



We welcome all.

Adult Formation Courses & Small Groups Fall 2022

FALL 2022 NEW OFFERINGS

Sunday morning classes are from 9:45-10:35a.m. in person.

Other small groups are offered in person and online throughout the week and month.

Updated details and Zoom links are available in the weekly email Newsletter, *NDPC Communicator*, published Thursdays. Email publications@ndpc.org to subscribe.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Forming Us Parenting Class – Year-round, 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!

When/Where: Parent classroom in the children's education building

Facilitators: Kimberly Broerman, Andrea and John Morgan, Shelly Roberts, parents@ndpc.org.

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

When/Where: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, Parlor in the sanctuary building

Facilitator: David Roth, Executive Director of [Memorial Drive Ministries](#)

Peace, Social Justice, and the Art of Corita Kent

Shaped by her experiences as an artist, teacher, and Catholic nun, Corita Kent used her art to bring people together and ignite social change in the upheavals of the sixties. This brief series will introduce us to Corita and her progressive methods of teaching, printmaking and advocating for justice and joy with loving attention to the everyday. Through videos, artworks, guest speakers and hands-on assignments from Sister Corita herself, we will live into her urging to “consider everything an experiment” and see what happens!

When/Where: 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, Studio classroom in the sanctuary building

Facilitator: Ellen Gadberry, story@ndpc.org

Enneagram 102

The Enneagram is a psycho-spiritual tool for personal growth based on a model of 9 basic motivations, virtues and vices.

For those who know their type and want to explore ways to grow, this class/workshop will introduce Instinctual Centers, Levels of Development and Virtues. Following the narrative tradition, we will hear from each other and share our individual experiences. We'll dive deeper into our patterns and practice identifying with our essential nature. Come prepared to listen, share and work with one another.

When/Where: 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, Parlor in the sanctuary building

Facilitator: Penny Cannon, contact info in Realm.

Advent Class

How are our senses connected to Advent? Our touch, taste, sound, smell and sight can be connected to memories. What memories are brought up for you through the senses as we prepare for the birth of Christ?

When/Where: Sunday mornings, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18, Parlor in the sanctuary building

Facilitator: Victoria Robinson, victoria@Ndpc.org

Inquirer's 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.

When/Where: October 9, 2022, December 11, 2022, co-pastor's study in the sanctuary building.

Facilitators: Pastoral Staff and Engagement Team

SPECIAL OFFERING ON WEEKDAY EVENINGS

Exploring Reproductive Dignity as a People of Faith

This 7-session curriculum is for congregations seeking to explore and deepen their commitments to faith-based reproductive dignity for all.

NDPC has recently gotten connected with a new national organization called SACReD, the Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity (<http://www.sacreddignity.org/>). The mission of SACReD is to empower congregations to become loving, justice-seeking faith communities that fully support the fulfillment of reproductive moral agency and flourishing for all. SACReD has developed a curriculum to help participants deepen their understanding of the connection between faith, racism, and reproductive ethics, and to identify strategies and actions for liberation within religious communities and the larger world. Given the recent rollback of *Roe v. Wade*—and that many people have never had meaningful access to reproductive healthcare—it is a critical time to learn and to act.

The course will be offered in seven 2-hour evening sessions weekly in October and November on Zoom with two opportunities to meet in person for better relationship building. We are encouraging an intergenerational learning environment and inviting students from area educational institutions to learn alongside us as we explore how our history of faithful activism aligns with a future commitment to reproductive dignity and healthcare access for birthing people. Participants are required to attend at least 5 of the 7 sessions including the first one. There is no charge, but registration is required. Contact beth@ndpc.org if you are interested in learning more about the dates and times of our sessions and would like a link to register.

When: 9/15 @7:00p.m. (short info session)

Class dates: 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 & 11/8, 11/15, 11/22 (proposed dates are subject to change after info session according to group discernment).

Facilitators: Rev. Beth Waltemath, Zeena Regis, Victoria Robinson, Jean Wright, Dee Raeside

SPRING PREVIEW

More classes coming soon!

