

SPRING
2025

ADULT EDUCATION



SUNDAY CLASSES

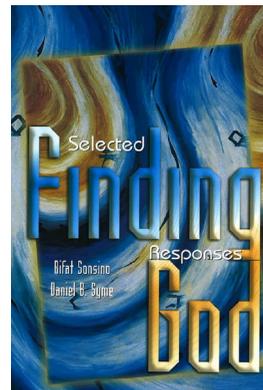
8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

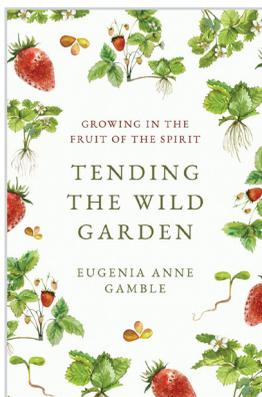
Starting January 12, 8:30 a.m.

Cannon Room, Ministries Center, and via Zoom

This longstanding Sunday morning class is led by the Rev. Dr. Paul MacMurray. For thousands of years, people have asked the question, “What is God really like?” There have been many answers. We will examine twelve from the book *Finding God*, which explores various ways that the Jewish tradition has sought after and encountered God. For information about joining the class, receiving the Zoom link, and purchasing a book, contact Paul MacMurray at katrmac2@icloud.com.



8:45 A.M.



FILLING THE WELL

Starting January 5, 8:45 a.m.

Children's Library, Education Building

This Sunday morning class for women will study pastor Eugenia Gamble's book *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruits of the Spirit*. Through biblical traditions and personal reflections, Gamble explores the ways that we can cultivate traits such as kindness, gentleness, hope, and joy in our lives. The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick leads this class. For information about joining the class and to reserve a copy of the book, contact RebeccaKirkpatrick@bmpc.org.

DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

March 2 through 30, 8:45 a.m.

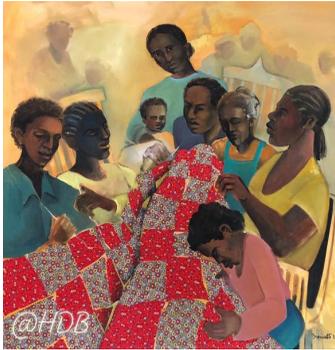
Witherspoon Parlor, Ministries Center

The Rev. Dick Wohlschlaeger will lead this five-week study on Parables. As a congregation, we will move through parables from the Gospel of Luke to shape our worship life in the Season of Lent. Each week, this class will focus on one of those parables, offering the opportunity to dive more deeply into the meaning and scholarship of the story. To reserve a copy of the readings, visit bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup, or contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org.



SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.



FEMININE ENERGY - GALLERY TALK

January 12, 11:15 a.m.

Gallery, Ministries Center

Join artist Sister Helen Brancato as she guides us through her exhibit in the BMPC Gallery which features the courage and strength of women from various ages and backgrounds who have lived their lives with passion and compassion. Fidelity and endurance characterized these women, and these portraits honor the many ways that they expressed their talents and gifts.

BELONGING & INCLUSION: A CONVERSATION

January 19, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

In the Spring of 2024, the BMPC Session approved a new “Commitment to Belonging and Inclusion” to help guide our church’s leaders, councils, and committees as we move more fully into a welcoming and diverse congregation. Join the Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) in large and small group conversations about the statement, how it is being implemented, and how it connects to all parts of our life together. The “Commitment to Belonging and Inclusion” can be found on the BMPC website here: bmpc.org/welcome/belonging-and-inclusion

SCATTERLINGS WITH BETTY WRIGHT-RIGGENS

February 2 & 9, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Drawing from the recent South African novel *Scatterlings*, Middleton Center Spiritual Director and Pastor Betty Wright-Riggins will guide us through a conversation on the themes of racial justice, the commandment to be one another’s keeper, the parameters of love, cultural conformity and parental responsibility. Participants do not need to read the novel to fully participate in the class, but if you would like to purchase a copy from the church for \$10, visit bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup.



SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

CEASEFIRE PA

February 16, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

CeaseFirePA is a Pennsylvania-based organization dedicated to preventing gun violence by advocating for stronger gun laws, educating communities, and empowering individuals to promote safer environments through activism and policy reform. We will be joined by Grant Maurer who will help us better understand the reality of gun violence, potential legislative work for 2025, and how you can personally advocate for change. This class is sponsored by the BMPC Peacemaking Committee.

