



We welcome all.

Adult Education Course Catalog Fall 2021

FALL 2021 NEW OFFERINGS

All classes are from 10:00a.m. -10:50a.m. Sunday mornings unless otherwise noted.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK

In September, worship begins with a 4-week series produced by A Sanctified Art called, "I've Been Meaning to Ask." It is focused on 4 questions: Where are you from? Where does it hurt? What do you need? Where do we go from here? This "all church" class will provide an opportunity to discuss these questions in parallel with the worship series.

Facilitator: Beth Waltemath

Dates: September 12, 19, 26

Location: Fellowship Hall in Children's Education Building

VARIETIES OF CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM

This four-week study will begin with a general discussion of "mysticism," before turning to closer study of ecological mysticism and to the experiences of black women.

Rosemarie Freeney Harding's *Remnants* is recommended but not necessary. The class will include experiential learning as well as lecture and discussion.

Facilitator: Wendy Farley

Dates: October 3, 10, 17, 24

Location: Parlor in Sanctuary Building

LIFE PRAYERS Participants of all ages - individuals and families are invited to explore and experience four prayer practices through the lens of the Psalms. The weekly topics and practices include: Orientation (Psalm 118:24), Disorientation (Psalm 137:4), Re-orientation (Psalm 121: 1-2), Crossing Thresholds: Stepping Into What is Next (Psalm 25: 4-5).

Facilitator: Lesley Brogan

Dates: October 31, November 7, 14, 21

Location: Parlor in Sanctuary Building

BEYOND THE HASHTAGS: The Theology of #blacklivesmatter, #defundthepolice, #metoo and others

We see the signs in our neighborhoods, use the hashtags on social media, and the references in political ads, but how do these movements intersect with our faith? This series will explore the rich religious history and theological wisdom of these movements. Drawing on the Biblical witness, prophetic imagination, and personal storytelling, we'll connect the story of these movements to our own faithful vision for Beloved Community.

Facilitator: Zeena Regis

Dates: October 31, November 7, 14, 21

Location: Art Classroom in the Sanctuary Building

MODERN IMAGES OF GOD

What does it mean to be "made in the image of God?" Richard Rohr writes, "any God worthy of the name must transcend creeds and denominations, time and place, nations and ethnicities, and all the vagaries of gender, extending to the limits of all we can see, suffer and enjoy." Yet many of us grow up with a static image of God: an old, white man sitting on a throne in the sky. Together in this class, we will explore and reimagine personal and collective images of God. Using music, writings and art, we will reflect on how God appears in the world.

Facilitator: Allison Arsenault

Dates: November 28, December 5, 12, and 19.

Location: Art Classroom in the Sanctuary Building

REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS AND DISPLACED PERSONS

Since we are surrounded by refugees, immigrants and displaced persons in our community, this class gives us a chance to really see who they are and how we can help. This video series will have the following topics: Introducing Refugee Resettlement, Refugees in the Bible, Refugee Ministry in Clarkston, Christian Responses to the Refugee Crisis

Facilitator: David Roth, Executive Director of Memorial Drive Ministries

Dates: November 28, December 5, 12, and 19.

Location: Parlor in the Sanctuary Building

WISDOM FOR LIVING WITH LOSS IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Every loss—no matter the size or scope—needs to be acknowledged and addressed in order to heal and in this season of pandemic our losses are many. In this series we will take time to name our losses and receive wisdom to guide and support us. Each week a different mental health practitioner or grief professional from the congregation will address a different dynamic of living with loss and offer a practice to support healing and resilience. Throughout the four-week series we will lean into the community of one another and the good news of God's abiding presence which promises that out of our woundedness may come courage and new depths of compassion and hope.

Facilitator: Mary Anona Stoops and Rusty Godwin

Dates: January 9, 16, 23, 30

Location: Art Classroom in the Sanctuary Building

REIMAGINING JUSTICE

Our current justice system is punitively based: commit a crime and get punished for said crime is the rule, with the intention to decrease the behavior of the crime. But does it actually work? Does it reduce recidivism? What about the healing process for the victim of the crime? What is Healing Justice? What do justice advocates mean when they talk about the police abolitionist movement? Join members of the Peace and Justice Committee to learn more about Restorative Justice and explore what alternative expressions of justice may offer the building of Beloved Community.

