



SPRING 2020



# Adult Education Classes

## at a Glance

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11:15 A.M.

### JANUARY

- 01/05** *Every Family is a Story,*  
The Rev. Debra Sutton
- 01/12** *The Rev. Dr. Charles Howard,*  
Chaplain, University of Pennsylvania
- 01/26** *Theologian-in-Residence,*  
The Rev. Dr. Serene Jones

### FEBRUARY

- 02/02** *Introduction to Islamic Art,*  
Patricia Danzon
- 02/09** *Countering Slander:*  
*Fethullah Gulen's Life Beyond*  
*Propaganda,* Dr. Jon Pahl,
- 02/16** *The Basics of the Islamic Faith,*  
Asheq Fazlullah

### MARCH

- 03/01** *The Pastoral Care of John Calvin,*  
The Rev. Brian Ballard
- 03/08** *Gun Violence Prevention,*  
The Rev. Deanna Hollas
- 03/15** *Michele Pistone, Professor of*  
*Law and Director, Clinic for*  
*Asylum, Refugee and Emigrant*  
*Services, Villanova University*
- 03/22** *History of Modern Israel,*  
Dr. Ofer Ashkenazi,  
Hebrew University

### APRIL

- 04/19** *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:*  
*It's Complicated!,* Adam Kessler
- 04/26** *History of Presbyterians in Israel*  
*and the Middle East,*  
The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick

### MAY

- 05/03** *One Book One Church Discussion:*  
*Letters to My Palestinian Neighbors*

# SUNDAY CLASSES

## 8:45 A.M.

### SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

**THE REV. DR. PAUL MACMURRAY**  
*Congregational Hall*

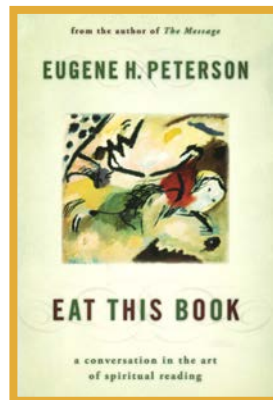
This long-standing class explores matters of faith and life, including Bible study, various book studies and topical discussions. In January the group will discuss The Sermon on the Mount found in the Gospel of Matthew. The Sermon on the Mount has been a primary text for Christian communities for centuries as a guide for the personal and collective life of faith with clear and challenging instructions for how Christians should live in the world. [CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org](mailto:CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org)

### DIGGING DEEPER

**THE REV. FRANKLYN POTTORFF &  
BARBIE HEATON**

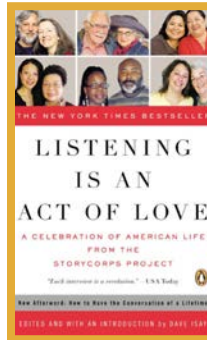
*Sundays, February 23, March 1 - March 29*  
*Main Line Adult Day Center Living Room*

Eugene H. Peterson's book *Eat this Book: A Conversation on the Art of Spiritual Reading* will guide our conversations this winter as we consider that our approach to reading the Bible is just as what we encounter within it. Books are available directly from Frank. [barbhheaton@gmail.com](mailto:barbhheaton@gmail.com)



### FILLING THE WELL

**THE REV. REBECCA KIRKPATRICK**  
*Converse House Parlor*



*Listening is an Act of Love*  
Each week the class will listen to and discuss one of the many stories collected by the Story Corps Project as a way to reflect on relationships, meaning and connection in our families and community. This class is sponsored by BMPC Presbyterian Women and is open to women of all ages. [PeggyHermann@hotmail.com](mailto:PeggyHermann@hotmail.com)

### LIVING WELL, PLANNING WELL, DYING WELL

**THE REV. BRIAN BALLARD, CAROL CHERRY,  
RENEE MALNAK, KIKI MCKENDRICK**

*Sundays, April 19, 26, May 3, 10*  
*Main Line Adult Day Center Living Room*

This four-week series continues the themes discussed at the Caring Ministries March 14 Symposium, *Living Well, Planning Well, Dying Well*. Taking the time to ensure all items are finalized related to your will, estate, and future care, is daunting and often elicits theological and spiritual questions. This class will explore those questions and the emotional and spiritual dimensions to organizing your end-of-life affairs. All are welcome, even if you did not attend the March symposium. [BrianBallard@bmpc.org](mailto:BrianBallard@bmpc.org)