DR. JONATHAN WALTON, PRESIDENT PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

March 2, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

Jonathan Lee Walton, Ph.D., is a social ethicist, religious educator, and influential scholar known for engaging American evangelical traditions. On January 1, 2023, he became the 8th president of Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World*. Dr. Walton was with us as our Theologian in Residence in the spring of 2021, and we are delighted to have him return in person as our preacher at our 10:00 a.m. service this morning and then offer a lecture in Congregational Hall immediately following.



RHYTHM AND LIGHT, GALLERY TALK

March 9, 11:15 a.m.

Gallery, Ministries Center

Join artist Barbara Berry as she talks about her new exhibition exploring the patterned relationship between people and animals. *Rhythm and Light* combines naturally occurring animal markings with human figures and man-made objects, highlighting the relationship of a shared pattern between two-dimensional markings and three-dimensional forms.



SUNDAY CLASSES

11:15 A.M.

PRODIGAL CHRIST: AN EXPLORATION OF THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

March 16 & 23, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Join Dr. Kendall Cox in an engaging exploration of the parable of the prodigal son through the lens of her book, *Prodigal Christ*. This class will delve into the parable as a profound narrative of salvation, atonement, and election, uncovering its rich Christological insights. Drawing on Julian of Norwich and Karl Barth, we will discover how this timeless story reveals Christ's intimate identification with humanity. Cox is Director of Academic Affairs in the Templeton Honors College and Assistant Professor of Liberal Studies & Ethics.



PROBLEMATIC PARABLES

March 30, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

Jesus taught in parables as a way to help simplify and illuminate ideas about the love of God, the calling put on his followers, and our relationships to one another. But sometimes, especially because of nuances in ancient culture and language, Jesus' parables can be more confusing than helpful to the modern reader. The Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick and Dr. Joshua Yoder will lead this class through some of the more "problematic" parables found in the Gospels and help us to find meaning as well as challenge within them.

MICROPLASTICS: THE INVISIBLE POLLUTANT

April 6, 11:15 a.m.

Fullerton Room, Ministries Center

A new environmental issue has quickly grabbed public attention: microplastics, found everywhere, from the bottom of the ocean to our bloodstream. What do and don't we know about microplastics? What surprising ways do they get into the ocean-- and into us? And most importantly, what do we do about it? Environmental educator, naturalist and writer, Mike Weilbacher is the author of *Wild Philly*. This class is sponsored by the BMPC Environmental Justice Committee.



WEDNESDAY CLASSES

10:00 A.M.

COFFEE CUP BIBLE STUDY

Starting September 18, 10:00 a.m.
Cannon Room, Ministries Center &
via Zoom

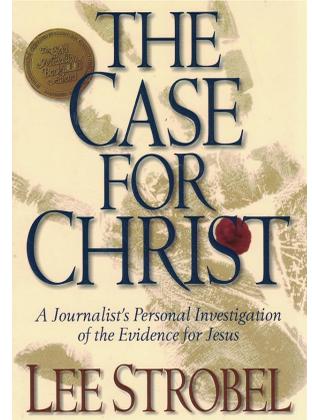
This weekly Bible Study brings together women of all ages to read and reflect on scripture – what it has meant for communities in the past and how it speaks to us as individuals, as women, and as a church today. This class will continue to meet in a hybrid format. Sponsored by BMPC's Presbyterian Women, this class is led by the Rev. Rachel Pedersen. For more information about joining the class, contact RachelPedersen@bmpc.org.



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

2nd and 4th Wednesdays,
Starting January 8, 10:00 a.m.
Converse House Parlor, Ministries Center

All men are welcome to join this in-person study and discussion group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the program year. This winter we will read Lee Strobel's classic book *The Case for Christ*. Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago



Tribune, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton, and Brandeis who are recognized authorities in their own fields. The group will be led by the Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill. To register and to find out how to purchase the book, contact KirbyLHill@bmpc.org.

THURSDAY CLASS

10:00 A.M.

Materiality as Resistance

Five Elements
for Moral Action
in the Real World

Walter
Brueggemann

Foreword by Jim Wallis

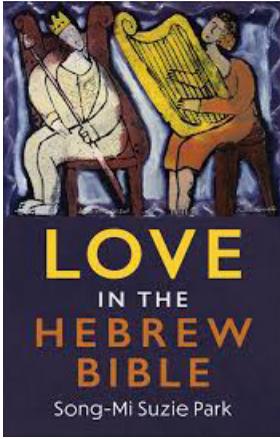
THURSDAY DISCUSSION GROUP

March 13 through April 10, 10:00 a.m.
via Zoom

Led by the Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill, this fully online book discussion group will focus on the material areas that shape us in how we live out our Christian faith: Money, Food, the Body, Time, and Place. The class will explore how to reclaim materiality for the common good using Walter Brueggemann's book *Materiality as Resistance: Five Elements for Moral Action in the Real World*. To register, email KirbyLHill@bmpc.org; Purchase the book at bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup for \$10.