Facilitator: Audra Grace and Members of the Peace and Justice Committee

Dates: January 9, 16, 23, 30

Location: Parlor in the Sanctuary Building

THE CONSTITUTION AND ITS ROLE IN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LIFE

This class will examine the role of religion at the time of the nation's founding, and then focus on the First Amendment to the Constitution, which ensures the free exercise of religion while prohibiting government establishment of religion. We will discuss the inherent tensions between church and state, and cover controversial issues arising from this tension which continue to the present.

Facilitator: David Root

Dates: February 6, 13, 20, 27

Location: Parlor in the Sanctuary Building

POST-COLONIAL READING OF LUKE-ACTS

The Bible--and the New Testament in particular--are texts written in the context of empire. The shadow of the empire shapes everything--including our image of God. Dr. Raj Nadella, Samuel A. Cartledge Associate Professor of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, will take us on a journey through Luke-Acts and show us how

postcolonial biblical interpretation opens up new ways of understanding the text and our life in a modern-day empire.

Facilitator: Dr. Raj Nadella of Columbia Theological Seminary

Dates: February 6, 13, 20, 27

Location: Art Classroom in the Sanctuary Building

HEAD-HEART-HANDS: Cultivating Everyday Antiracist Spiritual Practices

How do we move from head to heart to hands when it comes to practicing anti-racism in our everyday interactions? Drawing on storytelling, theological wisdom, historical resources, and practical research, we'll explore how our faith calls us to interrupt white supremacist ideology in our daily lives in intentional, practical, and creative ways.

Facilitator: Zeena Regis

Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27

Location: Parlor in the Sanctuary Building

MUSIC IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH: ITS IMPACT ON OUR THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Music is more than a tune and lyrics, notes and words. Explore with us how music plays a role in worship, faith formation and the life of the church.

Facilitator: Rick Neale and Erin Tolar

Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27

Location: Art Classroom in the Sanctuary Building

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION

Using Marshall Rosenberg's book, "Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life," as a guide, this class will explore tools and practices for more mindful communication in personal relationships. Together we will learn more about how nonviolent communication can aid in our everyday lives and walk-through Rosenberg's 4-part process for deeper connection and better understanding.

Facilitator: Allison Arsenault

Dates: April 3, 10, 24, and May 1

Location: Art Classroom in the Sanctuary Building

ACCOMPANIMENT IN TODAY'S CONNECTED WORLD

There is no shortage of suffering in the world. Saturated by media we become fully aware of the scope of unmet needs, including our own. What are we to do? The ministry of accompaniment is one Christian answer. In this series, explore the notion of accompaniment, how new virtual connectedness might augment accompaniment and how accompanying others can replace the guilt of "not doing enough."

Facilitator: Gordon French and the Global Missions Committee

Dates: April 3, 10, 24, and May 1

Location: Parlor in the Sanctuary Building

YEAR LONG CLASSES

FORMING US PARENTING CLASS

Want to deepen your connections with other NDPC parents and dialogue about the hard and holy work of parenting? The NDPC Parenting class seeks to foster community among our families and to teach, encourage and support the spiritual formation of children and parents alike. All parents and those who love our NDPC children are welcome to join us!

Facilitators: Kimberly Broerman, Andrea and John Morgan, Shelly and David Roberts and others

Location: Parent Classroom in the Children's Education Building

(In September, the Parenting Class will be joining the whole church class for the "I've Been Meaning to Ask?" discussion group series.)

INQUIRERS' CLASS

Are you visiting NDPC? Would you like to learn more about this church, who we are as Presbyterians (PCUSA), and what we are doing? We try to follow Jesus by doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. Let's get to know one another and talk about how we at NDPC approach this ancient call and how you can be part of our journey.

Facilitators: Pastoral Staff and Engagement Team

Dates: October 10, December 12, February 13, April 10 (Palm Sunday), June 12, 2022 (Summer hours), August 14, 2022 (Summer hours), October 9, 2022, December 11, 2022

Location: Pastor's Study or TBA