# SUNDAY CLASSES

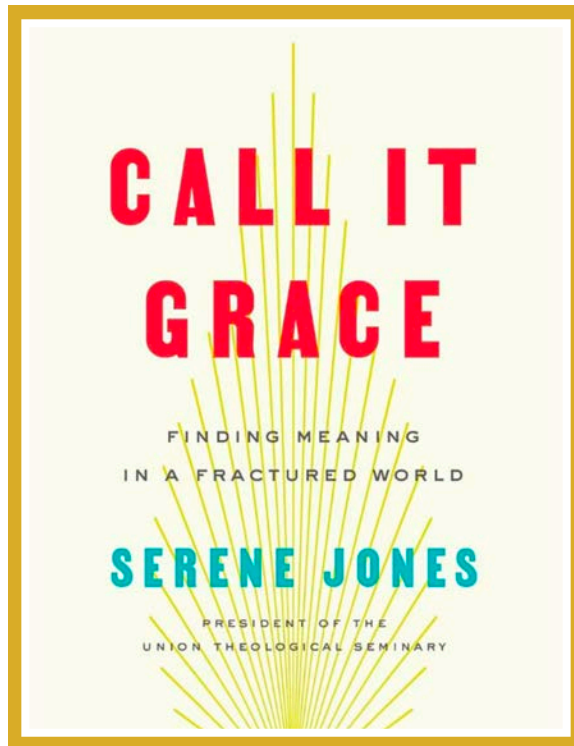
## 11:15 A.M.

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

#### EVERY FAMILY IS A STORY

*Chapel*

The Rev. Debra Sutton, Middleton Center Counselor and Trauma Specialist, leads us through a Family Systems approach to Serene Jones' memoir, *Call It Grace*. Dr. Jones will be at BMPC at the end of January as our Theologian-in-Residence and as part of our celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Middleton Counseling Center.

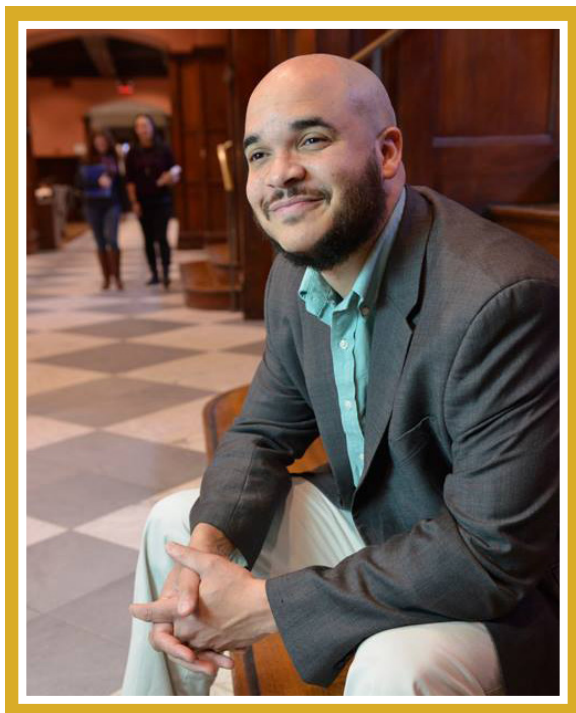


### SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

#### THE REV. DR. CHARLES HOWARD

*Chapel*

Dr. Howard is Chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania and editor of *The Souls of Poor Folk*, which explored new ways of considering homelessness and poverty, *The Awe and The Awful*, a poetry collection and Lenten Devotional, *Black Theology as Mass Movement*, a call to theologians to expand the reach of their theological work, and *Pond River Ocean Rain*, a small book about going deeper with a big God.



**BMPC Welcomes**

# **Rev. Dr. Serene Jones**

## **as our 2020 David and Ruth Watermulder Theologian-in-Residence**

Each year, in honor of the leadership of David and Ruth Watermulder, our Adult Education Committee invites a scholar of excellence to share their work and passion with our greater community. This year, we are especially delighted to welcome the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, president of Union Theological Seminary, to be with us the weekend of January 25-26, 2020.

Dr. Jones holds a master of divinity degree from Yale Divinity School as well as a Ph.D. in theology from Yale University. She is an ordained minister in both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. She taught at Yale University for 17 years before her appointment to Union.