The Aging Brain - The Paradox of Outward Waning and Inner Renewal

It's no secret that our bodies change as we grow older. Over time, we feel aches and pains in joints we once used to spring up and out of bed in the morning. But in addition to our bodies changing as they grow older, our brains are also constantly transforming throughout our lives—and it's not as simple as you might think. Some brain functions decline as we age, but other skills actually improve. Drawing upon popular books by neuroscientists and theologians, this series will explore the impacts of aging on the brain—including dementia, ways to maintain brain health as we age and how we cultivate a vital spirituality that can support us through all the seasons of aging.

When/Where: - 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, Parlor in the sanctuary building

Facilitator: Rev. Mary Anona Stoops

Artistry in the Bible 102

We live in a turbulent time. How do the Bible's stories about the tribulations of ancient Israel speak to our experience? What about that charismatic character named David? Who did he become in the centuries that followed his lifetime, and how does he color our understanding of and response to the character named Jesus? Let's explore these questions together and experience the literary beauty and narrative craft of the Bible.

When/Where: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, Studio classroom in the sanctuary building

Facilitator: Rev. Rick Neale, contact info in Realm.

God's Justice Means Environmental Justice

The prophet, Ezekial, invites us to be mindful of not just each other but also of our natural world. From food to water to energy, are our systems helping or harming neighbors and nature? Join us in exploring how to find justice for all.

When/Where: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, Parlor in the sanctuary building

Facilitators: Annie Godfrey and Rev. Kate McGregor-Mosely, contact info in Realm.

- TENTATIVE - **World Religions**
- TENTATIVE - **Candler Foundry**, a partnership with Emory's Candler School of Theology offering seminary style classes taught by seminary professors and staff to a blended classroom of seminarians and members of our congregation on topics related to Biblical studies and church history.
- TENTATIVE - **Lenten Study** led by Victoria Robinson

SMALL GROUPS

We recognize that a lot of learning about God happens outside of Sunday morning. Consider one of our small groups which meet throughout the year either online or in person.

Meets Weekly

Lectio Divina

Every Wednesday morning from 8:00 -8:30a.m., a small group gathers online for the spiritual practice of lectio divina. We listen with the “ear” of our heart to a reading of scripture, poetry, or song lyrics and respond to what God is stirring in us. New participants are welcome--come and see if this practice is for you.

When/ Where: Wednesdays at 8a.m. via Zoom. Link available in the *Communicator*.

Organizer: Barbara Gifford. contact info in Realm.

Education for Ministry (EfM): Deepening Biblical Knowledge & Building Beloved Community

This fall, a newly-formed group consisting of members from North Decatur Presbyterian Church (NDPC) and from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross (ECHC)-- a majority-Black Episcopal congregation in South Dekalb -- will begin a journey together called Education for Ministry (EfM). This course of study provides the framework for the group to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion. The initial commitment is for 9 months of study, but the whole program, if you choose to continue, lasts four years.

Meeting once a week in a small group of up to 12 persons (hopefully, split equally between NDPC and ECHC), we will be led by a trained mentor (Roland Wallace of ECHC). As we learn together, you will begin to think theologically, reflect faithfully, and speak civilly when confronted by beliefs and principles in opposition to your own. That’s something we can all appreciate in today’s world. By being an EfM participant, you will learn how to articulate your faith. You will learn how to shape your faith into action. You will become involved in ministries in your community and you will make a difference.

This program fits with NDPC's "Vital Congregations" initiative because it hits three of the seven marks including: Mark 1 - Lifelong Discipleship Formation, Mark 4 - Empower Servant Leadership and Mark 6 - Caring Relationships. It also reinforces our Matthew 25 commitment by continuing to build beloved multiracial community with our neighbors at ECHC. And, finally, it resonates with the line in our church vision poem that states we are a community "Rooted in Christian Education."

Organizer: David Wilkes, contact info in Realm. Enrollment for the 2022 fall cohort has ended.

Meets Twice a Month

Circle of Care

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays every month to offer support and fellowship for all caregivers and those living with mental or physical health issues. New participants are always welcome. For information, contact Drew Cornutt or the church office.

When: 2nd and 4th Sunday afternoons of each month online. Zoom links in the *Communicator*.

Facilitator: Drew Cornutt, contact info in Realm.

Midweek Prayer Gathering

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Phillipians 4:6-7

NDPC's midweek prayer gathering is from 12-12:30p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month on Zoom. Prayers center around the *In Touch* weekly prayer list and any other prayer concerns that participants bring. All are welcome to join in this time of prayer.

