rocketing real-life narrative" —*Baltimore Sun*

"A moving book . . . a call to arms." —*Chicago Tribune*