Dr. Jones is the 16th president of the historic Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. The first woman to head the 179-year-old interdenominational seminary, she occupies the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy and has formed Union's Institute for Women, Religion and Globalization as well as the Institute for Art, Religion and Social Justice.

Her most recent book, *Call it Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World*, is a compelling memoir of her life growing up in Oklahoma, her theological journey through tradition, family and trauma, and a window into the future of theological institutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We invite you to join us for this weekend with Serene Jones and engage in fresh and relevant conversation about what it means to be present and active people of faith in our world today. This year's programs will include a Saturday morning breakfast and lecture that will be part of our celebrations of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Middleton Center. Dr. Jones will preach on Sunday morning and give her second lecture after worship.



### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**

- 9:30 a.m. Coffee and light refreshments
- 10:00 a.m. Lecture - Theology is a Place
- 11:30 a.m. Middleton Center  
Anniversary Luncheon

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**

- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary  
with Dr. Jones preaching
- 11:15 a.m. Lecture - Theology is a Story

*For more information about our  
Theologian-in-Residence programs,  
contact [CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org](mailto:CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org).*

# SUNDAY CLASSES

## 11:15 A.M.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

#### INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC ART

*Chapel*

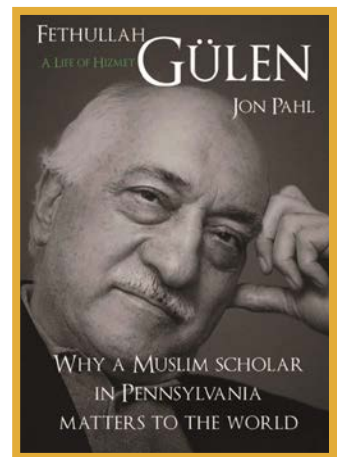
Patricia Danzon, Middleton Center Spiritual Director, leads us through an introduction to Islamic art which is radically different from Christian art. Whereas the Church has often used art as a visual reminder of Bible stories, Islamic art for religious contexts bans the representation of humans/animals, and simply seeks to create a sense of the infinite nature of Allah.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

#### COUNTERING SLANDER: FETHULLAH GULEN'S LIFE BEYOND PROPAGANDA

*Chapel*

The Turkish preacher Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in a retreat center in the Poconos since 1999, is one of the most influential spiritual leaders of the contemporary world. He has inspired a global movement known as "Hizmet" (service), which is dedicated to education, social enterprise, and inter-religious dialogue. Gulen is also enemy number one of the current regime in the Republic of Turkey, which has labeled him a "terrorist." Dr. Jon Pahl is a faculty member at United Lutheran Seminary and has recently published the first critical biography of this controversial figure: *Fethullah Gulen: A Life of Hizmet--Why a Muslim Scholar in Pennsylvania Matters to the World.*



### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

#### THE BASICS OF THE ISLAMIC FAITH

*Chapel*

We will be joined this morning by Asheq Fazlullah, Islamic Chaplain at Villanova University and leader of interfaith initiatives in Greater Philadelphia. Asheq will introduce us to the very basics of Islam as we seek to better understand our neighbors and connections among the world's religions.



*Asheq Fazlullah*

# SUNDAY CLASSES

## 11:15 A.M.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

### THE PASTORAL CARE OF JOHN CALVIN

*Chapel*

Before he was a theologian or reformer, John Calvin was first and foremost a pastor. The Rev. Brian Ballard will lead us through an exploration of some of Calvin's letters and sermons to catch a glimpse of Calvin as a pastoral caregiver to those entrusted to him by God. In so doing, we will see Calvin's heart for pastoral ministry and how his pastoral care shaped his theology.



**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

### THE REV. DEANNA HOLLAS

*Coordinator of Gun Violence Prevention Ministries  
of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Chapel*

Rev. Hollas is the first pastor in the United States to be ordained specifically to the work of Gun Violence Prevention. She will share with us the work that Presbyterians are doing around the country on this issue and help us consider the work that our congregation may be called to on this issue.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

### MICHELE PISTONE

*Professor of Law and Director, Clinic for Asylum, Refugee and  
Emigrant Services, Villanova University, Chapel*

Join us for a conversation on the experiences of refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers in our local communities. Dr. Pistone also will share the good work that

Villanova is doing in their clinic and will share opportunities for people to be engaged on this issue on a personal level, even without a law degree.

# SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

## Learning Together About *Israel & Palestine*

This June and July, our Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir and Friends will travel to Israel, Palestine and Jordan participating in choral workshops, performances and an exploration of both ancient and modern sites that are significant to people of faith today.

For several weeks this spring, the entire congregation is invited to join us in learning more about the region, the history of the conflicts there and how Presbyterians have engaged in mission, ministry and advocacy in larger Middle East.

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 22** **HISTORY OF MODERN** **ISRAEL**

*Chapel*

Dr. Ofer Ashkenazi, a faculty member in the History Department and the School of Arts and the director of the Richard Koebner Center for German History at the Hebrew University, will provide a basic introduction to the history of modern Israel, beginning as early as the growth of the first Zionist movement in 1897 in Switzerland through the conflicts of the 20th century and beyond.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 19** **THE ISRAELI-** **PALESTINIAN CONFLICT:** **IT'S COMPLICATED!** **FRAMING AN** **INTRACTABLE DEBATE**

*Chapel*

Adam Kessler, former staff of the Jewish Community Relations Council in Philadelphia, will walk us through numerous narratives that contribute to the intractability of the conflicts in the Middle East. Adam has worked extensively with interfaith groups in the United States and Israel.

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 26** **A HISTORY OF** **PRESBYTERIANS IN THE** **MIDDLE EAST**

*Chapel*

Presbyterians have been actively engaged in mission in the Middle East for over 150 years. The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick will take us through the stories of how American Christian denominations divided up the Holy Lands for mission work and also will give a brief summary of the most recent statements the Presbyterian Church USA has made on the Israel-Palestinian Conflict.





# ONE BOOK ONE CHURCH

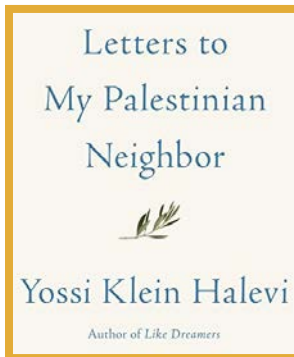
Each year the Adult Education Committee recommends a book for our entire congregation to read together, allowing us to be in conversation on contemporary topics as a whole community. This year's book has been chosen as a part of our classes on Israel and Palestine and in conjunction with the Community Forum programs.

## **LETTERS TO MY PALESTINIAN NEIGHBOR, BY YOSI KLEIN HALEVI**

Books available from the  
BMPC Book Center for \$5.00

Lyrical and evocative, *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* is one Israeli's powerful attempt to reach beyond the wall that separates Israelis and Palestinians. In a series of letters, Yossi Klein Halevi endeavors to untangle the ideological and emotional knot that has defined the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for nearly a century. Using history and personal experience as his guides, he unravels the complex strands of faith, pride, anger, and anguish he feels as a Jew living in Israel.

Speaking to all concerned global citizens, this provocative collection of letters from each side of the conflict models the kind of passionate, respectful discourse that is sorely missing in the world today, and helps us understand the painful choices confronting Israelis and Palestinians that will ultimately determine the fate of the region.



## **MONDAY, APRIL 27 7:00 P.M., SANCTUARY YOSI KLEIN HALEVI**

*Community Forum Distinguished Speaker Series*

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Together with Imam Abdullah Antepli of Duke University, he co-directs the Institute's Muslim Leadership Initiative, which teaches emerging young Muslim American leaders about Judaism, Jewish identity and Israel.



Halevi's 2013 book, *Like Dreamers*, won the Jewish Book Council's Everett Book of the Year Award. His latest book, *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*, is a *New York Times* bestseller. He writes for leading op-ed pages in the US, including the *Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and is a former contributing editor to the *New Republic*.

## **SUNDAY, MAY 3, 11:15 A.M. ONE BOOK ONE CHURCH DISCUSSION**

*Congregational Hall*

Join us for a conversation led by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick and Rabbi David Straus of Main Line Reform Temple on Halevi's book *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*.