When/Where: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at noon. Zoom link in the *Communicator*.

Facilitator(s): Rev. Mary Anona Stoops maryanona@ndpc.org

Congregational Care elder mealcare@ndpc.org

Poetry Group

If you like poetry, then join others who share that love. The group meets in person on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. where each member reads aloud two or three poems of their choice. On the third Tuesday of the month we meet online and share poems through e-mail and links to various poetry sites. You do not need to write original poems--the object is just to enjoy sharing poetry of all kinds.

When/Where: *In-person:* First Tuesday of each month at 2pm in the Parlor in the sanctuary building

Online: Third Tuesday of each month at 2pm online. Zoom link in the *Communicator*.

Organizer: Barbara Jung, contact info in Realm

Meets Monthly

Ageless Grace

Ageless Grace, a group that meets at the crossroad of aging and spirituality, will be reading short stories from the collection *God: Stories* by Atlantic Monthly editor C. Michael Curtis. Curtis has collected twenty-five dazzling short stories by eminent writers about spiritual experiences of all sorts. With works by John Updike, Philip Roth, Louise Erdrich, James Joyce, Flannery O'Connor, James Baldwin, Alice Munro, and more, *God: Stories* offers insight, solace and pleasure not only to the faithful but to seekers -- and to those who simply love fine stories. The collection explores the human dimensions of spirituality from the comic to the passionate, the skeptical, to the mystical and beyond. For more information contact Mary Anona Stoops at maryanona@ndpc.org.

When/Where: Third Tuesday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30a.m. on Zoom.

Facilitators(s): Susan Fraysee and Mary Nevil, contact info in Realm

Book Club

This group meets on the first Thursday of the month from 7:00pm-8:30pm on Zoom and occasionally in person. A list of the year's books is determined in October of every year. The upcoming book title and a Zoom link or meeting details are posted each month in the *Communicator*. Their in-person meeting on October 6, 2022 will feature an author visit from award-winning scholar and author, Franz de Waal, who will discuss his book, *Different: Gender from the Perspective of a Primatologist*.

When: First Thursdays of the month via Zoom or in person at members' homes. Details in the *Communicator*.

Organizer: Kip Duchon, contact info in Realm

Many Hands Arts Ministry Group

Many Hands is the visual arts ministry of the church. We are a group of creatives from high school through retirement that gather for various art projects to support the liturgy, formation and activism of our congregation. We meet every first Thursday from 7-8:30p.m. in the Studio classroom to dream and design. All are welcome to try us out for any season. High schoolers are encouraged.

When/Where: First Thursdays of each month from 7:00-8:30p.m; in Studio classroom in the sanctuary building.

Facilitator: Ellen Gadberry, story@ndpc.org

Women Together

NDPC's Presbyterian Women affiliate group meets the third Thursday of every month to share prayer requests and to enjoy a program led by group members or outside speakers on various topics related to living out our faith in the world.

When/Where: 3rd Thursdays of each month from 7:30-9:00p.m. by Zoom and occasionally in person.

Organizer: Annie Godfrey, contact info in Realm

Presbyterian Women liaison: Dee Raeside, contact info in Realm

Other **small groups** gather with a primary focus on fellowship or mission. Sign up for our email newsletter, the *NDPC Communicator*, to receive updates about Men's Fellowship that meets monthly on Mondays, Senior Lunch on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, and Mercy Laundry Group that meets on 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings and the Knit Wits that meet Thursday mornings from 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

For questions or class ideas, contact adulted@ndpc.org.

To support the work of the [Adult Formation committee](#), join us for our monthly meetings on the 1st Sunday of the month.

In considering hybrid models for our classes on Sundays, we must coordinate technology, trained volunteers, teacher preference for pedagogy and in-person student permissions for recording. If in the Spring, you would be interested in attending an in-person Sunday school class virtually some or all of the time, please reach out to adulted@ndpc.org to identify which class. We will work in advance to notify the teacher of a desire for teaching to two spaces, in person and online, work with students in class on securing recording permissions and recruit trained volunteers to run the technology. Thank you for your patience as we coordinate in advance and for your willingness to commit and register as a hybrid student out of respect for all who volunteer to make our classes meaningful.