

Adult Sunday School Class Schedule Fall 2020-Spring 2021

The class will meet by Zoom on Sept 13 & 20 at 9:30 am, but then at 5:00 pm the rest of the year (or until we meet in person again). The class will not meet the first Sunday of each month (because the children's class will meet then).

Sept 13, 20, 27 *The Matthew 25 Church*

The first week will be a Bible Study of the Matthew 25 text based on its context, and a general overview of the PCUSA's Matthew 25 vision and invitation. The next two weeks will delve into the vision's three focuses: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty. This vision has been adopted by the presbytery and endorsed by this church's session. Rev. Grace Boyer will lead the first week and Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt will lead the next two weeks.

Oct 4 Class does not meet.

Oct 11, 18, 25 *Restore Our Souls!*

Echoing the phrase from Psalm 23:3a "God restores my soul", this class will explore how hymns interact with our heart, mind, body, and spirit—especially in this difficult time when we are not singing together as a congregation. The class will be led by two noted hymnwriters (and Presbyterians!) who combined wrote 34 of the hymns in our current hymnal. Rev. Dr. David Gambrell is the Associate for Worship in the PCUSA's Office of Theology & Worship and will lead the first two Sundays looking at his approach to hymn text writing and then specifically at singing the psalms. Dr. Mel Bringle is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College and has publications in Pastoral Theology and Hymnology. She will lead the class in exploring how to let music draw us into expression of what lies in our hearts.

Nov 1 Class does not meet.

Nov 8 *Grief*

With All Saints' Day just past, where we remember those in our congregation who have died this year, and with Covid19 changing our world, we will take a look at grief. Counselor Beth Meriwether (MSCC, NCC, LPC) will facilitate a discussion of the causes of grief, its impact (on the body, mind, heart, spirit), and ways to process grief in healthy ways.

Nov 15 & 22 *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*

Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt will lead the class in a discussion of this book by Isabel Wilkerson. Wilkerson is a gifted writer and a meticulous researcher. She explores racial issues in this country (and world) through the lens of a caste system.

Nov 29, (Dec 6 class does not meet) Dec 13 & 20 *Advent Study Light of the World*

This is a video series featuring Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. The series examines the history of the birth of Christ and session titles include: The Meaning of Memory, The Promise of Potential, The Journey to Joy, The Gifts of the Gentiles. Rev. Jamie Dale will lead the class in this study

Dec 27 & Jan 3 Class does not meet

Jan 10, 17, 24 *Pauline Church or Christian Church?*

Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt will lead this study of how the protestant Bible was formed, and his research on how the books that made it into the Bible have shaped us to become a Pauline Church instead of a Christian Church, and the implications.

Jan 31 *Jewish Scriptures and Spirituality*

Rabbi Batsheva H. Meiri is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth HaTephila in Asheville. She often teaches Jewish spirituality, meditation and the convergence of mindfulness and spirituality. She will share with us how she approaches scriptures, what she considers scripture, the resources she uses to interpret, and what she would like Christians to know about Judaism.

Feb 7 Class will not meet

**Feb 14, 21, 28, (March 7 class does not meet) *March 14, 21, 28 Lenten Study*
Entering the Passion of Jesus**

Our Lenten study will start one week early on Transfiguration Sunday in order to do all six weeks of a video series featuring Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Dr. Levine explores the historical contexts and the risks and motives of the characters in the story of Holy Week. Sections include: Jerusalem (Risking Reputation), The Temple (Risking Righteous Anger), Teachings (Risking Challenge), The First Dinner (Risking Rejection), The Last Supper (Risking the Loss of Friends), Gethsemane (Risking Temptation). Rev. Jamie Dale will lead the class in this study.

April 4 (Easter) Class does not meet

April 11, 18, 25, (May 2 class does not meet) *May 9, 16, 23 TO BE ANNOUNCED*

This space will be left open for what develops during the year.

One possibility is ***After the Whale Spits Us Out:*** After the pandemic ends, how are we changed? How do we live out our Christian faith? Led by Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt.

Or a possible book study:

- *Why Christianity?: A Personal Story*—By Elaine Pagels
- *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*—by Lenny Duncan
- *Breath: The New science of a Lost Art*—by James Nestor