# WEEKDAY CLASSES

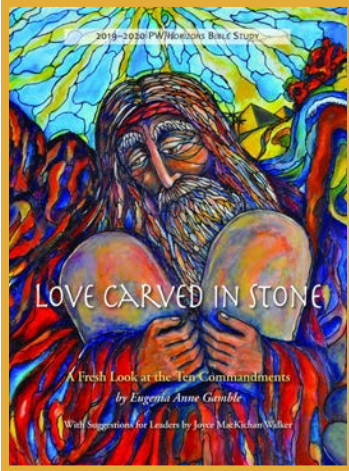
## HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY

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

*Rosemont Presbyterian Village*

*Leader: The Rev. Brian Ballard*

*Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.* A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. *Love Carved in Stone* is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world. This class is taught by Brian Ballard, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Senior Adults. *Joyce Mallot, okf405@gmail.com*



## MEN'S STUDY GROUP

*Second and Fourth Wednesdays of the month, Sept. - May, 10:00 a.m.*

*Converse House Parlor*

*Leader: The Rev. Brian Ballard*

Twice a month, this group of men gather to discuss topics and books related to the life of faith, especially as it intersects with history, politics, and current events. Discussion is led by the Rev. Brian Ballard in a format that encourages participation and input from all wishing to speak. In January the group will discuss Serene Jones' book - *Call it Grace*. New topics will be chosen by the group throughout the spring. All men are invited to join this time of fellowship, conversation and education. *BrianBallard@bmpc.org*

## COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY

*Every Wednesday - 10:00 a.m.*

*Sept. - May, 10:00 a.m.*

*Congregational Hall*

*Leader: The Rev. Rachel Pedersen*

A weekly Bible Study open to all women of the church and community. Together this group explores the meaning of scripture, its connection to our faith and life, and its challenges to us in our world today. Each semester the group chooses a particular theme or study such as Psalm or Parables covering the breath of the Old and New Testaments. This class offers grace-filled conversation for women at any point on their faith journey.

*RachelPedersen@bmpc.org*



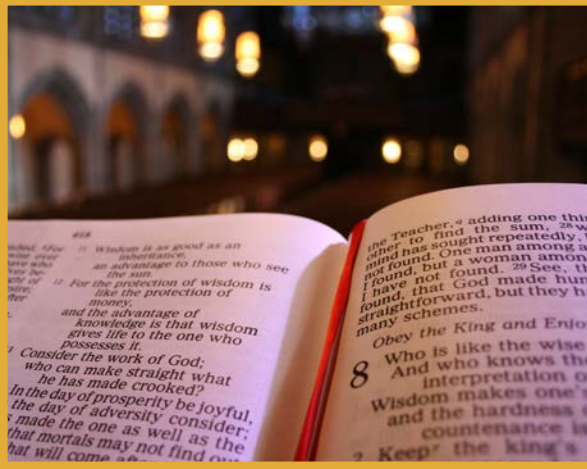
# WEEKDAY CLASSES

## BIBLE FROM SCRATCH

Fourth Thursday of the month, Sept. - May, 7:00 p.m.

Loft

This class, led by Rebecca Kirkpatrick, will explore both the basic content and interpretative practices of reading and following scripture. If you have never really studied the Bible, this will be a open and gentle place to start. If you are ready to think about scripture in new and creative ways, this also is the class for you. In addition to reading directly from the Bible, this class also will use: *A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World*, by Jonathan Walton. [RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org](mailto:RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org)



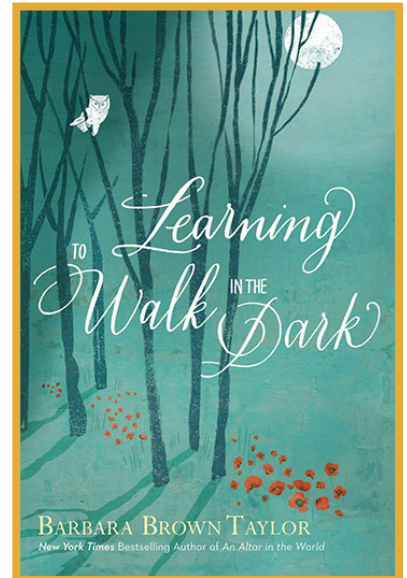
## LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK BY BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR

Thursday mornings, Feb. 6 - March 12,

10:00 a.m., Converse House Parlor

Leader: The Rev. Brian Ballard

Within the Christian tradition, a time of darkness is often associated with God's absence. Yet, in *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and to explore all that God has to teach us "in the dark." In this book, we are invited into a spirituality of the nighttime, teaching us how to find our footing in times of uncertainty and giving us strength and hope to face all of life's challenging moments. Books available directly from Brian. [BrianBallard@bmpc.org](mailto:BrianBallard@bmpc.org)





**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*Please contact [CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org](mailto:CarolSchmidt@bmpc.org)*

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