



*We welcome all.*

## Adult Formation Courses & Small Groups Spring 2023

### SPRING 2023 NEW OFFERINGS

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

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

Updated details and Zoom links are available in the weekly newsletter, *NDPC Communicator*, published and distributed via email on Thursdays. Email [publications@ndpc.org](mailto:publications@ndpc.org) to subscribe.

#### SUNDAY MORNINGS

##### **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!

**When/Where:** Year-round. Parent classroom in the children's education building

**Facilitators:** Shelly Roberts, Kimberly Broerman, Andrea and John Morgan [parents@ndpc.org](mailto:parents@ndpc.org).

##### **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 & Lee Nichols, 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. Facilitated by Creation Care team members Annie Godfrey and Kate Mosley, this class will learn the biblical basis for environmental justice, discuss EJ issues at home (DeKalb County) and beyond, and seek to provide a roadmap for sustainable engagement. Guest speakers include Dr. Jackie Echols, founder and president of the South River Watershed Alliance, as well as include the work of local Presbyterian and documentarian David Barnhart.

- **2/5. EJ 101:** Facilitated by Kate Mosley, we'll explore biblical teachings on justice and the history of environmental justice in the U.S. while featuring film clips from "Flint: The Poisoning of an American City," a documentary by local filmmaker David Barnhart about the water crisis of Flint MI.
- **2/12. EJ 102:** Facilitated by Annie Godfrey, we will continue the discussion about environmental justice utilizing themes presented in the documentary "Flint: The Poisoning of an American City" by David Barnhart.

The South River is an important tributary in metro Atlanta that is having a comeback with thanks to Dr. Echols. Learn about why saving the South River matters to us and to all of Georgia.

- **2/19 & 2/26. Water Justice for All: The South River- A Case Study:** led by. Dr. Jackie Echols, environmental champion and board president of the South River Watershed Alliance in DeKalb County. Dr. Echols has championed clean water reforms in metro Atlanta for over 30 years. The South River is a comeback story like no other in our region while still remaining one of the most under-protected waterways in the southeast. The river flows through sacred communities that have survived through the ages. The rich cultural history of south DeKalb county is intertwined with the story of the South River. We'll explore this unique relationship metro Atlanta has with the South River and how we can champion cleaner days for the river. We'll close our series by scheduling a paddling tour and walking tour of the South River for spring 2023.



**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.

## The Stories We Tell: Medievalism and White Supremacy

We will build on the work of scholars like Chord Whittaker and Geraldine Heng to dig into these stories, interrogating the ways in which our own context shapes the way we read and tell the stories of the past. Protesters in the Charlottesville and January 6th deployed a wide variety of medieval iconography, like Crusader catch phrases and crosses of the Knights Templar. They attempted to connect their actions to a version of the past they perceive to be purer and more accurate than the stories being told by others.

**When/Where:** 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, Parlor in the sanctuary building.

**Facilitator:** Dr. Sarah Bogue.

This class is presented in partnership with Candler Foundry, an outreach initiative of Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Adult Education has funded the class for NDPC members. Registration is not required, but it does help Adult Ed plan. Registration and more information about the class is available at this website: [bit.ly/NDPC-Medievalism](https://bit.ly/NDPC-Medievalism). Use promo code NDPC to avoid the fee. Community members will be invited through Candler Foundry.



## Eastertide Class

A spring devotional series based in art and music. More details soon!

**When/Where:** 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, Parlor in the sanctuary building

**Facilitator:** Victoria Robinson, [victoria@ndpc.org](mailto:victoria@ndpc.org)

## Inquirer's Class (after worship)

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:** Monthly. Second Sundays: 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14 @ 12:30 p.m., Parlor in the sanctuary building.

**Facilitators:** Pastoral Staff and Engagement Team

***Additional Classes will be added as confirmed***

## 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.*

### Weekly Small Groups

#### 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 (EHC)-- 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 EHC), we will be led by a trained mentor (Roland Wallace of EHC). 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 EHC. 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. Stay tuned for information about enrollment for the 2023 cohort.

## Twice-A-Month Small Groups

### 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at noon. Zoom link in the *Communicator*.

**Facilitator(s):** Rev. Mary Anona Stoops [maryanona@ndpc.org](mailto:maryanona@ndpc.org)

Congregational Care elder [mealcare@ndpc.org](mailto: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

## Monthly Small Groups

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**