EVENING CLASSES

7:00 P.M.



LOVE IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 7:00 p.m.
Witherspoon Parlor, Ministries Center

Join this three-week class based on Suzie Park's new and innovative exploration of the concept of love in the Old Testament. Pushing against characterizations of the loving God of the New Testament narrative universe versus the wrathful God of the Old Testament, Park shows that love is integral to the ways in which relationships, both among people and between humanity and God, are imagined in the Hebrew text. This class will be taught by the Rev. Rebecca Kirkpatrick.

Visit bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup to purchase a copy of the book for \$10.

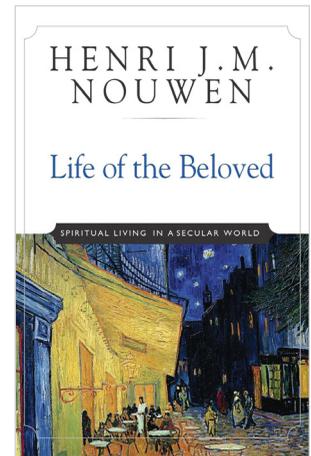
To register for the class, contact JenniferMcArthur@bmpc.org.

LIFE OF THE BELOVED

Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25 , 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

In *Life of the Beloved*, Henri Nouwen addresses a spiritual longing for identity and belonging, offering a deeply personal and accessible reflection on faith. Written for a secular friend, the book frames human existence through the lens of being "Beloved" by God. Nouwen explores themes of being taken, blessed, broken, and given, illustrating how these elements shape life's meaning and calling. It's a heartfelt guide to spiritual growth and love. Spiritual director Patricia Danzon will bring a spiritual perspective to the sessions as we explore this book. To register, contact

KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.



LETTING GO IN LENT

Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Join the Caring Ministries Team, as well as a guest therapist from the Middleton Counseling Center, as we explore how to declutter, downsize, and minimize our possessions. We will be examining our relationship with our stuff, and why it is so difficult to let go. This class will be covering current trends in the decluttering movement - drawing on Marie Kondo's methods and books and The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning. We will provide techniques and resources, as well as an opportunity to get support throughout the class. To register, contact KikiMcKendrick@bmpc.org.

BMPC COMMUNITY FORUM PRESENTS:

DR. MICHAEL E. MANN

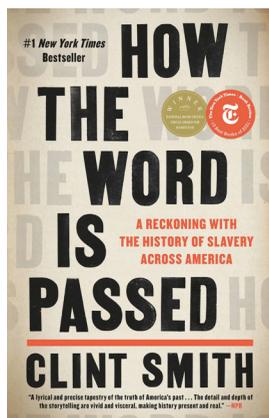
The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet
Monday, April 7, 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary

Human-caused climate change is one of the greatest threats to civilization. For decades, denial and attacks on the science have delayed action. Now, polluting interests are using new strategies to deflect attention, divide activists, and promote false solutions that allow continued fossil fuel use. These tactics include shifting focus from systemic change to individual behavior, using doomist narratives to disempower, and promoting solutions that don't address the root issue. While the need for action is urgent, we still have the power to make meaningful change—if we act now and act boldly.

Dr. Mann is Presidential Distinguished Professor of Earth & Environmental Science at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Penn Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media.



To purchase a copy of Mann's newest book, *Our Fragile Moment: How Lessons from Earth's Past Can Help Us Survive the Climate Crisis* for \$10 go to bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup.



ALL CHURCH READ!

HOW THE WORD IS PASSED

Sunday, April 27, 11:15 a.m.

Congregational Hall, Ministries Center

In How the Word Is Passed, Clint Smith examines the legacy of slavery in America through a journey across landmarks and monuments. Blending history, personal narrative, and interviews, Smith reveals how different places confront or obscure the truths of slavery's impact. From Monticello to Angola Prison, he explores the enduring scars of racial injustice. Smith's poignant storytelling challenges readers to reckon with the past to better understand America's present and future.

The entire congregation is encouraged to purchase a copy of *How the Word Is Passed* and gather on April 27 for a conversation about Smith's reflections on the power of place when it comes to issues of race and transformation. Save the Date for a special field trip to Philadelphia locations that still bear the echoes of slavery on Sat., June 7. More details to come.

Visit bit.ly/BMPCBookpickup to purchase a copy of the book for \$10.